

February - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hubei province has been the epicentre of the outbreak of COVID-2019 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus).
 - The capital of the province is Wuhan which is located in Central China.
- ❖ Indian and Portugal Prime Ministers have signed seven agreements to boost cooperation in a range of areas.
 - The areas are investment, transport, ports, culture, industrial and intellectual property rights, etc.
- ❖ During the 6th International Conference on Climate Services (ICCS), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has announced that India is planning a 'decadal forecast' system.
 - The 6th ICCS conference was held at the Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
- ❖ The committee headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar has to prepare policy prescriptions for an integrated social protection framework.
 - Social protection is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability.
- ❖ Maharashtra has made singing the national anthem 'compulsory' in all the colleges in the State from February 19.
 - February 19 is the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- ❖ The double taxation avoidance agreement between India and Sri Lanka was amended on February 12.
- ❖ A Japanese man Chitetsu Watanabe has become the world's oldest male at 112 years and 344 days, according to Guinness Book of World Records.
 - The World's oldest living woman is also a Japanese, Kane Tanaka, a 117-years old.
- ❖ Facebook-owned WhatsApp becomes the second largest social media platform in the world.
- ❖ Nitin Menon is the only Indian in the ICC's list of umpires for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup in Australia.

NATIONAL

Bharat Ke Veer portal

- ❖ Union Home minister Rajnath Singh has chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of 'Bharat Ke Veer'.
- ❖ It was launched by the Union Home Ministry in 2017.
- ❖ It is an IT based platform to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a brave heart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty.



Tuberculosis Notifications

- ❖ Tuberculosis notifications to the government has been increased to 38% from 2017 to 2019.
- ❖ However, this does not mean TB cases are on the rise, but that the government is reaching more TB patients through its efforts & closing the notification gap.
- ❖ This was referred earlier as the 'missing million', to less than three lakhs, with the cooperation of private-sector health care providers.

Anti-Hijack mock drill

- ❖ The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted by created a mock situation using a naval aircraft INS Dega, at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Main objective of this exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.

- ❖ The mock drill is conducted at every Indian airport annually by the National Civil Aviation Security Programme to test efficiency of the Airport's emergency plan and responsibilities in a hijack situation.

CPGRAMS 7.0

- ❖ The National Workshop on e-office held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Union minister Jitendra Singh launched the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) reforms 7.0 version.
- ❖ The CPGRAMS is in line with the Government of India's vision of "Minimum Government-Maximum Governance".



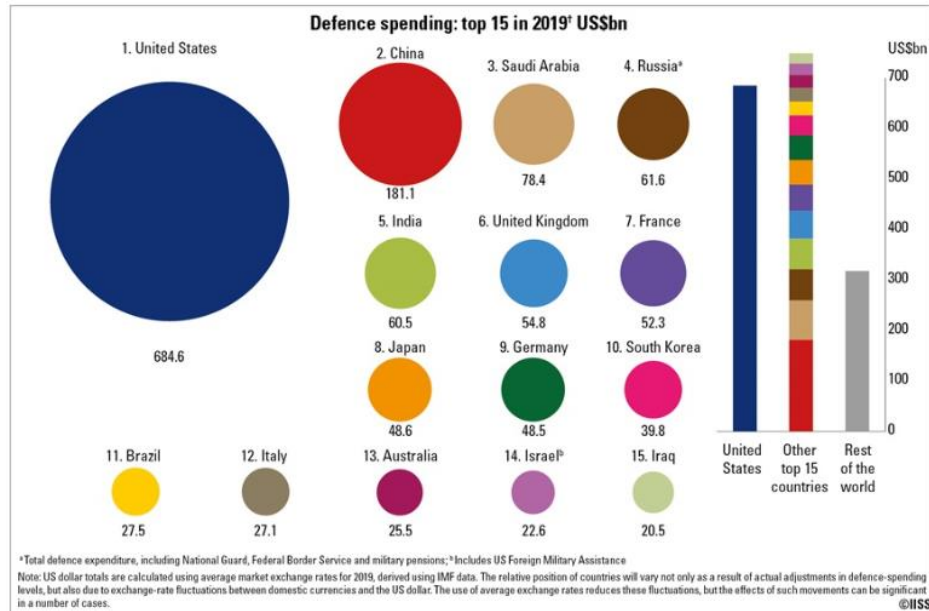
INTERNATIONAL

Report on Defense Spending

- ❖ The International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) has released its report on Defence Spending titled "Military Balance".
- ❖ The global spending on defence has increased by 4% in 2019.
- ❖ This is the largest growth in the last 10 years.
- ❖ The United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India retained their positions as the world's top five defence spenders in 2019.

About IISS

- ❖ International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is a British Research Institute that was established in 1997.
- ❖ The IISS was ranked the 10th best institute in the Global Go to Think Tank Index.



International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has organized the second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise as per the International Search & Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines.
- ❖ INSARAG was established in 1991.
- ❖ It is a network of disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries and organizations dedicated to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

ECONOMY

Top attractive investment destination states - RBI

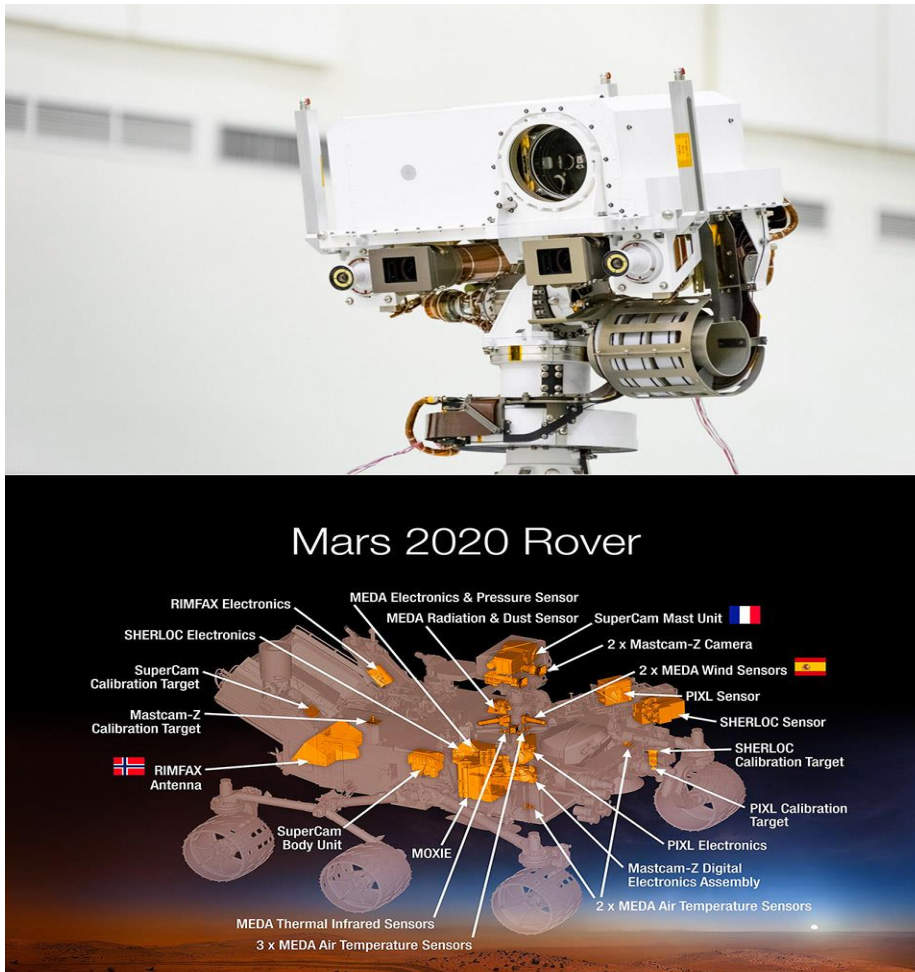
- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has released the data on the top attractive investment destination states.
- ❖ In 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh accounted for the highest share in total cost of projects sanctioned by banks and financial institutions.
- ❖ It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ However, for the five-year period between 2014-15 to 2018-19, Maharashtra has topped the list followed by Gujarat.
- ❖ The deciding factors for a project getting sanctioned in a particular state are:
 - location of a project

- accessibility of raw materials
- availability of skilled labour
- adequate infrastructure
- market size and
- growth prospects

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA's SuperCam robot

- ❖ NASA is going to send a new laser-toting robot named 'SuperCam' to Mars for studying mineralogy and chemistry.
- ❖ It aims to help scientists in finding the signs of fossilized microbial life on the Red Planet.
- ❖ SuperCam is a rock-vaporizing instrument which is part of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.



ENVIRONMENT

Mount Merapi erupts

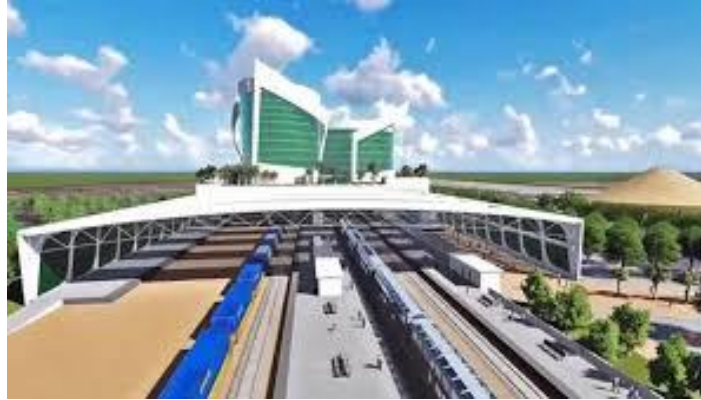
- ❖ Mount Merapi has erupted again sending ash and smoke more than three miles into the sky.
- ❖ Mount Merapi is an active stratovolcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, Indonesia.
- ❖ It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.



STATES

5 Star Hotel on the tracks

- ❖ Indian Railways has planned to construct 5 Star Hotel on the tracks in Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat.
- ❖ This will be the first experiment in India.
- ❖ The roof will be put on the pillars near the tracks and then the hotel will be built on top of it.



Five-day working week for Maharashtra govt employees

- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced five-day working week for its officers and employees from February 29.
- ❖ Employees will now work 45 minutes more Monday to Friday to avail of the weekend off.
- ❖ The five-day week is followed by the central government, in Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- ❖ It will not apply to government offices covered under the Factories Act and the Industrial Disputes Act and to those that are considered essential services.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Indian Achievers Award 2020

- ❖ Rajendra Indraman Singh, has been awarded the Indian Achievers Award in recognition of his “Outstanding Contribution to Indian Education”.
- ❖ Kolkata-born renowned astrologer Dr Sohini Sastri awarded IAA as Best Astrologer of the year.
- ❖ The Indian Achievers Awards are aimed at identifying significant personalities for the year 2020.

FIH player of the year award 2019

- ❖ Manpreet Singh Pawar, the captain of India men’s national field hockey team, has been selected as the FIH Men’s Player of the Year 2019.
- ❖ Thus, he becomes the 1st Indian to receive this honour.
- ❖ Netherlands women’s captain Eva de Goede has been named as FIH Women’s Player of the Year 2019.



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