

# Weekly Current G.K.

Sr. No. 2020.3.1

March 2020

1<sup>st</sup> week

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

- ✚ March 8 :International Women's Day
- ✚ March 15: World Consumer Day
- ✚ March 21: World Forestry Day
- ✚ March 22:World Water Day

## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

- **Pune to host 108<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress with the theme "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment" in 2021**

On March 2, 2020 The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus with the theme,"Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".

- **Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena** elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21
- In the last 100 years, Pune will host the prestigious meet for the 4th time
- **National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh received eco-sensitive zone tag**

On March 2, 2020 Centre notified **870 sq km** around the National Chambal Sanctuary in **Madhya Pradesh(MP)** as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) to prohibit polluting activities like industries, major hydroelectric project,mining, stone quarrying & big construction within the 'no-go area' for the purpose of conservation of water bodies, unique geographical features(ravines), flora & fauna.

## **Highlights**

- i. It covers about 435 square kilometres & lies across Sheopur, Morena and Bhind districts of MP with a length of more than 400 kilometers.

- **Govt approves Indian airlines to provide in-flight wi-fi services to its passengers; Vistara to be first in line**

On March 2, 2020, The central government has approved **airlines** companies operating in India to provide **in-flight wi-fi** services to its passengers upon permission from the pilot-in-command. However, while using Wi-Fi, the passengers' gadgets must be on flight mode. This step has been taken to make domestic flights at par with global airlines while providing convenience to passengers.

- **35<sup>th</sup> edition of the International food and hospitality fair 'AAHAR 2020' commences in New Delhi**

On March 3,2020, A 5-day-long **35<sup>th</sup>** edition of the International Food and Hospitality fair '**AAHAR 2020**' has commenced in Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi**. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.

- i. This fair has been specially focused on promoting the agriculture-community as well as tourism sectors especially hospitality companies.
- ii. The fair, open for business visitors from 10 am to 6 pm, is being jointly organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in partnership with the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries and several apex industry associations.

- **New Delhi hosts India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW)**

New Delhi based **India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF)** has been organizing **India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW)** as an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water for Smarter Cities in New Delhi from March 3-7, 2020.

- i. India and European Union (EU) called upon the Integrated Local Energy System, in which they will jointly work upon clean energy.
  - ii. India and Sweden are also agreed to jointly work on Smart Grids Programme, which is to be funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- **International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT) was held in Kolkata, West Bengal**

On March 5, 2020 The International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT) was held at Biswa Bangla Conventional Centre, **Kolkata**. The event was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and organized by S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. The conference was held from March 5 to 7, 2020.

**Objective:** The conference provides a platform for the young researchers & students from within the country and abroad, with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology

## **INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

- **US and Taliban seals historic agreement aimed at ending war in Afghanistan in Doha, Qatar; India addressed for the 1st time:**

On February 29, 2020, The **US (United States)** and **Taliban militants** have signed historic peace agreement in **Doha, Qatar** to restore peace in Afghanistan. The agreement, signed by the US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in the presence of Michael Richard Pompeo, United States Secretary of State, would end the 18 years-long American war in Afghanistan.

- **Key Points:**

- i. Representatives of 30 countries around the world were also invited to witness this event, including India, Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey, Indonesia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries, as well as members of the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC).
- ii. **India's Ambassador to Qatar, P. Kumaran** attend the USA-Taliban peace deal in Doha on behalf of India. This is the **first time India** has officially joined any Taliban related case.

- **Luxembourg becomes the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free from Feb 29**

In order to reduce traffic pressure on the road, **Luxembourg**, the 7<sup>th</sup> smallest country in Europe, has been made **public transport free** from **February 29, 2020**. It became the first country in the world to do so.

However, this free public transport system does not include 1<sup>st</sup>-class travel tickets on trains and certain night bus services. Commuters can still pay for first class, at a cost of 660 euros a year.

- **China assumes presidency of UN Security Council for March 2020**

China has taken over as president of the United Nations (UN) Security Council for the month of March 2020, to promote solidarity and cooperation. The council's presidency rotates every month among its **15** members. China takes the presidency from Belgium & Dominican Republic will take over the Presidency from China on April, 2020.

### **About UN Security Council:**

Established in 1945, the Security Council was established by the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security. The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

**Headquarters**– New York, USA (United States of America)

**PERSONS IN NEWS**

- **Former Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin becomes Malaysia's 8th Prime Minister**

On March 1, 2020, 72 years old Former Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin took oath of office as Malaysia's 8th Prime Minister (PM) at National Palace in Kuala Lumpur. He is from Malaysian United Indigenous Party, **Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM)**. He succeeds 94-year-old Mahathir bin Mohamad, who abruptly resigned & was in office since the general elections 2018.

- **Pekka Lundmark appointed as CEO of Nokia**

On March 2, 2020 Nokia appointed **Pekka Lundmark** as CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and he will take charge from September 1, 2020. He will be the successor of Rajeev Suri, who was more than a decade in charge of Nokia and Nokia Siemens Networks.

**Key Points:**

- About Lundmark:** Pekka Lundmark is currently serving as the CEO of Fortum since 2015 and also served as executive positions at Nokia between 1990 & 2000 including Vice President (VP) of strategy & business development at Nokia networks.
- Nokia faces intense competition from Sweden's Ericsson & China's Huawei in the race to deliver 5G (5<sup>th</sup> generation) telecom networks to operators around the world.
- **Sudhanshu Pandey appointed as new CMD of MMTC**  
On March 3, 2020 **Sudhanshu Pandey**, Additional Secretary at the Department of Commerce, assumed additional charge as **CMD** (Chairman & Managing Director) of **MMTC** (Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation). He was the successor of Ved Prakash. Pandey currently discharges functions as the Chief Negotiator of India.
- **Centre has named Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary of FinMin**

On March 3, 2020, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary in Ministry of Finance. He will succeed current **Rajiv Kumar**, who has retired in February 2020.

**OBITUARY**

- **Former Chairman & CEO of General Electric, Jack Welch passed away at 84**

On March 1, 2020 **John Francis Welch Jr.**, former chairman & CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of General Electric (GE) Company passed away at the age of 84, in New York, US (United States). He was born on March 19, 1935 in Massachusetts, US. He grew **General Electric company** during the 1980s & 1990s into the most valuable public company in the US.

**PLACES IN NEWS**

- **Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival to be held at Kochi from May 16 -20, 2020**

The Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF), will be held at **Kochi in Kerala** from **16th to 20th May 2020**. This festival is organized by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA). The theme of the event is **Ayurveda Medical Tourism:**

- **Actualizing India's credibility.**

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 a curtain raiser event was held at New Delhi for this festival.

- **11<sup>th</sup> National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) conference 2020 held in New Delhi**

A 3-day long **11<sup>th</sup> National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020** based on the theme '**Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming**' was held in **New delhi**. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**.

**Key Points:**

- The conference, organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), focused on technology-led farming

and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.

- ii. The conference saw the participation of all the KVKs across India. A number of Krishi Vigyan Kendra publications and different products developed by the KVKs were also launched during the conference.
- iii. There are a total of 717 KVKs spread across the country, since the creation of the first KVK at Puducherry in 1974.

## **AWARDS**

- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal honoured with Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award for politics : Swarajya Awards 2020:**

On February 28, 2020 Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was honoured with Swarajya Awards 2020 under the category, **Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Award for Politics** at the 6th India Ideas Conclave at Tent City Narmada in Gujarat. The award is instituted by India Foundation & Indic Academy, & presented by External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives **Mohamed Nasheed**.

- He received the award for his work in integrating the nation, & to take Mukherjee's vision & philosophy forward.
- He dedicated the award to the people of Assam, who have been the source of inspiration and guidance during his public life.

### **About Swarajya Awards**

The award aims to Honor the stellar work by individuals in the field of culture, social work, politics & economics. Each award will carry a citation, a specially designed trophy & a cheque worth Rs. 1 lakh.

- **Jadav Payeng environmental activist of Assam named as 128<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Points of Light Award winner**

On March 3 2020, **Jadav Payeng**, an environmental activist of Assam also known as the "**Forest man of India**" named as 128<sup>th</sup> winner of Commonwealth Points of Light Award. He had spent 30 years of his life for planting trees. He was

honored by the Head of Common Wealth the **Queen Elizabeth II** for his exceptional volunteer service in environmental conservation.

- **Jadav Payeng**, 57 years old had created a sandbar as forest reserve and home to animals, birds and various species on the bank of river Brahmaputra. The sandbar is a part of **Majuli**, the world's largest river island. Molai forest also created by **Jadav Payeng**.
- **Padma Shri Jadav Payeng** also received the Karmayogi Award for 2020 at New Delhi.
- **Ireland Architects Yvonne Farrell & Shelley McNamara wins The Pritzker Architecture prize 2020**  
On March 3, 2020 chairman of The Hyatt Foundation Tom Pritzker announced **Yvonne Farrell (69) and Shelley McNamara (68)** as the winners of Pritzker Architecture prize 2020. It is the 1st time an Irish citizen & a female combination won the prize. It is an annual award sponsored by **Hyatt foundation** is regarded as the profession's highest award.
  - i. They co-founded Grafton Architects in 1978 in dublin

## **SPORTS**

- **Overview of 2020 Mexican open held in Acapulco, Mexico from Feb 24-29**

The 2020 Mexican Open officially known as **Abierto Mexicano Telcel (AMT) presentado por HSBC** (Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation), a lawn tennis tournament was held at Acapulco Princess Mundo Imperial Hard, Acapulco, Mexico between 24 and 29 February 2020. It was played on **Outdoor Hard Court** Surface. It was the **27<sup>th</sup>** edition of men's Mexican Open and 20<sup>th</sup> for the women with a prize money of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) \$1,789,445 (USD) & WTA (Women's Tennis Association) \$ 250,000 (USD)

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal Parera (Spain)
Women's Singles	Heather Miriam Watson (United Kingdom)
Men's Doubles	Łukasz Kubot (Poland) & Marcelo Pinheiro Davi de Melo (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Desirae Marie Krawczyk (America) & Giuliana Marion Olmos Dick (Mexico)

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of **section 45** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949), the Central Government, through the Ministry of Finance has imposed moratorium on Yes Bank Limited w.e.f. 6PM of **March 5, 2020 till April 3, 2020**. The decision has been taken on the recommendations of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under sub-section (1) of section 45.

- During the period of moratorium, withdrawal from Yes Bank is restricted to **Rs 50,000 per account per month**. If a depositor maintains more than one account then also the total amount payable from all the accounts together should not exceed Rs 50,000.
- However, RBI has permitted Yes Bank to allow payments to its depositors in case of unforeseen expenses like medical treatment, higher education, marriage or unavoidable expenses. In this case the sum should not exceed **Rs. 5,00,000** or the actual balance lying to the credit of the account of such depositor, whichever is less.

• **Indian Hockey men's team ranked 4<sup>th</sup> for the 1st time, Belgium topped & Women's team ranked 9<sup>th</sup>, Netherlands topped : FIH World Rankings 2020**

Fédération Internationale de Hockey or International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings 2020, ranks Indian Hockey men's team in **4<sup>th</sup> place** for the first time with 2064.14 points & Women's team is ranked **9<sup>th</sup>** with 1543 points. The men's list is topped by Belgium for the first time with 2481.34 & women's list is topped by Netherlands with 2626.03 points.

• **ICC women's T20I Rankings 2020: Shafali verma creates history by becoming world's No.1 batsman at the age of 16:**

On March 4, 2020, According to the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20I (Twenty - twenty International) rankings 2020 for Women players, the 16-year-old Indian opener **Shafali Verma** climbed 19 places to reach the **top** with 761 points. She replaced New Zealand's Suzie Bates down a notch, who now have 750 points

**BANKING & FINANCE**

• **Centre imposed moratorium on Yes Bank; withdrawals restricted to Rs 50,000 per month till April 3, 2020; Prashant Kumar named as its administrator:**

• **Tourism minister (MoS), Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched Multilingual version of "Incredible India" website & Mobile app in New Delhi**

On March 2, 2020, The Minister of State (MoS) for Tourism & Culture, **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel** has launched the multilingual version of '**Incredible India**' website and mobile app in New Delhi with the aim to provide more information about India's tourist destinations, attractions, experiences, and where the value lies.

- The website was earlier hosted in only 2 languages i.e. **English & Hindi** and now it has been launched in 3 new languages i.e. **Chinese, Arabic and Spanish**.
- The upgraded version will help boost the tourism awareness, attractions and opportunities by facilitating tourists

with personalised and contextual digital experiences

### CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. **The Union Cabinet approves the amalgamation of 10 Public Sector Banks into \_\_\_\_\_ Public Sector Banks in effect from April 1, 2020.**
  - 1) 2
  - 2) 4
  - 3) 5
  - 4) 3
  - 5) 6
2. **Name the Public Sector Bank (PSB) which is going to be Amalgamated with Indian Bank in effect from April 1, 2020.**
  - 1) Indian Overseas Bank
  - 2) Canara Bank
  - 3) Andhra Bank
  - 4) Allahabad Bank
  - 5) Corporation Bank
3. **The Union Cabinet has approved MoU in the field of Health between India and Ivory Coast (Republic of Cote d'Ivoire). What is the Capital of Ivory Coast?**
  - 1) Conakry
  - 2) Accra
  - 3) Bamako
  - 4) Ouagadougou
  - 5) Yamoussoukro
4. **The Union Home Ministry has approved the automated facial recognition system by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for better identification of Criminals, Missing children etc. The Headquarters of NCRB located at which Indian City?**
  - 1) Hyderabad
  - 2) Pune
  - 3) New Delhi
  - 4) Bhopal
  - 5) Lucknow
5. **Name the country which has signed a deal worth Rs.1200 crore for missile protection suites for new Boeing-777 VVIP planes with India.**
  - 1) United States
  - 2) Austria
  - 3) Russia
  - 4) Iran
  - 5) Germany
6. **Name the Indian state which announced Gairsain town as summer capital.**
  - 1) Manipur
  - 2) Uttarakhand
  - 3) Arunachal Pradesh
  - 4) Himachal Pradesh
  - 5) Mizoram
7. **Supreme Court has lifted ban on trading in cryptocurrency by cancelling the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) circular in 2018. The Cryptocurrency runs on which Technology?**
  - 1) Cloud Compute
  - 2) Cyber Tech
  - 3) Artificial Intelligence
  - 4) Blockchain
  - 5) Internet of Things
8. **As per Kishan Reddy (MoS – Home Affairs) there is decline of \_\_\_\_\_% in insurgency incidents in the year 2019 in North East (NE) as compared to 2013.**
  - 1) 75
  - 2) 65
  - 3) 60
  - 4) 70
  - 5) 80
9. **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has introduced a scheme namely "LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020" for LLPs by allowing a one-time condonation of delay in filing forms with the Registrar of Office (ROC). The LLP denotes?**
  - 1) Large Limited Partnership
  - 2) Limited Liability Partnership
  - 3) Limited Laundering Partnership
  - 4) Listed Liability Partnership
  - 5) Limited Liability Property
10. **ICICI Prudential AMC (Asset Management Company) has signed pact with which Co-operative bank, to distribute its product to rural market.**
  - 1) Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd
  - 2) Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd
  - 3) Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd
  - 4) Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd
  - 5) Cosmos Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd
11. **Janez Jansa has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Slovenia. What is the Capital & Currency of Slovenia?**
  - 1) Zagreb & US Dollar
  - 2) Ljubljana & Euro
  - 3) Budapest & Pound
  - 4) Zagreb & Euro
  - 5) Ljubljana & Pound
12. **Name the Person who has been resigned as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor in the month of March 2020.**
  - 1) Michael Patra

- 2) BP Kanungo
- 3) N.S Vishwanathan
- 4) BP Kanungo
- 5) Viral V. Acharya

**13. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 61st annual Lalit Kala Akademi awards 2020 to 15 excellent artist of the country. Lalit Kala Akademi comes under which Indian Ministry?**

- 1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 2) Ministry of Home Affairs
- 3) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- 4) Ministry of Culture
- 5) Ministry of Tourism

**14. Name the Indian City where the 5th edition of India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition conducted at.**

- 1) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- 2) Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 3) Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Amritsar, Odisha
- 5) Pune, Maharashtra

**15. Name the country which is going to host the United Nations (UN) summit on biodiversity (also known as Convention on Biological Diversity-COP15) in the month of October 2020?**

- 1) India
- 2) Japan
- 3) Germany
- 4) China
- 5) Poland

**Answers: 24531/24424/23424**