

Weekly One-Liners

8-14 March 2020

ROTECTION & SECURIT





Weekly One Liner Updates 8-14th March 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the second week (8-14th) of March 2020. This file is important for, Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

Note:

- In order to create interest in education for the under-privileged girls aged 12-16 years, by using football coaching as a medium, Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched a 'Bachhpan Ka Rakshakaran' program in association with Mumbai based Non-profit 'Oscar Foundation'.
- > It is a joint venture company formed by Tata Sons Ltd and AIA Group Ltd (AIA).
- It also conducted a full day coaching session at Astra Turf, WIFA (Western India Football Association), Cooperage, Colaba in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 2. Which Metro Rail Service in partnership with Paytm has launched a QR-code-based metro ticketing system

____Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited.

Note:

- This system will help people book digital tickets easily and it also reduces the ticket congestion at the ticket counters.
- > It also provides a hassle-free journey to the customers.
- > Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) will introduce two more trains between Ameerpet and Raidurgam route.
- **3.** Board of Approval headed by Anup Wadhawan approved TCS, DLF proposals to set up SEZs for IT in _____Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Note:

- The highest decision-making body for special economic zones (SEZs) chaired by the commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan, has approved the proposals of Information technology (IT) major TCS and DLF Limited to establish a special economic zones (SEZs) for IT sector in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Haryana respectively.
- TCS has proposed to establish an IT/ITeS (Information Technology Enabled Services.) SEZ in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, over an area of 19.9 hectare at a cost of Rs 2,433.72 crore.
- Similarly, DLF has proposed to establish two SEZs in Haryana with an investments worth of Rs 793.95 crore and Rs 761.54 crore.
- 4. Under the draft scheme of reconstruction of the Yes Bank "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020" SBI can invest for

up to _____49% stake.

Note:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after exercising its powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, has issued a draft scheme of reconstruction of the Yes Bank. \
- It should be noted that State Bank of India (SBI) wants to invest in Yes Bank and also to participate in its reconstruction scheme.
- SBI can invest for up to 49% stake for nearly Rs 2,450 crore. Here are the key points from draft scheme titled "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020":
- 5. As a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Moody's Investors Service again lowered India's growth projection to _____5.3% for 2020.

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- Previously on February 17, 2020 it had reduced India's growth projection from 6.6% to 5.4% for 2020.
- Moody's Global Macro Outlook stated that the spread of COVID- 19 will result in simultaneous supply & demand shocks which will result in further slowing down of the global economic activity particularly in the 1st half of this year.
- ≻
- 6. On the basis of 'Customers First' approach which bank has reduced its interest rate on savings bank (SB) accounts to 3% along with waiving off of average monthly balance (AMB) for all SB accounts _____State Bank of India.
 - Note:
 - State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced its interest rate on savings bank (SB) accounts to 3% along with waiving off of average monthly balance (AMB) for all SB accounts on the basis of 'Customers First' approach.
 - Also, to make home and auto loans cheaper SBI reduced its one-year marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) to 7.75% from 7.85%. All these changes are with effect from March 10, 2020.
- To provide a shield against all uncertainties of life at an affordable premium which company has launched iSelect+ Term Plan _____ Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company.

Note:

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Limited launched iSelect+ Term Plan to provide a shield against all uncertainties of life at an affordable premium which includes Whole Life Cover, Return of Premium, Multiple Payout Options, Increase Coverage Option & Tax Benefits.
- The plan is designed to provide a death benefit, terminal illness, & has additional options of the accidental death benefit, accidental total, permanent disability benefit & child support benefit
- It offers different options for not only coverage but also for premium payment & benefit payouts. Customers can choose from the various options provided & customize it as per their requirement.
- 8. To improve water management practices & also to increase agricultural productivity which state has signed a loan agreement of US\$80 million with World Bank _____Himachal Pradesh.

Note:

- The Integrated Project for Source Sustainability & Climate Resilient Rain-Fed Agriculture to be implemented in 428 Gram Panchayats in 10 districts which will benefit over 400,000 smallholder farmers, women & pastoral communities.
- It will improve upstream water sources to ensure sufficient water is available for sustainable agriculture in Himachal Pradesh & downstream states.
- > The key component of the project is to enhance the climate resilience of agriculture & its allied activities for which efficient use of water is the focal point
- > It will establish hydrological monitoring stations to monitor the water quality and quantity.
- **9.** Name the world's first Digital Solutions Exchange Cloud launched in India _____ **GOKADDAL**.

Note:

- GOKADDAL, the World's first Digital Solutions Exchange in Cloud, was launched in India on March 11, 2020.
- www.gokaddal.com, a cloud-based solution exchange platform mainly focuses on 4A's Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Augmentative Technologies.
- It is a Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G), Business to Consumer (B2C) solution platform which connects solution providers to solution seekers and an innovative platform for Startups and SME companies.
- **10.** Who has been appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank _____Amitabh Bachchan.

Note:

- > Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan was appointed as the first-ever ambassador of the IDFC FIRST Bank.
- > IDFC FIRST Bank was founded as a new entity by the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First on December 18, 2018.
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 What amount has been approved by the executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India to invest in Yes Bank _____ Rs 7,250 crore.

Note:

- The executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India (SBI) has approved an investment of Rs 7,250 crore in Yes Bank Ltd. as a part of RBI formulated rescue plan titled "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020" for the revival of Yes Bank.
- The SBI has not specified its shareholding the bank but it will remain under 49% of the paid-up capital of the Yes Bank.
- > The investment has been made by purchasing 725 crore equity shares of Yes Bank at a price of Rs 10 per share
- According to the report "Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the third quarter (October-December) of 2019-20", released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's current account deficit (CAD) fell sharply to _____\$ 1.4 billion, or 0.2 % of GDP.

Note:

- This figure was 2.7 % of GDP (or \$ 17.7 billion) in the same period of last fiscal and 0.9 % of GDP (or \$ 6.5 billion) in the previous quarter of the current financial year.
- The Net Foreign direct investment (FDI) stood at \$ 10.0 billion. It is higher level than in the same period of 2018-19, which registered \$ 7.3 billion.
- Foreign portfolio investments: It posted a net inflow of \$ 7.8 billion compared to an outflow of \$ 2.1 billion in 2018-19 due to net purchases in both the debt and equity markets.
- **13.** For UPI transactions PhonePe inks partnership with private sector lender _____ICICI Bank.

Note:

- PhonePe earlier partnered with Yes Bank, but after YES Bank has been placed under moratorium by Reserve Bank of India due to which UPI transactions at PhonePe got disrupted.
- The popular payment app had faced outage for nearly 24 hours after the Reserve Bank of India put a moratorium on March 5.

Obituaries

- 1. Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan passed away recently, he was associated with _____Politics. Note:
 - Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan, DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) party General Secretary for 43 years, passed away at the age of 97 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
 - > He was born as Ramaih on December 19, 1922 Kattoor, Thiruvarur district, TN.
 - ▶ He was a sound academician and served general secretary of DMK party for 9 times from 1977.
- 2. Renowned personality Hansaraj Bhardwaj passed away recently, he was associated with _____Politics.

Note:

- Former Union Law Minister and former governor of Karnataka & Kerala, Senior Congress leader passed away at the age of 83 in New Delhi, India.
- > He was born in Garhi Sampla village in Rohtak district, Haryana.

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- > He also holds the record of India's second longest serving Law Minister.
- He served as Rajya Sabha member for 5 terms from April 1982 to May 2009.
- **3.** Name the famous Swedish Actor who passed away recently _____ **Carl Adolf von Sydow**.

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Note:

Carl Adolf von Sydow, Swedish actor, passed away at the age of 90 in Provence, France. He was born on April 10, 1929, in Lund, Sweden.



- He was known for his character who played a game of chess with death in the movie "Seventh Seal", directed by Ingmar Bergman and also the Three-Eyed Raven (Fictional Character) in "Games of Thrones" and the horror classic film "The Exorcist".
- He considered his director Bergman as his mentor and worked with him in 11 films, which includes Wild Strawberries, The Passion of Anna, Shame and The Virgin Spring.
- **4.** Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee passed away recently, he was associated with _____**Cinema.**

- Veteran Bengali actor Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee, 69 a widower passed away at his south Kolkata residence due to cardiac arrest. He is known for his films 'Sansar Simante' & 'Bhalobasa Bhalobasa'. He hails from Kolkata.
- > He got good recognition on the big screen for films like 'Ganadevata' & 'Byapika Biday'.
- > His other memorable works for 4 decades include, 'Hemanter Pakhi', 'Dadamoni' & 'Baikunther Will'.
- > He is a familiar face in small screen & worked in soaps like 'Ishti Kutum', 'Jol Nupur' & 'Andarmahal'
- > He has 2 daughters namely, Swastika Mukherjee- Indian actress & Ajopa Mukherjee- costume designer & actress.
- 5. Name the former Czechoslovak javelin-thrower, passed away recently _____ Dana Zatopkova.

Note:

- She is an Olympic javelin champion, won gold in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 and won the Olympic silver in Rome in 1960.
- > Dana Zatopkova was born on September 19, 1922 in Frystát, Czechoslovakia.
- She also won a European championship in 1954 and 1958 and in 1958, she set the world record of 55.73 meters. Helsinki Organizing Committee declared her "the happiest gold medalist".
- She served as a coach in 1960 and retired from the role in 1980.

Important Days

- 1. The International Women's Day (IWD) 2020 was observed globally on ____March 8, 2020. Note:
 - Since 1977, the United Nations (UN) Women is organizing International Women's Day (IWD) all over the world on March 8 to recognize women for their efforts in changing the individual lives as well as of nations. The day celebrates women's achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.
 - > The 2020 theme for IWD was "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights".
- 2. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is observed every year on _____10th March.

Note:

- The 51st CISF Raising Day is celebrated on March 10, 2020, for better protection and security throughout the country and to create awareness among the public regarding the role and functions of CISF.
- > CISF provides security to all the government infrastructure projects all over the country.
- 3. The World Kidney Day is observed globally on _____ March 12.

Note:

- The World Kidney Day is observed on March 12, 2020 to raise awareness on the importance of kidneys to our health and also reduce the impact of kidney diseases, its associated health problems.
- This year marks the 15th Observance of World Kidney Day which is observed globally on second thursday of March every year since 2006.
- 4. The World Sleep Day was observed on _____March 13, 2020.\

Note:

- The World Sleep Day was observed on March 13, 2020. The day creates awareness about the importance of healthy sleep, to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders.
- > The theme of the year 2020: "Better Sleep, Better Life, Better Planet".

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1. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive officer for the New joint venture formed by Mahindra and Ford with effect from April 1, 2020 _____ Anurag Mehrotra.

Note:

- This joint venture is formed to develop and sell Ford branded cars in India and other emerging markets. The joint venture created is valued at \$275 million (Rs 1,925 crore).
- Mahindra will own the controlling stakes of 51 per cent, while Ford will own 49 percent stakes in the new company.
- 2. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the 12 member committee to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) _____Injeti Srinivas.

Note:

- A 12-member high level panel was set up to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) chaired by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas.
- The Serious Fraud Investigation Office(SIFO) is set up under the corporate affairs ministry. Under the Chairmanship of Shri Naresh Chandra, former Cabinet Secretary. SIFO investigates white-collar crimes and the Headquarter of SFIO is at New Delhi.
- 3. Who has been appointed as the Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency _____ Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon. Note:
 - The Ministry of Defence announced that Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon (57) will be appointed as a Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, under the Chief of Defence staff (CDS) in the Department of Military Affairs, replacing Lt Gen AS Bedi.
 - Lt Gen KJS Dhillon of Indian Military Academy (IMA) served as XV Corps and handed over the charge to Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju. Lt Gen B.S. Raju has taken charge as a XV Corps commander from 1st March 2020 in Srinagar.
- 4. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PUMA for a period of two years _____ Kareena Kapoor Khan. Note:
 - Indian film actress Kareena Kapoor Khan signed a contract with German sportswear brand Puma to be its brand ambassador for a period of 2 years.
 - With this association she joins the brand's roaster of celebrity faces such as Virat Kohli, Sara Ali Khan, MC Mary Kom and Dutee Chand.
 - Kareena will be the face for Puma's low-intensity training apparel collection targeted at workouts such as yoga, barre and pilates.
- 5. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government's anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline–14400 _____PV Sindhu.

Note:

- Badminton world champion PV Sindhu is appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government's anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline– 14400
- She has featured along with Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in a video titled 'stop corruption' which states people keep their eyes & ears open against corruption.
- 6. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador in India for the Washington Apple Commission _____ Disha Patani and Sanjeev Kapoor.

Note:

- The Washington Apple Commission appoints Actor Disha Patani & celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor as brand ambassadors in India
- > The Commission launched a campaign called #WashingtonApplesKuchKhaasHai featuring its brand ambassadors.

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- > India is a key market for Washington apples.
- 7. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune & Bareskin

____Harbhajan Singh.

Note:

- Cricketer Harbhajan Singh becomes brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune & Bareskin as the company goes into offline retail with its first store in Jalandhar.
- 8. Who has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank _____Amitabh Bachchan.

Note:

- > Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan was appointed as the first-ever ambassador of the IDFC FIRST Bank.
- > IDFC FIRST Bank was founded as a new entity by the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First on December 18, 2018.
- 9. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Smartphone brand realme _____Salman Khan.

Note:

- Smartphone brand realme appointed Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador.
- ➢ Khan will endorse realme 6 & realme 6 Pro. In 2019, realme was the world's fastest-growing smartphone brand.
- **10.** Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador PepsiCo's snack brand Kurkure _____ **Akshay Kumar**.

Note:

- PepsiCo India has allegedly appointed actor Akshay Kumar as the new brand ambassador for its snacks brand Kurkure.
- **11.** Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of iQOO (i Quest On and On) _____Virat Kohli.

Note

- iQOO (i Quest On and On) named Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. The brand's first product in India is iQOO 3, 5G-enabled smartphone.
- > iQOO is a sub-brand of Vivo in China and has entered India as a separate entity & also part of the BBK group.
- The BBK (Guangdong Bu Bu Gao Electronics Industrial Private Limited) group markets smartphones of 5 brands: Vivo, OnePlus, OPPO, RealMe and iQOO (in India).

Important News - India

- What is India's rank, according to the "Wealth Report 2020" released by Knight Frank LLP _____12^{th.} Note:
 - According to the "Wealth Report 2020" released by Knight Frank LLP India had 5,986 UHNWIs Ultra high-networth individuals (UHNWIs) in 2019 and they expected to increase by 73% in the coming 5 years.
 - > This will almost double the current count to 10,354.
 - India, according to Knight Frank, ranks 12th and had 5,986 such individuals in 2019, which is likely to reach 10,354 by 2024.
 - The number of billionaires in India, on the other hand, is likely to reach 113 by 2024, up from 104 in 2019.
- 2. For e-Marketing of products made by Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the Country Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NULM) signed MoU with _____Amazon.

Note:

- > In the first phase of the e-marketing nearly 2,500 products will be on sale from March 28, 2020.
- About 24 states, 40 clusters and 350 SHGs have been enrolled in the 1st phase and has the potential to generate around Rs 45 crore in the next one year and aims Rs 500 crore turnover in the next 3 years.
- By promoting the products made by SHGs, helps in preserving & documenting the unique traditional art and crafts of different states.
- 3. Indian Coast Guard conducts 9th edition of rescue exercise 'SAREX-2020' in ____Goa.

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Note:

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has conducted a 2-day 9th edition of national level search and rescue exercise 'SAREX-2020' based on the theme 'Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue (HAMSAR)' in the sea at Vasco, South Goa district from March 5-7,2020.



- For the 1st time, it was attended by 3 pillars of national SAR mechanism i.e. Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Defence.
- It also saw the participation of 24 representatives from 19 countries, primarily from Asia and Africa, international delegates including 38 national observers and officials of 7 commercial airlines including 2 helicopter operators.
- This exercise consists of a series of conduct of workshop, table top exercise and sea exercise with focus on Mass Rescue operation (MRO).
- **4.** Which two cities are approved by the Government of India as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India ______Agartala and Ghojadanga.
 - Note:
 - Government of India (GOI) has approved Tripura capital Agartala and West Bengal's Ghojadanga as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India. Agartala and Ghojadanga are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border.
 - The senior immigration officers, under the Bureau of Immigration, have been appointed for the Check posts with effect from March 2, 2020.
 - The Central Government issued notification and approved check posts according to sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950, to Tripura and Ghojadanga land check post, located in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce" in _____ New Delhi.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce" at New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated by Minister of WCD, Smriti Zubin Irani & Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director India, World Bank.
- It is a part of a series of events to observe International Women's Day 2020
- 6. The Rural Development Ministry announced that Government plans to achieve 75 lakh SHGs by _____2022. Note:
 - Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, announced that the Rural Development Ministry plans to add more than 14 lakhs SHGs (Self Help Groups) to achieve 75 lakh SHGs by the year 2022 to enable more women to get livelihood.
 - The Minister announced this during the programme on Women's Empowerment to mark the International Women's Day held in New Delhi.
- Which becomes the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as "Department of Mission Shakti" ____Odisha.

Note:

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that Odisha is the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as" Department of Mission Shakti". It is created for the development of women & is dedicated to all the women of Odisha.
- Mission Shakti and Mamata Scheme combinedly benefits 70 lakh women in the state.
- > 50% reservation in Panchayati Raj has created a new era for the socio-economic development of women.
- Earlier in the state budget, it has introduced an independent Nutrition Budget, whose primary focus will be on mother-child nutrition.
- 8. The 6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit was held in _____New Delhi.

Note:

- The 6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit is held on 6th 7th March 2020 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. This summit is organised by the heads of the government, business leaders from India and throughout the world and by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- > The theme of the Global Business Summit is 'Collaborate to Create: Sustainable Growth in a Fractured World'.
- GBS 2020 will unfold the myriad contours of the world economy & define the factors that will lead the Indian economy to newer heights.
- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conveyed that India has offered 300 Lines of credit (LoCs) to 64 countries which involves 539 development projects.
- 9. National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs held in _____New Delhi.

Note:

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- Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development inaugurated the "National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces)" in New Delhi, India.
- The Conference was organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR & D). Smriti Irani also released a hand-out- 'BPR & D Mirror- Gender Bender' and also the book titled "To Greater Heights".
- Themes of the Conference 2020: 'Cyber Stalking and Bullying of Women: Steps for Protection" and 'Challenges faced by CAPF Women in Operational Areas".

10. United Nations Global Compact Network India has organized the 3rd edition of its Gender Equality Summit 2020 in **New Delhi.**

Note:

- > The summit, aims to create a strong roadmap towards gender equality at workplaces in India, focuseson driving and bringing in change for equal opportunities in employment and growth for the women skill workforce.
- The summit also coincides with the International Women's day (March 8), and consequently linked the international theme with the Indian context to underscore the present generation as a main role and the India Inc as a key catalyst for gender equality.
- The summit saw the participation of over 250 leaders including Nishtha Satyam, Deputy Representative of UN Women MCO for India, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka & Anjali Singh, MD, Deutsche Bank to share insights on 'women empowerment.
- **11.** Which state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan _____Andhra Pradesh. Note:
 - Andhra Pradesh (AP) ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, "Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan".
 - The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating Poshan Pakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.
- **12.** Which state ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations ______Gujarat.

Note:

- Nearly 50,915 domestic solar rooftops have been fixed in the state of Gujarat with a capacity of 177.67 MW on 2nd March 2020.
- Maharashtra is the second state to top in the domestic solar rooftop installations list with installation of 5,513 systems on 2nd March 2020.
- > About 79,950 systems have been installed throughout the country having a capacity of 322 MW.
- **13.** Which airport has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020 _____ Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh.

Note:

- The first phase of Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020.
- It has been recognised in the CG LA Infrastructure List. UP (India) and Yugoslavia (Europe) have been chosen in the field of aviation category all over the world.
- The success story of Jewar Airport will be presented by the UP government in two sessions at the 13th Global Infrastructure Leadership Forum, to be held in New York City, US (United States) on March 25 to 27, 2020.
- **14.** A week long Exhibition-cum-Fair, the first "EKAM Fest" organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) in _____New Delhi.

Note:

- > It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- EKAM, an acronym for Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing, was aimed to showcase products made with extra ordinary determination by the divyang (differently-abled) crafts persons and entrepreneurs.
- **15.** India post launches India's 1st digital parcel locker service in _____Kolkata, West Bengal.

Note:

- Under this service, customers will be able to collect their parcel from the post office according to their convenience. This facility is quite popular in European countries but is starting for the first time in India.
- This service has been done for such people of working-class, who do not have to receive any parcel at home. Such people can take their parcel and letters addressed to them from the kiosks at 24×7.

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- Customers adopting this facility will be given a special locker number for their address wherever the parcel will be dropped from India Post.
- 16. Which Railway Station to be converted as World Class Station _____ New Delhi.

- The committee chaired by Bibek Debroy has recommended concession of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties.
- Already, Railways proposed to initiate 150 passenger trains through private operators in PPP (Public-private partnership) mode on 100 routes by 2022.
- **17.** First regional edition of "Divya Kala Shakti Event" was held in _____Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

Note:

- Shri Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of TN witnessed the performances and V. Saroja, Minister of Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal programme and senior officers participated in the occasion.
- The event was organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- > The Divya Kala Shakti event aims to provide a platform for the disabled to exhibit their talents.

Important News - State

- 1. Which state cabinet approved to form trust for 'Ram Van Gaman Path' project _____Madhya Pradesh. Note:
 - The Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cabinet approved to form the trust under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Kamal Nath for the project of constructing 'Ram Van Gaman Path' project, a route taken by Lord Ram during his 14-years of life in the forest.
 - The project seeks to retrace the route believed to have been taken by Lord Ram during his life in forest and it is proposed to be constructed from Chitrakoot to Amarkantak. State chief secretary will be the member of the trust.
- 2. Which state government will launched digital literacy drive named "I am also digital" _____Kerala. Note:
 - Kerala will soon launch a digital literacy drive named "I am also digital" in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala, to create public-awareness about e-governance and use of various digital platforms through which wide ranges of services are being delivered.
 - The literacy drive is organized by Kerala State IT mission under the Department of Information Technology (IT) and Kerala Literacy Mission.
- 3. Which state government has launched a mobile app to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus _____Punjab.

Note:

- > The Punjab Government launched "Cova Punjab" mobile application to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus.
- > The application was launched by Punjab Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh.
- The application was developed by the Department of Government Reforms and Public Grievances in consultation with the Health & Family Welfare Department.
- **4.** Which state government has launched NIGHA application to curb the use of money and alcohol in the upcoming local body elections _____Andhra Pradesh.
 - Note:
- **5.** Which state government has approved the implementation of "happy hours" for auto rickshaws, reducing 15% of fare prices from 12 pm to 4 pm _____Maharashtra.

Note:

- Maharashtra Government (govt) has approved the implementation of "happy hours" for auto rickshaws, reducing 15% of fare prices from 12 pm to 4 pm, barring the minimum fare for first 1.5 km, as recommended by Khatua panel.
- > The decision will not be applicable to local taxis and app-based taxis.

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- > The panel also recommended a new concept will turn lean hours to happy hours, for housewives and senior citizens who normally don't have a fixed schedule for their outings.
- 6. Which state government has launched 'Namaste over Handshake' campaign to prevent from COVID-19 _____Karnataka. Note:
 - The Karnataka Government (govt) launched 'Namaste over Handshake' campaign in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 (CoronaVirusDisease-19) and advises people to keep a safe distance from one another.
 - The campaign conveys people to greet each other by 'Namaste' instead of shaking hands in order to protect themselves from others who might be affected with the COVID-19.
 - The state and health family welfare department has uploaded a poster on the social media with a message "Use Namasthe to greet others, fight against corona".
- 7. Which state government has launched Kaushal Satrang, Yuva hub and Apprenticeship scheme for skill development for youth of state _____Uttar Pradesh.

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath launched three ambitious schemes for skill development and employment generation for the state youths, during the 'Kaushal Satrang' programme organized by the Vocational Education and Skill Development and Labour and Employment Exchange departments at the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow, UP.
- Apart from this, it was announced that 'Arogya Mitras' at all primary health centres of the states will be deployed to inform people about the govt health schemes.

Important News - World

According to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study female labour-force participation has declined from 34% in 2006 to _____ 24.8% in 2020.

Note:

- In accordance with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study, India is the only country among the 153 surveyed countries where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gap.
- If women participation raised in the labour force same as men then it can boost India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 27%.
- Globally, 38.7% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.
- 2. The 5th edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2020 to be held in _____Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Note:

- This was informed by BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Mohammad Shahidu Islam during his meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister (PM) Mahinda Rajapaksa.
- > The summit will be preceded by the 17th Ministerial Meeting and 21st Senior Officials Meeting by the end of 2020.
- During the meet, it was decided that Sri Lanka will lead the science, technology, and innovation sector India on security, Bangladesh will lead Trade and Investment, Bhutan on Environment and Climate Change, Myanmar on Agriculture and Food Security, Nepal on People-to-People Contact and Thailand on Connectivity in BIMSTEC.
- **3.** India has joined Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as its _____**5th observer state.**

Note:

- India has joined Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as its 5th observer state to strengthen its Indo-Pacific vision and also to boost strategic partnership with France, and Vanilla Islands.
- > The decision has been taken during the meeting of the Commission's council of ministers in **Seychell**.
- > With this move, India would lead to greater security cooperation with countries in East Africa.
- > It facilitates collective engagement of India with the islands in Western Indian Ocean (WIO).
- 4. What is India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2020, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) _____ 46th.
- Note:
 - Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the 4th iteration of the Inclusive Internet Index 2020 for 100 countries where India is overall ranked in 46th place & Sweden in 1st place.
 - The index aims to measure the extent to which the Internet is not only accessible & affordable, but also relevant to all, allowing usage that enables positive social & economic outcomes at the individual & group level. It is commissioned by Facebook.

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- Among South Asian countries India ranks first followed by Srilanka, Bangladesh & pakistan.
- 5. Which country ranks first according to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020' _____Pakistan. Note:
 - According to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020', released by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), about 90 % or 9 in 10 of the world's population has some bias against women.
 - This index studied 75 countries covering over 80 % of the world's population & measures social beliefs that obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education.
 - The highest number of bias against women was in Pakistan, where 99.81 % of the people supported similar bias. This was followed by Qatar and Nigeria, where 99.73 % of the people supported bias.
- 6. What is India's rank in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) annual report titled "Trends in international arms transfers, 2019" _____Second.

- India is the world's second largest arms importer during 2015-19 with its global share of 9.2% after Saudi Arabia, who has topped the ranking with global share of 12%.
- On the other hand, India ranked 23rd in terms of world's largest arms exporters with global share of 0.2% and its main clients being Myanmar (46%), Sri Lanka (25%), and Mauritius (14%). United States (US) topped the list in this section with a share of 36%.
- 7. In the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020 released by the World Animal Protection India gained _____Grade C.

Note:

- World Animal Protection released the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020, where India gained C grade with other 8 countries which indicates India is one of the better-performing countries.
- Tragically no country gained A grade.
- **8.** Which organization has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust _____World Economic Forum (WEF).

Note:

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.
- This first of its kind platform, operating globally, is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, for integrated and collective business action to mitigate the risk and impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- > The Forum has established a special team to support the platform's work.

Honor & Awards

1. Who becomes the 1st woman to be promoted as Deputy Inspector General(DIG)of Indian Coast Guard _____ Nupur Kulshrestha.

Note:

- She joined Indian Coast Guard in 1999.
- On August 18, 1978 ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India & is operated under the Ministry of defence.
- > It is an armed forces & multi-mission organisation, which conducts real life operations at sea round the year.
- 2. President Ram Nath Kovind honoured 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for 2019 to _____15 women.

Note:

- > The award is conferred annually to eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment & social welfare.
- This award is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development(MWCD) to acknowledge the achievements of women for the nation & recognize their contributions towards society.
- 3. What was the theme of the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 _____ Women and Entrepreneurship.

Note:

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- On the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8, 2020), NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations (UN) in India has organized the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 in New Delhi.
- > The theme for WTI awards 2019 was "Women and Entrepreneurship".
- The awards were conferred by Defence Minister of India (or Raksha Mantri), Rajnath Singh who was the chief guest of an event.
- 4. Who have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively ______ Manpreet Singh Pawar and Rani Rampal.

- The captain of India men's national field hockey team, Manpreet Singh Pawar (27) & Captain of Indian Women Hockey Team, Rani Rampal (25) have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively.
- > Apart from the trophy, they also collected a prize money of Rs 25 lakh each.
- Harbinder Singh, who was a member of the Tokyo Olympics 1964 gold medal winning team, was honored with Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2019, which carries a prize money of Rs 30 lakh and a trophy.
 He was also a member of the bronze medal winning team at the 1968 Mexico and 1972 Munich Olympics.
- 5. Who has won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017- 2019 _____ V Praveen Rao.

Note:

- V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor JayaShankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-2019.
- The award will be conferred on him in June 2020.
- The award was constituted by Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
- 6. Who named as BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2019 _____PV Sindu.

Note:

- Indian Badminton player Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, 24 years old, won BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Indian Sportswoman of the year award 2019 and former sprinter Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha was awarded with Lifetime Achievement award.
- > The BBC award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju was the guest of honour and Tony Hall, BBC Director General hosted the awards ceremony event.
- 7. Which airport has been adjudged as best Airport in Airport Service Quality awards 2019 _____ Kempegowda International Airport.

Note:

- Annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards recognize and reward the best airports in the world according to ACI's 'ASQ Departure Survey' and the 'ASQ Arrivals Survey'.
- 34 key performance indicators under eight major categories were assessed during the survey & Indian Airports under the Airport Authority of India (AAI) have won many awards under Asia-Pacific region in "2019 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards".
- > The award is given by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- 8. Who has won Best Citizens of India Gold medal Award _____ Dr Jaimanti Bakshi.

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Note:

- Dr Jaimanti Bakshi, Professor & Unit Head II, Department of Otolaryngology and Head Neck surgery at PGIMER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research), Chandigarh was awarded with "Best Citizens of India".
- The award was given by "GEPRA" (Global Economic Progress and Research Association) during the National Unity conference held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).
- 9. Which Indian women has been included in 'Influential Women in Sport' list for 2020 _____ Nita Ambani.

Note:

- Sports business network, iSportconnect released the 'Influential Women in Sport' list for 2020, which named Nita Ambani, Serena Williams & Simone Biles along with 7 other women.
- Nita Ambani led her Mumbai Indians franchise to become the most successful in IPL history & is in many sports projects across different sports in the country.
- Tennis player, Serena Williams's overall impact both on the court, (the greatest female player of all time), & as a businesswoman.



Sports News

1. Name the Indian runner who has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) failing doping test _____ Prachi Choudhary.

Note:

- Indian 400-meter runner Prachi choudhary from Uttar Pradesh was tested out of competition and was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on March 6,2020, for the presence of anabolic steroid, Oxandrolone.
- > The provisional suspension starts to apply from February 20, 2020.
- Prachi Choudhary was tested out on 30 December 2019 in Patiala at Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports center by NADA's Dope Control Officers(DCO).
- > The test comes out positive from Qatar's Doha testing laboratory.
- 2. Name the former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket _____Wasim Jaffer.

Note:

- Wasim Jaffer (42) a former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He hails from Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ▶ He is the fifth-highest run-scorer in Indian first-class cricket with 10 Ranji trophy titles.
- Wasim Jaffer is the highest run-scorer in the Ranji and Irani Trophy, who became the first player to play 150 Ranji trophy matches and the first batsman to score more than 12,000 runs in Ranji Trophy with 40 centuries and 89 half-centuries.
- 3. Which country has won the 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament _____Australia.

Note:

- Australia women's cricket team defeated the Indian women's cricket team by 85 runs and won the title for the 5th time.
- **4.** Name the footballer of Malta who has announced his retirement from professional football _____ **Andre Schembri.** Note:
 - Currently Andre Schembri (33 years old) playing for Chennaiyin FC's (Football Club) announced that he will retire from professional football after the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) final against ATK FC in Goa on March 14, 2020.
 - > He announced retirement from international football in November 2018 after 94 appearances for his nation.
- **5.** The Asian/Oceanian Boxing Olympic Qualifiers event 2020 was held in _____**Amman, Jordan.** Note:
 - A total of 9 Indian boxers qualified in this event for Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which is to be held at New National Stadium in Tokyo, Japan from 24 July 2020 – 9 August 2020.
- 6. Which team has won the first ever Ranji Trophy title _____ Saurashtra.

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Note:

- Saurashtra won their maiden Ranji Trophy title after earning a 44-run lead in the first innings against Bengal which eventually ended in a draw in the final in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- > Jaydev Unadkat led the Saurashtra Team.

Mock Tests

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