

Weekly Current G.K.

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JANUARY 2020

4th Week

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ✚ January 9 NRI Day or Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas
- ✚ January 12 National Youth Day or Birthday of Swami Vivekananda
- ✚ January 15 National Army Day
- ✚ January 26 Republic Day of India, International Customs duty day

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **Highlights of India's 71st Republic Day:**
On January 26, 2020 India celebrated its 71st Republic Day. The day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect i.e. on 26 January 1950. The highlights of the republic day functions are as follows:
 - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro attended as chief guest.
 - A total of **16** states and Union Territories(UTs) and 6 central ministers participated in the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath in New Delhi. Jammu & Kashmir participated in the parade for the 1st time as a union territory.
 - 4th generation army officer Captain **Tania Shergill** (26 years) who became the **1st** woman officer as Parade Adjutant on Army Day Parade, led the corps of signals under the motto '**Teevra Chaukas**' (swift and alert).
 - **Dhanush gun system** Army Air Defence marching contingent took part for 1st time.
 - The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, approved the conferment of **Jeevan Raksha Padak** Series of Awards-2019 on **54** persons.
 - Indian Army's (IA) Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir) based 15 corps commander Lt Gen **Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon** was awarded with **Uttam Yudh Seva Medal**.
 - Indian Navy's commodore **Jyotin Raina** was awarded the **Nao Sena Medal**
- **Jharkhand' Jharia is the most polluted Indian city & Lunglei, Mizoram least polluted: Greenpeace India report 2018 :**
The **Greenpeace India report** for **2018** was released based on the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), on January 21, 2020. **Jharia** in Jharkhand which is known for Coal-belching is the **most polluted** Indian city with 322 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter) of PM₁₀ (Particulate matter) pollutants in 2018, according to the report analysis of 287 cities across the country. Out of 287 cities 231 cities were severely polluted.
 - (i) **Dhanbad** in **Jharkhand** which is known for its rich coal reserves and industries, is the **second-most** polluted Indian City with 264 un/m³ of PM₁₀ pollutants.
 - (ii) By taking marginal improvement in reducing air pollution, **Delhi** had jumped to the **10th** position in

the analysis . It was at the 8th position in the last report.

- (iii) **Lunglei** in **Mizoram** is the **least** polluted followed by Meghalaya's Dowki. It is also the only Indian city with PM levels under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) prescribed level of 20/ug/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter).
 - (iv) Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad and Firozabad are the **six** of the **top-10** polluted cities in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **EIU's 12th edition of Democracy Index 2019: India slips 10 ranks to 51st position, Norway tops:**
On January 22, 2020, According to the **12th** edition of the '**Democracy Index 2019: A year of democratic setbacks and popular protest**', released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, **India** has slipped 10 ranks to **51st spot** with the score of 6.90 in this index, which provides a blueprint for the current state of democracy in 165 independent states and two territories.
Top & bottom: Norway tops the list with a score of 9.87 while **North Korea** is at the **bottom** with 167th place with 1.08 points.
 - **India Opens 1st Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre in Niger**
On January 21, 2020, India's Minister of External Affairs (MEA) Shri **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** and Nigerian President Mahamadou Issoufau inaugurated the first convention centre in Africa namely "**Mahatma Gandhi convention centre**"(MGICC) established at the state of **Niger** in Western Africa by India to honour the memory of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This is the **1st** centre established in Africa by India under grant assistance. Mr.S.Jaishankar was the **first Indian-foreign Minister** to visit the West-African country during his national trip visit to Niger (West Africa) and Tunisia (North Africa).
- Key Points:**
- (i) The Convention centre has been designed with modern and eco-friendly facility including a 2000 capacity of Plenary hall (wide participation from African Union Member states).
 - (ii) It is likely to host the forthcoming African Union AU Summit in the new convention center which will further contribute towards enhancing of bilateral ties.
 - (iii) **Contribution to Niger:** India has provided Lines of Credit(LoC) worth \$96.54 million to Niger for projects in transport, electrification, solar energy and potable drinking water.

About Niger:

Capital- Niamey.

Prime Minister (PM)- Brigi Rafini.

Currency- West African CFA (African Financial Community) Franc.

- **'Vigyan Samagam', India's 1st global Mega Science Exhibition inaugurated at National Science Centre in New Delhi by Dr. Jitendra Singh**

On January 21, 2020, the Union Minister of State Independent Charge (I/C) Ministry of Development Of North Eastern Region, Minister of State (Mos) Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pension, Minister of State for Department of Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated India's first global Mega Science Exhibition "**Vigyan Samagam**" at **National Science Centre**, New Delhi. The exhibition is organized by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and the **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** & will be held from January 21, 2020, to March 20, 2020.

• **France to be the guest of honour at 2022 New Delhi World Book Fair:**

On January 22, 2020 France ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain has announced that **France** will be the **guest of honour** at New Delhi World Book Fair for the year 2022 (**NDWBF 2022**) as part of the reciprocal invitation as New Delhi was the guest of honour for 2020 Livre Paris (Paris Book Fair).

• **1st ever 2-day long "Innovation festival" was organised by Arunachal Pradesh govt at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh**

On January 25, 2020 Arunachal Pradesh state council for science & Technology (APSCS&T) in partnership with National Innovation Foundation organised the 1st ever Innovation festival at science centre IG Park, Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh. The two days festival aims to encourage the cultural innovation among the people and students of Arunachal Pradesh.

• **12th South Asia Conference held in New Delhi**

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 12th edition of the South Asia Conference at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in New Delhi from January 28-29, 2020. The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India's neighbourhood etc. The theme of the conference was **India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions.**

Key Points:

- (i) The Govt's commitment of about \$13.14 billion in credit-lines and about \$4 billion in assistance to the neighbouring countries over the last decade were discussed.
- (ii) **Participants:** All members of SAARC and Myanmar participated in the conference. Members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries were called for cooperation to end terrorism.
- (iii) **Members present:** The IDSA Director General Ambassador Shri Sujan R Chinoy and other senior military & civil officials of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) were present on the occasion.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

• **Switzerland mints world's smallest gold coin values 1/4 Swiss francs**

On January 23, 2020 Switzerland state-owned Swissmint has minted **World's smallest gold coin** of 2.96 millimeter (0.12 inches). The coin features a face of scientist **Albert Einstein** sticking out his tongue. It weighs 0.063 grams (1/500 th of an ounce) and has a

nominal value of 1/4 Swiss francs (USD United States Dollar- 0.26).

Key Points:

- (i) Its weight is comparable to that of 2 grains of rice.
- (ii) Swissmint has minted 999 coins which will be sold for 199 francs with a special magnifying glass to see Einstein's face.

About Switzerland:

Capital- Bern (De-facto).

Currency- Swiss franc.

• **Highlights of 50th WEF annual meeting 2020 held in Davos, Switzerland**

The 50th edition of the 2020 World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting was held in Davos-Klosters, in Switzerland from January 21-24, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "**Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World**". The WEF summit aims to engage world leaders to collaborate for global, regional and industrial development etc. The highlights of the summit in detail are as follows:

- On January 23, 2020 the World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced **new internet security principles** which will help nearly **1 billion users**.
- The **1st ever public blockchain** track and trace platform built to help businesses respond to the demands of customers for ethical and environmentally friendly products.
- **1st global consortium** was formed and it works on designing a framework for **digital currency governance** that also includes stablecoins.
- The republic of **India** has joined as a **founding govt member** of the WEF's '**Reskilling Revolution**'.
- The O.P Jindal Global University (JGU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **University of Zurich (UZH)** in **Switzerland** for mutual cooperation in higher education and research.
- **Madhya Pradesh (MP)** govt has made **investments worth Rs. 4,125 crores** at WEF from various investors.
- The govt of **Karnataka** signed a pact with WEF to start "**Centre for Internet of ethical things**".
- The Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) signed a pact with WEF to **focus on drones**.
- The **Tata steel Kalinganagar (TSK)** in Jajpur district of Odisha, was honoured at the WEF 2020 for its recent admittance to the **Global Lighthouse Network (GLN)** of WEF.
- Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** was honoured with 26th Crystal award 2020

PERSONS IN NEWS

• **Katerina Sakellaropoulou becomes Greece's first woman president**

On January 22, 2020, independent candidate **Katerina Sakellaropoulou** (63 years), became the **1st Woman President of Greece** elected by Greece's Parliament for a period of 5 years. She will be officially sworn in as Greece's **13th President** in April, 2020. She will succeed Prokopis Pavlopoulos, the current president.

• **CEC Sunil Arora takes over as the new chairman of FEMBoSA** On January 24, 2020 India's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Sunil Arora** took over as the new Chair of the **Forum of the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of South Asia (FEMBoSA)** for the year

2020 during the **10th annual meeting** of FEMBoSA held in New Delhi. Sunil Arora succeeds K.M. Nural Huda, CEC of Bangladesh. FEMBoSA is a regional association of Election Management Bodies (EMB) of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries and has 8 members.

- **Sunil Mehta got appointed as Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association**

On January 27, 2020, Former managing director (MD) and chief executive officer(CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB), **Sunil Mehta**, took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**. Mehta will replace VG Kannan, who resigned from office as chief executive of IBA on December 31, 2019.

OBITUARIES

- **Monty Python star Terry Jones passed away at 77**

On January 22,2020 **Terence Graham Parry-Jones**, a member of the **Monty Python** (Comedy group) passed at the age of 77 in London, England due to dementia. He was a very famous actor and writer who played a variety of characters in the iconic comedy group's flying circus TV series, and had also directed several of their films. In past, an **asteroid, 9622 Terryjones**, was named in his honour.

- **Former Minister of Odisha, Jagannath Rout passes away at 77:**

On January 24, 2020 Senior Congress leader and former Minister of Odisha, **Jagannath Rout** has passed away at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, Odisha due to cardiac arrest. He was 77.

- **Noted Urdu poet Ajmal Sultanpuri passed away at 97:**

On January 30, 2020 **Ajmal Sultanpuri**, urdu poet passed away at the age of 97 in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP) due to age related illness. He was born in 1923 in Harakhpur in Sultanpur district, UP.

- **Assamese litterateur Sashi Sarma passed away at 89:**

On January 29, 2020 Famous Assamese litterateur Sashi Sarma, 89 years old passed away at his home Nalbari, Assam due to age-related ailments. **Awards:** Sarma had received Soviet Nehru Award in 1968 & the Sitanath Brahma Chowdhury Award from Assam Sahitya Sabha.

PLACES IN NEWS

- **India's 1st War Memorial for Animals to be set up in Meerut, UP**

On January 23, 2020 the govt has announced to set up country's **1st war memorial** for service **animals** such as dogs, horses, mules in **Meerut**, Uttar Pradesh(UP). This war memorial will come at army's specialized breeding, rearing training centre for animals in the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre and College in Meerut.

Key Points:

- (i) Names of 300 dogs, 350 handlers, few horses and mules that had dedicated their life in various military operations like Kargil war etc will be inscribed in the granite tablets in the memorial.

Mansi, a labrador breed dog who was awarded the **highest honour of animals** will top the list of animals to be remembered.

- (ii) The Indian army currently has more than 100 dogs, 5000 mules and 1500 horses.

- **13th Jaipur Literature Festival began in Jaipur, Rajasthan:**

The **13th** edition of the **Zee Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)** began at Diggi Palace Hotel in **Jaipur, Rajasthan** on January 23, 2020, and will be conducted till January 27, 2020. The 5-day long festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot. Author **Ashwin Sanghi** launched his book '**The Vault of Vishnu**' through Sonali Bendre Behl at the fest. The **Bloomsbury Anthology of Great Indian Poems** edited by poet-diplomat **Abhay K** was also launched. It includes 200 poems.

- **Arvind Krishna awarded Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Award:**

Renowned poet and literary critic **Arvind Krishna Mehrotra** was awarded **5th** edition of the **Mahakavi Sethia Award** for poetry during JLF 2020. The award is given in memory of Rajasthani and Hindi poet Kanhaiyalal Sethia and carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh.

- **India's first e-waste clinic opens in Bhopal**

On January 24, 2020 **India's first e-waste clinic** was opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The e-waste clinic was inaugurated by **C K Mishra** (Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change,MoEFCC). The e-waste clinic was jointly set up by the **Central Pollution Board Control -CPCB** and **Bhopal Municipal Corporation -BMC**.

AWARDS

- **Padma Shri awardee Rani Rampal became 1st hockey player worldwide to win World Games Athlete of the Year 2019**

On January 31, 2020 Indian Hockey women's team captain and 2020 Padma Shri awardee **Rani Rampal** became the 1st ever hockey player to win the **2019 'World Games Athlete of the Year'** award. The announcement was made by the world games. Hailing from Haryana, Rani has obtained 1,99,477 votes from fans worldwide.

Key Points:

- (i) In 2019, India won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) series finals where Rani was named Player of the Tournament.
- (ii) **About award:** The award is an initiative of IWGA (International World Games Association) that recognizes and honours an athlete or a team for their outstanding performance or for their social commitment or particularly, fair behaviour. 2019 was the 6th edition of the IWA.

- **Ministry of Home Affairs announces Padma awards 2020 ; Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj honoured**

On January 25, 2020, **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, Government of India (GoI) on the eve of **71st Republic Day**, announced the names of **Padma awardees** for 2020, which is the highest civilian Awards in the country. The Padma Awards are conferred under 3 categorized viz- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. This time (2020) a

total of list had **141 awards** – 7 celebrities have been chosen for **Padma Vibhushan**, 16 celebrities for **Padma Bhushan** and 118 personalities for **Padma Shri**. They will be conferred by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind at ceremonial functions which will be held in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi at around March/ April 2020.

• **President Kovind conferred 2020 Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards in New Delhi**

On January 22, 2020 the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 2020 annual Pradhan Mantri **Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** to 49 children in the age group of 5-18 in New Delhi. The award is given to children having exceptional achievements in various fields such as innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts and culture, sports and bravery.

- **Yash-1st Motorsports personality awarded: Yash Aradhya** (17 years) of Bengaluru, Karnataka created history by becoming the **1st motorsports** personality to be awarded the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

Key points:

- (i) The award carries a medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a certificate and a citation.

• **22 children from 12 States selected for ICCW National bravery awards 2019**

On January 21, 2020, **Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW)**, which selects children for the **National Bravery Awards** every year, has picked **22 children** including 10 girls & 12 boys from 12 States for the ICCW National Bravery Awards-2019. They will receive the award from President of India Shri, Ram Nath Kovind on 26th January 2020 (**Republic Day**).

- The prestigious **Bharat Award** was conferred on **Adithya K** (15) from Kerala for saving more than 40 lives after a bus they were travelling in caught fire.
- **Akash Khillare** from Aurangabad (**Maharashtra**) will be getting a **bravery award** from Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Republic Day for rescued the life of a 5-year-old girl and her mother after he saw them sinking while on his way to school

• **Graphic designer Sneha pamneja wins Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020 for 'Tiffin' at 13th Jaipur Literature Festival**

On January 25, 2020, **Sneha Pamneja**, a well known **Graphic designer** based in New Delhi, was awarded **Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2020**, a 1st of its kind award for brilliance in book design, at Jaipur BookMark of ongoing 13th edition of the **Zee Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)** at Diggi Palace Hotel in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**. She was honoured for designing the cover of the book '**Tiffin: Authentic Recipes Celebrating India's Regional Cuisine**'.

SPORTS

• **Bala Devi: 1st Indian woman to sign up for foreign football club, 'Rangers FC' of Scotland**

On January 31, 2020 **Ngangom Bala Devi**, 29 years old from Manipur, has become the **first Indian woman footballer** to get a professional contract from Scotland's Women Premier League club Rangers (Football Club) for 18-months and to play for jersey No.10 after a successful trial in November, 2019. The

formal announcement was made by Rangers FC and Bengaluru FC at Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Key Points:

- (i) Bala Devi is the Ranger's first-ever Asian footballer.
- (ii) She is the current top-scorer for India, netting 52 times in 58 games & also the top international goal scorer in the South Asian region.
- (iii) Bala Devi was named as AIFF Women's Player of the Year twice (2015 & 2016) and has been top-scorer in the Indian Women's League for 2 seasons.

• **Overview of 3rd Khelo India youth games 2020 held in Guwahati, Assam**

The 3rd edition of **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2020** was held at Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam** with the participation of over 10,000 students. **Vijay the Tiger** and **Jaya the Blackbuck** were the **mascots** of the tournament.

Maharashtra clinched Khelo India Youth Games 2020 champions trophy with a collection of **256 medals** (78 gold, 77 silver and 101 bronze). Organized by Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports & conducted in

Rank	State	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Medal Tally
1	Maharashtra	78	77	101	256
2	Haryana	68	60	72	200
3	Delhi	39	36	47	122

partnership with the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and Assam State government, it was held from January 9-22, 2020.

Top 3:

Highlights:

- Sprinter Hima Das was the torchbearer of the opening ceremony of KIYG 2020
- Pugilist Harsh Bhagwan wins Daman and Diu's first medal at KIYG 2020
- Tamil Nadu girls won the under-17 basketball title
- Maharashtra wins U-17 gold in Kho Kho
- UP secures gold in mix team event U-21 category in 10-m air pistol
- Assam wins 7 gold in new lawn bowls at Khelo India Youth Games
- MP govt announces incentives for medal winners in Khelo India Youth Games

• **Australia to host 11th Indoor Cricket World Cup in October, 2020**

11th Edition of the Indoor Cricket World Cup is to be hosted by Australia from October 10 to 17, 2020. The **World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF)** announced the tournament will be held at indoor cricket venues in Melbourne, Australia in Casey Stadium and City Power Centre.

Key Points:

- (i) The 2017 Indoor Cricket World Cup was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Australia team won the Indoor Cricket World Cup continuously in both men's and women's categories for the last 25 years without losing a single match.

- (ii) Cricketers from nearly **10 countries** will compete in the tournament in **4 categories**: under-21 men and women and open men and women.
- (iii) Australia is already hosting Women's and Men's T20 World Cups this year.

About Indoor Cricket World Cup: The event is organized by the sport's governing body, the World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF) and is held every 2 or 3 years. The first Indoor Cricket World Cup match held in England in 1995.

- **6 cities across New Zealand to host the ICC Women's cricket world cup 2021; Hagley oval in Christchurch to host final**

On January 23, 2020, According to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup CEO Andrea Nelson, 6 cities namely **Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, Tauranga, Dunedin and Christchurch of New Zealand** will host matches of the **2021** edition of the **Women's cricket World Cup**. The **final** of this tournament will be played at the **Hagley Oval in Christchurch**.

Key Points:

- (i) A total of 31 matches will be played between the 8 teams in the ICC Women's World Cup 2021 from February 6 – March 7, 2021.
- (ii) The entire program of this world will be announced in March, when the event will officially launch. The 50-over 2021 World Cup will provide a glimpse of the global development of women's cricket and New Zealand is preparing vigorously for the successful event of the tournament.
- (iii) The ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020 is scheduled to be held in Australia between 21 February and 8 March 2020.
- **2021 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup:** It will be the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup.
Organizer– International Cricket Council (ICC)
Format– One-Day International

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- **Reliance Jio becomes 1st telecom operator to launch UPI payments feature**

On January 20, 2020 telecom operator **Reliance Jio** of the Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has become the **1st Indian telecom operator** to launch **UPI** (Unified Payments Interface) **payments** space. Thus Reliance Jio will now compete with other private UPI payment providers such as Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe.

Key points:

- (i) As of now, Reliance Jio is India's largest telecom operator.
- (ii) As per reports, users cannot use their existing UPI ids to avail this service. Instead, they will have to create a new JIO UPI Id.
- **New India Co-operative Bank (NICB) to be converted as Small Finance Bank**
On January 20, 2020 the New India Co-operative Bank (NICB) has been decided to **convert** into a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)** after being agreed by its shareholders under Voluntary Transition of Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs) into SFB. NICB will now approach the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Registrar of Societies for further action.

Key Points:

- (i) The decision for conversion comes after RBI made regulatory changes following the Rs 4500 crore PMC (Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank) bank scam and to ensure enhanced regulations to lenders.
- (ii) The bank is currently operating in Maharashtra and Gujarat and has networth of Rs. 230 crores.
- (iii) A minimum of Rs.200 crore is needed to set up an SFB.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Indian Army to induct Artillery gun 'Sharang' by March 31, 2020**

On January 21, 2020, the Indian Army (**IA**) has announced to induct 1st batch of **18** indigenously upgraded **'Sharang' artillery guns** by March 31, 2020. The announcement was made by the Programme Coordinator of Sharang, Brigadier Jayant Kar.

Key Points:

- (i) **Sharang:** The artillery gun's barrel upgraded from 130mm to 155mm has a strike range of 39 kilometers and has gone integrated firing range from 0-45 degrees in its trial at the Long Proof Range of Ordnance Factory Khamaria, 16 kilometers from Jabalpur district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. Previously the strike range was 27 kilometers.
- (ii) **Upgradation contract:** The contract to upgrade the Sharang artillery gun was undertaken by Gun Carriage Factory (GCF) in Jabalpur with the help of state-owned ordnance factories, and teams from the Army and DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).
- **1st unmanned mission will be launched in December 2020 as a preparation for 'Gaganyaan': ISRO**
On January 22, 2020, According to the ISRO (**Indian Space Research Organisation**), chairman **Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan**, ISRO would launch **2 unmanned missions in December 2020 and June 2021** in view of the launch of India's first manned spacecraft "Gaganyaan" in December 2021.
 - The ISRO has prepared **women robot 'Vyom Mitra'** (means a friend in Sky) for sending into space under the 1st unmanned Gaganyaan mission.
 - **Indian flight surgeons** are being **trained in France** to take care of the health of astronauts selected for Gaganyaan
- **Pakistan successfully launched ballistic missile "Ghaznavi"**
On January 23, 2020 The successful training launch of nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSBM) **'Ghaznavi'** was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Ghaznavi missile strike targets upto a range of **290 km** (kilometers).

Key Points:

- (i) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of Pakistan's army mentioned that the Training launch was part of Field Training Exercise of Army Strategic Forces Command.
- (ii) The launch was witnessed by Lieutenant General Nadeem Zaki Manj (Director General Strategic Plans Division), Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officers from the Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, Scientist and Engineers of the strategic organisations.
- (iii) In November 2019, Pakistan had carried out a successful training launch of ballistic missile Shaheen-I which was also an SSBM.

About Pakistan:

Capital– Islamabad.

Prime Minister(PM)- Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi.

President- Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi.

Currency- Pakistani rupee.

• **Qualcomm launches 3 new chipsets – Snapdragon 720G, 662 & 460 with Indian GPS system NavIC**

On January 21, 2020, In a major step to Made in India GPS (Global Positioning System) alternative, **Qualcomm**, an American multinational chipset manufacturer, has launched 3 chipsets in India – **Snapdragon 720G, 662 and 460**, along with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). All 3 chipsets feature Wi-Fi 6 connectivity and Bluetooth 5.1 support & the most important thing is that these 3 chipsets of Qualcomm have been developed with support for **ISRO's Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**, a technology considered an advanced location positioning and navigation system than the GPS technology currently in use.

Key Points:

- (i) Apart from NavIC, these chipsets will also support the widely used GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System).
- (ii) While Qualcomm's new chipsets, Chinese smartphone brands Xiaomi and Realme have confirmed that it will soon launch new smartphones with Snapdragon 720G chipset processor.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

• **Book titled "The Story of Yoga: From India to the Contemporary World" by Alistair released**

Book titled "The Story of Yoga: From India to the Contemporary World" which has been written by **Scottish cultural historian Alistair Shearer** will be released at the end of January, 2020 by publisher **Penguin Random House**.

About the Book: The book discusses about the practice of yoga since ancient time in India till now.

• **26 new Indian English words featured in 10th Oxford dictionary; Aadhaar, hartal among them**

On January 24, 2020 the **10th** edition of the **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** was launched. In this latest edition **26** new Indian languages words namely Aadhaar, Chawl, dabba, hartal, shaadi were included. Several incorporate words like chatbot, fake news, microplastic & over 1000 new words were included. Out of the 26 Indian language words, 22 are figured in printed dictionary while the remaining 4 words (looter, current, looting and upazila) are in the digital version

Key Points:

- (i) The new edition having a total of 384 Indian English words, has online support namely the new Speaker and iWriter features through Oxford Learner's Dictionaries website and an app.
 - (ii) Some of the Indian words in the dictionary include auntie (while aunty already figures in the English dictionary, auntie is an Indianism), bus stand, deemed university, FIR (First Information Report), non-veg, redressal, tempo, tube light, veg and videograph.
 - (iii) The dictionary was originally published in Japan in 1942 and was 1st brought out by Oxford University Press (OUP) in 1948.
- **"Calcutta Nights" translation of 'Raater Kolkata' done by Rajat Chaudhuri**

On January 29, 2020 **Rajat Chaudhuri**, translated the book "**Calcutta nights**" (originally 'Raater Kolkata') into English and was published by Niyogi Books. The book was first written in Bengali by Hemendra Kumar Roy, famous Bengali writer and was published in 1923.

IMPORTANT DAYS

• **National Girl Child Day 2020 observed on January 24 in Madhya Pradesh**

On January 24, 2020, National Girl Child Day was celebrated in Madhya Pradesh (MP), Bhopal under the theme "**Aware Girl child-able Madhya Pradesh**" (Jagruk Balika-Samrath Madhya Pradesh) under the "Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao" scheme. National Girl Child Day was started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India in 2008.

Key Points:

- (i) **Aim:** To create awareness in the society about right of daughters and to provide new opportunities to the daughters for their social and financial development.
- (ii) On this day health of the girls is examined and local level gender champions will also be selected. **National Girl Child Week:** Women and Child Development Department of MP also observes "National Girl Child Week" from January 24 to 30. **Programmes of the week:** 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' signature campaign, plantation & name plate drive in the name of the daughters, awareness campaign on women's rights & mass oaths for girl child protection will be conducted.

About Madhya Pradesh (MP):

Capital- Bhopal.

Chief Minister (CM)- Kamal Nath.

Governor- Lalji Tandon.

• **2nd edition of International Day of Education observed on 24 January 2020**

On **24 January 2020**, the **2nd** edition of **International Day of Education** observed with the aim to celebrate the role of education for peace and development. The **theme** for the year 2020 is '**Learning for people, planet, prosperity, and peace**'. The day was organized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in partnership with the CRI (Centre for Research and Interdisciplinarity), Paris, France.

Key Points:

- (i) The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 24 January as the International Day of Education on 3 December 2018.
 - (ii) As per the UN, more than 258 million children and youth still do not attend school & about 617 million children cannot read and do basic math and over 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school.
- **10th National Voters' Day is observed on January 25, 2020**
- On January 25, 2020 10th National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated across the country over 10 lakh locations (including Polling Stations, District and State headquarters).
- President Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest of the National Voters Day organized by Election Commission of India (ECI) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. NVD 2020 theme was "**Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy**" to focus on voter education &

renewal of citizens' faith in the electoral process. The National Voters' Day was being celebrated since 2011 to mark the Foundation Day of the ECI which was established on 25th January 1950 and completes 70 years of its journey.

• **72nd National Martyrs' Day/Shahed Divas observed on Jan 30, 2020**

The National Martyr's Day is observed annually on January 30. The year 2020 marks the 72nd anniversary of the Martyr's Day or Shahed Divas to pay homage to the freedom fighters who lost their lives for India's Independence from British rule. This day also marks the 72nd death anniversary of India's Father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on Jan 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

- Where did Assam Rifles (military unit) has constructed a war memorial "Veer Samriti" in remembrance of 357 Army personnel, who died while fighting against insurgency against north-eastern state ?
 - Mizoram
 - Assam
 - Nagaland
 - Meghalaya
 - New Delhi
- Which country is the focal theme country of the 44th edition of International Kolkata Book Fair 2020 (IKBF) held in Kolkata, West Bengal
 - Bangladesh
 - China
 - Japan
 - Russia
 - United States (US)
- Name the cab service, launched in Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi to ensure safety of women .
 - Shakthi the power
 - Shakthi on force
 - Mitra Shakthi
 - Pink-Specially for women
 - Women with Wheels
- What is the official Mascot of the 44th edition of International Kolkata Book Fair 2020 (IKBF) ?
 - Tyto
 - Kakapo
 - Kagu
 - Mesite
 - Gruiformes
- Name the Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of Luxembourg .
 - Jeannot Krecké
 - H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn
 - Paul Helminger
 - Josy Barthel
 - Joseph Bech
- Who heads the Committee on Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) that has submitted its report to the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari ?
 - Rajgopal Sharma
 - ManojWadekar
 - ArunNarendhranath N
 - Vaibhav Dange
 - Yudhvir Singh Malik
- Which district topped in the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) Aspirational Districts ranking for December 2019 ?
 - Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh
 - Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
 - Balangir, Odisha
 - Y.S.R., Andhra Pradesh
 - Dahod, Gujarat
- Name the state that topped in the Transparency International's India (TII)'s "Transparency In Budgetary Process Report 2.0." ?
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Assam
 - West Bengal
 - Gujarat
- Which of the following payment system's interchange fees were removed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) until Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) remains zero recently ?
 - Payments Service Provider (PSP)
 - Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
 - RuPay card transactions
 - Both 1 & 2
 - Both 2 & 3
- What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India for 2019-20 (Fiscal year -FY 20) as per the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)'s "Economic Outlook Survey 2020" ?
 - 5.4%
 - 5.3%
 - 5%
 - 5.1%
 - 5.2%
- Who was appointed as the UN (United Nations) Resident Coordinator (RC) of Thailand on January 30,2020 ?
 - Robert Piper
 - Achim Steiner
 - Amina J. Mohammed
 - Gita Sabharwal
 - Syed Akbaruddin
- Janak Raj was appointed as the internal member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), he succeeds _____ .
 - Michael Debabrata Patra
 - B. Venkatappaiah
 - Jagdish Capoor
 - Vepa Kamesam
 - K.S. Krishnaswamy
- Who was conferred with prestigious "Ayurveda Ratan Award 2020" in Brussels, Belgium ?
 - Rajesh Kotecha
 - Partap Chauhan
 - Balendu Prakash
 - Krishna Chandra Chuneekar
 - Deepak Chopra
- Which organization has launched "Searching the missing persons & Generating vehicle NOC (No Objection Certificate)" on CCTNS (Crime & Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) platform recently ?
 - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

- 2) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- 3) Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)
- 4) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- 5) Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

15. Who is the author of the book titled 'Why We Are Saying No CAA, NO NRC, No NPR' that was released during the 44th edition of International Kolkata Book Fair 2020 (IKBF) ?

- 1) Ashok Gehlot
- 2) Pinarayi Vijayan
- 3) Rajinder Kaur Bhattal
- 4) Amarinder Singh
- 5) Mamata Banerjee

Answers: 34512/52353/41225

PANACEA