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நடப்பு நிகழ்வுகள் (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

FEBRUARY - 2019

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We Shine Study Circle

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NATIONAL NEWS

February 01

1. Recently, Finance Commission formed a panel to resolve which state's Rs 31000 crore food account issue?

Answer : Punjab

Explanation :

- In a major fillip to **Punjab's** persistent efforts for securing the waiver of **Rs 31,000 crore** food account, Chairman of **the 15th Finance Commission N K Singh** formed a committee to find ways of settling the matter.
- The committee under the **Finance Commission**, with the Centre, the State, and the FCI, would explore all possibilities, given its terms of reference and constitutional propriety, to settle the festering problem.

2. Who launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)?

Answer : Harsh Vardhan

Explanation :

- India's Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan** declared a **"war against pollution"** and **launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. NCAP calls for a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in particulate pollution over the next five years.
- Our report titled – **India's 'War Against Pollution': An Opportunity for Longer Lives**, released finds that a **25 per cent** reduction in particulate pollution in India.

3. Who was headed to the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal?

Answer : Ranjana Prakash Desai

Explanation :

- An **eight-member search panel** formed to select members of **anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal** held its first meeting, nearly four months after it was announced by the Modi government.
- The committee, headed by **former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai**, is understood to have discussed modalities related to the appointments of the chief and members of Lokpal.

4. Which state is set to construct the World's Longest Expressway?

Answer : Uttar Pradesh

Explanation :

- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to construct the **World's Longest Expressway**. During the ongoing **Kumbh Mela**, the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government approved the construction of the **Ganga Expressway for better connectivity of Prayagraj with western districts of the state**.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presided over the cabinet meeting, where the approval for the construction of the **600-km long expressway** was given.

5. Who inaugurated new Campus of the National Museum Institute in Noida?

Answer : Prakash Javadekar

Explanation :

- Union Minister for Human Resource Development, **Prakash Javadekar** inaugurated new Campus of the **National Museum Institute in Noida.**

February 02

1. Which state government approved the rural development scheme “Smart Village Campaign”?

Answer : Punjab

Explanation :

- Punjab government approved a rural development scheme “**Smart Village Campaign**” worth **Rs 384.40 crore** to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities.
- The SVC is aimed at improving the condition of rural areas by supplementing the ongoing government schemes for building **infrastructure and providing essential amenities.**

2. Where did Narendra Modi unveil the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial and the Statue of Mahatma Gandhi and 80 Satyagrahis,?

Answer : Dandi in Navsari district

Explanation :

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial** at **Dandi** in Navsari district, Gujarat to the nation on Mahatma Gandhi’s death anniversary.
- At the memorial site, he also unveiled statues of Mahatma Gandhi and 78 Satyagrahis who had marched with him during the historic Dandi Salt March in 1930 to make salt from sea water against the British law.

3. Where was the international conference titled ‘Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava’ held, to mark the 50-years of formalization of diplomatic ties between India and Bhutan?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- To mark the **50-years of formalization of diplomatic ties between India and Bhutan**, a two-day **international conference on 8th century Himalayan sage Guru Padmasambhava** was held in **New Delhi.**
- This conference was organised by the **Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP)** and was titled ‘**Life and Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava**’, was held on **January 29-30.**

4. Recently, government renamed the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) to which name?

Answer : Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Explanation :

- **The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)** has been renamed as **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.

5. Name the 3 models proposed by Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana?

Answer : insurance model, trust-based model and hybrid model

Explanation :

- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** proposes **three models** through which the states can implement the scheme. The models are **insurance model, trust-based model and hybrid model**.

6. What is the % for India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high according to PLFS?

Answer : 6.1%

Explanation :

- As per **National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) periodic labour force survey (PLFS)** India's unemployment rate hit a 45 year high of **6.1%** in 2017-18.
- It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetization.

February 03

1. Where did the 4th edition of International Spice Conference held?

Answer : Hyderabad

Explanation :

- **International Spice Conference 2019**
- International Spice Conference is considered as platform for all business houses, the spice associations, the policy makers, the farmers and the users, to connect and interact.
- The fourth edition of this conference was held in the City of Pearls and the capital city of Telangana-Hyderabad.
- The theme for the conference 2019 is 'Challenges of Change, Redefining the Value Chain'.
- Third edition of this conference was held in Jaipur with the theme 'Managing Disruptions through Transformation and Collaboration'.

February 04

1. Who organized Surajkund International Crafts Mela?

Answer : Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism

Explanation :

- **Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2019**
- The Surajkund International Crafts Mela is organized every year by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- The state of Maharashtra is the Theme State and Thailand is the Partner Nation Country for the Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2019

2. Who announced Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan scheme?

Answer : Piyush Goyal

Explanation :

- **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan**
- The Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal announced the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan scheme in the interim budget 2019 for workers in the unorganized sector.
- **About the scheme**
- The features of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan scheme are:
- Under the scheme, an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 per month will be provided to workers in the unorganized sector after 60 years of age.

- To avail of the scheme, workers will have to contribute a minimal Rs. 100 month per month.
- The scheme is expected to benefit 10 crore workers.
- This new pension scheme will run alongside the existing Atal Pension Yojana, which guarantees returns post-retirement.

3. Name the 2 railway electrification of 294-km long sections inaugurated by PM?

Answer : Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and khana- Sainthia sections

Explanation :

- PM inaugurates Railway electrification of 294-km long Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and khana-Sainthia Sections in West Bengal
- On 2nd February 2019, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Railway electrification of 294-km long **Andal-Sainthia-Pakur-Malda and khana-Sainthia sections in West Bengal.**
- **Key Points**
- The electrification of 294-km sections will make the transporation of coal and stone chips to North and North East India fast and convenient.
- The 20-km long Hijli-Narayangarh third line was also inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- Pirme Minister Narendra Modi announced various schemes has been launched in this year's budget that will benefit more than 12 crore families of small farmers, 30-40 crore workers and 3 crore middle-class families.
- **About west Bengal**
- Capital:Kolkata
- Governor:Keshari Nath Tripathi
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee

4. Who launch the IEA's The Future of Rail' report?

Answer : Piyush Goyal

Explanation :

- **Piyush Goyal launches the IEA's The Future of Rail' report**
- On 30th January 2019, Minister of Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal launched the International Energy Agency's (IEA) "The Future of Rail" report which analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world in New Delhi.
- At the launch of report, the Chairman of Railway Board Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav said that rail transport is superior than any other from of transport in terms of energy efficiency and environment friendliness.

5. Who inaugurated 'ICT Academy Bridge 2019' conference?

Answer : Dr. Manikandan

Explanation :

- Minister for IT inaugurated 'ICT Academy Bridge 2019' conference
- On January 31,2019,'**ICT Academy Bridge 2019'** the **37th edition** of conference, was inaugurated by **Dr. Manikandan**, minister of information and Technology, **Tamil Nadu.**
- Union Minister: Piyush Goyal
- Minister of State: Manoj Sinha and Rajen Gohain
- **About the Conference**
- This conference is conducted every year with a motive to develop a better education system and formulate strategic regulatory framework
- The theme of the 37th edition of the conference "**Fostering India for Industary 4.0**"

- During this conference, ICT Academy conferred “**TN icon award 2019**” for their contribution to the growth of extensive use of new technology.
- Shankar S, Film Director, Producer, Writer
- Arun Alagappan, Executive Director, Cholamandalam
- R. Dinesh, Managing Director, TVS Logistics Services Limited

February 05

1. The 6th Meeting of the Mission Steering Group of National Health Mission held in which city?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- **Government** said that **8000 Health and Wellness Centres** have become operational in **35** states and Union Territories. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Ashwini Kumar Choubey**, said this while chairing the **6th meeting of the Mission Steering Group of National Health Mission in New Delhi**.
- The government has set a target to set up nearly **1.5 lakh health and wellness centres by 2022**.

2. Which state launched the “KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana”?

Answer : Odisha

Explanation :

- Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced the new ‘**KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana**’, which is a scholarship for the children of farmers who are the beneficiaries of **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme**.
- Under this scheme, the children of farmers, who are the beneficiaries of the KALIA scheme will be provided scholarships for pursuing higher education in professional courses free of cost.

3. Where was the 12th Regional Standards Conclave held?

Answer : Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

Explanation :

- 12th Regional Standards Conclave was held in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) that took place on 1st Feb on the occasion of 4th day of the trade fair.
- This conclave will have an onlooker on industry, regulators and experts sharing their views on the importance of Standards for Global trade, with focus on Odisha.

4. Which state became the first state to set up price monitoring and research unit?

Answer : Kerala

Explanation :

- **Kerala** became the first state to set up price monitoring and research unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of **essential drugs and medical devices**. This move is taken by the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**.
- The new watchdog will offer technical help to the State Drug Controllers to monitor notified prices of medicines, detect violation of the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).

5. 325 children including 11 girls have been rescued in ____ under “Operation Smile”?

Answer : Hyderabad

Explanation :

- 325 children including 11 girls have been rescued in Hyderabad under “Operation Smile” which was launched on 1st January 2019.
- **AIM of Operation Smile:** The One month long programme aims to rescue child labourers and children engaged in begging.

February 06

1. Which state topped in the ranking of best practices followed by states in budget formulation, as per a survey by Transparency International?

Answer : Assam

Explanation :

- Assam occupied the top slot in the **ranking of best practices** followed by states in the Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, **as per a survey by Transparency International.**
- The survey is based on 4 parameters which include public disclosure, budgetary process, post-budget fiscal management and efforts to make the budget more transparent and citizen-friendly.

2. Which Union Ministry launched the Shehri Samridhi Utsav?

Answer : Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

Explanation :

- **Shehri Samridhi Utsav**, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is launched with aim to extend the reach of **Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).**
- It is the National Exhibition and a sale of Self Help Group products and National Street Food Festival organized in **New Delhi.**

3. Who decided to set up a World Heritage Centre housing ‘spiritual camps’ in 45 countries?

Answer : International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

Explanation :

- **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** decided to set up a **World Heritage Centre** housing ‘spiritual camps’ in **45 countries**, one of which is to be set up in **Mayapur in West Bengal.**
- This festival is held with a motive to bring together speakers from several socio-political spheres and share their insights on various issues.

4. Where did the ‘Sopan 2019’ held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- The 6-day long music and dance festival ‘**Sopan 2019**’, to encourage **young artists to take up traditional art** took place in **New Delhi.**
- This festival is an opportunity for upcoming talents from vocals and instruments to dance forms to set an audience base for themselves.

February 07

1. Where did the First State Level Awareness Programme held?

Answer : Pune, Maharashtra

Explanation :

- **First State Level Awareness Programme** on Agriculture Export Policy to create awareness among farmers and stakeholders held in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- Union cabinet approved the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 with an **Objective of Doubling Farmers income by 2022**.

2. Who host the second edition of World Count festival 2019?

Answer : Advita Kala

Explanation :

- **The second edition of World Count festival 2019** was held in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The Festival, was hosted by the award -winning screenwriter, author and columnist Advita Kala.
- This festival is held with a motive to bring together speakers from several **socio-political spheres** and share their insights on various issues.

3. Which app has been launched on Google play store?

Answer : Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

Explanation :

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App** has been launched on **Google play store**. **Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** is a centrally sponsored scheme; which was launched in the year **2018**, under the **Ayushman Bharat Mission of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in the country.

4. Who inaugurated the 2019 Asia LPG summit?

Answer : Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

Explanation :

- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister for petroleum and natural gas, inaugurated the **2019 Asia LPG summit** in **New Delhi**. This two-day event will focus on **‘LPG – Energy for Life’**.
- India is the **second largest consumer** of liquified natural gas (LPG) in the world under the flagship **‘Ujjwala’ scheme**, and in take of LPG in households is providing access to cleaner cooking fuel .

5. Who launched the “Darwaza Band- Part 2” campaign?

Answer : Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

Explanation :

- The **“Darwaza Band- Part 2”** campaign was launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country. The **World Bank** also supported the Darwaza Band -Part 2. Earlier Darwaza Band campaign was launched in **2017**.
- The campaign launched by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** in **Mumbai** in the presence of actor **Amitabh Bachchan**.

February 08

1. Recently, the government approved which Aayog to conserve, protect and develop India's cattle population?

Answer : Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog

Explanation :

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved a proposal seeking the establishment of '**Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog**' to conserve, protect and develop India's cattle population.
- The **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** will work in collaboration with veterinary, animal sciences or agriculture universities, departments or organisations of the central/state government engaged in the task of research in the field of breeding and rearing of cows, organic manure, and biogas.

2. Which government has set up a committee to review various schemes implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state?

Answer : Maharashtra

Explanation :

- **The Maharashtra government** has set up a committee to review various schemes implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state.
- The **17-member committee**, headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president **Vivek Pandit**, will undertake study of various works done for providing employment opportunities, minimum wages and proper livelihood to tribals.

3. Which programme has been launched by Government to orient potential migrant workers with regard to culture, language?

Answer : Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programme

Explanation :

- **A Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) programme** has been launched by Government to orient potential migrant workers with regard to culture, language, do's and don'ts in the emigration process and safety measures.
- PDOT has been conducted under Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and The National Skill Development Corporation is the devising agency for this programme.

4. Name the Air India's First ever Flight Simulator?

Answer : 'Boeing 747-200'

Explanation :

- Air India's First ever Flight Simulator known as '**Boeing 747-200**' was exhibited in **Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai**.
- The Simulator was acquired by Air India in 1980, which is designed and manufactured by the CAE (Canadian Aviation Electronics), Canada.

5. Who signed a MoU at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Port Blair?

Answer : Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India

Explanation :

- **Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Port Blair in the presence of Inspector General Maneesh Vishal Pathak for coordination in the **aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations**.

- The MoU with AAI is aimed at strengthening mutual interactions, interoperability and validating procedures during conduct of search and rescue operations.

February 09

1. Where did the “Parmanu Tech 2019” Conference held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- The “**Parmanu Tech 2019**” Conference was organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** at **New Delhi**. The conference discussed issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies.
- The main motive of this conference is to showcase India’s capabilities in Nuclear Energy with environmental responsibility.

2. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) integrated Pink Toilets named “She Mart and Loos” in which city?

Answer : Hyderabad

Explanation :

- **Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC)** integrated **Pink toilets** named “**She Mart and Loo’s**” in order to provide women with safe and hygienic toilets.
- Under this public **baby feeding rooms** are also being launched in the “**She Mart and Loo’s**”. The She Mart store will stock eco-friendly, recycled and upscale products manufactured by self-help groups.

3. Which State/UT hosted the (IORA) Meeting to enhance its resilience in IORA countries?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- **Indian Ocean Rim Association meet** was organised in New Delhi with the collaboration of Ministry of Home Affairs with the Ministry of External Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) solely based on Disaster Risk Management.
- It will focus and strengthen cooperation in disaster response intervention and mobilization of relief material to affected countries.

4. What is the theme of 2nd ASEAN – India Youth Summit, which was recently held in Guwahati, Assam?

Answer : ‘Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity’

Explanation :

- **2nd ASEAN – India Youth Summit concluded in Guwahati** which was conducted to strengthen the mutual cooperation among ASEAN countries. It was inaugurated by **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister of State for Tourism K J Alphons**.
- The **theme** of the summit was ‘**Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity**’.

5. Name the festival organized by Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO?

Answer : India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF) 2019

Explanation :

- Sahapedia in partnership with UNESCO organized the second edition of **India Heritage Walk Festival (IHWF) 2019**. It is also supported by the National Mineral Development Corporation.

- The heritage walk plans to introduce **Sanjhi- a paper-cutting art by a stencil of Vrindavan and the lanes of Bandra in Mumbai.**

6. Where did the 7th edition of the film festival began?

Answer : Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Explanation :

- The **7th edition of the film festival** began on February 7th of 2019 in **Kolhapur, Maharashtra**. It is an eight-day festival, in which Veteran actress Rohini Hattangadi is the chief guest at the inaugural function.

February 10

1. Which City will host the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) in the year 2020?

Answer : Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Explanation :

- **The Centre** announced that the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** will be its **mascot** for the **13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on the conservation of migratory species (CMS)** to be held in **Gujarat** next year.
- Representatives from 129 countries and eminent conservationists and international NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation are expected to attend the COP-13, to be held in **Gandhinagar from February 15-22, 2020.**

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Sela Tunnel Project in which state?

Answer : Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **Sela Tunnel Project in Arunachal Pradesh**. Once completed, the project would provide all-weather connectivity to **Tawang** and forward areas.
- It is being constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** and it covers a total distance of **12.04 kilometers.**

3. Recently, Jammu and Kashmir granted divisional status to which region?

Answer : Ladakh

Explanation :

- **The Jammu and Kashmir** administration under **Governor Satya Pal Malik** approved **creation of a separate division of Ladakh, comprising Kargil and Leh districts**, by carving it out of Kashmir division. The state thus far had two divisions- Kashmir and Jammu, Ladakh being part of the former.
- **Saugat Biswas**, a 2006-batch IAS officer of J&K cadre, **has been appointed the Divisional Commissioner for Ladakh.**

4. Where did the Krishi Kumbh held?

Answer : Motihari

Explanation :

- **In Bihar, Governor Lalji Tandon** and Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** jointly inaugurated the three –day **Krishi Kumbh in Motihari**. The objective of

Krishi Kumbh is to promote modern techniques and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income.

5. Name the project launched by Delhi government under its annual road safety action plan?

Answer : 'Zero Fatality Corridor'

Explanation :

- **Delhi Government** launched '**Zero Fatality Corridor**' project under its annual road safety action plan to reduce the number of road accidents on the outer ring road stretch between **Burari and Bhalaswa Chowk**.
- This project is aimed at reducing deaths to near **zero level** on the Outer ring road stretch. After scientific investigation of high number of accidents on this stretch, Zero Fatality Corridor was launched.

February 11

1. Who launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP)?

Answer : Election Commission of India (ECI)

Explanation :

- **Election Commission of India (ECI) launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP) for citizens to verify their details, change the details, new registration and corrections.** The programme focuses on 2019 General Election.
- The ECI has **set up helpline centres in all districts in India. The voter helpline number is 1950** and they are well equipped with to help callers with latest information.

2. Centre allocated how much amount for Asiatic Lion Conservation in Gujarat?

Answer : Rs 80 crore

Explanation :

- Lions, identified as one of the endangered species by the government, the Ministry of Environment launched a **three-year Asiatic Lion Conservation Project** in collaboration with the state of **Gujarat**.
- Gujarat government also implemented **Rs 80 crore** that will be spent on specialised veterinary hospitals and full-fledged ambulances for lions.

3. Where did the Himalayan Cloud Observatory is set up?

Answer : Tehri district

Explanation :

- **Himalayan Cloud Observatory** is set up in **Tehri district** with a motive to forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help minimising the damage. The Observatory is established in the SRT campus, in **Tehri** and is in testing period.
- This is the **second observatory** in the country to monitor cloud activities by the Indian Science and Technology Department and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.

4. Who inaugurate the 5th edition of West Bengal Global Business Summit?

Answer : Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

Explanation :

- The **fifth edition of West Bengal Global Business Summit** was inaugurated by state **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**. It is a **two day summit** held in **Rajarhat, Kolkata**.
- The U.K. India Business Council (**UKIBC**) signed an MoU to work on **promoting trade and investment**.

5. Who conducted its eighth round of National Deworming Day (NDD)?

Answer : Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

Explanation :

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducted its eighth round of National Deworming Day (NDD) with a objective to reduce the **prevalence of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH)** or parasitic intestinal worms so that there will be no longer be public health problem.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) envisioned an open-defecation-free India which holds the capacity to reduce the overall worm burden in a community.

February 12

1. Where did the International Labour Organization (ILO) centenary celebrations held?

Answer : Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Explanation :

- **The International Labour Organization (ILO) centenary celebrations** have been inaugurated by the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Santosh Kumar Gangwar at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**.
- Shri Gangwar addressed the representatives of Trade Unions, Employer organizations and Workers at the beginning of the celebrations of ILO.

2. Name the scheme launched by Suresh Prabhu to provide a platform for women's SHGs?

Answer : Hirkani Maharashtra scheme

Explanation :

- **Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu** launched the **Hirkani Maharashtra scheme** to provide a platform for **women's Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and the District Business Plan Competition **to boost entrepreneurship in Maharashtra**.
- Under the Hirkani Maharashtra scheme, women's SHGs will pitch their business plan at the taluka level.

3. 13th International Oil and Gas Conference –PETROTECH 2019 was held in which city?

Answer : Greater Noida

Explanation :

- **The 13th International Oil and Gas Conference – PETROTECH – 2019** got underway at **India Expo Mart, Greater Noida**. Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries are expected to participate in the three day Conference.
- The **theme** of the conference is **Collaborating For Sustainable and Secure Energy Access for all. India is the third largest consumer of crude oil and petroleum** products and the government has taken several measures to provide energy for all.

4. Recently, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Institute of Advanced Virology(IAV) in which city?

Answer : Thiruvananthapuram

Explanation :

- Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) in Thiruvananthapuram**. A first of its kind research institute that is

linked to the **Global Virus Network (GVN)**, it will operate from the **Bio 360 Life Sciences Park at Thonnakkal** in the capital city.

- The institute is affiliated to the **Global Virus Network**, which has 45 centres of excellence in over 29 countries.

5. Which state government announced a new scheme called “Arundhati”?

Answer : Assam

Explanation :

- **The government of Assam** has announced a new scheme called **Arundhati to provide gold at free of cost to the brides**. Under the scheme, the government of Assam aims to provide **1 Tola Gold** to brides belonging to all such communities of Assam where it is customary to provide gold at the time of the wedding.
- The scheme is named after **Arundhati, wife of great sage Basistha**.

February 13

1. In which city “Exercise Rahat” conducted?

Answer : Jaipur, Kota and Alwar

Explanation :

- **Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise ‘Exercise Rahat’** concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was demonstrated in **Jaipur, Kota and Alwar in Rajasthan**.
- The exercise was conducted in three places, **in Jaipur it was in the form of a table top exercise and at Kota and Alwar it demonstrated on-ground capability and coordination** among various stakeholders.

2. Who inaugurating the two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine?

Answer : Dr. Najma Heptulla

Explanation :

- **Dr. Najma Heptulla**, Governor of **Manipur**, inaugurating the **two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine** organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) in **New Delhi**.
- Theme of the conference was **‘Unani Medicine for Public Health’**.

3. Who hosted the first investor conference ASCEND 2019?

Answer : Kochi

Explanation :

- Kochi hosted the **first investor conference ASCEND 2019** to showcase industry friendly initiatives. The conference displayed landmark administrative and policy reforms that **improved ease of doing business in Kerala**.
- The objective of the conference was to bring into sharp **focus a governance that is transparent, efficient and simplified**. It facilitates business and investments by reducing bureaucratic procedures.

4. Where did the Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd located?

Answer : Singhain, Una District of Himachal Pradesh

Explanation :

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated **Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd in Village Singhain, Una District of Himachal Pradesh**. This is the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries implemented Mega Food Park Scheme in the country, to give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage.

5. Who jointly inaugurated the Krishi Kumbh in Motihari?

Answer : Lalji Tandon & Radha Mohan Singh

Explanation :

- Governor of Bihar **Lalji Tandon** and Union Agriculture Minister **Radha Mohan Singh** jointly inaugurated the three -day Krishi Kumbh in Motihari. The government is creating strong infrastructure from “Beej to Bazar” for enhancing the income of farmers.
- The objective of Krishi Kumbh is to promote **modern techniques and diversification in agriculture** that could help in doubling farmers income.

February 14

1. Where was the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) organized 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- **Bureau of Police Research and Development, BPRD** will organize the 2nd National Conference of **Micro Missions of National Police Mission** in **New Delhi**.
- The two day Conference will discuss the issues of Skills and Competence at the grass-root level, Attitudinal Changes in Police, Gender Sensitization, harnessing technology and Community Policing.

2. Where did the International Conference on Unani Medicine held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- **The International Conference on Unani Medicine was held in New Delhi**. It was organised by **Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)**, under **Ministry of AYUSH** is organizing as part of celebration of **Unani Day (February 11)**.
- The **theme** of the conference was **Integration of Unani System of Medicine in main stream healthcare**.

3. What is the theme of LAWASIA Human Rights Conference?

Answer : State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges

Explanation :

- **LAWASIA**, in association with the **Bar Association of India**, hosted its **1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference in New Delhi** with a motive to explore a broad range of human rights issues of relevance in the Asia Pacific region.
- The **theme** of the conference was **“State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges”**.

4. Where did the 5th International Dam Safety Conference–2019 will be held?

Answer : Bhubaneswar

Explanation :

- **The 5th International Dam Safety Conference–2019 will be held in Bhubaneswar.** The two-day event, a joint initiative of the **Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank**, will conclude on February 14.
- Dam Safety Conferences are being organized as an annual event in different DRIP States in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies.

5. How many national law universities are there in India?

Answer : 21

Explanation :

- **The Centre** has decided to set up a **national law university in Uttarakhand**. This is a big step toward making Uttarakhand a quality education hub. India has **21** national law universities, admissions to which are held through a **Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)**.

6. Who said a multi-disciplinary animal husbandry park will be set up in Salem district?

Answer : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami

Explanation :

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Palaniswami** said a **multi-disciplinary animal husbandry park will be set up in Salem district**.
- The proposed park will have an advanced veterinary hospital and modern cattle, poultry, domestic dog, bull breeds, sheep, goat farms to explain to the farmers about their scientific rearing.

February 15

1. Name the Universal Old Age Pension scheme announced by Nitish Kumar?

Answer : MukhyaMantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY)

Explanation :

- Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar announced an Universal Old Age Pension scheme, named **MukhyaMantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY)**, irrespective for all caste, community, religion, except for those who are retired from government organizations. The scheme will come into its enforcement from 1st April, 2019.
- The scheme facilitates the amount of Rs. 400 monthly pension for all in the state above the age of 60 who are not getting pension from the government.

2. Name the scheme of Andhra Pradesh State Government had amalgamated with the PM-Kisan Scheme in order to furnish farmers with Rs.10000 annually?

Answer : Annadatha Sukhibhava scheme

Explanation :

- Andhra Pradesh has made a significant move by merging **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Portal** with its own **Annadatha Sukhibhava scheme**. This move will further allow a fixed amount of Rs. 10,000 per annum to all farmers in the state, irrespective of the size of their land.

- The benefits will be facilitated in 2 portions of Rs. 5000 before the Kharif and Rabi crop cycle.

3. Where did the India and Germany 3rd Indo-German Environment Forum held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- A Bilateral meeting between **India and Germany 3rd Indo-German Environment Forum held in New Delhi**. Additional Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Anil Kumar Jain** called for strengthening the renewable alliances and climate between India and Germany as well as cooperation in field of environment.

4. “Exercise Topchi” was held at?

Answer : Deolali Camp near Nashik

Explanation :

- **Indian Army** showcased its artillery firepower by using ultra light Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the **annual “Exercise Topchi”**. The exercise was held at Deolali Camp near **Nashik**.
- The aviation and surveillance capabilities were also showcased. The precision displayed while delivering the explosives in the target area stunned all those present.

5. Where is the Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park?

Answer : Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal

Explanation :

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal – Union Minister of Food Processing Industries commissioned **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park** at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, **Andhra Pradesh** through video conferencing.
- It will be the **first Mega Aqua** Food Park operationalised exclusively for fish and marine products processing in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Februaru 16

1. Who has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana?

Answer : Finance minister

Explanation :

- On 15th February 2019, Finance minister has implemented the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana** which is primarily a pension scheme for the labours, associated in the unorganized sector. It was announced in Budget 2019.

2. What is the route of the Semi-high-speed Train 18 or “Vande Bharat Express” flagged by Narendra Modi recently?

Answer : Delhi to Varanasi

Explanation :

- The semi-high-speed **Train 18** or **Vande Bharat Express** was flagged off by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on **15th February 2019**, from the New Delhi railway station.
- Vande Bharat Express will travel from **Delhi** to **Varanasi** in **9 hours and 45 minutes**, with stoppage points at **Kanpur** and **Allahbad** (now Prayagraj).

3. Which State hosted the 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting, co-chaired by Sushma Swaraj and Dr Abdul Momen?
Answer : New Delhi
Explanation :
- The **5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting**, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh **Dr Abdul Momen** was held in **New Delhi**.
 - It was the first high-level visit from a Bangladesh since the victory of Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina's** victory in the parliamentary elections in **December 2018** and Dr. Abdul Momen's first time in India as Foreign Minister.
 - **Four** MoUs were signed during this meeting
4. Name the Application launched by Hardeep Singh Puri?
Answer : Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna – Urban (PMAY-U)
Explanation :
- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Housing and Urban Affairs **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna – Urban (PMAY-U)** mobile application at **New Delhi**.
5. Who was chaired in the 15th Finance Commission?
Answer : Shri R. K. Singh
Explanation :
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission had a meeting with the Ministry of Power in New Delhi today. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Power, Shri R. K. Singh along with the Chairman of the Finance Commission Shri N.K. Singh. Members of the Commission and Senior Officers of the Commission, Ministry of Power and its Public Sector Undertakings were also present.
 - The meeting discussed the impact of the power sector reforms on _____ state finances as there was a significant correlation between the two.

February 17

1. What is the theme of PETROTECH-2019?
Answer : “Shaping the New Energy World through Innovation & Collaboration”
Explanation :
- 13th edition of International **Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition ‘PETROTECH-2019’** held in **New Delhi**
 - The theme of PETROTECH-2019 was “**Shaping the New Energy World through Innovation & Collaboration**”.
2. What is the theme of World Sustainable Development Summit 2019?
Answer : ‘Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise’
Explanation :
- **World Sustainable Development Summit 2019** held at New Delhi
 - The theme of WSDS 2019 was ‘**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise**’

3. Where did Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC)?

Answer : Dharwad, Karnataka

Explanation :

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, inaugurated the **North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC), India's first agromet forecast centre, at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad, Karnataka.**
- The main objective of the center is to give **accurate reports on the weather** which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get a good yield.

February 18

1. India's first district cooling system is to be set up in which city by (UAE) based Tabreed?

Answer : Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation :

- A **UAE-based** international cooling provider has entered into a 30-year concession with **Andhra Pradesh government** to build, own, operate and transfer **India's first district cooling system** in the state's new capital **Amaravati.**

2. Which countries decided to jointly invest up to 40 million euros on seven research and innovation projects?

Answer : India and the European

Explanation :

- **India and the European** Union on Thursday decided to jointly invest up to 40 million euros on seven research and innovation projects, including on Ganga rejuvenation, to tackle the urgent **water challenges in the country.**
- On Thursday announced the seven projects that have been selected under the EU-India Joint Call on Research and Innovation for Water.

3. The Indian Air Force (IAF) demonstrated its full spectrum combat and fire capabilities during "Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019" in which state/UT?

Answer : Rajasthan

Explanation :

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** demonstrated its full spectrum combat and fire capabilities during '**Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019**' in **Pokharan firing range close to Indo-Pak border in Rajasthan.**
- The exercise was performed in the presence of Indian Air Force chief BS Dhanoa.

4. Which state announced announced Rs 9000 each to the farmers with less than 5 acres land under Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme 2019?

Answer : Andhra Pradesh

Explanation :

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **N Chandrababu Naidu** announced **Rs 9000 each to the farmers with less than 5 acres land under Annadata Sukhibhava scheme 2019.** Farmers having land **more than 5 acres**, will be given **Rs 10,000.**
- The Chief Minister also laid emphasis on the special skill development training programmes given to youths that assist them in securing jobs at various sectors.

5. Who organised a conference on (SEIP) Project?

Answer : MoEFCC

Explanation :

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) organised a conference on **Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production (SEIP) Project** in New Delhi.
- The project worked directly with companies and advised them on environment friendly production and wastewater management in 5 industrial areas in three states (Delhi, Uttarakhand and Gujarat).

February 19

1. Where did Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh, inaugurated the 4th Agri Leadership Summit 2019?

Answer : Haryana

Explanation :

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, **Radha Mohan Singh**, inaugurated the **4th Agri Leadership Summit 2019** at the **India International Horticulture Market** in **Haryana**. The main objective of the summit was to provide a platform to the progressive farmers, **Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)**, **Agri-input and Agri-produce processing industries** of the country
- The theme of the summit was **"Entrepreneurship & Agri Business; Agri Allied – A Promising Sector and Agri Service- Direct Marketing"**.

2. 3 day 40th International Annual Desert Festival was hosted in which of the following city in Rajasthan?

Answer : Jaisalmer

Explanation :

- **40th International Annual Desert Festival kicked off in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**. It will exhibit rich cultural heritage of the state and attract thousands of tourists from all over the world to the Golden City. The festival is **held amidst the beautiful dunes of the Thar Desert in the Sam dunes**.

3. Name the 2 new Districts erected in Telangana after which the total number of districts raised to 33?

Answer : Mulugu and Narayanpet

Explanation :

- Revenue Department of Telangana has issued a notification stating about the creation of 2 new districts in Telangana– **Mulugu** and **Narayanpet**. District Naraynpet and Mulugi has been carved out of the District **Mahabubnagar** and **Bhupalapally** districts respectively.
- With the creation of 2 districts, total number of districts in Telangana has augmented to 33.

4. In which state, a 110 feet National flag was hoisted as a tribute to 40 soldiers martyred in last week's terror attack at Pulwama in J&K?

Answer : Chhattisgarh

Explanation :

- A **110-foot National Flag** was hoisted at **Raipur railway station in Chhattisgarh** as a tribute to **40 soldiers martyred in last week's terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- On **August 15** when India celebrated **72nd Independence day**, a **1,100-foot tri-colour** was unfurled at **Surat in Gujarat**.

5. In how many states and UT's, Rajnath Singh will launch (ERSS) for women safety?

Answer : 16 states

Explanation :

- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** will launch **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 states and Union territories for women safety from New Delhi**. The states include Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Persons in distress can dial a **pan-India number : 112**.

6. Name the act provided jail term for people sending offensive contents in internet?

Answer : Section 66A of IT Act

Explanation :

- The **Supreme Court** directed all state governments to make their **police personnel** aware of the verdict which scrapped **Section 66A of Information Technology Act**. Sensitising the police will reduce unnecessary arrest of people under their provision.
- Section 66A of IT Act which provided jail term for people sending offensive contents in internet. It was scrapped by Supreme Court on March 24, 2015.

February 20

1. Who inaugurated newly constructed Madan Mohan Malviya Cancer Centre of Banaras Hindu University?

Answer : Narendra Modi

Explanation :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the **world's first Diesel to Electric Converted Locomotive at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) campus in Varanasi**. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed **Madan Mohan Malviya Cancer Centre of Banaras Hindu University**.
- The hospital aims to provide affordable cancer care to patients in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttarakhand and even neighbouring countries like Nepal.

2. Asia's biggest defence exhibition show "Aero India 2019" will be held in which city?

Answer : Bengaluru

Explanation :

- **India is hosting the 12th edition of "Aero India 2019" Asia's biggest defence exhibition show at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru**, from 20 to 24 February, 2019.
- **Aero India** will provide an unique opportunity for exchange of information, ideas and new developments in the aviation industry.

3. Who inaugurated the 2-day long One Health India Conference 2019 in New Delhi with an objective to launch India's new One Health Initiative?

Answer : Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Explanation :

- Union Science & Technology Minister, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, inaugurated the 2-day long **One Health India Conference 2019** in **New Delhi**.
- The purpose of the conference was to launch **India's** new **One Health Initiative** – an inter sectoral approach to tackling the most urgent health threats in **India** as well as in low- and middle-income countries **across South and South East Asia** and **Sub-Saharan Africa**.

4. Which is the 1st state in the Northeast and second in the country after Himachal Pradesh to launch a pan-India single-number?

Answer : Nagaland

Explanation :

- **Nagaland** became the **first state** in the **Northeast** and **second** in the country after **Himachal Pradesh** to launch a **pan-India single-number** emergency mobile application which will have a special women safety feature for immediate assistance from police and volunteers.
- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** launched a range of citizen safety initiatives in **New Delhi**.

5. Who inaugurated the 'Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady' project?

Answer : Shri K. J. Alphons

Explanation :

- Union Tourism Minister, **Shri K. J. Alphons**, inaugurated the '**Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady**' project under the **Swadesh Darshan** scheme of the **Ministry of Tourism**, at **Vagamon, Kerala**.
- The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15. This flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tourism aims at the development of thematic circuits in a planned and prioritized manner across India.

February 21

1. Who launched SWAYATT?

Answer : Suresh Prabhu

Explanation :

- **Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation** launched **SWAYATT** in **New Delhi**.
- SWAYATT-an initiative to encourage **Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions** on Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

2. Which ministry launched Operation Digital Board?

Answer : Human Resource Development

Explanation :

- The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry launched **Operation Digital Board** on the lines of **Operation Blackboard** to provide better digital education in school.

- The government has aimed at equipping **9 lakh** classrooms in schools and colleges across the country (**7 lakh** classrooms of **9th, 10th and 11th standards** and **2 lakh** classrooms of **colleges and Universities**) with digital facilities for teaching by **2022**.

3. What was the theme of the 8th World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress (World CSR Congress 2019),?

Answer : ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’

Explanation :

- **World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress (World CSR Congress 2019)** is one of the admired meetings which promote Entrepreneurship, Social Responsibility, Sustainability and Social Development.
- Theme of the year 2019 is ‘**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**’ to focus on corporate strategies, innovation, and strategic alliances.

4. Which State houses the International Vision Zero Conference’ to promote Occupational Safety and Health?

Answer : Maharashtra

Explanation :

- A 3 day ‘**International Vision Zero Conference**’ was inaugurated in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** to **promote occupational safety and health**.
- ‘Vision Zero’ is based on four principles: Life is non-negotiable, Humans are fallible, Limits of tolerance defined by physical resistance of humans, People are entitled to safe transport and safe workplaces.

5. Name the Scheme launched by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik with an objective of providing scholarship for the children of farmers?

Answer : ‘KALIA Chhatra Bruti’

Explanation :

- ‘**KALIA Chhatra Bruti**’ scholarship for the children of farmers benefited under the KALIA scheme was launched by the **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- It aims at providing financial assistance for technical and professional education to farmers’ children by creating provision for the State government to bear all expenses involved in various levels of education, such as course fee, hostel fee, mess fee and so on.

February 22

1. Which city hosted the Regional Conference on ‘Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation scheme (DDRS)’?

Answer : Kolkata, West Bengal

Explanation :

- A regional conference on ‘**Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)**’ was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Under this scheme, monetary help is provided to around **600 NGOs** which work in the field of education and rehabilitation of **persons with disabilities**.

2. Name the SuperComputer that was unveiled in IIT-BHU?

Answer : ‘PARAM Shivay’

Explanation :

- Supercomputer named '**PARAM Shivay**' of 833 teraflop capacity is built for ₹ 32.5 crore, at IIT-Banaras Hindu University (BHU). It will include 1 peta byte secondary storage.
- India's **first supercomputer called PARAM 8000** was launched in 1991.

3. Who signed MoU with the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada?

Answer : Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)

Explanation :

- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada** for next **10 years** to explore opportunities for collaborations in the field of **Forestry Science** and to work on various environmental issues like **Climate Change, Forest Resource Management** and **Wildlife**.

4. The OFB has received a bulk production clearance from the Indian Army and Defence Ministry for production of which artillery guns?

Answer : Dhanush

Explanation :

- The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received a bulk production clearance from the Indian Army and the Defence Ministry for production of 114 'Dhanush' artillery guns. 'Dhanush' is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India. It is a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative.

February 23

1. The International Conference and Exhibition on Energy and Environment-Challenges and Opportunities (ENCO-2019) was held in which state/UT?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- **The International Conference and Exhibition on Energy and Environment – Challenges and Opportunities (ENCO-2019)** held in **New Delhi**.
- This conference aims to deliberate and identify the **R&D** needs to innovate new techniques, technologies and applications for clean, safe, symbiotic sustenance of society, environment, energy and industries in post-**2020 era**.

2. Who inaugurated Tripura's first mega food park?

Answer : Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

Explanation :

- Union Minister of State for **Food Processing Industries, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti**, inaugurated **Tripura's first mega food park** named **Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd. at Village Tulakona in Agartala, Tripura**.

3. Who approved the acquisition of more than 100 heavyweight torpedoes?

Answer : Defence Ministry

Explanation :

- In a major boost for the Navy's firepower, the **Defence Ministry has approved the acquisition of more than 100 heavyweight torpedoes** which will be equipped on the force's six Scorpene-class submarines being built at Mazagon Dockyards in Mumbai.

4. Name the scheme approved by Narendra Modi of providing financial and water security to farmers?

Answer : KUSUM Yojana

Explanation :

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved the launch of '**Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan**' (**KUSUM Yojana**) with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers.

5. Which state launched Scheme for Adolescent Girls between 11 to 14 years?

Answer : Uttarpradesh

Explanation :

- **UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** launched Scheme for **Adolescent girls**.
- The scheme focuses on girls aged between **11 to 14** years who have left studies and will take steps for proper nutrition and special care for them.
- The state government also decided to observe Adolescent girls day on 8th of every month at **Anganwadi centres** across the state.
- State Government will also launch **Nutrition Campaign** for the adolescent girls on **8th March**.

6. Name the conference organized by NITI Aayog with EGROW Foundation?

Answer : "The Future of Indian Banking"

Explanation :

- **NITI Aayog** Organized a conference on "**The Future of Indian Banking**" with the Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (**EGROW Foundation**).
- The conference aims to increase and elevate the discourse on the banking sector in India, and help develop insights to inform the continued evolution of the **Indian banking** sector for optimally supporting the growing credit needs of the Indian economy.

February 24

1. Which State/UT hosted the Global Business Summit?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **Global Business Summit in New Delhi**. He highlighted the role of his government's policies in establishing a **high growth rate** and **controlling inflation**.
- The government would provide conducive environment for start-ups and promote renewable sources of energy.

2. Who inaugurated 'Waste to Wonder Park'?

Answer : Rajnath Singh

Explanation :

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated ‘**Waste to Wonder Park**’ which houses the replicas of **Seven Wonders of the World** at **Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi**.
- The replicas of all seven wonders of world has been built with **eco-friendly, self sustainable material, and has its own solar and wind power generation**.

3. Name the scheme launched to provide employment for youth?

Answer : Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana

Explanation :

- The government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana** to provide **employment for youth**. The scheme guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youths from economically weaker sections (EWS)
- The youth would get Rs 4,000 stipend per month and total Rs 13,500 for the 100 days period would be provided.

4. Which State Government recently launched Rs 466 Crore Khushi scheme aimed at improving menstrual hygiene among adolescent girl?

Answer : Odisha

Explanation :

- The **Odisha** government As part of its initiatives to **empower women**, launched the ‘**Khushi**’ scheme to provide **free sanitary napkins** to school girls across the state at the cost of **INR 466 crore in a period of 5 years**.
- Under the scheme, the state will provide free sanitary napkins to 17 lakh girls studying in Classes 6 to 12 in government and government-aided schools.

5. The National Conference on Logistics Policy:Context,Issues and The way Forward was held in which city/UT?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- The “**National Conference on Logistics Policy: Context, Issues & The Way Forward**” was held in New Delhi. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, **Suresh Prabhu**, addressed the first stakeholder consultation on the draft logistics policy.
- He also launched the **SAFAR Mobile App** which will help to gauge the actual issues faced by transporters on the road.

February 25

1. Where did the (PM-KISAN) launched?

Answer : Gorakhpur

Explanation :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme in **Gorakhpur**.
- **PM-KISAN** scheme, announced in the interim Budget, released earlier this month will provide **Rs 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmer** families having combined land holding/ownership of **upto 2 hectares**. The amount will be given in **3 installments of Rs 2,000 each**.

2. Which state government launched the boat ambulance service to help patients reach hospitals in remote areas cut off by rivers?

Answer : Odisha

Explanation :

- **The Odisha government launched the boat ambulance service** to help patients reach hospitals in remote areas cut off by rivers, at a cost of **Rs 5.40 crore**. **The first boat ambulance was launched at Batighar in the Kendrapara district.**
- Six boat ambulances will add to the road fleet and will be part of the 108 ambulance service. They would use boats to cross water bodies to be picked up by 108 or 102 ambulance.

3. Where did the second Coast Guard district headquarters was inaugurated?

Answer : Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

Explanation :

- **Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit** inaugurated the **second** Coast Guard district headquarters at **Thoothukudi**, Tamil Nadu.
- Tamil Nadu is the first state in India to get a second Coast Guard district headquarters. The first district headquarters is **Chennai**.

4. What was the theme of the 14th Agricultural Science Congress held at New Delhi?

Answer : “Innovations for Agricultural Transformation”

Explanation :

- The 14th Agricultural Science Congress was organized by **National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)** in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and **Indian Agricultural Research Institute** at **National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC)** in **New Delhi** from **20th to 23rd February 2019**.
- The theme of the event was **“Innovations for Agricultural Transformation”** and it is central to the national complementary pledges of building a **New India** and **Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022**.

5. Which state become the 1st to deploy specially-trained dogs to check smuggling of liquor ?

Answer : Bihar

Explanation :

- **Bihar** has become the **first** state to deploy specially-trained dogs to check smuggling of liquor which continues to take place inspite of total ban imposed in the state for the last 3 years.
- **20** liquor-tracker dogs were trained rigorously for **nine** months in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.

February 26

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National War Memorial in which city?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the **National War Memorial near India Gate in New Delhi**. It is a tribute to India's soldiers who were martyred post-independence.
- It also commemorates the soldiers who participated and laid down their lives in **Peace Keeping Missions and Counter Insurgency Operations**.

2. The GST Council lowered the tax on under construction residential properties to how much percent?

Answer : 5%

Explanation :

- The GST Council slashed tax rates on under-construction **housing properties to 5% from the existing 12%**. The Council also cut GST rates on affordable housing to 1% from the current 8%. The new tax rates will come into effect from April 1, 2019.
- The council also altered the definition of affordable housing and said any house built on an area of 60 square meters or less in the metro cities of India will now be categorized as affordable housings.

3. Who launched the national action plan for viral hepatitis in Mumbai?

Answer : Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Explanation :

- Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched the **national action plan for viral hepatitis in Mumbai**. The action plan takes forward the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program launched by the Union Health Minister in July 2018.
- The aim of this program is **to eliminate hepatitis by 2030**.

4. Who organised the 44th edition of its global summit at Grand Hyatt-Lulu Convention Centre, Kochi?

Answer : International Advertising Association (IAA)

Explanation :

- **International Advertising Association (IAA)**, the integrated association of advertising agencies and the media, will organise the **44th edition of its global summit at Grand Hyatt-Lulu Convention Centre, Kochi**. The three-day summit will see the participation of dignitaries from various fields and industries all over the world.
- The **theme** of the 44th edition is '**brand dharma**'.

5. Which state CM launched a helpline "1905" for quick redressal of public complaints?

Answer : Uttarakhand

Explanation :

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched a helpline for quick **redressal of public complaints**. People can call on the helpline number "**1905**" to lodge their complaints.
- Citizens can contact any department under the this step has been take to ensure speedy functioning of the government departments and step up transparency in their work.

February 27

1. Who inaugurated the '4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit'?

Answer : Shri J P Nadda

Explanation :

- **Shri J P Nadda**, Union Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** inaugurated the ‘**4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**’ in the presence of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Union Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology and Health Ministers from several countries.
- The meeting on digital health is being hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)**

2. Abbreviation for CIC?

Answer : Central Information Commission

Explanation :

- The **Central Information Commission (CIC)** has said that an electronic voting machine (EVM) is “information” under the Right to Information Act and it can be demanded by a citizen from the Election Commission (EC) by paying Rs. 10. The decision was taken by **Sudhir Bhargava- Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)**.

3. Where did the “Words in the Garden” was held?

Answer : India International Centre

Explanation :

- The **3rd edition** of the **3-day festival “Words in the Garden”** based on the life and ideology of **Mahatma Gandhi** was held at **India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi**.
- The festival explored themes with contemporary relevance inspired by Bapu’s ideologies – ‘**Significance of non-violence today**’ and ‘**Sustainable Living**’.

4. According to Inclusive Internet Index(3i) prepared by the Economic Intelligence Unit for Facebook, what is the rank of India in the overall “Inclusive Internet Index 2019” score?

Answer : 47th

Explanation :

- **India ranked 47th in the overall “Inclusive Internet Index 2019”** score while **Sweden topped the chart**, followed by Singapore and the US, a **Facebook-led study** has revealed.
- According to the **Inclusive Internet Index (3i)** prepared by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook**, there are demonstrable benefits from comprehensive female e-inclusion policies, digital skills programmes and targets for women and girls to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

5. India successfully test fired a quick reaction surface to air missile(QRSAM) in which state?

Answer : Odisha

Explanation :

- **India successfully test fired a quick reaction surface to air missile (QRSAM) off the coast of Odisha**. Two quick reaction surface missile were tested by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. The missile is being developed by **DRDO for the Indian Army**.
- The **NGARM (next generation anti-radiation missile)** was fired from a **Su-30 aircraft** successfully at a radar station and it took out its target successfully

February 28

1. Where did the Skill Saathi Youth Conclave inaugurated?

Answer : Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Explanation :

- Union Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the "**Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**". The programme aims to engage more and more people with skill development and inspire youth to make the most of various skill development opportunities in the country.

2. Who addressed Network-18 Rising India Summit 2019?

Answer : P.M Narendra Modi

Explanation :

- P.M Narendra Modi addressed Network-18 **Rising India Summit 2019**, with the theme '**Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities**'. He also laid out his vision for a '**New India**'. The event was held in **New Delhi**.
- The Summit discussed various topics including income tax and GDP numbers, India's global standing, Jan Dhan accounts, and unemployment.

3. Name the App launched at the Youth Parliament Festival?

Answer : Khelo India Mobile App

Explanation :

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi launched the Khelo India Mobile App at the Youth Parliament Festival in New Delhi**. Developed by the **Sports Authority of India**, the App helps create awareness about sports and fitness, especially among youngsters.

4. Where did the BioAsia 2019 conducted?

Answer : Hyderabad, Telangana

Explanation :

- The **16th** edition of **BioAsia 2019** -Asia's largest biotechnology and life-sciences forum was conducted in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. It was inaugurated by the Governor of Telangana –**E.S.L Narasimhan**. The Partner Country for the event is **South Korea**. **South Africa and Spain** are the international partners for the event.
- The theme of the conference was "**Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption**"

5. Which state CM launched PRANAM Commission to protect parents of government employees?

Answer : Assam

Explanation :

- Assam chief minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the **Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM)** Commission, a panel set up to look after the issues with respect to the **PRANAM Bill** brought in for protection of parents of state government employees at **Guwahati, Assam**.
- According to the Bill, if the **PRANAM Commission** gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee is being ignored, then **10% or 15%** of the **employee's salary** will be deducted by the government and paid to the **parents or differently abled siblings**.

6. Who inaugurated the 'Titanwala Museum'?

Answer : Smriti Irani

Explanation :

- Union Textiles Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru that showcases the **Chhipa** community's hand-block printing.
- The Union minister was accompanied by Jaipur MP Ramcharan Bohra who requested for setting up of a sewage treatment plant in Bagru

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

February 01

1. **Who** has opened a new centre in Rome set up by the government in partnership with the UN to fight climate change?

Answer : Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte

Explanation :

- Italian Prime Minister **Giuseppe Conte** has opened a **new centre** in **Rome** set up by the government in partnership with the **UN to fight climate change and boost sustainable development in Africa**.
- It will help develop and scale-up innovative solutions for sustainable development, implement the goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda and the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

2. Name the common digital currency launched by central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia?

Answer : Aber

Explanation :

- The central banks of the **UAE and Saudi Arabia** have launched a **common digital currency called "Aber"**, which will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through **Block chains and Distributed Ledgers technologies**.

February 02

1. Where did the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements will be launched?

Answer : Paris

Explanation :

- **The International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements** will be launched at **UNESCO's Headquarters, Paris**. According to a statement from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, events and activities will be held throughout the year to celebrate the **150th** anniversary of the organisation of the periodic table by **Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev**, one of the fathers of modern chemistry.

February 03

1. Which year is announced as the International Year of the Periodic Table?

Answer : 2019

Explanation :

- **2019 is the International Year of the Periodic Table**
- The United Nations announced 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements to highlight its first publication in 1869.
- The periodic table was first designed by the Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev.
- The announcement by the United Nations will help to raise the profile of how chemistry can provide solutions to global challenges in agriculture, education, energy and health.

February 05

1. Which country pulled out of Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with Russia?

Answer : United States of America

Explanation :

- **The United States of America** pulls out of **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty** with **Russia**. This was announced by the US on 20 October 2018. Russia also pulls out of treaty on 2nd February 2019.
- This treaty was signed on **8 December 1987** in Washington D.C. by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

February 06

1. Ministry of Coal, Government of India, signed an MoU with Ministry of Energy of which country to foster relations in the field of coal mining and clean coal technologies?

Answer : Poland

Explanation :

- The **Ministry of Coal**, Government of India signed an MoU with Ministry of Energy, Republic of **Poland** in-order to foster relations in the field of coal mining and clean coal technologies.
- The objective of MoU includes: promoting trade and investment in the coal sector, enhancing the understanding of coal related energy issues, clean coal technologies.

February 07

1. Who has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia?

Answer : Ranjan

Explanation :

- The government appointed **Dinesh Bhatia**, the present consulate general of India at Toronto as the next **ambassador of India to the Republic Of Argentina**.
- **Ranjan** has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to the **Republic of Colombia**.

February 08

1. Which countries have joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management?

Answer : India and Germany

Explanation :

- **India and Germany** have joined hands for cooperation on **Water and Waste Management**. During the meeting of **3rd Indo-German Working Group** for cooperation on water and waste management which concluded in **New Delhi**, both sides discussed potential cooperation in this area.

2. Where did the NATO's next meeting of Heads of State and Government will take place?

Answer : London

Explanation :

- **NATO's** next meeting of Heads of State and Government will take place in **London** this December, marking the **70th** anniversary of the military pact. Stoltenberg also highlighted that London was home to NATO's first headquarters, adding that the UK is one of the alliance's 12 founding members.

February 09

1. Who signed an accord , to become the 30th member of the NATO military alliance?

Answer : Macedonia

Explanation :

- Macedonia signed an accord, to become the 30th member of the NATO military alliance. The historic agreement was signed between **Macedonia's Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov** and NATO Secretary **General Jens Stoltenberg**.
- **NOTE:** Montenegro-joined NATO as its 29th member.

2. What is the rank of India in the latest annual International Intellectual Property(IP) Index released by the US Chambers of Commerce?

Answer : 36th rank

Explanation :

- US Chambers of Commerce released the annual International IP Index of top 50 economies in the world. As per the ranking, India climbed 8 positions to 36th rank in comparison to last year's 44th rank.
- The index has been topped by US, followed by UK, Sweden, France and Germany, while Venezuela stood at last rank.

February 09

1. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was observed on?

Answer : February 6

Explanation :

- **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation- 6th February**
- **February 6th** is observed as the **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**, which is also called as **Female Genital Cutting (FGC)** that is, removal of all or part of a female's genitalia for non-medical reasons.
- The UN officially commemorated the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation to remark to fight against FGM on **February 6, 2003**.
- The theme for the year 2019 is **#EndGFM**.

February 10

1. Where did the 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting was held?

Answer : New Delhi

Explanation :

- The **5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting** was held in New Delhi. **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen** co-chaired the meeting.
- The last Joint Consultative Committee Meeting between the two countries was held in **October 2017 at Dhaka.**

2. Which country has approved the proposal to name Siamese fighting fish as the National Aquatic Animal?

Answer : Thailand

Explanation :

- **Thailand** named the tiny, eye-catching, colourful fin plumaged **Siamese fighting fish** as its **aquatic animal** with a aim to boost the **conservation and breeding of the same.**
- Siamese fighting fish is the native of Mekong basin of Thailand and is mostly found in the Chao Phraya river in Thailand.

February 11

1. Which Indian Navy warship Participated in the multinational training exercise ‘CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19’?

Answer : INS Trikand

Explanation :

- **INS Trikand**, the frontline warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multi-national training exercise ‘**CUTLASS EXPRESS 2019**’ held from **27th January to 06th February 2019.**
- The aim of the exercise was to **improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability** between the armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of prohibiting illegal maritime activity in the **Western Indian Ocean**

2. Which City had included Hindi as its third official language in the High Court?

Answer : Abu Dhabi

Explanation :

- **Hindi** is included as the **third official language** in the **Abu Dhabi court system** with a motive to improve access to justice for foreign workers.
- Authorities have created bilingual language guides to explain complex **legal terms** in an effort to help people understand court process.

February 12

1. Which ministry signed a letter of Intent establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution?

Answer : Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Explanation :

- **The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** signed a letter of Intent establishing the **India-Norway Marine Pollution** Initiative together with the Norwegian ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- The India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative will combat marine pollution, which is one of the fastest growing environmental concerns.

February 13

1. Where did the seventh annual World Government Summit held?

Answer : Dubai, UAE

Explanation :

- **The seventh annual World Government Summit** is being held in **Dubai, UAE**. The World Government Summit is a forum dedicated to shaping the future of governments. The World Government Summit is a global platform dedicated to **shaping the future of governments worldwide**.
- It provides a unique platform to showcase and exchange best practices and smart solutions to the challenges that nations face.

February 14

1. Which Country had recently changed its name to end the long running dispute with its neighbouring country Greece?

Answer : North Macedonia

Explanation :

- Ending a long running dispute with **Greece**, the **Republic of Macedonia** has officially changed its name to **North Macedonia**.
- Greece had been blocking Macedonia's entry into the **European Union (EU)** and **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, as it disapproved of the name of the country, as the **Greek province of Macedonia** adjoining it has been associated with **Alexander the Great**.

February 15

1. The 38th "Cobra Gold exercise began in which country?

Answer : Thailand

Explanation :

- **One of the world's largest and longest-running international military exercises** officially began in **Thailand**. The **38th annual Cobra Gold exercise**, scheduled to run through Feb. 22, is co-sponsored by the **Royal Thai and U.S armed forces**.
- They are joined by another 27 nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. China and India participate in civic-action parts of the exercise.

2. World Hearing Day was observed on?

Answer : 3rd March

Explanation :

- Ahead of World Hearing Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Trade Union (ITU) have issued a new international standard regarding fabricating and utilization of musical devices, which includes smart phones and audio players, to make them safe for listening.
- **World Hearing Day** – 3rd March.

February 17

1. Which country have signing MoU on cooperation in the area of defence since 2009?

Answer : India and Sweden

Explanation :

- **Security Protection Agreement signed between India and Sweden**
- India and Sweden have been signing MoU on **cooperation in the area of defence since 2009** and conducted number of bilateral meetings.
- The agreement will boost **‘Make in India’** initiative by the Government of India. **‘Make in India’** is a type of **Swadeshi movement** launched by Government of India on **25th September 2014**.

2. Which country has withdrawn ‘Most Favoured Nation’ to Pakistan just a day after the terror attack in Pulwama?

Answer : India

Explanation :

- On 15th February 2019, **India has withdrawn ‘Most Favoured Nation’ or MFN to Pakistan** just a day after the terror attack in **Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir** in which 40 **Central Reserve Police Force (CPRF)** personal lost their lives.
- It was in **1996 India granted MFN status to Pakistan**.

3. Which organization released World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019 report?

Answer : International Labour Organization

Explanation :

- **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019' Report Released By ILO.**
- The International Labour Organization released **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019** report. As per the report, unemployment rates will fall to **4.9% in 2019** and remains steady in 2020.

February 18

1. Name the viral infection caused by rubeola virus?

Answer : Measles

Explanation :

- **World Health Organization says the number of Measles cases reported in 2018 is nearly double** the infections contracted in the previous year.
- Measles is a viral infection **caused by rubeola virus**. It is a highly infectious disease but easily preventable by vaccination. **Vaccination for measles was introduced in 1963.**

February 19

1. Who declared a national emergency at the US-Mexico border?

Answer : Donald Trump

Explanation :

- U.S. President **Donald Trump**, declared a national emergency at the **US-Mexico border** to fund construction of his long-sought wall, citing an **“invasion of drugs and criminals”** as reason for the act.

2. Which country became the 72nd country to sign the Framework Agreement of the ISA?

Answer : Argentina

Explanation :

- **Argentina** became the **72nd country** to sign the Framework Agreement of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
- The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is a group of **121** solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in **Gurugram, India**.

February 20

1. Who rolled out the first US bank crypto currency?

Answer : JP Morgan

Explanation :

- **JP Morgan** rolled out the **first US bank crypto currency**. The currency is designed to be **decentralized** so that no one has control over transactions being sent over the network. It will be used **internally** by the bank to enable instant transfers of payments between **institutional accounts**.
- Crypto currencies are used successfully to move money between the bank and a client which usually runs on a **blockchain technology**.

February 21

1. Who signed the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

Answer : Saudi Arabia

Explanation :

- **Saudi Arabia** signed the framework agreement of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** becoming the **73rd country** to join the **India-led renewable energy** organisation which now has a total of 122 members.
- **ISA** was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in 2015.

February 22

1. Where did the 55th Munich Security Conference (MSC) held?

Answer : Munich, Germany

Explanation :

- **55th Munich Security Conference (MSC)**, an annual meeting that brings together leaders and security experts from across the world, was held at **Munich, Germany**
- **India** received widespread support on the issue of **Pakistan's** role in cross-border terror attacks including **Pulwama** strike at the conference.

2. Name the world's first female AI news anchor unveiled by Chinese news agency Xinhua in collaboration with Sogou Inc?

Answer : Xin Xiaomeng

Explanation :

- Chinese news agency **Xinhua** unveiled the world's **first female** AI news anchor **Xin Xiaomeng**. She has been developed in collaboration with **Sogou Inc**, a search engine company. She is expected to make a debut in **March**, during the upcoming meetings of China's national legislature.

- Earlier, Xinhua also developed **Qiu Hao**, the world's **first male** AI news anchor at the **World Internet Conference in Wuzhen** held in November 2018.

February 23

1. Who decided to stop the flow of its share of water from the three eastern rivers?

Answer : India

Explanation :

- After withdrawing the most favoured nation (**MFN**) status and slamming a **200 per cent import duty**, **India** decided to stop the flow of its share of water from **the three eastern rivers –the Beas, Ravi and Sutlej** to Pakistan. Construction of a dam had started at **Shahpur-Kandi on Ravi river**.

2. Who has declared a year-long state of emergency dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country?

Answer : Omar al-Bashir

Explanation :

- Sudanese President **Omar al-Bashir** has declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country. Omar al-Bashir in a televised address called on Sudan's parliament to **postpone constitutional amendments** that would allow him to run for another term in a presidential election in **2020**.

February 24

1. Which force condemned the Pulwama terror attack in Kashmir?

Answer : Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Explanation :

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** condemned the **Pulwama** terror attack in **Kashmir**, which led to death of 40 CRPF jawans and decided to keep Pakistan in the 'grey' list owing to continued funding of terrorist groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jamat-ud-Dawa.

February 25

1. Which countries hosted the annual Cobra Gold military exercise?

Answer : Thailand and the United States

Explanation :

- **Thailand** and the **United States** hosted the annual **Cobra Gold** military exercise, the biggest activity of its type in the **Asia-Pacific region** with **29 nations** taking part as participants or observers.
- Apart from the 2 countries, **7 countries** who participated in the exercise were **India, Singapore, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia** and **South Korea**. India participated in this exercise for the first time in the '**Observer Plus**' category in **2016** alongside **China**.

February 26

1. Who flagged off the first Afghan cargo from western Nimroz?

Answer : Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani

Explanation :

- **Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani flagged off the first Afghan cargo** from western Nimroz province that will be **exported to India through Chabahar Port in Iran** which was inaugurated in 2017.
- The Chabahar port which provides an alternative route for trade between India and Afghanistan is located in Southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

February 27

1. Where did the Sampri-2019 will be conducted?

Answer : Tangail, Bangladesh

Explanation :

- As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise **Sampri-2019** will be conducted at **Tangail, Bangladesh** from 02 March to 15 March 2019.
- Exercise Sampri-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh and this will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.

February 28

1. Where did the Poshan Abhiyaan-a scheme launched at 2017?

Answer : Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan

Explanation :

- UNICEF representative in India **Yasmin Ali Haque** lauded the contribution of **Poshan Abhiyaan**-a scheme by the **central government** in reduction of stunting, under-nutrition and anaemia in women and adolescents by providing monetary support via direct cash transfers.
- It was launched in **2017** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan**. Quoting Haque, “Poshan Abhiyaan has got global recognition for its effort to eradicate malnutrition from India.

SPORTS NEWS

February 01

1. Who has become the first West Indian since cricket great Garfield Sobers to be named as the world's leading all-rounder?

Answer : Jason Holder

Explanation :

- **Jason Holder** has become the **first West Indian** since cricket great Garfield Sobers to be named as the **world's leading all-rounder** following his superb display against England in Barbados.

February 02

1. Who won the 4th edition of the Pro Wrestling League?

Answer : Haryana Hammers

Explanation :

- **Haryana Hammers** won the **fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL)** as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the **Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium in Greater Noida.**

2. Who became the first ever women cricketer to play 200 one day internationals?

Answer : Mithali Raj

Explanation :

- India's Women Cricket team captain, **Mithali Raj** became the **first female player** to play **200 ODIs** during the 3rd and Final ODI against New Zealand.

February 03

1. How much runs scored by Mithali Raj in ODIs?

Answer : 6,622 runs

Explanation :

- **Mithali Raj becomes first woman cricketer to play 200 ODIs**
- Mithali Raj, India's One-day International (ODI) captain becoming the first female cricketer to play 200 ODIs.
- The Indian captain also holds the record for most runs scored in ODIs with 6,622 runs including 7 centuries and 52 half centuries.
- She already holds the record for the most-capped women's cricketer in the history of the game. Mithali Raj had achieved the milestone when she played her 192 ODI of the career.

2. Who won their First-ever Asian Cup Title In Football by defeating Japan?

Answer : Qatar

Explanation :

- **Qatar won their First-ever Asian Cup Title In Football by defeating Japan**
- On 2nd February 2019, Qatar won its first major soccer title by beating four-time champion Japan 3-1 in the 17th edition of the AFC Asian Cup held in United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **KeyPoints:**
- 1. Sudan born Almoez Ali, became the first player to score nine goals at a single Asian Cup. He broke the record of Iranian Ali Daei, who scored eight goals in 1996.
- **2. Awards Conferred:**
- Top scorer of the tournament was conferred to Almoez Ali (He created a Record After Scoring 9 Goals)
- Best player of the tournament was conferred to Qatar Almoez Ali
- Best goalkeeper of the tournament was conferred to Qatar Saad Al Sheeb
- Japan Received the Fair play award

February 04

1. Name the Indian cricketer who ranked first in the ICC ODI women's batter rankings?

Answer : Smriti Mandhana

Explanation :

- Smriti Mandhana Tops Women's ODI Batting Record

- On February 3, 2019, **India's Smriti Mandhana** attained top in the ICC ODI rankings for batswomen, she grab first position after the match against **New Zealand**, whereas **Ellyse Perry** followed her in the **second position** and Indian ODI skipper **Mithali Raj** in **fifth position**.
- In the ODI Bowler's ranking, veteran pacer **Jhulan Goswami** is **fourth**, with **Poonam Yadav** at **eighth**, and spinner **Deepi Sharma** at ninth.
- Whereas, **Deepi Sharma** is **fourth** in the **All-rounders rank** and is the Indian cricketer to be the top-10 list.

February 05

1. Who is president of World squash federation?

Answer : Jacques Fountaine

Explanation :

- Indian squash player **Ramit Tandon** win the fourth title of Seattle open title by defeating **Mohamed El Sherbini** of **Egypt**. Seattle Open is a PSA challenger squash Tour held in **USA**.
- **Jacques Fountaine** is president of World squash federation which is headquartered at East Sussex, England.

February 06

1. Who completed the milestone of playing 150 international matches?

Answer : Indian women's hockey team midfielder Navjot Kaur

Explanation :

- **Indian women's hockey team midfielder Navjot Kaur**, who climbed the ranks in the national team with significant performances, completed the milestone of playing **150 international matches**.
- The Indian midfielder also featured in the 17th Asian Games, 2016 Rio Olympics, fourth Women's Asian Champions Trophy and was part of India's silver medal feat at the 2018 Asian Games.

February 07

1. Who has become the top- ranked batter in women's ODI cricket?

Answer : Smriti Mandhana

Explanation :

- **Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana** has become the **top-ranked batter in women's ODI cricket**, as per the latest rankings released by the ICC.
- The 22-year-old moved up three spots in the batters' rankings to reach the top spot.

February 08

1. Who holds the record of the quickest half-century in women's T20Is?

Answer : New Zealand's Sophie Devine

Explanation :

- Indian opener **Smriti Mandhana** hammered the **fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is**. The left-handed batswoman struck a half-century in just **24 balls** in the 1st T20I against New Zealand at Westpac Stadium in **Wellington**. In doing so, the 22-year-old bettered her own record of a fifty in **25 balls**, which she created in **2018** against **England**.

- **New Zealand's Sophie Devine** holds the record of the quickest half-century in women's T20Is. She set the record in **2005** against **India** when she hammered an **18-ball** fifty.

February 09

1. Who won the EGAT Cup International Weightlifting, that held in Thailand?

Answer : Saikhom Mirabai

Explanation :

- The 24 year old World champion Manipuri weightlifter **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** notched up gold at EGAT Cup in Chiang Mai city, Thailand.
- Mirabai Chanu has won **48 kg category Gold** with effort of 192 kg in the silver level Olympic qualifying event for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

February 10

1. What was India's rank according to latest FIFA rankings?

Answer : 103

Explanation :

- **The Indian football team slipped out of the top 100 in the latest FIFA rankings** following their back to back group league defeats during the AFC Asian Cup in the UAE.
- Slumped six places to be ranked **103** with 1219 points in the **FIFA rankings** released recently.

2. Who are continued to top the charts for batsmen and bowlers?

Answer : Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah

Explanation :

- **The Indian cricket team has now grabbed the second spot in the ICC One-day International rankings** in which captain **Virat Kohli** and **Jasprit Bumrah** have continued to **top the charts for batsmen and bowlers**.

February 15

1. Which state animal Clouded Leopard will be the mascot for the National Games 2022?

Answer : Meghalaya

Explanation :

- **Meghalaya's state animal Clouded Leopard** will be the **mascot** for the **National Games 2022** coinciding with the 50th year of the creation of the state.
- Clouded Leopard is among the wild cats that live throughout the forests of **Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia Hills**.

2. Who achieved his fourth ATP title after a triumph against finalist Hungary's Morton Fucsovics?

Answer : Russia's Daniil Medvedev

Explanation :

- **Russia's Daniil Medvedev** has achieved his fourth **ATP title** after a triumph against finalist **Hungary's Morton Fucsovics** in the **Finale of Sofia Open 2019**.

February 16

1. Who was appointed as the Coach of Under-23 Indian Football team for the upcoming Asian Football Confederation?

Answer : Derrick Pereira

Explanation :

- **Derrick Pereira** was named head coach of the **India U-23 team for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Qualifiers** slated to be held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan** from March 22.
- Pereira, who is the technical director of Indian Super League (ISL) club FC Goa, will be in charge of the preparatory camp in Goa which kicks-off from March 2.

February 18

1. Who won men's singles title in National Badminton Championship?

Answer : Sourabh Verma

Explanation :

- In a battle between the Indian shuttle queens, **Saina Nehwal toppled top seed PV Sindhu for the second year** as she claimed the **senior national title in women's singles final** victory in Guwahati.
- **Sourabh Verma clinched his third consecutive title** by defeating Lakshya Sen in the **men's singles final**.

February 19

1. Who won the Qatar Open 2019?

Answer : Elise Merten

Explanation :

- **Elise Merten**, world number **21 from Belgium** beat world number **3, Simona Halep** to win the **Qatar Open** held in **Doha, Qatar**. This is said to be the biggest title of her career.

February 20

1. Who broke the old men's indoor world record in 1,500 metres?

Answer : Samuel Tefera

Explanation :

- A 22-year old men's indoor world record in **1,500 metres** was broken by **Samuel Tefera**, an Ethiopian teenager. He broke the record at the **Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix** by finishing the race in **3 minutes, 31.04 seconds**.
- He achieved this by defeating **Yomif Kejelcha** in final bend by 0.54 seconds and 200m.

February 21

1. Where did the 70th International Boxing Tournament Strandja 2019 held?

Answer : Sofia, Bulgaria

Explanation :

- 70th International Boxing Tournament Strandja 2019, hosted by **European Boxing Confederation (EUBC)** was held at **Sofia, Bulgaria**, followed by **India** at **2nd rank** with **7 medals**) and **USA** at 3rd with **8 medals**.
- Former junior world champion, **Nikhat Zareen (Women's 51 KG)** and Meena Kumari Devi (Women's 54 KG), became the first set of **Indian Women Boxers** to clinch **Gold medals** in **Sofia**.

February 25

1. Who won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air rifle event?

Answer : Apurvi Chandela

Explanation :

- **Apurvi Chandela** has won the gold medal in the **women's 10-metre** air rifle event at the **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi**. This is **India's first medal** of the **ISSF World Cup 2019**.
- She set a new world record by registering a score of **252.9** points in the final.

February 26

1. Who sealed a berth for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

Answer : Saurabh Chaudhary

Explanation :

- The 16-year-old Indian Shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** claimed **gold medal** in the men's **10m air pistol event** with a **world record** score of **245.0** in the final at the season-opening **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** event.
- In addition, he sealed a berth for the **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.

February 27

1. Who won the Cannes International Open?

Answer : Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta

Explanation :

- **Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta** won the **Cannes International Open** after taking an easy draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round that concluded recently.
- Earlier this year, Abhijeet had also tied for the first place at the Delhi International open in January.

2. Who became the first bowler to bag 4 wickets off successive deliveries in T20 internationals?

Answer : Rashid Khan

Explanation :

- Leg-spinner **Rashid Khan** became the first bowler to bag four wickets off successive deliveries in **Twenty20 Internationals**. Rashid's impressive bowling performance in the third and final game also helped Afghanistan sweep the T20I series against Ireland in Dehradun.

February 28

1. Who are clinched the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event?

Answer : Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary

Explanation :

- **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched the gold medal in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** event at the **ISSF World Cup** in **New Delhi**.
- Ranxin Jiang and Bowen Zhang of China won silver while the Republic of Korea pair Minjung Kim and Daehun Park got the bronze.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

February 03

1. Which University developed the AI based system that translates thoughts into speech?

Answer : Columbia University

Explanation :

- Scientists create AI based system that translates thoughts into speech
- Scientists have created an artificial intelligence (AI) based system that directly translates thoughts into intelligible, recognisable speech
- The technology developed by researchers from Columbia University in the United States.
- The research will help people who cannot speak regain their ability to communicate with the outside world.

2. Who signs MoU with Microsoft for digital learning?

Answer : Sikkim

Explanation :

- **Sikkim signs MoU with Microsoft for digital learning**
- On January 31, 2019, In order to improve the education system Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sikkim government .
- The MoU was signed between the state Human Resource Department RB Subba and Managing Director of Microsoft India, Manish Prakash to boost digital literacy and new age technology knowledge in government schools.
- This agreement will also help Sikkim to upgrade its state curriculum from class VI to class X with IT course.
- In order to bring the plan in action and build student-teacher capacity in digital skills, enhance digital literacy and digital citizenship, Microsoft will adopt two schools.

February 04

1. Where did ISRO launch the HSFC which will act as the hub of ISRO's future manned missions?

Answer : Bengaluru

Explanation :

- ISRO launches Human Space Flight Centre in Bengaluru
- On 30th January 2019, **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** launched the **Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)** which will act as the hub of ISO's future manned missions at the headquarters of ISRO in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
 - **Key Points**
- India's first manned mission was announced on **15th August 2018** and it is set to happen by **2022** which is going to be the 75th year of Independence.
- Former ISRO chairman K. Kasturirangan unveiled the full scale model of Gaganyaan's crew module in the presence of ISRO's chairman K. Sivan.
- S. Unnikrishnan Nair and R. Hutton was declared as the **founder Director of HSFC** and **Project Director of Gaganyaan** respectively by ISRO chairman Dr. K. Sivan.
- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**
- Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka

February 06

1. Name the mobile app for booking of Bungalow No.5, New Delhi?

Answer : Mashoka5

Explanation :

- **Mashoka5**, the mobile app for booking of Bungalow No.5, New Delhi was launched by Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs **Shri Hardeep S Puri**.
- The Application will help an applicant to complete the **entire booking process** from anywhere and at any time, by using a **mobile phone**.

2. Where did the 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 launched?

Answer : French Guiana

Explanation :

- **India's 40th communication satellite GSAT-31** has been launched successfully from **French Guiana**. The **Ariane-5 rocket** lifted off with it from Kourou Launch Base, and in 42-minutes, placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- GSAT-31 will provide transponder capacity for DTH television and connectivity to services like VSATs for ATMs, stock-exchanges, Digital Satellite News Gathering DSNG and e-governance applications.

February 11

1. Recently, India launched its which anti guided missile in Balashore, Odisha?

Answer : Helina

Explanation :

- India test-fired **Helina**, a helicopter-launched version of the **Nag** anti-tank guided missile, with a hit range of **7-8 km**, from the Odisha Coast on Friday.
- Developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, Helina is said to be one of the most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world.

February 12

1. Where is the second indigenously developed 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet' (SFDR), propulsion-based missile system tested?

Answer : Odisha

Explanation :

- The **second** indigenously developed '**Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)**' propulsion-based missile system was successfully flight tested **in Odisha by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- The success of SFDR propulsion technology is a significant milestone and will pave the way for the development of long-range air-to-air missiles in the country.

February 14

1. Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik launched which portal for online licensing of AYUSH Medicine?

Answer : e-AUSHADHI

Explanation :

- Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, **Shripad Yesso Naik** launched the **e-AUSHADHI** portal for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters. The portal's objective is increasing transparency and accountability and improving information management facility and data usability.
- The new e-portal is an acronym for **Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative**.

February 16

1. Name the Mission launched by NASA to investigate Universe in the year 2023?

Answer : 'SPHEREx'

Explanation :

- NASA's next **SPHEREx mission** will aim to understand how our universe evolved and the prevalence of ingredients for life in galaxy. For this mission, **Epoch of Reionization and ICES explorer 'SPHEREx'** program is slated to launch in **2023**.
- For 2 years, SPHEREx will contemplate the sky in optical and near-infrared light, gathering data on more than 300 million galaxies and 100 million stars in our galaxy.

February 17

1. Which Portal was launched by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for real time data on available depth on stretches of National Waterways?

Answer : 'LADIS'

Explanation :

- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** launched a new portal '**LADIS**' for real time data on available depth on stretches of National Waterways.

February 19

1. Name the first Iranian made semi-heavy submarine launched by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani?

Answer : Fateh

Explanation :

- Iran's President **Hassan Rouhani** unveiled the first Iranian made **semi-heavy submarine** named "**Fateh**" ("Conqueror" in Persian), capable of being fitted with missiles, as per the reporting on Iran's state TV.
- It has subsurface-to-surface missiles with a range of about **2,000 km** (1,250 miles) and is capable of reaching **Israel** and **U.S. military bases** in the region.

February 20

1. Name the drainage-cleaning robot introduced in Chennai, TamilNadu recently?

Answer : Bandicoot

Explanation :

- **Bandicoot**, a drainage-cleaning robot, has been introduced for the **first time in India** at the **Kumbakonam** city corporation as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging at the cost of Rs 18 lakh in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

- It is a **semi-automatic robot** can enter manholes for cleaning sewage lines with its **robotic arm** and is equipped with **5 night-vision cameras** to relay the scenario underneath.

February 21

1. Which tele-law mobile App was launched by Ravi Shankar Prasad?

Answer : ‘Nyaya Bandhu’

Explanation :

- A tele-law mobile application ‘**Nyaya Bandhu**’ was launched by the **Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad**.
- It is pro bono legal service which is designed to connect practising lawyers and the registered eligible beneficiaries in a hassle-free manner.

February 22

1. Name the India’s first Humanoid Police Robot inaugurated by Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan?

Answer : KP-BOT

Explanation :

- **Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan**, inaugurated **India’s first Humanoid Police Robot named KP-BOT**, ranked as Sub-Inspector (SI), at the Police Headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The robot’s gender is declared female keeping in mind women empowerment and gender equality.

February 23

1. A small brown rat of bramble cay melomys becomes World’s first mammal to go extinct due to climate change, It belongs to which country?

Answer : Australia

Explanation :

- **Australian Small Brown Rat** becomes **World’s First Mammal to go Extinct** due to “**human-induced climate change**”. It was found only on a small sand island near the coast of Papua New Guinea.

February 25

1. Who launched a cruise missile from a submarine?

Answer : Iran

Explanation :

- **Iran** launched a cruise missile from a submarine for the first time during ongoing annual military drill named “**Velayat-97**” in the **Strait of Hormuz**.
- An image showing a green submarine on the surface of the water launching an orange missile was released by **Fars news agency** and the other submarines are said to have the same capability.

February 26

1. Who have joined hands to launch a new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs)?

Answer : World Bank, UN Women & SIDBI

Explanation :

- **World Bank, UN Women, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** have joined hands to launch a new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called **Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs)**, with an initial corpus of **Rs 300 crore**.
- The proposed bond will enable individual women entrepreneurs in sectors like food processing, agriculture, services and small units to borrow around **Rs 50,000 to Rs 3 lakh** at an annual interest rate of around **13-14 per cent or less**.

February 27

1. Who launched Rail Drishti Dashboard?

Answer : Piyush Goyal

Explanation :

- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** launched **Rail Drishti Dashboard**, an online portal containing information related to passenger and freight trains and links to live feeds of **IRCTC** kitchens.
- The **URL** of the dashboard is raildrishti.cris.org.in and it is very well optimized and user friendly so that those in remote villages can also access and know everything about railways.

AWARDS

February 01

1. Who was conferred with the prestigious "Award of Appreciation" by Ashwani Kumar Choubey?

Answer : Rajiv Nath

Explanation :

- **Rajiv Nath** was conferred with the prestigious 'Award of Appreciation' by **Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare** for his contribution to the Global Public Healthcare sector at **The Award of Appreciation Ceremony** held at Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, organized by **Diaspora Foundation**.

February 05

1. Which company received the Aegis Graham Bell Award 2019 under Innovation in Data Science, in Panaji, Goa?

Answer : Uniphore Software Systems

Explanation :

- **9th edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award** was held in **Panaji Goa**. **Uniphore Software Systems** received the Aegis Graham Bell Award under **Innovation in Data Science** for its flagship product **auMina**.

February 06

1. Name the former Secretary of Government of India who was entitled with K. Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018?

Answer : P.S. Krishnan

Explanation :

- P.S. Krishnan, former Secretary of Government of India, was entitled with K. Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2018 in **New Delhi**.
- **Social Exclusion and Justice in India, Empowering Dalits for Empowering India: A Road-map** are some of books written by P S Krishnan.

February 07

1. Which corporation has been named a winner under the 'miniratna' category?

Answer : National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)

Explanation :

- **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** has been named a winner under the '**miniratna**' category by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- It is felicitated for their exemplary work towards **promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs**.

February 08

1. Name State Bank of India's UK chief who was honoured with the 'Freedom of the City Of London' by city of London Corporation?

Answer : Shri Sanjiv Chadha

Explanation :

- **The State Bank of India's** Uk chief **Shri Sanjiv Chadha** has been honoured with the '**Freedom of the City Of London**' by city of London Corporation.
- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was the previous Indian recipient of this award and other recipient includes author JK Rowling and actor Dame Judi Dench.

February 09

1. Who was conferred the insignia of the Officer of the Legion of Honour, France' Highest civilian honour?

Answer : Father Francois Laborde

Explanation :

- **Father Francois Laborde**, a 92-year-old priest, was conferred with the **Legion d'Honneur, the highest civilian award of France**, in recognition of his work for specially-abled children in **Howrah**.
- Father Francois Laborde, French-origin with indian citizenship, is considered to be the third person from the state to be entitled with the Legion of Honor after film maestro Satyajit Ray and actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

February 10

1. Who awarded with Implementation and Innovation?

Answer : PMAY(U)

Explanation :

- The outstanding performance and to promote a healthy competition by States/UTs, Urban Local Bodies, Beneficiaries and Housing Finance Corporations (under CLSS), Ministry

of Housing and Urban Affairs has instituted the ‘**PMAY (U) awards for Implementation and Innovation**’ under the Mission.

- The overarching purpose of the PMAY (U) Awards is to identify and reward the “Top Performers” in different categories, to encourage others to compete and attain the goal of ‘Housing for All’ in a sustained manner.

February 11

1. Which filmmaker will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television?

Answer : Deepa Mehta

Explanation :

- Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker, Deepa Mehta will be conferred with **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.
- Deepa Mehta is best known for her trilogy- “**Fire**”, “**Earth**” and “**Water**”.

2. Who presented Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards to army officers?

Answer : Ranbir Singh

Explanation :

- Lieutenant General **Ranbir Singh**, GOC-in-C (General Officer Commanding), Northern Command, presented **Gallantry** and **Distinguished Service** Awards to army officers, other ranks and next of kin (for posthumous awards).
- **Lance Naik Wani** was conferred with the **Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry)**, received by his wife on his behalf. **20 units** were also awarded for their overall outstanding performance in the **Command Theatre** in the year **2018**.

February 12

1. Who was awarded with Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018?

Answer : YES BANK

Explanation :

- **Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018** announced **YES BANK** as winner in “**Innovation in Data Science**” category for their industry-first project “**Yes EEE (Engage Enrich Excel)**”. 9th edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 hosted by **Government of Goa at Entertainment Society of Goa, Panaji**.
- AGBA has been promoting innovations and entrepreneurship in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) domain.

February 13

1. Name the Indian Historian, who won the Israel’s prestigious Dan David Prize in the category ‘Past time dimension’?

Answer : Sanjay Subrahmanyam

Explanation :

- Indian Historian **Sanjay Subrahmanyam** won **Israel’s prestigious Dan David Prize** in the category ‘**Past time dimension**’ for his work in macro history.

- Subrahmanyam won the prize for his work on ‘**Inter-cultural encounters between Asians, Europeans and people of North and South America during the early modern era**’.

February 14

1. Who won the EY Entrepreneur of the year 2018?

Answer : Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO of Eicher Motors

Explanation :

- **Siddhartha Lal**, MD & CEO of **Eicher Motors** has won the **EY Entrepreneur of the year 2018** after transforming Eicher Motors and helping the company resurrect the **Royal Enfield** motorcycle brand in India and making it a global brand icon.

February 15

1. Who won the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)’s ‘Oscat’ award for his/her movie A Star is Born?

Answer : Bradley Cooper

Explanation :

- **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** awarded actor-director Bradley Cooper ‘**Oscat**’ award for casting his own dog, rather than one supplied by animal exhibitors, in his movie **A Star is Born**.
- **A Star is Born** has received **8 Oscar** nominations including best actor for **Bradley Cooper** and best actress for **Lady Gaga**.

February 18

1. Who has won the prestigious Martin Ennals Human Rights Prize?

Answer : Abdul Aziz Muhamat

Explanation :

- **Abdul Aziz Muhamat**, a **Sudanese refugee** who has been held in **Australia’s** notorious offshore **Manus Island processing centre** for over five years, has won the prestigious **Martin Ennals human rights prize**, the **UN refugee agency UNHCR** has said.
- It is the first time that the major prize has been awarded to an individual focused on refugee issues.

2. Which corporation won the “Swachhata Excellence awards 2019”?

Answer : Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh municipal corporation

Explanation :

- **Chhattisgarh’s Raigarh municipal corporation** won the “**Swachhata Excellence awards 2019**”. The municipal corporations of Ambikapur and Kumbakonam bagged the second and third prizes respectively.

February 19

1. Who was conferred with Rabindranath Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the year 2014?

Answer : Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh

Explanation :

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **Rabindranath Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony** for the year **2014, 2015 and 2016** at the **Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi**.
- The awardees were: **Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh** for the year **2014**, **Chhayanaaut** (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) for the year **2015**, **Shri Ram Sutar Vanji** for the year for **2016**.

February 20

1. Who won the Sportsman of the Year in Laureus World Sports Awards 2019 at the Laureus Awards Ceremony in Monaco?

Answer : Novak Djokovic

Explanation :

- **Tennis world No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia won his fourth Laureus World Sportsman of the Year** and American record-holding gymnast **Simone Biles bagged the World Sportswoman of the Year Award**.

2. Which state government has bestowed the “Shiv Chhatrapati Lifetime Achievement Award” on Mallakhamb coach Uday Deshpande for 2017-18?

Answer : Maharashtra

Explanation :

- **The Maharashtra government has bestowed the ‘Shiv Chhatrapati Lifetime Achievement Award’ on mallakhamb coach Uday Deshpande** for 2017-18
- **Shiv Chhatrapati award for players among several others** was presented to Smriti Mandhana, opening batswoman of the Indian Women’s Cricket team.

February 21

1. Who was awarded with India’s first-ever “Football Ratna”?

Answer : Sunil Chhetri

Explanation :

- The 34-year-old, **Sunil Chhetri**, was awarded **India’s first-ever “Football Ratna”** by **Football Delhi** president Shaji Prabhakaran, former player and administrator at the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and FIFA.
- He was also named as the **6th Indian Footballer** in the elite **Padma Shri** list.

February 22

1. Who presented the 7th National Photography Awards?

Answer : Rajyavardhan Rathore

Explanation :

- **Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** presented the **7th National Photography Awards** in a function organized at National Media Centre in New Delhi.
- The theme for the Professional category was **“Women led Development”**, while the theme for Amateur category was **“Fairs and Festivals of India”**.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** Received by Shri Ashok Dilwali.

February 23

1. Who was conferred the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize?

Answer : Narendra Modi

Explanation :

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **Seoul Peace Prize** during his two-day visit to **South Korea**. The award was first announced by the Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation in **October 2018**.

2. Who became the First Indian Woman to be honoured with the becomes the First Indian Woman to be honoured with the?

Answer : Divya Karnad

Explanation :

- **Divya Karnad** became the **First Indian Woman** to be honoured with the became the **First Indian Woman** to be honoured with the for her work on marine conservation along with **Oliver Nsengimana and Fernanda Abra**.
- She is the second Indian to receive this award after **Dr. Charudutt Mishra**.
- It is a prestigious international award that celebrates achievements in protecting **wild animals and plant species**.

February 24

1. Who was named as the Brand Ambassador of Swasth Immunised India a year-long campaign initiated by Network18 and Serum Institute of India?

Answer : Kareena Kapoor Khan

Explanation :

- Bollywood actress, Kareena Kapoor Khan is named as the brand ambassador of **Swasth Immunised India**, a year-long campaign initiated by **Network18** and **Serum Institute of India** which promotes immunisation of babies under **two years** of age.

February 25

1. Who was awarded with Asian Player of the Year 2018 award from the Asian Hockey Federation?

Answer : Manpreet Singh

Explanation :

- **The Asian Hockey Federation** has honoured **Indian skipper Manpreet Singh** with the **2018 Player of the Year award**. Women team's striker **Lalremsiami** has bagged the **Rising Player of The Year prize**.

February 26

1. Which Indian Documentary Film based on mensuration that won the Oscar in "Best Documentary Short" Film category?

Answer : Period. End of Sentence

Explanation :

- A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled "**Period. End of Sentence**," has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards. Award-winning filmmaker **Rayka Zehtabchi** has directed the short film.

- The documentary feature is set in Hapur village outside Delhi, where women lead a quiet revolution as they fight against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation.

February 27

1. Who presented the “Gandhi Peace Prize” for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?

Answer : Ram Nath Kovind

Explanation :

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the “**Gandhi Peace Prize**” for the years **2015, 2016, 2017** and **2018** at Rashtrapati Bhawan. **Gandhi Peace Prize for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence** was instituted in the year **1995**.
- 2015 – Vivekanand Kendra, Kanyakumari,
- 2016 – Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International (jointly)
- 2017 – Ekal Abhiyan Trust and
- 2018 – Yohei Sasakawa

February 28

1. IRCTC application and which state’s government “Khanij Online” won National e- governance awards?

Answer : Chhattisgarh

Explanation :

- **Railway’s ticket booking mobile application** and the **Chhattisgarh government’s ‘Khanij online’** are among 14 such IT projects that have been chosen for this year’s **National e-Governance Awards**.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (**IRCTC**) **Rail Connect** mobile app was launched in January 2017.

2. Who has chosen for this year’s META Lifetime Achievement Award?

Answer : Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar

Explanation :

- Eminent Indian **playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar** has been chosen for this year’s **META Lifetime Achievement Award**. The playwright will be conferred upon with the award on March 12, along with the winners of the 14th **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) festival**.

APPOINTMENTS

February 01

1. Who assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff?

Answer : G Ashok Kumar

Explanation :

- **Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar**, assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**. An alumnus of National Defence Academy at **Khadakvasla in Pune**, he was commissioned into the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1982.

2. Who has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the Maldives?

Answer : Senior diplomat Sunjay Sudhir

Explanation :

- **Senior diplomat Sunjay Sudhir** has been appointed as **India's Ambassador to the Maldives**, the Ministry of External Affairs announced.

February 02

1. Name the managing director and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd who has been elected the new chairman of BARC India,?

Answer : Punit Goenka

Explanation :

- The MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), **Punit Goenka** has been elected as the new chairman of **Broadcast Audience Research Council of India (BARC)**. He will be taking over from Nakul Chopra, a senior advisor at Publicis.

2. Who is the current Ambassador to Argentina as the new Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia?

Answer : Sanjiv Ranjan

Explanation :

- Ministry of External Affairs appointed 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer **Sanjiv Ranjan** who is current Ambassador to **Argentina** as the new Ambassador to the **Republic of Colombia**.

February 03

1. Who appointed as the India's envoy to Colombia?

Answer : Sanjiv Ranjan

Explanation :

- **Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as the India's envoy to Colombia**
- Ministry of External Affairs announced that Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as new Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia
- Ranjan is the current Ambassador to Argentina, is expected to take up the assignment shortly
- He was 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service officer holds a bachelor in Economics from Delhi University and an M.A. in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- The government also appointed Dinesh Bhatia, the present Consul General, Consulate General of India at Toronto as the next Ambassador of India to Argentina.

2. Who was appointed as new director of CBI?

Answer : Rishi Kumar Shukla

Explanation :

- **Rishi Kumar Shukla** has been appointed as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- On February 2, 2019, Narendra Modi Government appointed Rishi K Shukla, former Madhya Pradesh DGP, as the new director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a fixed tenure of two years.

- After the unceremonious exit of Alok Verma, M Nageswara Rao had been working as the Interim Director.

February 04

1. Who got additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry?

Answer : Ramesh Abhishek

Explanation :

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Secretary Ramesh Abhishek got additional charge of Civil Aviation Ministry
- On January 31, 2019, Ramesh Abhishek, secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) was appointed as an additional charge Secretary of the **Civil Aviation Ministry**
- He succeeded **R N Choubey**, who resigned as he is appointed as the **member of UPSC**.

2. Who has appointed as the chief of the CBI?

Answer : Rishi Kumar Shukla

Explanation :

- Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed CBI Director
- IPS officer Rishi Kumar Shukla has been appointed as the chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a fixed tenure of two years. Rishi Kumar Shukla is currently serving as the chairman of Madhya Pradesh police Housing Corporation in Bhopal.
- The appointment of the Rishi Kumar Shukla was approved by the Appointments Committee of the cabinet based on the recommendation of the selection committee headed by the Prime Minister. The CBI Director search committee headed by Prime Minister has the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition as members.

February 05

1. Who has been appointed as country's ambassador to India?

Answer : Nilambar Acharya

Explanation :

- **Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya** has been appointed as **country's ambassador to India**. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Acharya in Kathmandu. He has been appointed on the recommendation of the cabinet.

2. Name the person who was elected as the President of El Salvador?

Answer : Nayib Bukele

Explanation :

- Former mayor Nayib Bukele won El Salvador's presidential election. He will succeed **Salvador Sánchez Ceren**, after whom the leadership chair was vacant for a period of time.

February 08

1. Who take charge as the General Manager of Integral Coach Factory?

Answer : Rahul Jain

Explanation :

- Former Assistant General Manager at Western Railway, **Rahul Jain** took charge as the General Manager of **Integral Coach Factory**.
- He succeeded **Sudhanshu Mani** who is known as the architect of India's first self-propelled long distance "**Train 18**".

2. Who has been appointed Civil Aviation secretary?

Answer : Pradeep Singh Kharola

Explanation :

- Air India chief **Pradeep Singh Kharola** has been appointed **Civil Aviation secretary**. He will succeed **Rajiv Nayan Choubey** who retired, after the resignation he took over as member in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

February 10

1. Who took charge as the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs?

Answer : Shri Sailesh

Explanation :

- **Shri Sailesh** took charge as the **Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs**. He will also hold the post of Secretary, Department of Official Language as an additional charge. Sailesh is an IAS Officer of Assam-Meghalaya Cadre of 1985 batch.

February 11

1. Who was presently Ambassador of India to Japan?

Answer : Sanjay Kumar Verma

Explanation :

- Shri **Sanjay Kumar Verma** (IFS: 1998), presently **Ambassador of India to Japan**, has been concurrently accredited as the next **Ambassador of India to the Republic of Marshall Islands**, with residence in Tokyo.

February 12

1. Who was appointed as the Chairman of Africa Union during the summit held in Ethiopia?

Answer : Abdel Fattah El Sisi

Explanation :

- **Abdel Fattah El Sisi**, the **President of Egypt**, was elected as the **African Union's** new chairman during 32nd AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- The Egyptian President said that the objective would be to improve peace and security in Africa in a holistic and sustainable manner.

February 13

1. Name the person, who was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Bhutan?

Answer : Ms. Ruchira Kamboj

Explanation :

- **Ms. Ruchira Kamboj**, presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of South Africa has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Royal Kingdom of Bhutan**. She is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

February 14

1. Who has been appointed the Chairman and MD of National carrier Air India in New Delhi?

Answer : Ashwani Lohani

Explanation :

- **Ashwani Lohani**, a retired bureaucrat, has been appointed the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of national carrier **Air India** in New Delhi.
- The government appointed Air India CMD **Pradeep Singh Kharola as the new Civil Aviation Secretary**.

February 15

1. Who was appointed as the new Election Commissioner of India?

Answer : Sushil Chandra

Explanation :

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed **Sushil Chandra**, the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), to be designated as the **new Election Commissioner on 14th February, 2019**.
- The Election Commission now has Sunil Arora as the Chief Election Commissioner who will succeed O.P. Rawat and Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra as fellow commissioners.

February 16

1. Who has been appointed as the world body's controller?

Answer : Chandramouli Ramanathan

Explanation :

- **Chandramouli Ramanathan** has been appointed as the world body's controller by Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**. Ramanathan will simultaneously be the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

February 17

1. Who has resumed the charge as Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs?

Answer : Arun Jaitley

Explanation :

- **Union Minister Arun Jaitley** has resumed the charge as **Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs**.
- In his absence, the charge of both ministries was assigned to Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.

2. Who topmost positions in the DMSPC?

Answer : Chandramouli Ramanathan

Explanation :

- The United Nations has appointed Indian official **Chandramouli Ramanathan** to one of the topmost positions in the **Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC)**

3. Who take over as the new chairman of the CBDT?

Answer : Pramod Chandra Mody

Explanation :

- The President has appointed **Sushil Chandra as the new Election Commissioner.**
- The appointment was made under the clause (2) of Article 324 of the constitution.
- **IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody** took over as the **new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).**

February 18

1. Who has been appointed as the world body's controller?

Answer : Chandramouli Ramanathan

Explanation :

- The UN has appointed an Indian official in one of the top most positions in its Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.
- **Chandramouli Ramanathan** has been appointed as Controller, **Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance** in the management strategy, policy and compliance department.

2. Who became the first Indian Woman Flight Engineer?

Answer : Hina Jaiswal

Explanation :

- Flight Lieutenant **Hina Jaiswal** has created history by becoming the **first Indian Woman Flight Engineer.**
- She achieved the feat after completing the prestigious Flight Engineers' course 112 Helicopter Unit, Air Force Station, Yelahanka.

February 19

1. Who has been appointed as director of the University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance?

Answer : Faizel Ismail

Explanation :

- Indian-origin global negotiator, Professor **Faizel Ismail**, was appointed as the director of **South Africa's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.**
- He is a professor at the **University of Cape Town (UCT)'s School of Economics** and has served as an **Ambassador** to the **World Trade Organisation.**

February 20

1. Lieutenant General Depinder Singh Ahuja, awardee of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, has taken charge as the new Chief of Staff for which command?

Answer : Southern Command

Explanation :

- **Lieutenant General Depinder Singh Ahuja**, awardee of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, has taken charge as the new **Chief of Staff** at the headquarters of **the Southern Command in Pune, Maharashtra.**

February 21

1. During which year Astronomical Society of India was established?

Answer : 1972

Explanation :

- **Dr. G C Anupama** has been elected president of the **Astronomical Society of India (ASI)**, becoming the first woman to head the prime association of professional astronomers in the country.
- **Astronomical Society of India** was Established in 1972.

February 22

1. Who was the 1st ombudsman for the BCCI?

Answer : Justice D K Jain

Explanation :

- The **Supreme Court** appointed its former judge, **Justice D K Jain** as the **first ombudsman** for the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- The ombudsman will be resolving any issue that comes with regards to the players, as also financial issues.

February 23

1. Who has been selected as the president of the Foundation Board for Better Boxing of AIBA?

Answer : Ajay Singh

Explanation :

- **Ajay Singh**, president of the **Boxing Federation of India** has been selected as the president of the **Foundation Board for Better Boxing of AIBA** (International Boxing Association).

February 24

1. Who took oath as first Lokayukta of Nagaland?

Answer : Uma Nath Singh

Explanation :

- **Justice Uma Nath Singh** took the oath as the **first lokayukta of Nagaland**. He was formerly the **Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court**.

February 25

1. Mushtaque Ahmad has been designated as Vice-President of which organization?

Answer : Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)

Explanation :

- **India's Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad** was elected Vice-President of the **Asian Hockey Federation (AHF)** and **Asima Ali** was elected as the **Executive Committee** member, for a 4-year term in Gifu, Japan.
- Mushtaque Ahmad is currently serving as the President of Hockey India, while Asima Ali is the Vice-President of the national federation.

February 26

1. Who has appointed as its first female ambassador to the United States by Saudi Arabia?

Answer : Princess Reema bint Bandar

Explanation :

- **Saudi Arabia** has appointed Princess **Reema bint Bandar**, a former business executive and philanthropist, as its first female ambassador to the **United States**.

2. Who was appointed as the Prime Minister of Sudan?

Answer : Mohamed Tahir Ayala

Explanation :

- The governor of Gezira state, **Mohamed Tahir Ayala** was appointed as **Sudan's Prime Minister**.
- Sudan's Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf was appointed as first vice president while remaining in his defence post.

February 27

1. Who was re-elected Nigeria's President?

Answer : Muhammadu Buhari

Explanation :

- **Muhammadu Buhari was re-elected Nigeria's President**, results showed, after a delayed poll that angered voters and led to claims of rigging and collusion.

2. Who has been appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana?

Answer : Dr. K. J. Srinivasa

Explanation :

- **Dr. K. J. Srinivasa** has been appointed as the next **High Commissioner of India to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana** and is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- He is currently the **Consul General** at the **Consulate General of India, Johannesburg, South Africa**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

February 01

1. When was National Martyr's Day or Sarvodaya Day observed?

Answer : 30th January

Explanation :

- **National Martyr's Day or Sarvodaya Day - 30th January**
- In India, there are five days declared as **Martyrs' Day** (at national level also known as Sarvodaya day). **30th January** is the date observed at the national level. The date was chosen as it marks the **assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Ji in 1948, by Nathuram Godse**.

February 02

1. What was the theme of World Wetlands Day celebrated on 2nd February 2019?

Answer : "Wetlands and Climate Change"

Explanation :

- **World Wetlands Day – February 2**

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on the **2nd of February** to raise global awareness on the **value of wetlands for humanity and the planet**.
- Theme of World Wetlands Day 2019 is” **Wetlands and Climate Change**”

February 03

1. The Kala Ghoda Art Festival began in which city?

Answer : Mumbai

Explanation :

- **2nd February – Kala Ghoda Arts Festival**
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is annually held in Mumbai. This year, the event will be held from 2nd February to 10 February, 2019 and marks the 20th year of the festival and commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Basically, this event is a meeting point of arts from various walks of life. On 30th October, 1998, Kala Ghoda association was formed with an aim of maintaining and preserving the heritage and art district of South Mumbai.

February 04

1. When was World Cancer Day observed?

Answer : 4th February

Explanation :

- **4th February – World Cancer Day**
- Every year on 4 February World Cancer Day is observed globally and is celebrated by WHO to aware people about the diseases Cancer and how to cure it. To give all the information related to Cancer to the people and to provide the preventive measures to fight with this diseases. 2019 theme is ‘I Am and I will’. According to WHO, the theme is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future.

2. Sri Lanka’s National Day is celebrated as?

Answer : Independence Day

Explanation :

- **4th February – National Day of Sri Lanka**
- On 4 February every year Sri Lanka’s National Day is celebrated as independence Day. Sri Lanka got freedom from British rule on 4 February, 1948.

February 05

1. What is the theme of the Road Safety Week 2019?

Answer : Sadak Suraksha- Jeevan Raksha

Explanation :

- **National Road Safety Week - 04th February to the 10th February**
- **Road safety week** is a national event aimed at raising public awareness about traffic rules and ultimately to reduce casualties due to road accidents. **30th Road Safety Week 2019** will be celebrated in India from **04th February to the 10th February**. There have been various awareness campaigns and events which are being conducted across the country in all the states.

- **Theme for Road Safety Week 2019** is same as last year “**Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha**”.

February 12

1. Who declared 11th February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science?

Answer : United Nations (UN) General Assembly

Explanation :

- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science-11th February**
- The **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** declared **11th February** as the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, in order to achieve full and equal participation and access to women and girls in science, and to further achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.
- The theme for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2019 was “**Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth**”.

February 13

1. Which council has commemorated its 61st Foundation Day as Productivity Day?

Answer : National Productivity Council (NPC)

Explanation :

- **National Productivity Council celebrates its Foundation Day on 12th Feb**
- **National Productivity Council (NPC)** has commemorated its 61st Foundation Day as **Productivity Day**. NPC is celebrating National Productivity Week from **12th Feb to 18th Feb, 2019**. This is to signify a distinctive opportunity for circular business representative models for ‘**Make-Use-Return**’ for further economic prospects and revitalization of materials.
- The theme of this year’s Productivity Day is “**Circular Economy for Productivity and Sustainability**”.

February 21

1. When did the World Day of Social Justice celebrated?

Answer : February 20

Explanation :

- **World Day of Social Justice- February 20**
- **The World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.
- **2019 theme: If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice.**

February 22

1. When did the International Mother Language day observed?

Answer : February 21, 2019

Explanation :

- **International Mother Language day - February 21, 2019**

- **International Mother Language day** was observed on **February 21, 2019**. This day is observed to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education. Since **2000** **International Mother Language day** was observed on 21st February every year.
- Theme for the year 2019- “**Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation**”.

ECONOMY

February 01

1. According to CBIC, MPDA imported from China will be in the range of?

Answer : USD 573.92-USD 1,015.44 a tonne

Explanation :

- The government has imposed an anti-dumping duty on a chemical from China, **used in photography and manufacturing of dyes, for five years** to protect domestic producers of the chemical intermediate from cheap shipments.
- The anti-dumping duty on **Meta Phenylenediamine (MPDA)** imported from China will be in the range USD 573.92-USD 1,015.44 a tonne, according to a notification of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**.

February 02

1. Central Statistical Office (CSO) revised the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) Growth forecast to what percent from earlier estimate of 6.7%,?

Answer : 7.2%

Explanation :

- The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation has revised the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) Growth forecast to **7.2%** from earlier estimate of **6.7%**.
- The revised GDP growth rate shows that the effect of **demonetization** was not as severe as predicted earlier. Hence various economists have criticized the revision of growth rates.

February 03

1. Who receives NBFC – peer – to – peer (P2P) certification from RBI?

Answer : Manish Tewari

Explanation :

- **Lendbox receives NBFC – peer – to – peer (P2P) certification from RBI**
- Delhi based P2P Lending platform, Lendbox has received its NBFC – Peer – to – Peer (P2P) certification from the RBI.
- NBFC – P2P is a new class of NBFCs, for non-banking institutions which carry on the business of Peer to Peer Lending in adherence to the guidelines released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Lendbox began operations in November 2015 and is one of India’s largest P2P Lending platforms with almost 200,000 registered users and a loan book size of almost 40 crores.

2. Who introduced P.V. Sindhu as brand ambassador?

Answer : PNB MetLife

Explanation :

- **PNB MetLife introduced P.V. Sindhu as brand ambassador**
- The **Punjab National Bank** associated life insurance company, PNB MetLife has introduced the ace shuttler P.V. Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- Sindhu will support various initiatives under project Damini, a CSR initiative intended to empower girls at every stage of the journey into womanhood.

3. How much rifles approved by Defence Ministry from US?

Answer : 73,000 assault rifles

Explanation :

- Defence Ministry approves procurement of 73,000 assault rifles from US
- On 2nd February 2019, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved the procurement of around 73000 Sig Sauer rifles from United States of America under fast track procurement mode in a major move towards infantry modernization.

February 04

1. INSTEX project based on?

Answer : Iran Trade Promotion Plan

Explanation :

- **INSTEX: Iran Trade Promotion Plan**
- In order to save Iran from the US (**United States**) sanctions, project **INSTEX** (Instrument in Support of Trade Exercise) was launched by the governments of United Kingdom, France and Germany.
- The Special payment system, INSTEX will save Iran nuclear Deal by allowing Iran to keep trading with countries of European Union despite of sanctions re-imposed by USA.
- INSTEX has supervisory board chaired by UK with members from France and Germany and it is registered with Paris with an Initial 3000 Euros.

2. Who was the head in New E-commerce policy?

Answer : Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

Explanation :

- **New E-commerce Policy comes into effect**
- On 1st February 2019, the new E-commerce Policy comes into effect which was notified in December 2018 by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) headed by the ministry of Commerce and industry.
- **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)**
- Founded: 1995 (Reconstituted in 2000)
- Parent Organization: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

February 05

1. Who released the book 'What Marx Left Unsaid'?

Answer : Manish Tewari

Explanation :

- Under the sponsorship of Indian Bank, two regional rural bank – Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank will be amalgamated to form a single RRB i.e. Tamil Nadu Grama Bank in Tamil Nadu. The consolidation will be effective from April 1, 2019.
- This newly integrated bank will be sponsored by Indian Bank and will have its head office located at Salem, Tamil Nadu.

2. Who released the book ‘What Marx Left Unsaid’?

Answer : Manish Tewari

Explanation :

- Fitch Solutions the research arm of Fitch Group projected fiscal deficit to increase the budgeted target by 0.2 per cent to **3.6%** of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal
- Government has reported fiscal deficit 3.4% of GDP in the interim budget on 1st February 2019.

February 06

1. Subhash Chandra Garg said that the finance ministry is expecting the GDP growth to reach what percent in 2019-20 from 7.2 % projected for the current fiscal?

Answer : 7.2%

Explanation :

- The Economic Affairs Secretary, **Subhash Chandra Garg** said that the finance ministry is expecting the GDP growth to reach **7.5 per cent** in 2019-20 from **7.2 per cent** projected for the current fiscal.
- The Government is expecting a nominal growth of **11.5 per cent** (for 2019-20) and inflation to remain at **4 per cent**.

February 07

1. Who has released Kharif Crop estimation for the year 2018-2019?

Answer : National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC)

Explanation :

- **National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC)** has released Kharif Crop estimation for the year **2018-2019**. According to the report, the basmati rice production is expected to decline by **9.24%** to **5.18 million metric tonnes**.
- The total **oilseeds** production is estimated to be **19.87 million metric tonne** which is **5.36 %** lower as compared to the year 2018.

February 08

1. Who decided to Reduce the policy repo rate?

Answer : Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

Explanation :

- RBI has released 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement. The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to:
- **Reduce the policy repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points from 6.5% to 6.25%** with immediate effect.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.0%, and the **marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.5%**.

February 09

1. Which country becomes the second largest importer of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)?

Answer : India

Explanation :

- As per Oil Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan, India** has become the **second** largest importer of **liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** after **China**, due to rising demands of cleaner alternatives to the traditional cooking fuels like firewood and cow dung.
- In India, LPG is mainly imported from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iran.

February 10

1. **Who** announced increasing the limit on collateral-free agriculture loans to Rs 1.6 lakh from Rs 1 lakh?

Answer : RBI

Explanation :

- To boost liquidity in the farming sector, particularly among small and marginal farmers, **the RBI** announced **increasing the limit on collateral-free agriculture loans to Rs 1.6 lakh from Rs 1 lakh**. This will enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system.

February 13

1. What is the % of GST rate for under-construction flats earlier?

Answer : 12%

Explanation :

- Government panel recommended lowering **GST** on under-**construction** residential properties to 5%. The GST rate for under-construction flats earlier was 12%.
- The move will give relief to homebuyers as the tax rate had lowered sharply with no input tax credit. Any cut in GST should reduce the adverse impact on the land abatement rate also.

February 14

1. Who announced the winner under the Miniratna Category?

Answer : National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC)

Explanation :

- **National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC)** was announced as the winner under the **Miniratna Category** by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** in its campaign to felicitate CPSEs in recognition for their work in promoting SC/ST entrepreneurs.

February 16

1. What is the estimation of India's overall exports in April-January 2018-19?

Answer : USD 439.98 Billion

Explanation :

- India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-January 2018-19 are estimated to be USD 439.98Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 9.07per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-January2018-19 are estimated to be USD 530.55Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 10.74per cent over the same period last year.

February 17

1. With which bank collaboration, Amazon launched “Amazon Pay UPI” for Android users?

Answer : Axis Bank

Explanation :

- Amazon launched ‘**Amazon Pay UPI**’ in collaboration with Axis Bank for Indian android users to facilitate secure payments and financial transactions on its platform.

February 28

1. Who signed the MoU with IOCL for development of infrastructure for fuels?

Answer : Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

Explanation :

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for development of infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.
- As per the National Waterways Act 2016, 106 new National waterways have been declared in addition to existing 5 National Waterways.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

February 11

1. Who was the writer of the book “Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati’s Approach”?

Answer : Mool Chand Sharma

Explanation :

- The book “**Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati’s Approach**” written by Mool Chand Sharma was launched by the Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- The Chief Justice of India, **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** referred to Justice Bhagwati as the “**harbinger of environmental jurisprudence**” and a “**judicial statesman**”.

February 12

1. Who received the 1st copy of the book “Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati’s Approach”?

Answer : President Ram Nath Kovind

Explanation :

- The book “**Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati’s Approach**” written by Mool Chand Sharma was launched by the Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice **Ranjan Gogoi**. The first copy of the book was received by the **President Ram Nath Kovind**.
- The book is a collection of 24 essays celebrating Justice P N Bhagwati’s judicial work and landmark judgments as well as his work towards introducing public interest litigation in India.

February 13

1. Who released the book ‘What Marx Left Unsaid’?

Answer : Manish Tewari

Explanation :

- Indian Politician and author, **Manish Tewari**, launched ‘**What Marx Left Unsaid**’ – **Production of Skills by Means of Skills**, authored by Dr. Malay Chaudhari, Dr. Arindam Chaudhari and **Che Kabir Chaudhari** at Indian International Centre, New Delhi.
- The book titled “**Let’s Talk On Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters**” has been authored by **Rakesh Anand Bakshi**, which will be launched on **World Radio Day (WRD-2019) on February 13 in Mumbai**.
- This book is depicted as the comprehensive guide on **radio-presenting in India**.

February 14

1. Name the book is released by Hamid Ansari and authoured by P Chidambaram?

Answer : Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India

Explanation :

- Former Vice President **Hamid Ansari** on 8th Feb. 2019, launched the new book of former Finance Minister **P Chidambaram** named “**Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India**” at **Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi**.
- The book is a collection of essays on the country’s atmosphere of fear and how the constitutional values are being threatened.

February 18

1. Who is the author of Banned Punjabi Poem ‘Khooni Vaisakhi’?

Answer : Nanak Singh

Explanation :

- The banned Punjabi poem ‘**Khooni Vaisakhi**’ on the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** which was written by Punjabi writer **Nanak Singh in 1919**, will be published next month by **Harper Collins in English**.
- The poem was presented at Jallianwala Bagh on 13th April, 1919 by Nanak Singh also known as ‘**Father of Punjabi Novels**’ But this poem was banned by the British after its publication in 1920.

February 28

1. Who is the author of “Quality, Accreditation and Ranking-A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education”?

Answer : Dr. H Chaturvedi

Explanation :

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched the book titled '**Quality, Accreditation, and Ranking – A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education**' edited by **Education Promotion Society for India's (EPSI)** Alternate President **Dr. H Chaturvedi** in New Delhi.

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