

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## FEBRUARY 2020

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. **Maldives readmitted and becomes 54th member of Commonwealth family**
2. **Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi appointed as new PM of Iraq**
3. **Pakistan, Somalia declare locusts a 'national emergency' after worst locust invasion.**
  - The Government of Somalia announced a National Emergency on Locusts (family- Acrididae) attack because these insects caused major damage to the food supply in one of the world's poorest countries & and most vulnerable regions in the world. Somalia is the 1<sup>st</sup> country to make such a declaration & its declaration aims to intensify the national effort to combat these insects. (LOCUST DESTROYS CROPS HENCE IT BECOMES BIOLOGICAL DISASTER SITUATION).
4. **Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2020**
  - Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has been nominated for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize by two lawyers Jens Holm and Hakan Svenneling, who are both members of Sweden's Left Party. It is the second consecutive year that Thunberg has been nominated.
5. **22<sup>nd</sup> edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 commenced in Kochi, Kerala.**
  - A 3-day long 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 based on the theme "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition" has commenced at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Kochi, Kerala. The show is being organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
6. **Railway Line between India and Bangladesh project to End by 2021**
  - The 15.6km long railway line between Agartala, India (Tripura)-Akhaura in Bangladesh will be completed by September 2021, these railway routes will improve connectivity between Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railways and will boost trade between the two countries. The project started in January 2010 during the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina's visits to India. This will be the 1<sup>st</sup> train from the northeast India to Bangladesh.
7. **ADB approved \$2 million fund amount to combat nCoV.**
  - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved to sponsor \$2 million as funding to combat the outbreak of novel coronavirus (nCoV). Under the funding, regional technical assistance will be provided in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. ADB has also partnered with the World Health Organisation(WHO) and other regional experts to respond to the 2019 nCoV situation.
8. **WHO renames deadly coronavirus from China as 'COVID-19'**
  - UN(United Nations) health agency, the WHO(World Health Organization) has officially renamed Coronavirus as 'COVID-19' ["co" stands for "corona", "vi" for "virus" and "d" for "disease", while "19" was for the year, as the outbreak was first originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019]. Earlier WHO had named it temporarily as novel coronavirus (nCoV).
9. **A 2-day long 33<sup>rd</sup> African Union (AU) Heads of State Summit 2020 under the theme "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development" was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, is the newly elected Chairperson of the African Union for one year. He replaces Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.**
10. **United States Trade Representative (USTR) has removed India, Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Argentina from getting special preferences under the methodology for countervailing duty (CVD) investigations. It is a list of developing countries that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidised exports.**
11. **43<sup>rd</sup> IFAD Governing Council held in Rome, Italy: Climate Change to push 100 millions to poverty by 2030**
  - Theme "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". During the meet, the IFAD stated that the sequences of climate change and it's impacts on agriculture will push around 100 million people to poverty by 2030. An appeal has been made for the same to urgently spend more on rural development to avoid a catastrophic situation arising out of the climate emergency. In 2018, 90% of 17.2 million people displaced by disasters were due to weather

and climate-related events. In Africa alone, climate conflicts have risen by 36% between 2018 and 2019 which stops agricultural production.

12. Ashraf Ghani wins second term as Afghanistan's President.
13. Hindi is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin Chinese: 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of World language database, Ethnologue.
14. 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of SCO held in Islamabad, Pakistan.
15. Pakistan continues at grey list of FATF for another 4 months
16. India & Sri Lanka signed MoU for up-gradation of infrastructure in plantation schools in Colombo, Sri Lanka
17. Saudi Arabia, 1st Arab Nation that hosts G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting 2020 from Feb 22-23
18. Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe re-elected for a fourth term after winning 72% of votes
19. Sri Lankan Govt withdraws from UNHRC resolution on war crimes
20. Conference on Enhancing Energy Cooperation in the BIMSTEC region held in Dhaka, Bangladesh; India tops in coal & all energy resources in the BIMSTEC region
  - South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration (SARI/EI) and US AID (United States Agency for International Development) organized the Two Days Conference on Enhancing Energy Cooperation in the BIMSTEC region held at Dhaka between February 25-26, 2020. During the conference they released the report "prospect of regional energy cooperation and cross-border energy trade in the BIMSTEC region". India has 98% of coal resources & tops in all energy resources among BIMSTEC region- "prospect of regional energy cooperation and cross-border energy trade in the BIMSTEC region" report.

## NATIONAL NEWS

1. IHME Report: 14% of India's under-five aged deaths were due to pneumonia
  - On January 30, 2020 according to a recent report by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 14% of under 5 years of age deaths in India occurred mainly due to pneumonia. This accounted for approximately 1,27,000 deaths annually where the figure was around 1,78,000 in 2013. 50% of the under-5 deaths caused by pneumonia were from the northern belt of India.
2. Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has inaugurated a 3-day long World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 based on the theme "Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count" at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 29-31 January, 2020.
  - The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.
3. India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' in Telangana
  - The festival was held for 3 days from 31st January to February 1, 2020. The theme for the year 2020 was "Spot and encourage rural tech innovators".
4. GoM headed by Minister for Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) Harsh Vardhan to monitor novel coronavirus outbreak constituted
5. 73.47 Lakh people trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana from 2016-20
  - As on January 17, 2020 approximately 73.47 lakh candidates were provided skilling under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) across India from 2016-2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). It is a flagship program under the Skill India Mission of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSD&E).

**6. DST launches SATHI initiative to address need for building strong science & technology infrastructure**

- DST (Department of Science and Technology) that works under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched a special scheme called “Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)” with the aim to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India. The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing. This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.

**7. Bhutan ends free entry for Indian tourists**

- The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for “regional tourists” from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020. The fee is called SDF “Sustainable Development Fees” in order to regulate a new tourism policy (tourism facilities, better infrastructure).

**8. One in 10 Indians to have cancer in their lifetime: WHO report.**

- In order to mark World Cancer Day on February 4, 2020, WHO (World Health Organization) and its specialized International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released 2 reports namely, “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all” by WHO & “World Cancer Report “Cancer research for cancer prevention” by IARC aimed at setting the global agenda on the disease & focused on research and prevention.
- According to the report, 11.6 million new cases of cancer were reported in India & and 7,84,800 people died due to cancer in 2018 & 2.26 million 5-year prevalent cases in India’s population of 1.35 billion. As per the report by the WHO, one in 10 Indians to have cancer in their lifetime and one in 15 died of the disease. At the same time, WHO has predicted that cancer cases will jump by 81 % by 2040 in poor countries due to the lack of investment in prevention and care.

**9. MoFPI sanctioned 39 Mega Food Parks & 298 Integrated Cold Chain Projects under PMKSY.**

- The aim of the scheme is to prevent post-harvest losses of horticulture and non-horticulture produce through creation of cold storages/ primary processing/ and transportation facilities across the country. Among the Indian states Maharashtra has been sanctioned with highest number of food parks and chain projects with a total count of 67.

**10. Andhra Pradesh flagged off India’s first ‘fruit train’ with bananas**

- On January 31, 2020 India’s first of its kind fruit train was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. This is the first time an entire train carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas which has been sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNP) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Those bananas will be exported to Iran. The bananas will be exported under the brand name ‘Happy Bananas’.

**11. President of India Inaugurated 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Surajkund, Haryana**

- Objective: The main motto of this mela is to promote handicrafts, rural crafts, arts and the culture of the country and also to bring our country’s heritage among new generations. Surajkund International Crafts Mela (Largest crafts fair in the world) held every year at Surajkund in Faridabad district, Haryana.

**12. Around 38 Cr bank accounts opened under PMJDY till January 2020 : Finance ministry**

**13. Soil health card cuts fertiliser use by 10%: NPC study**

- According to a study conducted by the National Productivity Council (NPC), a national level organization to promote productivity culture in India, the impact of Soil Health Card recommendations has led to a decrement of 8.10 % in use of chemical fertilizers as well as increased the productivity by 5 – 6%. Soil Health Card scheme: It was launched by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi Government during the financial year-FY 2014-15 to deal with the decline of soil nutrients. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, the Ministry is issuing the Soil Health Cards, where totally, over 22 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers till date.

**14. India signs 1<sup>st</sup> ever term contract with Russia for Importing Russian Crude Oil.**

- The union cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Petroleum and natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signed the 1st ever term contract with Mr. Igor Sechin, Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) and Chairman of Rosneft (Russia's largest oil producing Company). The term contract is between State-Owned Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Rosneft for Importing 2 Million Metric Tonnes of Urals grade crude oil to India for the year 2020. India is the 3rd largest Energy Consumer in the world, India imports globally 83% of oil to meet its oil need. India has to enlarge its sources for oil imports away from the Middle East oil producing Countries. India made a strategy to expand its oil source India's strategy for Diversification (Importing crude oil from non-OPEC countries) and the term contract is also under the part of the strategy.
  
- 15. PM Modi announced 15-member trust named 'Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust' for Ayodhya temple.**
  - PM Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, 67.703 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust.
  
- 16. Maharashtra registers maximum number of missing women & MP tops in missing children in 2016, 2017 & 2018: NCRB report**
  - According to the report titled 'missing women and children in India' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data. The highest number (33,964) of women who go missing in India are from Maharashtra & the number of missing children are maximum (10, 038) in the State of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in the year 2016, 2017 & 2018.
  
- 17. FICCI & Central asian countries jointly launches India-Central Asia business council in New Delhi**
  - In order to boost business & economy, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) together with 5 of the biggest industry bodies of Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan ) launched the India-Central Asia Business council in New Delhi.
  
- 18. BBIN Nations deliberated on MoU to implement Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)**
  - BBIN(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) member nations discussed the proposed MoU (Member of Understanding) to implement Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) for regulation of the passenger, personal & cargo vehicular traffic among the countries. The meeting was held in New Delhi, India, to discuss the cargo protocols that give effect to MVA among BBIN nations, in which agreement signed on June 15, 2015.
  
- 19. India to host 13<sup>th</sup> COP of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species(CMS) of Wild Animals in Gujarat.**
  - It is an Environment Treaty Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is going to be hosted by India at Gandhinagar in Gujarat, from 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. India unveils the logo and Mascot for the 13<sup>th</sup> CMS COP 2020, logo is to Portray Important Migratory Species in India like Amur falcon, Humpback Whale and Marine Turtles, and the Great Indian Bustard (Gibi) is chosen as official Mascot. The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home".
  
- 20. U.S. approves sale of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System to India**
  - The United States of America, President Donald Trump's Administration has approved the sale of an Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) to India for an Estimated cost of USD 1.867 billion announced by the Defence Security Co-operation Agency(DSCA) part of United States Department of Defence.
  
- 21. 20<sup>th</sup> 'Hunar Haat' 2020 to be held in New Delhi from Feb 13**
  - The 20<sup>th</sup> 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of "Kaushal Ko Kaam" at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.
  
- 22. 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha; inaugurated by Naveen Patnaik**
  - The "2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020)" was held at Bhubaneswar/Puri, Odisha from 11-13 February, 2020 with themes "A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake" & "Flooding or Storm". Organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), on behalf of the Government of India, BIMSTEC DMEx-2020 was inaugurated by Chief Minister Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik on Feb 11, 2020.
  
- 23. Arvind Kejriwal will sworn as Delhi CM for 3rd time on Feb. 16, 2020**

24. **TB notifications to Govt up 38% to 23.98 lakhs in 2019: Ministry of Health and family welfare**
  - According to the Vikas Sheel, the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Tuberculosis (TB) notifications to the government has been increased to 38% , up from 17.36 lakhs in 2017 to 23.98 lakhs in 2019 Since the launch of the new National Strategic Plan (2017-25). 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 (between estimated incidence and notified cases), referred earlier as the ‘missing million’, to less than three lakhs, with the cooperation of private-sector health care providers. NSP 2025: Under the National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination (NSP 2017-25), the central Government has targeted to end TB by 2025, in which it aims 80 % reduction in TB incidence and 90 % reduction in mortality by 2025 from a baseline of 2015.
25. **Indian Navy’s Sandhayak class Hydrographic Survey Ship, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Jamuna (J16) arrived Colombo, Sri Lanka to carry out Joint Hydrographic Survey off the South West Coast of Sri Lanka.**
26. **15<sup>th</sup> finance commission forms 5-member panel led by NK singh on defence & Internal security fund.**
  - The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has set up a five-member group led by 15th Finance Commission Chairman, Nand Kishore (NK) Singh to investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defense and internal security.
27. **Nitin Gadkari flags off Khadi and Village Industries Commission’s ‘Apiary on wheels’ for bee keeping in New Delhi**
28. **Govt amends Arbitration and conciliation act 1996 for making arbitration user friendly. The union government has amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 with the aim to make the arbitration process smooth, cost efficient, speedy execution of the case and ensure the mediation of the arbitrator.**
29. **Manipur: Seed sowing festival ‘Lui-Ngai-Ni’ celebrated at Ukhrul**
  - The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir’s (J&K) administration is set to host 1<sup>st</sup> -ever Global Investors Summit-2020 in the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu in the month of April 2020 with the aim to attract investment and industries to J&K.
30. **Delhi-based Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) becomes 1<sup>st</sup> single-use plastic-free airport of India**
31. **Bihar to get north India’s first bird ringing station and MoU inked in Gujarat**
  - Bihar becomes North India’s first “bird ringing station” for observation, monitoring & research on migratory birds and 4th state in the country after Tamil Nadu (Chennai), Rajasthan (Jaipur) and Orissa (Bhubaneswar). The bird ringing station will be at Bhagalpur, Bihar, located close to the Ganges & is known to be a favorite destination of migratory birds.
32. **India & Norway signs LoI(letter of intent) for collaboration on blue economy for sustainable development in New Delhi, India**
33. **In accordance with the Second Advance Estimates for crop year 2019-20 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare: India’s foodgrain production to hit a record high of 291.95 million tonnes for crop year 2019-20.**
34. **8<sup>th</sup> edition of Ganga Kayak Festival celebrated in Uttarakhand**
35. **India to end Thermal coal import from FY 2023-2024- Pralhad Joshi**
36. **India to switch to World’s Cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1,2020: Bharat Stage(BS)-VI**
37. **A 2-day long first-ever Bharat-Bangla tourism festival 2020 held in Agartala, Tripura**
38. **Smart City Mission: Centre devises 20-20 model to help backward cities**
  - According to which top 20 cities will be paired with the bottom 20 cities.

- This will help share the knowledge among the cities and provide a chance to the most backward cities for adapting best practices from their partner cities.
39. **Parsi(Zoroastrians) population went up by 233 since the launch of Jiyo parsi scheme**
- According to the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi. Parsis: a notified minority community under National Commission of Minorities Act 1992. In 2013: the government launched the Jiyo Parsi scheme.
40. **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurated India's First Floating Jetty on the banks of Mandovi river & Immigration office in Goa**
41. **Overview of 13th COP on Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Its theme was "Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home".**
42. **Mumbai airport gets world's largest 'Export Cold Zone' to Store Agro, Pharma Products**
43. **Shyama Prasad Mukherji National Rurban Mission completes 4 years on Feb 21, 2020. The mission envisages development of 300 rural clusters in a timely and holistic manner. Aim: The mission aims to boost the economic development at the local level, as well as to bring about a comprehensive transformation of these rural clusters by increasing basic services and creating well-organized rural clusters.**
44. **PM Modi addressed the International Judicial Conference 2020, "Judiciary and The Changing World" held in New Delhi**
45. **Centre paid Rs 50,850 crore to farmers under Pradhan Mantri Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme**
46. **Losar festival was celebrated in Himachal Pradesh**
- Losar festival was celebrated at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar also called Tibetan New Year.
47. **The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the provisions of the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016 to provide adequate firearms and ammunition to the shooters for their practice.**
48. **Overview of US President Donald Trump visit to India on February 24-25**
- US surpasses China to become India's top trading partner
  - India, U.S. have finalised defence deals worth \$3 billion for MH60R navy choppers, Apaches
  - ISRO-NASA joint space mission for 2022 launch; blueprint discussed in Modi-Trump talks
  - Namaste, Trump event was organized for Donald Trump at Ahmedabad's newly-built Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cricket Stadium in Motera.
49. **High-level committee headed by retired Justice Biplab sharma submits report on clause 6 of Assam accord**
- The Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 was signed between the All Assam Students Union (AASU), Union government and Assam government on August 15, 1985, in the presence of then prime minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi. Under this, the centre agreed to accept all the migrants that entered before 1966 & also affirms to provide constitutional, legislative and administrative measures to protect and preserve the cultural, social, linguistic identity of the Assamese people.
50. **16th session of joint ministerial commission was held between India and Australia in New Delhi**
51. **A 3-day international conference on "EMMDA 2020" held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh**
- The National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has organized a 3-day international conference on "Ensemble Methods in Modelling and Data Assimilation (EMMDA) 2020" in Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) from 24th -26th February 2020.
52. **1st 'National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience(CDRR&R) 2020: Organised by The National Institute of Disaster Management ( NIDM)**



53. Union HRD Minister launched UKIERI-UGC Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrators in New Delhi.
- Joint venture between UGC (University Grants Commission) and United Kingdom (UK) India Education and Research Initiative.
54. Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal Launched Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS)
- MIEWS portal is a 'First-of -its-kind' platform that monitors the prices of TOP Crops (Tomato, Onion & Potato) & generates alert for timely market intervention under the terms of Operation Greens(OG) scheme for price stabilization during glut situations.
55. Ordnance factory boards becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> govt entity to adopt centralised invoicing platform ,TreDS
- TreDS (Trade Receivables electronic Discount System),under which a total of 41 OFBs adopted this platform,which would help smaller MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) vendors access working capital easily.
56. Cabinet approved three MoUs with Myanmar
- These are for cooperation between India and Myanmar on combating timber trafficking, conservation of tigers & other wildlife, and in the fields of petroleum products and communications.
57. NTPC and CPCB signed MoU to set up air quality monitoring stations in 6 States & 3 UTs
58. MP tops in the list of outgoing patients for treatment under PM-JAY: NHA
59. India to host 1<sup>st</sup> Artificial intelligence summit: RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020' in New Delhi
- The summit is a drive to India's vision & roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion & transformation through AI. The event will start with Startup Challenge-Pitchfest followed. The aim is to bring people together to exchange ideas on how to use AI for, social empowerment, inclusion & transformation in important sectors such as Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility among other sectors.
60. Tribal affairs ministry launches Capacity building programme of ST representatives in LOCAL SELF GOVT. & '1000 Springs Initiatives' in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Arjun Munda also launched "1000 Spring Initiatives" and an online portal on GIS (Geographic Information System)-based Spring Atlas with hydrological and chemical properties of the Springs during the event.
61. Govt approved 32 projects under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)
- The project covers about 17 states, leveraging an investment worth of Rs 406 crores. Objective: The main objective of the scheme is creation of processing and preservation capacities & modernisation of existing food processing units to increase the level of processing and value addition leading to reduction of wastage
62. NCAER releases India's 1<sup>st</sup> NCAER land records and services index 2020: MP emerges as top performer, Ladakh at bottom
- According to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of NCAER Land Records and Services Index (N-LRSI 2019-20) released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) , Madhya Pradesh (MP) emerged as the best performing state in terms of digitising land records with the score of 74.9. It was followed by Odisha (67.5points) and Maharashtra (65.3 points).
63. Government approves Rs 162 crore under Operation Green Scheme
- The government approved Rs 162 crore under Operations Green(OG) Scheme which was announced in 2018-19 budget with an outlay of 500 crore to stable the supply of TOP crops( Tomato, Onion & Potato) & to confirm their availability throughout the year without price volatility. The scheme works under Ministry of Food Processing Industries(MoFPI).
64. International Conference on Standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine (ICoSDiTAUS-2020) held in New Delhi

- This is the biggest ever international conference on standardisation of Diagnosis and Terminologies of Traditional Medicine. It was organized by Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in association with World Health Organisation (WHO) at the Ministerial level. The objective of this conference was to underline the power of Traditional Medicine (TM) systems and their significance in addressing the public health challenges of the 21st century.
- 65. Atal Innovation Mission partnered with Nasscom to launch AI-based module in 5000 ATLs**
- Atal Tinkering Labs for the beneficial of 2.5 million students in the country from February 27, 2020 so that students can get for better knowledge of AI. Additionally, an AI Step-up Module is under development that is to be launched as next step.
- 66. President gives nod for delimitation exercise in NE States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland**
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his nod for resuming delimitation exercise in the northeastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland by rescinding/cancelling the February 8, 2008 order. The decision has been taken following the improvement in the security situation in these states and a reduction in insurgency incidents.
  - A Delimitation Commission was set up under the Delimitation Act, 2002 to readjust the division of each state and union territory into territorial constituencies for the purpose of Lok Sabha and state assembly elections on the basis of census figures of 2001. The Delimitation Commission completed the delimitation exercise on November 26, 2008 in respect of all the states, except in these four northeastern states due to threat to the peace and public order.
- 67. 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) 2020 will be held in Bengaluru, Karnataka**
- The 19th edition of World Productivity Congress (WPC) will be held from May 6 to May 8, 2020 at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka. WPC is the world's largest convention for productivity development which promotes innovation and world class practices that shape future productivity growth and to be held in India after 45 years. WPC was held in India in 1974. Theme of 19th Productivity Congress 2020: "Industry 4.0 – Innovation and Productivity".
- 68. Indian Railways launched its First "Restaurant on Wheels" at Asansol Station, West Bengal**
- 69. 76% of Jan Dhan account holders have RuPay debit cards: Govt Data**
- In accordance with the government data, by February 19, 2020, the issuance of RuPay debit cards under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) reached an all-time-high of 29.14 crore. The data states that three out of four Jan Dhan account holders have a RuPay debit card but it is not clear how many use it.
  - **Key Points:** The PMJDY has 38.13 crore beneficiaries, with total deposits at ₹1,16,152.12 crore. -Public sector banks (PSBs) are the top issuers of RuPay debit cards, at 24.42 crore, followed by regional rural banks (RRBs) at 3.57 crore cards, and Private banks handed out 1.15 crore cards.
- 70. 1<sup>st</sup> edition of "Nimad Chilli Festival 2020" begins at Kasrawad in Khargone district, Madhya Pradesh; Mascot named "chilli chacha" released**

## **STATE NEWS**

- 1. Karnataka CM launches Janasevaka Scheme to Provide delivery of Govt Services at Doorstep.**
  - The government of Karnataka launched the Janasevaka scheme in certain municipal corporation wards to provide home delivery of various government services like ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards, etc. The scheme is launched by the chief minister of Karnataka Mr. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, and the scheme will contain 53 services from 11 departments.
- 2. AP Govt made history with 'Intivadhakey Pension' scheme by covering 94 % within few days.**
  - The Andhra Pradesh (AP) state Government led by its Chief Minister (CM) Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, has created a record with its 'Intivadhakey Pension' (Pension to your Doorstep) Scheme by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days. The scheme was launched in 13 districts on February 1, 2020. AP is the 1<sup>st</sup> state in India to take up such an initiative of Door delivery of pension service.
- 3. India's first Glass floor bridge to replace the iconic Lakshman Jhula in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand**
- 4. Haryana Launches Rs.1500 crores Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana**

- The scheme is about providing financial assistance of Rs.6000 to the families below the poverty line. and the amount will be transferred through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to Bank accounts.
- 5. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSME) implemented a new scheme named “Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries”(SFURTI).
  - Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.
- 6. Mumbai’s Kaamya Karthikeyan-Youngest Girl in the World to climb South America’s Highest Peak Mt. Aconcagua
- 7. The Hornbill festival was celebrated in Tripura, Agartala. Chief Minister (CM) Biplab Kumar Dev inaugurated the 2-day hornbill festival at Baramura hill (in western tripura).
  - The festival was celebrated for the 1st time in Tripura otherwise celebrated every year in Nagaland in december.
- 8. Cauvery Delta Region to be declared as Protected Agricultural Zone by TN Govt.
  - Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palaniswamy announced that Cauvery delta regions in Tamil Nadu is going to be declared as a protected Special Agricultural Zone(SAZ), He also added that special team will be formed to produce special law to make the Delta region as a Protected Zone.
- 9. Haryana Government launched ‘Reading Mission’ to inculcate reading habits among students.
- 10. “Operation Nakail” for Auto-rickshaws in Ghaziabad to bear unique number aim to curb crime
  - The Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani has announced that the Ghaziabad police station in Uttar Pradesh has launched “Operation Nakail” under which all auto-rickshaw drivers are allotted with a unique 4-digit number and all the drivers should paint the number on front, left, right and rear side of the auto-rickshaw which is used identify/verify the driver later. Customers can file complaints using the number if they face any harassment.
- 11. Bihar govt launches ‘Pyaar ka Paudha’ campaign to promote the practice of planting trees
- 12. Kerala CM launched “Yodhavu” mobile app to combat drug menace
- 13. AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy launched Nadu-Nedu scheme for modernising hospitals
- 14. Govt of Haryana to open Atal kisan – majdoor canteens to provide affordable meals to farmers
- 15. Odisha government presented Rs 1.5 Lakh crore paperless budget 2020-21
  - The Odisha government has switched to a paperless budget for the first time and is the second state in India after Himachal Pradesh. The budget is termed as ‘Green Budget’, an initiative under 5T action plan to reduce printing of 75Lakhs pages hence to save around 1000 trees.
- 16. AP CM Jagan Mohan launches ‘Jagananna Vasthi Deevana’ scheme for Students
  - Under the scheme, a financial assistance of Rs 2,300 crore will be provided to the students pursuing ITI, polytechnic, under-graduate and post-graduate education courses to handle hostel and mess expenditure.
- 17. Maharashtra: “Smart gram yojana” will be named after ex-minister R R Patil
- 18. Haryana CM Manohar lal khattar presents Rs 1,42,343-crore budget for 2020-21
- 19. Maharashtra Assembly passed bill, teaching Marathi language compulsory across all schools in the state
- 20. Manpreet Singh Badal presented Punjab govt’s 1.54 lakh cr budget for FY20-21

## **ECONOMY NEWS**

1. Fitch forecast India’s GDP growth to 4.6 % for FY20 & 5.6 % for FY 21
2. Unemployment rate in India was 6.1% in 2017-18 as per new PLFS

- As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI), the labour force participation is 36.9 % and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%. The government is conducting a new PLFS with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys. It's an attempt to provide authentic data.
- 3. **PSBs recover record ₹2.03 lakh crore bad loans in last one-and-half years: FM**
  - The public sector banks' (PSBs) bad loans trimmed to ₹7.27 lakh crore at the end of September 2019 in comparison to ₹8.96 lakh crore at the end of March 2018. The information was provided by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 10, 2020.
- 4. **Moody's lowers India's GDP growth estimate for 2020 to 5.4% from 6.6%**
- 5. **RBI board recommends aligning accounting year with fiscal year from 2020-21**
  - Central Board of Directors of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) at its 582nd meeting recommended aligning the financial year of RBI, currently July-June, with the government's fiscal year (April-March) from the year 2020-21. Now, the proposal is sent to the government for its approval.
- 6. **World Population Review Report: India becomes 2019's 5th largest economy; US tops**
  - In accordance with the US-based think tank World Population Review, India has become the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of \$2.94 trillion overtaking the UK (United Kingdom) and France in 2019. The size of the UK economy is \$2.83 trillion and that of France is \$2.71 trillion. The list has been topped by the United States (US) with \$21.44 trillion GDP.
- 7. **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY): World Bank inks \$ 450 mn loan with India for groundwater management in select states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) and cover 78 districts.**
- 8. **India's GDP growth to be 4.9% in 2019-20: NCAER**
  - National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- 9. **Sweden's Riksbank begun testing world's 1<sup>st</sup> digital version of currency, e-krona**
- 10. **RBI unveils 5 year National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI): 2019-2024**
- 11. **Microsoft, SBI join hands to train differently-abled for employment in BFSI sector**
  - In the first year of partnership 500 differently-abled youths will be upskilled IN Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- 12. **NABARD grants Rs 400.64 cr for UT of J&K to boost infrastructure**
- 13. **ADB raises \$118 mn through offshore India rupee linked 10-year bonds**
- 14. **According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study titled "Assessment of the progress of digitisation from cash to electronic" ---Digital payments rising sharply but cash remains the king; Currency in Circulation increased 10.2% over the past 5 years despite growing digitization: RBI Report**
- 15. **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to allow 100% FDI for insurance intermediaries, which includes insurance broking, insurance companies, third party administrators, surveyors and loss assessors.**
- 16. **Finance secretary Rajiv kumar launches "Baroda Startup Banking" initiative for start-ups in 15 cities**
- 17. **Finance Minister unveils EASE Roadmap for Banking of the Future EASE 3.0, and PSB EASE Reforms Annual Report 2019-20**
  - EASE 3.0 sets the agenda and roadmap for FY21 for PSB's transformation into digital and data-driven NextGen Banking of the Future for an aspiring India. To enhance ease of banking in all customer experiences, using technology it instructs PSBs to regain their customer-connect at the branch-level instead of relying just on credit

rating agencies. It also instructs bank to use local language in bank branch so that people can share a comfort level with bank staff.

**18. RBI introduced 12 indicators for calculating India's growth by paper titled "Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model".**

- RBI has come up with a new method of calculating India's growth through a Working Paper titled "Nowcasting Indian GDP growth using a Dynamic Factor Model" under the RBI Working Paper Series, introduced in March 2011. The Paper is co-authored by Soumya Bhadury, Saurabh Ghosh and Pankaj Kumar. The paper introduces the Dynamic Factor Model of calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP), using 12 indicators.
- Here are the 12 indicators: Index of industrial production (IIP) –consumer goods, IIP- core sectors, Automobile sales, Non-oil non-gold imports, Exports, Rail freight, Air cargo, Foreign tourist inflows, Government tax receipts, Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER), Sensex, Bank Credit.

**19. Fiscal deficit reached 128.5% of budget estimate at end-January 2020:Govt data**

- According to the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, fiscal deficit of the country reached 128.5 % of the estimate for the whole year at the end of January 2020. The loss stood at Rs 9,85,472 crore (\$137.05 billion). The deficit was 121.5 % of the revised budget estimate (RBE) for the same period of the previous financial year-FY 2018-19.

**20. Bengaluru recorded highest number of digital transactions among cities while MH topped among states in 2019: Report by Worldline India**

## **RANKS AND REPORTS**

- 1. India slips to 40<sup>th</sup> rank on GIPC's (Global Innovation Policy Center) 8<sup>th</sup> International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020, US tops**
- 2. IISS Study: World Defence spending rose by 4.0% in 2019; India ranked 5<sup>th</sup> & US tops. International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) annual "Military Balance" report states that global spending on defence hiked by 4% percent in 2019, showing largest growth in 10 years (2010-2019). The report showed top 15 countries, among them, the world's biggest defence spenders are United States (US), China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India.**
- 3. THE's emerging economies university rankings 2020: India has 11 institutes among world's top 100 universities, IISC at No. 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - According to the Times Higher Education's (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2020, which ranks a total of 533 universities from 47 countries, India's top-ranked institution by getting the rank 16<sup>th</sup> with the score 48.4. Tsinghua University in China has topped the list with the score of 83.8.
- 4. India ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, Finland tops**
- 5. Women entrepreneurship can create 170 million jobs: 'Women Entrepreneurship in India—Powering the economy' report**
- 6. India ranks 77<sup>th</sup> in terms of sustainability & 131<sup>st</sup> in flourishing index:UN report**

According to the report, "A future for the world's children" commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal, India ranks 77<sup>th</sup> in terms of Sustainability Index and 131<sup>st</sup> in the Flourishing Index of Children's Survival, health, education and Well-being.
- 7. Northeast Frontier Railway Construction built India's tallest pier bridge in Manipur**
- 8. Report "Today for tomorrow: realising the potential of Life Sciences 4.0" released at 17th BioAsia 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana**
- 9. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Delhi, tops in Nature Ranking Index 2020**

10. 1 in 3 payments for maternity benefit scheme 'PMMVY' credited to wrong account: NITI Aayog report
11. Himachal Pradesh: 1st State to achieve 100% LPG coverage
  - Himachal Pradesh became the 1st state in the country to have 100% LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas) coverage due to the implementation of PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) scheme.
12. Haryana tops in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts rating for 2019-20; West Bengal worst. According to the recent ratings regarding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) payouts, prepared for the 1<sup>st</sup> time by the Central Government.
13. Hurun Global Rich List 2020: India ranked 3rd among countries; Jeff Bezos retains 1st rank, Mukesh Ambani at 9th position
14. India is 5<sup>th</sup> most polluted country with Ghaziabad as the most polluted city, globally: IQAir AirVisual Report
  - Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM2.5 exposure. It is followed by Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and India at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.

## OBITUARIES

1. Famous Punjabi writer Jaswant Singh passed away at 101
2. Padma Shri awardee & well-known Hindi Novelist Giriraj Kishore passed away at the age of 83 in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
3. Nobel Prize awardee & Former TERI, IPCC chief Rajendra Kumar Pachauri passed away at 79
4. Larry Tesler Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste passed away at 74
5. Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak passed away at 91
6. Centenarian Vedic Scholar & Kannada Rajyotsava awardee Pandit Sudhakar Chaturvedi passed away at 122
7. Famous Historian and Professor S Settar passed away at 85 in Karnataka

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. NASA decommissioned its Spitzer Space Telescope after 16 years
2. IIT-Madras develops new AI tech to convert speech Impaired Humans Brain Signals into Meaningful Language. Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) researchers team lead by Vishal Nandigana, assistant Professor in Fluid Systems Laboratory, Department of Mechanical Engineering have developed an Artificial Intelligence technology to convert Brain signals of Speech-Impaired Humans into simple Human Language English. This technology also helps the researchers to collect the information or action of Natural Reactions like Plant Photosynthesis and also what Nature is trying to communicate with us, this helps to predict Monsoons, Earthquakes, Tsunami and other Natural calamities by converting their signals into Human Language.
3. Bhutan ends free entry for Indian tourists
  - The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for "regional tourists" from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020. The fee is called SDF "Sustainable Development Fees" in order to regulate a new tourism policy (tourism facilities, better infrastructure).
4. NASA astronaut Christina Koch returns to Earth after record longest stay in ISS
  - NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut Christina Koch (41 years) from United States (US) who made the 1st all female space walk in 2019 landed in Kazakh desert steppe of Kazakhstan in a Soyuz

MS-13 capsule. She has landed after making a record of longest stay on the International Space Station(ISS). She made her landing after ending a 328 days mission in space.

**5. IIT-H finds molecule to cure rare ALS neurodegenerative disease**

- Researchers from IIT-H, Telangana (Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad) had found a molecule called “AIM-4” that can help in the treatment of rare neurodegenerative disease called “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis” (ALS) known as “Lou Gehrig’s disease”.

**6. Indian leopard population declined by 75-90% as per study conducted by CWS & WII**

- Scientists found that the Leopard population has decreased to 75-90% in India over the past 120 to 200 years, suggesting that leopards need similar conservation attention like tigers in India. The study was conducted by scientists from the Centre for Wildlife Sanctuaries (CWS), Bengaluru, Karnataka and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

**7. Indian Army & Private firm developed the World’s Cheapest Gun Shot Locator “Parth”**

- The Indian Army’s College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune, Maharashtra, jointly with a private firm developed gunshot locators named as “Parth”. The device is much cheaper than the imported ones. Major Anoop Mishra displayed the Parth gun shot locator at DefExpo 2020 held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**8. Scientist finds Mysterious Yaravirus in Brazil**

- Researchers have discovered an unusual and intriguing phenomenon Called Yaravirus in an artificial lake Pampulha in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte. The Yaravirus has genes(not described before) and “puzzling origin & phylogeny”, which is small in size and infects amoeba, named after Yara – or lara, a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology.

**9. 80% Indian bird species population on decline in past 5 yrs: State of India’s Bird 2020 report**

**10. Lithium reserve found in Mandya near Bengaluru**

- The Researchers of India’s Atomic Energy Commission have found lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in Mandya, Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lithium is a rare metal used for manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.

**11. First ever long Endurance solar-powered unmanned aircraft PHASA-35 flies successfully. It has the potential to remain airborne for a year**

**12. Netherlands Scientists discovered new snail species; named “Craspedotropis gretathunbergae” after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg**

**13. 4,000-year-old crafts village unearthed near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh by Banaras University**

**14. World’s largest species of cave fish discovered in Meghalaya’s Jaintia Hills**

- The fish, *Tor putitora* has no eyes and is white due to lack of melanin pigmentation.

**15. 8,000 years old Carbon founded inside The Yongle Blue Hole (YBH) the world’s deepest blue hole, in the South China Sea.**

- BLUE HOLE: They are circular, steep-walled & open to the surface. They are underwater caverns carved into dissolving rock. The waters are mostly isolated from the surrounding ocean & receive little fresh water from rainfall.

**16. INCOIS launched three new advance warning systems**

- The Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad has launched 3 new ocean based specialised products for the benefit of fishermen & people living in the coastal areas of South India. The 3 warning systems are Small Advisory and Forecast Services System (SVAS), Swell Surge Forecast System (SSFS) and Algal Bloom Information Service (ABIS).

17. 'Henneguya salminicola' - First ever animal that can survive without oxygen discovered by Scientists from Tel Aviv University (TAU)
  - Researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU), Israel have discovered a jellyfish-like parasite, 'Henneguya salminicola', without a mitochondrial genome, the first multicellular organism known to have this absence. That means it doesn't breathe and lives its life completely free of oxygen dependency.
18. Union Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates new Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Production Hangar at HAL complex in Bengaluru
19. Astronomers discovered a mini-moon or planet's 2nd moon, "Dubbed 2020 CD3"
  - It is an asteroid about the size of the car & its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 metre. The mini moon is a temporary moon, dissimilar to our permanent moon which will break free of Earth's orbit & go off on its own way.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

1. Kerala to hosts Intl conference on Climate change & Ocean health "CLIMFISHCON-2020"  
The "CLIMFISHCON" is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security due to Global climate change with the theme 'Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future'. And the conference is going to be held at the Le Meridian Convention center in Kochi, Kerala from February 11 to February 14, 2020.
2. Amit Shah inaugurated two-day BIMSTEC 'Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking', in New Delhi from Feb 13 - 14, 2020
3. 2020 UN Climate Summit 'COP26' to be held in Glasgow, UK in November

## DEFENCE

1. Indian Navy has carried out 5-day coastal security exercise called, 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Sunderban region in Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community & understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters.
2. Indian Army Major Anoop mishra develops world's 1<sup>st</sup> bulletproof helmet that can stop AK-47 firing
  - In a vital development, a Major in the Indian Army, Anoop Mishra has developed the world's 1<sup>st</sup> bulletproof helmet which can stop an AK-47 bullet round from a distance of as less as 10 meters. The helmet is developed under the Indian Army's "Abhedya" project.
3. 4<sup>th</sup> EAS conference on maritime security cooperation 2020 held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - A 2-day long 4<sup>th</sup> edition of EAS (East Asia Summit) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation 2020 was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) from February 6-7, 2020. The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI) in association with the governments of Australia and Indonesia.
4. India-UK joint Military EX: Ajeya Warrior to be conducted in Salisbury plains, UK
5. CDS to establish 1<sup>st</sup> Integrated tri-service command "Air Defence Command" by June 2020
6. India to get Peninsular & Air Defence Command by next 2021, theatre commands by 2022.
  - In order to deal with future security challenges, India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has proposed Peninsular Command by merging Western and the Eastern Command of the Indian Navy, which will spread from the Sir Creek near the Arabian Sea to the Sunderbans in the Bay of Bengal.
7. GRSE delivers 4th Anti-Submarine warfare corvette INS Kavaratti to Navy
8. India-Russia defence deals set to cross USD 16 billion
9. Supreme Court approves permanent commission to women officers in the army
10. Cabinet approved Procurement of 24 US made MH-60R Seahawk helicopters



11. Indian Army is Set to Get New Headquarters – the Thal Sena Bhawan in Delhi Cantonment
12. Indradhanush – V 2020: India-UK bilateral air exercise begins in Hindan, Uttar Pradesh
13. 6th offshore patrol vessel “Yard 45006 VAJRA” launched in Chennai
14. L&T-built 5<sup>th</sup> offshore patrol vessel called ‘ICGS Varad’ commissioned in Chennai, Tamil Nadu for Indian Coast Guard

## APPOINTMENTS

1. Ajay Bisaria Appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada
2. Indian-origin techie Arvind Krishna elected as CEO for IBM
3. Gopal Baglay appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka
4. Albin Kurti appointed as the new PM of Kosovo
5. Diplomat Philip Barton Appointed as Britain’s New High Commissioner to India
6. Australia appointed Barry O’Farrell as new high commissioner to India
7. 15<sup>th</sup> Finance commission constitutes 8-member panel headed by ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri to boost agri exports
8. Ex-IAS officers Sanjay Kothari and Bimal Julka to become next Chief Vigilance Officer (CVC) and Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)
9. Supratim Bandyopadhyay appointed as PFRDA Chairman
10. Centre appoints three experts as NDMA members
  - The Government of India has approved the appointment of Rajendra Singh (former Director General of the Indian coast guard), Syed Ata Hasnain (former Lt. General of Army) and Krishna Vatsa (Policy and Recovery Advisory, Climate change and disaster risk reduction, United nations Development Program) as the members of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
11. Irish PM Leo Eric Varadkar resigns, retains as interim leader
12. US-India Business Council (USIBC) appoints Vijay Advani as a New chairman of Global board
13. Ms. Padmaja has been concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner to Vanuatu
14. Abhay Kumar Singh appointed as CMD of NHPC
15. World’s Oldest govt leader Mahathir Mohamad (94) resigned as Malaysia’s PM
16. Shri Jawed Ashraf to be next Ambassador of India to France
17. Michael Miebach named as Mastercard’s new President & CEO, Ajay Banga moves to Executive Chairman
18. Diplomat Abhishek Singh appointed as next Ambassador of India to Venezuela
19. Chairman of Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)Ajay Tyagi gets a 6-month extension from the government, whose tenure of 3 years (from 2017) to end on February 29, 2020.
  - He is an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) of the Himachal Pradesh Cadre.
20. RBI approves appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as MD &CEO of IndusInd Bank
21. UGC to set up 11 Chairs in the names of women scientists across India: Smriti Irani

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

1. **On February 2: World Wetlands Day (WWD) was observed to spread awareness and to conserve the wetlands all over the world.**
  - Theme: “Wetlands and Biodiversity”. The theme highlights the importance of biodiversity conservation, which conveys nearly 40% of the world’s plant & animal species live or breed on wetlands.
2. **World Cancer Day 2020 was observed on February 4.**
  - The World Cancer Day is organized by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), Geneva, Switzerland, every year on February 4 to raise awareness to encourage cancer’s prevention, detection and treatment. The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to reduce the illness & death caused by cancer. The theme of WCD from 2019-21 is “I am and I will”. The theme highlights that all of us can fight against cancer.
3. **National Productivity day was observed on february 12 annually to increase the productivity culture in India.**
  - The day commemorates the foundation of the National Productivity Council (NPC) and Productivity week will be celebrated from (Feb 12 to Feb 18, 2020).
4. **National Women’s day observed on February 13, 2020.**
  - To commemorate the birth anniversary of independence activist, Sarojini Naidu (also named Nightingale of India), every year India observes February 13 as it’s National Women’s day. She was born on 13 February 1879 in Hyderabad British India (now in Telangana, India). It should be noted that the International Women’s Day is observed on 8<sup>th</sup> March annually.
5. **February 13, 2020, World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated all over the world with the theme “Radio and Diversity”.**
  - The day aims to highlights the unique power of radio which connects lives and brings people together from across the world.
6. **February 15: World Pangolin Day & Madhya Pradesh radio-tags first-ever Indian Pangolin.**
  - World Pangolin Day will be observed every year on 3rd Saturday in february month to raise awareness & to protect these unique species from extinction. The 9th World Pangolin day was observed on february 15, 2020. The Madhya Pradesh (MP) forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) for the first time in order to know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan.
7. **World Day of Social Justice was observed on February 20, 2020**
8. **International Mother Language Day (IMLD) was observed on Feb 21, 2020**
9. **Central Excise Day was observed on feb 24, 2020**
10. **India’s First Protein Day was observed on February 27, 2020**
  - Right-To-Protein, a national-level public health initiative, has launched India’s 1st Protein Day on February 27, 2020 to raise awareness about the health benefits of protein. Theme of the Protein Day 2020: ProteinMeinKyaHai. The theme aims to include proteins in our every meal.
11. **World NGO Day was observed on 27th Feb, 2020**
12. **National Science Day (NSD) was observed on Feb 28, 2020**
  - This day marks the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir ChandraShekhara Venkata Raman (also called Sir C V Raman) on 28th February 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. In 1986, the Government of India (GOI) declared Feb 28 as National Science Day. Theme of the NSD 2020: “Women in Science”.
13. **Rare Diseases Day was observed on February 29, 2020**
  - Slogan of RDD 2020: “Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud”.

## **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

1. **Vice President released the book ‘A Child of Destiny’ an Autobiography by prof K. Ramakrishna Rao**

2. Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar, released a book titled “A Commentary & Digest on The Air, Act 1981” at Chandigarh, Haryana.
  - The book was written by Dr K K Khandelwal (Chairman, Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, HRERA) and Apoorva Kumar Singh, (Principal Secretary, Town & Country Planning & Urban Estates Department). The book focuses on ways of preventing and controlling air pollution. The book will enhance the readers to create awareness on air pollution in the society and provides an elaborate explanation on law devised to prevent air pollution.
3. “Messages from Messengers” book written by Priti K Shroff was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
  - The book deals with Indian culture and tradition and is suitable for everyone in all stages of life, as a tool for self-guidance.
4. Penguin published the Book Chanakya Niti: Verses on Life and Living translated by A.N.D. Haksar
5. Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar unveils an annual reference book India/Bharat 2020
6. Vice President Venkaiah naidu released Sadhguru’s book ‘Death-An Inside Story’
7. Manmohan singh released “Yaaru Bharat Maate”, the Kanada version of the book “who is bharat mata ” translated by K E Radhakrishna

## **AWARDS**

1. Eminent Hindi poet-novelist and 1999 Sahitya Akademi honouree Vinod Kumar Shukla (83) has won the 1<sup>st</sup> Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award 2020 for his translated book ‘Blue Is Like Blue’, which deal with common people and their daily struggles.
2. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das wins ‘Central banker of the year 2020, Asia-Pacific’ award
3. Hockey player Manpreet singh became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to receive FIH(International hockey federation) player of the year award 2019
4. India’s President Shri Ram Nath Kovind awarded President’s Colour to Indian Naval Station Shivaji
5. India’s renowned Feminist scholar & activist Gita Sen wins Dan David Prize 2020
6. 65<sup>th</sup> Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 in Guwahati, Assam: Gully Boy’ bags best film
7. 20th edition of Laureus world sports awards 2020 held in Berlin, Germany:Sachin Tendulkar won sporting moment of the year 2000-2020
8. Indian Railways Customer grievance portal “RailMadad” gets National e-Governance Award
9. Indian freelance journalist Ahmer Khan wins AFP’s Kate Webb Prize
10. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) of Bengaluru based biopharmaceutical company Biocon, won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019 (for her innovation & affordable life saving medicines), at the 21st edition of the awards held in New Delhi, India.
11. CDRI’s scientist Dr. Niti kumar to get SERB women excellence award-2020 by the President of India. SERB (Science and Engineering Research Board )Women Excellence Award-2020
12. Mangalore’s Adline Castelino won LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title
13. Hrithik Roshan awarded as the Best Actor in Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2020
14. The Indian Air Force (IAF), The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) won trophies for Republic Day Parade 2020
15. Dr N Kumar TNAU VC conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award during International Conference on Banana (ICB) 2020 in Trichy, Tamil Nadu (TN)
16. Susan Daniel won Sahitya Akademi’s Translation Prize 2019 for translating Kannada novel ‘Kusumabale’ to English

17. Forest Man of India & environmentalist Padma Shri Jadav 'Molai' Payeng is honoured with the 6th annual Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi award 2020 for his consistent efforts in creating a man made forest through afforestation.

## **SPORTS**

1. Rubigula state bird of Goa declared as official Mascot for 36<sup>th</sup> National Games in Goa
2. Rakhi Halder bags gold at 35th Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships
3. ITF women's tennis event 2020 in Thailand: India's Ankita Raina wins 18<sup>th</sup> career doubles title
4. Australia clinches ICC women's championship trophy 2020 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time
5. Bangladesh won the 13<sup>th</sup> ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup 2020 defeating India in South Africa
6. National snooker championship 2020 in Pune, Maharashtra: Aditya Mehta & Vidya Pillai wins men and women's title
7. Indian hockey players Lalremsiami & Vivek sagar wins FIH women and men's rising star of year 2019
8. New Zealand beats India to win the ODI 2020 series held in New Zealand from Feb 5 – 11
9. Boxer Amit Panghal ranks world No. 1 in IOC's ranking for Olympic qualifiers
10. Inaugural National winter games 2020 to be held in Ladakh and J&K's Gulmarg
11. ICC women's T20I rankings 2020: Smriti mandhana reached 4<sup>th</sup> place
12. India's female Race Walker Bhawna Jat qualifies for Tokyo Olympics 2020
13. India's Koneru Humpy wins Cairns Cup chess tournament 2020 held in United States (US)
14. India wins bronze in Badminton Asia team championships 2020 held in Manila, Philippines
15. "United by Emotion" to be 2020 Tokyo Olympics Motto
16. NADA bans Javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years
17. India to host the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2020; 'Kick Off the Dream' is official slogan
18. Football — India to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup
19. Russia will host new edition of AIBA World Cup 2020
20. Overview of Asian Wrestling Championship 2020 held in New Delhi
21. Japan topped the medal tally with 16 medals (8 Gold, 4 Silver, 4 Bronze). While, India finished 3<sup>rd</sup> rank with 20 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 9 Bronze).
22. PM Modi inaugurated first-ever Khelo India University Games at Cuttack, Odisha
23. Young Indian Grand Master D.Gukesh wins title at 34<sup>th</sup> Cannes open 2020 chess
24. ITTF World Tour Hungary Open 2020 in Budapest: Indian duo of Sharath kamal & Sathiyam won silver medal
25. CGF approved India to host 2022 Commonwealth Archery and Shooting Championships in Chandigarh
26. Naval special child Jiya Rai creates world record in open water swimming
27. Shri Kiren Rijju inaugurated 1st Khelo India Winter Games in Leh, Ladakh
28. ICC Test rankings-India topped in the Team Ranking; Steve Smith dethrones Virat Kohli to regain top spot in Batting Ranking
29. Russian tennis star and 5 times Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova gets retired
30. India withdraws from 2020 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus