

## Weekly One-Liner

22-29 Feb 2020

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#### Weekly One Liner Updates 22-29th February 2020

#### Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liner Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the fourth **week** (22-29th) of **February** 2020. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway** & Insurance exams.

#### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. The National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2019-24 has been prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC) of the RBI.

Note:

- In order to promote financial literacy among customers and to provide access to formal financial services in an affordable manner, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2019-24.
- The strategy has been prepared by Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC) of the RBI in consultation with the Centre, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA).
- 2. Which countries central bank has begun testing world's 1st digital version of currency, e-krona \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland. Note:
  - Sveriges Riksbank (or simply the Riksbank), the central bank of Sweden, had begun testing its digital version of currency, e-krona.
  - If this year-long pilot project successful, this would lead to the creation of world's 1st central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- 3. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated India's economic growth rate to be \_\_\_\_\_4.9 %.
- 4. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), has granted a sum of Rs. 400.64 crore to \_\_\_\_Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Note:

- The amount has been sanctioned under its 'Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Trench XXV' for boosting rural infrastructure during the current financial year-FY (2019-20).
- Out of the total amount, Rs. 209.87 crore will be provided for the construction of 82 rural roads length of 291 kms & 3 bridges.
- This will benefit 9.15 lakh people in 19 districts of UT of J&K & they get all weather improved connectivity to 461 remote villages.
- 5. To train differently-abled people to find jobs in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector Microsoft has collaborated with the \_\_\_\_\_State Bank of India (SBI).

Note:

▶ In the first year of partnership 500 differently-abled youths will be upskilled.

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- As a part of this partnership, SBI Foundation and Microsoft will develop an artificial intelligence powered market so that BFSI industry can connect more easily with differently-abled people for employment opportunities.
- 6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed to open new branches without prior permission to <u>Bandhan Bank</u>. Note:
  - > The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted the ban on Bandhan Bank & allowed it to open new branches without prior permission.
  - However, the RBI came up with some regulatory conditions & directed the bank to order about 25 % of the total banking outlets to be opened in rural areas where banking facilities are not available.

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7. Who will chair the 9-member committee to examine the possibility of allowing life insurers offer indemnity based health policies formed by IRDAI \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. G. Srinivasan.

Note:

- > After banning life insurers from selling indemnity-based health policies a few years back in July 2016, IRDAI has formed a 9-member committee led by Mr. G. Srinivasan to examine the possibility of allowing them again and extant statutory provisions that are applicable in this regard.
- > The committee, co-chaired by Mr MR Kumar, Chairman of LIC of India, will have to submit its recommendations within 2-months.
- 8. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has came up with a new method of calculating India's growth through a Working Paper titled "Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model".

Note:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has came up with a new method of calculating India's growth through a Working Paper titled "Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model" under the RBI Working Paper Series, introduced in March 2011.
- > The Paper is co-authored by Soumya Bhadury, Saurabh Ghosh and Pankaj Kumar. The paper introduces the Dynamic Factor Model of calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP), using 12 indicators.
- **9.** 1st non-life insurer in India to use Whatsapp chatbot for entire services \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharti AXA General Insurance.** Note:
  - Bharti AXA General Insurance becomes the 1st non-life insurer in India to use Whatsapp chatbot for entire services such as policy documents delivery, renewal notices & claim intimation for its customers.
  - It will soon start to sell private cars, 2 wheelers & Travel insurance through Whatsapp.
- **10.** RBI mandates banks to link all new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with external benchmark from \_\_\_\_\_ April 1,2020.

#### Note:

- > In a bid to strengthen monetary policy transmission, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has ordered banks to link all their new floating rate loans to medium enterprises with an external benchmark effective from April 1, 2020.
- > The external benchmarks will include Reserve bank's reportate, Treasury bill (T-bill) yields of 3 months or 6 months /any other benchmark published by the Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL).
- > The banks will have to reset the external benchmark every 3 months.
- **11.** Who inaugurated the 'Baroda Startup Banking' service with the objective of making Bank of Baroda (BoB) a preferred ally of startup companies \_\_\_\_\_ Rajiv Kumar.

Note:

- Finance Secretary Shri Rajiv Kumar has inaugurated the 'Baroda Startup Banking' service with the objective of making Bank of Baroda (BoB) a preferred ally of startup companies and connecting more than 2,000 startups over the next 2- years.
- > The initiative was launched simultaneously in 15 cities across India.
- 12. Which Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) has launched an SME lending product "UDAAN" for women entrepreneurs to provide secured loans upto Rs.40 lakhs \_\_\_\_ Capri Global Capital Limited.

Note:

- > The Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) has launched an SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises) lending product "UDAAN" for women entrepreneurs to provide secured loans upto Rs.40 lakhs only for Business purpose with the loan repayment period of 10 years to 15 years at a competitive interest rate after conducting due diligence.
- Women borrower has to be the primary applicant, within the age group of 18-45 years and must not be more than 60 years of age at the end of their loan repayment period.



13. To launch co-branded credit card 'Ka-ching, HDFC Bank has ties up with \_\_\_\_\_ IndiGo.

#### Note:

- > The travel credit card named 'Ka-ching'- powered by Mastercard.
- The co-branded cards are available in 2 variants. It includes basic '6E Rewards' and the premium card '6E Rewards XL' & annual membership fee of '6E Rewards' will be Rs 750 while that of '6E Rewards XL' will be Rs 3,000.
- 14. To promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment a campaign named "UPI Chalega" has been launched by \_\_\_\_\_

NPCI.

- Note:
  - National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an industry campaign named "UPI Chalega" to promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment.
  - The "UPI Chalega" campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.
  - > NPCI has launched the campaign in association with the payment ecosystem players.

#### **Obituaries**

Name the India Footballer who was a part of India's bronze-medal winning teams in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 and 1966, passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ Ashok Chatterjee.

Note:

- The former Indian Footballer Ashok Chatterjee who was a part of India's bronze-medal winning teams in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 and 1966, passed away at the age of 78 in Kolkata due to age related issues.
- Ashok was Born and brought up at Halder Para Lane, Howrah in Kolkata. He made his International debut in the Merdeka Cup in 1965 against Japan.
- > Chatterjee also represented India in the 1966 Asian Games, Bangkok and the Asian cup Qualifiers in 1967
- Name the former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away recently, \_\_\_\_Krishna Bose.

Note:

- Krishna Bose, former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away at the age of 89 in Kolkata, West Bengal due to heart-related ailments. She was the Chairperson of the Netaji Research Bureau.
- She was born on 26th December 1930 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Krishna Bose joined politics in the mid-1990's. She was elected as MP from the Jadavpur, West Bengal constituency in 1998 and 1999 as TMC candidate.
- 3. Renowned personality Katherine Johnson passed away recently she was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_Mathematician. Note:
  - ➢ Famous NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson passed away at the age of 101 in Virginia, US.
  - She was born on August 26, 1918, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, US. Her life was portrayed in the movie "Hidden Figures".
  - > Katherine was awarded a "Presidential Medal of freedom" by former President Barack Obama in 2015.
- **4.** Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak who passed away recently was former President of **\_\_\_\_\_Egypt.**

#### Note:

- Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak, former President of Egypt passed away at the age of 91, in Cairo, Egypt.
- > He was born on 4th May 1928 in Egypt. He served as the president of Egypt for nearly 30 years (1981-2011).
- ▶ He joined the Egyptian Air Force in 1949 and became the commander -in-chief of the Egyptian Air Force in 1972.
- ▶ He also served as the Vice President (VP) of Egypt on October 14, 1981.
- 5. Name the Centenarian Vedic Scholar and Freedom fighter passed away recently, \_\_\_\_\_ Sudhakar Krishna Rao. Note:

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- Sudhakar Krishna Rao, Centenarian Vedic Scholar and Freedom fighter passed away at the age of 122 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- > He was born on April 1897 at Balepete, Bengaluru.
- He was the founding editor of Veda Taranga, the Kannada magazine devoted to Vedic studies. He was given the title "Pandit Sudhakar Chaturvedi" for his authority on all the four Vedas.

#### **Important Days**

**1.** The World Thinking Day is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_**22<sup>nd</sup> February.** 

#### Note:

- Each year on February 22 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 150 countries celebrate World Thinking Day.
- > The theme of World Thinking Day 2020 is "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion".
- > On this day girls from every part of the world does the same activity around a shared theme.
- 2. The Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_24<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Note:

- Central Excise Day was celebrated every year on February 24 across India to encourage the employees of the excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way and to prevent corruption.
- The Central Excise Day is celebrated to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act, which was enacted on February 24, 1944.
- Right to Protein, a national-level public health initiative, has launched India's 1st Protein Day on \_\_\_\_\_ 27 February, 2020.

Note:

- ➢ It is to raise awareness about the health benefits of protein.
- > Theme of the Protein Day 2020: ProteinMeinKyaHai.
- > The theme aims to include proteins in our every meal.
- 4. National Science Day (NSD) was observed all over India on \_\_\_\_\_February 28, 2020.

#### Note:

- This day marks the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir ChandraShekhara Venkata Raman (also called Sir C V Raman) on 28th February 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- > In 1986, the Government of India (GOI) declared Feb 28 as National Science Day.
- > Theme of the NSD 2020: "Women in Science".
- 5. World Non-Governmental Organization Day was observed annually on \_\_\_\_\_ 27<sup>th</sup> February.

#### Note:

- The human Right activists & all individuals celebrated World NGO Day 2020, to raise awareness about the NGO sector and to encourage people worldwide who are involved & dedicatedly working for a good cause.
- The day was officially recognized and declared by 12 member countries of the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic sea states in 2010 and was first marked by the UN (United Nations), EU (European Union) leaders and international organizations in 2014.

Rare Disease Day (RDD) is an observance held on the \_\_\_\_\_ last day of February.

#### Note:

6.

- 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".

#### **New Appointments**

- 1. Who has been appointed as the as a new chairman of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) \_\_\_\_\_Vijay Adani. Note:
  - > USIBC represents the top global companies across the United States,India and Indo-Pacific.
  - Prior to the current position as an Executive Chairman, Vijay Advani was the CEO of Nuveen and earlier was Co-President of Franklin Templeton Investments.

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- Who has been elected as the President of Rowing Federation of India \_\_\_\_\_ Rajlaxmi Singh. Note:
  - > The election was conducted under the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) observer K Govindraj.
  - Rajpal Singh, G Bhasker, Souvik Ghose and Sreekunura Kurup were elected as 4 Vice-Presidents (VP) and Nababudin Ahmed as treasurer.
  - > Krishna Kumar Singh and Chirajit Phukan were elected as the 2 joint secretaries.
  - The executive members of RFI consists of 5 members: Jasbir Singh, Venkateshwara Rao, Ismail Baig, Jacob and Manjunatha.
- **3.** The world's Oldest government leader Mahathir bin Mohamad (94) resigned as Prime Minister of \_\_\_\_\_ **Malaysia.** Note:
  - His resignation has been accepted by Malaysia's king Al-Sultan Abdullah of Pahang and also named him as the Interim prime minister of Malaysia until a successor is appointed.
  - Mahathir has dissolved his entire cabinet and also called off his political party from Pakatan Harapan coalition. He also resigned from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, the political party of which he was chairman.
- 4. Who has been appointed as the as the Chairman & Managing Director of State-run hydro power giant NHPC \_\_\_\_\_ Abhay Kumar Singh.

- ▶ He is also acting as a Nominee Director in Loktak Downstream Hydroelectric Development Corporation Limited.
- > In 1983, he completed his Civil Engineering from NIT (National Institute of Technology, Durgapur, West Bengal
- Singh joined NHPC at Tanakpur HE(Hydro Electric) Project as a Probationary executive in 1985 & played a vital role in many hydroelectric projects for 35 years.
- 5. Who has been reelected as the President of the Togo \_\_\_\_\_ Faure Gnassingbe.

#### Note:

- Faure Gnassingbe is from political party The Union for the Republic party. He took 72% of votes in the first round of presidential election and was re-elected for a fourth term.
- Final result to be announced by the Supreme Court.He defeated Agbeyome Kodjo, who won only 18% of the votes.
- Before 2012 he was a Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) candidate, after 2012 he formed & headed a new party named as The Union for the Republic (UNIR).
- 6. Who has been appointed as the new President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Michael Miebach. Note:
  - > He will replace Ajaypal Singh Banga, who assumes charge as Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors.
  - Miebach currently serving as the Chief Product Officer(CPO) in Mastercard and will become the President from March 1, 2020. He will also assume charge as CEO and a member of the Board of Directors from January 1, 2021.
- 7. Who has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Sunil Gurbaxani.

#### Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Sunil Gurbaxani as managing director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of three years. Gurbaxani is working with Axis Bank at present.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank was removed from the RBI Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, subject to certain conditions and continuous monitoring, as the bank is found to be not breaching any of the risk thresholds of the framework.

#### Important News - India

- 1. Union Minister of State for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the India's first floating jetty in \_\_\_\_Goa. Note:
  - > The jetty was inaugurated on the banks of Mandovi river, Goa
  - The floating jetty is made up of cement concrete which was built on a short time, will boost inland waterways, they are environment friendly and 3 more will be built in Goa.
  - Also, an immigration facility office was inaugurated at a cruise terminal in Vasco, Goa.

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- 2. The National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs was inaugurated at \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi. Note:
  - Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Union Minister of Women and Child Development (WCD) inaugurated National Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
  - > It is jointly organized by both the ministries with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner.
  - > The theme of the festival is 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.
- 3. Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has installed a India's 1st squat machine at \_\_\_\_\_ Anand Vihar Railway Station in Delhi.

- > It was installed to promote the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi-led "Fit India" initiative.
- **4.** The first-ever 2 days long Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav 2020 was held in \_\_\_\_\_ **Agartala, Tripura**.

#### Note:

- It was inaugurated by Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb & organized by Department of Tourism, Government of Tripura in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.
- > The key attraction of the festival includes Seminars, discussions, cultural events,etc.
- 5. The International Judicial Conference "Judiciary and The Changing World" was held in \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

#### Note:

- > The theme of the conference was "Gender Just World".
- Chief Justice of India Sharad Arvind Bobde, Attorney General Kottayan Katankot Venugopal, and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also addressed the gathering.
- > The aim of the conference was to facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad.
- The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women.

#### 6. Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM) has completed \_\_\_\_\_four years.

#### Note:

- The 4th anniversary of the launch of Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission (SPMRM) has been celebrated. The mission was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on 21 February 2016.
- Launched by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, it focuses on cluster-based integrated development through location planning.
- Under this, rural clusters are identified in rural areas across India, where increasing signs of urbanization such as increasing urban density, high levels of non-agricultural employment, increasing economic activity and other socio-economic scale are being received.
- 7. World's largest 'Export Cold Zone' to Store Agro, Pharma Products has been unveiled in \_\_\_\_\_ Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL).

Note:

- Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) has unveiled the world's largest airport-based temperaturecontrolled facility, the 'Export Cold Zone'.
- It is for processing and storage of agro and pharma products, for which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will be the largest export gateway.
- 8. 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) was held in \_\_\_\_\_Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

#### Note:

- > The theme of the conference was "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home".
- The summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi through video conferencing and was attended by Union Minister of Environment, Prakash Javadekar, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Minister of State (MoS) for Environment and Forests Babul Supriyo, among others.
- > It was inspired by "Kolam", a traditional art form from southern India.
- The CMS COP 13 mascot was "Gibi The Great Indian Bustard". It is a critically endangered species accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

#### 9. Losar festival was celebrated in \_\_\_\_\_ Himachal Pradesh.

#### Note:

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- > The festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar also called Tibetan New Year.
- ▶ Losar is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism.
- **10.** Which state tops in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts rating for 2019-20 \_\_\_\_\_Haryana.

- According to the recent ratings regarding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts, prepared for the 1st time by the Central Government,
- Small state Haryana has emerged as the best state in DBT payouts (Rs.4782 crore in over 4 crore transactions) in 2019-20.While, West Bengal has emerged as the worst performer in DBT payouts (8793 cr through 5 crore transactions) and ranked 36th position.
- **11.** Which state became the 1st state in the country to have 100% LPG coverage due to the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \_\_\_\_\_Himachal Pradesh.

Note:

- Following the implementation of the PMUY scheme, the state government launched 'Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana' in May 2018 to cover the scheme to remaining households.
- Under the scheme except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.
- Nearly 2.64 lakh free gas connections were provided through the state funded Grihini Suvidha Yojana & 1.36 lakh were benefited through PMUY scheme.
- **12.** 5-day long 5th edition of India-UK bilateral air exercise "Indradhanush-V" 2020 was held in \_\_\_\_\_Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Note:

- ➢ 'Base Defence and Force Protection' was the focus of this edition's exercise.
- 36 specialised combatants from RAF Regiment & 42 combatants of the GARUD Force from IAF team participated in this exercise with para drops from C-130J aircraft, tactical insertions by Mi-17 V5 helicopters and use of various airborne sensors.
- During the exercise both the elements of the air force will share and jointly validate strategies and tactics to tackle terror threats to their installations.
- In accordance with the "2019 World Air Quality Report-Region & City PM2.5 Ranking" compiled by IQAir AirVisual, what is India's rank as most polluted country \_\_\_\_5<sup>th</sup>.

Note:

- > The report has been prepared by monitoring the real time data to tackle the urgent issue of air pollution.
- Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM2.5 exposure. It is followed by Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and India at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.
- **14.** Who led the committee that submitted its report on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 \_\_\_\_\_Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma.

Note:

- A high-powered committee headed by retired former Gauhati High Court (HC) Justice Biplab Kumar Sarma has formally submitted its report on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 to Assam Chief Minister (CM) Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of state's finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other officials.
- The report will then submitted to the Union Home Minister (HM) Amit Shah.

**15.** India's 1st Artificial intelligence summit, RAISE 2020 will be held in \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi.

Note:

- The Government of India announced India's 1st Artificial intelligence summit, RAISE 2020- 'Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment' will be organized in New Delhi.
- The summit will be organized by the Government of India in partnership with Industry & Academia & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It is to be held between April 11 & 12, 2020.
- The government launched AI-Startup Challenge & the event website. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit.
- 16. Which company has signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations \_\_\_\_NTPC. Note:
  - NTPC will provide financial support of Rs 80 crore for installation of 25 CAAQMS across 6 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs).

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- 6 States: CAAQMS will be installed in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Patna (Bihar), Varanasi, Lucknow, Kanpur & Allahabad (all in Uttar Pradesh [UP]), Pimpri Chinchwad (Maharashtra) and Madurai (Tamil Nadu).
- 3 UTs: CAAQMS will also be installed in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Port Blair), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (Silvassa) and Daman & Diu (Daman).
- **17.** To launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with \_\_\_\_\_NASSCOM.

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with NASSCOM to launch the artificial intelligence (AI) based module including AI kits across 5000 Atal Tinkering Labs for the beneficial of 2.5 million students in the country from February 27, 2020 so that students can get for better knowledge of AI.
- > Additionally, an AI Step-up Module is under development that is to be launched as next step.
- **18.** According to the 1st edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index 2019-20 which state emerged as the best performing state in terms of digitising land records with the score of 74.9 **Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- According to the 1st edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2019-20) released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Madhya Pradesh (MP) emerged as the best performing state in terms of digitising land records with the score of 74.9.It was followed by Odisha (67.5points) and Maharashtra (65.3 points).
- > While Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh ranked at bottom at 33rd position with a score of 2.0.
- **19.** "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe (ST) Representatives in Local Self Governments (LSG)" has been launched in \_\_\_\_\_Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Note:

- Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda has launched the "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe (ST) Representatives in Local Self Governments (LSG)" in Bhubhaneswar, Odisha in the presence of Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Navin Patnaik.
- Arjun Munda also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS (Geographic Information System)-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs during the event.
- **20.** 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) 2020 will be held in \_\_\_\_\_ Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Note:

- The 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) will be held from May 6 to May 8, 2020 at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka. WPC is the world's largest convention for productivity development which promotes innovation and world class practices that shape future productivity growth and to be held in India after 45 years. WPC was held in India in 1974.
- Theme of 19th Productivity Congress 2020: "Industry 4.0 Innovation and Productivity"
- 21. Indian Railways launched its First "Restaurant on Wheels" at \_\_\_\_ Asansol Station, West Bengal.

#### Note:

- Also, 2 new air-conditioned retiring rooms & Electronic Reservation Chart Display System and a Battery operated car was inaugurated at Asansol station, West Bengal.
- The Restaurant on wheels was developed by modifying 2 over aged MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) coaches.

#### **Important News - State**

- 1. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a scheme\_\_\_\_\_ Jagananna Vasthi Deevana. Note:
  - The 'Jagananna Vasathi Deevena' scheme will aid students pursuing various post-intermediate courses and are from low-income households with hostel and mess fees and ensure that they get Rs 20,000 per year.
  - The money will be credited to the students' mothers' accounts in two instalments each year. This will cost the government Rs 2,300 crore, and the scheme is expected to benefit 11,87,904 students.
- 2. Losar festival is being celebrated in \_\_\_\_\_ Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

Note:

> Losar festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar and is also called Tibetan New Year.

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It's a festival related to Tibetan Buddhism and marks the Ladakhi New Year.

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3. Which state became the 1<sup>st</sup> state to introduce the unified registration card? \_\_\_\_\_ Madhya Pradesh

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- Madhya Pradesh became the 1st Indian state to introduce the unified registration card and the 2nd state to launch the unified driving license after Uttar Pradesh.
- These cards will have exhaustive information on both sides with a unique number, emergency contact number and QR code for data verification.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued the guidelines regarding uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in March 2019.
- 4. 'Vasantosav' Cultural festival is organised by \_\_\_\_\_ Gujarat Government. Note:
  - The department of Youth and cultural Affairs, Government of Gujarat has organised cultural festival called "Vasantotsav" to celebrate the rich diverse heritage of the country
  - The theme of "Vasantotsav" 2020 was "Ek Bhaart Shreshth Bharat".
  - The Eight-day annual cultural fair called "Vasantotsav" was inaugurated on 25 February at Sanskruti Kunj in Gandhinagar.
- 5. Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved to change the name of \_\_\_\_\_ Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University.

Note:

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to change the name of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University which is known as Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Languages University.
- > The university is in Lucknow
- 6. State Government has decided to undertake the genetic study for the conservation of the native species of domesticated animals \_\_\_\_\_Maharashtra.

Note:

- The genetic study aims to conserve the native species of domesticated animals in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.
- Under this project, genetic traits of Osmanabadi goat, Red Kandhari cow, Deoni bull, Caravan or Pashmi dogs will be studied.
- 7. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has inaugurated BSNL FTTH at \_\_\_\_\_ Dehradun, Uttrakhand. Note:
  - Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated BSNL FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) and WiFi services at Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun.
  - For the first time in Uttarakhand, all users will get 100 mbps speed of internet. Customers of other networks will not face any network problems with the WiFi facility.
- 8. Indian city has launched world's largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility \_\_\_\_\_Mumbai. Note:
  - The Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) has launched the world's largest airport-based temperaturecontrolled facility known as the 'Export Cold Zone' for processing and storage of agro and pharma products.
  - The exclusive terminal can hold over 700 tonnes of such cargo at one time with a combined annual capacity of 5.25 lakh tonnes.
  - > MIAL a joint venture between the GVK led consortium (74%) and Airports Authority of India (26%).
- 9. Capacity building programme for Scheduled Tribe PRI Representatives is launched at \_\_\_\_\_Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Note:
  - Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda launched "Programme for Capacity Building of Scheduled Tribe Representatives in Local Self Governments" at Bhubhaneswar (Odisha).
  - He also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs.
  - > FRA Atlas of Odisha and short documentary film on FRA in Odisha were also released on the occasion.

#### Important News - World

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1. An MoU for up-gradation of infrastructure in plantation schools for estate workers of Indian origin was signed between India and \_\_\_\_\_ Sri Lanka.

#### Note:

- The MoU was signed between Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, acting High Commissioner of India and Secretary, Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka, Mr. N.H.M Chithrananda at Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The project is implemented to upgrade the infrastructure of 9 plantation schools as identified by Sri Lanka under an Indian grant assistance of Rs 30 crores.
- The Paris based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) continue to keep Pakistan in \_\_\_\_\_Grey List.

#### Note:

2.

- Islamabad (Pakistan) continues to remain on grey list & If it does not curb the financing of terrorism by June 2020, it will be put on the blacklist.
- The decision has been taken by FATF after the completion of its 6-day plenary session in Paris, France.
- > Pakistan was placed on the grey list in June 2018. It was given an action plan to complete by October 2019.
- **3.** The 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was held in \_\_\_\_\_ **Stockholm, Sweden**.

#### Note:

- It was hosted by Government of Sweden in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO).
- > The aim of the meet was to chart future strategic directions for global road safety and to share successes and lessons from implementation of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020.
- > It should be noted that United Nations (UN) has set a goal under the UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030.
- 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in \_\_\_\_\_ Islamabad, Pakistan. 4. Note:
  - - > The conference was to discuss different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states and regional security.
    - > They have agreed on joint training and military exercises. The event was hosted by Pakistan as part of the 'SCO Defence & Security Cooperation Plan - 2020'.
    - India has attended this meet along with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Belarus attended the meeting as the observer state.
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Barun Global Rich List 2020 is released by Harun Global

#### Note:

5.

- Hurun Global Rich List 2020 is released that rank of the world's dollar billionaires.
- It is a compilation of the richest 2,817 individuals across the globe having a net worth of \$1 billion or even more.
- Jeff Bezos has topped the list while Mukesh Ambani ranked 9<sup>th</sup> came out to be the richest in India.
- China with 799 Billionaires topped the list followed by USA.

#### **Honor & Awards**

**1.** Who won Miss Diva Universe 2020? **Adline Castelino.** 

#### Note:

- Adline Castelino (from Mangalore) has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition at an event held in YRF (Yash Raj Films) Studios, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- She will go on to represent the country at Miss Universe later this year.
- Aavriti Choudhary (Jabalpur) crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020 and was crowned by his predecessor Shefali Sood.
- Who won the SERB Women Excellence Award-2020? Niti Kumar 2. Note:
  - > Dr Niti Kumar is a Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow.
  - > Her research team is testing the protein quality control machinery in human malaria parasite for exploration of alternative drug targets for malaria intervention.
- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra. 3. Note:
  - Actor Ravi Dubey served as the host of the event.

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- > This is a unique platform to honour and encourage the most creative filmmakers, and to infuse life into their career.
- Hrithik Roshan bagged the Best Actor award for film "Super 30".
- **4.** The Raja Ravi Varma State Award was conferred on **Prof. J.S. Khanderao (2019)** and **Vasudev Kamath (2020)**. Note:

- Veteran painter from Kalaburagi, Prof. J.S. Khanderao (for the year 2019) and senior artist from Mumbai, Vasudev Kamath (2020) were awarded with the Raja Ravi Verma State Award.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10,000 and a citation.
- Raja Ravi Varma State Award was instituted by Karnataka's Shri Ravivarma Art Institute.
- Which Film editor has entered Limca Book of Records \_\_\_\_\_ Sreekar Prasad 5.

- Sreekar Prasad, a veteran film editor has entered Limca Book of Records for 'films edited in the most number of languages'.
- He has edited films in 17 languages till now in Tamil, English, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Odia, Bengali, Assamese, Punjabi, Nepali, Marathi, Sinhalese, Karbi, Mishing, Bodo, and Pangchenpa.
- ➢ He also holds eight National Awards.
- Who will be awarded with Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020? **Jaday Payeng** 6. Note:
  - Forest Man of India Jadav Payeng will be awarded Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award 2020 in New Delhi.
  - He was awarded the 6th Karmayogi Award for his consistent efforts in creating a real man-made forest through massive reforestation.
  - The award is composed of a trophy, a recitation and a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

#### **Sports News**

- 1. The International Cricket Council (ICC) bans Oman cricketer \_\_\_\_\_ Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi. Note:
  - The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Oman cricketer Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi from all forms of cricket for seven years.
  - Al Balushi accepted four charges of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code related to the ICC men's T20 World Cup Qualifiers 2019 held in the United Arab Emirates.
  - Yousuf has not been an active player for Oman for a few years after being named among the reserves for the 2016 T20 World Cup.
- 2. Which country will host Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championship India.

#### Note:

- 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 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.
- **3.** Five-time Grand Slam winner Tennis player has announced retirement **Maria Sharapova.**

#### Note:

- Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 32. after a struggle with shoulder injuries.
- This Russian tennis player won her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon in 2004 aged 17.
- She became world number one in 2005 and won the US Open in 2006.
- **4.** Kiren Rijiju inaugurated 1<sup>st</sup> Khelo India Winter Games in \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Territory of Ladakh.** Note:

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- The Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the first-ever Khelo India Winter Games in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- > It is being organized to promote winters sports as well as to harness youth's talent of India.
- Open Ice Hockey Championship, Figure Skating, Speed Skating will be the three winter sports held during the winter games.
- 5. Who has become the first player in the cricketing world to play 100 matches in all the three formats of the game\_\_\_\_\_ Ross Taylor.

- Ross Taylor reached the landmark feat during the first international cricket match of India and New Zealand bilateral test series started at Basin Reserve in Wellington.
- Former New Zealand wicket-keeper Ian Smith presented Ross Taylor with 100th Test cap before the match.
- Ross Taylor has represented New Zealand in 231 One Day International matches, 100 T20 International matches and 100 Test matches.
- Which Football Confederation has become the first Indian club to qualify for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League group stage\_\_\_\_\_ FC Goa

Note:

- FC Goa sealed the top spot in the Indian Super League (ISL 2019-20) standings, finishing as the league's tabletopper after beating Jamshedpur FC 5-0 in an Indian Super League match.
- No team from the country has ever played in the group stage of AFC Champions League since its introduction in 2002.
- 7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 1st Khelo India University Games at \_\_\_\_\_Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium Note:
  - Ist Khelo India University Games is organised at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha through video conferencing.
  - > About 3,400 athletes from 159 universities across the country will be participating across 17 disciplines.
  - It is the largest ever multi-discipline sports event being conducted at one venue for University.

Note:

- Russia will be the first country to host the new format of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Team World Cup 2020.
- AIBA Executive committee members voted in favour to approve the Russian bid at its meeting in Budapest, Hungary.
- The tournament will be coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II under the motto "Boxing for peace".
- 9. India's Grandmaster D Gukesh has won the \_\_\_\_\_34th Cannes Open in France.

Note:

- D Gukesh (Tamil Nadu) defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of France in 50 moves to win the chess tournament. Siva Mahadevan of India secured the 10th place with six points.
- He was the world's second youngest Grandmaster in 2019 when he won the Hillerod 110th Anniversary Open event in Denmark.

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