

Weekly Current G.K.

Sr. No. 2020.2.1

February 2020

1st Week

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ✚ February 2 - World Wetlands Day
- ✚ February 20 - World Day of Social Justice
- ✚ February 21 - International Mother Language Day
- ✚ February 23 - World Peace and Understanding Day
- ✚ February 24 - Central Excise Day

NATIONAL EVENTS

- **President of India Inaugurated 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Surajkund, Haryana**
President of India **Shri. Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the **34th edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela** in Haryana. The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.

Key Points:

- i. **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.
- **India signs 1st ever term contract with Russia for Importing Russian Crude Oil:**
On February 05, 2020, 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.
- **22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 commenced in Kochi, Kerala**
A 3-day long **22nd 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).

- **Partakers:** More than 200 exhibitors, 350 stalls and over 5000 delegates, including foreign delegates, are expected to attend the event at Kochi.
- **Purpose:** It provides a platform for partnership between Indian exporters and foreign importers of Indian marine products.
- As India is the second largest aquaculture producer in the world, it had set the target of **seafood export at \$10 billion** by this year (i.e 2020)

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **Maldives readmitted and becomes 54th member of Commonwealth family**
On February 1, 2020 **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**, President of the Maldives announced that Maldives has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family after the meeting between **Abdullah Shahid**, Foreign Minister of Maldives & **Patricia Scotland**, Secretary General of the Commonwealth.
The Maldives became the **54th family member** of the Commonwealth family.

Key Points:

- i. In November 2018, President Mohamed Solih, cabinet passed the country's interest to rejoin the Commonwealth family.
- ii. After the positive feedback from Commonwealth observer group, who visited Maldives in April 2019 & from 53 commonwealth nations, Maldives readmitted.
- iii. **Commonwealth meeting:** Maldives will be part of the "**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**" in Kigali, Rwanda (East Africa), between June 22 to 28, 2020.

Theme 2020: The theme for the 2020 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

(CHOGM), for Commonwealth Day is "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming".

PERSONS IN NEWS

BCCI inducted Madan Lal, R.P. Singh & Sulakshana in Cricket Advisory Committee

On January 31, 2020 The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the appointment of its **3-member** Cricket Advisory Committee(CAC). The committee comprises Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik and the term of appointment is 1 year.

Key Points:

- i. **Madan Lal:** He represented India in 39 tests and 67 One Day Internationals(ODI). He represented India during the 1983 World Cup where India won against West Indies. He also served as national selector and coach of Indian team.
- ii. **R.P Singh:** He played for India in 14 Tests, 58 ODIs, 10 T20I (Twenty Twenty International) and was part of the Indian team which won the World T20 against Pakistan. It was hosted in South Africa in 2007.
- iii. **Sulakshana:** She had played two Tests, 46 ODIs and 31 T20Is for India in a career spanning 11 years.
- **Padma Shri awardee Deepa Malik elected as President of Paralympic Committee of India**
On February 1,2020 India's lone woman Paralympic medalist **Deepa Malik**, 49 years old, Sonapat from Haryana, was elected as **President of the Paralympic Committee of India**. He was the successor of the acting interim president Gursharan Singh.
- **Pramod Agrawal became the Chairman of Coal India Limited**
On February 1,2020 **Pramod Agrawal** became the new Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of Coal India Limited (CIL). He was the successor of Anil Kumar Jha who retired on 31st January 2020.

Key Points:

Agrawal, 1991 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer, served as the principal secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh (MP), Bhopal.

About Coal India Limited (CIL):

Headquarters- Kolkata, West Bengal.
Founded- 1975.

OBITUARIES

Famous Punjabi writer Jaswant Singh passed away at 101

On February 01,2020, The Eminent **Punjabi Writer**, Novelist and **Sahitya Academy Awardee Jaswant Singh Kanwal (101)**, passed away in his native village Dhudike, Moga district in Punjab, due to age related illness issues.

Author Mary Higgins Clark, known as 'Queen of Suspense', passed away at 92

On February 1,2020 American author Mary Theresa Eleanor Higgins Clark also known as "Queen of Suspense" passed away at the age of 92 in Naples, Florida, US (United States). She was born on December 24, 1927 in Bronx, New York, US.

Famous Hollywood Actor Kirk Douglas Passes Away at 103

On February 05,2020, **Issur Danielovitch Demsky** named **Kirk Douglas** was born on December 9, 1916 in Amsterdam, New York, U.S. Kirk was an American actor, producer, director, and author passed away at **103** announced by his son Michael Douglas as a statement to **People Magazine**.

PLACES IN NEWS

Narmada Mahotsav 2020 celebrated at Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh (MP)

Madhya Pradesh(MP) Government conducts the **Amarkantak Narmada Mahotsav 2020** from 31st January to 2nd February 2020 in the beautiful plains of Amarkantak,MP during Narmada Jayanthi.

Key Points:

- i. **Narmada:** The Narmada is a major source of drinking water, irrigation & hydroelectricity for Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat.
- ii. Among 3 days of celebration one day will be reserved for all women activities under the theme of "**Beti Bachao- Beti Padhao**".
- iii. A light and sound show based on the life of Maa Narmada will be organized.
- iv. The rich cultural heritage of the region, art & agricultural products like the healthy Kodori rice etc., will be demonstrated before the public during the Mahotsav function.
- **India's first Glass floor bridge to replace the iconic Lakshman Jhula in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand**
On February 6, 2020, Uttarakhand government has cleared the design of a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, to be built across Ganga River in

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand as a replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. It has been in place for 94 years. The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).

Key Points:

- The floor of the bridge is to be made of 3.5 inches thick toughened transparent glass, which is capable of bearing a load of more than 750 kg per squaremetre at a stretch.
- The bridge will be built parallel to Lakshman Jhula with a total width of eight metres.
- The total width of bridge is 132.3 metres long with seven feet high toughened glass railings on either side of the structure.
- It will be **safe for commutation for at least 150 years.**

AWARDS

Adma Shri awardee Manoj Das to receive Mystic Kalinga Literary Award

Famous Odia and English writer **Manoj Das**, 85 years old, will receive **Mystic Kalinga Literary award**– Indian and Global languages, during the 4th edition of the 2 day Mystic Kalinga Festival (MSF) which will commence in Swosti Premium, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on February 8 & 9, 2020. Mystic Literary award has been instituted to recognize and celebrate inspiring writers, poets and performers.

Cash Prize:The Mystic Kalinga Literary Award will carry a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, khadi shawl and a certificate.

Uddhav Thackeray presents lifetime achievement award to veteran journalist Raikar

On February 5,2020 Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) **Uddhav Bal Thackeray** presented an award to senior journalist **Dinkar Keshav Raikar** for his contribution to **journalism** at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Raikar was given the lifetime achievement award instituted by the Mantralaya & Vidhimandal Vartahar Sangh.

Key Points:

- Raikar is a consulting editor of Lokmat Group and completed 50 years in journalism.
- Other winners of the best journalist award for 2019 under different categories are Janhavi Patel (Tarun Bharat, Belgaum), Rahul kulkarni (ABP Ananda Bazar Patrika, Majha) and Sanjay Bapat (Loksatta).

Rubigula state bird of Goa declared as official Mascot for 36th National Games in Goa

On February 01,2020, **The Flame-Throated Bulbul or Rubigula bird** the state bird for **Goa**, which is officially declared as the **Mascot** for the **36th National Games** going to held in Panaji, Goa.

The Mascot was unveiled by the Union Minister of State Independent Charge for Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Minister of State for Ministry of Minority Affairs **Mr.Kiren Rijju** and the Mascot has been designed by **Sharmila Coutinho** (Goa based Artist). Chief Minister of Goa **Pramod Sawant** also present in the unveiling ceremony.

About 36th National Games:

- Goa will be hosting the 36th National Games from 20th October,2020 to 4th November, 2020. Around 12,000 (Athletes and officials) will participate from 36 states and union territories, and there will be **37 sports events** across **24 venues** in Goa.
- Previously 35th National Games was held in Kerala on 2015, while 37th Edition of National Games is going to held in Chhattisgarh.

Overview of 108th Australian open 2020 held in Melbourne, Australia

Australian open 2020, a Grand Slam tennis tournament was held from 20 January – 2 February 2020 at **Rod Laver Arena**, a multipurpose arena located in Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, **Australia**.The tournament marks the 108th edition of the slam and the 52nd edition in the Open Era. The prize money of the tournament was AUD 71 million (USD 49.1 million) and comprised singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.

List of Winners:

Event	Winners	Runners
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
Women's Singles	Sofia Kenin (US)	Garbiñe Muguruza Blanco (Spanish-Venezuelan player)
Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram (US) Joe Salisbury (United Kingdom)	Max Purcell (Australia) Luke Saville (Australia)
Women's Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic	Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan)

	(France)	Barbora Strycova
	Timea babos (Czech Republic)	
	(Hungary)	
	Nikola Mektic	Jamie Robert
	(Croatia)	Murray (United
Mixed	Barbora	Kingdom)
Doubles	Krejcikova	Bethanie Mattek-
	(Czech	Sands (US)
	Republic)	

- ii. **Koch's achievements:** Koch broke the record of NASA's Peggy Whitson for the longest continuous stay in space by a woman. Koch along with Jessica Meir marked stepping out of space station together by two women at the same time in October 2019.

• **ISRO to unveil low-cost satellite launch vehicles**

On February 01, 2020 the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced preparing **low-cost launch vehicles** where the first launch is expected to take place in the next four months in 2020. The cost of the launch vehicles ranges from **Rs. 30-35 crores** each and weighs 500kgs.

Key points:

- i. The deputy director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Haridas T V has announced that ISRO has earmarked \$1600 million out of which \$870 million will be Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the remaining for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- ii. ISRO has also announced in public at a 2-day space conclave named EDGE 2020, that it has built up the capacity to manufacture such launch vehicles in a turnaround time of around three weeks.

• **NASA decommissioned its Spitzer Space Telescope after 16 years**

On January 31, 2020 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has **decommissioned** its **Spitzer Space Telescope**. The telescope which was used to study the universe by detecting cosmic infrared radiation for more than 16 years was first launched in 2003.

Key points:

- i. Spitzer was planned to be decommissioned in 2018 in anticipation of the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), but as JWST launch mission was postponed spitzer was given 5th and final extension till 2020.
- ii. It detected the most distant galaxies ever detected with the light from some of the cosmic bodies travelling for billions of years to reach the telescope. It had also found a previously undetected ring around the planet Saturn.

• **Karanj:Navy to get third Scorpene submarine in December 2020**

On February 6,2020 **Nicolas de La Villemarque**, Vice President (VP) of India, Asia & Pacific of Naval Group reported that the **3rd Scorpene submarine, Karanj**, will

BANKING & ECONOMY

• **Overview of 6th Bi-monthly monetary policy 2020 released by RBI**

On February 6, 2020, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced its **6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2020-21** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The three-day (February 4-6,2020) policy review meeting by the 6 members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was headed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** with the members Dr. Chetan Ghate, Dr. Pami Dua, Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia, Dr. Janak Raj, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during March 31, April 1 and 3, 2020.

Current rates:

Policy Rates under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)

Repo Rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	4.90%
Marginal standing facility (MSF) Rate	5.40%
Bank Rate	5.40%

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

• **NASA astronaut Christina Koch returns to Earth after record longest stay in ISS**

On February 06, 2020 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.

Key Points:

- i. The Soyuz MS-13 also carried European astronaut Luca Parmitano and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov.

be delivered to the Indian Navy by Dec 2020 and all 6 sub-marine deliveries would be completed by 2022.

Key Points:

- i. The Scorpene submarine is to be equipped with the AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) system from 2023.
- ii. **AIP:** Air Independent Propulsion Systems that allows non-nuclear submarines to operate without access to atmospheric oxygen. It replaces the diesel-electric propulsion system of non-nuclear vessels.
- iii. AIP Module is currently under deployment by DRDO (Defense Research & Development Organization)
- iv. Karanj was launched into water in January 2018 and is currently in advanced stages of sea trials. The first scorpene, Kulvari, was commissioned in 2018 and the second Scorpene Khanderi was inducted in September 2019.
- v. The Scorpene Submarines were manufactured by MDL (Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited) with the technology assistance from the Naval Group under a \$3.75 billion deal signed in October 2005.

• **Pop singer Lord J launches his Autobiography Book “Lord J: Lord of Anonymity”**

On February 04, 2020, **Lord J** is the 1st and only **Anonymous** singer in the world. Lord J was born in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, Lord J is a Self-Taught singer and Lyric writer in an Anonymous way, and he is a world famous celebrity without revealing his identity to the world. The Name Lord J was given to him by an LA (Los-Angeles)-based fan.

Albums: Lord J has done Lip Locks, Love Me for Me, Roger That and Beside Me.

About the book Lord of Anonymity:

- i. The book is an autobiography penned by Lord J himself about his initial days of understanding the value of music, lyrics, concepts of videography and making music videos, and it also speaks about hardships that he faced on the transition of global pop singer, from dream to achieve it.
- ii. The reason behind making the book is, it will motivate anyone who wants to chase their goals in life and willing to take risk to achieve it.

CURRENT GK QUIZ

1. **Which ministry has launched the assessment frameworks Ease of living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) to access the quality of life of citizens in 100 smart cities and 14 other cities?**
 - a) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - b) Ministry of Health and Family Affairs
 - c) Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment
 - d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 - e) Ministry of Panchayat Raj
2. **Which Metro has become country’s 2nd largest operational metro recently (Feb 2020) with operational distance of 69.3 Km?**
 - a) Delhi metro rail corporation
 - b) Namma metro
 - c) Hyderabad metro rail
 - d) Chennai metro rail
 - e) Kochi metro rail
3. **Which department has notified the quality control norms of LPG rubber hose for import and manufacturing standard in India which comes into effect from August 1, 2020?**
 - a) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
 - b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
 - c) Department of Health and Family Welfare
 - d) Department of Biotechnology
 - e) Department of Internal Security
4. **The 1st Disha Police station was inaugurated recently (Feb 2020) in which Indian state?**
 - a) Telangana
 - b) Andhra Pradesh
 - c) Karnataka
 - d) Uttar Pradesh
 - e) Madhya Pradesh
5. **The Prime Minister Modi has attended the celebration of signing Bodo peace accord in Feb 2020. The Bodo is single largest tribe community in which Indian state?**
 - a) Meghalaya
 - b) Sikkim
 - c) Assam
 - d) Nagaland
 - e) Arunachal Pradesh
6. **According to Minister of Petroleum & Natural gas, Dharmendra Pradhan under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme the coverage of LPG has reached _____ % as on Jan 1, 2020?**
 - a) 87.8
 - b) 82.4
 - c) 99.6
 - d) 96.9
 - e) 92.7
7. **The Fund released for Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) between FY 16 to 20 as per**

- Ministry of Textiles, Smriti Irani is/are _____?**
- a) 6717.18 crore b) 6171.81 crore
c) 7161.10 crore d) 7611.81 crore
e) 8176.11 crore
- 8. Which Indian state has launched the Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana which provides financial assistance of Rs. 6000 to families below the poverty line (BPL)?**
- a) Haryana b) Odisha
c) Punjab d) Maharashtra
e) Himachal Pradesh
- 9. Which Indian State government unveils initiative of setting up 1,000 Kudumbashree hotels to serve meals at Rs. 25?**
- a) Karnataka b) Odisha
c) Tamil Nadu d) Kerala
e) Telangana
- 10. United Nations (UN) has released _____ for humanitarian operations in Syria's Idlib province from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)?**
- a) \$ 10 Million b) \$ 20 Million
c) \$ 30 Million d) \$ 40 Million
e) \$ 50 Million
- 11. As per World Health Organisation (WHO) the global annual cost to treat female genital mutilation (FGM) is _____, based on interactive tool released by WHO on occasion of International Day of Zero tolerance against FGM (Feb 6, 2020)?**
- a) \$1 Billion b) \$1.1 Billion
c) \$1.3 Billion d) \$1.4 Billion
e) \$1.8 Billion
- 12. The Reserve Bank of India set to conduct Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 10 to 14, 2020. The Theme of FLW is?**
- a) Theme: "Consumer Protection"
b) Theme: "Farmers"
c) Theme: "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)"
d) Theme: "Priority Sector Lending (PSL)"
e) Theme: "Educate the Customers"
- 13. Which Bank/Organization has approved to sponsor \$2 million to combat the outbreak of novel Coronavirus (nCoV) (Feb 2020)?**
- a) Work Bank
b) New Development Bank
c) Asian Development Bank
d) International Monetary Fund
e) EXIM Bank
- 14. Which Indian Institution ranked 3rd (top among Indian Institutions) in Global Massive Open Online Course performance among business schools in 2020 released by MOOCLabs?**
- a) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
b) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
c) Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta
d) Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur
e) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
- 15. Which Indian Pharmaceutical company has acquired 4 key brands of Wanbury Pharmaceutical company for 88.60 crore?**
- a) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited
b) Cipla Limited
c) Aurobindo Pharma Limited
d) Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited
e) Biocon Limited
- 16. Which Indian Institute to collaborate with AIIMS Mangalagiri for patient safety and quality health care (Feb 2020)?**
- a) Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata
b) Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut
c) Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai
d) Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
e) National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru
- 17. The Indian army major who developed world's 1st bullet proof helmet which can stop AK-47 bullet from a distance less than 10 meters is _____?**
- a) Nitish Kumar Singh
b) Girish Chandra Joshi
c) Anoop Mishra
d) AshwinNagpal
e) Seemala Vijay Kumar
- 18. Which Coal India Limited's (CIL) subsidiary company has set up a R&D centre named 'SARAS' (Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support) in collaboration with IIT – Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) for sustainable coal mining?**
- a) Mahanadi Coalfields
b) Northern Coalfields
c) Bharat Coking coal
d) Western Coalfields
e) Southeastern Coalfields
- 19. The International team of astronomers led by scientists at the University of California have discovered a monster galaxy named as XMM-2599 from early universe (Feb 2020). Which journal has published the details of the discovery?**

- a) Astrophysical Journal
- b) New Astronomy
- c) Journal of Cosmology
- d) Icarus
- e) The Observatory

20. As per study conducted by scientists of Centre for Wildlife Sanctuaries (CWS) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII) population of which animal has declined by 75-90% in India over past 120 – 200 years (Feb 2020)?

- a) Indian Leopard
- b) Indian aurochs
- c) Asiatic cheetah
- d) Great Indian bustard
- e) Vaquita

Answers: dc4bbc/daadc/dccab/cbaa

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