

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### BRAC: Top NGO of the World

- The **Geneva-based organization NGO Adviser**, publishes the rankings **every year** based on publicly available data for the top 500 global NGOs.
- The **Bangladesh-based international development organization BRAC**, was founded by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in **1972**.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### “Ekam Fest” Inaugurated at New Delhi

- Ekam stands for **Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing**.
- The fest is being organised by **National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC)** under **M/o Social Justice & Empowerment**.

### Incredible India Website 2.0

- This is a promotional website with an **aim** to project India as a **‘must-visit’ destination across the globe**.
- The **Incredible India 2.0 website** aims towards showcasing the varied tourism products of India at a global arena.

### Pension Adalat

- The Programme is being conducted by the **Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.
- This is the **first time that Pension Adalat is being conducted outside Delhi**.

### CLW Created World Record in Manufacturing Locomotives

- CLW surpassed their **own record of producing 350 locomotives** which they had manufactured during the year 2017-18.
- The Indian Railways’ manufacturing unit has also achieved the record of producing **highest ever 3-phase Electric locomotive Shells in one calendar year (Jan–Dec) 2019**.

### Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said that the bill focuses on **removing criminality under the Companies Act, 2013** and the Bill will further **ease of living for law-abiding corporates**.
- The cabinet approved **72 changes along with the re-categorisation of 23 offences** in the new bill to further de-clog the **criminal justice system in the country**.

### Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival

- The **theme** for the five-day Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) is “**Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility**”.
- The 4th edition of the GAF will be the **largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held anywhere across the world**.

## BANKING

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### GST Revenue Collection: Feb 2020

- With this, the **total revenue earned** by the Central Government and the State Governments after the regular settlement is **Rs 43,155 crore for CGST and Rs 43,901 crore for the SGST**.
- A growth of **12% is observed in the GST revenue from the domestic transactions** in Feb 2020 over the revenue during the month of February 2019.

### NABARD Infused Rs 1.46 lakh Crore in Rural Banking

- NABARD has been extending financial support to the banks operating in rural areas to help them **deploy their resources effectively for meeting the credit needs of rural people, including farmers**.
- The **long term credits** are aimed at supporting sectors like **dairy, poultry, fishery, farm mechanisation, irrigation, and non-farm sector**.

### RBI Received Rs 1.71 Trillion in LTRO

- RBI said that, it has received **66 bids in the LTRO of three-year tenor**, which has reversal date on 1st March 2023.
- The total bids imply a **bid to cover ratio of 6.9**, which is the amount of bids received relative to the notified amount.

### SC Lifted RBI Ban on Crypto Currency

- The bench **quashed the central bank's order** and said that the **curb on crypto currency trade is illegal**.
- **Cryptocurrency** is an internet-based medium of exchange which uses **crypto graphical functions to conduct financial transactions**.

### EPFO Lowered Interest Rate on Deposits to 8.5%

- The announced of the rate cut is made by the **Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar** after the meeting of the **Central Board of Trustee** (EPFO apex decision-making body) on 5th March 2020.
- With the rate cut of **15 basis points**, employees will get **0.15% lower returns on their provident fund deposits this year**.

### Reserve Bank of India Imposes Restrictions on YES Bank

- RBI has imposed restrictions on Yes Bank since the burden of **Yes Bank has increased**.
- RBI has allowed to **Yes bank customers that they can withdraw only Rs 50,000/- from their accounts**. However, an account holder can withdraw more than Rs 50,000/- for following three reasons: A) Medical treatment. B) Educations. C) Marriage. However, it is mandatory to get RBI approval for same.

### RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan Quits Ahead of Retirement

- He was **first appointed as RBI deputy governor in 2016** for a term of three years.
- He was given a **one-year extension in June 2019** after Shaktikanta Das became the governor.

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	New Finance Secretary of Committee of the Cabinet

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020	World Wildlife Day	<b>Theme:</b> "Sustaining all life on earth"
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	International Women's Day	<b>Theme:</b> 'An equal world is an enabled world'.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Author
"Chronicles of Change Champions"	Smriti Zubin Irani

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### Student Health Card Scheme

- The aim of this **Student Health Card (SHC) scheme** is to ensure the good health of every school going children.
- The step is taken to ensure **full medical coverage** of over 12 lakh students enrolled in **government schools from Class I to XII** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana

- The **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana** is an exclusive concessional scheme for the economic development of eligible **Scheduled Tribe Women** to enhance their standard of life by providing financial independence.
- Under the scheme, Scheduled Tribes women can **undertake loans for any income generation activity**.

## DEFENCE

### RaIDer-X, Explosive Detection Device Unveiled

- **RaIDer-X, a new explosive detection device**, was unveiled at the **National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020)** in **Pune** on 1st March 2020.
- RaIDer-X has been co-developed by **DRDO arm High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NPCI Doubled UPI Transaction Limit to Rs 2 lakh

- The transaction limit will be doubled from the **next fiscal year** for payments through **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**.

- It will be beneficial for the **digital payment players** such as Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe etc.

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## SPORTS

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### 68th All India Police Athletic Championship

- **Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju** declared the meet open at Basic Training Centre of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- The **All India Police Athletic Championship-2019** is being conducted by the **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.

### 1st Edition of Khelo India Women's Hockey League

- **First Phase:** 23rd March to 29th March 2020- at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- **Second Phase:** 13th July to 19th July 2020 – at SAI center Bengaluru.
- **Third Phase:** 22nd Nov to 29th Nov- at Kalinga Stadium Bhubaneshwar.

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## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

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### 35th Edition of AAHAR

- This five-day-long fair AAHAR is being **organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)** with support of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority**.
- The fair will feature a wide range of food products, machinery, and hospitality etc. from over **750 participants from India and overseas**.

### Pragyan Conclave 2020

- The conclave brought together **cross-domain national and international experts** to deliberate on the complex subject of **'Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military'**.
- It provided a platform to deliberate upon the emerging ideas, perspectives and narratives that define the **'New Age Warfare'**.