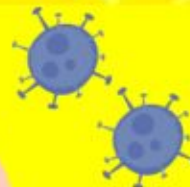


## SYMPTOMS



**Dry  
Cough**



**High  
Fever**



**Sore  
Throat**



**Difficulty in  
Breathing**



## HOW IT SPREADS



**Air By Cough  
or Sneeze**



**Personal  
Contact**



**Contaminated  
Objects**



**Mass Gathering**

## PREVENTION



**Wash your  
Hands Often**



**Wear a  
Face Mask**



**Avoid Contact  
with Sick People**



**Always Cover Your  
Cough or Sneeze**

## Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other. While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 28th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st March to 31<sup>st</sup> March) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

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# National

## Difference between Janata Curfew, Lockdown and Section 144

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

(1) Section 144 prohibits gathering of four or more people in the concerned area.

(2) Janata curfew is a curfew imposed on people by the people while lockdown is imposed by the government.

**Choose the correct:**

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- **Section 144 and Curfew:**
- Section 144 prohibits **gathering of four or more people in the concerned area, while during the curfew people are instructed to stay indoors for a particular period of time.** The government puts a complete restriction on traffic as well. Markets, schools, colleges and offices remains closed under the curfew **and only essential services are** allowed to run on prior notice.
- **Difference between Janata Curfew and Lockdown:**
- **Janta curfew** is a curfew imposed **on people by the people** while **lockdown** is **imposed by the government** and it means that **nobody will be allowed to enter or exit the state/city** which is being lockdown.
- For example the lockdown imposed in Wuhan city of China prohibits entrance or exit of outsiders in the city. But people inside the city were allowed to move outside their houses.
- **Links:**
- **Section 144 and Curfew:**
- Section 144 prohibits **gathering of four or more people in the concerned area, while during the curfew people are instructed to stay indoors for a particular period of time.** The government puts a complete restriction on traffic as well. Markets, schools, colleges and offices remains closed under the curfew **and only essential services are** allowed to run on prior notice.
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- For example the lockdown imposed in Wuhan city of China prohibits entrance or exit of outsiders in the city. But people inside the city were allowed to move outside their houses.

**Links:**

<https://www.businessinsider.in/india/news/here-is-the-difference-between-lockdown-and-curfew/articleshow/74759924.cms>



## Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is launched by Ministry of Textiles.  
(2) Its objective is to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in cases of total or partial disability.

**Choose the correct:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer :(c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Ministry of Textiles is implementing converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to handloom weavers/workers in the age group of 51-59 years across the country, who have already enrolled under the scheme on 31.5.2017.
- The Bunkar Bima Yojana was introduced by the Government of India in December, 2003. Since 2005-06 this scheme has been revised and implemented with the title "Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Yojana".
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.
- The basic objective of the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana is to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death and in cases of total or partial disability.
- The claim benefits are provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) directly into the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- The annual premium is Rs. 470 out of which Rs. 290 is paid by the central government.
- The Government of India organizes **Hastkala Sahyog Shivirs** in handloom clusters across the country in association with State Governments and LIC for creating awareness about the scheme among the weavers.
- The Ministry of Textiles also regularly organizes awareness programmes and camps through its Weavers' Service Centres (WSCs) to facilitate enrolment under the insurance schemes.
- WSCs provide the weavers with different facilities including banking, passport, etc.

**Links:**

<http://handlooms.nic.in/writereaddata/1236.pdf>

## Confederation of Indian Industry announces setting up of a CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR)

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) A CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR) has been setup to assist small enterprises or MSME in rehabilitation.  
(2) Confederation of Indian Industry is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, founded in 1895.

**Choose the correct:**



(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has announced setting up of a **CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR)** to assist small enterprises or MSME in rehabilitation.
- This decision was taken by a CII Forum on Covid-19 **which is leading industry response measures to the Coronavirus pandemic.**
- The Confederation will request all its members (mainly corporates) to contribute an amount from their CSR allocation for the fund, CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR).
- The MSME sector is one of the most severely affected as steps to curtail the outbreak such as travel bans, closure of malls, theatres and educational institutions have led to widespread disruptions in economic activity. This, in turn, has hampered MSMEs' businesses.
- Multiple actions need to be taken on extension of bank loans, a special fund, steps regarding filing of GST and improving welfare of workers.
- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII):**
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.
- CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process.
- Founded in 1895, it is India's premier business association has more than 9100 members.

**Links:**

<https://www.cii.in/PressreleasesDetail.aspx?enc=yyACb78onutb4jh0ys5LLuOY00tSiabdNEEaT7hlfzc=>

**#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks**

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

(1) #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks initiative is launched by National Book Trust of MHRD.

(2) Its objective to encourage people to read books while at home.

**Choose the correct:**

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**

- National Book Trust of MHRD has launched #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks initiative.
- Its objective to encourage people to read books while at home, is providing its select and best-selling titles for FREE Download as part of its initiative of #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks!



- 100+ books can be downloaded from NBT's website in PDF format.
- **National Book Trust (NBT) :**
- National Book Trust (NBT) is an Indian publishing house, founded in 1957 as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education of the Government of India.
- NBT now functions under aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200691>

### Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020

#### Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 aims at further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment.
- (2) The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the Make in India initiative.

#### Choose the correct:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

#### Related facts:



- On March 20, 2020, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020.
- It aims at **further increasing indigenous manufacturing and reducing timelines for procurement of defence equipment.**
- The policy is aligned with the vision of the government to empower the private industry through the **Make in India initiative with the ultimate of turning India into a global manufacturing hub.**
- The government has introduced leasing as another category to get defense equipment at affordable rates.
- The greater participation of the Indian industry and developing **a robust defence industrial base, the use of indigenous raw materials, unique alloys, and software has been incentivized under the DPP-2020.**

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1607400>

### PM Modi Allocates Rs 15,000 Cr for Healthcare Infra To Combat Covid-19 Outbreak

#### Question: What amount of fund has been allocated by Government of India to strengthen the Healthcare Infrastructure combating Covid-19 outbreak?

- (a) Rs. 15000 Crore (b) Rs. 16000 Crore (c) Rs. 17000 Crore (d) Rs. 20000 Crore

#### Answer: (a)

#### Related facts:



- In a bid to combat the spread of coronavirus in India, the central government has allocated Rs 15,000 crore to strengthen the health infrastructure in India.
- In his address to the nation, PM Modi said that the fund will **be used for developing health infrastructure in the country, increasing the number of beds, testing kits, and even training of professionals to combat the disease.**
- In an unprecedented move, the PM announced complete lockdown in the entire country for 21 days from 12 am tonight, adding that this will be akin to a curfew and will be implemented with full compliance.

#### Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/rs-15000-crore-alloted-for-healthcare-to-fight-coronavirus-says-pm-modi/story/399119.html>

### Janata curfew

#### Question: Consider the following statements:

- (1) Janata curfew is a self imposed curfew by Indian citizens to combat the pandemic Covid-19.
- (2) The Janata curfew was of 14 hour curfew (7am-9pm) scheduled on 22 March 2020.

#### Choose the correct one:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

#### Related facts:



- **Janata curfew** is an effort to combat coronavirus spread, introduced by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, in the wake of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic in India.
- The Prime Minister implored all citizens of India to observe a self-imposed 'curfew' from 7 am to 9 pm IST on Sunday, 22 March 2020 to help reduce community spreading of coronavirus disease in India.
- The Janata curfew was a 14 hour curfew (7am-9pm) that was scheduled for 22 March 2020.
- Everyone except people of 'essential services' such as police, medical services, media, home delivery professionals and firefighters were urged to take part in the curfew.
- At 5 pm (22nd March 2020), all citizens were asked to stand in their doorways, balconies or windows, and clap their hands or ring their bells in appreciation for the professionals delivering these essential services.
- People belonging to National Cadet Corps and National Service Scheme were to enforce the curfew in the country.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-calls-for-janta-curfew-on-march-22-from-7-am-9-pm/article31110155.ece#>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/janata-curfew-to-fight-coronavirus-pm-modi-urges-citizens-to-stay-off-roads-from-7-am-to-9-pm-on-sunday-1657581-2020-03-19>

## Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT)

**Question: Consider the following statement:**

- (1) Arpit stand for Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching.  
(2) MOOC is a free Web-based distance learning program that is designed for the participation of large numbers of geographically dispersed students.

**Choose the correct:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- In a unique initiative to enhance **quality of teaching in higher education**, the **Government is successfully running an online ‘Annual Refresher Programme In Teaching (ARPIT)**
- It is an initiative for **online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty** using the **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** platform **SWAYAM**.
- It is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 15 lakh higher education faculty.
- Through ARPIT, **new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum have been imparted to more than 1.8 Lakh teachers in the last two years.**
- In 2018-19, 37199 teachers were trained under this program whereas in 2019-20 the number has increased tremendously to 146919 which shows a nearly **fourfold increase as well as popularity of the programme.**
- ARPIT has been launched to enhance the quality of teaching and is a step towards the commitment of the government to “**HarEkKaamDeshKeNaam**”.
- **Massive Open Online Course:**
- A massive open online course (MOOC) is a free Web-based distance learning program that is designed for the participation of large numbers of geographically dispersed students.
- The government has launched SWAYAM platform for **open online courses.**
- **SWAYAM:**
- SWAYAM platform is **indigenously developed** by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) with the help of Microsoft.
- It is designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz.access, equity and quality.
- The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1607331>

<https://swayam.gov.in/>

## UP Govt seeks Central Grant of Rs. 100 cr for Lucknow University & Kashi Vidyapeeth

**Question:**What amount of Central Grant did UP Govt seek for LucknowUniversity and KashiVidyapeeth educational institutions marking 100 years of their establishment?

(a) 100 Cr. Rupees (b) 200 Cr. Rupees (c) 300 Cr. Rupees (d) 400 Cr. Rupees

**Answer:(a)**

**Related facts:**



- The Uttar Pradesh Government has sought a Central Grant of **100 crore rupees for Lucknow University and KashiVidyapeeth.**
- The Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Uttar Pradesh Dr. Dinesh Sharma met Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in Delhi and made the request.
- Both the educational institutions have **completed 100 years of their establishment and there is a provision of special grant of Rs 100 crores for these institutions.**

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UP-govt-seeks-Central-Grant-of-Rs.-100-cr-for-Lucknow-University-%26-Kashi-Vidyapeeth&id=383479>

## WINGS INDIA, 2020

**Question:** Which among the following States hosted the WINGS INDIA, 2020?

(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) Chennai (d) Tamil Nadu

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- International Exhibition and Conference on Civil Aviation sector, providing a congenial forum catering to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector, focusing on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity.
- WINGS INDIA- 2020 Forum was organized from 12 – 15, March at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, India.
- It was organized with the objective of connecting the Buyers, Sellers, Investors and other stakeholders at a common vantage forum.
- It will provide a much desired fillip to the aviation and restructured focused forums.
- The delegates discussed the domestic traffic that has grown 14 times in the last 18 years. Total traffic has grown 8.2 times, including international traffic.
- It highlighted the increasing connectivity through UDAN Scheme, which has helped the per capita trips to rise from 0.1 per person to 0.5 per person.
- Swachhta Pakhwada Awards 2019 were announced during the conference.
- As per FICCI data, an aircraft lands or takes off every minute, and it will reach 1 billion passengers in India.
- The conference focused on Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) infrastructure that builds 100% of Indian aircraft being serviced from India, in India, and beyond India.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), along with FICCI, has agreed to ensure 100% of aircraft have parts or manufacturing components from India by 2040.



**Links:**

[https://www.wings-india.in/WINGS\\_BROCHURE-2020.pdf](https://www.wings-india.in/WINGS_BROCHURE-2020.pdf)

<https://gulfnews.com/photos/business/photos-wings-india-2020-aviation-exhibition-kicks-off-in-hyderabad-1.1584023228153?slide=3>

### Time magazine's list- 100 Women of the Year

**Question: Which Indian women have been named in the Time magazine's list of 100 women of the Year?**

- (a) Indira Gandhi and Vijaya Laxmi Pandit (b) Suneeta Williams and Kalpna Chawla  
(c) Indira Gandhi and Amrit Kaur (d) Sarojani Naidu and Indira Gandhi

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter Amrit Kaur were named in the TIME magazine's 100 Most Powerful Women List.
- TIME magazine named Amrit Kaur as Women of the Year for 1947 and Indira Gandhi for 1976 .
- TIME magazine is an American weekly news magazine established in 1923.
- Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi was an Indian politician and a leader of the Indian National Congress.. She was the first and only female Prime Minister of India. Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.
- Rajkumari Bibiji Amrit Kaur was an Indian freedom fighter and politician. She was first Health Minister (1947-1957 ) of India . Amrit Kaur was also a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly. Amrit Kaur was also secretary of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indira-gandhi-amrit-kaur-named-by-time-among-100-women-of-the-year/articleshow/74498165.cms>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-amrit-kaur-time-magazine-power-women-100-list-6302654/>

### India pledged \$10 million to tackle Covid-19 outbreak

**Question: India pledged Voluntary Fund to tackle Covid-19 outbreak. The total amount of this emergency fund is?**

- (a) \$10 million (b) \$12 million (c) \$16 million (d) \$14 million

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- PM Modi on March 16, 2020 communicated with leaders of all SAARC member nations through a video-conference.
- One of the key takeaways from the meet was PM Modi's proposal for Covid-19 Emergency Fund.
- India pledged \$10 million toward a Covid-19 emergency fund and planned to put together a rapid response team of doctors and specialists for SAARC nations.



- India suggested Integrated Disease Surveillance Portal (IDSP) that is currently being used to detect infected patients and contact tracing.
- The leaders proposed that health secretaries and experts from all SAARC member nations should coordinate to monitor and curb the spread of Covid-19.
- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):**
- It is the regional inter-governmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia.
- Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2015.

#### Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-modi-proposes-covid-19-emergency-fund-other-measures-saarc-leaders-echo-sentiment-1655795-2020-03-15> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Asian\\_Association\\_for\\_Regional\\_Cooperation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_Association_for_Regional_Cooperation)

### NavIC Messaging system and a NavIC receiver

**Question: Which of the following organisation has designed NavIC messaging system and a NavIC receiver?**

(a) ISRO (b) IISc (c) IIT-Hyderabad (d) NASA

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has designed NavIC messaging system and a NavIC receiver.
- Department of Space (DoS) informed that this messaging system is being used by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System (INCOIS).
- INCOIS is using this system to broadcast emergency warning messages like cyclone, tsunami and high waves as and when it occurs.
- This information was given in a written reply by the Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi in Lok Sabha on 17 March, 2020.
- NavIC messaging system is also useful for broadcasting of information of Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ).
- DoS have reported that ISRO has transferred this technology to five industries in India to manufacture the receivers.
- The Fisheries Department of various coastal States have been made aware of this technology for the fishermen community.
- ISRO has distributed about 250 units each to the State Fisheries Department of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for the use of fishermen.
- ISRO also has proactively conducted trials for fishermen of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu reported that 200 NAVIC units have been provided to 80 clusters having 10 to 15 deep sea fishing boats of Tamil Nadu.

- Distribution of NAVIC has to be implemented by the Department of Fisheries of the respective State Governments.
- Funds for fisheries activities under the Blue Revolution scheme are provided based on the proposals received from the respective States and Union Territories.
- It has been done because these are demand driven activities and hence, there is no such prior allocation exclusively for utilization for this purpose.
- Awareness programme and meetings for dissemination of information to fishermen are organised by the Department of Fisheries and alerts of high waves, cyclones, tsunami etc are being communicated.
- It has been provided by all type of media on receipt of the information from Cyclone Warning Centre for the safety and security of fishermen and fishing vessels.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1606784>

### India to provide 107.01 million Nepali Rupees for three new school buildings in Nepal

**Question: What amount of monetary assistance will India provide for construction of three new school buildings in Nepal as part of India-Nepal Development Partnership program?**

- (a) 170.1 million Nepali Rupees (b) 170.1 million Nepali Rupees  
(c) 107.01 million Nepali Rupees (d) 170.1 million Nepali Rupees

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related facts:



- The Government of India will provide 107.01 million Nepali Rupees for three new school buildings in Nepal. The schools will be constructed in Darchula, Dhanusha and Kapilvastu districts.
- The Embassy of India and Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Mahakali Municipality, Darchula and Mukhiyapatti Musharniya Rural Municipality, Dhanusha in Kathmandu today for the construction of two new school buildings.
- These schools will be built under the India-Nepal Development Partnership program at a total estimated cost of 73.96 million Nepali Rupees.
- The new infrastructure will be used by Shree Malikarjun Higher Secondary School at Dharp in Darchula district and Baidyanath Devnarayan Public Higher Secondary School at Tulsiyahi in Dhanusha district.
- The Government of India will provide funds while construction work, including a call for tender, the award of work and day to day supervision, will be by Mahakali Municipality, Dharchula and Mukhiyapatti Musharniya Rural Municipality, Dhanusha.
- The projects will be monitored at the federal level by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration of Nepal and Embassy of India.
- The Government of India has also committed an amount of 33.05 million Nepali Rupees for the construction of new school buildings for Shivbhari School, Mahrajgunj Municipality in Kapilvastu district.

- The Embassy of India handed over a cheque of 8.26 million Nepali Rupees as the first installment of its total commitment to the District Coordination Committee Kapilvastu.

**Link:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-to-provide-107.01-million-Nepali-Rupees-for-three-new-school-buildings-in-Nepal&id=383098>

### Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival

**Question: Where will the Fourth Global Ayurvedic Festival be held?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Mumbai (d) Kochi

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- Five day Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) will be held at Kochi (Kerala) from 16th to 20th May, 2020.
- Theme of this event is Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility.
- Coordinating Ministry of this event is Ministry of AYUSH.
- Ministry of AYUSH was established in 2014 .
- GAF-2020 will attempt to bring together the world of Ayurveda wellness providers and it's seekers to one platform.
- It will be the largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held anywhere across the world and will witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders and business explorers from the field of Ayurveda.

**Link:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Fourth-Global-Ayurveda-Festival-to-be-held-at-Kochi-from-May-16&id=382462>

### Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-Mac)

**Question: Crime Multi Agency Centre which was launched recently, is related to which of the organizations?**

(a) Central Bureau of investigation (b) National Crime Record Bureau  
(c) National Investigation Agency (d) Narcotics Control Bureau

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On the occasion of 35th Inception Day of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai launched Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC) for sharing of information on heinous crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination.
- He also launched National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC) for professional quality e-Learning services on cyber crime investigation on large scale to police officers, judges, prosecutors and other stakeholders.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**

- NCRB was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators, based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985)
- Headquarter- New Delhi.
- Ministry – Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200162>

<http://ncrb.gov.in/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Crime\\_Records\\_Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Crime_Records_Bureau)

### CMAST and CMAT scheme

**Question: CMAST and CMAT scheme is launched by which of the following States?**

(a) Manipur (b) Meghalaya (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Tripura Answer:

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 15 March, 2020, the Chief Minister of Manipur Shri Biren Singh announced the biggest ever scheme for the welfare of sports persons and artists of the State.
- The scheme will provide monetary benefits to sportspersons and artistes who have brought laurels to the State and the Country.
- The scheme are as follows:
- CMAST: Chief Minister's Akhannaba Sanaroisinggi Tengbang;
- CMAT: Chief Minister's Artist Singgi Tengbang.
- Around Rs 7.36 crore and Rs 5.70 crore respectively will be required for the newly announced scheme.
- **CMAST scheme:**
- Under this scheme suitable employment in government services would be provided to sportspersons who have won medals in notified disciplines in selected International Sports events.
- The scheme would also support the sportspersons for purchasing costly sporting items.
- Cash awards for Olympians have been enhanced to Rs 1 crore, Rs 75 lakh, Rs 50 lakh and Rs 10 lakh for different categories.
- Under the scheme, the government would provide incentive of up to Rs 2 lakh per annum to around 250 local clubs of the state.
- The scheme would also include lifetime pension scheme for unemployed sportspersons and coaches of 50 years and above who have represented the state or the country either in national or international tournaments.
- **CMAT Scheme:**

- This scheme has been designed to encourage the artistes in performing arts, literary arts and visual arts.
- The scheme is targeted for the benefit of around 4,000 artistes a year.
- Under the CMAT, pension will be extended to around 1,000 artistes who are 60 years and above.
- The pensioners will include awardees, gurus and non- awardees who have contributed in preserving the tradition, culture and art forms of Manipur.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Manipur-CM-announces-scheme-for-welfare-of-sportspersons-and-artists&id=383047> <https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/manipur-govt-announces-schemes-for-sportspersons-artistes/1762632>

### Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

**Question: Consider the following statement:**

**(1) Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2014.**

**(2) The RKSK programme defines an adolescent as a person within 10-19 years of age, in urban and rural areas, includes both girls and boys, married and unmarried, poor and affluent, whether they are in school or out of school.**

**Choose the correct statement:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2014.
- It intends to ensure holistic development of the adolescent population.
- The RKSK programme defines an adolescent as a person within 10-19 years of age, in urban and rural areas, includes both girls and boys, married and unmarried, poor and affluent, whether they are in school or out of school.
- The programme also focuses on reaching out all adolescents including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ).
- To guide the implementation of this programme, MoHFW in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has developed a National Adolescent Health Strategy.
- The six thematic areas of RKSK as well as that of the strategy are nutrition, sexual reproductive health, substance misuse, non – communicable diseases, mental health and injuries and violence.
- The programme envisages a paradigm shift from the clinic-based services to the promotion and prevention and reaching adolescents in their own environment, such as in schools, families and communities.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200319>

## Sir Creek Dispute

**Question: Sir Creek dispute is between which of the following nations?**

- (a) India and Pakistan (b) Pakistan and Bangladesh
- (c) Nepal And Afghanistan
- (d) Israel and Jordan

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Recently at the WION's Global Summit held in Dubai, the Pakistan representative, Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri recalled Sir Creek Pact.
- Theme of the WION's Global Summit was: Navigating and Negotiating Global Imperatives.
- **Sir Creek:**
- Sir Creek is a 96-km strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch marshlands.
- The Creek opens up in the Arabian Sea and roughly divides the Kutch region of Gujarat from the Sind Province of Pakistan.
- Sir Creek's core importance is fishing resources. It is considered to be among the largest fishing grounds in Asia.
- The creek is also important due to possible presence of great oil and gas concentration under the sea which are currently unexploited due to dispute on the issue.
- **About the Dispute:**
- The dispute lies in the interpretation of the maritime boundary line between Kutch and Sind.
- Before India's independence, the provincial region was a part of the Bombay Presidency of British India. But after India's independence in 1947, Sind became a part of Pakistan while Kutch remained a part of India.
- Pakistan claims the entire creek as per Bombay Government Resolution of 1914 signed between then the Government of Sind and Rao Maharaja of Kutch.
- However, India claims that the boundary lies mid-channel as depicted in another map drawn in 1925 and implemented by the installation of mid-channel pillars back in 1924.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-pakistan-minister-kasuri-recalls-plan-for-sir-creek-pact/article31034027.ece>

## Silk Samagra Scheme

**Question: Consider the following statement with reference to Silk Samagra Scheme:**

- (1) It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- (2) To scale up production of Silk by improving the quality and productivity is one of the objectives of this scheme.

**Choose the correct option given below:**

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above





**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Minister of Textiles has informed Rajya Sabha about the implementation of Silk Samagra Scheme for Development of Sericulture.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched for a period of three years i.e. 2017-2020.
- Objective: To scale up production of Silk by improving the quality and productivity and to empower downtrodden, poor & backward families through various activities of sericulture in the country. It is being implemented by the Central Silk Board (CSB).
- The scheme comprises four major components;
- Research & Development, Training and Transfer of Technology and I.T. Initiatives.
- Seed Organizations-Coordination and Market Development and
- Quality Certification Systems (QCS)/Export Promotion and Technology Up-gradation.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1606091>

### Essential Commodities Act, 1955

**Question: Recently, which item/s is/are included in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by the Central Government?**

- (a) Masks and hand sanitizers (b) Fruit and vegetables  
(c) Internet (d) Fan and Room coolers

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The Centre has brought masks and hand sanitizers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 till June 30, 2020.
- This inclusion will make sure that these products are easily available and prevent hoarding. This will help preventing the spread of Covid-19 infection.
- Essential Commodities Act, 1955 aims to ensure smooth and easy availability of essential items to consumers.
- Under the Act, the Government regulates the production, supply and distribution of certain commodities it declares essential in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices and right quality.
- Items which are included in list under this Act are; drugs, fertilizers, pulses and edible oils and petroleum and petroleum products.
- The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises and take them off the list once the situation improves.
- The State Governments are the implementing agencies to implement the EC Act, 1955 along with the Prevention of Black Marketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- The offender of this Act is liable for imprisonment up to seven years.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/masks-sanitisers-put-under-essential->



## Bhoomi Rashi Portal

**Question: Consider the following statement with reference Bhoomi Rashi Portal:**

**(1) It acts as a single point platform for online processing of land acquisition projects.**

**(2) It was launched by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.**

**Choose the correct statement:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways has said that Bhoomi Rashi Portal has expedited the process of land acquisition for National Highways by making it error-free & more transparent with notifications at every stage being processed on real time basis.
- **Bhoomi Rashi Portal:**
  - Launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways with the help of National informatics Centre (NIC).
  - It acts as a single point platform for online processing of land acquisition projects to accelerate highway infrastructure development in India.
  - The portal has been integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for depositing the compensation in the account of affected/ interested persons on a real-time basis.
- **Public Financial Management System (PFMS):**
  - It is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- **Aim:**
  - To facilitate a sound Public Financial Management System for the Government of India (GoI) by establishing an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network.
- Its coverage includes a) Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes b) Direct Benefit transfer among others.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/bhoomirashi-portal-significantly-expedited-land-acquisition-for-national-highways-claims-ministry-120031301468\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/bhoomirashi-portal-significantly-expedited-land-acquisition-for-national-highways-claims-ministry-120031301468_1.html)

## Multilingual version- Incredible India

**Question: Multilingual version of Incredible India website was launched in New Delhi on March 2, 2020. This website is a pioneering project undertaken by which among the following ministries?**

(a) Ministry of Culture (b) Ministry of External Affairs

(c) Ministry of Tourism (d) Ministry of Defense



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 2, 2020, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel launched the multilingual version of Incredible India website in New Delhi. The pioneering project undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Its purpose is to present India as a must-visit destination in the world. The multilingual Incredible India website has been redesigned by the Ministry of Tourism to provide more and more information about the tourist attractions, experiences and values of India.
- The Incredible India 2.0 website aims to showcase India's tourism products to the world and provide visitors with relevant, personalized and contextual digital experience escalating tourism awareness, attraction and opportunities.
- Detailed information about 165 tourist destinations is available in this website. It has more than 2700 pages imparting significant information of the diverse attractions from 28 states and 9 union territories.
- Currently this website is in English and Hindi language and is being launched in Chinese, Arabic and Spanish.
- This website will be available in other major international languages in the time to come.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199733>

### MoU: Clean Air Program

**Question: On March 2, 2020, which State's pollution control board signed a memorandum of understanding with the Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi for Clean Air Program?**

(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Haryana (d) Punjab

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 2, 2020, the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center for Science and Environment, New Delhi, help strengthen and implement clean air action plans.
- Through this MoU, the Science and Environment Center will provide a strategy to the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to achieve the goals of the Clean Air Program.
- In which knowledge enhancement, execution of strategy, capacity building and implementation of welfare programs, mutual cooperation in interdepartmental activities, cooperation with officials of various departments of the board and state and other states in knowledge and capacity enhancement through international institutions.

**Links:**

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/382042b2-d9e0-4b1c-aeaa-a4bcb93f71ff/files/national-clean-air-agreement-work-plan.pdf>

## Digital solutions exchange cloud: GOKADDAL

**Question: Recently World's first digital solutions exchange cloud GOKADDAL was launched in which country?**

(a) China (b) USA (c) India (d) Japan

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- World's first digital solutions exchange cloud was launched on 11 March 2020 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This digital exchange cloud has been named GOKADDAL.
- Customers will go through an experience in the landscape of digital transformation by this cloud based platform. Through this new digital landscape, these customers will be able to find the right solutions with the right tools and right providers.
- www.gokaddal.com is a marketplace platform to provide cloud services.
- This platform adds on Automation, Artificial Intelligence Analytics and Augmentation technologies. GOKADDAL Technologies, a part of Merkado Group, is a Dubai-based technology company. It should be known that Merkado Group is based in Bengaluru and operates Merkado RHA Technology and Merkado RHA Services.
- GOKADDAL offers a subscription-based model for Solution Providers with a special offering for Start-ups and SME solution companies.
- GOKADDAL will make it easy for the Digital solution providers now to access new markets across the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and South Asia.

**Link:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/gokaddal-world-s-first-digital-solutions-exchange-cloud-launched-in-india-120031100624\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/gokaddal-world-s-first-digital-solutions-exchange-cloud-launched-in-india-120031100624_1.html)

## Development fund for MLA's hiked in Uttar Pradesh

**Question: On February 28, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the increase in the MLA's fund in Uttar Pradesh to?**

(a) Rs 1.5 crore (b) Rs 2 crore (c) Rs 3 crore (d) Rs 3.5 crore

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On February 28, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced to increase Local Area Development Fund for Uttar Pradesh MLAs to Rs 3 crore.
- Earlier the fund was 2 crores per year.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister proposed to set up a committee chaired by finance minister Suresh Kumar Khanna to make suggestions regarding revision of salary and allowances of MLAs.
- This committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.
- The guidelines for MLALAD (Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme) will be amended to include new development projects.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/local-area-development-fund-for-up-mlas-hiked-to-rs-3-cr-speaker-s-office-120022801205\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/local-area-development-fund-for-up-mlas-hiked-to-rs-3-cr-speaker-s-office-120022801205_1.html)

### 24th Session of Rock Art Society

**Question: Where was the 24th session of Rock Art Society of India held during 27-29 February, 2020?**

(a) Raipur (b) Jabalpur (c) Bhopal (d) Jaipur

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts**



- The 24th session of the Rock Art Society of India was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh during 27-29 February, 2020.
- This three-Day event was inaugurated by Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Pankaj Rag. Deliberations will take place on conservation of rock paintings sites, conservation policy of Archeological Survey of India and other related subjects.
- This session was dedicated to Dr. V.S.Vakankar, the founder of the method of rock painting studies.
- This session is being organized under the joint aegis of Archaeological Archives and Museums and Tourism Development Corporation.
- During this session 25 subjects were discussed in 6 academic sessions. The 29th issue of the Society's magazine Purakala was released at the inauguration.
- It is worth mentioning that the search for rock paintings started in India from 1867-68 and analysis of work, documentation, preservation and development of these sites still continues in the State.

**Links:**

<https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20200227N7&LocID=1>

<https://indiaeducationdiary.in/national-session-of-rock-art-society-of-india-on-february-27/>

## UP launches vaccination drive against Japanese Encephalitis

**Question: Vaccination campaign is being conducted against Japanese Encephalitis on March 1, 2020. When will this campaign end?**

(a) March 8, 2020 (b) March 15, 2020 (c) March 20, 2020 (d) March 31, 2020

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 1, 2020, while inaugurating the fifth edition of the Mukhya Mantri Arogya Mela, Chief Minister Shri Adityanath launched the vaccination campaign at a Primary Health Center at Aurangabad in Sarojini Nagar area of Lucknow.
- The communicable disease control, special Japanese Encephalitis vaccination campaign and DASTAK campaign were linked to the Mukhya Mantri Arogya Mela, 2020.
- The campaign will be conducted from March 1 to March 31, 2020.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister provided information that the number of meningitis has decreased by 56 percent and deaths due to it by 90 percent from previous campaigns.

**Links:**

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5e5bbdfa-7c2c-43f7-b16d-31910af72573.pdf>

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/up-launches-month-long-follow-up-vaccination-drive-against-japanese-encephalitis/1886730/>

## Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival

**Question: The fourth Global Ayurveda Festival to be held during May 16-20, 2020 will be organized in which city?**

(a) Jaipur (b) Kochi (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Dehradun

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts**



- The fourth Global Ayurveda Festival will be held in Kochi, Kerala during 16th to 20th May, 2020.
- The theme of the five-day conference is Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility.
- The largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held, will witness the gathering of more than five thousand international delegates including experts, stakeholders and business explorers from the field of Ayurveda.
- Ethnic food carnivals, exhibition of rich medicinal plants and workshops on Panchkarma to be the key highlights of GAF-2020.

**Links:**

<https://gaf.co.in/>

<http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=382462>

## Gol Nominated 2 sites from India for World Heritage Sites 2020

**Question: Government has nominated 2 sites namely Dholavira and Forts of Deccan Sultanate to be included in the World Heritage Sites List for the year 2020. Dholavira is located in?**

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Gujarat (c) Punjab (d) Maharashtra

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Government of India nominated Dholavira; a Harapan City and Monuments and Forts of Deccan Sultanate to be included in the World Heritage Sites List for the year 2020.
- **Dholavira:**
- Dholavira is an archaeological site that is located in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat. The site spreads over an area of 100 hectares was first discovered by archaeologist JP Joshi in 1956.
- Dholavira, locally known as Kotada timba (which means large fort), spreads over an area of 100 hectares of semi-arid land at the north-west corner of the island of Khadirbet. Dholavira is 250 km of Bhuj.
- Dholavira is older than Lothal, and is known for its water conservation system which had massive water storage reservoirs.
- It is also home to a variety of water birds and mammals.
- **Deccan Sultanate Monuments and Forts:**
- The Monuments of the Deccan Sultanate is a serial property comprising of four components that constitute the most representative, most authentic and best conserved examples of Deccani Sultanate monuments in India.
- The series demonstrates the exemplary convergence of national and international styles of Islamic architecture and their intersections with the prevalent Hindu architecture of the period southern Indian in present day Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

**Links:**

<https://world-news-monitor.com/environment/2020/03/03/goi-nominates-2-sites-to-be-included-in-world-heritage-sites-list/>

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5887/>

## UNHRC moves to Supreme Court on CAA

**Question: Who is at present the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights?**

(a) Mary Robinson (b) Michelle Bachelet (c) Zeid Raad Al Hussein  
(d) Kristalina Georgieva

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 3, 2020, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Michelle Bachelet) has filed an intervention in the Supreme Court of India on the



Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and information of the same was conveyed to India's Permanent Mission in Geneva.

- India reacted sharply through Ministry of External Affairs by saying that no foreign party has any locus standi on issues pertaining to its sovereignty.
- India is clear that the CAA is constitutionally valid, and complies with all requirements of its constitutional values.
- CAA is reflective of India's long standing national commitment in respect of human rights issues arising from the tragedy of the Partition of India.
- It was reiterated that India is a democratic country which is governed by the rule of law and it has full trust in its independent judiciary.
- India is confident that its sound and legally sustainable position will finally be upheld by the Supreme Court.

**Link:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/un-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-files-intervention-application-in-supreme-court-against-caa/article30970470.ece>

### SCORES App

**Question: SCORES App is launched by which among the following institutions?**

(a) SEBI (b) NABARD(c) SBI (d) IDBI

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched SCORES (mobile application) for lodging investor grievances.
- SCORES stands for Sebi Complaints Redress System.
- Its web portal was launched in the year 2011.
- The platform allows investors to lodge their complaints online with SEBI pertaining to securities market against listed companies, SEBI registered intermediaries and SEBI recognized market infrastructure institutions.
- Entities against whom complaints are lodged are required to file an Action Taken Report with the market regulator within 30 days of receipt of complaints.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-launches-app-for-lodging-investor-grievances/articleshow/74496859.cms>

### RS 900 for the farmers willing to maintain Stray Livestock

**Question: Government of which of the following States has recently started the scheme to pay Rs. 900 per month to farmers who keep the stray cattle?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Punjab

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**





- On March 3, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a scheme for the farmers willing to maintain stray livestock.
- Earlier in 2019, farmers protested in Uttar Pradesh over stray cattle that were destroying their fields.
- The population of stray livestock inside the state considerably increased because the UP Government had banned unlawful animal slaughtering within the State.
- Initially, cow shelters had been built to undertake abandoned stray cattle; however, they soon became overflowing places.
- This proved financially hard for the UP Government to take care of such a big numbers of cattle (10-12 lakh). In order to seek remedy the State Government had introduced Chief Minister Destitute Cow Participation Scheme.
- Under the scheme, interested farmers can adopt a cow from the shelters and take them home; in return government will transfer Rs 900 per month to their bank account for the up-keep and nutrition of the animal.

**Link:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/govt-to-pay-you-rs-900-per-month-for-adopting-a-stray-cow-in-up/articleshow/70563941.cms?from=mdr>

### North East Venture Fund disbursed over 18 crore rupees to 12 start-ups

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) North East Venture Fund was launched by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi)**

**(2) NEDFi works as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).**

**Choose the correct option:**

(a) Only 1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Government has informed the Parliament that North East Venture Fund (NEVF) has disbursed over Rs.18 crore to 12 start-ups.
- **North East Venture Fund (NEVF):**
- It was launched in 2017 by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) in association with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER).
- **Aim:**
- To contribute to the entrepreneurship development of the NER and achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns through long term capital appreciation by way of investments in privately negotiated equity related investments.
- It focuses on startups in five sectors namely (a) food processing (b) healthcare (c) tourism (d) aggregation of services and (e) IT and IT-enabled services.
- NEVF would inter alia invest in areas such as development of new products and services, technological up gradation, expansion or diversification, process improvement and quality improvement with the purpose of creating value for all stakeholders.

- It is a close ended fund with capital commitment of Rs 100 crore.
- Each investment will be limited to a minimum of Rs.25 lakh and a maximum of Rs.10 crores with long term investment horizon of 4-5 years.
- **NEDFi:**
- North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) was incorporated as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956 in 1995.
- It is also categorized as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)-Loan Company and was registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2002.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1605421>

[https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/secondary\\_tertiary\\_sector\\_2013-14.pdf](https://mdoner.gov.in/contentimages/files/secondary_tertiary_sector_2013-14.pdf)

### Gairsain: Summer capital of Uttarakhand

**Question: Gairsain as the new summer capital is a tehsil located in which district of Uttarakhand?**

(a) Dehradun (b) Chamoli (c) Haridwar (d) Udham Singh Nagar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 5th March, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced that the government has decided to make Gairsain the summer capital of the state.
- The State Assembly of Uttarakhand is located in Dehradun while assembly sessions are also held in Gairsain. Modalities will have to be worked out on for how many months Gairsain will be the summer capital of Uttarakhand
- **Uttarakhand:**
- Uttarakhand was formed on 9th November 2000 as the 27th State of India, when it was carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh. Located at the foothills of the Himalayan mountain ranges, it is largely a hilly State having international boundaries with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east.
- Char-dhams, the four most sacred and revered Hindu temples of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri are nestled in the mighty mountains.
- Dehradun is the Capital of Uttarakhand.
- Gairsain is a tehsil located in Chamoli district between the Kumaon and Garhwal regions, now it will be the new summer capital of Uttarakhand.
- **Gairsain:**
- The name Gairsain was derived from the Garhwali words 'gair' or 'at some depth' and 'sain', meaning 'rolling plains'. It is situated at an altitude of 1,750 metres above sea level, and at the eastern edge of the vast Dudhatoli mountain range.
- It is best suited to be the capital of Uttarakhand as it is a hilly region falling on the border of Kumaon and Garhwal regions.

**Links:**

<https://uk.gov.in/pages/view/93-state-profile>

## Female Labour-force Participation in India dropped

**Question:** In 2020 the Female Labour-force Participation in India dropped from 34% in 2006 to?

(a) 24.8 (b) 22.2 (c) 23.2 (d) 28.8

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**



- United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) has released a study on women's participation in India's labor force.
- India is the only country among the 153 surveyed countries where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gap.
- Female Labour-force participation in India has declined from 34% in 2006 to 24.8% in 2020.
- Raising women's participation in the labor force to the same level as men can boost India's GDP by 27%.
- **United Nations Global Compact:**
- The United Nations Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact formed in 2000.
- It aims to encourage companies worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies based on 10 principles categorized into human rights, anti-corruption, environment and labor.

**Link:**

<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>

## Solar Charkha Mission

**Question:** Consider the following statements:

(1) Mission Solar Charkha is an enterprise driven scheme and envisages setting up of Solar Charkha Clusters.

(2) It will boost the rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.

**Choose the correct option:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**



- The Ministry for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has given information about the subsidies provided under the Solar Charkha Mission.
- Launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- It is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- **Objectives:**
- To ensure inclusive growth by the generation of employment, especially for women and youth, and sustainable development through Solar Charkha Clusters in rural areas.

- To boost the rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
- To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for sustenance.
- To analyze the overall impact of the scheme, central government will implement this program initially for two years. It will officially end on 2020.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605406>

### Chapchar Kut Festival

**Question: Chapchar Kut festival is being celebrated by which of the following States?**

(a) Mizoram (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Assam (d) Manipur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 6th March, 2020, Chapchar Kut festival was being celebrated in the State of Mizoram.
- Chapchar Kut is an annual harvest festival of the Mizo Community which marks the beginning of Spring Season. This festival is a public holiday in the State.
- It is celebrated during March every year where they cut bamboo trees and are left to dry so that they can be burnt for Jhum Cultivation.
- During the festival, traditional bamboo dances such as Cheraw are also performed.

**Link:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Chapchar-Kut%2c-the-biggest-and-most-joyful-festival-of-Mizos%2c-being-celebrated-today&id=382475>

### The 24th Eastern Zonal Council meeting

**Question: The 24th Meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council held in which city?**

(a) Bhubaneswar (b) Patna (c) Kolkata (d) Ranchi

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The 24th Eastern Zonal Council meeting was held at the Lokseva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar, Odisha under the chairmanship of Home Minister Amit Shah.
- **Eastern Zonal Council:**
- In the light of the vision of Pandit Nehru, five Zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956.
- Eastern Zonal Council is a zonal council that comprises the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- Chairman – The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of each of these Councils.
- Vice Chairman – The Chief Ministers of the States included in each zone act as Vice-Chairman of the Zonal Council for that zone by rotation, each holding office for a period of one year at a time.
- Members- Chief Minister and two other Ministers as nominated by the Governor from each of the States and two members from Union Territories included in the zone.

- Advisers- One person nominated by the Planning Commission for each of the Zonal Councils, Chief Secretaries and another officer/Development Commissioner nominated by each of the States included in the Zone.
- Union Ministers are also invited to participate in the meetings of Zonal Councils depending upon necessity.
- **Focus of meeting:**
- The meeting has discussed several issues including inter-state water issues, power transmission lines, royalty on and operationalization of coals mines, land and forest clearance of rail projects, investigation of heinous offences, cattle smuggling across country's borders, lack of telecom and banking infrastructure in remote areas, petroleum projects, sharing pattern on centrally collected revenues etc.
- **Previous meeting:**
- The 23rd Meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council was held in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- **The main objectives of setting up of Zonal Councils are:**
- Bringing out national integration;
- Arresting the growth of acute State consciousness, regionalism, linguism and particularistic tendencies;
- Enabling the Centre and the States to co-operate and exchange ideas and experiences;
- Establishing a climate of co-operation amongst the States for successful and speedy execution of development projects.

#### Links:

<https://mha.gov.in/zonal-council>

### Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020

**Question: The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020 was inaugurated by?**

- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Narendra Singh Tomar  
(c) Rajnath Singh (d) Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 1st March, the three-day Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela was organized by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- Theme entitled Agricultural Technologies of Pusa Institute for achieving Sustainable Agricultural Development Goals.
- It was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Innovative Farmer Award was been given to Bharat Bhushan, a farmer from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district.
- **Aim:**
- Providing farmers with demonstration of the modern technologies and crop varieties timely, this would help to win their confidence.

- Government's endeavors and efforts to reverse the trend of attracting the youths to adopt agriculture as their career options were emphasized.
- Need for a collective action in farming for better marketing, input purchase and availing the institutional facilities.
- **Government Initiatives for farmers:**
  - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana;
  - Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana;
  - Soil Health Cards Scheme;
  - Organic Agriculture and Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme (Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana) and
  - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi;
  - They are aimed to empower and enhance the farmers' income by 2022.

#### Links:

<https://icar.org.in/content/pusa-krishi-vigyan-mela-2020-concludes-successful-note>  
<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199671>

### Jammu Airport and the Jammu University to renamed

**Question: Resolutions have been passed to rename the Jammu University in the name of?**

- (a) Maharaja Hari Singh (b) Syama Prasad Mukherjee  
 (c) Maharaja Gulab Singh (d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 3rd March, The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has proposed to name the state-run University and Airport here after Dogra kings.
- To rename Jammu Airport and the Jammu University after Hindu Dogra monarchs Maharaja Hari Singh and Maharaja Gulab Singh, respectively.
- **Dogra Dynasty:**
  - The Dogra dynasty (or Jamwal dynasty) was a Hindu Dogra Rajput dynasty that formed the royal house of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - The founder of the dynasty, Gulab Singh, was an influential noble in the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Lahore. The last ruling Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir was Hari Singh, who contributed troops to the British war effort in World War II and served on Churchill's Imperial War Cabinet. Hari Singh's reign saw the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to the newly independent Indian Union in 1947.
  - In June 1952, Hari Singh's rule was terminated by the state government of Indian-administered Kashmir.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-varsity-airport-to-be-renamed-after-dogra-monarchs/article30964937.ece>



## National Chambal Sanctuary is an eco-sensitive zone

**Question: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has declared which National Sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ)?**

- (a) Chambal National Sanctuary (b) Gir Wildlife Sanctuary  
(c) Kanha National Park (d) Bandhavgarh National Park

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 2, 2020, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has declared the National Chambal Sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
- **National Chambal Sanctuary:**
  - It is also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary.
  - It has an area of 5,400 sq. km and is tri-state protected area in northern India.
  - It is home to critically endangered Gharial (small crocodiles), the red-crowned roof turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin.
  - It originates in the Vindhayan ranges in M.P. the Chambal River snakes its way through the states of M.P. Rajasthan and U.P. before finally meeting the Yamuna in the Etawah district of U.P.
- **Eco-sensitive zones:**
  - ESZ or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFA) is governed by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - The Eco-Sensitive Zones are protected areas that act as shock absorbers as well as transition zones.
  - The main aim behind ESZs is to regulate certain activities so as to minimize the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem surrounding the protected areas.

**Links:**

<https://upecotourism.in/NationalChambalSanctuary.aspx>

<https://www.conservationindia.org/resources/moef-releases-new-guidelines-for-eco-sensitive-zones-eszs-around-protected-areas>

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/centre-declares-national-chambal-sanctuary-in-mp-as-eco-sensitive-zone>

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/nation/centre-declares-mps-chambal-sanctuary-as-eco-sensitive-zone-403746>

<https://www.conservationindia.org/resources/moef-releases-new-guidelines-for-eco-sensitive-zones-eszs-around-protected-areas>

## 108th Indian Science Congress

**Question: Which city will host the 108th Indian Science Congress scheduled to be held from 3 – 7th January, 2021?**

- (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Pune (d) Chennai

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**





- 108th Indian Science Congress from 3 – 7th January, 2021 at Symbiosis International University, Pune.
- Focal Theme – Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment.
- **About Indian Science Congress:**
- The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) owes its origin to the initiative of two British Chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P.S. MacMahon.
- The first meeting of the Congress was held from January 15-17, 1914 at the premises of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.
- **Aim:**
- To advance and promote the cause of science in India, and to hold an annual congress at a suitable place in India.
- To publish such proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications as may be considered desirable.
- To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of Science, including the rights of disposing of or selling all or any portion of the properties of the Association.
- To do and perform any or all other acts, matters and things as are conducive to, or incidental to, or necessary for, the above objects.
- **Previous session:**
- 107th Indian Science Congress was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bangalore, Karnataka from 3-7th January, 2020.
- Focal Theme – Science & Technology : Rural Development
- The Congress was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- 107th Indian Science Congress.

#### Links:

[http://www.sciencecongress.nic.in/science\\_congress\\_events.php](http://www.sciencecongress.nic.in/science_congress_events.php)

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=197250>

<http://www.sciencecongress.nic.in/introduction.php>

### Uttar Pradesh Budget 2020-21

**Question-** On February 18, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the budget for the financial year 2020-21 in the Legislative Assembly.

**Consider the following statements related to this:**

(i) The size of the budget presented is Rs. 5,12,860.72 crores.

(ii) The Budget 2020-21 is the largest budget in the history of Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) The budget proposes to establish 7 universities.

**Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

(a) Only (i), and (ii) (b) Only (ii) and (iii) (c) Only (i) and (iii) (d) All the above

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On February 18, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the budget for the financial year 2020-21 in the Legislative Assembly.
- It is worth mentioning that this is the most massive budget presented to date in the history of Uttar Pradesh.
- The budget size presented is Rs 5,12,860.72 crore.
- This is 33,159 crore more than the previous budget.
- The presented budget will help in moving the economy of the state towards \$ 1 trillion.
- The Chief Minister Apprenticeship (Apprenticeship) scheme for educated unemployed youth is proposed in the presented budget.
- Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 2,500 per month will be provided as a training allowance.
- A 'Youth Hub' will be established in every district for self-employment of youth.
- It is proposed to establish 7 universities in the budget.
- It proposed funds for 11 other airports including the airport at Jewar International Airport Ayodhya.
- In the budget, arrangements were made to make the benefit of crop insurance scheme accessible to the original farmer as well as the sharecroppers.
- A budget arrangement is proposed for the destitute cow dynasty as a shelter, maintenance of the bovine and development of the improved breed.
- New schemes worth Rs 10,967.87 crore have been included in the budget.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs 53,195.46 crore which is 2.97 percent of the estimated gross state domestic product for the year.
- The state's indebtedness is estimated at 28.8 percent of GDP.
- **Other salient features of the U.P. budget, 2020-21 are as follows-**
- Awareness program for prevention of female feticide is being conducted in 68 districts under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" scheme.
- A provision of 1 thousand 200 crore rupees is proposed for the Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Scheme.
- Under the destitute women pension scheme, an amount of Rs 500 is sent to the beneficiaries account directly every month for the maintenance of destitute women and their children. A provision of Rs. 1 thousand 432 crores is proposed under this scheme.
- **For youth**
- It has been decided to start two essential schemes – Chief Minister Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme and Youth Entrepreneurship Development Campaign (YUVA) to connect the youth of the state with self-employment and employment.
- Through the youth entrepreneurship development campaign (YUVA), innovative initiatives are being taken to move from employment to self-reliance through youth entrepreneurship development campaign (YUVA).
- YUVA HUB will be set up in every district of the state, which will help aspiring youth to run the project, from concept to financial assistance, with financial support for the plans for 1 year.
- To promote higher education, three new state universities are being established in Saharanpur, Azamgarh and Aligarh. Establishment of Police Forensic University is

proposed in the state. In addition, a “law university” is proposed in Prayagraj district and an Ayush University in Gorakhpur is proposed.

- Engineering colleges are being established in Mirzapur, Pratapgarh, Basti and Gonda districts.
- The construction of engineering colleges in Azamgarh and Ambedkar Nagar is almost complete.
- A provision of Rs 122 crore is proposed for the Police Force Modernization Scheme.
- A provision of Rs 60 crore is proposed for the construction of Forensic Science Laboratories.
- A provision of Rs 97 crore is proposed for the Safe City Lucknow scheme.
- A provision of Rs 20 crore is proposed for the establishment of Uttar Pradesh Police Forensic University.
- A provision of Rs 3 crore for “Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children” is proposed.
- Women PAC in Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Badaun districts Ducts are installed.
- There are 76 women police stations in the state.
- Two women police stations are established in Lakhimpur Kheri district and one woman police station is established in all other districts.
- “Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Institute” at Kashi Hindu University, Homibabha Cancer Hospital at Lahartara and BRD.
- “Super speciality blocks” have been operationalized at Medical College, Gorakhpur.
- In memory of late Atal Bihar Vajpayee Ji, a new medical university in Lucknow, and a satellite centre of King George Medical University is being established in Balrampur.
- In the year 2020-2021, the target of food grains production is 641 lakh 74 thousand metric tons and the target of oilseeds production is 13 lakh 90 thousand metric tons.
- In the year 2018-2019, 604 lakh 15 thousand metric tonnes of food grains were produced against the target of 581.03 MT, which is the highest ever record production.
- More than 13 lakh houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural).
- With the construction of toilets for 2 crores 61 lakh families under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), the state has achieved the first position in the country.
- Currently 14 crores 59 lakh man-days of employment opportunities have been created under MNREGA scheme till 20 November 2019.
- For the first time 38 forest villages of Vantangia, Mushar, Kol and Tharu tribals were declared as revenue villages so that the poor of these villages settled in forest areas could get basic facilities like housing, medical, education, roads, electricity and ration cards.
- A total of 19 clusters have been selected under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission in three phases in the state.
- A provision of Rs. 1 thousand 357 crores is proposed for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- In order to promote solar power projects in the Bundelkhand region, it has been decided to construct a green energy corridor for 4 thousand MW solar power generation.

- Biodiesel, Bio Ethanol, Methanol, Biogas, Bio CNG, under BioEnergy Enterprise Promotion Program Projects like production etc. are being encouraged.
- 2 thousand 727 solar ROs in various primary schools of the state. Water plants have been set up.
- Metro rail operates in Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Noida.
- Work from Delhi to Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System is in progress for which a provision of Rs 900 crore is proposed.
- Approving the Kanpur Metro Rail Project by the Government of India, the cost of the project has been approved at Rs 11 thousand 76 crores.
- The total length of the project is 32 km. Work has started on the Kanpur Metro. A provision of Rs 358 crore is proposed for this project.
- The Agra Metro Rail project has been approved by the Government of India at the cost of Rs 8 thousand 379 crores. The total length of the project is 29 km. A provision of Rs 286 crore is proposed for the project.
- Proposals for metro rail are being prepared for Gorakhpur and other cities, for which a provision of Rs 200 crore is proposed.
- A provision of Rs 50 crore is proposed for the establishment of National Inspiration Site in Lucknow.
- It has been decided to operate electric buses in Lucknow, Prayagraj, Agra, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Mathura and Shahjahanpur.
- The Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Policy-2019 has been promulgated.
- More than 700 electric buses are being arranged in the state.
- Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, all 75 districts of the state, ODF. have been announced.
- Projects worth about Rs. 20 thousand crores are being implemented in 10 cities of the state, Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Jhansi, Moradabad and Aligarh under the Smart City Mission.
- In addition to the 10 municipal corporations selected by the central government, it has been decided to develop the remaining 07 municipal corporations – Meerut, Ghaziabad, Ayodhya, Firozabad, Gorakhpur, Mathura-Vrindavan and Shahjahanpur as smart cities.
- **Basic, Secondary and Higher Education**
- Continuous efforts are being made to improve education. Under the School Chalo Abhiyan, 01 crore 80 lakh children were enrolled.
- Through Operation Education Rejuvenation, work is being done to provide better facilities in 91 thousand 236 schools. 15 thousand primary schools and 1 thousand higher secondary schools were converted into English medium.
- The overall education campaign is being implemented by the state government for upgrading school education at the primary and upper primary levels of the state. For this, an arrangement of Rs 18 thousand 363 crores is proposed.
- NCERT in state schools has been implemented. The Uttar Pradesh Independent Schools (Fee Regulation) Bill, 2018 has been enacted to regulate the fees charged from students studying in private schools in the state.
- For the development of basic facilities in the field of higher education, a provision of Rs 111 crore is proposed under the National Higher Education Campaign.

- Milk production in the state was 305 lakh metric tons in the year 2018-2019. The target of milk production has been kept at 340 lakh MT in the year 2019-2020. 175 lakh metric tonnes of milk has been produced until October 2019.
- **Tourism, culture and charitable work**
- In the year 2018, more than 28 crore 88 lakh tourists visited Uttar Pradesh, out of which 28 crore 50 lakh number of Indian tourists and 37 lakh 80 thousand number of foreign tourists.
- The festival of Deepotsav was held again in Ayodhya on October 26, 2019, and more than 4 lakh 04 thousand 26 lamps were lit on this occasion. This was a new record which was included in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- An arrangement of Rs 85 crores is proposed for the development of high-level tourist infrastructure facilities in Ayodhya. A provision of Rs 10 crore is proposed for strengthening the Tulsi memorial building in Ayodhya.
- cultural centre in Varanasi district.
- For the purpose of preserving the cultural and ancient heritage of the state, some ambitious plans are proposed for the development of Garhmukteshwar area in Hapur district, development of water sports at Ramgarh Tal in Gorakhpur, construction of heliports at important tourist places, implementation of 46 tourism development schemes, etc.
- A provision of Rs 25 crore is proposed for the development of water sports in Ramgarh Tal of Gorakhpur district.
- A provision of Rs 200 crore is proposed for the Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple expansion and beautification scheme.
- An arrangement of Rs 180 crore is proposed for the construction of Vedic Science Center under Kashi Hindu University.
- There is a target to increase the forest cover and tree cover to 15 percent by the year 2030, for which, in various plantation schemes, large scale rugged, manure and degraded forest land, community land and private land of farmers on the road, railway line and private property of farmers. There is an action plan to plant trees at the level.

#### Links:

[http://budget.up.nic.in/budgetbhashan/budgetbhashan2020\\_2021.pdf](http://budget.up.nic.in/budgetbhashan/budgetbhashan2020_2021.pdf)

### Donald Trump First Visit to India

**Question: Recently the President of USA, Donald Trump visited India. What was the name of the program organized in Ahmedabad?**

(a) Howdy Trump (b) Pranaam Trump (c) Salaam Trump (d) Namaste Trump

**Answer: ( d)**

**Related facts:**



- The President of the USA (POTUS), Donald Trump, visited India from 24th – 25th February, 2020.
- Trump was accompanied by his wife, the first lady, Melania Trump, daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner.



- In the last 60 years, he is the seventh President of America to visit India.
- On 24th February 2020, he addressed the Namaste Trump program held at Sardar Patel (Motera) Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- He also visited the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad. He became the first US President to visit this Ashram.
- He also visited the Tajmahal in Agra.
- He got formal reception with guard of honour in Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25th February, 2020.
- **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**
- The USA has proposed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the India and USA.
- FTA will include the restoration of benefits of low or zero duty to certain Indian exports under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and market access for each other's agricultural products.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:**
- India and the US have decided to reach a comprehensive agreement on intellectual property rights (IPR).
- **Defence Deal**
- India and the U.S. concluded defence deals worth over \$3 billion for 24 MH-60R Seahawk Multi-Role Helicopters for the Navy and six AH-64E attack helicopters.

**Links:**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/02/24/trump-india-live-updates/>

### Maharashtra to undertake the genetic study to conserve cattle

**Question: Which State Government has decided to undertake a genetic study to conserve the native species of cattle?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttarakhand (d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Maharashtra Government has decided to undertake the genetic study for the conservation of the native species of domesticated animals in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- Under this project, the study of genetic traits of Osmanabadi goat, Red Kandhari cow, Deoni bull, and Caravan or Pashmi dogs will be done as the number of pure breeds of these animals is on the decline.
- The project will also include the analysis of their abilities and adaptation capabilities. The project will be funded by the Maharashtra government.
- These animals have never been studied at the genetic level and are on the decline, this necessitated the genetic study for the conservation of these species.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Maharashtra-to-undertake-the-genetic-study-to-conserve-the-native-species-of-cattle&id=382013>



## Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launches Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan

**Question: Where did Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launch Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan for pregnant women and adolescent girls?**

(a) Kota, Rajasthan (b) Kevadia, Gujarat (c) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (d) Ranchi, Jharkhand

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 29 February, 2020, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan in Kota.
- The campaign aims to preserve and maintain the health of pregnant woman and the new born through the nutritional support provided by Government.
- In the first phase of the campaign, 1,000 kits of 17 kg balanced diet each were provided to 1,000 pregnant women for one month.
- At the same time, the health of the child, including medical examination, blood tests, medicines, delivery, would be covered.
- The identified women would be required to register on a website for adoption. Only one pregnant woman would be adopted from a family.
- The campaign will help in realization of country's commitment to make India malnutrition free by 2022. The move is in synergy with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=382134>

## India Russia Defence Deal

**Question: What amount did Indo-Russian defence deal cross in February 2020?**

(a) 8 billion dollars (b) 5 billion dollars (c) 12 billion dollars (d) 16 billion dollars

**Answer: (d) Related facts:**



- The Indo-Russian defense deal has crossed the \$ 16 billion mark in February 2020.
- The announcement was made by the Russian Embassy. The defence deal includes the supply of S-400 air defence systems and production of Kalashnikov rifles and Kamov helicopters. India and Russia signed 14 MoUs during DEFEXPO 2020 in Lucknow.
- India has plans to buy 200 Ka-226 helicopters. Russia's state-run Rosoboronexport has inked deals with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for advanced pyrotechnic ignition systems. Rosoboronexport has also signed memorandum of understanding with Hindustan Aeronautical (for export of spares and services) and BHEL (for land systems).

**Links:**

<https://idrw.org/india-russia-defence-deals-set-to-cross-16-bn-to-include-s-400-systems-kalashnikov-rifles/>

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## First anniversary of Balakot Air Strikes

**Question: What was the code name for Balakot airstrike conducted by Indian Air Force on February 26, 2020?**

- (a) Operation Bandar (b) Operation Thunder  
(c) Operation Vijay (d) Operation Vinash

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The first anniversary of the Balakot air strikes was observed on February 26, 2020.
- The IAF-led operation mainly targeted the biggest Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) camp in Balakot, which is located in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- 12 IAF's Mirage-2000 jets were deployed in the mission to drop laser-guided bombs, which weighed about 1000 kg.
- The mission is reported to have an estimated casualty of 200-300 terrorists.
- The attack was carried out in response to the deadly Pulwama attack on February 14, 2020.
- The Pulwama suicide attack had targeted an Indian Army convoy and killed 40 CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district.
- Pakistan-based militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) had claimed the responsibility of the attack.
- Operation Bandar was IAF's code name for Balakot airstrike.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199595>

## Centre lifts ban on onion exports

**Question: Central Government has lifted the ban imposed on export of which of the following crops?**

- (a) Tomato (b) Onions (c) Potato (d) Spinach

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Central government decided to lift the ban on the export of onions as the price of onion has been stabilized.
- The move will protect the interests of farmers as prices are likely to fall sharply due to a bumper Rabi Crop.
- The decision was approved in a meeting of a Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Home Minister Amit Shah.
- GOM will also discuss whether to reduce or scrap the Minimum Export Price (MEP) on onion to facilitate outbound shipments.
- Earlier in September 2019, Government of India banned onion exports and imposed a MEP of \$850 per tonne due its shortage for domestic use.

## New Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar inaugurated

**Question:** Consider the following statements in reference to the New Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar inaugurated recently and choose the correct option.

- (1) The Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar was inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka.  
(2) It was inaugurated by Rajnath Singh.  
(3) The production hangar belongs to Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

**Correct option:**

- (a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru, Karnataka on February 27, 2020.
- India has made significant progress towards manufacturing military equipment indigenously under the Make in India initiative.
- The contribution of organizations like HAL – a Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) that has helped India to become the fifth largest economy in the world.
- There has been increase in defence exports that have crossed Rs 17,000 crore in the last two years. Rs 35,000 crore exports target set for the coming years in which HAL, through its various platforms, will contribute significantly in achieving this milestone.
- HAL has been the backbone of the Indian Air Force and meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces. HAL had a turnover of Rs 19,705 crore till March 2019 and it gave shareholders a healthy dividend of 198 per cent.
- As HAL is facing stiff competition from private defence industries, DPSU was advised to take this changing environment as a challenge and grab the opportunities to increase their competitiveness in the international market.
- The new production hangar will augment the (LCH) Light Combat Helicopter production capacity to reach a peak production of 30 helicopters per year.
- HAL apprised on the progress of new design and development programme of indigenous Indian Multi Role Helicopter (IMRH). The IMRH is proposed as replacement to the existing medium lift helicopters such as Mi17's, Kamovs and Seakings which will phase out in the next eight to ten years.
- **Light Combat Helicopter:**
- LCH is a 5.5-tonne class combat helicopter designed and developed by HAL.
- It is powered by two Shakti engines and inherits many technical features of the Advanced Light Helicopter. LCH has the distinction of being the first attack helicopter to land in Forward Bases at Siachen, 4,700 mts above sea level with 500kg load.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604533>

## Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOS) launch new product

**Question: Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has recently launched new products for marine based users. Where is INCOS headquartered?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Visakhapatnam (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), headquartered at Hyderabad has launched a trio of products to better cater to its diverse users:
- Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS), to improve operations on the numerous small marine vessels, particularly fishing vessels that ply the coastal waters of India.
- Swell Surge Forecast System was also launched, which will provide forewarnings for the coastal population of India's vast shoreline, which experiences a slew of damages caused by the swell waves that actually originate from the distant southern Indian Ocean.
- Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS), will be providing timely information on harmful algal blooms, which are detrimental to coastal fisheries and also tend to induce respiratory problems within the coastal population from time to time.
- All three products focus on significantly reducing damage and losses for service/product users and the coastal population.
- **Following are the details of each product:**
- Small Vessel Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS): It is an innovative impact-based advisory and forecast service system for small vessels operating in Indian coastal waters. The SVA system warns users about potential zones where vessel overturning can take place, ten days in advance. The warning system is based on the Boat Safety Index (BSI).
- Swell Surge Forecast System: An innovative system designed for the prediction of Kallakkadal/Swell Surge that occurs along the Indian coast, particularly the west coast. They are flash-flood events that take place without any noticeable advance change in local winds or any other apparent signature in the coastal environment.
- Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS): The increasing frequency of algal blooms is a major concern due to its ill effects on fishery, marine life and water quality. INCOIS has developed a service for "Detection and Monitoring of Bloom in the Indian Seas". The target users are fishermen, marine fishery resource managers, researchers, ecologists and environmentalists. The service also complements INCOIS' marine fishing advisories i.e. Potential Fishing Zone advisories.
- INCOIS provides a number of free services for users in the marine realm. The institute is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604587>

## Summit on Artificial Intelligence

**Question:** Consider the following statements and choose the correct option in reference to the Government of India's recent announcement of the maiden summit on Artificial Intelligence.

(1) The event is RAISE 2020 to be held from April 11 to 12, 2020, in New Delhi.

(2) This will be India's first Artificial Intelligence summit.

(3) It will be inaugurated by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

**Choose the correct option:**

(a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The Government of India has announced a mega event, Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) 2020, which will be held during April 11-12, 2020, in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first Artificial Intelligence summit. It will be organized by the Government of India in partnership with Industry & Academia.
- The summit will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and charter a course to use AI for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation in key areas like Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility amongst other sectors.
- A data-rich environment like India has the potential to be the world's leading AI laboratory which can eventually transform lives globally.
- Through this summit India's vision for utilizing the power of Artificial Intelligence to responsibly transform the social landscape for a better tomorrow will be outlined.
- RAISE 2020 will facilitate an exchange of ideas to further create a mass awareness about the need to ethically develop and practice AI in the digital era.
- The Government also launched the AI-Startup Challenge and the event website as a part of championing the AI movement in India.
- **RAISE 2020:**
- RAISE 2020 is a first of its kind, global meeting of minds on Artificial Intelligence to drive India's vision and roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion and transformation through responsible AI.
- The event will start with a Startup Challenge – Pitchfest followed by the two-day summit, organized by Government of India along with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- This event will witness robust participation from global industry leaders, key opinion makers, Government representatives and academia.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604450>

## Establishment of SARAS Centre

**Question: Northern Coalfield Limited, is a subsidiary of which of the following PSUs which has recently established a centre named SARAS for promoting innovation?**

(a) GAIL (b) SAIL (c) NTPC (d) Coal India

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited has set up a centre named Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support (SARAS).
- This centre is established to promote Innovation, Research & Development and skill development along with improving company's operational efficiency and utilize resources at optimum level.
- The announcement made at a National Seminar on Innovation Driving Productivity with Special Focus on Coal, Power, Steel and MSME Sectors organized by World Confederation of Productivity Science in New Delhi on February 7, 2020.
- **SARAS:**
- It will enable the company in Integration of Innovation and Research for enhancing coal production, productivity, and safety in mines.
- A dedicated R&D Centre in collaboration with IIT (BHU) has been set up and 6 varied domain projects worth ₹ 60 Million has already commenced to facilitate this move.
- SARAS would also help establish centers of excellence to ensure technical support to R&D along with thrust on quality skill development and employment to local youths in and around company's operational area.
- NCL contributes for 15 % of India's coal production and 10 % of thermal power generation of the country. This is met by the coal produced by this Miniratna Company of Govt. of India.
- The company produces more than 100 million tonnes of coal every year and has plans of producing 107 million tonnes of coal in the current fiscal.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602487>

## Capacity Building Programme for Scheduled Tribe Pri Representatives

**Question: Who launched the capacity building programme for scheduled tribe pri representative and 1000 springs initiatives in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on February 27, 2020?**

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Naveen Patnaik (c) Arjun Munda (d) Ramdas Athawale

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda launched the Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments at a programme in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) on February 27, 2020.
- Chief Minister of Odisha Navin Patnaik was also present in the occasion.



- **Highlights of the event:**
- 1000 Springs Initiatives and an online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs were also launched on the occasion.
- A short documentary film on FRA in Odisha and FRA Atlas of Odisha were also released.
- 1000 Springs Initiative aims at improving access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities living in difficult and inaccessible part of rural areas in the country.
- It is an integrated solution around natural springs. It includes provision of infrastructure for piped water supply for drinking; provision of water for irrigation; community-led total sanitation initiatives; generating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal people.
- Online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas has been developed to make data easily accessible from an online platform. Presently, data of more than 170 springs have been uploaded.
- The Capacity Building initiative is aimed at empowering tribal PRI representatives by enhancing their decision making capabilities at local government level. It also focuses on constitutional and legal provisions that protect and promote the rights and welfare of the tribal population.
- The programme will ensure greater participation of ST PRIs representatives in planning, execution and monitoring of government policies and programmes.
- Springs are natural sources of groundwater discharge and have been used extensively in the mountainous regions across the world. However, in the central and eastern Indian belt with more than 75% tribal population, it remains largely unrecognized and under-utilized.
- A Capacity Building initiative is being launched for elected representatives to PRIs from among STs by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The module for capacity building programme has been developed in conjunction with United Nations Development Programme for the purpose.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604574>

### BAY of Bengal Offshore Sailing Expedition (BBSE)

**Question: Which of the following Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSV) started the Bay of Bengal Offshore Sailing Expedition on 22 February 2020 from the Indian Naval Ocean Sailing Node at Goa?**

(1) Mhadei (2) Tarini (3) Tarangini (4) Sudarshini

Correct option:

(a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 and 4

**Answer: (b) Related facts:**

- On 22 February 2020, Indian Naval Sailing Vessels Mhadei and Tarini started for the Bay of Bengal Offshore Sailing Expedition from the Indian Naval Ocean Sailing Node at Goa. This would be the maiden major mixed crew sailing expedition of the Indian



Navy with crew composition of five naval officers including two women officers in each boat. The team would cover a total distance of 6,100 Nautical miles each and will be at sea for 55 days.

- **About the voyage:**

- The prolonged voyage in the expedition would showcase harnessing of wind energy to propel the boats.
- The expedition is also in pursuance to the mission Nari Shakti of the Government of India in providing opportunity to women officers at par with men.
- The vessels in the voyage would make temporary halt at Ports of Phuket, Yangon, Chittagong and Colombo, wherein interaction with various state officials would be conducted including harbor sorties for visiting dignitaries.

- **Tarini and Mhadei:**

- Mhadei and Tarini are two sailing vessels in the Indian Navy which were inducted on 08 February 2009 and 18 February 2017 respectively.
- Mhadei has successfully completed two circumnavigations, three Cape to Rio trans-Atlantic races and several other expeditions around various continents. The vessel has covered in excess of 1,36,000 nautical miles.
- In 2017-18, Tarini created history when six Indian Naval women officers sailed the vessel on maiden circumnavigation voyage titled Navika Sagar Parikrama.
- The Bay of Bengal Offshore Sailing Expedition will generate goodwill amongst the visiting nations and inspire participation in the forthcoming BIMSTEC Sailing Expedition being planned with mixed crew of member nations onboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessels.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604066>

### Artificial Intelligence Modules in Indian schools

**Question:** In order to roll out Artificial Intelligence Modules in Indian schools, the Atal Innovative Mission and NITI Aayog has joined hands with which of the following organisation?

(a) World Bank (b) IMF (c) NASSCOM (d) FICCI

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**



- On February 27, 2020, NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has rolled out an AI based Module for students in Indian schools.
- The AI-Base Module has been introduced with an objective for students to leverage the full potential of AIM's Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) and further empowers them to innovate and create valuable solutions benefiting societies at large.
- **Highlights of the launch:**
- The module contains activities, videos and experiments that enable students to work through and learn the various concepts of AI.

- India can add 1.3% to its GDP on an annual basis through the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence.
- AI module is so critical, in the sense that it will start teaching young children from a very young age then they will become major players in AI, like it has been done in the past for robots, 3D printing, IoT.
- The global market in AI is likely to be in the range of 15 to 15.5 trillion dollars, out of which India's share is estimated to be close to a trillion dollar.
- Since AI will be an integral part of the new 21st century innovations, Learn-It-Yourself module has been introduced in all 5000 Atal Tinkering Labs with over 2.5 million students having access to it.
- This module will be a catalyst for the youth to explore, ideate and learn the latest technologies and build a generation of innovators at the grass-root level.
- Atal Innovation Mission at NITI Aayog is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.
- AIM has selected a total of 14,916 schools across the country spread across 33 different states and union territories for the establishment of ATLs.
- The AI Base Module is ready to be introduced to the ATL students on February 27, 2020.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604543>

### 91st Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society

**Question: Who chaired the 91st Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society which took place on February 27, 2020?**

- (a) Piyush Goyal (b) Nirmala Sitharaman (c) Narendra Singh Tomar  
(d) Ram Vilas Paswan

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The 91st Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Society took place on February 27, 2020 in New Delhi.
- The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
- **Major highlight of the meeting:**
- It was told that the Government will soon register 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in order to promote cooperative farming.
- A nationwide scheme has been launched to vaccinate 53 crore cattle and goats under Mission mode.
- To double the Fisheries harvesting and export and Milk production targets have been set by the Government.
- Shri Narendra Singh Tomar called for wider dissemination of Government schemes to benefit the lowest level among the farmers.

- Agriculture is among the top priority sectors of government. The challenge is to strengthen agriculture and rural economy, increase production and productivity, make farming a profitable venture and raise farmers and rural incomes.
- There is a need for synergy between the various R&D institutions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Universities and academia, PSUs and Industry so that the huge investments being made by each of them yields bigger returns.
- Kisan Rail has been announced in this year's budget and the train with frozen containers will be a big step in transportation and marketing of agri-products.
- The dignitaries released a number of ICAR publications and various kits and Mobile Apps developed by the ICAR.
- **ICAR:**
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It was formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It was established on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in pursuance of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

#### Links:

<https://icar.org.in/content/about-us>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604586>

### Department of Bio Technology Foundation Day

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) The Department of Bio Technology comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Department.**

**(2) 34th Foundation Day of the National Institute of Immunology (NII) was celebrated in New Delhi.**

**(3) India is rated among top 12 biotechnology destinations in the world.**

**Choose the correct option:**

(a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above.

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, celebrated its 34th Foundation Day at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi on February 26, 2020.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for S&T, Earth Science was the Chief Guest of the event.
- **Major highlight of the event:**
- Department of Biotechnology was praised for its pioneering work over the years and called upon all scientists to engage themselves in innovative ideas and work to meet new challenges.

- M K Bhan Young Investigators' Research Award was launched in the memory of Prof. Bhan to commemorate his contribution to the institution.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan praised the Department's efforts in launching three New National Level Initiatives as a part of the 100 Day Programme:
- Launch of Genome India;
- Biotech KISAN hub in all Aspirational Districts and
- Waste to value technologies.
- Department since its inception has instituted various awards to encourage and recognize the contribution of scientists working in various research institutes, universities, scientific organizations, national laboratories etc at different levels across the country. 34 scientists were awarded on the occasion.
- Various awards instituted by DBT are now considered under an overarching umbrella as DBT BRITE Awards (Biotechnology Research Innovation and Technology Excellence Awards).
- Eminent scientist Padma Shri Dr. D Balasubramaian, Emeritus Director, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad delivered the DBT Foundation day lecture.
- The Minister also released a publication by the Department Biotechnology-Contributing to Growing Bioeconomy.
- **Bio Technology sector in India:**
- The biotechnology sector in India has evolved over the last three decades making significant contribution in various sectors especially health, agriculture etc.
- The biotechnology sector has shown growth annual growth rate of nearly 20%. India is rated among top 12 biotechnology destinations in the world.
- It is the demand for biotechnology products and services that has been the fulcrum for setting an ambitious target of US\$150 billion by 2025.

#### Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604483>

### 17th Meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers

**Question: Who chaired the 17th meeting of the special committee for the Inter-Linking of Rivers which took place on 26 February, 2020?**

- (a) Narendra Modi (b) Nitin Gadkari  
(c) Rattan Lal Kataria (d) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

**Answer: (c)**

#### Related facts:



- The Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Social Justice & Empowerment, Rattan Lal Kataria chaired the 17th Meeting of the Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers (ILR) in New Delhi on February 26, 2020.
- U.P. Singh, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development; Bhopal Singh, Director General, National Water Development Agency (NWDA), and other officials and experts attended the deliberations.

- This ambitious project of Inter-Linking of Rivers comprises 16 rivers of Himalayan origin and 14 in peninsular region. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) in respect of Ken-Betwa Inter-State Link Project involving Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has been completed and work on the project will begin soon. The DPRs for four projects is in progress.
- The meeting reviewed the status of the various ILR projects, namely Ken-Betwa Link Project, Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar link (IBWT), Bedti-Varda link (IBWT), Damanganga (Ekdare)-Godavari link (Intra-State), Damanganga-Vaitarna-Godavari link (Intra-State), Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada Link Projects.
- Alternative proposal of Diversion of Godavari waters up to Cauvery basin, Manas-Sankosh-Teesta-Ganga (MSTG) link and Integration of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project with Parbati- Kalisindh-Chambal link was also reviewed.
- Status of the 47 Intra-State link proposals from nine States, besides restructuring of the National Water Development Agency, Task Force for Interlinking of Rivers and the National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA) were also discussed.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604481>

### LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020

**Question: Who is the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020?**

(a) Vartika Singh (b) Avriti Chaudhary (c) Neha Jaiswal (d) Adaline Castellino

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition was organized on 22 February 2020 at Yash Raj Film (YRF) Studios Mumbai.
- Adline Castelino has been crowned winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition.
- She was crowned by Vartika Singh, the winner of 2019 edition.
- She will represent India at Miss Universe to be held this year.
- Apart from this, Aavriti Choudhary of Jabalpur was bestowed the title of Miss Diva Supranational 2020, the first runner-up in this competition.
- She will be India's contender for Miss Supranational pageant.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/lifestyle/celebrity/story/adline-castelino-to-represent-india-at-miss-universe-pageant-2020-1649262-2020-02-23>

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/adline-castelino-wins-miss-diva-universe-2020/1741882>



## Host of First Khelo India Winter Games

**Question: Which State/ Union Territory will host the first-ever Khelo India Winter Games?**

(a) Ladakh (b) Tripura (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The Union Territory of Ladakh will host the first-ever Khelo India Winter Games.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju will inaugurate the games on 25th Feb at NDS Indoor Ice Hockey Rink in Leh.
- About 1,700 athletes of different ages, from Leh and Kargil districts of Ladakh, will compete in the Khelo India Ladakh Winter Games at 10 blocks, district and then at UT level.
- Under Khelo India, in the first edition of Winter Games in the country, the players will compete in ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating events.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Ladakh-all-set-to-host-first-ever-Khelo-India-Winter-Games&id=381860>

## International

### World Happiness Report 2020

**Question: Consider the following statement:**

(1) Finland is ranked as the world's happiest nation for the third consecutive year.

(2) India ranked dropped to 144 from the last year 140.

**Choose the correct one:**

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, The **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report
- The **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated worldwide every year on 20 March.
- **Report highlights:**
  - The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness that ranks 156 countries by how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be.
  - The World Happiness Report 2020 for the first time ranks cities around the world by their subjective well-being and digs more deeply into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect our happiness
  - The rankings based on polling (Gallup World Poll) considers six variables to derive the rank: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.

- The 2020 Report for the first time ranked cities around the world by their subjective well-being and looked into how the social, urban and natural environments combine to affect happiness.
- Finland is ranked as the world's happiest nation for the third consecutive year.
- Other countries in top 10 are Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand, Austria and Luxembourg.
- Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Afghanistan are classified as the world's least happy nations.
- **Indian** **Context:**

- **India, previously ranked at 140 dropped to 144.**
- India's global position in Happiness Index is lower than its neighbouring countries Nepal (92), Pakistan(66), Bangladesh(107) and Sri Lanka(130).

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-life/finland-is-again-worlds-happiest/article31124323.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_of\\_Happiness](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Happiness)

### Global Animal Protection Index- 2020

**Question: In Global Animal Protection Index- 2020, India was ranked in which category?**

(a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Animal Protection Index is an international animal welfare charity. It is UK based organization working to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and is able to live their lives according to their needs.
- India was ranked C in the Animal Protection Index- 2020 along with Spain, Mexico, France, and New Zealand.
- This index ranks countries from A (which the highest score) to G (which is the weakest score).
- Animal Welfare Policies and Legislation of 50 countries are being assessed by World Animal Protection.
- Sweden, the United Kingdom and Austria are rated in the A category in this index.

#### Link:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-ranks-better-in-animal-protection-index-2020-but-still-needs-improvements-120031200558\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-ranks-better-in-animal-protection-index-2020-but-still-needs-improvements-120031200558_1.html)

## Freedom in the World- 2020 report

**Question:** Consider the following statements with reference to Freedom in the world 2020 report:

(1) The Freedom in the World- 2020 report is released by U.S based watchdog, Freedom House.

(2) India secured 84th position in this report.

**Choose the correct options from the following:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Freedom in the World- 2020 report is released by U.S based watchdog, Freedom House which has been tracking global political and civil liberties for almost 50 years.
- Top five countries in this report are Finland, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- In this report India was ranked 83rd along with Timor-Leste (asian country) and Senegal among the bottom five of free democracies.
- India witnessed the worst score decline among the world's 25 largest democracies
- India's overall score declined from 75 in 2019 to 71 in 2020, with civil liberties taking the biggest hit.
- **According to the report reasons behind the declination of India's rank:**
- Loss in autonomous status of J &K and Internet shutdown in the State.
- Controversial Citizenship Register in Assam.
- Citizenship Amendment Act- 2019.
- Freedom of expression under threat.



**Links:**

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2020/leaderless-struggle-democracy>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/freedom-in-the-world-2020-report-ranks-india-among-least-free-democracies/article30988277.ece>

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/freedom-in-the-world-2020/>

## Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2019 Report

**Question:** According to the report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2019' report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on March 9, 2020, which is the world's top arms exporting country in the period 2015-19?

(a) Russia (b) USA (c) China (d) France

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 9, 2020, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released an annual report Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2019 on the status of transfer of conventional armaments in the world.
- According to the report, the volume of transfers of major ordnances at the international level was 5.5 percent higher in the year 2015-19 as compared to the year 2010-14.
- During the period 2015-19, the world's top arms exporting countries and their share in the world's arms exports were-1. USA (36%) 2. Russia (21%) 3. France (7.9%) 4. Germany (5.8%) 5. China (5.5%) 6. U.K. (3.7%) 7. Spain (3.1 %) 8. Israel (3.0%) 9. Italy (2.1%) 10. South Korea (2.1%).
- India was ranked 23rd (0.2 per cent) in the list of arms exporters.
- The 5 top supplier countries accounted for a total of 76 percent of worldwide arms exports in the period 2015–19.
- During the year 2015-19, the world's top 10 arms importing countries and their share in world arms imports are-1. Saudi Arabia (12%) 2. India (9.2%) 3. Egypt (5.8%) 4. Australia (4.9%) 5. China (4.3%) 6. Algeria (4.2%) 7. South Korea (3.4%) 8. UAE (3.4%) 9. Iraq (3.4%) 10. Qatar (3.4%)
- During the year 2015-19, the top 5 importers imported a total of 35 percent of worldwide arms imports.
- The major suppliers of arms to India during the period 2015-19 are-
- Russia (56%) 2. Israel (14%) 3. France (12%)

#### Links:

[https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/fs\\_2003\\_at\\_2019.pdf](https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/fs_2003_at_2019.pdf)

### QS World University Rankings by Subject

**Question: Which Indian University has secured first position in India (Engineering and Technology category) in QS World University Rankings?**

(a) IIT Kharagpur (b) IIT Bombay (c) IIT Delhi (d) IIT Madras

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The QS World University Subject Rankings- 2020 has been released recently by Quacquarelli Symonds (London).
- Quacquarelli Symonds is the world's leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector.
- Previous name: Times Higher Education–QS World University Rankings.
- First issue: 2004 (in partnership with THE) and in 2010 (on its own).
- **Methodology:**
- Universities continue to be evaluated according to the following six metrics (with their weightage):
- Academic Reputation (40%)
- Employer reputation (10%)
- Faculty/Student Ratio (20%)
- Citations per faculty (20%)

(e) International faculty ratio (5%)

(f) International student ratio (5%)

- **Ranking:**

- Category : Engineering & Technology: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford University and University of Cambridge has secured top three positions; IIT Bombay (44), IIT Delhi (47), IIT Kharagpur (86), IIT Madras (88) and IIT Kanpur (96) found place in top 100 of this category.
- Arts and Humanities category: with the ranking of 162, Jawaharlal Nehru University remained the country's top institution, followed by Delhi University at 231.
- Natural Sciences category: IIT-Bombay at 108th rank, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore at the 111th position, while IIT-Madras at the 195th rank.
- Social Sciences and Management category: Delhi University is at 160th rank globally, IIT-Delhi at 183rd.
- Life Sciences and Medicine category: The top institution in the country is the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which is at 231st rank globally.

**Links:**

<https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/2020>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QS\\_World\\_University\\_Rankings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QS_World_University_Rankings)

### Luxembourg made all public transport free

**Question: Which among the following countries has recently made all its public transport free?**

(a) Belgium (b) France (c) Germany (d) Luxembourg

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 1, 2020; Luxembourg made all public transport free.
- The country came up with free public transport plan in an attempt to reduce traffic jams.
- This is the first time that the decision to offer free public transport has covered an entire country and Luxembourg has become the first country in the world to do so.
- As a result of this decision, every person will be able to save around 100 Euros (\$110) per year.
- People mostly travel in Luxembourg in their private cars while as per a survey conducted in 2018; bus is only used for 32 per cent of trips to work. Trains, on the other hand, account for 19 per cent.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/trending-news/story/luxembourg-becomes-first-country-to-make-all-public-transport-free-1651051-2020-02-29>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/luxembourg-first-country-offer-free-public-transport-2020-3?IR=T>

## India has joined the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

**Question: Recently which country has joined the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as an Observer State?**

(a) India (b) Bangladesh (c) Pakistan (d) Afghanistan

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- India has joined the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as an Observer State.
- **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):**
- It is an inter-governmental organization that was created in 1982 at Port Louis, Mauritius and institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement in Seychelles.
- Member States:  
Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion island (an overseas region of France) and Seychelles.
- Observer States:  
China, Malta, European Union, International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) and now India.
- Objectives:
  - Political and diplomatic cooperation.
  - Economic and commercial cooperation.
  - Sustainable development in a globalization context, cooperation in the field of agriculture, maritime fishing and the conservation of resources and ecosystems.
  - Strengthening of the regional cultural identity, cooperation in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and judicial fields.

**Links:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_Ocean\\_Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Ocean_Commission)

## United States and Taliban Peace Agreement

**Question: Recently the United States and Taliban militants have signed historic peace agreement in?**

(a) Doha (b) Kabul (c) Islamabad (d) Paris

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On February 29, 2020, the US (United States) and Taliban militants have signed historic peace agreement in Doha, Qatar to restore peace in Afghanistan.
- The agreement has been signed by the US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.
- It was signed in the presence of Michael Richard Pompeo, United States Secretary of State.
- There are speculations that it would end the 18 years-long American war in Afghanistan.



- Representatives of 30 countries around the world were also invited to witness this event.
- India, Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, as well as members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were also among the invitees.
- India's Ambassador to Qatar, P. Kumaran attended the US-Taliban peace deal in Doha on behalf of India. This is the first time India has officially joined any Taliban related case.
- After the agreement, the US will withdraw all forces from Afghanistan within 14 months, in which it will draw forces down to 8,600 from 13,000 in the next 3-4 months.
- The US considered it better to deal with the Taliban & hopeful that with the help of the Taliban, US will be able to clamp down on Iran.
- According to an estimate US poured \$750 billion in this lengthy war and the martyrdom of American soldiers.
- **Background:**
- After the 9/11 attacks, the US President George W. Bush ordered the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 to wage war against the Taliban.
- The US has lost more than 2,400 soldiers in Afghanistan since late 2001.
- The US now wants the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan.

#### Links:

<https://apnews.com/491544713df4879f399d0ff5523d369e>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51689443>

### Hurun Global Rich List-2020

**Question: Who among the following has secured first position in the Hurun Global Rich List-2020?**

(a) Jeff Bezos (b) Bill Gates (c) Mukesh Ambani (d) Bernard Renault

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



Rank	Name	Net Worth (USD)
1	Jeff Bezos	\$112 billion
2	Bill Gates	\$99 billion
3	Mukesh Ambani	\$77 billion
4	Warren Buffett	\$65 billion
5	Mark Zuckerberg	\$64 billion
6	Carlos Slim Helu	\$63 billion
7	Michael Bloomberg	\$62 billion
8	Steve Ballmer	\$61 billion
9	Jack Ma	\$60 billion
10	Bernard Arnault	\$59 billion

- On February 26, 2020, the Hurun Global Rich List, 2020 was jointly released by Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute and Shenzhen-based Shimao Shengkong International Center.
- The 9th edition of the Hurun Global Rich list ranked 2,816 billionaires from 71 countries and from 2,182 companies.
- China and the US occupied the first and second spot with 799 and 626 billionaires, respectively.
- India added 34 new billionaires to take the count to 138 on the list which has helped the country to feature at the third position globally.
- Jeff Bezos retains 1st rank for the third running year and Mukesh Ambani is positioned at 9th.
- With USD 67 billion in net worth, Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani (minting Rs 7 crore every hour) is the ninth richest in the world, top in India.

- Oyo founder Ritesh Agarwal, just 24 years old, is the youngest Indian in the rich list with a net worth of USD 1.1 billion.

**Links:**

<https://www.hurun.net/EN/Article/Details?num=775CEFAE8BF8>

## Scientific Defense/Science Short Notes

ICMR recommends hydroxychloroquine for high-risk population

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is a medication used for the prevention and treatment of certain types of malaria.
- (2) ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.

**Choose the correct:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- The national task force for COVID-19 constituted **by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended hydroxy-chloroquine as a preventive medication for high-risk population.**
- ICMR directed that the hydroxy-chloroquine should be given to high-risk population asymptomatic healthcare workers.
- The medication can be used to treat the suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 and asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases.
- The **Drug Controller General of India (DGCI)** approved the usage of hydroxychloroquine for restricted use in emergency situations.
- **Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ):**
- It is a medication used for the prevention and treatment of certain types of malaria.
- Specifically it is used for chloroquine-sensitive malaria. Other uses include treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and porphyria cutaneatarda.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR):**
- ICMR is the apex body in India for the **formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world.**
- It is located in New Delhi.

**Links:**

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/indias-covid-task-force-recommends-hydroxychloroquine-for-high-risk-patients-with-strict-riders/articleshow/74774540.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/indias-covid-task-force-recommends-hydroxychloroquine-for-high-risk-patients-with-strict-riders/articleshow/74774540.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## A key cellular mechanism in Huntington Disease unravelled

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Huntington disease (HD) is a progressive genetic disorder affecting the brain.  
(2) It is caused by a mutation in a gene called HTT.

**Choose the correct one:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- Huntington disease (HD) is a progressive genetic disorder affecting the brain.
- It causes uncontrolled movements, impaired coordination of balance and movement, a decline in cognitive abilities, difficulty in concentrating and memory lapses, mood swings and personality changes. It is caused by a mutation in a gene called HTT.
- The HTT genes are involved in the production of a protein called huntingtin.
- They provide the instruction for making the protein.
- When the genes mutate, they provide faulty instructions leading to production of abnormal huntingtin proteins and these form into clumps.
- The clumps disrupt the normal functioning of the brain cells, which eventually leads to death of neurons in the brain, resulting in Huntington disease.
- **The cellular mechanism unfolded:**
- A team of scientists from National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) in Pune led by Dr. Amitabha Majumdar have been working to gain insights into this by studying the HTT gene in fruit flies. They observed that the pathogenic Huntingtin protein causes a decrease in the overall protein production in cells and that the Huntingtin clumps collect together (sequester) molecules of another protein called Orb2, which is involved in the process of protein formation.
- They speculated that the Huntingtin clumps were possibly making molecules of Orb2 unavailable to carry out their normal function associated with protein formation, leading to the observed reduction in proteins in the cell
- To gain clarity on this, they induced the cells to produce Orb2 in excess, and found that this did indeed reduce the adverse effects of the faulty Huntingtin protein, which supported their speculation. In humans, a family of proteins called CPEB is equivalent to the Orb2 protein in fruit flies. The scientists conducted further studies and found that CPEB proteins are also sequestered by the pathogenic Huntingtin clumps, similar to the Orb2 protein molecules. This suggests that the insights gained through the studies carried out by this group in fruit flies are relevant to and valuable in understanding HD in humans.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1607298>

## Exoplanet WASP-76b rains Iron

**Question:** Recently an international team of astronomers has discovered an exoplanet. This exoplanet rains which of the following metal?

(a) Iron (b) Platinum (c) Copper (d) Silver

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Astronomers at Spain's Institute of Astrophysics of the Canary Islands (IAC) have discovered an exoplanet WASP-76b where it rains iron.
- WASP-76 b was discovered in 2013.
- Exoplanet conditions were discovered by Rocky exoplanets and the Echel spectrograph for Stable Spectroscopic Observation (ESPRESSO).
- The high-resolution instrument is installed on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) of the European Southern Observatory in Chile.
- WASP-76 b is a bizarre Ultrahot Jupiter that lies about 640 light-years from the sun, in the constellation Pisces.
- **WASP-76 b's distance from us:**
- Some sources say that WASP-76 b is about 390 light-years away, but that number is inaccurate.
- Astronomers calculated WASP-76 b's most accurate distance using data from Europe's ultraprecise star-mapping spacecraft Gaia.
- **Day-night Temperatures on WASP-76 b:**
- WASP-76 b zips around its host star once every 1.8 Earth days.
- Temperatures on this dayside climb above 4,350 degrees Fahrenheit (2,400°C), hot enough to vaporize metals.
- Researchers say that the nightside of this planet is much cooler and remains at 2,730 F (1,500 °C).
- One should know that 1500 °C is also the temperature, enough to maintain iron in liquid state and it explains the cause of iron rain upon this planet.
- If we observe an exoplanet during its transit across the disc of its star we can study the part of its atmosphere through which the light from the star passes.
- With ESPRESSO it has been possible to detect chemical variations using analysis of the small part of the observable atmosphere.
- Similar to Earth's moon, WASP-76b is tidally locked, which means that it keeps its same face toward the object that it orbits.
- Tidally locked situation of WASP-76b causes this extreme difference in temperature between day and night on the planet.
- Researchers at the IAC of the view that ultrahot giant planets are the best laboratories for studying extreme climates on exoplanets.

**Links:**

<https://science.slashdot.org/story/20/03/12/2243240/molten-iron-rain-falls-through-the-skies-of-scorching-hot-exoplanet>

## Methanotrophic Bacteria

**Question:** According to the recent discovery of Scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) the different strains of methanotrophic bacteria has the capacity to reduce methane emissions from which of the following plants?

(a) Rice (b) Wheat (c) Gram (d) Urad

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**



- Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, have discovered that methanotrophic is capable of reducing methane emissions from rice plants.
- Scientists informed that Methanotrophs metabolise and convert methane into Carbon dioxide. These bacteria can effectively reduce the emission of methane, which is the second most important greenhouse gas (GHG).
- It should be known that Methane is 26 times more potent as compared to carbon-dioxide. In rice fields, methanotrophs are active near the roots or soil-water interfaces.
- Dr. Monali Rahalkar, Scientist from Bioenergy Group, ARI, and her team working on methanotrophs, have enriched, isolated, and cultivated the 45 different strains of methanotrophs. This team has created the first indigenous methanotroph culture.
- The study was published in Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, an International Journal of General and Molecular Microbiology.
- They isolated indigenous methanotrophs from Western and Southern India, mainly from rice field soils and freshwater mud.
- They have documented two novel genera and six novel species of methanotrophs from rice fields in Western India.
- In pot trials, some of the strains were used as bio-inoculants in rice plants.
- The team found that there was a decrease in methane emissions in inoculated plants with a positive or neutral effect on the growth of the rice.
- This could lead to the development of microbial inoculants for methane mitigation in rice.
- Rice fields are human-made wetlands and are waterlogged for a considerable period.
- Anaerobic degradation of organic matter results in the generation of methane. Rice fields contribute to nearly 10% of global methane emissions.
- Very few studies in the world have focused on methanotrophs from tropical wetlands or tropical rice fields.
- Before scientists at ARI started their studies, practically no cultures of indigenously isolated methanotrophs from India were available.
- Native and relevant methanotrophs isolated from rice fields can be excellent models to understand the effect of various factors on methane mitigation.
- Ammonium fertilizers, increasing temperatures (due to global warming) are some of the important factors which the team plans to study in the future.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200137>

## ARCI scientists develop friction-reducing nanocomposite coatings

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

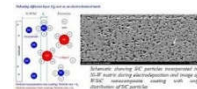
- (a) ARCI scientists develop friction-reducing nanocomposite coatings.  
(b) Nanocomposite coatings are formed by mixing two or more dissimilar materials at nanoscale to improve the physical, chemical and physicochemical properties of the new materials.

**Choose the correct statement:**

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- Several aerospace, defence, automobile, space devices need to reduce friction, wear, and tear to enhance the life of components. The usual route taken is to lubricate these dynamic systems, which add to the cost, complexity, and weight of these systems.
- A group of scientists at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D center of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) have developed a process for size-selective deposition of nanocomposite coatings.
- **Nanocomposite coatings:**
  - Nanocomposite coatings are formed by mixing two or more dissimilar materials at nanoscale to improve the physical, chemical and physicochemical properties of the new materials.
  - The scientists have found that nickel tungsten-based coatings with infusion of particular sized Silicon Carbide (SiC) submicron particles using a pulsed electroplating can provide an excellent combination of wear and corrosion resistance.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1606714>

## Solar Receiver Tube Technology

**Question: Scientists from which of the following institutions have recently developed a solar receiver tube technology for industrial process heat applications?**

- (a) Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials  
(b) IIT-Hyderabad (c) IIT Kanpur (d) Indian Institute of Science

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- India have developed a cost-effective solar receiver tube technology for industrial process heat applications.
- The scientists who achieved this feat are from International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad.
- ARCI is an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India.



- The receiver tube technology developed by the ARCI team efficiently absorbs solar radiation and converts it into heat for the targeted applications, especially in industries. It exhibits high corrosion resistance suitable for Indian weather conditions.
- It should be known that Industries are one of the biggest consumers of energy and recently, Indian industries have shown interest to exploit renewable energies, especially solar energy, due to their inherent advantages (economic and environmental-friendly aspects).
- In this regard, Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) technologies provide a viable solution to meet the demands on industrial process heat ( $\leq 250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) of a majority of industrial processes. The solar receiver tube is one of the key components in the CST technology.
- Currently, Indian CST plant developers are importing the high-end evacuated CSP receivers for CST applications. This has become a choking point for the commercialization of CST technology.
- In this regard, scientists from ARCI have developed a cost-effective wet chemical process to prepare absorber coating on stainless steel tubes suitable for industrial process heat applications. The receiver tube achieved around 93 % absorptance (effectiveness in absorbing radiant energy).
- Two patent applications have been filed for this technology, and an MoU has been signed with M/s. Greenera Energy India Private Limited for technology transfer, which plans to mass-produce the solar receiver tube for wider market absorption.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=200187>

### New species of treehopper discovered

**Question: A newly discovered species of a creature was named as Kaikaia Gaga, after the performer Lady Gaga, is a-**

(a) Frog (b) Tortoise (c) Fish (d) Insect

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On 10 March, 2020 in a news release, a newly discovered species of treehopper was named as Kaikaia Gaga after the pop diva Lady Gaga.
- A Ph.D. entomology student, Brendan Morris, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has given this name to this insect of family Membracidae.
- Kaikaia Gaga was found nearly 30 years ago in a tropical forest near the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. The species is around 40 million years old.
- This treehopper is known for their bright coloring and individuality in appearance.
- It communicates to each other by vibrating plant stems.
- These treehopper insects resemble the pop star's famed sense of style with their wacky appearance.
- Morris, who studies entomology, named the species after the pop diva in an attempt to highlight treehoppers.

- The creatures are morphological wonders, with bizarre protuberances that can resemble anything from horns to dead plant leaves.

**Links:**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-bug-species-named-after-lady-gaga-due-to-its-wacky-fashion-sense-kaikaia-gaga/>

### National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020)

**Question: National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020) held in which of the following state?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Bengaluru (d) Goa

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted the National level Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2020) in Goa. The exercise has been conducted biennially since 2003 by Indian Coast Guard under the aegis of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB). The exercise aims to test the efficiency of operations and coordination of the stakeholders involved in Search and Rescue in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Theme of the exercises was Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue named HAMSAR. The exercise (mock rescue operations) was witnessed by overseas observers from 19 countries. The exercise was carried out during 5 to 7 March, 2020.

**Link:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/indian-coast-guards-conducts-sarex-2020-in-go-1653330-2020-03-07>

### New explosive detection device, developed by DRDO & IISc Bangalore

**Question: Where was the new explosive detection device named (RaDer-X) unveiled?**

(a) Bangalore (b) Pune (c) Hyderabad (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- A new explosive detection device called RaDer-X was unveiled at the National Explosive Detection Workshop (NWED-2020) held in Pune on March 1, 2020.
- The new explosive detection device RaDer-X has been jointly developed by the High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- This device is capable of detecting explosives from a distance.
- A stack of explosives concealed can also be detected through this device.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199673>

## Sixth Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel- Vajra

**Question: On February 27, 2020, the sixth Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel- Vajra was launched in Chennai, the vessel is built by?**

- (a) Mazgaon Shipbuilding Ltd. (b) M / s L&T Shipbuilding Ltd.  
(c) Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (d) Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts**



- On 27 February 2020, the Union Minister Shri Manusakh Mandavia launched the sixth Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV-6) Vajra in Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
- It is noteworthy that OPV-6 is the sixth in a series of 7 OPV projects built by M / s L&T Shipbuilding launched under the Make in India policy.
- The OPV-6 'Vajra' is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities navigational and latest communication system with ultra-modern technology, which will enhance the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard in terms of operation monitoring, search and rescue.
- The ship will be used for day and night patrolling / surveillance as well as anti-terrorism / anti-smuggling operations in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as well as coastal security.
- On this occasion, Director General of Indian Coast Guard K.K. Natarajan was also present.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=199600>

## Gene Editing Tool Used First Time to Treat Blindness

**Question: Scientists recently used gene editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 to treat blindness. The technique will impact upon?**

- (a) Eye lens (b) Retina (c) Iris (d) DNA

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 4, 2020, scientists announced that they have used the gene editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 inside a person's body for the first time to treat Genetic Blindness.
- This new development, in efforts to operate on DNA to treat inherited form of blindness and other such diseases.
- A procedure regarding this has been done on a patient recently at the Casey Eye Institute at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland USA.
- The person, who undergone through this procedure, was suffering from an inherited form of blindness.
- Since it may take up to a month to see whether the procedure worked to restore vision, hence, details of the patients is not been disclosed. If this attempt comes out safe, it has planned to test this technique on 18 persons (children and adults).
- Editas Medicine, a Massachusetts-based company developing the treatment with Dublin-based Allergan.

- **Background:**
- Doctors first tried in-the-body gene editing in 2017 for a different inherited disease using a tool known as zinc fingers.
- Now scientists are of the view that CRISPR is a much better tool for locating and cutting DNA at a specific spot, and interest in the new research is very high.
- The people in this study have Leber congenital amaurosis (eye disorder that primarily affects the retina), caused by a gene mutation that inhibit the body from making a protein needed to convert light into signals to the brain.
- Such persons often born with little vision and can lose even that within a few years.

#### Links:

<https://www.nytimes.com/aonline/2020/03/04/health/ap-us-med-genetic-frontiers-gene-editing-blindness.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/04/doctors-use-gene-editing-tool-crispr-inside-body-for-first-time>

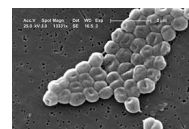
### Anti-fungal activities of Endophytic Actino Bacteria

**Question: Researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, have found plant-growth-promoting and antifungal activities of endophyticactino bacteria; this bacteria is associated with:**

(a) Tea Plant (b) Neem Plant (c) Garlic Plant (d) Onion Plant

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- According to a recent report published on 04 March, 2020; researchers found significant plant-growth-promoting and antifungal activities of endophyticactino bacteria associated with Tea plant and related genera, Eurya to find potent plant growth-promoting strains.
- Credit to this discovery goes to the Researchers at the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST) Guwahati.
- The team isolated 46 endophyticactino bacteria (predominantly free-living microorganisms) found in diverse environments that lives within a plant for at least part of its life cycle.
- These strains of bacteria lives without causing apparent disease associated with Tea plants and characterized through molecular techniques.
- Out of 46 isolates, 21 isolates inhibited the growth of at least one test fungal phytopathogens.
- Strains SA25 and SA29 of endophyticactino bacteria exhibited broad-spectrum antifungal activity.
- The research confirmed that endophyticactino bacteria have the potential to exhibit multiple growth-promoting traits.
- These growth-promoting traits are IAA production, phosphate solubilization and siderophore production and so on.
- All the above traits of this bacteria positively influence tea growth and production.

- The above mentioned work is published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal Frontiers in Microbiology.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1605133>

### Mini-Moon

**Question: Recently astronomers have discovered a Mini-Moon (2020 CD3) around which of the following planets of our Solar system?**

(a) Mars (b) Venus (c) Earth (d) Jupiter

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On the night of February 15, 2020 the mini-moon called 2020 CD3 was discovered by researchers Kacper Wierzchos and Teddy Pruyne.
- They made this discovery at the (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Nasa-funded Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona.
- It has been observed that celestial body has been orbiting our planet Earth for the past three years and commonly named as mini-moon and specifically as 2020 CD3.
- The new mini-moon was discovered using a 1.52-metre telescope at Mount Lemmon Observatory near Tucson, Arizona.
- The findings of the observation suggest that mini-moon 2020 CD3 entered Earth's orbit around three years ago, Minor Planet Center (MPC) confirmed this.
- Minor Planet Center is the single worldwide location for receipt and distribution of positional measurements of minor planets, comets and outer irregular natural satellites of the major planets.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/mini-moon-orbit-earth-2020-cd3-car-sized-second-natural-satellite-1650940-2020-02-28>

<https://www.minorplanetcenter.net/>

### 17 New Planets

**Question: KIC-7340288 b is the name given to which celestial body?**

(a) Star (b) Jupiter like gaseous planet  
(c) Rocky earth like planet (d) Comet

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- University of British Columbia astronomy student Michelle Kunimoto has discovered 17 new planets including an earth like solid planet. The new finding, published in The Astronomical Journal
- She achieved this feat by combing through data gathered by NASA's Kepler mission.
- Officially this planet has been named as KIC-7340288 b, 1.5 times bigger than Earth, this planet is potentially habitable.

- This planet is 1000 light-years away from the Earth. It has a year that is 142.5 days long.
- Over its original four-year mission, the Kepler satellite looked for planets, especially those that lie in the Habitable Zones of their stars.
- Scientists believe if a planet lies in the habitable zone of a star then there is a greater possibility that liquid water could exist on a rocky planet's surface.
- Michelle Kunimoto is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of physics and astronomy.
- There have only been 15 small, confirmed planets in the Habitable Zone found in Kepler data so far.
- This planet is orbiting its star at 0.444 Astronomical Units (AU, the distance between Earth and our Sun) – just bigger than Mercury's orbit in our Solar System. It gets about a third of the light Earth gets from the Sun.
- Of the other 16 new planets discovered, the smallest is only two-thirds the size of Earth and other planets are up to eight times the size of Earth.
- Kunimoto used the transit method to look for the planets among the roughly 200,000 stars observed by the Kepler mission.
- **Transit method:**
- Every time a planet passes in front of a star, the event known as transit.
- At the time of transit a planet blocks a portion of that star's light and causes a temporary decrease in the star's brightness.
- On finding these dips, known as transits, one can start to piece together information about the planet, such as its size and how long it takes to orbit.

#### Links:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/ubc-astronomy-student-finds-17-new-possible-planets-1-may-have-water-1.5481900>

<https://www.ndtv.com/science/17-new-planets-including-habitable-earth-sized-world-discovered-by-university-of-british-columbia-ub-2187518>

### Naval Exercise – MILAN 2020

**Question: Naval Exercise – MILAN 2020 was scheduled to be held in?**

(a) Port Blair (b) Lakshadweep (c) Goa (d) Visakhapatnam

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- MILAN 11th edition was scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam from 18th – 28th March 2020. The theme of the exercise Synergy Across the Seas.
- **Exercise MILAN:**
- Milan is a multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy.
- It is held under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- It is a biennial, multilateral naval exercise which started in 1995.
- 42 nations are invited for participation.
- **Significance:**



- New Delhi's engagement with the wider region beyond its immediate neighborhood, particularly the regional states in Southeast Asia.
- It will improve interoperability and strengthen ties with individual countries as well, a synergy between multilateral and bilateral relationships often missed in the dichotomy often presented between them.
- **Current Scenario:**
- Indian Navy postpones multilateral exercise Milan 2020 due to coronavirus.

**Links:**

<https://thediplomat.com/2018/02/the-real-significance-of-indias-milan-navy-exercise/>

## ICGS Varad

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

**(1) Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Varad was commissioned on February 28, 2020.**

**(2) Varad will be stationed at Paradip in Odisha.**

**(3) This vessel is 98 meters long.**

**Of the above correct statement/s is/are:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) and (3) (c) Only (2) (d) All of the above

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On 28 February, 2020, Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel, ICGS Varad has been commissioned at a function held in the Chennai.
- The occasion was graced by Union Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) & Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and Director General of the Coast Guard, K. Natarajan.
- The 98 meter long vessel has been designed and built by the L&T at its yard at Kattupalli near Chennai, as per the specifications of the Coast Guard.
- The ship is fitted with modern navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery. It is equipped with 30 mm and 12.7 mm guns.
- The ship Varad can carry a twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.
- ICGS Varad will be stationed at Paradip in Odisha and will function under the control of North Eastern Region of the Coast Guard.
- With the induction of ICGS Varad to services, Indian Coast Guard now has 147 ships and boats and 62 aircraft.

**Links:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1604667>

## Sports

# Cricket

## ICC Test rankings

**Question: Which test player held number one position in the ICC Test rankings on February 26, 2020?**

(a) Virat Kohli (b) Steve Smith (c) Kane Williamson (d) Ben Stokes

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- In the ICC World Test Championship, India continues to be placed at the top of the latest Test rankings with 360 points.
- However, in the ICC Men's Test Rankings Indian skipper Virat Kohli lost the top spot. Australia's Steve Smith was back on top of the list for the eighth time after first occupying the top position in June 2015.
- India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane gained a spot to 8th rank. Mayank Agarwal returned to a career-best 10th position after amassing 92 runs. Cheteshwar Pujara dropped two places to 9th rank.
- In the ICC Test Bowling Rankings, off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin slipped a place to ninth but remained the only Indian featuring in the top 10. Fast bowler Ishant Sharma gained a place to be at the 17th spot. Top spot is held by Pat Cummins of Australia.
- In the ICC Test All-rounder Rankings Jason Holder of West Indies is ranked number 1 followed by England's Ben Stokes at second spot. Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is at third position.

**Links:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/rankings/mens/player-rankings/test>

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Team-India-continues-to-be-placed-at-the-top-of-latest-ICC-Test-rankings&id=381976>

# Chess

## India's 13-year old Grandmaster D Gukesh wins 34th Cannes Open

**Question: Who has won the 34th Cannes Open organized in France?**

(a) Sasikiran Krishnan (b) P. Harikrishna  
(c) Sandipan Chanda (d) D Gukesh

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On 22 February 2020, in chess, India's 13-year old Grandmaster D Gukesh emerged champion in the 34th Cannes Open in France.
- Gukesh defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of the host nation in the final round to end with 7.5 points.
- Gukesh, who last year became the world's second youngest Grandmaster ever, beat the Frenchman in 50 moves to emerge clear winner.

- The Tamil Nadu player had last week won his first open tournament, bagging top honors in the Hillerod 110th Anniversary Open event in Denmark.
- He remained unbeaten in the tournament and posted wins over top-seeded Chongsheng Zeng of China and Bargseghyan among others.
- Siva Mahadevan was the next best Indian performer after Gukesh, taking the 10th place with six points.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India%26%2339%3bs-13-year-old-Grandmaster-D-Gukesh-wins-34th-Cannes-Open&id=381836>

## Golf

### Golconda Masters 2019

**Question: Name the place where Golconda Masters Golf Championship 2019 held?**

(a) Hyderabad (b) Guntur (c) Adilabad (d) Warangal

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of India's Professional Golf Tour (PGTI) competition Golconda Masters 2019 was organised from 6-9 February 2019 at the Hyderabad Golf Club in Hyderabad.
- Bengaluru based Chikkarangappa S won the 2019 prestigious title. This victory marks his 12th career win with a score of 20-under-264 at the Hyderabad Golf Club (HGC).
- Aman Raj of Patna and M. Dharma of Bengaluru were joint runner-up with the overall score of 18-under-266.
- Chikkarangappa gained 5 points from this victory and took a massive leap of 104 spots to acquire 357 rank from 461 in world rankings.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/golconda-masters-2019-in-a-first-pgti-aligns-with-owgr-119020501565\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/golconda-masters-2019-in-a-first-pgti-aligns-with-owgr-119020501565_1.html)

### First District Cooling System of India

**Question: Name the place where the First District Cooling System of India is to be set up?**

(a) Amaravati (b) Bhopal (c) Kanpur (d) Lakhimpur Khiri

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- UAE-based cooling solutions utility **National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed)** has entered into a 30-year concession with **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)** to build, own, operate and transfer India's **first district cooling system** in **Amaravati** the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

- The agreement is for a contracted cooling capacity of **20,000 refrigeration tons (RTs)**. Tabreed's district cooling system will cater to the state's assembly, high court, secretariat and other government buildings currently being constructed, for which cooling services will start in early **2021**.
- Earlier, **District cooling** was **first set up in India** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT)**. The first phase of this system, with a capacity of **10,000 RTs**, has been operational since April **2015**.

#### Links:

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/amaravati-to-adopt-district-cooling-in-govt-bldgs-signs-deal-with-uae-firm-119021300789\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/amaravati-to-adopt-district-cooling-in-govt-bldgs-signs-deal-with-uae-firm-119021300789_1.html)

## Athletics

### Khelo India University Games

**Question: Which university topped the medal table in the first edition of Khelo India University Games, 2020?**

- (a) Punjab University, Punjab (b) Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra  
(c) Punjabi University, Patiala (d) Mangalore, University, Karnataka



**Answer: (a)**

#### Related facts:

- The first edition of the Khelo India University Games, 2020 was held from 22 February, 2020 to 1 March 2020, at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Khelo India University Games via video link. A total of 17 sports competitions were held in it.
- In its first edition, the University of Punjab topped the medal table with a total of 46 medals (17 gold, 19 silver, 10 bronze).
- Savitribai Phule Pune University, Maharashtra finished second in the medal table with a total of 37 medals (17 gold, 11 silver, 9 bronze).
- Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab secured the third position with a total of 33 medals (13 gold, 6 silver, 14 bronze) in the medal table.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra were present at the closing ceremony.
- In this, India's star runner Dutee Chand represented Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and won gold medals in the 200m and 100m race events.
- The official logo and jersey and schedule of the Khelo India University Games were unveiled on 6 January 2020 by Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and the Chief Minister of Odisha.

#### Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/athletics/khelo-india-university->

## Short Notes Personalities

### Pekka Lundmark

**Question:** On March 2, 2020, Pekka Lundmark was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer of which leading mobile manufacturer company?

(a) Oppo (b) Nokia (c) Vivo (d) Panasonic

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts**



- On March 2, 2020, Pekka Lundmark was appointed President (President) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nokia Corporation, a leading mobile manufacturer.
- He will take over on September 1, 2020. He will succeed Rajiv Suri.
- He is currently the CEO of Finland's leading energy company Fortum.
- Nokia Corporation is a multinational communications company of Finland. It was established in the year 1865.
- It was founded by Fredrik Idestem, Leo Mechelin and Eduard Polon.
- Its headquarters are located in the neighboring city of Calaniemi, Espoo, Helsinki, the capital of Finland.
- It mainly works in the wireless and wired telecom sector.

### Links:

<https://www.nokia.com/about-us/news/releases/2020/03/02/pekka-lundmark-appointed-president-and-ceo-of-nokia-rajeev-suri-to-step-down- after-more-than-a-decade-as-president-and-ceo-of-nokia-and-nokia-siemens-networks />

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/rajeev-suri-steps-down-as-nokia-president-ceo-pekka-lundmark-to-take-over-120030200456\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/rajeev-suri-steps-down-as-nokia-president-ceo-pekka-lundmark-to-take-over-120030200456_1.html)

### Joginder Singh Saini passed away

**Question:** On March 1, 2019, veteran athletics coach Joginder Singh Saini passed away. In which year he was felicitated the Dronacharya Award?

(a) 1995 (b) 1996 (c) 1997 (d) 2002



**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Veteran athletics coach and Dronacharya Award winner Joginder Singh Saini passed away on 1 March, 2020. He was 90 years old.
- He became an athletics coach in 1954 after pursuing a diploma in physical education and a coaching course from NIS Patiala.
- He groomed some of India's finest track and field stars including Bogeshwar Barua, Edward Sequiera, Charles Borromeo, Chand Ram, Shiny Wilson, Kamaljeet Sandhu and many more.
- He became the head coach of the then Indian Amateur Athletics Federation in the year 1970.
- He was awarded the Dronacharya Award in the year 1997 for his contribution to Indian athletics.
- He was the head coach of the Indian team that won 18 medals, including 8 gold medals at the 1978 Asian Games.

**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=382183>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/athletics/indias-celebrated-athletics-coach-joginder-singh-saini-passes-away/articleshow/74432392.cms>

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/afi-condoles-death-of-former-chief-coach-joginder-singh-saini20200301174940/>

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/afi-condoles-death-of-former-chief-coach-joginder-singh-saini-120030100561\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/afi-condoles-death-of-former-chief-coach-joginder-singh-saini-120030100561_1.html)

### Balbir Singh Khullar passed away

**Question:** Balbir Singh Khullar died on March 1, 2020. He was associated with which sport?

(a) Football (b) Hockey (c) Cricket (d) Golf

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 1, 2020, former hockey player Balbir Singh Khullar passed away. He was 77.
- He was part of the Indian team that won a bronze medal in the Olympics in 1968.
- He made his Indian debut in 1963 in Leon, France.
- Balbir Singh Khullar was a member of the Indian team that won the Asian Games gold in 1966 (Bangkok) and the Olympic Bronze in 1968 (Mexico).

**Links:**

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/hockey/balbir-singh-kullar-passes-away-indian-hockey-legend-1968-olympics-mexico-bronze-medal-asian-games/article30956145.ece>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/hockey/story/former-india-hockey-player-balbir-singh-kullar-dies-1651341-2020-03-01>



## Young social worker Anju Rani honored

**Question: Which ministry honored the young social worker Anju Rani on March 2, 2020?**

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (d) Ministry of Labor



**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 5, 2020, Union Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' honored a young social worker Anju Rani.
- Anju Rani's Buland Udaan is working for the elimination of child labor from her village and motivating their parents to allow their child to pursue education.
- Her mission has resolved 965 child abuse cases have been resolved so far. 40 child marriages have been prevented and 15 sexual harassment cases have been effectively intervened.
- The Ministry of Human Resource Development is celebrating Women's Week from 1st March to 8th March 2020.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1605423>

## Former UN Secretary General Xavier Javier Perez de Cuellar passed away

**Question: Former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who passed was the Secretary General of the United Nations during the period?**

- (a) Year 1982 to 1991 (b) Year 1919 to 1996  
(c) Year 1992 to 1997 (d) Year 1981 to 1986



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Javier Perez de Cuellar, former Peruvian Secretary-General of the United Nations, passed away on March 4, 2020.
- He was the 5th Secretary General of the United Nations from 1 January 1982 to 31 December 1991.
- Mr. Perez de Cuellar was born in Lima, Peru, on 19 January 1920.
- He was the Prime Minister of Peru from November 22, 2000 to July 28, 2001.
- **Awards:**
- In October 1987, he was awarded the Prince of Asturias Prize for the promotion of Ibero-American co-operation.
- In January 1989, he was awarded the Olof Palme Prize for International Understanding and Common Security by the Olof Palme Memorial Fund.
- In February 1989, he was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.

**Link:**

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/javier-perez-de-cuellar>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javier\\_P%C3%A9rez\\_de\\_Cu%C3%A9llar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javier_P%C3%A9rez_de_Cu%C3%A9llar)

### New DGP of the Uttar Pradesh

**Question: On March 4, 2020 who has appointed as the new DGP of the Uttar Pradesh?**

- (a) Avneesh Awasthi (b) Om Prakash Singh  
(c) Hitesh Chandra Awasthi (d) Dinesh Pathak

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts**

- On 4 March, 2020, the Uttar Pradesh Government appointed interim Director General of Police Hitesh Chandra Awasthi as the full-time Director General of Police of the State.
- He is a 1985 batch IPS officer.
- Significantly, he was appointed as the Acting Director General of Police on 1 February 2020. He replaced Om Prakash Singh.
- Hitesh Chandra Awasthi has served in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for 12 years and was posted as Director General Vigilance

**Link:**

<https://uppolice.gov.in/en/officerprofile?transid=1614&slugName=dgphq>  
<https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/hitesh-chandra-awasthi-appointed-as-uttar-pradesh-dgp/1751828>

### Mahathir Mohamad

**Question: Mahathir Mohamad resigned as Prime Minister of which country?**

- (a) Malaysia (b) Maldives (c) Nepal (d) Sri Lanka

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has announced his resignation over political issues. He will act as an interim PM.
- He has also resigned from Parti Pribumi Bersatu, the political party of which he was chairman.
- Bersatu had been part of the governing Pakatan Harapan alliance, which he joined in 2018 together with Mr Anwar, and which won the 2018 vote, ending more than six decades of rule by the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition.
- Mahathir was Malaysia's Prime Minister from 1981 to 2003. He became premier again after winning the 2018 general elections against the coalition he once led, Barisan Nasional.

**Links:**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/malaysia-mahathir-turns-resignation-reports-200224054737676.html>

## Leo Varadkar

**Question: On 21 February, 2020, Leo Varadkar of Indian origin resigned as the Prime Minister of which country?**

(a) Mexico (b) Netherlands (c) Ireland (d) Belgium

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 21 February, 2020, Leo Varadkar of Indian origin resigned as the Prime Minister of Ireland. He will serve as a caretaker Prime Minister after his resignation until a new Prime Minister is elected.
- He became the Prime Minister of Ireland on 14 June, 2017.
- It is worth noting that after the general election on 8 February 2020 for the election of the new Prime Minister in Ireland; the newly formed Lower House has failed to elect the new Prime Minister in its meeting.
- None of the nominees nominated by the four largest political parties in Ireland could get the minimum required majority of all 160 members of the Lower House.
- In which even Leo Varadkar could not get the required majority, he therefore tendered his resignation to Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland.

**Links:**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/200220231454128.html>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/20/europe/leo-varadkar-ireland-taoiseach-intl/index.html>

## Afghanistan Presidential Election

**Question: Who was elected the President of Afghanistan for a second term on February 18, 2020?**

(a) Abdul Rashid Davastam (b) Abdullah Abdullah  
(c) Hamid Karzai (d) Ashraf Ghani

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On February 18, 2020, Ashraf Ghani was elected President of Afghanistan for a second term.
- As per Afghanistan Election Commission, Ashraf Ghani got 50.64 percent votes.
- While his close rival Abdullah Abdullah got 39.52 percent votes.
- It is noteworthy that the presidential elections were held in the country on September 28, 2019.

**Links:**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/afghanistan-presidential-election-ashraf-ghani-declared-winner-200218135530575.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-51547726>

## Jawed Ashraf to be India's new envoy to France

**Question: Who is been appointed India's next Ambassador to France?**

- (a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra (b) Jawed Ashraf  
(c) Malindra Singh (d) Taranjit Singh Sandhu

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Seasoned diplomat Jawed Ashraf was appointed India's next Ambassador to France on February 26, 2020.
- Ashraf is a 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and is presently serving as Indian High Commissioner to Singapore.
- Ashraf will succeed Vinay Mohan Kwatra.
- Kwatra has been appointed India's Ambassador to Nepal.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jawed-ashraf-to-be-indias-new-envoy-to-france/article30919767.ece>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/jawed-ashraf-to-be-indias-new-envoy-to-france/article30919687.ece>

## Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi

**Question: Which cricket player has been banned by ICC from all forms of cricket for seven years?**

- (a) Mohammad Sohail (b) Mashrafe Murtaja  
(c) Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi (d) Sohail Tanveer

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Oman player Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi from all forms of cricket for seven years.
- He was banned on charges of his involvement in trying to fix matches.
- The charges are related to the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifiers- 2019 held in the United Arab Emirates.
- As per the ICC, Al Balushi breached Article 2.1.1 of the Anti-Corruption Code – being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive in any way the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of matches.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=ICC-bans-Oman-player-Yousuf-Abdulrahim-Al-Balushi-from-all-forms-of-cricket-for-7-years&id=381864>

## New MD & CEO of CIBIL

**Question: On 25 February 2020, who was appointed the new MD and CEO of CIBIL, the largest credit information company operating in India?**

(a) Satish Pillai (b) Rajesh Kumar (c) Dinesh Agarwal (d) Parag Agarwal

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 25 February, 2020, Rajesh Kumar became the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau India Limited), the largest company providing information on credit ratings in India.
- He succeeded Satish Pillai.
- Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the group head for retail credit and risk at HDFC Bank.
- **About CIBIL:**
- TransUnion CIBIL Limited is India's first Credit Information Company, also commonly referred as a Credit Bureau.
- It is part of the American multinational conglomerate Trans Union.
- CIBIL aggregates consumer borrowing and payment information for the purpose of assessing loan risk and pricing credit (setting the interest rate).
- A Credit Bureau is licensed by the RBI and governed by the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act of 2005.
- Establishment year 2000
- Headquarters-Mumbai

**Links:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TransUnion\\_CIBIL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TransUnion_CIBIL)

## Maria Sharapova

**Question: Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova has announced her retirement from tennis, she belongs to which country?**

(a) Australia (b) Russia (c) USA (d) Serbia

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 26 February, 2020, five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova announced her retirement from tennis.
- The Russian won her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon in 2004 aged 17 and completed the career slam, all four major titles, by winning the French Open in 2012.
- In 2016, she served a 15-month ban after testing positive for meldonium.
- After returning from her ban in 2017, Sharapova struggled to recapture her best form and suffered from a number of injuries.
- She has dropped to 373 in the world, her lowest ranking since August 2002, and has lost in the first round of her past three Grand Slam tournaments.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Sharapova-says-goodbye-to-Tennis&id=381982>

## Commission & Committee

Structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates

**Question:** Recently the Central Government has set up a five-member committee to examine the issues related to framing of a comprehensive insurance scheme for advocates. This committee will have to give its report within-

(a) 4 months (b) 5 months (c) 6 months (d) 3 months

**Answer:** (d)

**Related facts:**



- On 8th March 2019; the Central Government has set up a five-member committee to examine the issues related to framing of a comprehensive insurance scheme for advocates relating to untimely death and medical insurance.
- To draw a comprehensive framework for the scheme, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad set up the panel under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs.
- The committee will submit its reports within three months.
- Other members of the committee will include a senior representative from the Department of Financial Services and representative of Department of legal affairs.
- The committee will also have one representative each from Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils.

**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189335>

## Planning & Project

AI-based modules for schools

**Question:** Recently AI-based Module was launched for students in Indian schools by?

(a) Indian Institute of science (b) CSIR (c) NITI Aayog (d) NCERT

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**



- On 27 February, 2020; NITI Aayog launched AI-based Module was for students in Indian schools.
- This initiative has been taken by the Aayog with an imperative to empower the youngest minds of the country with the latest technologies.
- The module was launched by NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).
- The module contains activities, videos, and experiments that enable students to work through and learn the various concepts of AI.



- CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant on this occasion said that India can add 1.3 per cent to its GDP on an annual basis through the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence.
- Purpose of introducing the AI in schools is to make artificial intelligence a great fun so that children can enjoy it, they can evolve and learn and take India forward.

**Link:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/niti-aayog-nasscom-jointly-launch-ai-based-modules-for-schools-1650769-2020-02-28>

## Treaty & Agreements

### India-Armenia Defense Deal

**Question:** With reference to India signing \$ 40 million defense deal with Armenia, consider the following statements:

- (1) This defense deal is for the Swathi radar developed by DRDO.
- (2) Russia and Spain were the other two competing countries in this deal.
- (3) Armenia is a coastal country located near the Pacific Ocean.

**Choose the correct option:**

- (a) 1 & 2 (b) 1 only (c) 2 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On March 1, 2020, India signed a \$ 40 million defense agreement with Armenia.
- Russia and Poland were also involved in the competition for this defense deal.
- The defense deal is for the Swathi Weapon Locating Radars developed by DRDO.
- Swathi radar, whose main function is to track the enemy's firing and fired rockets, along with it is also able to tell the enemy's position.
- The WLR has been jointly developed by Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Currently it has been inducted into the Indian Army.
- Armenia is a landlocked country located in West Asia that shares borders with Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Iran.
- Turkey and Armenia have a long history of conflict, due to which this defense deal is considered important.
- It may be noted that Indo-Turkish relations became tense due to Turkey raising the Kashmir issue in global forums.
- This step is considered an important step in India's new foreign policy.
- This defense deal will give further impetus to India's Make in India program and provide a global identity to Indian defense products.

**Links:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/india-pips-russia-poland-to-secure-40-million-defence-deal-to-armenia/story/397235.html>

## Agreement between SBI Card and Land Mark Group

**Question: Which of the following cards was launched by SBI Card and Land Mark Group jointly on February 20, 2020?**

(a) Lifestyle Home Center SBI Card (b) Max SBI Card (c) Spar SBI Card (d) All of the above

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On 20 February 2020, SBI Card in association with four brands of Land Mark Group issued three new co-branded credit cards.
- Lifestyle Home Center SBI Card,  
(b) Max SBI Card and  
(c) Spar SBI Card.
- SBI Card was launched in October 1998 by State Bank of India and GE Capital.
- In December 2017, State Bank of India and The Carlyle Group acquired GE Capital's stake.
- SBI Card is a payment solution provider whose main products are Credit Cards.

**Links:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/money/sbi-card-and-landmark-group-launch-co-branded-credit-cards-check-variants-benefits/1875012/>

<https://www.sbicard.com/en/who-we-are/about-us.page>

## Energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency for Indian Railway

**Question: Indian Railways and Department of International Development, UK has signed a MoU in which of the following areas?**

(a) Full electrification (b) Engine manufacturing (c) Cleanliness (d) Energy efficiency

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Indian Railways and the Department of International Development, UK.
- The area of co-operation is to enable energy efficiency and energy self-sufficiency for Indian Railway.
- Indian Railway will be benefitted in field of energy planning, renewable energy planning and deployment including off shore wind and solar energy, energy storage, new energy technologies and off-grid renewable energy services.
- There is no proposal for giving renewable energy projects to private sector or public sector under this MoU at this stage.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602421>

## Conference

### India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave, 2020

**Question: Consider the following statements in reference to the India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave, 2020:**

**(1) This was the first ever India Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave.**

**(2) New Delhi Declaration was adopted following the conclave.**

**(3) A total of 38 African countries participated in the conclave.**

**Choose the correct option:**

**(a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave held in Lucknow on February 06, 2020 along the line with DefExpo-2020.
- Over 154 delegates from Africa including Defence Ministers from 14 African countries, Member of Parliament, 19 Defence and Service Chiefs and 8 Permanent Secretaries from 38 African countries participated in this Conclave attesting to the high priority accorded to India-Africa engagement in defence and security.
- Following the conclave, Lucknow Declaration was adopted by the delegates.
- **Highlight points of the declaration:**
- The declaration recalls India's contribution to defence and security in the African continent through setting up of Defence Academies and Colleges in Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania; deployment of training teams in several African countries including Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Lesotho, Zambia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania; goodwill ship visits; provision of defence equipment and ammunitions and various other measures, including Defence Training Programmes.
- The initiation of Africa India Field Training Exercises with the first ever AFINDEX in March 2019 to further strengthen cooperation in defence preparedness and security was also appreciated.
- It was recognized that peace and security are a key priority for both India and African countries.
- Emphasis was given to further strengthen the cooperation in enhancing peacekeeping capacity and peace – building efforts including support to the African Standby Force (ASF) and through courses, such as those at the centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi and by other Peacekeeping Training Centers in Africa.
- Continuance of collaboration in the fields of peace and security including conflict prevention, resolution, management and peace building through exchange of expertise and training, strengthening regional and continental early warning capacities and mechanisms, enhancing the role of women in peace keeping and propagating the culture of peace.
- The issue of common security challenges such as terrorism and extremism, piracy, organized crime including human trafficking, drug trafficking, weapon smuggling and others was agreed to be collaborated to tackle them together.

- The efforts in reducing the number of violent conflicts in the African continent was highlighted and intended to continue to support the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and other Africa led efforts to enhance peace and security.
- Initiatives such as African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), Silence The Guns in Africa and Agenda 2063 are supported.
- The Defence Ministers from African countries and India will meet regularly in future at mutually convenient time and venue.

**Link:**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602300>

[https://mea.gov.in/press-](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32380/1st_IndiaAfrica_Defence_Ministers_Conclave_2020_Lucknow)

[releases.htm?dtl/32380/1st IndiaAfrica Defence Ministers Conclave 2020 Lucknow](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32380/1st_IndiaAfrica_Defence_Ministers_Conclave_2020_Lucknow)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-african-countries-resolve-to-fight-terror/article30755496.ece>

## Year, Day & Week

### Martyrs' Day

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) Shaheed Diwas is celebrated annually on March 23.
- (2) The day pays tribute to Bhagat Singh, SukhdevThapar, and ShivaramRajguru who died on March 23 in 1931.

**Choose the correct:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- Shaheed Diwas is celebrated annually on March 23.
- The day, in particular, pays tribute to **Bhagat Singh, SukhdevThapar, and ShivaramRajguru who died on March 23 in 1931.**
- They were hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders, a British police officer in 1928.
- They had mistook him for British police superintendent James Scott. It was Scott who had ordered lathi charge, which eventually led to the death of LalaLajpatRai.
- These three were among the countless who sacrificed their lives for the nations and died when they were very young.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/martyrs-day-2020-why-shaheed-diwas-is-celebrated-on-23-march-in-india-6326534/>

## World Water Day 2020

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) World Water Day 2020 is observed on March 22 every year.  
(2) 2020 theme is 'Water and Climate Change'.

**Choose the correct one:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- **World Water Day 2020 was observed globally on March 22.**
- 2020 theme for the day is 'Water and Climate Change'.
- The day aims to increase awareness among people about the importance, need and conservation of water.
- **Background:**
- In the year 1992, March 22 was first officially added in the schedule 21 of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as World Water Day in the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The celebrations to mark world water day started from the year 1993.
- The World Water Development Report is also released by the UN every year around World Water Day.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/lifestyle/news-world-water-day-2020-let-s-pledge-to-save-water-amid-coronavirus-outbreak-600360>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Water\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Water_Day)

## World Meteorological Day

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) The World Meteorological day is observed annually on 23 March.  
(2) Theme of 2020 World Meteorological day is "Climate and Water".

**Choose the correct one:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- Every year, March 23, is celebrated as World Meteorological Day (WMD).
- The day showcases the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and wellbeing of society.
- The theme of World Meteorological Day this year, for March 23, 2020, is **Climate and Water**.
- It will align with the theme of World Water Day 2020 which is on March 22.
- The main focus will be on climate change and water concerns around the globe. The slogan for WMD 2020 is "Count Every Drop, Every Drop Counts".
- World Meteorological Organization was established on **23 March 1950**.

- It is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories

**Links:**

<https://worldmetday.wmo.int/>

## International Day of Forests

**Question: Consider the following statements:**

- (1) International Day of Forests is observed annually on 21 March.  
 (2) Theme of the day for 2020 is Forests and Biodiversity.

**Choose the correct:**

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**



- International Day of Forests is observed annually on 21 March since 2012.
- It is organized by United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations in the field.
- The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.
- The theme for 2020 is Forests and Biodiversity.

**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day>

## World Sleep Day

**Question: When is the World Sleep Day observed?**

- (a) March 13 (b) April 13 (c) May 13 (d) June 15

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- World Sleep Day is observed on 13 March. It is organized by the World Sleep Day Committee of World Sleep Society.
- The day focuses on the issues related to sleep, sleep medicine, education about sleep. The day raises awareness about the social effects that sleep deprivation can have on everyday life.
- **Aim:**
- World Sleep Day aims to help those who have sleep problems, educate people all over about the importance of sleep, and change the way people view and experience sleep by giving people valuable resources to help them in their daily lives.



- **Facts regarding Indians:**
- Sleep survey conducted by Centuary Mattresses discovered that nationally, the hours of sleep came down in most of the cities in India.
- Across 10 cities in India, the survey found that collectively hours of sleep have come down in most of the cities, and people are not able to sleep for the required eight hours needed.

#### Links:

<https://worldsleepsociety.org/about/>

<https://worldsleepsociety.org/programs/world-sleep-day/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/world-sleep-day-india-is-sleeping-less-says-report/get-that-snooze-time/slideshow/74608522.cms>

### World Consumer Rights Day, 2020

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding World Consumer Rights Day 2020:**

**(1) World Consumer Rights Day 2020 celebrated on 15 March, 2020.**

**(2) The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2020, is The Sustainable Consumer.**

**Choose the correct statement:**

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
- Celebrating the day is a chance to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, and to protest against market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights.
- **About the theme:**
- Consumers International has announced that the theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2020, 15 March 2020, will be The Sustainable Consumer.
- The campaign will discuss the need for sustainable consumption globally, as well as highlighting the important role that consumer rights and protection can play.
- **Reason of celebration:**
- World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who sent a special message to the US Congress on 15th March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights.
- He was the first world leader to do so.
- The consumer movement first marked that date in 1983 and now uses the day every year to mobilize action on important issues and campaigns.

#### Links:

<https://www.consumersinternational.org/what-we-do/world-consumer-rights-day/>

## National Pi Day

**Question: When is the National Pi Day is observed?**

(a) March 14<sup>th</sup> (b) April 14<sup>th</sup> (c) May 14<sup>th</sup> (d) June 25

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- National Pi Day observed annually on March 14th recognizes the mathematical constant  $\pi$ . Also known as Pi, the first three and most recognized digits are 3.14.
- The day is celebrated by Pi enthusiasts and pie lovers alike! Pi is the ratio between the circumference of a circle and its diameter.
- **About Pi:** Pi has been known for almost 4000 years.
- Mathematicians started to use the Greek letter  $\pi$  in the 1700s.
- It was introduced by William Jones in 1706.
- The use of the symbol was popularized by Leonhard Euler, who adopted it in 1737.
- An 18th-century French mathematician, Georges Buffon, devised a way to calculate  $\pi$  based on probability.

**Links:**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pi-day-march-14/>

## International Women's Day

**Question: International Women's Day was celebrated across the world on March 8, 2020. When did United Nations celebrate this day for the first time?**

(a) 1975 (b) 1985 (c) 1995

(d) 1980

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- International Women's Day was celebrated across the world on 8 March 2020.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2020 is 'Uniform world is a capable world'.
- It is noteworthy that this day is celebrated to commemorate the economic, political and social achievements of women.
- It is known that during the International Women's Year in 1975, the United Nations started celebrating this day on 8 March. It is to be noted that among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals approved by the UN member states under Agenda 2030, goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all girls.

**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>

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**Question: International Women's Day was celebrated across the world on March 8, 2020. When did United Nations celebrate this day for the first time?**

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**Answer: (a)**

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- It is to be noted that among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals approved by the UN member states under Agenda 2030, goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all girls.

**Links:**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

## National Science Day

**Question: What is the theme of National Science Day which was celebrated 28 February, 2020?**

(a) Women in science (b) Science for nation building  
(c) Science for people and people for science (d) Science for climate change

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- National Science Day was celebrated across the country on 28 February, 2020.
- The theme of NSD-2020 is Women in Science.
- This day is celebrated every year to commemorate the announcement of discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir Chandrasekhar Venkataraman. For this discovery he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in the year 1930.
- Objective of National Science Day is to attract and motivate the students towards science and to make the public aware of science and scientific achievements.
- Instituted in the year 1987, National Awards for Science Popularization stimulates, encourages and recognizes outstanding efforts in the area of science and technology for popularization, communication and promoting scientific temper. These awards are presented every year on National Science Day.

**Links:**

<https://dst.gov.in/national-science-day-2020>

## World Hearing Day

**Question: World Hearing Day is observed on?**

(a) 2 March (b) 3 March (c) 4 March (d) 5 March

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- World Hearing Day is observed on 3 March every year.
- **Objective:**
- To raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- **Theme:**
- The theme of 2020 World Hearing Day is Don't let hearing loss limit you. Hearing for life.
- **World Hearing Day 2020 aims to:**
- Promote public health actions for ear and hearing care.
- Stimulate partnerships for ear and hearing care.
- Raise awareness on hearing loss and care at both national and community levels.
- Encourage behavior change.
- **Hearing Loss:**
- Hearing loss, also known as hearing impairment, is a partial or total inability to hear. A deaf person has little to no hearing. Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears.
- **Treatment:**
- Hearing aids, sign language, cochlear implants, subtitles.
- **Significance:**
- Around 466 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss (1), and 34 million of these are children.
- It is estimated that by 2050 over 900 million people will have disabling hearing loss.
  - billion Young people (aged between 12–35 years) are at risk of hearing loss due to exposure to noise in recreational settings.
- **Government Initiatives:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed Assistive Aids and Devices to Senior Citizens under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and Divyangjans under the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for aids and appliances (ADIP) at a mega camp at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=382030>

## Miscellaneous

### Indo-U.S. Fellowship for WISTEMM

**Question: Indo-U.S. Fellowship for WISTEMM will be given to:**

(a) Men in Science (b) Women (c) Students (d) Women in Science



**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 6 March, 2020, Department of Science and Technology has informed that several women scientists have been provided international exposure.
- It has been said that this exposure to several women scientists of India provided through WISTEMM program.
- WISTEMM is the term used for Indo-U.S. Fellowship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine.
- The fellowship is for bright Indian women Citizen within the age bracket of 21 to 45 years.
- It is a program of Department of Science and Technology (DST) in association with Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF)
- It should be known that 20 women scientists have visited 20 leading institutions across the United States of America for to get the exposure at international level.
- They have gone there for furthering their research work and to get trained in the state-of-the-art technologies related to their research.
- WISTEMM aims to provide opportunities to Indian Women Scientists, Engineers & Technologists to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in the USA.
- It is expected that these efforts will certainly enhance the research capacities of our women scientists.
- The programme is run for two categories of women scientists:
  - 1 Women Overseas Student Internship (Module I) for women students pursuing PhD.
  - 2 Women Overseas Fellowship (Module II) for women with PhD degree and holding regular position at any recognized institution/laboratory in India.

**Links:**

<https://dst.gov.in/pressrelease/women-scientists-receive-international-exposure-through-indo-us-fellowship-wistemmm>

<https://www.ibef.org/news/women-scientists-receive-international-exposure-through-indous-fellowship-for-wistemmm>