

1-5 February 2019 Current Affairs

1) Interim budget 2019 highlights

(Download the Interim Budget 2019 details from the EDGE website www.edgeacademy.co.in)

2) The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on February 6, 2019 launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign for sustainability of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of villages across the country.

3) The “**Parmanu Tech 2019**” Conference was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at New Delhi on February 6. The conference discussed issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies. Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State for Atomic Energy and Space, delivered the keynote address at the conference. During the conference sector specific sessions were held with Panel discussions on the following topics: 1) Health care: Nuclear Medicine and Radiation therapy – Care to cure, 2) Food Preservation, Agricultural & Industrial Applications: From farms to factories – Serving the National Cause and 3) Showcasing India’s capabilities in Nuclear Energy: Energy Security with environmental responsibility – the Onward March.

4) **Indian Space Research Organisation’s** latest communication satellite, **GSAT-31** was successfully launched by Arianespace aboard its launch vehicle Ariane 5 from the spaceport in French Guiana on February 5, 2019. The launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-247 lifted off from Kourou Launch Base in Guiana Space Center (CSG) at 2:31 am (IST) carrying two telecommunications satellites. This is Arianespace’s first launch of the year and the 103rd Ariane 5 mission.

6-19 February 2019 Current Affairs



1) On 14 February 2019 a massive suicide attack supported by the Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed resulted in death of 44 CRPF personnel. This attack took place at which place in Kashmir valley? – **Lethpora** (On 14 February 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying

security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethpora (near Awantipora) in the Pulwama district, Jammu and Kashmir state. The attack resulted in the death of 44 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and also the attacker Adil Ahmed Dar, a local youth. Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed claimed responsibility for the attack. This was the deadliest terror attack on state security personnel since 1989)

2) A day after Pulwama attack on CRPF jawans, the Indian government withdrew the "Most Favoured Nation" or MFN status accorded to Pakistan. In which year this status was accorded to Pakistan? – **1996** (India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, just a year after the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). On the other hand, Pakistan is yet to award MFN status to India. MFN status is given to an international trade partner to ensure non-discriminatory trade between all partner countries of the WTO)



3) The commercial service of newly launched **Vande-Bharat Express** or Train 18 started from 17 February 2019. Now India’s fastest train, the Vande-Bharat Express, connects which two cities? – **New Delhi and Varanasi** (Indian Railways’ first Vande-Bharat Express is operating between New Delhi and Varanasi, stopping at Kanpur and Prayagaraj (Allahabad) en-route. It is expected to reduce the travel time along the route by 15%. This train has been developed to replace Shatabdi Express, the premium intercity chair-car train)

4) Which team won the Ranji Trophy title for 2019 after beating Saurashtra on 7 February 2019? – **Vidarbha** (Vidarbha won their second Ranji Trophy title in a row after beating Saurashtra by 78 runs in the final at Nagpur on 7 February 2019. Vidarbha were helped by 29-year-old spinner Aditya Sarwate, who picked up his maiden first-class 10-wicket haul in the match)



5) India received the first batch of which famous US military helicopter for the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 10 February 2019? – **Chinook** (The first four Chinook heavy military helicopters were received by India at the Mundra Port in Gujarat on 10 February 2019. The CH47F (I) Chinooks are manufactured by American aerospace major Boeing and is used for transporting troops, artillery, equipment and fuel. The IAF currently has 15 Chinook helicopters on order)

6) The Reserve Bank of India cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% during its bi-monthly monetary policy review on 7 February 2019. This was the first reduction in rate since when? – **August 2017** (The RBI, for the first time since August 2017, cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% during its bi-monthly monetary policy review. This was the first policy review under the newly appointed RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, who took over after Urjit Patel's exit)

7) Which new communication satellite of India was launched from French Guiana on 6 February 2019? – **GSAT-31** (GSAT-31 is the name of India's latest communication satellite that was launched by European launch services provider- Arianespace's rocket from French Guiana in the early hours of 6 February 2019. It is a high power communication satellite with Ku-band, and it is going to serve and replace some of the satellites that are going to expire soon. It is India's 40th communication satellite)



8) Who was appointed the new Election Commissioner (EC) in the Election Commission of India (ECI) on 14 February 2019? - **Sushil Chandra** (President Ram Nath Kovind on 14 February 2019 appointed Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra as an Election Commissioner. The post had fallen vacant

after the appointment of the then Election Commissioner Sunil Arora as Chief Election Commissioner on superannuation of his predecessor O.P. Rawat in December 2018. Former bureaucrat Ashok Lavasa is the first and senior most Election Commissioner)

9) How much daily national minimum wage was proposed by a government panel constituted on the subject, as was announced on 15 February 2019? – **Rs. 375** (A government panel recommended a national minimum wage of Rs. 375 per day or Rs. 9,750 per month plus an additional housing allowance of Rs. 1,430 per month for workers in cities. The minimum wage would be irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations)

10) US President Donald Trump on 15 February 2019 declared a national emergency due to which reason? – **To fund the US-Mexico border without congressional approval** (The military category of national emergency was declared in the country by US President Donald Trump on 15 February 2019. It was declared so as to allocate funds to build a wall on the southern border of the United States, which the president stated is "a major entry point for illegal immigration into the US. This is the first military national emergency in the US since September 2001 after 9/11 terror attacks)



11) Who became the first ever woman flight engineer in the Indian Air Force (IAF) during February 2019? – **Hina Jaiswal** (Hina Jaiswal created history after becoming the first ever woman flight engineer in the IAF. She was inducted as flight engineer on 15 February 2018. Hina successfully completed the six-month course at the 112 helicopter unit, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru. She was commissioned on 5 January 2015, in the engineering branch of the IAF. A Flight Engineer is the member of an aircraft's flight crew who monitors and operates its complex aircraft systems requiring a specialised skill set)

12) Which emirate of the UAE during February 2019 inducted Hindi as its third official language? – **Abu Dhabi** (Hindi has been included as the third official language, besides Arabic and English, on all

interactive forms filed before Abu Dhabi courts in labour cases. The move was aimed at providing foreigners better access to justice, without a language barrier)

20-21 February 2019 Current Affairs



13) Which private sector bank on 18 February 2019 opened its 5000th branch? – **HDFC Bank** (Private sector lender HDFC Bank opened its 5000th branch in Mumbai on 18 February 2019. This branch was launched on the same day that it commenced operations in 1995, marking the start of its 25th year. The first branch was launched in Mumbai at Sandoz House, Worli)

1) Which new single emergency helpline number was launched in India on 19 February 2019 that would provide immediate access to numerous emergency services? – **112** (A single emergency helpline number "112" was launched in India on 19 February 2019 that would provide immediate assistance to services like police (100), fire (101), health (108), women safety (1090) and child protection. 112 also features a unique panic button facility. It was made available in 16 states. This service was earlier launched in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland)

14) What was the name of the all-weather day-dusk-night operational capability exercise undertaken by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Rajasthan that concluded on 18 February 2019? – **Vayu Shakti 2019** (Vayu Shakti 2019 was the name of the major operational capability exercise undertaken by the IAF close to the border with Pakistan at Pokhran in Rajasthan.



15) The RBI will pay how much amount to Union Government as interim dividend for year ended December 2018 as was announced on 18 February 2019? – **Rs. 28,000 crore** (The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 18 February 2019 said it would give Rs. 28,000 crore to the Union government as interim dividend. The decision was taken at a meeting of the RBI's Central Board in New Delhi. This is the second successive year that the RBI will be transferring an interim surplus)

2) Wallace Smith Broecker, who passed away on 18 February 2019, was associated with which popular environmental term? – **Global Warming** (American oceanographer Wallace Smith Broecker is the man who coined the term "global warming," way back in 1975, in a paper called "Climate Change: Are We on the Brink of a Pronounced Global Warming?")



16) European aerospace giant Airbus will stop manufacturing which iconic passenger plane after 2021 as was announced during February 2019? – **Airbus A380** (Airbus announced that would stop building its A380 superjumbo, the double-decker jet, after 2021. This announcement came following a decision by the A380's biggest customer, the Dubai-based carrier Emirates, to reduce its total orders by 39 planes.)

3) What is the broad aim of the National Electronics Policy 2019 that was approved by the Union Cabinet on 19 February 2019? – **To achieve turnover of Rs. 26 lakh crore for design and manufacturing sector by 2025** (The Union Cabinet on 19 February 2019 approved the National Electronics Policy 2019 aimed at achieving a turnover of \$400 billion (about Rs. 26 lakh crore) for the electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM) sector by 2025, while generating employment opportunities for one crore people)

4) Which Australian mammal officially became the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change, as was announced on 19 February 2019? - **Great Barrier Reef Rodent** (Australia on 19 February 2019 officially declared a Great Barrier Reef rodent extinct, making it the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change. This mammal's only known habitat was a small sandy island in far northern Australia. The repeated ocean inundation

of the low-lying island on a coral reef is believed to led to its extinction)



5) Renowned Hindi writer and one of contemporary Hindi literature's tallest figures Namvar Singh passed away on 19 February 2019. What was the literary area that made him incredibly popular? – **Literary criticism** (Namvar Singh gave Hindi literary criticism a new direction with his books such as "Chhayavaad", "ItihasAurAlochana", "Kahaani NayiKahaani", "KavitaKeNayePratimaan" and "DusriParampara kiKhoj". He worked as a professor in his alma mater Banaras Hindu University (BHU) as well as Jodhpur University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He got his Ph.D. under the supervision of the Hindi literary giant Hazari Prasad Dwivedi. He was 92.)

6) Iconic fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld, who passed away on 19 February 2019, was associated with which famous French fashion house? – **Chanel** (German designer and creative designer Karl Otto Lagerfeld was associated with Chanel since 1982 and was instrumental with reviving it. He was also creative director of his own Italian fur and leather goods fashion house Fendi. He was 85)

22-23 February 2019 Current Affairs



1) India's first humanoid police robot was inducted in which state's police force on 21 February 2019? – **Kerala**(Kerala Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan on 21 February 2019 inaugurated the induction event of India's first humanoid police robot called 'KP-BOT' in Kerala Police. This female-gendered robot was assigned the rank of Sub-Inspector. It will work at the police headquarters' front desk and will perform functions including greeting visitors and guiding

them to appropriate sections. The robot has been equipped with facial recognition technology)



2) The Supreme Court on 21 February 2019 exempted which famous analgesic tablet brand from the list of banned FDCs (fixed dose combinations)? – **Saridon** (The Supreme Court on 21 February 2019 ruled in favour of Saridon, a heritage brand from the healthcare product portfolio of Piramal Enterprises Ltd. (PEL), exempting its formulation from the list of banned FDCs.)

3) Who was appointed as the first-ever Ombudsman of the BCCI by the Supreme Court on 21 February 2019? - **Justice DK Jain** (The Supreme Court on 21 February 2019 appointed its former judge Justice DK Jain as the first Ombudsman of the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI). This post has been created to resolve disputes under the cricket board's new constitution. The apex court in its judgment of 9 August 2018 had recommended the appointment of the ombudsman.)



4) Who was appointed as the third member of the Committee of Administrators of the BCCI by the Supreme Court on 21 February 2019? – **Lt. General Ravi ThoddeRetd.** (The Supreme Court 21 February 2019 appointed Indian Army's former Master-General of Ordnance (MGO), Lt. General Ravi Thodde as the third member of the VinodRai-led Committee of Administrators (CoA), which is overseeing BCCI's affairs. CoA initially had four members but after the resignation of historian RamachandraGuha and National Stock Exchange CEO VikramLimaye, only two members - VinodRai and Diana Edulji - were left in CoA.)

5) What is the interest rate for beneficiaries of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for year 2018-19, as was announced on 21 February 2019? – **8.65%** (The EPFO hiked interest

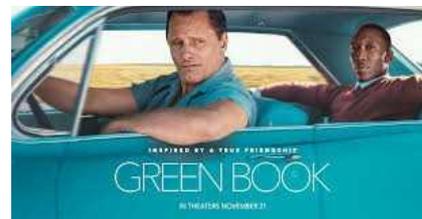
rate on employees' provident fund (PF) deposits by 0.10% to 8.65% from 8.55% for the 2018-19 financial year. This is the first interest rate hike by the retirement fund manager since 2015-16. IT is worth mentioning that EPFO has a subscriber base of about 6 crore and manages a corpus of more than Rs. 11 lakh crore.

dispatched from western Afghan city of Zaranj to this port. The consignment will be shipped to Mumbai port in India. Chabahar provides easy access to the sea to Afghanistan and India has helped developed this route to allow both countries to engage in trade bypassing Pakistan)

24-28 February 2019 Current Affairs



1) What is the name of the dashboard portal of the Indian Railways that was launched by Union Rail Minister Piyush Goyal on 25 February 2019 that provides any information related to Indian Railways in a swipe? – **Rail Drishti** (Rail Drishti is the name of the state-of-the-board online dashboard service of the Indian Railways that was launched on 25 February 2019. This dashboard has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and can be accessed at www.raildrishti.cris.org.in. It will provide all information pertaining to trains and other services of the railways to the passengers. They can find out about the movement of trains across the country, train punctuality, freight and passenger earnings, freight loading and unloading, progress of major projects, public grievances, details of railway stations)



3) Which movie won the Best Picture award at the 91st Academy Awards ceremony held on 24 February 2019? – **“Green Book”** (American biographical comedy drama “Green Book” won the coveted Best Picture award at the 91st Academy Awards ceremony. The movie won 3 awards in all while “Bohemian Rhapsody” was the most successful film winning 4 Oscars. Alfonso Cuarón won the Best Director award for Mexican film “Roma”. Rami Malek won the Best Actor award for “Bohemian Rhapsody” while Olivia Colman won the Best Actress award for “The Favourite”).

4) The Goods and Services (GST) Council on 24 February 2019 decided to recommend lower GST levy on under-construction homes. What is the new levy on affordable homes? – **1%** (Under the new GST structure, normal under-construction houses will attract GST at 5% against the present effective rate of 12%. Similarly, the levy on affordable homes will be 1% against 8%, now. This is expected to provide a huge boost to India’s housing sector)



2) Afghanistan began exports to India through which Iranian port? - Iranian port from 24 February 2019? - **Chabahar Port** (Afghani President Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the new export route for India – Iran’s Chabahar port. 23 trucks carrying 57 tonnes of dried fruits, textiles, carpets and mineral products were

5) Which village of Gujarat has emerged as the first Eco-village of the country? – **Dhaj** (Dhaj village which is situated in the forest area of Gujarat's Surat city has emerged as the first Eco-village of the country. The village uses all natural resources to live their lives such as solar panels for electricity, biogas plants, water tanks to collect rain water etc. The village is situated about 70 km far from Surat and has been developed with the joint efforts of Gujarat Ecology Commission, Forest and Environment Department of the state)



6) Dilip G Shah, who passed away during February 2019, was a noted personality associated with which sector? – **Indian pharmaceutical sector** (77 year old Dilip G Shah was one of the senior-most pharmaceutical professionals in India. He had over 52 years (1966 onwards) of varied experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He was one among the mantle bearers who spearheaded India's transformation to become one of the top generic drug producers in the world. He was also the founder and Secretary-General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), a grouping of top Indian drug makers)

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7) Elon Musk-led aerospace startup SpaceX on 22 February 2019 deployed which country's first Moon lander mission making it the world's first such fully-private mission? – **Israel** (SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launched Israel's first Moon lander mission 'Beresheet' on 22 February 2019 making it the world's first such fully-private mission. The mission is set to land on the Moon on 11 April 2019. If successful, Israel will become only the fourth nation (after US, Russia and China) to have achieved a controlled touchdown on the Moon)

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8) What is the name of the Japanese probe spacecraft that successfully touched down on a speeding asteroid 300 million km from the Earth during February 2019? - **Hayabusa 2** (Hayabusa 2 is the name of the Japanese probe spacecraft that successfully touched down on the asteroid Ryugu. This speeding asteroid was about 300 million km from the Earth. The spacecraft is seeking to gather 10g of the dislodged debris with an instrument for carrying out studies)

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