

NATIONAL

1. **Pune** will host 108th Indian Science Congress with the theme of **"Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment"** in 2021.
2. Madhya Pradesh 'National **Chambal** Sanctuary' have been declared Eco-Sensitive Zone (**ESZ**) for the purpose of conservation of water bodies, unique geographical features(ravines), flora & fauna. It is tri-state (**Rajasthan, MP and Uttar Pradesh**) riverine protected area for the breeding population of Gharial.
3. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**), an apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has signed Memorandum of Understandings with various organizations namely, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (**IITD**), Quality Council of India (**QCI**), Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture(**ICFA**), for the collaboration to boost the activities in the interest of agriculture and allied sectors under **Agri Export Policy 2018**.
4. The central Government has aimed to replace all the level crossings on National Highways (NH) by Road Over Bridges / Road Under Bridges under the **Setu Bharatam** scheme and decrease road fatalities by **50 % by 2020**.
5. 35th Food and Hospitality fair '**AAHAR 2020**' was organised in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, jointly by India Trade Promotion Organisation (**ITPO**) in partnership with the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority (**APEDA**), and Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
6. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) which will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of **Rs. 1,40,881 crores**.
7. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (**MoPP&P**) has issued a format for filing complaints of corruption against public servants with the Lokpal or anti-corruption ombudsman under Lokpal (Complaint) Rules, 2020.
8. 11th **National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)** Conference -2020 with the theme '**Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming**' was held in New Delhi, which was organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**).
9. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (**BEE**) has launched star rating programme for **Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC) and Deep Freezers**, on its 19th foundation day under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 in New Delhi. BEE has also launched **Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT)** @ (www.udit.beeindia.gov.in) developed with USA based **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, to facilitate a database on energy efficiency
10. Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has introduced a scheme namely **"LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020"** for limited liability partnership (LLPs) by allowing a one-time condonation of delay in filing statutorily required documents with the Registrar of Office (ROC).
11. The President of Myanmar **U Win Myint** has visited India.
12. The 5th edition of **India Pharma 2020** and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition will be held at **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**).
13. The Fourth **Global Ayurveda Festival** will be held at Kochi in Kerala from 16th to 20th **May** 2020. It will be 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**.

14. The International Conference on **Nano Science and Technology 2020** (ICONSAT) was held in Kolkata. The event was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (**DST**).

STATES

15. The Maharashtra Government renamed Aurangabad Airport as **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj** Airport.

16. **Tripura** and Airport Authority of India (**AAI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for the construction of the 6 Equipment Hiring Centers in Tripura. The project has been taken by the AAI as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme and the project will benefit 6000 families

17. Tamil Nadu has launched the 5year **Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP)** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu which is partially funded by the **World Bank**.

18. UP Govt will provide monthly grant of Rs 900 for adopting stray cattle.

19. Uttarakhand government has announced '**Gairsain**' as the summer capital of the state.

20. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State for Labour & Employment, launched '**Humsafar**' mobile application in New Delhi, which **delivers diesel to doorstep** of bulk users.

21. **RaIDer-X**, a new explosive detection device unveiled in **National Workshop on Explosive Detection** (NWED-2020) held in **Pune**, Maharashtra.

INTERNATIONAL

22. The US (United States) and Taliban militants have signed historic peace agreement in Doha, Qatar to restore peace in Afghanistan.

23. As per "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2019", by International Narcotics Control Board (**INCB**) released by United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**), India is named among the **top manufacturers of illicit and licit drugs** that are smuggled to other countries.

24. **Luxembourg has become the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free.**

25. **China** has assumed the presidency of UN Security Council for March 2020.

26. On the **World Wildlife Day** on March 3, 2020, the **European Commission** has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called '**United for Biodiversity**' in **Monaco**. The coalition consists of national parks, aquariums, botanical gardens, zoos, science and natural history museums from around the world to boost public awareness about the nature crisis.

27. QS World University Ranking 2020 by subject: Institute of Technology (IIT), **Bombay** and IIT Delhi have made it to the top 50 institutes in the world in the category of engineering and technology with a rank of **44th** and 47th respectively.

FINANCE & BANKING

28. Supreme Court has **lifted ban on trading in virtual currency, cryptocurrency** and bitcoins by cancelling the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 2018 circular that barred banks from serving companies dealing in cryptocurrency exchanges.

29. The Ministry of Finance has released data related to various schemes with special provisions for empowerment of women:

- **Stand-Up India** Scheme: **More than 81%** account holders are women.

- **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):** More than 2.25 lakh crore loans have been sanctioned and more than 1.57 lakh crore loans extended to women, **70%** of the total loan borrowers are **Women**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):** **20.33 crore** beneficiaries out of **38.13 crore** beneficiaries are women which amounts to **53 %**.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** More than 93 lakh subscribers (**43%**) out of a total of around 2.15 crore subscribers under APY are women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** **40.70%** enrolments are of women members and 58.21% of claim beneficiaries are women.
- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** **41.50%** enrolments are of women members and 61.29% of claim beneficiaries are women.

30. Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has introduced a mobile app called '**SEBI SCORES**' (SEBI Complaints Redress System) through which, investors can register their grievances.

31. State Bank of India (SBI) has switched to "**Cash Budget Based Assessment (CBBA)**" from "Projected Balance Sheet (PBS)" method of Fund Based Working Capital (FBWC) limits for assessment of the working capital requirement for corporates or large advances. SBI has also started **Risk Intel**, an email service, advising the business units of rating actions in respect of units it has funded.

32. RBL Bank has entered into a partnership with Online food ordering and delivery app Zomato to launch co-branded credit card.

33. **Paytm Insurance Broking** has received the brokerage licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Authority of India (IRDAI). Paytm will now offer insurance in various categories namely automotive, health and life.

34. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has granted Rs 1.46 lakh crore in the rural banking system during the current fiscal-FY (2019-20) with the aim to help them get their resources effectively for handling the credit needs of rural people, including farmers.

35. **ICICI Prudential AMC** (Asset Management Company), has entered the partnership with **Saraswat** Co-operative Bank to distribute its products with the latter's customers base spread across its 280 branches in 6 states.

36. As per **Section 45** of the Banking Regulation Act, 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)**. During the period of moratorium, withdrawal from Yes Bank is restricted to Rs 50,000 per account. *In exercise of the powers conferred under **36ACA of the Banking Regulation Act 1949**, RBI has also superseded (replaced) YES bank board by appointing ex- Deputy Managing Director (DMD) & Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of SBI Prashant Kumar as its administrator for a period of 30 days.*

37. EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organisation) has reduced the interest rate on EPF deposits for 2019-20 to seven years low by 0.15% or 15 basis points from 8.65% to **8.5%**.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

38. Google Cloud, the company's enterprise wing, has announced plans to open a second cloud region in India at Delhi by 2021, which has one cloud region in Mumbai and has been operational since 2017

39. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the acquisition Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL) by NBCC (India) Limited.

40. Zomato, an Indian restaurant aggregator and food delivery start-up has acquired Uber's food delivery business in India, **Uber Eats** for \$206 million.

41. **Fitch** lowers India's economic growth forecast for **FY20 to 4.9%** from 5.1 %. It cuts the rate from 5.1% predicted earlier, due to coronavirus, weak domestic demand and supply disruptions, which put pressure on the manufacturing sector.
42. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) has signed MoU with **Patanjali Bio Research Institute** (PBRI) to develop new technologies in the field of farming by undertaking research work as well as training and education.
43. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its report titled "**OECD Interim Economic Assessment Coronavirus: The world economy at risk**" has downgraded India's real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast **to 5.1%** from the earlier projection of 6.2% for 2020 due to the impact of deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) on the domestic as well as the global economy. For 2021, India's real GDP growth is projected **at 5.6%**. Globally, GDP growth is projected to drop to 2.4% in 2020.
44. National Mineral Development Corporation (**NMDC**) Limited & IIT Hyderabad signed an agreement to support start-ups through a joint incubation program through NMDC Innovation & Incubation Centre (NICE) to promote the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
45. As per the report "Trade-Related Illicit Financial Flows in 135 Developing Countries: 2008-2017" by US-based think tank **Global Financial Integrity (GFI)**, India has the third-highest trade related illicit financial flow among over 135 countries in 2017 while **China has topped the report**.
46. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) report titled "**Global trade impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Epidemic**", India is among the **top 20** economies **most affected** by the slowdown of manufacturing in China due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, which is disrupting world trade and could result in a **50 billion dollar decrease** in global exports. The estimates are highest for European Union (EU) with an impact of USD 15.6 billion.

REPORTS & SCHEMES

47. According to the '**Freedom in the World 2020**' report, which analyses democratic values and people's freedom in **195** countries released by **the Freedom House**, a U.S (United States) based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, **India has ranked 83rd** in the report along with Timor-Leste and Senegal in 'Free' category. **Finland** topped the list as the free democratic country.

AWARDS & RANKINGS

48. 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.
49. Ireland Architects **Yvonne Farrell & Shelley McNamara** has won the **Pritzker Architecture** prize 2020.
50. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind conferred the 61st annual Lalit Kala Akademi awards 2020 to 15 excellent artists at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
51. TIME Magazine created 100 New Covers for the Project '**100 women of the year**' to recognize selected women or groups to represent each year from 1920 to 2019. India's Freedom Fighter **Amrit Kaur has been honored as 'Women of the Year' for 1947** while Former Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi for 1976**.
52. **PV Sindhu** has been named Times of India Sports Awards **Sportsperson** of Year 2019 while **Rohit Sharma named cricketer** of the year.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSON IN NEWS

53. Former Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin bin **Haji Muhammad Yassin** has become **Malaysia's 8th** Prime Minister

54. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister has approved the appointment of **Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary** in Ministry of Finance.
55. **Sanjay Kumar Panda** appointed as India's Ambassador to **Turkey**
56. **Slovenia** confirms anti-immigrant party leader **Janez Jansa** as new Prime Minister
57. RBI Deputy Governor N.S. Vishwanathan has resigned ahead of his retirement
58. The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has constituted a committee headed by **Naresh Chandra Saxenato** examine and recommend **Community Forest Resources (CFR) Guidelines** under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).
59. Board of Directors of **SBI Life Insurance** Company re-appointed **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer of the company (CEO). This approval is given by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and members of the Company.
60. **Denys Shmygal** becomes new PM of **Ukraine**.
61. Singapore's **Daren Tang** was elected as Director General of **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**. The process of selecting a Director General is governed by the Convention which establishes the WIPO & the "2019 Procedures for the Nomination and Appointment of Directors General of WIPO.

SPORTS

62. Mumbai will host 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session.
63. Badminton Asia Championships 2020 shifted to Manila from Wuhan
64. Indian Hockey men's team has ranked 4th for the 1st time, Belgium topped: FIH World Rankings 2020
65. 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 held in Bhubaneswar: Panjab University (PB) topped the Medal Tally.

OBITUARY

66. Former UN chief **Javier Perez de Cuellar** has Passed away at 100
67. Former Chairman & CEO of General Electric, **Jack Welch** has passed away at 84.
68. Dronacharya awardee & athletics coach **Joginder Singh Saini** has passed away at 90
69. Former India hockey player & Padma Shri awardee **Balbir Singh Kullar** has passed away at 77.

DAYS

70. **Zero Discrimination Day: March 1 2020**. The theme for this year is "**Zero Discrimination against Women & Girls**".
71. **World Wildlife Day: March 3 2020**: On March 3, 2020, The World Wildlife Day (**WWD**) has been celebrated based on the theme "**Sustaining All Life on Earth**".
72. Janaushadhi week: **1st March to 7th March 2020**. To provide various activities like health checkup Camp, free doctor consultation, free medicine distribution is hosted by **Jan Aushadhi Kendras**. On the fourth day of the event for empowering women, the event was focused on the theme '**Suvidha Se Sammaan**'

OTHERS

73. Researchers of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) Madras team developed AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered drone to counter 'rogue drones' (unregulated unmanned aerial vehicles).