

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 15TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GulFood 2020

- The **25th Edition of the GulFood 2020**, Dubai is being held from **16th to 20th February 2020**.
- For India, GulFood 2020 will help in facilitating **tie ups between foreign investors** and accelerate the pace of export of food products from **India to the western market**.

Sri Lanka's Withdrawal from Co-Sponsorship of UNHRC Resolution 30/1

- The **UNHRC resolution 30/1** calls for **addressing war crimes and reconciliation efforts with minorities**.
- The statement came after the U.S. imposed travel restrictions on **Army chief Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva** and his immediate family members.

NATIONAL NEWS

Kashi Mahakal Express

- **Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** it will launch its **first overnight journey by a private train in the country** named Kashi Mahakal Express.
- The train will be inaugurated on 16th February 2020 and will begin its regular service from **20th February 2020**.

Govt. Announced Rs 540 Cr for Stalled Housing Projects

- The investment will **benefit 1,800 homebuyers** and will unlock Rs 3000 Crore of invested capital.
- The Central government **announced a Rs 25,000 crore fund in November 2019**, to help complete over **1,500 stalled housing projects**.

WPI Inflation: 10 Month High at 3.1%

- Inflation in the **vegetable category** stood at 52.72%, while onion prices raised to 293 %, followed by potato at 87.84%.
- The **WPI based inflation was at 2.59% in December 2019, and 2.76% in January 2019**.

Moody's Forecast on India's GDP

- The agency has forecasted global GDP growth down, and expect **G-20 economies to collectively grow 2.4% in 2020**, a softer rate than last year, followed by a pickup to **2.8% in 2021**.
- It reduced the growth forecast for **China to 5.2% in 2020 and a 5.7% growth in 2021**.

Weekly Current Affairs 15th To 21st February 2020

CCI Approved 100% Shareholding of WABCO by ZF

- **ZF is a global technology company** and develops, manufactures and distributes products and systems for i) passenger vehicles ii) commercial vehicles iii) off-highway vehicles iv) industrial technology.
- **WABCO is a global supplier** of primarily pneumatic braking control systems, technologies and services.

Finance Commission: Expert Group on Agriculture Exports

- The **15th Finance Commission** has decided to constitute a **High Level Expert Group on Agriculture Exports** on 17th Feb 2020.
- The Committee will submit its recommendations **within three months** for further consideration of the Commission.

India/Bharat 2020

- **Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar**, unveiled the **Annual Reference India/Bharat 2020** on 19th Feb 2020 in **New Delhi**.
- The minister also released the **e-version of the book** Annual Reference India / Bharat 2020 on the occasion.

2nd Phase of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

- The 2nd Phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Grameen has been **approved till 2024-25** and will focus on **Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus)**.
- The ODF plus includes **ODF sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)**.

22nd Law Commission of India

- The 22nd Law Commission will function for a period of **three years** from its date of official constitution.
- Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory body** constituted by the Government from **time to time**.

BANKING

RBI Report on Bank Loans

- It also showed that the **deposits increased to 9.9%**.
- In the fortnight to January 31, the **outstanding loans rose Rs 989.26 billion** (\$13.86 billion) to **Rs 101.03 trillion**.

FinMin Addressed the Central Board of Directors of RBI

- The FinMin outlined the **thinking behind the Union Budget 2020-21** and the **focus areas of the Government** in the meeting.
- The finance minister was accompanied by **Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur**, Finance Secretary **Rajiv Kumar** and Expenditure Secretary **T V Somanathan**, and **Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian**, Chief Economic Advisor.

Bajaj Finance Replaced SBI on BSE

- **The SBI stock has fallen nearly 4%** in the last two sessions following concerns over its **asset quality** in Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel's in AGR case.

Weekly Current Affairs 15th To 21st February 2020

- Currently, **Reliance Industries Ltd** is the country's most valued company with a market cap of **Rs 9.48 trillion**.

SEBI Permitted Use of Regulatory Sandbox

- The 'regulatory sandbox' will serve as a **testing ground for new business models and technologies** that benefit investors, Indian markets and the economy at large.
- Under the regulatory framework, the eligible entities will be granted the facility to experiment with **fintech solutions in a live environment and on real customers**.

Centre Released Rs 19,950 Cr GST Compensation to States/UTs

- As per Ministry of Finance, total GST compensation cess of **Rs 62,611 crore** was collected in the **FY 2017-18**, out of which **Rs 41,146 crore** was released to the states/UTs that fiscal as GST compensation.
- In **FY 2018-19**, **Rs 95,081 crore** was collected as **GST compensation cess** of which **Rs 69,275 crore** was released to the states/UTs as GST compensation.

INDEX AND RANKING

Sustainability & Child Flourishing Index Ranking

- The UN report is released by a commission of over **40 child and adolescent health experts from around the world** and focused on measuring the **best chance of survival and well-being of children**.
- It was commissioned by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and **The Lancet medical journal**.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Rishi Sunak	UK's Finance Minister
Priti Patel	Home Minister in the British Cabinet
Mahant Nritya Gopal Das	President of Ram Mandir Trust
Lt General (Retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, Rajendra Singh and Krishna Vatsa	National Disaster Management Authority

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
19 th February 2020	Soil Health Card Day	To commemorates the day Soil Health Card Scheme (SHC) was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on February 19, 2015, at Suratgarh, Rajasthan.
20 th February 2020	Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram Statehood Day	On this day in 1987 and Mizoram has declared a state in 1972.
20 th February 2020	70 th National Democracy Day	Every year, Falgun 7 of the Nepali calendar is commemorated as the National Democracy Day in Nepal.
21 st February 2020	Matribhasha Diwas	Theme: 'Celebrating our

Weekly Current Affairs 15th To 21st February 2020

Multilingual Heritage'

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

CCEA Approves Scheme for Formation and Promotion of FPOs

- The central sector scheme "Formation and Promotion of FPOs" shall **promote 10,000 new FPOs in five years period from 2019-20 to 2023-24.**
- The scheme will have a **total budgetary provision of Rs. 4496.00 crore for the five year period (2019-20 to 2023-24).**

DEFENCE

Diamond Jubilee of IAF Black Archer (47 Squadron)

- Aerial display by the **Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team**, IAF vintage Flight, Air Devils and performance by the Air Warriors Drill Team were held on the Occasion of **completion of 60 years of its service to the nation.**
- The Squadron was formed on **18 December 1959 at Air Force Station Halwara.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

13th COP of Convention Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

- The CMS COP 13 will be held from **15 to 22 February 2020** with the theme "**Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home.**"
- The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by '**Kolam**', a **traditional artform from southern India.**

SPORTS

2020 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships

- **K V L Pavani Kumari** won **silver** medals in both **youth girls and junior women section in the 45-kilogram category.**
- **Sidhanta Gogoi** claimed **silver** in **youth boys and junior men** events in the **61-kilogram category.**

Asian Wrestling Championships

- **Ashu, Aditya Kundu and Hardeep** have won a **bronze** medal each in their respective weight categories.
- Ashu won a **bronze** in **67kg category**, Aditya and Hardeep also bagged the medals of the same colour in the **72kg and 97kg** respectively.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

FATF Meet in Paris

- The plenary session of the FATF will **review progress** made by Pakistan towards terror financing and some other countries that present a risk to the financial system.

Weekly Current Affairs 15th To 21st February 2020

- India will stand on its demand to cut finances to terrorist groups, seeking action against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief **Maulana Masood Azhar** and Lashkar-e-Taiba leader **Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi**.

3rd High Level Global Conference on Road Safety

- A roadmap will be drawn for reaching the United Nation's goal set under the **UN Decade of Action of reducing road crashes by 2030**.
- The conference is being **organised by the Government of Sweden** in collaboration with the **World Bank, World Health Organisation** and other agencies.

