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FEBRUARY - 2020

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INDEX

04 - 38 National News
38 - 46 International News
46 - 48 Important Days
48 - 50 Science & Technology
50 - 54 Sports News
54 - 56 Economic
54 - 59 Awards
59 - 61 Appointments
61 - 62 Books & Authors
62 - 65 Banking News
NATIONAL NEWS

February 1
1. Which City is the 'Most Traffic Congested City' in the world, according to a report released by location technology company TomTom?
Answer: Bengaluru
Explanation:
- **Bengaluru** is the 'Most Traffic Congested City' in the world, according to a report released by location technology company TomTom (TOM2).
- As per the results of the TomTom Traffic Index, a report detailing the traffic situation in **416 cities in 57 countries**, Bengaluru takes the top spot this year with drivers in the southern Indian city expecting to spend an average of **71 percent extra travel time stuck in traffic**.
  
  **Related Keys**
  - TomTom (TOM2) Founded in 1991
  - TomTom (TOM2) Headquarters: Amsterdam, Netherlands

2. Which Defence Conclave is to be held on February 6, 2020?
Answer: India-Africa Defence Conclave
Explanation:
- For the first time, in the **history of DefExpo**, India and Africa are to discuss their defence relations. **The India-Africa Defence Conclave** is to be held on February 6, 2020. Around **24 Defence Ministers** are to participate in the conclave.
- India’s largest Defence Exhibition is to be held in **Lucknow** between February 5, 2020 and February 8, 2020.
  
  **Related Keys**
  - This year more than 1000 companies have registered at the Defexpo. Last year, when the Defexpo was held in Chennai, around 702 companies had register

February 2
1. Who will visit Telangana to inaugurate the new global headquarters Kanha Shanti Vanam of Shri Ram Chandra Mission in Ranga reddy District?
Answer: Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Explanation:
- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will visit Telangana on February 1 and 2, 2020 to inaugurate the new global headquarters Kanha Shanti Vanam of Shri Ram Chandra Mission in Ranga reddy District on February 2, 2020.

Related Keys
- Kanha Shanti Vanam is the global headquarters of the Heartfulness Institute.
- It is located in Kanha village, Ranga Reddy district, about 50 km from Hyderabad, India.

February 3
1. Who was presented The Budget 2020-21 in the Parliament?
Answer: Nirmala Sitaraman

Explanation:
- The Budget 2020-21 that was presented by the finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman in the Parliament increased the import duty of green energy equipment like cells by 20%. This is being implemented to drive local manufacturing of the equipment and lowering the import of low-quality Chinese equipment.
- The step is being introduced to protect the local companies and to boost Make in India strategy.

Related Keys
- Finance Ministry Founded: 29 October 1946
- Finance Ministry Headquarters: New Delhi

February 4
1. Which Government has initiated a doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state?
Answer: Andhra Pradesh Government

Explanation:
- The Andhra Pradesh Government has initiated a doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state, under which, various welfare pensions are being delivered at the doorstep of the pensioners.
“YSR Pension Kanuka” initiative to end the struggles of old people who find it difficult to go to the pension office.

- Also, the age for old age pensioners (OAP) has been reduced from 65 to 60 years.

**Related Keys**
- Andhra Pradesh Governor: Biswabhusan Harichandan
- Andhra Pradesh Literacy rate: 67.41% (2011)
- Andhra Pradesh Government announced doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state

2. Which Development Authority signed MoU with CSIR-CFTRI?

**Answer:** APEDA

**Explanation:**
- On February 3, 2020, APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) signed MoU with **CSIR-CFTRI** (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Food Technological Research Institute).
- According to the agreement, the CSIR-CFTRI will provide technical support to the food industries in the North East Region.

**Related Keys**
- APEDA Founded: 1986
- APEDA Headquarters: New Delhi
- APEDA signed MoU with CSIR-CFTRI to provide technical support to the North East Region food industries

3. Which state has bagged the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana?

**Answer:** Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation:**
- **Madhya Pradesh** has bagged the first position for the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**. Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani will present this award to Madhya Pradesh at a function in New Delhi.
- Madhya Pradesh Minister for Women and Child Development Imarti Devi and Principal Secretary **Anupam Rajan** will receive the award.
Indore district has also bagged the first place for better performance of the scheme.

**Related Keys**
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Launch year: 2010
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- In the implementation Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Madhya Pradesh has bagged the first position

**February 5**

1. Who opened the annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan?
   **Answer:** Ram Nath Kovind
   **Explanation:**
   - President *Ram Nath Kovind* opened the annual *Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan*. The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be opened for the general public.
   - The gardens will remain open till the 8th of next month and people can visit between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The gardens will be closed for visitors on Mondays, on account of maintenance.
   **Related keys**
   - Rashtrapati Bhavan Opened - 1931;
   - Rashtrapati Bhavan Location - Rajpath, New Delhi,

2. Which Railways launched out branding of electric locomotives for the first time?
   **Answer:** Western Railways
   **Explanation:**
   - On February 3, 2020, the *Western Railways* launched out branding of electric locomotives for the first time. This will help the Railways earn additional revenue of **1.05 crores** of rupees.
   - Around 10 locomotives have been branded so far. Railways has earned 223.53 crores of rupees from non-fare revenues.
Answer: Brihadeeswara Temple Kumbhabhishekam

Explanation:
- In Tamil Nadu, the rare Kumbhabhishekam of the heritage **Brihadeeswara Temple** in Thanjavur held. The 'kumbhabhishekam' of the **1,000-year old** Brihadeeswara temple in Thanjavur is held with traditional rites and rituals on 5th February.
- The kumbhabhishekam, which relates to the rejuvenation of the temple, was last performed in 1997.

**Related Keys**
- Brihadeeswara temple located in South bank of Kaveri river in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu,
- Brihadeeswara temple is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the "Great Living Chola Temples",

2. Which Cabinet approved to confer the status of Institution of National Importance to 5 IIITs?

**Answer:** Union Cabinet

**Explanation:**
- On February 5, 2020, the **Union Cabinet** approved to confer the **status of Institution of National Importance to 5 IIITs** (Indian Institute of Information Technology). All the 5 IIITs are to operate in PPP mode.

**Related Keys**
- In 2010 the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill 2010 was introduced in Lok Sabha
- In 2019 the MHRD decided to move the IIIT to Hyderabad, Telangana

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**February 7**

1. Which country have second-largest producer of crude steel after China?

**Answer:** India

**Explanation:**
- **India** now ranks as the **second-largest producer** of **crude steel** after
China, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Wednesday.
- India’s crude steel production in 2018 was at 109.3 million tonnes, up by 7.7 percent from 101.5 million tonnes in 2017.

**Related Keys**
- Japan ranks third globally with 104.3 million tonnes of crude steel production in 2018 and 99.3 million tonnes in 2019.

2. Which Cabinet has given in principle approval to set up a new major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra?

**Answer:** Union Cabinet

**Explanation:**
- The Union Cabinet has given in principle approval to set up a new major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The total cost of the project is likely to be over **65 thousand crore rupees**. Vadhavan port will be developed on landlord model.
- A Special Purpose Vehicle, SPV will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust as the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50 per cent to implement the project.

**Related Keys**
- Maharashtra Literacy (2011): 82.34%
- Maharashtra Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

3. Which Ministry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi?

**Answer:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Explanation:**
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020. The three-day event is organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
- The theme of this year’s seafood show is “Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition”.

**Related Keys**
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry administers two departments, the Department of Commerce and the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.

4. Which Government has announced to start new academic year in schools from 20th April 2020 instead of June first week?

Answer: Gujarat

Explanation:
- **Gujarat Government** has announced to start new academic year in schools from 20th April 2020 instead of June first week. Following this decision, the students will need to go to school for 13 days after annual examinations, followed by summer vacation.
- At present, the schools observe the summer vacation immediately after the annual examinations.

Related Keys:
- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar
- Gujarat Literacy (2011) 78.03%

February 8

1. Which Development Authority Organized International Sea Food Show in Kochi?

Answer: Marine Products Export Development Authority

Explanation:
- The **Marine Products Export Development Authority** organized **International Sea Food Show in Kochi**. Around 5,000 delegates participated in the show. The show will provide a platform for overseas importers of Indian marine products and also for Indian exporters.
- The Show is being held between February 7, 2020 and February 9, 2020.
- Theme: Blue Revolution: Beyond Production to Value Addition

Related Keys:
- Around 350 stalls, 200 exhibitors and 5,000 delegates are to participate at the event. The show was previously held in Goa in January 2018. The show was organized under the theme
2. How many candidates are nominate for Delhi elections?
   **Answer:** 672
   **Explanation:**
   - Delhi Elections 2020 Live Updates: 6.96% voter turnout till 11:00 am
   - Around 1.5 crore eligible voters of Delhi will elect representatives for the 70 Delhi assembly from 672 candidates today. **Related Keys:**
   - Apart from 40,000 Delhi Police personnel, 190 companies of paramilitary and 13,000 cops from Punjab, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have been deployed for the entire Delhi.
   - The results of it will come out on February 11.

3. Who is the prime minister of Sri Lanka?
   **Answer:** MahindaRajapaksa
   **Explanation:**
   - Prime Minister of Sri Lanka **Mahinda Rajapaksa** is on a State visit to India from 8 to 11 February 2020. His visit comes at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Rajapaksa is with a high-level delegation.
   - On 8 February, he will hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Modi.
   - After his official engagements in Delhi the Sri Lankan Prime Minister will travel to Varanasi, Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Tirupati before he gets back to Colombo
   **Related Keys:**
   - On 21 November 2019, Mahinda Rajapaksa was appointed as the Prime Minister for the 3rd time, following the resignation of Ranil Wickremesinghe, upon the election victory of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the President of Sri Lanka.

**February 9**

1. Which state government has decided to use drones for mapping villages?
   **Answer:** Madhya Pradesh
   **Explanation:**
   - In **Madhya Pradesh**, the state government has decided to use drones

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for **mapping villages**. So far, land survey work is being done either manually or with the help of satellite images in Madhya Pradesh.

- 55 thousand villages of the state have been selected for mapping.

**Related Keys**
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal
- Madhya Pradesh Chief minister: Kamal Nath

2. Who inaugurated the first Disha Police Station?

**Answer:** Jagan Mohan Reddy

**Explanation:**
- On February 8, 2020, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy** inaugurated the **first Disha Police Station**. The police stations are first of their kind in the state and will deal with crimes against women.
- The Andhra Pradesh Government is to inaugurate 18 Disha Police Stations by the end of February 2020.

**Related Keys**
- In December 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Government passed the Disha Bill, 2019. The bill aims to complete investigation of cases related to crimes against women.

3. Which are two council signed the Memorandum of Understanding to bring upon closer defence ties between the countries?

**Answer:** SIDM and UKIBC

**Explanation:**
- The **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** and UK India Business Council (UKIBC) signed **Memorandum of Understanding to bring upon closer defence ties between the countries**. The agreement was signed at DefExpo that is being held in Lucknow.
- The MoU was signed to build partnership between Aerospace and Defence sector of the countries.

**Related Keys**
- India is the third largest foreign investor of UK.
- UK is the strong supporter of India in development of future fighter jet engine.
4. How many countries joined the India-central Asia Business Council?
   Answer: 5
   Explanation:
   - The Ministry of External Affairs along with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) recently launched the India-Central Asia Business Council.
   - They were joined by 5 countries namely Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. The Council will act as a common platform for the businesses of Central Asia and India.

   Related Keys
   - Ministry of External Affairs Founded: 2 September 1946
   - Ministry of External Affairs Headquarters: New Delhi

   February 10
1. Which private firm developed the gun shot locators called “Parth”?
   Answer: Indian Army’s College
   Explanation:
   - The Indian Army’s College of Military Engineering with a private firm developed the gun shot locators called “Parth”. These are much cheaper than the ones imported.
   - The device was showcased at DefExpo 2020.

   Related Keys
   - College of Military Engineering Established 1943
   - College of Military Engineering Location Dapodi, Pune, India

2. Who was celebrated all over India on February 9th?
   Answer: saint Ravidas
   Explanation:
   - The birthanniversary of the 14th century saint Ravidas who was celebrated all over India on February 9th. PM Modi and President Kovind and other leaders paid tribute to Guru Ravidas.
   - The saint emphasized brotherhood and harmony to bring upon positive change in the society. His songs are included in Guru Granth Sahib.

   Related Keys
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3. Which is the headquarters of Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs?

**Answer:** Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

**Explanation:**
- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has paired up 20 best performing smart cities with least performing cities. They will work as *sister cities*.
- The best performing cities include Tiruppur, Nagpur, Bhopal, Ranchi, Kanpur, Surat, Indore, Vishakhapatnam, Varanasi, Vellore, Nashik, Vadodara, Pune, Kota, Davangere, Dehradun, Udaipur, Amaravati and Agra.

**Related Keys**
- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Formed : 1952;
- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Headquarters: Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

**February 11**

1. In which place the fifth edition of joint military exercise Ajeya Warrior 2020 between India and United Kingdom held?

**Answer:** Salisbury Plains

**Explanation:**
- The fifth edition of joint military exercise Ajeya Warrior 2020 between India and United Kingdom held at **Salisbury Plains** in the **United Kingdom** from February 13 to 26 2020. The exercise is conducted alternatively in **United Kingdom and India**. The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorists operation in Urban and Semi Urban areas.

**Related Keys**
- Other India and UK Exercise are
- Konkan exercise naval exercises held from 2004.
- IndraDhanush is a joint air-to-air exercise held from 2006.
on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is to be held?
**Answer:** India

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

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Founded: 1985
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Headquarters: New Delhi

3. In which place A meeting of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal on the BBIN MVA (Motor Vehicle Act) was held?
**Answer:** New Delhi

**Explanation:**
- A meeting of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal** on the BBIN MVA (Motor Vehicle Act) was held in **New Delhi**. The Indian delegation was led by **Vikram Dorai swami**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- The meeting was held to discuss the passenger and cargo Protocols that are to give effect to the Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between the four countries signed in 2015.

**Related Keys**
- India proposed a SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement during the 18th SAARC summit in Kathmandu in November 2014.
- The BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) was signed on 15 June 2015.

4. Who will head 24 members reconstituted Jammu and Kashmir Science Technology and Innovation Council (STIC)?
**Answer:** G C Murmu
Explanation:
- Lieutenant Governor **G C Murmu** will head **24 members**
  reconstituted Jammu and Kashmir **Science Technology and Innovation Council** (STIC). Members of the council include five representatives from Jammu and Kashmir government, 10 from universities and research and development institutions and eight from the Science and Technology Department of the Central Government.

**February 12**

1. Who became the youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America?
   **Answer:** Kaamya Karthikeyan
   **Explanation:**
   - Twelve-year-old **Kaamya Karthikeyan** became the youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America.
   - The class seven student of **Navy Children School, Mumbai** summited the 6962 metres mountain on February 1 and unfurled the Indian flag atop the peak.

2. Which Ministry operationalized the first ever helicopter services from Dehradun’s Sahastradhara helipad to Gauchar, and Chinyalisaur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme?
   **Answer:** Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)
   **Explanation:**
   - **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** operationalized the first ever helicopter services from **Dehradun’s Sahastradhara** helipad to Gauchar, and Chinyalisaur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UdeDeshKaAamNagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Government of India.
   - **Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat**, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, MoCA.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Civil Aviation Founded: 21 October 2016
- Ministry of Civil Aviation Headquarters: Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi
3. In which place Clim Fish Con 2020 conference will begin?

**Answer:** Kerala

**Explanation:**
- **Clim Fish Con 2020**, a three-day international conference on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security' will begin in **Kerala** on February 12 at the Le Meridian Convention Centre.
- More than 300 delegates from 12 countries including scientists, researchers, administrators, policymakers, academicians, and entrepreneurs will participate in the event.

**Related Keys**
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

**February 13**

1. Which Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Iceland in the field of fisheries?

**Answer:** Union Cabinet

**Explanation:**
- On February 12, 2020 the **Union Cabinet** approved the Memorandum of Understanding signed between **India and Iceland** in the field of fisheries. The countries had signed agreements in September 2019, to develop inland fisheries.

**Related Keys**
- According to the Economic Survey 2020, fisheries contribute to 6.58% of India’s GDP along with agriculture and forestry.
- GoI in 2018-19 allocated Rs 7,522 crores of rupees towards Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Fund (FIDF).

2. Which report was released by the United Nations Children’s Fund is a United Nations agency?

**Answer:** World’s Children Report 2019

**Explanation:**
- The State of the **World’s Children Report 2019** stated more than 8
lakhs under 5 Mortality Rate in India. The report was released by the United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations agency (UNICEF).

- The report has ranked countries in the order of highest burden of death among children of under-5' to the 'lowest burden Of death among children Of under-5' Z

**Related Keys**
- To address the malnutrition changes in the Country, GoI has launched Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN).

3. Which country removed India from the list on account of it being a G-20 member and having a share of 0.5% or more of world trade?

**Answer:** US

**Explanation:**
- The US removed India from its list of developing countries that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidized exports.
- The US removed India from the list on account of it being a G-20 member and having a share of 0.5% or more of world trade.

**Related Keys**
- India’s share in global exports was 1.67% in 2018. In global imports, it was 2.57%.
- Capital of the USA: Washington, D.C.
- President of USA: Donald Trump.

**February 14**

1. Which Government is to host National Organic Food Festival at the National Capital?

**Answer:** Government of India

**Explanation:**
- The Government of India is to host National Organic Food Festival at the National Capital between February 21, 2020 and February 23, 2020. The festival is first of its kind. Around 150 women entrepreneurs are to participate in the festival. This 3 day
Festival was organized by Ministry of Food Processing
   o Theme: Unleashing India’s Organic Market Potential

Related Keys
   o Ministry of Food Processing Founded: 1988
   o Ministry of Food Processing Headquarters: New Delhi

2. Who presented the President’s Colours Awards to INS Shivaji?
   Answer: Ram Nath Kovind
   Explanation:
      o On February 13, 2020, President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President’s Colours Awards to INS Shivaji. The Indian Naval Station Shivaji has completed 75 years of service. Last year, the award was given to Indian Naval Academy.
      o The award was presented to the Indian Naval Station at Lonavala.

Related Keys
   o There are three premier institutions at INS Shivaji. It includes Centre of Excellence, Centre of Marine Engineering and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence School.

3. Which Government has launched toll-free helpline numbers?
   Answer: Uttar Pradesh Government
   Explanation:
      o Taking a unique initiative to solve the queries of students ahead of the Board Examinations starting next week, Uttar Pradesh Government has launched toll-free helpline numbers. AIR correspondent reports that The helpline numbers will remain active from 8 am to 8 pm.
      o Experts of different subjects including English, life sciences, geography, general science, Hindi, Sanskrit, chemistry will be available on call on these numbers.

Related Keys
   o Uttar Pradesh Governor: Anandiben Patel
   o Uttar Pradesh Capital: Lucknow

February 15
1. Who was launched the first inter-city electric bus between Mumbai and Pune?

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Answer: NithinGadkari
Explanation:
- On February 14, 2020, the first inter-city electric bus was launched. The bus will transit between Mumbai and Pune twice every day. It was launched by the Union Transport Minister Nithin Gadkari.
- The bus seating capacity was 43. It is capable of running 300 kilometres in a single charge.

Related Keys
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Founded: July 1942
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Headquarters: New Delhi

2. Which government announced a five-day working week for its officers and employees?
Answer: Maharashtra government
Explanation:
- The Maharashtra government announced a five-day working week for its officers and employees. The cabinet also extended the current work hours by 45 minutes.
- The new routine would start from February 29.

Related Keys
- Maharashtra Formation: 1 May 1960
- Maharashtra Literacy (2011): 82.34%

3. Which proposal was approved by the Union Government under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya SurakshaYojana?
Answer: AIIMS proposal
Explanation:
- Since the Abrogation of Article 370, the GoI has been keenly focusing on improving the infrastructure in the Kashmir region. The AIIMS proposal was approved by the Union Government under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
- The AIIMS proposal was approved by the Union Government under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya SurakshaYojana.

Related Keys
- Article 370 of the Indian constitution gave special status to Jammu
and Kashmir was abrogated by the Centre on August 5.

February 16

1. Which Railways will operate a new train based on Ramayana theme?
   **Answer:** Indian Railways

   **Explanation:**
   - **Indian Railways** will operate a new train based on **Ramayana theme** which will take pilgrims to locations associated with **Lord Rama**. The new Ramayana circuit train will start operating from the last week of March.
   - The theme of this train will be based on Ramayana. Pictures, thoughts, and poems related to Ramayana will be displayed on coaches outside and pictures related to the epic and music will also be played inside."

   Earlier, the Railways ran a special train named after Lord Ram, **Shri Ramayana Express**, which began its services in November last year.

   **Related Keys:**
   - Indian Railways Founded in: 16 April 1853 (166 years ago)
   - Indian Railways Headquarters: New Delhi, India

2. Who visiting his parliamentary constituency Varanasi to inaugurate several development projects?
   **Answer:** Narendra Modi

   **Explanation:**
   - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visiting his parliamentary constituency Varanasi to inaugurate several development projects, including **flagging-off 'Mahakal Express,** expected to link the holy cities of Varanasi, Ujjain, and Omkareshwar.
   - Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate 34 projects worth Rs 1,000 crore on occasion. A 63-foot tall statue of **Deendayal Upadhyay**, which was completed by more than 200 artisans.

3. Which are two countries signed 14 agreements to boost cooperation in a range of areas?
   **Answer:** India and Portugal

   **Explanation:**

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o **India and Portugal** signed 14 agreements to boost cooperation in a range of areas, including **defense, investment, transport, ports, culture, and industrial** and intellectual property rights and yoga.

o The agreements were signed after extensive talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelode Sousa in New Delhi.

**Related Keys:**

o The word Portugal derives from the Roman-Celtic place name PortusCale

o Portugal Prime Minister: António Costa

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4. Which Authority signed three concession agreements with Adani Enterprises for operations?

**Answer:** Airports Authority of India

**Explanation:**

o **Airports Authority of India** (AAI) signed three concession agreements with Adani Enterprises for operations, management, and development of Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Mangaluru airports.

o The agreements were signed on Friday with the group's subsidiary companies, namely Adani Ahmedabad International Airport Ltd, Adani Lucknow International Airport Ltd, and **Adani Mangaluru** International Airport Ltd. The concessionaires are required to take over the three airports after fulfilling certain conditions precedents within 180 days from February 14.

**Related Keys:**

o Airports Authority of India Founded: 1 April 1995

o Airports Authority of India Headquarters: Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Sardarjung Airport, New Delhi

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**February 17**

1. Which Government is hosting Bio-Asia Summit 2020 in Hyderabad?

**Answer:** Government of Telangana

**Explanation:**

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

- The theme of the Summit is Theme: **Today for Tomorrow**

**Related Keys**

- India is the third largest biotechnology destination in Asia Pacific.
- In 2018, the value of biotechnology industry was 51 billion USD.

2. Who said that the state government will form a committee on Stilwell Road Development?

**Answer:** Chowna Mein

**Explanation:**

- Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister **Chowna Mein** said that the state government will form a **committee on Stilwell Road Development** and would appeal Govt. of India for prioritizing on restoration of the road. He said this during a function in **Itanagar**.

**Related Keys**

- Arunachal Pradesh Governor B.D. Mishra
- Arunachal Pradesh - Literacy 66.95%

3. Which year has been nick named as “Super Year” by global advocacy groups including the United Nations?

**Answer:** year 2020

**Explanation:**

- The **year 2020** has been nick named as **“Super Year”** by global advocacy groups including the United Nations. This has been done to highlight 21 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and their targets.
- India marks the “Super Year of Biodiversity” with the Conservation of Migratory Species Conference of Parties 13.

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**February 18**

1. Which campaign has been launched by the Bihar government's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna?

**Answer:** 'Pyaarka Paudha' campaign

**Explanation:**

- 'Pyaarka Paudha' *(a plant of love)* campaign has been launched by the Bihar government's Department of Environment and Forest in
**Patna**, to encourage the practice of planting trees in the state.
Department of Environment, humbly request to gift one plant of love to your closed ones and provide good care.

- The aim of this campaign is to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.

**Related Keys**
- Bihar Governor: Phagu Chauhan
- Bihar Literacy (2011): 63.82%

2. Who represented India at the 3rd global Conference on Road Safety?
**Answer:** Nitin Gadkari

**Explanation:**
- On February 17, 2020, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** represented India at the **3rd global Conference on Road Safety**. The Conference aimed at achieving Global Goals 2030. It was held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The conference was held in collaboration with WHO and World Bank which aims at renewing the commitment of the world community towards road safety.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of road transport and highways Founded: July 1942
- Ministry of road transport and highways Headquarters: New Delhi

3. Who flags off the third private train operated by Indian Railway Catering?
**Answer:** Narendra Modi

**Explanation:**
- PM **Narendra Modi** flags off the third private train operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation between parliamentary constituency **Varanasi and Madhya Pradesh’s Indore** on Sunday.
- The new train Kashi Mahakal Express will connect three places which are — Jyotirlinga-Omkareswar, Mahakaleshwar along with Kashi Vishwanath

**Related Keys**
- Madhya Pradesh Capital: Bhopal
- Madhya Pradesh Literacy (2011): 70.6%
4. Which board has declared Cube as the highest bidder (H1), and invited lenders to vote for the sale through the e-voting process?

**Answer:** IL&FS board

**Explanation:**
- Singapore-based infrastructure investment platform Cube Highways has won the bid to acquire India’s longest road tunnel - the 9.2-km Chenani-Nashri project in Jammu & Kashmir - for Rs 3,929 crore.
- The **IL&FS board** has declared Cube as the highest bidder (H1), and invited lenders to vote for the sale through the e-voting process.

**Related Keys**
- Cube Highways, a platform floated by I Squared Capital and backed by International Finance Corp and ADIA, operates 1,700 km of highways in India.

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**February 19**

1. Which Scheme was launched in 2015 to assess the nutrient status of every farm holding in the country?

**Answer:** ambitious Soil Health Card Scheme

**Explanation:**
- The **ambitious Soil Health Card Scheme** is completing its five years on 19 February 2020. The scheme was launched in 2015 to assess the nutrient status of every farm holding in the country.
- The objectives of the scheme are to issue Soil Health Cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in fertilization practices.

**Related Keys**
- From 2015 to 2017, over 10 crores Soil Health Cards were distributed to farmers in the first phase. In the second phase, over 11 crore cards have been distributed to farmers across the country.

2. Who launched “Yodhav” (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala?

**Answer:** Pinarayi Vijayan

**Explanation:**

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Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched “Yodhav” (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala. Through this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.

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

**Related Keys**
- Kerala Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

3. In which place 50-metre high foundation stone for a lighthouse was laid?

**Answer:** Dhanushkodi

**Explanation:**
- On February 18, 2020, 50-metre high foundation stone for a lighthouse was laid at Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram. This is the fifth lighthouse in the region.
- The lighthouse is to be built at a cost of Rs 8 crore rupees. The lighthouse is to be located opposite to the old church.

**Related Keys**
- Dhanushkodi is an abandoned town at the south-eastern tip of Pamban Island of Tamil Nadu
- The town was destroyed during the 1964 Rameswaram cyclone and remains uninhabited.

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**February 20**

1. In which edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated Hindi is the 3rd most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers?

**Answer:** 22nd edition

**Explanation:**
- The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated Hindi is the 3rd most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers. In Which English at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers. Chinese Mandarin is at the second position with 1,117 million speakers.
Related Keys
- The other Indian Languages in the top 20 are Bengali in 7th position, Marathi in 15th position, Telugu in 16th position, and Tamil in the 19th position.

2. Who will inaugurate Indian Pavilion at 70th Berlin International Film Festival in Germany?
Answer: Dr S Jaishankar
Explanation:
- On February 20, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar will inaugurate the Indian Pavilion at the 70th Berlin International Film Festival in Germany. The festival will be held till 1st of March. India Pavilion will provide a platform to popularize Indian cinema in the overseas market and facilitate new business opportunities.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry, CII is participating in the event.

Related Keys
- Confederation of Indian Industry Formation – 1895
- Confederation of Indian Industry Headquarters - New Delhi.

3. Which Cabinet approved to set a technology group?
Answer: Union Cabinet
Explanation:
- On February 19, 2020, the Union Cabinet approved to set a technology group. The 12-member group will provide scientific advice on mapping of technologies, commercialization of dual use technologies and develop a roadmap on selected key technologies.
- The group will provide three major pillars of support namely Policy support, research and development proposals and procurement support.

February 21
1. Which Unit recently published the Worldwide Education for the Future Index for the year 2019?
Answer: Economic Intelligence Unit

Explanation:
- The **Economic Intelligence Unit** recently published the **Worldwide Education for the Future Index for the year 2019**. India has jumped by five ranks and currently holds rank 35. This Year Finland Topped the List.
- The ranking is provided based on the ability of a country to equip their students in skill-based education. India ranked 35th with an overall score of 53.

Related Keys
- In 2018, India ranked 40th with an overall score of 41.2.
- In 2018, Finland stayed on the top followed by Switzerland.

2. Which Country has emerged as the fifth-largest world economy in 2019, overtaking the UK and France?

Answer: India

Explanation:
- **India** has emerged as the **fifth-largest world economy** in 2019, overtaking the UK and France, as per a report by **US-based think tank World Population Review**. India's economy is the fifth-largest in the world with a gross domestic product (GDP) of $2.94 trillion, overtaking the UK and France in 2019 to take the fifth spot.
- The size of the UK economy is $2.83 trillion and that of France is $2.71 trillion.

February 22

1. In which place National Organic Food Festival held?

Answer: New Delhi

Explanation:
- Ministry of Food Processing and Ministry of Women and Child Development jointly inaugurated the **National Organic Food Festival in New Delhi**. The festival aimed at strengthening organic food produce in the country.
- It also aimed at encouraging women entrepreneurs in manufacturing organic produce.
2. Which Country will switch to the world’s cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1?

Answer: India

Explanation:
- India will switch to the world’s cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1 as it leapfrogs straight to Euro-VI emission compliant fuels from Euro-IV grades now. This has been achieved in just three years and not seen in any of the large economies around the globe.
- India will join the select league of nations using petrol and diesel containing just 10 parts per million of sulphur as it looks to cut vehicular emissions that are said to be one of the reasons for the choking pollution in major cities.

3. Which Council ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020?

Answer: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Explanation:
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020. All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from December 01, 2018 to 30th November, 2019.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has been ranked second.

Related Keys
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Director General - Dr Shekhar Mande
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Location - New Delhi
1. Who inaugurated the 2nd Edition of Exhibition and Conference on Agri-technology & Innovation?
   **Answer:** M. Venkaiah Naidu
   **Explanation:**
   - Vice President of India **M. Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the 2nd Edition of Exhibition and Conference on Agri-technology & Innovation at Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University in Hyderabad on 22 February 2020.
   - The scientists and researchers were urged to come up with new innovations and ideas to find solutions to the challenges faced by the Indian farmers.
   **Related Keys:**
   - M. Venkaiah Naidu 13th Vice President of India
   - M. Venkaiah Naidu Assumed office 11 August 2017

2. Which Organisation has built India's tallest railway pier bridge across river Makru in the Tamenglong district of Manipur?
   **Answer:** NF Railway Construction Organisation
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Northeast Frontier Railway (NF) Construction Organisation** has built India's tallest railway pier bridge across river Makru in the Tamenglong district of Manipur.
   - India's tallest pier bridge is 100 m tall. It is equivalent to a 33-storey building. The total cost of the bridge is Rs.283.5 crore.
   **Related Keys:**
   - NF Railway (Construction) North East Council (NEC) was set up by the Govt. of India through an Act of Parliament in 1971 to act as an advisory body in respect of socio-economic and balanced development of seven N.E. States Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

3. Which government is to open AtalKisan-Majdoor canteens in all mandis and sugar mills across the state?
   **Answer:** Haryana state government
   **Explanation:**
- **Haryana state government** is to open **Atal Kisan-Majdoor canteens** in all mandis and sugar mills across the state. The announcement was made by Governor **Satyadeo Narain Arya** at the Budget Session of State Assembly which commenced in Chandigarh.
- The aim of the move is to provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of Rs. 10 per plate.

**Related Keys:**
- Haryana Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Haryana Chief minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

4. Who chaired a high-level meeting to review the status, actions taken?

**Answer:** Rajiv Gauba

**Explanation:**
- Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** chaired a high-level meeting to review the status, actions taken and preparedness of States/UTs regarding the management of **Novel Coronavirus (COVID19)** on 22 February.
- The meeting suggested universal screening at airports for flights from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

**Related Keys:**
- Rajiv Gauba, 32nd Cabinet Secretary of India
- Rajiv Gauba assumed office 30 August 2019

**February 24**

1. Who announced 5 schemes for children living in government-run homes on the birth anniversary of former Tamil Nadu CM J. Jayalalithaa?

**Answer:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami

**Explanation:**
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi K. Palaniswami** announced 5 schemes for children living in government-run homes on the birth anniversary of former Tamil Nadu CM J. Jayalalithaa.
- The aim is to honour the late leader CM J. Jayalalithaa's birthday.

**Related Keys**
- Formed on: 1 November 1956
- Governor: Banwarilal Purohit
2. Who celebrated the first anniversary of the new Central Sector Scheme on 24 February 2020?

**Answer:** Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

**Explanation:**
- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** (PM-KISAN) celebrated the first anniversary of the **new Central Sector Scheme** on 24 February 2020. The Central Government has released more than Rs.50850 crores so far.
- The total number of beneficiaries covered under the scheme, based on estimates of the Agriculture Census 2015-16, is about 14 crore.

**Related Keys**
- The scheme was aimed to augment the income of the farmers, with less than 2 hectares of land, by providing income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country.

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**February 25**

1. Which memorial will be observed on 25 February?

**Answer:** iconic National War Memorial

**Explanation:**
- The first anniversary of the **iconic National War Memorial** (NWM) will be observed on 25 February. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the monument to the nation on 25 February 2019.
- The memorial is a tribute to the fallen heroes in the line of duty during various wars and internal security challenges since Independence.

**Related Keys**
- National War Memorial has names of **25,942 soldiers** martyred after Independence engraved.
- The Memorial is spread over 40 acres in the India Gate complex in Delhi. It was built at a cost of around **Rs.176 crore** in a record time of one year.

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2. Who has launched the new company incorporation "Spice+"Webform?
Answer: Injeti Srinivas

Explanation:
- Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) **Injeti Srinivas**
  - Who has launched the new company incorporation "Spice+" Web form on 24 February. It is a part of a comprehensive package to make life easier for someone starting a business.
- The move is in line with India's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) initiatives.

**Related Keys**
- Spice+ form will replace the existing Spice form. It has been estimated that on average, the name reservation takes around 3 hours.

**February 26**

1. Who has successfully installed 10 lakh smart meters across India under the Government of India's Smart Meter National Programme?

   **Answer:** Government

   **Explanation:**
   - **Government** has successfully installed **10 lakh** smart meters across **India** under the Government of India's Smart Meter National Programme (SMNP).
   - The announcement was made by the Union Minister of State (IC) for **Power, New & Renewable Energy R.K. Singh**. The Minister inaugurated commissioning of 100 MW decentralized solar power plants connected to agriculture feeders in Maharashtra.

   **Related Keys:**
   - The SMNP scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)
   - EESL is an energy service company of GoI. It functions under the Ministry of Power, India.
   - Chairman: Rajeev Sharma
   - MD: Saurabh Kumar

2. Which organisation sanctioned an amount of Rs.400.64 crore to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir during the current financial year?

   **Answer:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
Explanation:
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** (NABARD) sanctioned an amount of **Rs.400.64 crore** to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir during the current financial year.
- The aim is to boost the infrastructure in rural areas. The funding is a part of the NABARD's 'Rural Infrastructure Development Fund ( RIDF)-Trench XXV' which aims at augmenting rural infrastructure.

**Related Keys:**
- NABARD Headquarters Mumbai, India
- NABARD Chairman Chintala Govinda Rajulu

**February 27**

1. **Which Government is to organize an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit called RAISE 2020?**
   **Answer:** Government of India
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Government of India (GoI)** is to organize an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit called RAISE 2020. RAISE stands for Responsible AI for Social Empowerment. The Summit is to be held in New Delhi between April 11 and 12, 2020.
   - The summit will be attended by experts of Artificial Intelligence from all over the world.
   **Related Keys**
   - It will focus on using AI towards social empowerment, transformation and inclusion and also in other key areas such as agriculture, healthcare, smart mobility and education.

2. **Which Cabinet approved the changes introduced to the Surrogacy (Regulation) bill, 2019?**
   **Answer:** Union Cabinet
   **Explanation:**
   - On February 26, 2020, the **Union Cabinet** approved the changes introduced to the **Surrogacy (Regulation) bill, 2019**. The changes were introduced by the 23-member select committee of **Rajya Sabha**.
   - The changes approved include not only close relatives but “any
woman” willing to act as a surrogate mother shall be allowed.

3. Which MoU was signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization with the US Food and Drug Administration?
   Answer: MoU on the safety of medical products
   Explanation:
   - India and the United States finalized defence deals worth three billion dollars and signed three agreements, including in health and oil sectors. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on mental health between the health departments of both the two countries.
   - Another MoU on the safety of medical products was signed between the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization with the US Food and Drug Administration.
   Related Keys
   - United States Capital: Washington, D.C.
   - United States Currency: United States Dollar

4. Which state has become the first state in the country to introduce the unified registration card?
   Answer: Madhya Pradesh
   Explanation:
   - Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce the unified registration card and the second state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh.
   - The objective of the card is to provide unified smart cards for driving license & vehicle registration with QR code.
   Related Keys
   - The cards will possess complete information on both sides of the cards unlike the previous ones.
   - They will carry unique numbers recognized across the country.

February 28
1. Which Airport was the 12th busiest airport in the world?
   Answer: Indira Gandhi International Airport
   Explanation:
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   📞 8939 144 344  www.weshineacademy.com
- The duty-free revenue per passenger for Indira Gandhi International Airport is highest in India at 10 to 11 dollars per passenger. According to a report by Knight Frank India, retailers do two times the business compared to some of the most successful city malls.
- The share of non-aeronautical revenue of the joint venture airport in New Delhi is at 70 per cent, well above the global average of 40 per cent.

**Related News**

- Indira Gandhi International Airport was the 12th busiest airport in the world and 6th busiest airport in Asia by passenger traffic handling nearly 70 million passengers.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport Operator - Delhi International Airport Pvt Ltd (DIAL)

2. Which Cabinet approved 3 MoU for cooperation between India and Myanmar on combating timber trafficking, conservation of tigers & other wildlife?

**Answer:** Union Cabinet

**Explanation:**
- On February 26, 2020, the Union Cabinet approved 3 MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for cooperation between India and Myanmar on combating timber trafficking, conservation of tigers & other wildlife, and in the fields of petroleum products and communications.

**Related News**

- Myanmar Capital- Naypyidaw.
- Myanmar Currency- Kyat.

**February 29**

1. Who launched the EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 3.0 reform agenda?

**Answer:** Nirmala Sitharaman

**Explanation:**
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 3.0 reform agenda. EASE
3.0 agenda aims at providing smart, tech-enabled public sector banking for aspiring India.

- This launch of EASE 3.0 would change the customer’s experience at the Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

**Related Keys**
- Finance Ministry Founded: 29 October 1946
- Finance Ministry Headquarters: **New Delhi**

2. Who announced at a workshop organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) that GoI is to make Odisha the steel hub of India?

**Answer:** Union Minister of Steel

**Explanation:**
- On February 28, 2020, the **Union Minister of Steel** announced at a workshop organized by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) that GoI is to make **Odisha the steel hub of India**. This is to be achieved by the Government with the help of Japan.
- The **city of Kalinga** Nagar is to be developed as the epicenter of Mission Purvodaya.

**Related Keys**
- The mission was launched in January 2020.
- It aims to develop Eastern India as an integrated steel hub.

3. Which Company has signed an agreement with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?

**Answer:** NTPC Ltd

**Explanation:**
- The **NTPC Ltd** has signed an agreement with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). According to the agreement, NTPC Ltd will provide financial support of **Rs 80 Crore** for installation and commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS).
- A total of 25 Air Quality Monitoring Stations will be installed across six states and three Union Territories.

**Related Keys**
- The Air Quality Index will be evaluated for the respective cities with...
the help of data collected from these air quality monitoring stations.

4. Who chaired The Eastern Zonal Council meeting for the states of Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand?
   **Answer:** Amit Shah
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Eastern Zonal Council meeting for the states of Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand** is to be chaired by home Minister **Amit Shah**. The meeting is to discuss cases of rape against women, sexual offences, prevention of cattle smuggling in the India-Bangladesh Border, etc.
   - Under the amendment, the time limit of the completion of investigation of criminal cases was limited to two months.
   **Related Keys**
   - Zonal Councils are statutory bodies constituted under States Reorganization Act of 1956. According to the act, India is divided into 5 zones and a council has been set up for every zone.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**February 2**

1. Which country declared a public health emergency over the spread of the corona virus?
   **Answer:** USA
   **Explanation:**
   - **USA** declared a **public health emergency** over the spread of the corona virus. Foreign nationals who have visited China in the past two weeks.
   - US citizens returning from Hubei province, where the outbreak started, will be quarantined for 14 days. World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global health emergency over the new virus.
   **Related Keys:**
   - The novel coronavirus known as the Wuhan corona virus. It is a contagious virus that causes respiratory infection identified as
cause of the ongoing 2019–20 Wuhan corona virus outbreak.

February 3
1. Which country is facing the worst locust attacks in decades?
   **Answer:** Pakistan
   **Explanation:**
   - Pakistan which is facing the worst locust attacks in decades has declared National Emergency. The emergency was declared to tackle the insects that are destroying crops in Punjab province, the main region of agricultural production.
   - The locusts are currently in the India-Pakistan border along Cholistan.
   **Related Keys**
   - Pakistan Capital: Islamabad
   - Pakistan Currency: Pakistani rupee

2. Which has once again become a member of the Commonwealth of Nations?
   **Answer:** Maldives
   **Explanation:**
   - The Maldives has once again become a member of the Commonwealth of nations. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih made the announcement, fulfilling one of his key presidential pledges.
   - The president said that the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, confirmed Maldives’ reinstatement into the organization as its 54th member state.
   **Related Keys**
   - Maldives Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa
   - Maldives Capital: Malé

February 5
1. Which Organization announced that the Corona virus disease has not yet become pandemic?
   **Answer:** The World Health Organization
   **Explanation:**
   - The World Health Organization on February 4, 2020 announced that the Corona virus disease has not yet become
pandemic. The disease has so far killed 425 people and has infected more than 20,000. **Hong Kong** recently reported death due to the virus.

- It is the first country outside China to report death

**Related keys**

- World Health Organization Founded: 7 April 1948
- World Health Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

2. Which is announced the discovery of a new natural gas field containing 80 trillion standard cubic feet of gas in the cross-border area of Abu Dhabi and Dubai?

**Answer:** United Arab Emirates

**Explanation:**

- The United Arab Emirates announced the discovery of a new natural gas field containing 80 trillion standard cubic feet of gas in the cross-border area of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

- A press statement by the Government of Dubai stated that the discovery of the Jebel Ali gas field will contribute to achieving gas self-sufficiency for the nation and support the next phase of its major development projects in line with the nation’s strategic development plan for the coming 50 years.

**Related keys**

- United Arab Emirates Capital: Abu Dhabi
- United Arab Emirates President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

3. Which has declared a national emergency following locust infestation sweeping the Horn of Africa, as insects devastate food supplies in one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions in the world?

**Answer:** Somalia

**Explanation:**

- Somalia has declared a national emergency following locust infestation sweeping the Horn of Africa, as insects devastate food supplies in one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions in the world. Agriculture Ministry said food sources for people and their livestock are at risk.
Experts say the locust swarms are the result of extreme weather swings.

**Related keys**
- Somalia Capital: Mogadish
- Somalia Currency: Somali shilling

**February 6**

1. Which released the International IP (Intellectual Property) Index?
   **Answer:** Global Innovation Policy Centre
   **Explanation:**
   - On February 5, 2020, the Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chamber of Commerce released the International IP (Intellectual Property) Index. According to the ranking, India was at position 40 of the 53 economies.
   - This year India scored 16.22 in Intellectual Property Index. India’s score has shown improvement by 7% as compared to the previous year reporting of GIPC.
   **Related Keys**
   - The Global Innovation Policy Center was launched in October 2007 at the U.S.

**February 8**

1. Which Organization signed an agreement with Rosobornexport of Russia?
   **Answer:** DRDO
   **Explanation:**
   - On February 7, 2020, DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) signed an agreement with Rosoborn export of Russia. According to the agreement the defence organization will develop Advanced Pyrotechnic Ignition Systems for missile propulsion.
   **Related Keys:**
   - The agreement was signed with the HEMRL (High Energy Materials Research Laboratory) of DR DO. HEMRL is working towards the development of spectrum of of high energy materials that are required for rockets, missiles and guns.
February 9
1. Which national census will for the first time count the LGBT population in the Himalayan nation in order to better allocate government jobs and education set aside for minority groups?
Answer: Nepal's
Explanation:
- An official reported that Nepal's upcoming national census will for the first time count the LGBT population in the Himalayan nation in order to better allocate government jobs and education set aside for minority groups.
- The LGBT community in Nepal has long demanded that the census taken every 10 years include a count of sexual minorities.

Related Keys
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu
- Nepal Prime minister: KP Sharma Oli

February 10
1. Which institute Founded the mathematical model to predict global spread of novel corona virus cases?
Answer: Robert Koch institute in Germany and Humboldt University
Explanation:
- The researchers of Robert Koch institute in Germany and Humboldt University have founded mathematical model to predict global spread of novel corona virus cases. India was ranked 17th in the ranking system. So far three cases have been reported in Kerala.
- In India, among all the cities, cities with international airports namely Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi are at high risks.

Related Keys
- Robert Koch institute Founded: 1 July 1891
- Robert Koch institute Headquarters location: Berlin, Germany

2. Which summit was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia to tackle terrorism in the continent?
Answer: The African Union Summit
Explanation:
The African Union Summit was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia to tackle terrorism in the continent. The Summit is important for India as India has recently signed the defence agreement, Lucknow Declaration with 50 African countries at DefExpo 2020.

India is planning considerable investment in Defence sector in the regions of African Union. Theme: Silencing the Guns

**Related Keys**
- African Union Founded: 9 July 2002
- African Union Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**February 15**

1. Who was named new UK Minister in charge of the crunch UN climate talks to be hosted by Britain this November?
   **Answer:** Alok Sharma
   **Explanation:**
   - Indian-origin Alok Sharma was named the new UK Minister in charge of the crunch UN climate talks to be hosted by Britain this November.
   - Agra-born Sharma has been promoted to the post of Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Cabinet reshuffle.

**February 16**

1. Which Organization announced that for the first time in record Antarctica has recorded its hottest temperature ever, 20.75 Degree Celsius?
   **Answer:** The World Meteorological Organization
   **Explanation:**
   - The World Meteorological Organization announced that for the first time in record Antarctica has recorded its hottest temperature ever, 20.75 Degree Celsius. So far, the highest was 18.3 Degrees Celsius that was recorded in January 1982.
   - The higher temperatures were influenced by shifts in El Nino and Ocean Currents.

**Related Keys**
According to United Nations scientists, the Antarctic region stores more than 70% of world’s fresh water. It is the fifth-largest continent and nearly twice the size of Australia.

2. Which Media organized a Networking Meet called India-Thailand?
Answer: Magazine and URS Media
Explanation:
- Asia One Magazine and URS Media organized a Networking Meet called India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together collaboration with the IndiaThai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) at their premises at Sathon, Bangkok. The exclusive networking saw the presence of eminent dignitaries such as Abhisit Vejjajiva, the former Prime Minister of Thailand and Suchitra Durai, the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom.
- The 13th Asian Business and Social Forum and attempted to highlight the fact that India and Thailand share a strong historical and cultural connection.

Related Keys:
- Thailand Currency: Baht
- Thailand Capital: Bangkok

February 20
1. Which sub-group recommended the continuation of Pakistan in the 'Grey List' for its failure to check terror funding?
Answer: global terror financing watchdog FATF
Explanation:
- A sub-group of the global terror financing watchdog FATF today recommended the continuation of Pakistan in the 'Grey List' for its failure to check terror funding.
- The decision was taken at the meeting of the FATF's International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG), held at the ongoing Paris plenary.

Related Keys:
- Financial Action Task Force FATF Formation - 1989; 31 years ago
- Financial Action Task Force FATF Headquarters - Paris, France

2. Which are two Countries agreed to sign a Free Trade Agreement to enhance
trade between the two countries?

**Answer:** Bangladesh and Nepal

**Explanation:**
- **Bangladesh and Nepal** have agreed to sign a Free Trade Agreement to enhance trade between the two countries.
  - Bangladesh has also agreed to allow Nepal to use its Saidpur airport located in its northernmost district of Nilphamari close to Nepal.
  - Bangladesh exports commodities worth $38 million to Nepal and imports goods worth around 18 million dollars.

**Related Keys**
- Bangladesh Capital: Dhaka
- Bangladesh is the world's 8th-most populous country
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu
- Nepal Currencies: Nepalese rupee, Indian rupee

**February 24**
1. Who announced that the United States of America will sign a peace agreement with the Taliban forces on February 29, 2020?

**Answer:** Donald Trump

**Explanation:**
- The **US President Donald Trump** recently announced that the **United States of America** will sign a peace agreement with the Taliban forces on February 29, 2020.
- The **US and the Taliban forces** are to sign peace agreement to end the war of **18 years in Afghanistan**. After the agreement, 12,000 US troops that are currently deployed in Afghanistan are to return to US.

**RELATED KEYS**
- The Taliban are Sunni Islamic fundamentalists that are currently waging war in Afghanistan. The Taliban held power between 1996 and 2001.

2. Who inaugurated the International Conference Ensemble Methods in Modeling and Data Assimilation (EMMDA)?

**Answer:** Dr. Harshvardhan

**Explanation:**
An international conference on "Ensemble Methods in Modelling and Data Assimilation (EMMDA)" began on 24 February 2020 at NCMRWF, Noida, India. The conference will be held from 24-26 February.

It was inaugurated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.

**RELATED KEYS**

- The three-day conference is organized by the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) that functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, GoI.

**February 28**

1. Which is the deepest blue hole in the world?
   
   **Answer:** Yongle Blue Hole

   **Explanation:**
   - Carbon more than 8,000 years old has been found inside the world's deepest blue hole 'the Yongle Blue Hole (YBH)' which was recently discovered in the South China Sea.
   - Blue holes are marine caverns filled with water and are formed following dissolution of carbonate rocks, usually under the influence of global sea level rise or fall.

   **Related News**
   - It is 300m deep blue hole located in Xisha Islands region.
   - It is the deepest blue hole in the world

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**February 1**

1. In which day Indian Coast Guard celebrated on every year?
   
   **Answer:** February 1

   **Explanation:**
   - Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its raising day on February 1. ICG protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its
contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.

- Director General of ICG: Krishna swamy Natrajan
- Related Keys
  - Indian Coast Guard Founded: 18 August 1978.
  - Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.

February 4
1. In which day celebrated World Cancer Day on every year?
   **Answer:** February 4
   **Explanation:**
   - The World Cancer Day is being marked annually on February 4 by the Union for International Cancer Control. The day is being marked from 2008. The day is observed by the United Nations as well.
   - The theme of this year’s World Cancer Day is Theme: I am I will.

February 13
1. In which day celebrated World Radio day on every year?
   **Answer:** 13 February
   **Explanation:**
   - World Radio day is observed on 13 February every year. Proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO, and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day.
   - On World Radio Day 2020 (WRD 2020), UNESCO calls on radio stations to uphold diversity, both in their newsroom and on the airwaves.

February 21
1. In which day celebrated as International Mother Language Day on every year?
   **Answer:** 21 February
   **Explanation:**
   - International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February. The day is observed every year to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
The day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999.

February 25
1. In which day celebrated as Central Excise Day on every year?
   Answer: 24 February
   Explanation:
   - Central Excise Day is celebrated on 24 February in India. The day recognizes the contribution of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (at present Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs).
   - The day marks the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act in 1944.
   - Aim: The day aims honours the contribution of the Central Board of Excise and Custom to India's economy. The day recognizes the hard work and accomplishments of its employees.

February 28
1. In which day National Science Day is celebrated in India?
   Answer: 28 February
   Explanation:
   - National Science Day is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman Effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928.
   - Theme for the National Science Day 2020 is "Women in Science".

SCIENCE AND TECH UPDATES

February 3
1. Which Organisation has announced that it is preparing low-cost satellite launch vehicles costing around 30-35 crores rupees?
   Answer: Indian Space Research Organisation
   Explanation:
   - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it is preparing low-cost satellite launch vehicles costing...
around 30-35 crores rupees each, which can put into orbit satellites weighing 500 kgs.

- The first such launch is expected to take place in the next four months from the country.

Related Keys
- ISRO Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- ISRO Founded: 15 August 1969

February 17
1. Which Organisation built India’s First Satellite?
   **Answer:** ISRO
   **Explanation:**
   - The report says that 18 communication satellites, 19 national Earth Observation satellites and eight navigation satellites are in service.

Related Keys
- ISRO built India’s first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975.
- In 1980, Rohini became the first satellite to be placed in orbit by an Indian-made launch vehicle, SLV-3.

February 26
1. In which country will launch its Geo Imaging Satellite (GISAT-1) with its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV- F10)?
   **Answer:** India
   **Explanation:**
   - **India** will launch its Geo Imaging Satellite (GISAT-1) with its Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV- F10) on March 5.
   - According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), its GSLV-F10 rocket carrying the GISAT-1 is expected to lift off at 5:43 p.m. on March 5.
   - The launch is subject to the weather conditions, the space agency added.
Related Keys:
- Design life 7 years
- Launch mass 2268 kg
- Power 2037 W

SPORTS

February 2
1. Who won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1?
   Answer: Ayonika Paul
   Explanation:
   - **Olympian Ayonika Paul** won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event. **Vijayveer Sidhu** won the men's 25m Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting trials at Thiruvananthapuram.
   - She came to a quality eight-woman field, which had the likes of Tokyo 2020 quota holders Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil among competitors. Chandigarh's Vijayveer won the junior men's 25m Pistol with an aggregate score of 585. The three inner 10s, more than second-placed Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu of Punjab.
   Related Keys:
   - Ayonika Paul (born 23 September 1992) is an Indian shooter who competes in the 10 metre air rifle event.
   - She won the silver medal in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

February 7
1. Who bagged gold medal in 64kg category at the 35th edition of the Senior Women’s National Weightlifting Championships?
   Answer: Rakhi Halder
   Explanation:
   - **Rakhi Halder**, the Indian weight-lifter from West Bengal recently Who bagged gold medal in 64kg category at the 35th edition of the Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships, being held at Kolkata.
   Related Keys

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o She had clinched gold in the Commonwealth Championship in June 2019 and the bronze medal at the Qatar International Cup.

February 11
1. Which country won Under 19 Cricket World Cup organized by International Cricket Cup (ICC)?
   Answer: Bangladesh
   Explanation:
   o On February 9, 2020, Bangladesh won Under 19 Cricket World Cup organized by International Cricket Cup (ICC). The tournament was held in South Africa between January 17, 2020 and February 9, 2020.
   o The Bangladesh team beat India to win the ICC U19 title. Bangladesh won the title for the first time in its history.
   o Related Keys
   o The first U19 world cup was held in 1998.
   o India has so far won the tournament four times.

February 13
1. Which will host a five-day national winter games event from 7th March under the banner of Khelo India?
   Answer: World-famous Ski destination Gulmarg
   Explanation:
   o World-famous Ski destination Gulmarg is all set to host a five-day national winter games event from 7th March under the banner of Khelo India.
   o Khelo India is an initiative of the Government of India to strengthen the sports ecosystem by encouraging mass participation and promotion of excellence.
   Related Keys
   o The event will witness 30 events under four disciplines including snowboarding, snow skiing, cross country, and snow show.

February 14
1. Who won the Player of the Year, 2019 in International Hockey Federation?
   Answer: Manpreet Singh
**Explanation:**

- On February 13, 2020, the **International Hockey Federation** named the Indian Hockey captain **Manpreet Singh** as **Player of the Year, 2019**. He is the first Indian to win the title.
- Manpreet Singh is the Indian National Hockey team captain since 2017.

**Related Keys**

- International Hockey Federation Founded: 7 January 1924
- International Hockey Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

**February 17**

1. Who won the silver medal in World Snow Shoe Championship?

   **Answer:** Ayan Bin Shahnaz

   **Explanation:**

   - **Indian athletes** finished with three medals in different categories in the **World Snow Shoe Championship at Myoko, Japan**.
   - According to a tournament official, **Ayan Bin Shahnaz** bagged silver, while **Zain Ali and Muzamil Hussain Mir**, all are from Kashmir, bagged **bronze medals** in their respective categories.

   **Related Keys**

   - World Snow Shoe Championship held for the first time in 2006
   - World Snow Shoe Championship organised by World Snowshoe Federation

**February 19**

1. Who won a gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championships at New Delhi?

   **Answer:** Sunil Kumar

   **Explanation:**

   - **Reco Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar** opened India's medal account in the **Asian Wrestling Championships** at New Delhi by **winning a Gold**.
   - The seasoned grappler beat Azat Salidinov from Kyrgyzstan in the final of the 87 kg category.

2. Which country will host 2020 Junior Men's World Cup?
Answer: India
Explanation:
- India will host 2020 Junior Men's World Cup. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced this at Lausanne in Switzerland.
- This is the second time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament, having staged it in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 2016.

Related Keys
- International Hockey Federation Founded: 7 January 1924
- International Hockey Federation Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

February 21
1. Who won a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships?
   Answer: Divya Kakran
   Explanation:
   - On 20, February 2020, Divya Kakran won a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships after a dominant show in which she won all four bouts in the five-wrestler 68kg category.
   - Divya Kakran became the second Indian woman to win a gold medal in the event defeating junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki in New Delhi.

   Related Keys
   - Asian Wrestling Championships is organized by the Asian Associated Wrestling Committee.
   - The men's tournament began in 1979 and The women's tournament was first staged in 1996

February 22
1. In which place the first Khelo India University Games is to be held?
   Answer: Bhuwaneshwar, Odisha
   Explanation:
   - The first Khelo India University Games is to be held in Bhuwaneshwar, Odisha. The game is to be launched by PM Modi through video conferencing.
   - More than 3400 athletes in 17 disciplines and from 159 Universities
are to participate in the game. On the whole, 17 sports are to be conducted.

Related Keys
- Khelo India is a National Programme for Development of Sports.
- The Khelo India University Games are being launched for the first time, Khelo India School games were launched in 2018

February 26
1. Which are the two people clinched the silver medal at the International Table Tennis Federation?
   Answer: Achanta Sharath Kamal and Gnanasekaran Sathiyan
   Explanation:
   - Indian men's doubles pair of Achanta Sharath Kamal and Gnanasekaran Sathiyan clinched the silver medal at the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Tour Hungarian Open under Men's doubles category.
   - Kamal and Sathiyan defeated top seeds Ho Kwan Kit and Wong Chun Ting of Hong Kong 3-2 in the semi-finals.
   Related Keys:
   - Hungarian Open Founded on: 2010
   - Held at: Budapest, Hungary

ECONOMY

February 1
1. Which Survey 2019-20 has emphasised on entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation at the Grassroots?
   Answer: Economic Survey
   Explanation:
   - Economic Survey 2019-20 has emphasised on entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation at the Grassroots. It has suggested that industrial sector performance is a key to achieve the target of a five trillion dollar economy.
   - The survey has projected economic growth at 6 to 6.5 percent in the next fiscal.
Related Keys
- Economic Survey 2019-20 the industrial sector as per Index of Industrial Production registered a growth of 0.6 per cent in 2019-20 (April-November) as compared to 5.0 per cent during 2018-19 (April-November).

February 12
1. Which are the top three profitable PSUs in 2018-19?
   **Answer:** ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC
   **Explanation:**
   - ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC were the top three profitable PSUs in 2018-19, whereas BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred highest losses for a third consecutive year, according to a survey tabled in Parliament.
   - The top three profit making PSUs including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC contributed 15.3 per cent, 9.68 per cent and 6.73 per cent, respectively to the total profit earned by all profitable CPSEs.

Related Keys
- ONGC Founded: 14 August 1956
- ONGC CEO: Shashi Shanker

February 18
1. Which signed a loan agreement to support the national programme that aims on strengthening ground water institutions?
   **Answer:** World Bank and the Government of India
   **Explanation:**
   - On February 17, 2020, the World Bank and the Government of India signed a loan agreement to support the national programme that aims on strengthening ground water institutions and also arrest the depletion of ground water resources.
   - The project supported by the World Bank called the “National Ground Water Management Improvement Programme” which is to covers around 78 districts.

Related Keys
- World Bank Founded: 1944
World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States

February 27
1. Which are two companies will develop an artificial intelligence-powered market?
   **Answer:** SBI Foundation and Microsoft
   **Explanation:**
   - Microsoft announced a partnership with State Bank of India to train differently-abled people to find jobs in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector. Over 500 differently-abled youths will be upskilled in the first year of the collaboration.
   - As a part of this partnership, **SBI Foundation and Microsoft** will develop an artificial intelligence-powered market so that the BFSI industry can connect more easily with differently-abled people for employment opportunities.
   **Related Keys**
   - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Microsoft, SatyaNadella.
   - Microsoft Founded: April 4, 1975
   - Headquarters of Microsoft: Washington, United States (US).

AWARDS

February 4
1. Who has won the Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue"?
   **Answer:** Vinod Kumar Shukla
   **Explanation:**
   - **Noted Hindi poet-novelist** and Sahitya Akademi honouree **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has bagged the inaugural Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue". The stories in "Blue Is Like Blue", translated into English by Arvind Krishna Merota and Sara Rai.
   - The award, given to the best fictional work released in the previous year, carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a plaque designed by RiyasKomu and a certificate.
Related Keys
- Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award Founded 1923
- Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award Headquarter Calicut

February 21
1. Who won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award?
   **Answer:** P V Sindhu
   **Explanation:**
   - World champion shuttler P V Sindhu won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for a third consecutive time while young shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the honour in the male category.
   - Sprinter Dutee Chand became the first winner of the Courage award for being inspirational both on and off the field.

Related Keys
- Shuttler P V Sindhu won this award for a third consecutive time.

February 23
1. Who has been awarded Silver under Category II of the National e-Governance Awards – ‘Excellence in providing Citizen-centric Delivery’?
   **Answer:** Rail Madad
   **Explanation:**
   - Rail Madad, the grievance redressal portal of Indian Railways, has been awarded Silver under Category II of the National e-Governance Awards – ‘Excellence in providing Citizen-centric Delivery.’ This award was conferred during the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance which was held in Mumbai on 7 & 8 February.
   **Related Keys**
   - The Ministry of Railways has released the mobile app "Rail MADAD"
   - Rail MADAD registers a complaint with minimum inputs from passenger (option of photo also available), issues unique ID instantly and relays the complaint online to relevant field officials for immediate action.
1. Who has received the SERB Women Excellence Award 2020?
   **Answer:** Dr. Niti Kumar
   **Explanation:**
   - Dr. Niti Kumar has received the **SERB Women Excellence Award 2020**. The award will be conferred by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind during National Science Day Celebrations on 28 February 2020 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
   - The award is presented to women scientists below 40 years of age who have received recognition from national academies.
   **Related Keys**
   - Dr. Niti Kumar is a Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.
   - Her research group is trying to understand the protein quality control machinery in the human malaria parasite for the exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.

February 25

1. Who presents Vishwakarma Awards 2019 to the winners in New Delhi?
   **Answer:** Ramesh Pokhriyal
   **Explanation:**
   - Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" presents Vishwakarma Awards 2019 to the winners in New Delhi. It was organized in the All India Council for Technical Training.
   - 23 groups were awarded the Chatra Vishwakarma Awards (CVA).
   **Related Keys**
   - Vishwakarma Awards was instituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) since 2017.
   - The awards were instituted for the growth of society by means of the stakeholders of its accepted institutes.

2. Who was awarded a Certificate and Trophy for her record-breaking achievement by creating a world record?
   **Answer:** Ms. Jiya
   **Explanation:**
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Ms. Jiya was awarded a Certificate and Trophy for her record-breaking achievement by creating a world record.
She was felicitated by Mr. Abhay Dadhe, Associate Vice President of Swimming Federation of India at an award ceremony held at K R Kama hall, Mumbai on 23 February.

**RELATED KEYS**
- JiyaRai is an eleven-year-old daughter of Madan Rai, Master Chief at Arms II, posted in INS Shikra.
- She is studying VI standard in Navy Children School (NCS), Mumbai.

**February 26**

1. Who won the LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title?
   **Answer:** Adline Castelino
   **Explanation:**
   - **Adline Castelino** won the LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title. She was crowned by Vartika Singh, Miss Diva Universe 2019, at an event held on Mumbai.
   - The event was held on 22 February. Castelino was followed by Aavriti Choudhary of Jabalpur. Choudhary was bestowed with the title of Miss Diva Supranational by her predecessor Shefali Sood.
   **Related Keys:**
   - Miss Diva Universe Formation 2013
   - Miss Diva Universe Headquarters Mumbai

**APPOINTMENTS**

**February 2**

1. Who assumes charge of GOC-in-C, Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur?
   **Answer:** Yogesh Kumar Joshi
   **Explanation:**
   - **Lieutenant General Yogesh Kumar Joshi** assumes charge of GOC-in-C, Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir’s Udhampur. K Joshi was commissioned into 13 JAK RIF on 12 June 1982 and later commanded the same unit.
The general officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and a postgraduate from the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He commanded 13 JAK RIF in Operation Vijay and Parakram.

**Related Keys:**
- YK Joshi served as Director-General, Infantry, and was instrumental in catalyzing the modernization drive of the Infantry.
- He was the Chief of Staff, Northern Command, before taking over as Army Commander of the Northern Command.

**February 3**

1. Who took over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command at Udhampur?

**Answer:** YK Joshi

**Explanation:**
- **Lieutenant General YK Joshi** took over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command at Udhampur. Before assuming the charge, he visited "Dhruva War Memorial".
- He paid tribute to martyrs who have sacrificed their lives under the Northern Command since 1972.

**February 8**

1. Who has been appointed as the High Commissioner to India by the British government?

**Answer:** Philip Barton

**Explanation:**
- **Career diplomat Philip Barton** has been appointed as the High Commissioner to India by the British government. He will succeed Dominic Asquith. The appointment will be effective from Spring 2020.
- He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1986. He served as the British High Commissioner to Pakistan from 2014 to 2016.

**Related Keys:**
- Philip Barton was the Director-General, Consular and Security at
FCO from April 2017 to January 2020.

February 18
1. Who has been appointed as chief executive officer GoAir?
   Answer: Vinay Dube
   Explanation:
   - Mumbai based Indian Airline, owned by Wadia Group- GoAir has appointed Vinay Dube as its new chief executive officer.
   - Vinay Dube had earlier served as the CEO of Jet Airways and also associated with Delta Airlines and American Airlines.
   Related Keys
   - Go Air Founded 2005
   - Go Air Headquarters: Mumbai

February 29
1. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela?
   Answer: Abhishek Singh
   Explanation:
   - Abhishek Singh has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. He is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Kabul, Afghanistan.
   - He will succeed Rajiv Kumar Napal, who passed away recently. He is a 2003-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
   Related Keys
   - Capital of Venezuela: Caracas.
   - Currency of Venezuela: Petro Bolivar Soberano.

BOOKS

February 12
1. Who unveiled the first look of biopic on former president A P J Abdul Kalam?
   Answer: PrakashJavadekar

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Explanation:

- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** unveiled the first look of **biopic on former president A P J Abdul Kalam**.

- Javadekar revealed that the film, titled **APJ Abdul Kalam: The Missile Man**, is a joint venture between Hollywood and Telugu film industry and will be released by the end of 2020.

**Related Keys**

- A P J Abdul Kalam is the 11th President of India
- A P J Abdul Kalam Born: 15 October 1931, Rameswaram.

**BANKING NEWS**

**February 1**

1. Who is appointed as executive director of Reserve Bank of India?

**Answer:** Janak Raj

**Explanation:**

- On January 29 the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed its **executive director Janak Raj** as **member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, the highest interest rate setting body. Raj replaces M.D. Patra, who was recently elevated as deputy governor of the RBI.

- The decision to appoint Janak Raj was taken at the 581st meeting of the central board.

**Related Keys**

- Reserve Bank of India Founder: British Raj
- Reserve Bank of India Governor: Shaktikanta Das

**February 2**

1. Which government plans to sell a partial stake in LIC through IPO or an initial public offer?

**Answer:** union government

**Explanation:**

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** that union government plans to sell a partial stake in LIC through IPO or an initial
public offer. The union budget she proposed that the government will sell its stake in IDBI Bank to private investors and also amend the Banking Regulation Act to strengthen co-op banks.
- The finance minister that the deposit insurance coverage against bank failure will be increased to Rs.5 lakh from Rs.1 lakh.

February 6
1. Who has been named ‘Central Banker of the Year 2020 - Asia-Pacific’?
   **Answer:** Shaktikanta Das
   **Explanation:**
   - **Shaktikanta Das,** The governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been named ‘Central Banker of the Year 2020 - Asia-Pacific’ by The Banker. The Banker is a London-based international financial affairs publication owned by The Financial Times.
   - It is known for its annual rankings of the world’s top banks.
   **Related Keys**
   - Reserve Bank of India Founded: 1 April 1935.
   - Reserve Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai

2. Which deposits has been increased to five lakh rupees from one lakh rupees?
   **Answer:** Insurance cover on bank
   **Explanation:**
   - **Insurance cover on bank** deposits has been increased to **five lakh rupees from one lakh rupees.**
   - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement that the cover is provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
   **Related Keys**
   - Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Founded: 1961
   - Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Headquarters: Mumbai

February 14
1. In Which rupee currency note is signed by the Finance Secretary and
Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?

Answer: One

Explanation:
- One rupee currency note is signed by the Finance Secretary while the other notes are signed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The new Re 1 note will come with the words 'Bharat Sarkar', above the words 'Government of India'.

Related Keys
- RBI was set up in 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The RBI has four regional representations: North in New Delhi, South in Chennai, East in Kolkata and West in Mumbai.

February 23

1. In Which Bank of India (RBI) unveiled a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-24?

Answer: Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:
- The RBI's Strategy is aimed at providing access to formal financial services in an affordable manner. It aims to promote financial literacy among customers.

Related Keys:
- RBI Established 1 April 1935; 84 years ago
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

February 28

1. Which bank has decided that all new floating rate loans to the medium enterprises extended from April 1, 2020?

Answer: RBI

Explanation:
- With respect to micro and small enterprises, floating rate loans are already linked with external benchmarks. In a circular issued on Wednesday RBI said it has now been decided that all new floating
rate loans to the medium enterprises extended by banks from April 1, 2020, "shall be linked to the external benchmarks".

- The external benchmarks will include Reserve bank’s repo rate, Treasury bill (T-bill) yields of 3 months or 6 months /any other benchmark published by the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL).

**Related News**

- RBI Governor – **Shaktikanta Das**
- RBI Deputy Governors – 4 (BP Kanungo, N S Vishwanathan, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra)
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