

Weekly Current G.K.

Sr. No. 2020.2.3

FEBRUARY 2020

3rd 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

- **IDSA renamed as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses**

On February 18, 2020 The Central Government has renamed **Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)** as **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses** in order to “honour the commitment and legacy” of late Manohar Parrikar. Late Manohar Parrikar was a **former defence minister** and **Padma Bhushan awardee**. The Defence Minister chairs the Executive Committee of the IDSA Institute.

Key Points:

- i. **About Manohar Parrikar:** Late Parrikar was Defence Minister from November 9, 2014 to March 14, 2017 & initiated several reforms in the Ministry. He also supervised responses to terror attacks in Pathankot and Uri.
- ii. He also served as Chief Minister (CM) of Goa from March 14, 2017 to March 17, 2019.
- iii. **Contribution:** His biggest contribution was towards the implementation of long-standing **OROP (One Rank One Pension)** demand for the Armed forces. He also set up an expert committee under Lt. Gen. (Retd) D.B. Shekatkar for enhancing combat capability & rebalancing defense expenditure.

- **Bihar to get north India's first bird ringing station and MoU inked in Gujarat**

On February 17, 2020 **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.

Key Points:

- i. **About MoU:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between Deepak Kumar Singh, principal secretary of Bihar government, department of environment, forest & climate changes with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in the presence of C K Mishra, secretary to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate change (MoEFCC).
- ii. The MoU was signed on the occasion of CMS-COP13 (Conservation of Migratory species- conference of parties) or the 13th Conservation of Migratory Species-Conference of Parties held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, where delegates from 130 countries are participating in discussions on preservation of migratory species.
- iii. The MoU would be valid for 5 years in which the state government of Bihar will spend almost Rs. 5 crore for the new bird ringing station.
- iv. In Bihar, migratory birds are also spotted in large numbers in Jamui, Begusarai, Darbhanga and Vaishali.
- v. This will be the **first bird-ringing station in the country** to be set up with support of a state government & it is one among the only three breeding places of Greater

Adjutant across the world, the other two being in Assam and Cambodia .

- **Delhi-based IGIA becomes 1st single-use plastic-free airport of India**

On February 17, 2020, According to the GMR Group-led **Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL)**, Delhi-based **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has become the 1st airport in India to be completely **free of single-use plastic usage**. It is inline with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by **2022**.

Key Points:

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) -ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) also recognized DIAL for successfully implementing the campaign to make the airport voluntary plastic free.
- With the resolve to 'Beat plastic pollution' on the occasion of World Environment Day in the year 2019, the IGIA campus has also become the first airport in the country to complete it by launching a campaign to make plastic single-free.

- **A 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 begins in Hyderabad, Telangana**

On February 17, 2020, A 3-day long 17th edition of **Bio Asia 2020**, Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the **theme** of '**Today for Tomorrow**' has commenced in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. **Switzerland** is the **partner Country** for 2020 as part of the annual tradition & around 40-member team comprising industries, academia and start-ups from Switzerland participated in this event. **Assam, Kerala, Odisha and Gujarat** were the partner states.

- It is being organized by Government of Telangana, Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) with event partners Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **UAE becomes 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant**

On February 17, 2020, The United Arab Emirates representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency **Mr. Hamad al-kaabi** announced that the National Nuclear Regulator has issued an **Operating license for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant** and becomes the **1st arab country in the world** to operate a nuclear power plant.

Key points:

- The Barakah nuclear power plant is being built by the Korea Electric Power Corporation in a deal of USD 20 billion and the plant is on the Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi, out of 4 nuclear reactors in the plant only one got the license, if it is fully operational it can generate 5600 megawatts of electricity which is 25% of the Nation's need.
- The UAE has set a target to produce 27% of its electricity needs with the combined nuclear and renewable energy by 2021.

- **Hindi is the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin Chinese : 22nd edition of World language database, Ethnologue**

On February 18, 2020 The 22nd edition of the world language database **Ethnologue** stated **Hindi**, as the **3rd most spoken language** of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers. English language was at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers and Mandarin Chinese was at the 2nd position with 1,117 million speakers.

Key Points:

- About Ethnologue:** Ethnologue will publish an yearly database of living languages of the world, since its establishment in 1951.
- Bangla has been ranked as the 7th most spoken language of the world and has 228 million native speakers.

- **India ranked 35th in Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, Finland tops**

On February 18, 2020 **The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019** ranked India in 35th position, whereas in 2018 it was ranked 40th position. The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation. The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.

Index Formation

Index is based on 3 categories

- Policy environment
- Teaching environment
- Socio economic environment

Highlights

- i. India ranked 35th with a score of 53.
- ii. Finland is positioned 1st in all categories including overall score, followed by Sweden.
- iii. World's giant economies like US, UK, France & Russia fell in the index, while China, India & Indonesia performed better.

- **2020 UN Climate Summit 'COP26' to be held in Glasgow, UK in November** The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled to be held from 9-19 November 2020, at Glasgow's Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in Scotland under the presidency of the UK (United Kingdom) government.

i. UNFCCC, the UN's climate body, holds an annual summit known as a COP, attended by national ministers and heads of state. All of the world's nations are 'parties to the Convention'.

- **Thailand hosts 13th Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2020 & 4th Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2020**

On 7th February 2020, 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 & 4th edition – Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with the aim to improve investment in India and Asia.

Key Points:

- i. As a part of this event, AsiaOne Magazine & URS Media organized a Networking Meet called 'India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together' in partnership with the India Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) at to discuss the cause of business, political and social issues in the entire Asia & GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region,.
- ii. The event was graced by Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Former Prime Minister of Thailand and Her Excellency Mrs. Suchitra Durai, the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand and other dignitaries.
- iii. Under the event, Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20, some of the Asia's Greatest leaders were recognised and honoured for their outstanding contribution to the Asian economy and society.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **RBI appointed Sunil Gurbaxani as Dhanlaxmi Bank MD & CEO**

On February 20, 2020 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed **Sunil Gurbaxani** as MD (Managing Director) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a period of 3 years. Sunil was the successor of T.Latha.

- **Supratim Bandyopadhyay appointed as PFRDA Chairman**

On February 18, 2020 **Supratim Bandyopadhyay** was appointed as **chairman** of the PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority). The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved Supratim appointment for a period of **5 years** from the date of assumption or till attaining the age of 65 years. He was the successor of Shri Pankaj Jain.

- **Ex-IAS officers Sanjay Kothari and Bimal Julka to become next Chief Vigilance Officer (CVC) and Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)**

On February 19, 2020 a high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected **Sanjay Kothari**, current Secretary to the President as the

new Chief Vigilance Commissioner(CVC) and former Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Bimal Julka**, current Information Commissioner became new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.

OBITUARY

- **Larry Tesler Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste passed away at 74**

On February 17, 2020, **Lawrence Gordon Tesler** known as **Larry Tesler** was an American computer scientist who worked in the field of human-computer interaction and also the Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste functions for computers in 1973 has passed away at the age of **74** in Portola Valley, California, U.S.

- **Famous journalist M.S. Mani passed away at 79**

On February 19, 2020 Former Chief-editor of **Kerala Kaumudi** (Malayalam daily) and **kala kaumudi** (magazine) chief editor **M.S. Mani** passed away at the age of **79** in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was born on November 4, 1941 at Mayyanad in Kollam district, Kerala as the son of Kerala Kaumudi Founder editor **K Sukumaran** and **Madhavi Sukumaran**.

- **Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal, passed away at 82**

On February 18,2020 **Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal** passed away at the age of **82** in Bengaluru, due to her age related illness. She hailed from Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka.

- **Former Manchester United goalkeeper and Munich hero, Harry Greg, passed away at 87**

On February 18, 2020 **Harry Greg**, former Manchester United goalkeeper and Munich hero, passed away at the age of **87** in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, UK (United Kingdom). He was born on 27th October 1932 in Magherafelt, Northern Ireland.

PLACES IN NEWS

- **UP becomes 1st in India to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department**

On February 18, 2020, In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** state Government led by its Chief Minister (CM) **Yogi Adityanath** has implemented the **Performance Regulation Act 2019** for the power department. Consumers will now get financial compensation for delay in resolving their complaints by the department.

- **1st-ever Global investors summit 2020 will be held in Jammu & Kashmir**

The Union Territory (UT) of **Jammu and Kashmir's** (J&K) administration is set to host 1st-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.

Key Points:

- As a part of this summit, J&K administration has decided to send 54 of its top officers to conduct roadshows across India from February 17,2020. The roadshows will be held in Bengaluru and Kolkata on 17 February, in Mumbai on 21 February, in Hyderabad on 2 March, in Chennai on 5 March and in Ahmedabad on 9 March focusing on specific sectors to attract investment.

AWARDS

- **65th Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 in Guwahati, Assam: Gully Boy' bags best film**

The **65th** edition of **Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020** was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam** from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020. The event was hosted by **Karan Kumar Johar** (often referred to as **KJo**), an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & **Varun Dhawan**, **Vicky Kaushal**.

Highlights:

- Zoya Akhtar's** directorial '**Gully Boy**' emerged as big winner as it bagged several awards including the prestigious **best film** award.
- Ranveer Singh** bagged **Best Actor's trophy** for his performance in **Gully Boy**,

while **Alia Bhatt** won the **Best Actor** in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film

- **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw won EY Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2019**

On February 19, 2020 **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.

Key Points:

- About Mazumdar-Shaw:** She will also represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo between June 4 and 6, 2020. She was also one of the Indian signatories of the Giving Pledge, who dedicated the majority of her wealth to philanthropic causes.
- Adi Godrej**, Godrej Group Chairman was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- Tuhin Parikh**, senior managing director (Real Estate), BlackStone India, was the first recipient awarded with **“Transformational Impact Person of the Year award”** & this category has been **newly launched** to recognise individuals who have transformed both the industry and ecosystem in India.

- **Indian Railways Customer grievance portal “RailMadad” gets National e-Governance Awards**

On February 20, 2020 **RaidMadad**, the grievance redressal portal of Indian Railways, has been awarded **Silver award under Category-II of National e-Governance Awards**– “Excellence in providing Citizen-centric delivery” at the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance which was held at Mumbai on 7 & 8th february 2020.

- **20th edition of Laureus world sports awards 2020 held in Berlin, Germany:Sachin Tendulkar won sporting moment of the year 2000-2020**

On February 17, 2020, **20th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards**

2020 was held in **Berlin, Germany**.It was the 2nd Laureus World Sports Awards to take place in Berlin, following the 2016 ceremony which took place at the Messe Berlin.It was organized by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.Laureus World Sports Awards is known as **‘Oscars of Sport’**.The event was hosted by Actor Hugh Grant.

SPORTS

- **India to host 16-team FIH Junior Men’s World Cup 2021, South Africa to host women’s edition**

On February 17, 2020 The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** announced that India will host Junior Men’s Hockey World Cup 2021 and the women’s Junior Hockey World Cup would be held for the first time in Potchefstroom, South Africa. This is the third time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament, having staged in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2016 & New Delhi, India in 2013. .

Key Points:

- In Junior Men’s World Cup 16 teams will compete for the title, out of which 6 will be from Europe, 4 from Asia, 2 from Africa, 2 from Oceania and 2 from Pan America.
- Under women’s edition, out of 16 teams Pan America gets an extra spot & Asia loses one.
- Out of these, 6 European teams (Germany, England, Netherland, Spain, Belgium and France) have already qualified for the event in India as they secured their berths through the European Continental Championships held in 2019.
- India had defeated Belgium 2-1 in the final match held at Major Dhyhan Chand Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP), in 2016.

- **India wins bronze in Badminton Asia team championships 2020 held in Manila, Philippines**

Indian men’s team clinched **bronze medal** at the **Badminton Asia team championships 2020** after losing to two-time defending champions Indonesia with 2-3 scores in semi-finals of the tournament

held at Rizal Memorial Coliseum in **Manila, Philippines** from 11 – 16 February 2020.

This is the 2nd time that India bagged bronze medal in the championship after it won the 1st bronze in 2016 at Hyderabad, Telangana.

• **Indian Railways launched HRMS Mobile app for its employees**

On February 20 2020 **Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav**, Chairman, Railway Board, launched **HRMS** (Human Resource Management System) **Mobile application** (app) through which all employees of Indian Railways can view and access data related to their services. The app was designed and developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information System).

Key Points:

- i. **About HRMS Mobile app:** The app allows employees to view their historical data since the date of joining in Railways including details related to the Increments, Promotions, Awards, Transfers, Postings, Leave, Training, and composition of Family as per records, Nominations for retirement benefits and also brings transparency to administration.
- ii. This application will be a single window communication system between Railway employees and Administration.

• **Lithium reserve found in Mandya near Bengaluru**

On February 18, 2020 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.

Key Points:

- i. The reserve is small compared to major producers such as Chile with its 8.6 tonnes million of reserve, Australia with 2.8 million tonnes, Argentina with 1.7 million tonnes & Portugal with 60,000 tonnes.
- ii. India currently imports all its lithium needs and lithium batteries worth \$1.2 billion for the year 2019 from \$384 million in 2017.

iii. These reserves will be useful to promote clean-energy vehicles in India and the Government has a plan to implement \$1.4 billion to make India a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles.

iv. India has set up **Khanij Bidesh India Limited** to source and acquire mines in Argentina (Buenos Aires), Bolivia (Sucre) and Chile (Santiago).

• **GRSE delivers 4th Anti-Submarine warfare corvette INS Kavaratti to Navy**

On February 18, 2020, Kolkata based defence PSU (Public Sector Undertakings) **GRSE** (Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.) has delivered its **fourth and Last Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette (ASWC) INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kavaratti** to Indian Navy under Project-28.

• **ISRO to launch 10 surveillance satellites in 2020-21**

On Feb 17, 2020, as per the annual report of the Department of Space, ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is planning to launch 10 earth observation satellites space surveillance feature during 2020-21 including first ever Geo Imaging Satellite **GISAT-1**.

Key Points:

- i. As of now, 10 national earth observation satellites, 18 communication satellites and eight navigation satellites are active.
- ii. Apart from above, ISRO has lined up **36 missions** consisting of six Earth Observation satellites. It also has plans to add 8 Earth Observation satellites in 2021-22.
- iii. For FY20-21, ISRO has been allotted the highest-ever budgetary outlay of Rs 13,480 crore by Union Ministry of Finance.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

• **Penguin published the Book Chanakya Niti: Verses on Life and Living translated by A.N.D. Haksar**

On February 15, 2020, Indian Diplomat **Aditya Narayan Dhairyasheel Haksar** has translated the famous aphorisms (sayings) of the ancient master of statecraft **Chanakya or Kautilya** from Sanskrit to current existing languages for

the readers and the book titled as **“Chanakya Niti: Verses on life and Living”** and it has been published by Penguin Random House India.

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. **Union Minister of State (MoS) for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated India’s 1st floating jetty at which Indian state?**
 - 1) Gujarat
 - 2) Maharashtra
 - 3) Goa
 - 4) Karnataka
 - 5) Kerala
2. **The MSME ministry has launched the National Level Awareness Programme (NLAP) 2020 to spread awareness about the schemes & Activities of the ministry. Who is the present MSME ministry?**
 - 1) Ravi Shankar Prasad
 - 2) Nitin Jairam Gadkari
 - 3) Sadananda Gowda
 - 4) Prakash Javadekar
 - 5) Ramvilas Paswan
3. **The 2-day long 1st ever Bharat-Bangla tourism festival held at (Feb 20-21,2020)?**
 - 1) Kolkata, West Bengal
 - 2) Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
 - 3) Dispur, Assam
 - 4) Agartala, Tripura
 - 5) Imphal, Manipur
4. **The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, laid foundation of the new Army headquarters building in Delhi. The new Army headquarters is named as _____?**
 - 1) Swaraj Bhawan
 - 2) Shastri Bhawan
 - 3) Thal Sena Bhawan
 - 4) Vayu Bhawan
 - 5) Nau Sena Bhawan
5. **Which Union ministry runs ‘Jiyo parsi scheme’ with the aim to increase the population of parsi community?**
 - 1) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - 2) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - 3) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
 - 4) Ministry of Minority affairs
 - 5) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
6. **As per Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which city ranked top in smart city mission that is paired with Chandigarh in 100-day challenge for the backward cities (as sister city) to enhance their position by June 25, 2020?**
 - 1) Ahmedabad
 - 2) Nagpur
 - 3) Tirupur
 - 4) Ranchi
 - 5) Bhopal
7. **The National organic food festival for Women entrepreneurs held at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium, New Delhi (Feb 2020). What is the theme of the festival?**
 - 1) Healthy food, Organic food
 - 2) Organic market, The future agricultural development
 - 3) Organic market for women entrepreneurs
 - 4) Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You
 - 5) Unleashing India’s Organic Market Potential
8. **Name the Railway station, where Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has installed India’s 1st squat machine in a station as part of ‘Fit India’ initiative?**
 - 1) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
 - 2) Howrah Junction railway station
 - 3) Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station
 - 4) Anand Vihar Railway Station
 - 5) Chennai Central railway station
9. **Which Indian state government has proposed (in state budget) ‘Samruddha Krishi Niti-2020’ to increase the income of farmers?**
 - 1) West Bengal
 - 2) Telangana
 - 3) Haryana
 - 4) Punjab
 - 5) Odisha
10. **Which Indian state government has launched the Atal kisan – Majdoor**

canteens to provide affordable meals to the farmers (Rs. 10 per plate)?

- 1) Odisha
- 2) Haryana
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Karnataka
- 5) Gujarat

- 2) 4.6%
- 3) 5.1%
- 4) 4.9%
- 5) 5.6%

11. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced, Pakistan will continue in grey list for another 4 months. The Headquarters of FATF located at?

- 1) New York, United States
- 2) Beijing, China
- 3) Paris, France
- 4) London, United Kingdom
- 5) Vienna, Austria

12. As per RBI's 5-year National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-2024), Public credit registry (PCR) made fully operational by _____?

- 1) March 2020
- 2) January 2021
- 3) April 2021
- 4) March 2022
- 5) July 2022

13. As per RBI's 5-year National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-2024), Every adult enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dan Yojana (PMJDY) should be enrolled under an insurance scheme and pension scheme by _____?

- 1) June 2021
- 2) June 2020
- 3) April 2020
- 4) March 2020
- 5) March 2021

14. As per World Bank's report titled 'Delivering Road Safety in India' what is the extra estimated cost investment needed to half road crash fatalities in India?

- 1) \$98 billion
- 2) \$119 billion
- 3) \$91 billion
- 4) \$109 billion
- 5) \$113 billion

15. What is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India for the year 2019-20 as per the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)?

- 1) 5%

Answers: 32434/15452/34444

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