

# WEEKLY G.K.

24 February – 01 March 2020

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## National News

### 1. National Museum hosted "Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience" exhibition.

- The National Museum in New Delhi is hosting a unique exhibition on India's ancient food history called "Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience."
- The Indus Dining Experience till the 25th of this month that goes back to over 5000 years ago.
- The exhibition demonstrates the evolution of food habits, food processing techniques and related architecture of the Harappans.
- Recreation of food of the Indus-Saraswati Civilization by National Award-winning Chef Sabyasachi Gorai is one of the main attractions of this exhibition which is the first of its kind in the country. The event gives every visitor a rare opportunity to delve into a pre-historic culinary era.
- The exhibition will last till Tuesday.

### 2. Tamil Nadu Assembly passes bill to declare Cauvery Delta Region a Protected Special Agriculture Zone.

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a bill declaring the Cauvery Delta Region a Protected Special Agriculture Zone. The bill provides for banning certain new industries in the region. They include hydrocarbon exploration, smelting of copper, zinc and aluminium, iron ore processing, tanneries and ship breaking.
- However, the bill also says any ongoing projects would not be disturbed. Infrastructure development projects like port development, laying of pipelines, road, telecommunication lines, power and water supply facilities will not be banned.
- The whole districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam and five blocks each of Cuddalore and Pudukkottai districts are brought under the ambit of the bill.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Tamil Nadu

**Chief minister:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami

**Capital:** Chennai

**Governor :** Banwarilal Purohit

### 3. Govt approves constitution of 22nd Law Commission.

- Government has formally announced the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission.
- The law panel advises the government on complex legal issues and has a term of three years. With the president giving his nod for the creation of the Law Commission, the government will now appoint a chairperson to head the panel and other members.
- The chairperson usually is a retired Supreme Court judge or a retired chief justice of a high court. Union Cabinet had last week given its nod to reconstitute the panel.

### 4. Government amended provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and Arms Rules, 2016.

- Government has amended provisions of the Arms Act, 1959 and Arms Rules, 2016 to increase the number of firearms that can be kept by shooters and enhanced quantity of ammunition fixed for practice for the year. The Home Ministry said, shooting is an important Olympic sport in India and Indian shooters have excelled in international competitions.

- The Ministry has made provisions to provide adequate firearms and ammunition to the shooters for their practice. As per the new rules, now international medalists and renowned shooters are allowed to keep additional weapons up to a total of twelve under the exempted category, which earlier was seven.
- Through the amendments it has also been clarified that no license is required for Indian citizens for acquisitions, possession of small arms falling under the category of curio.

**5. Andhra Pradesh CM launched 'Jagananna Vasthi Deevana' scheme to provide financial assistance to students.**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched yet another scheme named after himself, called 'Jagananna Vasthi Deevana'. Under this a financial assistance of Rs 2,300 crore would be provided to students pursuing various post- intermediate courses to meet hostel and mess expenses.
- In all 11,87,904 students pursuing ITI, polytechnic, under-graduate and postgraduate education would benefit from the scheme. The total Rs 2,300 crore would be distributed to students in two installments, in February and July every year, and credited directly into the bank accounts of the students' mothers.
- While ITI students would get Rs 10,000 each, polytechnic students would get Rs 15,000 and under-graduates and post-graduates Rs 20,000 each.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Andhra Pradesh**

**Capitals:** Amaravati, Hyderabad

**Governor:** Biswabhusan Harichandan

**Chief Minister:** Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy

**6. Vice-President releases book "Death - An Inside Story" authored by Sadhguru.**

- Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu released book 'Death - An Inside Story' authored by Sadhguru, Founder of Isha Foundation.
- The Vice-President was the chief guest at the 26th Maha Sivaratri celebrations at Isha Yoga Centre. Jaggi Vasudev who is generally referred to as Sadhguru, is an Indian yogi and author.

**7. Elections for 55 Rajya Sabha seats will be conducted on March 26.**

- Biennial elections for the 55 Rajya Sabha seats from 17 states will be held on 26th March. Election Commission announced that these seats are falling vacant in April this year due to retirement of Rajya Sabha members.
- The term of office of 55 members of the Rajya Sabha elected from 17 States is due to expire on their retirement in April, 2020. Counting will be held in the evening of 26th March an hour after the conclusion of polls.
- The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Parliament of India. It currently has a maximum membership of 245.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Rajya sabha**

**Deputy Chairman:** Harivansh Narayan Singh

**Chairperson:** Venkaiah Naidu

**Seats:** 245

**Secretary General:** Desh Deepak Verma

**8. MP becomes first state to launch unified vehicle registration card.**

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce the unified registration card and the second state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had issued the guidelines to bring uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in March last year.
- The new cards will have more exhaustive information printed on both sides of the cards. The unified smart cards for driving license and vehicle registration will each have a QR code that will help in verifying authenticity of the data printed on the cards.
- The unified driving license card will also have information about the ability of the driver to drive in hilly and dangerous areas and an emergency contact number.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Madhya Pradesh**

**Capital:** Bhopal

**Governor:** Lalji Tandon

**Chief minister:** Kamal Nath

**9. Haryana state emerged as Best in Direct Benefit Transfer Payout while West Bengal worst in same.**

- Small states like Haryana & Uttarakhand emerged as the best states in ratings prepared by Centre regarding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts. West Bengal has emerged as the worst, while new Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh have notched up an impressive show.
- The ratings have ranked states according to DBT payouts compared to their population. Many states like West Bengal do not implement several central schemes in which subsidies are involved.
- The central DBT scheme covers as many as 439 schemes run by 56 ministries and departments and over Rs 2.25 lakh crore has been paid out in the country in the present financial year.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Haryana**

**Capital:** Chandigarh

**Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya

**Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar

**About West Bengal**

**Governor:** Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Capital:** Kolkata

**Chief Minister:** Mamta Banerjee

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**About Haryana**

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**Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar

**About West Bengal**

**Governor:** Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Capital:** Kolkata

**Chief Minister:** Mamta Banerjee

**11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Bundelkhand Expressway at Chitrakoot.**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Bundelkhand Expressway at Chitrakoot. The Expressway will be supplementing the nodes of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor announced by the Government of India in February 2018.
- The Uttar Pradesh Government is constructing the Bundelkhand Expressway which will pass through the districts of Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun. This expressway will link the Bundelkhand area to the national capital Delhi through Agra-Lucknow expressway and Yamuna expressway as well as play a vital role in the development of Bundelkhand region.
- The 296-kilometre long Expressway is expected to benefit Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jaloun, Oraiya and Etawah districts.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Uttar Pradesh**

**Chief minister:** Yogi Adityanath

**Governor:** Anandiben Patel

**Capital:** Lucknow

**12. Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched MIEWS Portal for Monitoring prices of TOP Crops.**

- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal has launched the– Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Web Portal.
- The MIEWS Dashboard and Portal is a ‘first-of-its-kind’ platform for ‘real-time monitoring’ of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) and for simultaneously generating alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens(OG) scheme.

**13. Two-days Unique Nimad Chilli Festival 2020 Organised at Khargone district of MP.**

- A two day unique initiative “Nimad Chilli Festival 2020” organised by Madhya Pradesh Government begins at Kasrawad in Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh(MP) on 29th February & 1st March 2020. The aim of this festival is to promote Chilli production & Chilli based industries in the state & especially to promote Nimari brand of chillies in India & abroad.
- This festival is locally called ‘Mirch Mahotsav’.
- The festival is a big opportunity for traders, investors, exporters & scientists as there will be Lectures, workshops, Seminars about new development in chilli farming & opportunities in chilli based Industries, & agriculture exhibition will also be showcased.



**Foot Notes**

**About Madhya Pradesh**

**Capital:** Bhopal

**Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath

**Governor:** Lalji Tandon

## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

### **1. Sweden starts testing world's first central bank digital currency.**

- Sweden's Riksbank had begun testing an e-krona, taking the country a step closer to the creation of the world's first central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- If the e-krona eventually comes into circulation it will be used to simulate everyday banking activities, such as payments, deposits and withdrawals from a digital wallet such as a mobile phone app. In January, the central banks of Britain, the euro zone, Japan, Sweden and Switzerland joined forces to assess the case for issuing CBDCs. CBDCs are traditional money, but in digital form, issued and governed by a country's central bank.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Sweden**

**Capital:** Stockholm

**Currency:** Swedish krona

### **2. Riek Machar swears in as first vice president in South Sudan.**

- In South Sudan, rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as first vice president.
- The rebel leader returns as first vice president in a transition government which will serve for 36 months.
- President Salva Kiir hailed the official ending of the war and said peace was now irreversible as the new unity government was formed after more than a year of delays.

**Foot Notes:**

**About South Sudan**

**Capital:** Juba

**Currency:** South Sudanese pound

### **3. Sri Lankan Government decided not to sign the Millennium Challenge Corporation(MCC) with the US Government.**

- The Sri Lankan government has decided not to sign the \$480 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) agreement with the US, taking into consideration the recommendations of a Committee that found some of its features threaten national security and welfare of the island nation.
- The four-member Committee headed by Professor Lalithasiri Gunaruwan, which submitted its interim report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last week, said there were clauses and conditions in the agreement that would
-

- negatively affect national goals and objectives, sovereignty, and national security, and were inconsistent with the legal framework and Constitution.

#### Foot Notes

##### About Sri Lanka

Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte • Colombo

President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Prime Minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa

Currency: Sri Lankan rupee

##### About United States

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Donald Trump

Currency: United States dollar

## New Appointments and Person in News

### 1. “Bhaskar Khulbe & Amarjeet Sinha” have been appointed as Advisers to PM.

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

### 2. CIBIL appointed HDFC Bank's “Rajesh Kumar” as its new MD&CEO.

- TransUnion CIBIL Limited, the largest credit information bureau, appointed Rajesh Kumar of HDFC Bank as its new managing director and chief executive.
- Kumar succeeds Satish Pillai who has moved to become the president of Asia region business of the US-based company. Prior to joining CIBIL, Kumar was the group head for retail credit and risk at HDFC Bank.
- In his role as the MD and chief executive, Kumar will be responsible for steering Cibil India's business into the next phase by ensuring it continues to support the domestic finance industry and consumers.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About HDFC

CEO: Aditya Puri

Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: August 1994

##### About CIBIL

Founded: August 2000

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairman: M.V.Nair

### 3. High Court Banned two books for hurting religious sentiments in Bangladesh.

- The High Court of Bangladesh banned two books for hurting religious sentiment and infringing individual freedom.
- The books Dia Arefin and Nanir Bani wrote by the blogger Diarsi Arag were published by Srishtighar Prokashana in Bangladesh.
- The court ordered the authorities to ban the publication, sale, distribution and marketing of two books with immediate effect.

#### Foot Notes:

About Bangladesh : Capital: Dhaka

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

Prime minister: Sheikh Hasina

## Banking

### 1.NABARD sanctioned over Rs 400 cr to boost infrastructure in J&K.

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned an amount of over 400 crore rupees to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during the current financial year for giving boost to the infrastructure in the rural areas.
- An amount of 143.66 crore rupees has been sanctioned for implementation of 38 water supply schemes. The sanctioned includes augmentation of 27 existing water supply schemes and construction of 11 new water supply schemes.
- These water supply schemes are aimed at providing safe and potable drinking water to rural households. The schemes will benefit over 3.5 lakh people across 86 villages in 17 districts.
- An amount of 47.11 crore rupees has been sanctioned towards improving the Animal and Sheep Husbandry sectors.
- A road length of 291 kms will be constructed benefiting 9.15 lakh people in 19 districts of UT of J&K. The construction of roads and bridges would provide all weather improved connectivity to 461 remote villages.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About NABARD

Founded: 12 July 1982

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

Formation: July 12, 1982

### 2. RBI's released new moto 'cash is king, but digital is divine'.

- With 'cash is king, but digital is divine' moto, the Reserve Bank on said its endeavour will be to make digital payments a divine experience for the users.
- RBI has observed over Rs 3.5 lakh crore reduction in the notes in circulation (NIC) post demonetisation.
- NIC increased at an average rate of 14 per cent between October 2014 and October 2016.
- Assuming the same growth rate, NIC would have been Rs 26,04,953 crore in October 2019.
- NIC, however, was Rs 22,31,090 crore, indicating that digitalisation and reduction in cash usage helped reduce NIC by over Rs 3.5 lakh crore.



**Foot Notes:**

**About RBI**

**Headquarters location:** Mumbai

**Founder:** British Raj

**Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata

**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

**3. DPIIT notified 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Insurance Intermediaries.**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) operating under the Ministry of Commerce and Trade has amended the FDI (Foreign Direct Policy) to allow 100% foreign investment for insurance intermediaries.
- This includes insurance companies, third-party administrators, insurance broking, loss assessors and surveyors.
- Initially, DPIIT had allowed only 49% of FDI in the insurance sector. This has now been increased to 100% to increase Ease of doing business in the insurance sector. With this move, the foreign companies shall easily buy stakes in Indian Insurance Companies.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**

**Headquarters location:** New Delhi

**Founded:** 1995

**Parent organization:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry:** Piyush Goyal

**4. Microsoft and SBI joined hands to train differently-abled people to help in finding jobs.**

- Microsoft announced a partnership with SBI to train differently-abled people find jobs in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- Over 500 differently-abled youths will be upskilled in the first year of the collaboration. Microsoft's president of global sales, marketing and operations Jean-Philippe Courtois said there are 26 million differently-abled people in India and it is essential to use newer ways to use technology to enable them participate in the 21st century economy.
- SBI Foundation and Microsoft will develop an artificial intelligence powered marketplace that will enable the BFSI industry to connect more easily with differently-abled people for upskilling and employment opportunities.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Microsoft**

**CEO:** Satya Nadella

**Founded:** 4 April 1975

**Headquarters:** Redmond, Washington, United States

**About SBI**

**Chairperson:** Rajnish Kumar

**Headquarters:** Mumbai

**Founded:** 1 July 1955

**Managing director:** Anshula Kant

**5. FM(Finance Minister) Nirmala Sitharaman launched EASE 3.0 for tech-enabled banking.**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 3.0 reform agenda. EASE 3.0 agenda aims at providing smart, tech-enabled public sector banking for aspiring India.
- This launch of EASE 3.0 would change the customer's experience at the Public Sector Banks (PSBs). The Ministry has the idea of establishing paperless and digitally-enabled banking at places where people visit the most.

**6. SEBI's chairman Ajay Tyagi gets six-month extension.**

- Chairman of Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Ajay Tyagi gets a 6 month extension from the government, whose tenure of 3 years (from 2017) to end on February 29, 2020. He is an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) of the Himachal Pradesh Cadre.
- His chairmanship of SEBI is been extended according to Sub-Section (1)(a) and Sub-Section (4) of Section 4 of the SEBI Act, 1992 (15 of 1992), read with Rule 3 of the SEBI (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Rules, 1992.
- His predecessor UK Sinha was also given multiple extensions & remained chairman for 6 years (2011-2017), even though his appointment period is for 3 years.
- The post as SEBI's Chairman has always been given to bureaucrats, especially IAS officers, except on one occasion when former LIC chairman GN Bajpai became the chairman in 2002.
- The candidates for regulatory top post will be shortlisted by the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC) & headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

**Foot Notes****About SEBI**

Established In: 1992

Headquarter: Mumbai, India

Chairperson: Mr Ajay Tyagi

**7. RBI approved appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank.**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of private sector lender IndusInd Bank for three years, which is effective from March 24, 2020.
- He is the successor of Romesh Sobti.

**Foot Notes****About IndusInd bank:**

**Headquarters:** Pune, Maharashtra

**Owner:** Hinduja Group

**Founder:** S. P. Hinduja

**About RBI:**

**Founded:** 01 Apr 1935

**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

**About IndusInd Bank**

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

**8. Bharti AXA General Insurance has started using WhatsApp to deliver policy and renewal document.**

- Bharti AXA General Insurance has started delivering policies and renewal premium to its customers through messaging platform WhatsApp. It plans to sell private cars, two-wheelers and travel insurance through a WhatsApp chatbot soon.

- The company is the first among non-life insurers in India to introduce the entire bouquet of service initiatives such as policy documents, renewal notices and claim intimation for its customers by using WhatsApp chatbot.
- With this innovative servicing platform, the customers can also avail assistance for various queries or service requests through the chatbot.

#### Foot notes

##### About Bharti AXA General Insurance

**CEO:** Sanjeev Srinivasan

**Headquarters:** Mumbai

**Founded:** 2008

**Parent organizations:** Bharti Enterprises

## Science Tech & Defence

### 1. India attended SCO defence and security experts meeting in Pakistan.

- Pakistan hosted a two-day meeting of defence and security experts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad which was attended by India and other member states.
- The 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of the SCO discussed different aspects of cooperation between the SCO members.
- The participating countries besides Pakistan included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India. Belarus attended the meeting as the observer state.
- India attended the meeting in Pakistan assumes significance in the wake of their strained ties in recent years. For the first time, India will host the annual meeting of the council of heads of government of the SCO later this year.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Pakistan

**President:** Arif Alvi

**Capital:** Islamabad

**Currency:** Pakistani rupee

**Prime minister:** Imran Khan

### 2. Rajnath Singh laid foundation stone for Indian Army's new headquarters 'Thal Sena Bhawan' in Delhi Cantonment.

- The Indian Army is all set to get new headquarters called "Thal Sena Bhawan" in the Delhi Cantonment area. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for construction of a new Army headquarter building in Delhi Cantonment.
- "Thal Sena Bhawan" will be spread over 39 acres, and will come up near the Manekshaw Centre in the Delhi Cantonment area in the next five years. The Thal Sena Bhawan will bring all Army headquarters offices under one roof and help in better synergy and working efficiency.

#### Foot Notes:

Chief of the Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane

### 4. Country's first floating jetty inaugurated in Goa by union minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

- Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the country's first floating jetty and an immigration facility at a cruise terminal in Vasco.

- The jetty is located in the state port department's premises on the banks of Mandovi river. This floating jetty is the first such facility in the country. It is made of cement concrete.
- It will boost inland waterways. "Jetty" refers to a walkway accessing the centre of an enclosed waterbody.

**Foot Notes:****About Goa****Governor:** Satya Pal Malik**Chief minister:** Pramod Sawant**Capital:** Panaji**5. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed performance of OFB and four DPSUs.**

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the performance of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and Defence Public Sector Undertakings – Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) here today. The officials of OFB, HAL, BEL, BEML and BDL who gave presentations on their ongoing and future projects to Raksha Mantri and senior officials of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.
- While expressing satisfaction at the overall achievements of OFB and these DPSUs, Shri Rajnath Singh urged them to strive further to increase their competitiveness in the global market.
- Raksha Mantri also urged the officials to explore new modes of business models, focussing on increased defence exports.

**Foot Notes:****About OFB****Headquarters:** Kolkata**Founded:** 1712**Subsidiary:** Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli**Type of business:** Government**About HAL****Founded on:** 1964**Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka**Chairman and managing Director:** R. Madhvan**6. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information launched new Alert System to help fishermen.**

- The Hyderabad based INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information) launched a new alert system that will help reduce damage and losses to fishermen due to swell surges.
- The INCOIS, an autonomous body operating under ministry of earth sciences.
- The Swell Surges splash strong waves in the coast damaging boats and nets. The system will help fishermen to get prior alerts about swell surges and safeguard their boats.

**Foot Notes:****About INCOIS****Headquarters location:** Hyderabad**Founded:** 1999**7. ISRO to launch GISAT 1 New Age Satellite on 5th march to monitor the Indian sub continent.**

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is to launch GISAT 1 (Geo-Imaging Satellite) in order to watch Indian sub-continent continuously.
- The satellite is to be launched by the ISRO on March 5, 2020. The satellite is to be carried by GSLV-F10 rocket. The satellite weighs 2,275 kg and is to be placed in Geosynchronous orbit.

- GISAT is a Geo-Information Satellite. The satellite is to do a full rotation of the earth and come to the same point every 2 hours. The satellite is capable of performing rapid surveillance and fast imaging. The ISRO has designed the satellite in such a way that if needed the satellite can observe a point for a longer duration.

**Foot Notes:****About ISRO****Headquarters:** Bengaluru**Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai**Founded:** 15 August 1969**Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan**8. Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel-6 "VAJRA" launched at Chennai.**

- The sixth offshore patrol vessel 'Yard 45006 VAJRA' to enhance coastal security was formally launched at Chennai. The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro under the Centre's 'Make in India' campaign, would be used for day and night patrolling.
- According to Coast Guard, the 'Yard 45006' is the sixth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessel projects. The vessel is 98 metres long and 15 metres wide with a gross tonnage of 2,100 tonne.
- It is equipped with two diesel driven engines and can reach a maximum speed of 26 knots.
- The ship would be fitted with CRN-91 and 12.7 mm guns and an integral twin engine helicopter enhancing its operational, surveillance, search and rescue capability. The vessel would be utilised for day and night surveillance along with anti-terrorist, anti-smuggling operations in the exclusive economic zone.

**Foot Notes:****Minister of State for Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers:** Shri Mansukh Mandaviya**About Indian coast guard:** **Headquarters:** Mangalore, Karnataka **Director General:** Krishnaswamy Natrajan**9. Defence Minister inaugurated new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at HAL Complex in Bengaluru.**

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru, Karnataka. In the last five years, India has made significant progress towards manufacturing military equipment indigenously under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Rajnath Singh commended HAL for being the backbone of the Indian Air Force and meeting the requirements of the Armed Forces.
- LCH is a 5.5-tonne class combat helicopter designed and developed by HAL. 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.

**Foot Notes:** **About Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, **Founder:** Walchand Hirachand **CEO:** Sajal Prakash**10. Samsung Mobile became India's most desired brand for the fourth time.**

- Korean electronics giant Samsung has trumped competitors to emerge at the top in TRA Research's Most Desired Brands list for India. The company bagged three ranks in the top 10.
- Its mobile phones grabbed the number one spot for the second time in a row. Samsung's diversified consumer electronics division was placed at the third spot in the Top 20 list. It also bagged the seventh spot in the televisions category.
- Samsung had also led TRA's Most Desired list in 2013, 2015 and 2018. Apple's iPhone jumped one rank over the previous year to secure the second place among this year's most desired list.



**Foot notes****About Samsung****Founder:** Lee Byung-chul**Founded:** 1 March 1938, Seoul, South Korea**Headquarters:** Seoul, South Korea

## **Important Days**

### **1. First anniversary of the iconic National War Memorial observed on February 25.**

- The first anniversary of the iconic National War Memorial in New Delhi is being observed on 25 February.
- The National War Memorial commemorates the soldiers who made supreme sacrifice during the Counter Insurgency Operations and Peacekeeping Missions.
- More than 25 thousand soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces have laid down their lives to defend the country's sovereignty and integrity. For the first time Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to the fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial instead of the Amar Jawan Jyoti on Republic Day this year.

### **2. National Science Day (NSD) observed on February 28.**

- National Science Day (NSD) is observed every year on February 28. On this day President Ram Nath Kovind will present several awards for science communication and popularization as well as for women scientists.
- The theme of this day is "women in science". NSD is celebrated every year on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect'.
- On this day, Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. The Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day (NSD) in 1986.

### **3. Right To Protein declared February 27 as India's first "Protein Day".**

- Right To Protein, a national-level public health initiative has launched India's first 'Protein Day' on 27th February. The day was observed to draw public attention, raise awareness, and educate India on the health benefits of protein.
- Globally many countries recognize it as the Protein Day and from this year India will also join this movement.
- The key objective through the day's activities and beyond will be to spread more knowledge about protein and bring about a behavioral change by persuading Indians to eat adequate protein in every meal.

**Foot Notes:****Theme :** Protein Mein Kya Hai**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:** Harsh Vardhan

### **4. Rare Diseases Day was observed on February 29, 2020.**

- Rare Disease Day (RDD) is an observance held on the last day of February. This year marked the 13th observance of International Rare Disease Day, which was observed on February 29, 2020. The day creates an awareness of rare diseases and improves access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases & their families.
- Slogan of RDD 2020: "Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud".

- Rare disease is also called an orphan disease or disorder that affects a small percentage of the population. The day was established & celebrated since 2008 by the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURODIS) to spread awareness for unknown or overlooked illness.

#### Foot Notes

About EURODIS:

**Founded:** 1997

**Headquarters:** Paris, France

**President:** Yann Le Cam

## Sports

### 1. Divya Kakran wins a gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships.

- ✚ Divya Kakran became only the second Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships defeating junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki in New Delhi.
- ✚ Divya won all four bouts in the five-wrestler 68 kilogram category, as the competition was fought in the round-robin format.
- ✚ Navjot Kaur had become the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Championships in 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 65 kilogram.

### 2. FC Goa becomes first Indian club to qualify for AFC Champions League group stage.

- FC Goa on became the first team from the country to qualify for the group stage of the AFC Champions League, the continent's top-tier club competition.
- It secured this spot after beating Jamshedpur FC by 5-0 in an Indian Super League match.
- The top team at the end of the league stage of ISL has been guaranteed a berth in the 2021 AFC Champions League.

#### Foot Notes:

About ISL

**Organising body:** FSDL

**Founded on:** octobar 21,2013

### 3. ICC bans Oman player Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi from all forms of cricket for 7 years.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Oman player Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi from all forms of cricket for seven years for his involvement in trying to fix matches.
- Al Balushi accepted four charges of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code. The charges are all related to the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifiers 2019 held in the United Arab Emirates.

#### Foot Notes:

About ICC

**Chairperson:** Shashank Manohar

**CEO:** Manu Sawhney

**Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### 4. India will host the Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships in January 2022.

- India will host the Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships in January 2022. The medals from the two events will be counted for ranking of competing nations at the Birmingham Games. The medals will be added to the final tally one week after the conclusion of the Games.
- The two events will be held in Chandigarh in January 2022 while the Birmingham Commonwealth Games is scheduled from 27th of July to 7th of August, 2022. India also received wholehearted

support from the International Shooting Sports Federation and World Archery, the global governing bodies of the two sports.

#### Foot Notes:

**Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships Hosting city:** Chandigarh

**Year:** 2022

**Commonwealth games hosting city:** Birmingham, United Kingdom

#### 5. Steve Smith dethrones Virat Kohli to regain top spot in ICC Test rankings.

- Australia run-machine Steve Smith moved past India captain Virat Kohli to reclaim the No.1 Test batsman.
- Kohli dropped 5 points after a poor outing in both the innings of the Wellington Test.
- Virat Kohli has now slipped to No.2 in the ICC rankings for Test batsmen with 906 points. Steve Smith leads Kohli by 5 points.

#### Foot Notes

##### About ICC

**Founded:** 15 Jun 1909

**CEO:** Manu Sawhney

**Chairman:** Shashank Manohar

## Awards

#### 1. Jeff Bezos retained No 1 spot in Hurun Global Rich List and Mukesh Ambani got 9th spot in same.

- Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos is still the richest person in the world, even after losing \$7 billion in one year, according to the ninth annual Hurun Global Rich List.
- Bezos, 56, has retained the top spot for the third year with an estimated net worth of \$140 billion, mainly due to the world's largest divorce settlement with former wife MacKenzie Bezos, who made the list in her own right with \$44 billion.
- French billionaire business magnate Bernard Arnault ranked second, with an estimated worth of \$107 billion, up \$21 billion from last year, according to Hurun Global Rich List 2020. Microsoft founder Bill Gates and Warren Buffett were on third and fourth spots, respectively.
- Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani was the only Indian to make into the top 10 rankings this year with a net worth of \$67 billion. Ambani, 62, ranked among 10 richest billionaires for the second time after a \$13 billion or 24 per cent jump in his wealth to \$67 billion.

#### 2. Forest Man of India & environmentalist Padma Shri “Jadav Payeng” honoured with 6th Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020.

- On February 29, 2020 Forest Man of India & environmentalist Padma Shri “Jadav Molai Payeng” is honoured with the 6th annual Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi award 2020 for his consistent efforts in creating a man made forest through afforestation. The award comprises of a trophy, a recitation & a reward of Rs 1 Lakh. He is also a forest worker from the missing tribe from Jorhat, Assam.
- The award ceremony is organised by My Home India in New Delhi & Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javedkar handed over the award. Karmayogi award is presented to recognize extraneous achievement towards development of the North east region of India.

#### Foot Notes

**Ministry of Environment and Forests:** Mr. Prakash Javdekar

**About Jadav Payeng:**

- A) He planted & tended trees on a sandbar of the Brahmaputra River & turned it into forest. The forest is called Molai forest after him.
- B) In 2015, he was honoured with Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India.
- C) He is scripting a new conservation story – a book on the protection of the environment.

## Obituaries

### 1. Former Egyptian President “Mohammed Hosni Mubarak” passed away at 91.

- Egyptian president Mohammed Hosni Mubarak died at the age of 91. He was severely ill in the last months of his life. He served as the President of Egypt between 1981 and 2011. Initially he served as an Air force officer.
- It is to be noted that he undertook training in Soviet Union in 1961 at the Kant Air Base near Bishek. Mubarak was ousted from his rule in 2011. He and his sons were detained on allegations of corruption and abuse of power.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Egypt

**President:** Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**Currency:** Egyptian pound

### 2. Renowned Vedic Scholar Sudhakar Chaturvedi passed away at age of 122.

- Renowned Vedic Scholar and Gandhian Sudhakar Chaturvedi passed away .The centenarian was given the title Chaturvedi for his mastery over the four vedas.
- Deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and Arya Samaj movement, he handed over 50 spiritual books in four languages.
- He had spent his last few years teaching Vedas to young enthusiasts.



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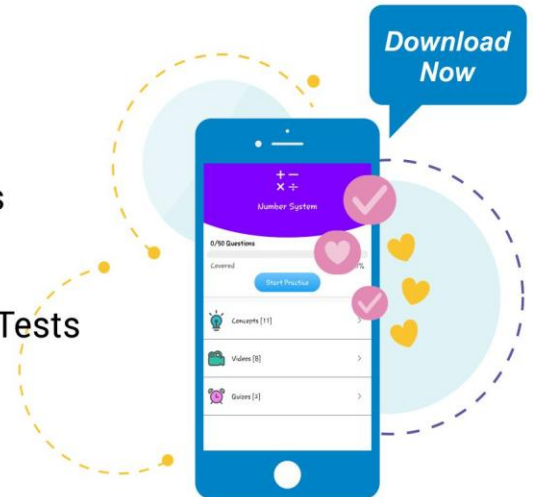
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