

PRACTICE MOCK

weekly current affairs

1. IPS Officer A P Maheshwari appointed as Director General (**DG**) of the Central Reserve Police Force (**CRPF**).

2. Dr. Bipul Bihari Saha from Hyderabad has been **elected as a bureau member of the IUPAC** (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) **headquartered at North Carolina, US.**

3. A Sakthivel has been appointed as the new **chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council of India (AEPC).**

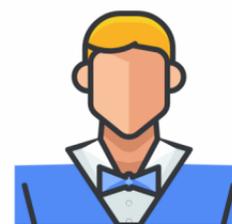
4. Michael Debabrata Patra (from Odisha) has been appointed as **Deputy Governor of** the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**).

5. Union Government has appointed Lt. General Girish Kumar as the Surveyor of India in Survey of India which comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

6. M Nagaraj has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (**CMD**) of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (**HUDCO**).

7. Rajya Sabha MP (from UP) Chandra Pal Singh Yadav has been re-elected unanimously as **Chairman** of Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (**KRIBHCO**).

1. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan launched mission PURVODAYA in Kolkata with the aim of driving accelerated development of eastern India through integrated steel hub.



PERSONS IN NEWS

2. Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textiles, **Smriti Zubin Irani** launched “**Yashaswini**” scheme of the **Goa government for Women entrepreneurship** in Panaji, Goa.



Under the scheme interest-free loans up to Rs. 5 lakhs with a tenure of five years **will be given to women self-help groups.**

3. **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** has **approved the Green Credit Scheme** that would allow forests to be traded as a commodity.



1. **HDFC Bank** has launched ‘**myApps**’, which is a suite of white-label apps to benefit urban local bodies, housing societies, local clubs and gymkhanas and religious institutions.

2. **SBI** has announced a **new scheme named Residential Builder Finance with Buyer Guarantee (RBBG)** to **safeguard homebuyers financially** by issuing a guarantee for completion of projects to customers availing.

SBI Home Loans, houses of the price up to Rs. 2.50 crores in 10 cities will be focussed in the RBBG scheme initially.

For the scheme, SBI has partnered with real estate development company **Sunteck Realty Limited (SRL)**. **RBBG scheme tagline is:** “Sapna Aapka – Bharosa SBI Ka”.

3. State Bank of India (**SBI**) **Ecowrap report** has downgraded **India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** growth forecast **for FY20 to 4.6%.**

4. **Andhra Pradesh government** has signed a **loan pact for Rs.711 crores with Kfwa-a Germany Development bank** for expanding the climate-resilient Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).

5. **World Bank** in its report, “January 2020 Global Economic Prospects: Slow growth, policy challenges” ha **slashed India’s GDP growth for FY-2020 to 5%.**

6. Union Government has announced an **increase in the authorized capital of** Chennai headquartered **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to Rs 25,000 crores** from the previous authorized capital of Rs. 15,000 crores.

7. **RBI has set up a 5-year plan of formulation of National Strategy**

for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) for the **period 2019-2024**. Key recommendations are:

- Banking outlets to be increased to provide financial inclusion to every village within a 5-kilometer radius/ 500 households in hilly areas by March 2020.
- Moving to digital and consent-based architecture for the customer by March 2024.
- Access to financial service providers through a mobile device by March 2024.

8. To promote digital payments in the country, RBI has permitted the processing of e-mandate for recurring payments through UPI (Unified Payments Interface).

So, **Additional factor authentication (AFA) like OTP won't be required** for recurring payments through UPI. Under this facility, an agreement between the consumer and the merchant bodies is done and the payment is done automatically on the fixed date of the month.

However, **the maximum permissible limit under this payment system shall be Rs 2,000 per transaction.**

9. According to a Deutsche Bank research report **India's economy is likely to grow two and half times to \$7 trillion by 2030**, from about \$3 trillion now, making India the world's third-largest economy.

10. In a first, RBI has introduced the Aadhaar-based Video Customer Identification Process (V-CIP).

1. Co-founder of Flipkart Sachin Bansal has acquired DHFL (Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited) General Insurance for around Rs.100 crore.

2. HDFC has completed the acquisition of the majority stake in Apollo Munich Health Insurance for Rs.1,495.81 crore.

3. According to the cybersecurity and anti-virus solutions provider Kaspersky, a Trojan malware application called 'Shopper' has affected more than 14.23% Indian users, the malware boosts shopping app ratings, spreads ads, installs apps without the permission of the smart phone user.

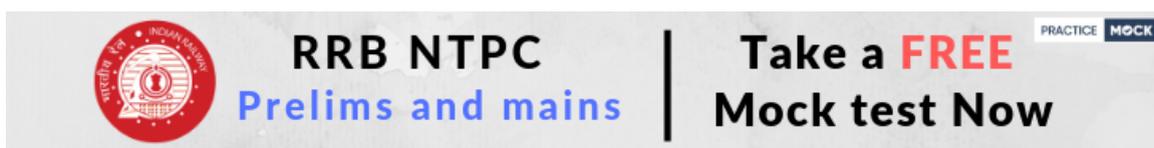
4. According to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) first Advance estimates the growth in real GDP for 2019-20 is estimated at **5%**.



5. According to the **report titled “Market Study on E-commerce in India: Key Findings and Observations”** by Competition Commission of India (CCI), **revenue from the e-commerce sector is expected to increase** from \$39 billion in 2017 **to \$120 billion in 2020**, growing at an annual rate of 51%, the highest in the world.

Also, **the number of internet users has increased** from 445.96 million in 2017 **to 665.31 million in 2019** and is also expected to increase to 829 million in 2021.

6. **Fintech company PayU India has acquired digital credit startup PaySense** at an equity valuation of about \$185 million, PayU merged its lending business Lazypay with PaySense.



The banner features the RRB NTPC logo on the left, followed by the text "RRB NTPC Prelims and mains" in blue. To the right, separated by a vertical line, is the text "Take a FREE Mock test Now" in black and red. In the top right corner, there are two small buttons labeled "PRACTICE" and "MOCK".



1. **Indian born- UK author Jasbinder Bilan’s** debut novel **‘Asha and the Spirit Bird’**, focusing on the readers of age range 9 years **won the children’s book award named Costa Children’s Award.**

2. **British-Indian 10-year-old Ishwar Sharma** an under 11-yoga champion from the UK has been honoured with the **Global Child Prodigy Award 2020** for achievements in spiritual discipline yoga.

3. **Eminent Agricultural Scientist Dr M S Swaminathan and well-known social worker, Dr. Gutta Muniratnam** were respectively chosen as the **first recipients of ‘Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence’ and ‘Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service’** respectively.

4. Captain of the Indian women’s hockey team **Rani Rampal** (from Haryana) has been **nominated for the “World Games Athlete of the Year” award, 2019** by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) **headquartered at Lausanne, Switzerland.**

5. **Merck Young Scientist Awards 2019** in chemical science was awarded **to Indian Scientist Dr. Sakya Singha Sen and his team** for their specialization in main group of chemistry and synthesis of compounds with main group elements and their catalytic application.

1. India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) will host the 5th edition of its biennial conference, **'The Pulses Conclave 2020'** from February 12 - 14, 2020 at the Aamby Valley City in **Lonavala, Maharashtra.**



2. Wings India 2020, an international exhibition and conference on civil aviation sector, **will be held at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, Telangana in March.** The theme of the event is "Flying for all".

3. 19th edition of Annual Joint Exercise 'Sahyog-Kaijin' between the Japanese Coast Guard and the Indian Coast Guard was held **in Chennai.**

4. India has been selected to host the SCO's (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) **annual meeting of the council of heads of government.** **The secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is Vladimir Norov.**

5. 31st International Kite Festival was held at the Sabarmati riverfront **in Ahmedabad.**

6. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: January 09

7. World Hindi Day: January 10

8. Armed Forces Veteran's Day: January 14

9. National Youth Day: January 12 (Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)

Theme: Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building

1. According to the latest ranking on fastest-growing urban regions/ fastest-growing cities in the world by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Malappuram was



ranked 1st in the list, while Kozhikode and Kollam cities were ranked in the 4th and 10th place respectively. All three cities are in Kerala.

2. Indian passport was ranked at 84th spot in the Henley Passport Index 2020 among the world's most powerful passports list. The list was topped by Japan.

1. To unify different tribes of Mizo community, Mizoram Government organised first edition of "Zo Kutpui" festival 2020 across 10 states in India & also in US, Myanmar and



Bangladesh.

- 2. Haryana, Kerala and Karnataka were the best-ranked states** and were ranked in the achiever category **in the 2nd State Energy Efficiency Index 2019.**
- 3. Union Government has set up an 11-member panel headed by Dr. K Rajeswara Rao** that will **look into the issues related to the revision of royalty rates for minerals** (other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals).
- 4. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar launched a book on China titled 'PAX SINICA: Implications for the Indian Dawn' authored by Samir Saran and Akhil Deo.**
- 5. "Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD)" developed by IIT-Madras** that will help in proper monitoring and accurate analysis of road accidents was launched recently in New Delhi during 'Road Safety Stakeholders' meet.
- 6. Captain Tania Shergill, an officer in Indian Army will be the first woman parade adjutant for the Republic Day parade** to be held on January 26.
- 7. According to the United Nations report titled "Levels and Trends in Child Mortality", in India the mortality of girls under the age of 5 exceeds that of the boys.** According to the report, **Jharkhand had the largest gender gap and UP had the highest newborn deaths.**
- 8. New book of compilation of selected writings by former finance minister Arun Jaitley, namely "New India: Selected Writings 2014-19"** would be released recently.
- 9. PM Modi renamed Kolkata Port as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port** on the occasion of 150th year celebrations of the Kolkata Port Trust.
- 10. Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the book 'Karmayoddha Granth' on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- 11. Nandyal-Yerraguntla section in Guntakal Division of Andhra Pradesh has been declared as the first solar section in South Central Railway.**
- 12. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal was dedicated to the nation by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.** He also inaugurated Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

13. According to International Energy Agency (IEA) -NITI Ayog's first in-depth review of India's energy policies 2020 India's energy demand is expected to be doubled by 2040 and also the electricity demand may triple.

Also, **India has a strong growth in renewables in India accounting for almost 23% of the country's total installed capacity** and improvements made in energy efficiency helped India to avoid 15% of additional energy demand, oil and gas imports.



1. Uttar Pradesh government has announced a zoological garden (121 acres) in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh to be named after the freedom fighter and revolutionary Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan.

2. Arunachal Pradesh government has adopted a new logo that will reflect the distinct identity and culture of the state.

The new logo consists of the National Emblem (to signify the federal system of the Indian Constitution) **and the flower foxtail orchid which represents the state, its people and culture.**

3. Andhra Pradesh's government has launched flagship programme 'Jagananna Amma Vodi' scheme in Chittoorto support lakhs of poor and needy mothers to educate their children.

4. Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched India's 1st cyber AASHVAST (Assured Assistance Service Helpline for Victims at Shortest Time) & project VISHWAS (Video Integration and State Wide Advanced Security) of the Gujarat government.

5. Eight northeastern states will participate in the annual festival "Madhavpur Mela" of Gujarat to be held at Madhavpur in Porbandar district.

6. Harvests festivals are being celebrated across various states in India, some important festivals are:

Kicheri: Uttar Pradesh.

Maghi: In Punjab.

Saaji: In Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh.

Makar Sankranti: Primarily in Karnataka.

Pongal: In South India and particularly in Tamil Nadu.

Magha Bihu: In Assam and many parts of the North East.

Uttarayan: In Gujarat.

7. Uttar Pradesh's government has approved the commissionerate system of policing for Lucknow, and Noida. In the commissionerate system, the Commissioner of Police (CP) is the head of a unified police command structure, and is accountable to the state government.

1. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation recently announced eight wonders of SCO countries,

the wonders are, Statue of Unity in India, Navruz Palace in Tajikistan, Daming Palace in China, Tamgaly Gorge in Kazakhstan, Po-i-Kalan complex in Uzbekistan, Lahore – the Mughals Heritage in Pakistan and the Golden Ring of Russia.



INTERNATIONAL

2. Union Cabinet has approved an MoU on Cooperation of Polar Science between the Ministry of Education and Research of **Sweden** and the Ministry of Earth Sciences of **India**.

3. Robert Abela has been elected as the **next Prime Minister of Malta** (**Capital:** Valetta, **Currency:** Euro).

4. Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen has won the **presidential election for the second time.** (**Taiwan Capital:** Taipei, **Currency:** dollar)

5. Zoran Milanovic is the **next President of Croatia** (**Capital:** Zagreb, **Currency:** Kuna).

6. Pedro Sanchez has been **re-elected as the Prime Minister of Spain** (**Capital:** Madrid, **Currency:** Euro).

7. Haitham bin Tariq Al Said was appointed as the **new ruler of Oman** (**Capital:** Muscat, **Currency:** Rial).



SPORTS

1 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) (Headquarters: Munich, Germany), announced India as the top Shooting Nation in the World for the year 2019 with 21 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze.

2. Novak Djokovic (from Serbia) has defeated **Rafael Nadal of Spain to make Serbia the champion of 1st edition of ATP Cup i.e. ATP Cup 2020** held in Sydney, Australia.

3. Cricketer Jasprit Bumrah received the highest prize of Indian cricket - the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for the best international cricketer (2018-19) in men's category by the BCCI.

Poonam Yadav won best international cricketer in the women's cricket.

4. Ladakh won the 7th National Ice Hockey Championship Women trophy held at the Karzoo Ice Hockey Rink, Ladakh.



1. Odisha's legendary filmmaker Manmohan Mohapatra Odisha's passed away recently.

2. Kerala based cartoonist Thomas Antony passed away recently.

3. Veteran Odissi Danseuse (female ballet dancer) **Minati Mishra** passed away recently.

4. Dhadi folk singer Idu Sharif passed away in Chandigarh recently.

5. Renowned Kannada scholar and researcher M Chidananda Murthy popularly known as "ChiMu" passed away recently.

6. Broadcaster, poet and academician Obaid Siddiqui passed away in Ghaziabad recently.

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