

ICICI Bank launches premium savings account for men “The One”

- ICICI Bank has launched a new premium savings account for upwardly-mobile male customers, named ‘The ONE’. It is available in two variants – Magnum and Titanium.
- It offers the account holder with a range of benefits including the option of opting for health and term life insurance. It also waives the processing fees for home loans for account holder.

Nepal’s Central Bank bans use of large-denomination Indian currency notes

- Nepal’s central bank has banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations, a move that could affect Indian tourists visiting the Himalayan nation where Indian currency is widely used.
- Nepal Rastra Bank on Sunday issued a circular prohibiting Nepali travellers, banks and financial institutions from holding or carrying and trading Indian bank notes higher than Rs 100, the Kathmandu Post reported.
- The central bank said in its circular letter that Indian currency of 200, 500 and 2,000 denominations cannot be carried and used for trading.

LIC completes the acquisition of 51% controlling stake in IDBI Bank

- IDBI Bank Monday said Insurance behemoth LIC has completed acquisition of 51 per cent controlling stake in the bank, making it the lender’s majority shareholder.
- “The deal, conceptualised in June 2018, is envisaged as a win-win situation for both IDBI Bank and LIC with an opportunity to create enormous value for shareholders, customers & employees of both entities through mutual synergies,” IDBI Bank said in a BSE filing.
- In August last year, the Cabinet approved the acquisition of controlling stake by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) as a promoter in the bank through a combination of preferential allotment and open offer of equity.

India will remain one of the fastest growing major economies, says IMF

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says India’s economy is poised to pick up this year. It is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent this year and 7.7 per cent in 2020, an impressive over one percentage point ahead of China’s estimated growth of 6.2 per cent in these two years. The IMF attributed the pick up to lower oil prices and a slower pace of monetary tightening.
- In its January World Economy Outlook released in Washington today, it said India would remain one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. Despite the fiscal stimulus that offsets some of the impacts of higher US tariffs, China’s economy will slow down due to the combined influence of needed financial regulatory tightening and trade tensions with the US.

Tamil Nadu to set up Rs 250 cr fund to assist start-ups

- The Tamil Nadu government will set up a start-up fund with a corpus of Rs 250 crore for investments in start-up businesses, as per the new Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation policy 2018-2023 unveiled by Chief Minister K. Palaniswami .
- According to the policy, the first tranche of Rs 25 crore will be allotted in the financial year 2019-2020.
- Called Tamil Nadu Startup Fund of Funds, it will be managed by a professional financial agency like the Small Industries Development Bank of India.

India likely to surpass UK in world’s largest economy rankings: PwC

- India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world’s largest economy rankings in 2019, as per a report by global consultancy firm PwC.
- As per PwC’s Global Economy Watch report, while the UK and France have regularly switched places owing to similar levels of development and equal populations, India’s climb up the rankings is likely to be permanent.
- The PwC report has projected real GDP growth of 1.6 per cent for the UK, 1.7 per cent for France and 7.6 per cent for India in 2019.

- According to the projected real GDP growth rate, India and France are likely to surpass the UK in the world's largest economy rankings in 2019, pushing it down from fifth to seventh place in the global table.
- As per the World Bank data, in 2017, India became the sixth largest economy with a GDP of \$2.59 trillion, surpassing France and pushing it to the seventh position. The GDP of France stood at \$2.58 trillion.
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Indians over 65 and under 15 years can use Aadhaar Card to visit Nepal, Bhutan

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on January 20, 2019 announced that Aadhaar Cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 years travelling to Nepal and Bhutan.
- However, Indians belonging to the age bracket of 15 to 65 years will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries.
- Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan don't need a visa if they have a valid passport, a photo identity card issued by the Government of India or the Voter's ID card issued by the Election Commission.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas begins at Varanasi

- The 15th edition of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) began at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on January 21, 2019, giving a chance to the Indian diaspora to participate in the ongoing Kumbha Mela.
- For the first time in the history of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the event is being held in Varanasi, the cultural and spiritual capital of India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the event on January 22, 2019, along with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth, the Chief Guest of the event.

Defence Minister launches India's second defence industrial corridor

- Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on January 20, 2019 inaugurated the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor from Tiruchirappalli, taking a major step forward to boost indigenous production of defence equipment.
- The TN Defence Industrial Corridor is a mega corridor, which will link leading military manufacturing units in five cities of South India, including Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli. The project will require an investment worth Rs 3,000 crore.
- The corridor is the second defence corridor being set up by the government to support various defence manufacturing units. The first one is being established in Uttar Pradesh.

Yes Bank partners with Maharashtra government for electronic PDS

- Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with Government of Maharashtra to onboard PDS shops which are popularly referred to as ration shops onto the electronic PDS initiative through which they can become agents of the bank.
- Under the partnership, Yes Bank will empower more than 20,000 ration shops which can offer last mile basic banking services to more than seven lakh beneficiaries. The bank will cover almost 40% of all the PDS shops across locations like Palghar, thane, Kolhapur, Latur, Pune and others.

IBBI organises Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India, in association with the three Insolvency Professional Agencies — the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (lead partner), the ICSI Institute of Insolvency Professionals, and the Insolvency Professional Agency of Institute of Cost Accountants of India — organised an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Awareness Programme at Vadodara in Gujarat recently.
- A large number of stakeholders, including students, professionals, bankers, and business persons participated in the programme.
- Inaugurating the programme, National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT) Member (Judicial) H P Chaturvedi, Ahmedabad detailed the role of the Adjudicating Authority in respect of Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation Processes under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code).

India signs 11 MoUs worth \$9.5 million with Afghanistan

- India has signed 11Mo-Us worth \$ 9.5 million with the Afghan government this week.
- The MoUs were for infrastructure, public services such as health clinics and governance-related projects.
- These projects include construction of classrooms, orphanages, health clinics, canal protection walls and enhancing economic opportunities for women for seven provinces of Afghanistan— Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Bamyan, Badghis and Kapisa. “The projects will help local communities in education, employment and livelihood generation and capacity building,”.
- These projects are part of the 577 development projects funded by India for 2005-2021 worth \$120 million.

National Women’s Party launched in Mumbai

- The National Women’s Party (NWP), which has been formed with the motto of women empowerment, was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra .
- The party has been founded by Dr Swetha Shetty, a medical practitioner-cum- activist from Hyderabad, who would also serve as its President.

Assam to give 10% quota to economically weaker sections in general category

- The Assam Government has decided to give 10 percent quota in Government jobs and educational institutes to economically weaker sections in general category.
- The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal in Guwahati.
- The cabinet also approved guidelines for disbursement of Rs 5000 each to 5 lakh farmers of the state under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajuli Yojna for purchasing of tools and equipments.

Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra aw awarded Saraswati Samman 2017

- Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman,2017, for his poetry collection in Gujarati named “Vakhar”.
- This is the 27th edition of the prestigious award instituted by K.K.Birla foundation given every year to an outstanding work of an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years in any of the languages mentioned in Schedule 8 of the constitution.
- The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of 15 lakh rupees. Noted film director and author Gulzar gave away the award at a solemn function at National museum auditorium in New Delhi this evening.
- Yashashchandra, recipient of the Padmashri in 2006, is known for seamlessly blending history with poetry. He has explored politics of the times, the larger and more immediate human conditions in his award winning work “Vakhar”.

President Ram Nath Kovind confers Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019

- The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.

- The awards were presented to 26 shortlisted awardees including one joint award for National Child Award (now renamed as Bal Shakti Puraskar) under the category of innovation, scholastic, sports, art and culture, social service and bravery.
- Under National Child Welfare Awards category (now renamed as Bal Kalyan Puraskar), 2 individuals and 3 institutions were awarded.

Virat Kohli named ICC Test, ODI Player and Cricketer of the year 2018

- Indian skipper Virat Kohli on January 22, 2019 became the first cricketer to win all the top three ICC individual awards including the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year for his performances in 2018.
- The Indian captain, who recently led India to its historic series win down under, was also named the captain of the ICC Test Team and the ODI Team of the year 2018, the line-ups of which were dominated by Indian players.
- Kohli, who accumulated a total of 1322 runs from 13 Tests, 1202 from 14 ODIs and 211 from 10 T20Is, became the first player to win all three awards together.
- This is the second consecutive time that he has won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year. This was also his second successive ODI Player of the Year award. Besides, Indian wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant claimed the ICC's Emerging Cricketer of the Year award.

Cabinet approves setting up of a centralised GST Appellate Authority

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved setting up of a centralised Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (AAAR) under the goods and services tax that would decide on cases where there are divergent orders at the state level.
- The setting up of a centralised AAAR would require amendments to the GST Acts.
- The centralised authority as an appellate body will only take up cases wherein the Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) of two states have passed divergent orders.
- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, and comprising state counterparts, in December decided to establish the centralised AAAR.

India to surpass China to become 2nd largest oil demand centre in 2019

- India will surpass China to become the second largest oil demand growth centre globally in 2019 on back of buoyant auto fuel and LPG consumption, as per a report by research and consultancy group Wood Mackenzie.
- In the report, Wood Mackenzie said that India's oil demand growth recovered strongly in 2018, overcoming the aftermath of the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation and contributed 14 per cent of the global demand growth or 2,45,000 barrels per day.

Indian economy may grow 7.6% in FY20: UN report

- India's economy is expected to grow at 7.4 per cent during 2018-19 and improve to 7.6 per cent in the next fiscal, said a UN report.
- The United Nations' World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019 report also expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) to expand by 7.4 per cent in 2020-21.
- "Growth continues to be underpinned by robust private consumption, a more expansionary fiscal stance and benefits from previous reforms,"

PM Narendra Modi launches Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2019 launched the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year.
- The first batch of 40 Indian-origin people are at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and they would be beginning their tour from there. The group will be taken to the religious places of all major religions in India.
- The tour would be completely government sponsored, as the government will bear all the expenses including the airfare from their country of residence.

- Under the eligibility criteria, all people of Indian-origin, aged between 45 and 65 can apply and a group will be selected out of them. The first preference will be given to people from 'Girmitiya countries' such as Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.
- Prime Minister Modi, during his, also inaugurated the Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul..

Indian Navy commences largest-ever coastal defence exercise – 'Sea Vigil'

- The Indian Navy on January 22, 2019 commenced its largest-ever coastal defence exercise – 'Sea Vigil'-off the Indian coast, ten years after the "26/11" attack.
- The exercise, a first of its kind, is being undertaken along the entire 7516.6 km coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India and is involving all the 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- The exercise aims to comprehensively and holistically validate the efficacy of the measures taken since the '26/11' attack in Mumbai. It aims to simultaneously activate the coastal security mechanism across all states and union territories.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 23, 2019 inaugurated the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at the iconic Red Fort in Delhi to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary.
- The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque to inaugurate the Museum. The museum showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army.
- The museum on Bose and the Indian National Army showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and INA. The artefacts include a wooden chair and sword used by the leader and medals, badges, uniforms and other artefacts related to the INA.

Cabinet decides to strengthen NE autonomous councils

- Cabinet has approved the landmark amendment to Article 280 of the Constitution to increase powers of Autonomous Councils in Sixth Schedule areas of North East.
- The proposed amendment will give more powers to Autonomous District Councils of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura.
- State Finance Commissions will be set up in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council.
- Finance Commission will recommend devolution of financial resources to ten Autonomous District Councils, and village and municipal councils in Sixth Schedule areas.

Ayush Minister Shripad Naik inaugurates 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019

- Union Minister of State for Ayush Shripad Naik inaugurated the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in Panaji, Goa . In his inaugural address, Mr Naik said that India is the second home of homoeopathy.
- He added that the central government is committed to promoting all disciplines under Ayush including homoeopathy.
- The forum is themed on 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing Global Collaboration'. Around 150 delegates from 21 countries are participating in the event.

Railways Minister Piyush Goyal given additional charge of Finance Ministry

- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal has been assigned to temporarily hold the portfolios of Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs during the period of the indisposition of Arun Jaitley. Mr Goyal will hold the charge of these two Ministries in addition to his existing portfolios.
- According to the Rashtrapati, Bhavan, Communique, Mr Jaitley will be designated as Minister without portfolio during the period of his indisposition or till such time he is able to resume his work as Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.

National Girl Child Day being observed

- National Girl Child Day is observed across India on 24 January.
- The theme this year is 'Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow'. The Women and Child Development Ministry has organised an event in Delhi to observe the anniversary of 'Beti Bachao

Beti Padhao' scheme. Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi will be the Chief Guest.

SBI Card and Etihad Guest tie-up to launch premium card for international travel

- SBI Card and Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, have joined hands to launch a travel specific Visa credit card for members and Indian travellers.
- This is the first international co-brand partnership of SBI Card, the country's second largest credit card issuer.
- The card will be available in two variants, Etihad Guest SBI Card and Etihad Guest SBI Premier Card, will bring an unmatched value proposition to Etihad Guest members and international travellers from India.

India test res indigenous e enemy radar-buster missile

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired the Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) from naval warship INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha.
- India achieved the milestone on January 18 when DRDO successfully carried out test of the indigenously Next Generation Anti Radiation Missile (NGARM) which can hit enemy radars at 100 kilometres.
- The missile tested off the Odisha Coast was fired from a Sukhoi-30 combat aircraft and can destroy surveillance stations of the enemy." India achieves a significant milestone with successful flight test of LRSAM on board INS Chennai.

ISRO to launch KalamSat, Microsat-R satellites on PSLV-C44 rocket

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch a students' satellite KalamSat and an imaging satellite Microsat-R from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh , marking its first launch of the ISRO in 2019.
- The national space agency's rocket, PSLV C44 will be carrying the satellites into the orbit.
- After about 14 minutes into the flight, the rocket will eject 700-kg Microsat R satellite at an altitude of about 277 km.
- The KalamSat is a 10 cm cube nanosatellite weighing about 1.2 kg and has a life span of about two months.
- It has been developed by Space Kidz India and their team including Rifath Sharook, Srimathy Kesan, among others.

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissions new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa'

- Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Naval Air Base will enhance the maritime capability along with keeping the northern part of Andaman sea and the area under surveillance.
- The INS Kohassa will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier. The airport at Diglipur will be utilised for both Defence and civil aircraft.

DAY-NRLM successful in reducing poverty through livelihood diversification

- The pace of reduction of poverty in India has speeded up in recent years as per the Global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index 2018 and as per the note published by the Brookings Institution.
- The Deendayal Antodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is aimed at alleviation of rural poverty through building sustainable community institutions of the poor.
- It seeks to mobilise about 9 crore households into Self Help Groups and link them to sustainable livelihood opportunities by building their skills.

Central Bank of India received Atal Pension Yojana Award

- The Central Bank of India has been given away the Atal Pension Yojana Award for promoting the scheme across the country. Bank MD and CEO Pallav Mohapatra received the Atal Pension Yojana award from Department of Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar for promoting the scheme in various geographical locations of the country, an official statement said on Thursday. The award function was organised by Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) on Wednesday.

Three Indian expats from the UAE win prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2019

- Three Indian expats from the UAE are amongst those who won the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2019, the highest honour conferred on Indian diaspora. President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the award on Girish Pant, Surender Singh Kandhari and Dr Zulekha Daud and other awardees at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention in Varanasi. Girish Pant, a social worker has been instrumental in rescuing several Indian sailors stranded in UAE waters.
- Surender Singh Kandhari, chairman of the Gurudwara Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh Temple, is a philanthropist, businessman and a long-term Dubai resident.
- Dr Zulekha, founder and chairperson of Zulekha Healthcare Group, who came to the UAE in 1964, is believed to be the first female practising doctor in the country.

Ravneet Gill appointed as MD & CEO of YES Bank

- YES Bank appointed Deutsche Bank's Ravneet Singh Gill as its MD and CEO, who will succeed Rana Kapoor.
- The bank received the RBI approval for the same. Gill, who is the CEO of Deutsche Bank's India operations, will join the private lender on or before March 1, 2019.
- YES Bank had time till February 1 to announce a successor to Kapoor, whose term ends on January 31.

Parthasarathi Mukherjee to head Lakshmi Vilas Bank for another two years

- Private sector Lakshmi Vilas Bank has reappointed Parthasarathi Mukherjee as its managing director when the lender is struggling to raise Rs 2000 crore from investors.
- Mukherjee will be at the helm for another two years from January 25. The decision was taken by the board Wednesday. Reserve Bank of India has approved his reappointment.

9th National Voters' Day to be celebrated across country

- The 9th National Voters' Day will be celebrated across the country on 25 January, 2019 for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process.
- The National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices will be conferred on Officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will be the Chief Guest at the main function being organized by Election Commission in New Delhi.

First ever International Day of Education observed on 24 January

- United Nations observed the first International Day of Education on 24 January, 2019.
- The theme of the day was: "Education: A Key Driver for Inclusion and Empowerment."
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 January as International Day of Education (link is external), in celebration of the role of education for peace and development.

Uttar Pradesh celebrates 69th Foundation Day

- Uttar Pradesh celebrated its 69th foundation day on January 24, 2019.
- To celebrate the occasion, the main function was organised at Awadh Shilp Gram in Lucknow.
- Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with members of state cabinet attended the function. Uttar Pradesh was earlier known as United Province but through a Gazette notification, it got its name of Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950.

Pranab Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh Bhupen H Hazarika awarded Bharat Ratna

- Social activist Nanaji Deshmukh, Music maestro Bhupen Hazarika and former President Pranab Mukherjee have been awarded with country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna.
- As per a press communique issued by President's office, Nanaji Deshmukh and Bhupen Hazarika will be awarded with the honour posthumously.
- The President also approved conferment of 112 Padma Awards, including 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards. Folk artist Teejan Bai, President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh, Industrialist Anil kumar Manibhai Naik and theatre actor Balwant Moreshwar Purandare will be honoured with Padma Vibhushan.

- Former CAG V K Shunglu, Akali Dal leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and Foreigner John Chambers are among those who will be given Padma Bhushan. Journalist Kuldip Nayar will be honoured with Padma Bhushan posthumously.
- For Padma Shree, Actor Manoj Bajpayee, Prabhu Deva, cricketer Gautam Gambhir, footballer Sunil Chhetri, Archer Bombayla Devi Laishram, archaeologist K K Muhammed are among those chosen for the awards this year. Actor Kader Khan has been awarded Padma Shree posthumously.

Government announces Padma Shree award winners, cricketer Gautam Gambhir, Kadar Khan among 94 to be honoured

- President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh, L&T chairman A M Naik, late journalist Kuldip Nayar, late actor Kadar Khan and cricketer Gautam Gambhir were among the 112 prominent personalities who were named on Friday for conferment of this year's Padma awards.
- India football captain Sunil Chhetri, table tennis star Sharath Kamal, wrestler Bajrang Punia were among the recipients for the the Padma Shri awards announced on the eve of the Republic Day .
- Harika Dronavalli (chess), Bombayla Devi (archery), Prashanti Singh (basketball) and Ajay Thakur (kabaddi) have also been conferred the Padma Shri award while Bachendri Pal (mounteneering) was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award.
- Folk artist Teejan Bai, Guelleh, Naik and theatre actor Balwant Moreshwar Purandare will be honoured with Padma Vibhushan, former CAG V K Shunglu, former union minister Kariya Munda, Akali leader S S Dhindsa were named for Padma Bhushan, which will be conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind in March-April.
- Late actor Kadar Khan, cricketer Gautam Gambhir and former diplomat S Jaishankar are among 94 persons named for Padma Shri, the Home Ministry announced.

SBM Bank (India) Ltd becomes first foreign bank to set up wholly owned subsidiary in India

- SBM Group, a diversified financial services provider and the second largest listed banking institution on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, announced the launch of SBM Bank (India) Limited which will operate as a full-fledged universal bank.
- SBM Bank (India) Limited becomes the first foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS), Under this new structure, SBM Bank (India) Limited plans to extend its network by end of March 2020 with four new branches focusing on the mid-market segment comprising mid-corporate and higher end SMEs.

SC issues contempt notices to RBI for denying info under RTI on loan defaulters

- The Supreme Court on Friday issued contempt notices to the RBI for failing to reveal under the Right to Information Act intelligence received on loan defaulters and details of action taken against banks in connection with fraud. In December 2015, a bench of the top court — comprising Justices MY Eqbal and C Nagappan — had asked banking secto regulator RBI to reveal such information in the interest of shoring up public confidence in the banking system and as a deterrent to bank frauds, instead of claiming that it held such information in a “fiduciary capacity” and revealing it would ruin the economy.
- In separate petitions filed in the Supreme Court, Mumbai resident Girish Mittal and Delhi-based RTI activist Subhash Chandra Agrawal have alleged that instead of sharing information, the RBI has brought in policy changes that allow withholding of most information The petitions pertain to information about alleged irregularities by the Sahara group.

Sarvatra Technologies accredited as Best Banking Technology provider

- Sarvatra Technologies, India's leading end-to-end payments and banking solutions provider, has been awarded the 'Best Banking Tech' of the year for its world-class Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) switch platform that played a critical role in the effective nationwide participation in National Financial Switch (NFS) network.
- Sarvatra Technologies was presented the prestigious award in a grand ceremony at 9th India Digital Awards 2019 organised by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

Supreme Court upholds constitutional validity of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- A Bench headed by Justice R.F. Nariman upheld the constitutional validity of the code “in its entirety”. However, the apex court said that related parties in the Act should mean a person connected with the business.
- The Bench disposed of a batch of pleas filed by companies challenging various provisions of the IBC.
- The committee of creditors’s voting rights of resolution plans will be limited to 66 percent from earlier threshold of 75 percent, move that will help speed up the resolution process.
- In order to facilitate the corporate debtor to continue as a going concern during the CIRP, the voting threshold for routine decisions has been reduced to 51 percent.
- Withdrawal of an insolvency application will be allowed, if 90 percent of the creditors agree.

Fourth edition of Bharat Parv begins in Delhi

- Fourth edition of Bharat Parv, showcasing the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat will begin at Red Fort in Delhi today. It will continue till 31st January.
- Tourism Ministry said, the five day event is a part of Republic Day Celebrations and the objective of this festival is to generate a patriotic fervour and promote rich cultural diversity of the country.
- Bharat Parv will be open for public from 12 Noon to 10 PM every day and the entry will be free.

Millennials will be eligible to vote for 1st time in 2019 general elections

- President Ram Nath Kovind said on January 25, 2019 millennials will be eligible to vote for the first time in the general elections this year.
- Addressing the gathering on the National Voters’ Day celebrations in Delhi, the President said these first-time voters will determine the fate and future of 21st Century India. He said it is a matter of pride to be a voter in world’s largest democracy.
- The President asked new voters to exercise their franchise with responsibility, awareness and compassion. The theme for National Voters Day this year is “No Voter To Be Left Behind”.
- The President also complimented the efforts of Election Commission in making all efforts so that not a single voter is left behind.

**WEEKLY OBJECTIVE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS ON CURRENT AFFAIRS:
FOR WEEK 04/52 (JAN 22–JAN 28- 2019)**

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIR QUIZ : (21-28) JANUARY 2019

1. Which country launched the Epsilon – 4 rocket carrying 7 satellites developed by private sector companies and Universities ?
 a) China b) Unites States of America c) Japan d) South Korea
2. Name the Indian female wrestler who became the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award ?
 a) Geeta Phogat b) Vinesh Phogat c) Kavita Devi d) Babita Kumari
3. 2018 was the ____ warmest year in India since 1901, as per the ‘Climate of India during 2018’ report by India Meteorological Department (IMD)?
 a) 3rd b) 4th c) 5th d) 6th
4. Where did the 4-day 2nd world Orange Festival commence ?
 a) Shimla b) Nagpur c) Lucknow d) Srinagar
5. HDFC Standard Life Insurance renamed itself to which of the following ?
 a) HDFC Insurance b) HDFC Life Insurance
 c) HDFC Insurance Corporation d) HDFC First Insurance
6. Where was the 7th Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN-India held ?
 a) Xuhan, China b) Bangkok, Thailand
 c) New Delhi, India d) Ha Long City, Viet Nam

7. Which country to host 14th Session of the Conference Of Parties (CoP) to UNCCD ?
 a) Brazil b) Canada c) South Africa d) India
8. Which city is the venue of the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (YPBD-2019)?
 a) Varanasi b) Hyderabad c) Jabalpur d) Jaipur
9. Who was elected the Prime Minister of Sweden for a second term ?
 a) Stefan Lofven b) Hadley Xavier c) Steve Smith d) Fabian Jerald
10. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) announced that two unmanned space missions will be launched in the year 2020 and ____?
 a) 2021 b) 2022 c) 2023 d) 2024
11. Jasvinder Singh Sandhu passed away after suffering from cancer in Haryana . He was a ____?
 a) Doctor b) Politician c) Journalist d) Gymnast
12. The central bank of which country has recently banned the use of Indian currency notes?
 a) Pakistan b) Bangladesh c) Nepal d) Sri Lanka
13. Where will the 39th Golden Raspberry Awards 2019 also known as Razzie Awards, which is an awards ceremony that honors the worst performances in the film industry, be held ?
 a) London, England b) Los Angeles, United States
 c) New York, United States d) Melbourne, Australia
14. Who became the first cricket player to bag all top 3 ICC Awards in a single year, as he won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year ?
 a) Rohit Sharma b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni c) Virat Kohli d) Shikhar Dawan
15. Which technical giant has launched a new e-commerce platform re-weave.in for handloom weavers?
 a) Microsoft b) Wipro c) Facebook d) Infosys
16. Which state in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) recommended triple-drug therapy for lymphatic filariasis to speed up elimination of the disease ?
 a) Rajasthan b) Gujarat c) Maharashtra d) Telangana
17. What is the rank of India in the 6th edition of Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019, released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group?
 a) 11 b) 50 c) 31 d) 80
18. ____ has compiled the book titled 'Universal Brotherhood Through Yoga' launched by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, in New Delhi ?
 a) National Yoga Institute b) Bharatiya Sanskrit Pitham
 c) Kalanjali d) Institute of Natural Sciences
19. Who became the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets ?
 a) Shikhar Dawan b) Mohammed Shami
 c) Jaspreet Bumrah d) Rishabh Pant
20. ____ was appointed as the Chief Product Officer (CPO) of health-tech venture, docprime.com ?
 a) Mayank Sehgal b) Jayant Chauhan c) Rajat Seth d) Areem Mishra
21. Where did Tamil Nadu government organise the 2nd edition of Global Investor summit ?
 a) Coimbatore b) Salem c) Madurai d) Chennai
22. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for 6 Namami Ganga projects in Agra and ____?
 a) Varanasi b) Mathura c) Prayagraj d) Kanpur
23. Reserve Bank of India has initiated two quarterly surveys named Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS) and ____ to examine the Indian Manufacturing, services and infrastructure sector and business situation ?
 a) Industrial Outlook Survey (IOS) b) Business Outlook Survey (BOS)
 c) Manufacturing Status Survey (MSS) d) Industry Readiness Survey (IRS)
24. What is the rank of India among the world's most innovative countries according to the Bloomberg 2019 Innovative Index?
 a) 46 b) 75 c) 54 d) 98

25. ____ was appointed the CEO of Indigo airlines ?
 a) Ronojoy Dutta b) Manisha Goyal c) Aneekh Sikha d) Nadhim Bhattacharya
26. What is the theme of the National Voters Day (NVD-2019)?
 a) Proud to be a voter – Ready to vote b) Accessible elections
 c) No Voter to be Left Behind d) Proud to be a voter
27. The bilateral army exercise named IMBEX 2018-19 between India and which country began ?
 a) Malaysia b) Myanmar c) Mauritius d) Maldives
28. Which state launched the Voters Helpline Number – 1950 and mobile app for people with disabilities on the occasion of National Voters Day ?
 a) Mizoram b) Meghalaya c) Telangana d) Tamil Nadu
29. Who was re-appointed the Managing Director of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with effect ?
 a) Jeevananthan S b) Parthasarathi Mukherjee
 c) Rishi Mukhopadyay d) Anil Mishra
30. Indian Standard IS 17081:2019 Aviation Turbine Fuel (Kerosene Type, Jet A-a) was released by Indian Air Force (IAF) in collaboration with -----?
 a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) b) International Standards Organisation (ISO)
 c) Indian Technical Standards (ITS) d) Aircraft Standards Organisation (ASO)
31. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully launched Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR-SAM) jointly developed by India and which country, from INS Chennai off the coast of Odisha?
 a) Japan b) Israel c) United States of America d) France
32. Which state celebrated its 49th full Statehood Day ?
 a) Sikkim b) Goa c) Himachal Pradesh d) Rajasthan
33. The anthology titled ‘New Brazilian Poems’, translated and edited by Indian poet-diplomat ____ was launched at the National Association of Writers of Brazil ?
 a) Abhay Kumar b) Rasheed Al Khaini c) Munna Khaleel d) Supriya Raman
34. Krishna Sobti passed away, in New Delhi . She was a ____?
 a) Singer b) Actor c) Writer d) Educationalist
35. South African Johan Botha announced his immediate retirement from which sport because of his physical illness?
 a) Football b) Hockey c) Cricket d) Basketball
36. Name the cricketer who completed the 27th five-wicket innings haul and 11ravelle Ian Botham’s record for the most five-wicket innings hauls in Tests by an England cricketer ?
 a) James Anderson b) Jason Holder c) Jonny Bairstow d) Keaton Jennings
37. Which country has announced that it will fund South Asian Nitrogen Hub, a research project to study Nitrogen pollution in India and South Asia?
 a) United States of America b) United Kingdom
 c) Japan d) Greece
38. Name India’s lightest ever satellite which weighs 1 kilogram, that was launched along with imaging satellite Microsat R using PSLV C44, by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), from Sriharikota ?
 a) Insat 2k18 b) Kalamsat V2 c) FlyDisc 2A d) IndiSat 2
39. India has entered the \$ 100 billion club in the merger and acquisition (M&A) space in 2018, with deals worth around __concluded in India in 2018, as per Grant Thornton’s (GT) annual report titled ‘Dealtracker’?
 a) \$ 110 billion b) \$ 200 billion c) \$ 280 billion d) \$150 billion
40. Who was elected as the new King of Malaysia for a period of 5 years?
 a) Ajeez Bin Mohamad b) Sultan Abdullah c) Zubair Dil Sham d) Hisham Zakariya
41. Which PSU received the best Miniratna PSU in strategic performance financial category award at an award function held in New Delhi ?
 a) Manali Refinery Limited (MRL) b) Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)
 c) Jamshedpur Refinery Limited (JRL) d) Suratkal Refinery Limited (SRL)

42. How many MoUs has India signed with Afghanistan for 26 projects worth 9.5 million dollars in the field of infrastructure, public services such as health clinics and governance-related projects?
 - a) 15
 - b) 10
 - c) 11
 - d) 14
43. India is at ____ place in the informed public category and at third place in the general population category in the Trust Index, as per the 2019 Edelman Trust Barometer report?
 - a) 4th
 - b) 5th
 - c) 2nd
 - d) 1st
44. Which company announced that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial intelligence (AI) with an initial investment of \$7.5 million over a period of five years ?
 - a) Google
 - b) Microsoft
 - c) Facebook
 - d) Oracle
45. The students and mentors from which institute received the 2nd Chhatra Viswakarma Award under 'Agriculture and food' category at an event organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) at New Delhi ?
 - a) Army Institute of Technology, Maharashtra
 - b) Shri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Andhra Pradesh
 - c) Sri Krishna College of Technology, Tamil Nadu
 - d) Aditya Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh
46. Butterfly researchers rediscovered the Small Woodbrow butterfly species at Khanchenzonga National Park in ____ after a span of 120 long years ?
 - a) Assam
 - b) Odisha
 - c) Sikkim
 - d) Jharkhand
47. Where did Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of National Informatics Centre (NIC) conduct a Technology Conclave themed "Technologies for NextGen Governance"?
 - a) Mumbai
 - b) Kolkata
 - c) New Delhi
 - d) Chennai
48. Amul launched Camel milk for the first time in the brand name of 'Amul Camel Milk' in selective areas of which state ?
 - a) Rajasthan
 - b) Gujarat
 - c) Madhya Pradesh
 - d) UP
49. Name the head of the panel set by Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard?
 - a) Manoj Shekhar
 - b) Praveen Kutumbe
 - c) Rajeev Lal
 - d) Arun Fernandes
50. Etihad Guest, the loyalty programme of Etihad Airways, along with which credit card issuer launched a specific visa credit card to confront the constraints of international travel for Indian 12 travellers?
 - a) ICICI Card
 - b) HDFC Card
 - c) SBI Card
 - d) Axis Bank

ANSWER KEYS

1	c	11	b	21	d	31	b	41	b
2	b	12	c	22	b	32	c	42	c
3	d	13	b	23	a	33	a	43	c
4	b	14	c	24	c	34	c	44	c
5	b	15	a	25	a	35	c	45	c
6	d	16	c	26	c	36	a	46	c
7	d	17	d	27	b	37	b	47	c
8	a	18	b	28	a	38	b	48	b
9	a	19	b	29	b	39	a	49	b
10	a	20	b	30	a	40	b	50	c