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## History of 20 February

- ◆ **1935** : **Caroline Mikkelsen** became the first woman to reach **Antarctica**.
- ◆ **1707** : **Aurangzeb**, the ruler of the **Mughal Empire**, died in Ahmednagar.
- ◆ **1965** : **Ranger Eight**, launched by **NASA**, landed on the moon, sent photos and necessary data.
- ◆ **1968** : The first **heart transplant** was performed at **KEM Hospital** in Mumbai.

## Current affairs related to 20 February

- ◆ **Maratha Military Landscape** of India will be nominated in **UNESCO** World Heritage List for the year 2024-2025. Maharashtra has more than 390 forts, out of which only 12 forts have been selected under the Maratha military scenario of India. Eight of these forts are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- ◆ **The RBI working group** made **recommendations to resolve issues related** to guarantees given by state governments. A working group was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India in July 2022 to make recommendations on issues related to guarantees given by state governments. A guarantee is a legal obligation on the part of the State to make payments and to protect an investor/lender from the risk of default by the borrower.
- ◆ **Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh** signed an **MoU with the Ministry of Jal Shakti** to implement the amended Parvati, Kalisindh, Chambal, ERCPLink Project. The project envisages integrating the Parvati Kalisindh Padi Link Project with the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project. Under this MoU, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and the Center will finalize the terms related to sharing of water, sharing of water exchange costs and benefits, implementation mechanism etc.
- ◆ **Sonam Musker** made a **remarkable debut by winning the women's air rifle** silver medal at the Shooting World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. Despite her impressive performance, she was defeated by Germany's Anna Janssen by just 0.9 points. Musker's stellar performance highlights his potential as a rising star in the sport.
- ◆ **BOB Financial Solutions Limited**, the cards subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, is undergoing a strategic transformation and has now been renamed as BOBCard Limited with a focus on revolutionizing credit experiences. The change includes a distinctive logo called Baroda Sun, consisting of the double B letters covering the rays of the rising sun.
- ◆ **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** released the first edition of **Political History** of Assam Volume 1, an important landmark in documenting the political journey of the state. CM Sarma stressed the need to rewrite history based on factual evidence rather than through the prism of ideology. He criticized the approach of viewing history from a leftist or rightist perspective and advocated a more balanced and factual representation of the political history of Assam.
- ◆ **In a major development in the energy sector**, **QatarEnergy** and **Accelerate Energy** have finalized a significant 15-year LNG sales and purchase agreement with the aim of providing LNG to Bangladesh. Under the SPA, Accelerate will secure one million tonnes per year of LNG from QatarEnergy. Deliveries starting in January 2026 will be directed to floating storage and regasification units in Bangladesh.
- ◆ **The 63rd meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board** was held in **Bhopal**, Madhya Pradesh, which was chaired by Shri V.L., Secretary, Ministry of Mines. Kantha Rao did it. Notable participants included Shri Sanjay Lohia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Shri Janardan Prasad, Director General, Geological Survey of India. The proposed annual program for the upcoming field season year 2024.2025 was presented for discussion.
- ◆ **The India Aging Report 2023**, jointly conducted by the **International Institute** for Population Sciences and the United Nations Population Fund, provides a comprehensive overview of the aging demographics in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ◆ **According to the survey conducted by the Ministry of Education**, **student enrollment** in higher education reached about 4.33 crore in 2021-2022, which is an increase of 26.5 percent since 2014-2015. According to the ongoing All India Survey on Higher Education, 341 universities and university level institutions have been established since 2014-2015.



## National and International Current Affairs

**1. Recently the cabinet of which state approved the bill for the development of tourism sector?**

- (A) Assam Cabinet (B) Punjab Cabinet  
(C) Telangana Cabinet (D) Kerala Cabinet

**(A)** Under the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam is moving ahead with major decisions. Recently approved. These include the Assam Tourism Development and Registration Bill 2024 and the Missing Autonomous Council Amendment Bill 2024. Furthermore, infrastructure progress is evident with the approval of an important flyover project in Guwahati.



**2. When is Darwin Day celebrated every year?**

- (A) 7th February (B) 9th February  
(C) 11th February (D) 12th February

**(D)** February 12 is celebrated every year as Darwin Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary biology in 1809. This day highlights Darwin's contribution to evolutionary and plant science. In 2015, Darwin's Origin of Species was voted the most influential academic book in history.



**3. Recently how many cities have the Central Government identified to make them beggar free?**

- (A) 20 (B) 30  
(C) 35 (D) 40

**(B)** The central government has shortlisted 30 cities for survey and rehabilitation of adults involved in begging. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will assist district and municipal authorities in identifying hotspots in these cities to eradicate beggary by 2026. Many other cities will also be included in this initiative in the next two years.



**4. Recently, in January 2024, GST collection increased from 10.4 percent to how many lakh crore rupees?**

- (A) 1.70 lakh crore (B) 1.72 lakh crore  
(C) 2.2 lakh crore (D) 3.5 lakh crore

**(B)** The Finance Ministry said that in January, the collection of Goods and Services Tax increased by 10.4 percent on an annual basis to more than Rs 1.72 lakh crore. This is the second biggest collection so far in a month. There have been three months in the current financial year when the collection has been Rs 1.70 lakh crore or more.



**5. Where has PM Modi addressed the India Mobility Global Expo 2024 recently?**

- (A) New Delhi (B) Gujarat  
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Kerala

**(A)** India's largest and first-of-its-kind mobility exhibition, an event of India Mobility Global Expo 2024, was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. India Mobility Global Expo 2024 showcased India's capabilities across the entire transportation connectivity and automotive industry value chains.





6. Recently, how many lakh crores of funding has the Finance Minister announced for emerging sectors in Budget 2024?

- (A) 1 lakh crore (B) 2 lakh crore  
(C) 3 lakh crores (D) 4 lakh crores

(A) In an unprecedented move to boost research and development within the private sector, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman revealed the setting up of a substantial financial fund of Rs 1 lakh crore during the announcement of the interim Budget 2024. The aim of this fund is to provide low cost or interest free loans, which can be extended for up to 50 years.



7. In which state has the Kalaingar Sports Kit Initiative been launched recently?

- (A) Kerala (B) Telangana  
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Odisha

(C) Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. The Kalaingar Sports Kit initiative, named after late Kalaingar Karunanidhi, is set to provide sports kits to 12000 gram panchayats across the state.

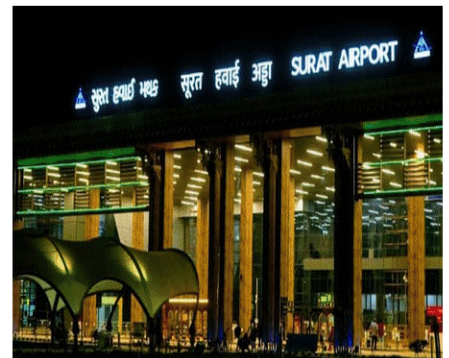


Kalaingar Sports Kit Scheme

8. Which city has recently been declared an international airport by the Central Government?

- (A) Surat (B) New Delhi  
(C) Indore (D) Hyderabad

(A) Taking a big decision, the Central Government has declared Surat Airport in Gujarat as an international airport. The Civil Aviation Ministry has given this information by issuing a notification. In this way Gujarat has got its third international airport. Surat is famous all over the world for its diamond business. In such a situation, this decision of the government will greatly benefit the industrialists and diamond traders of Surat.



9. In which state Ungalai Thedi, Ungala Oril Scheme was inaugurated recently?

- (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka  
(C) Maharashtra (D) Telangana

(A) The Tamil Nadu government under the leadership of Chief Minister MK Stalin has taken an important step towards improving public service delivery and accelerating the implementation of various schemes through the launch of Ungalai Thedi, Ungala Oril Scheme. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the gap between the government and the public by ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach the grassroots level.



10. How many new corridors will be constructed in Indian Railways in the recent budget 2024-2025?

- (A) 1 (B) 2  
(C) 3 (D) 4

(C) In the interim budget for 2024-2025, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a transformational plan to strengthen the Indian Railways. This comprehensive approach includes the establishment of three important economic railway corridors in line with the PM Gati Shakti initiative. Additionally, a significant upgradation of 40,000 coaches is proposed to meet Vande Bharat standards, thereby ensuring better safety, convenience and comfort for passengers.

