

## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS 8<sup>TH</sup> TO 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Centre released Rs 5,908 crore to 7 States

- The amount is given by the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**.
- The Central Government has so far released **8,068 crore rupees to 27 states in the current financial year**, as Central share from State Disaster Response Fund.

#### Govt approved VGF of Rs 5,559 crore Gas Pipeline Project

- The North East Gas Grid project is being implemented by **Indradhanush Gas Grid Ltd which is a joint venture company of 5 CPSEs (NRL, OIL, ONGC, IOCL and GAIL)**.
- The sanctioned VGF amount will cover **60% of the total cost of the project that is Rs 9256 crore**.

#### SC Observation on Internet

- The SC on 10th January 2020 asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to review within a week **all orders imposing restrictions in the Union Territory**.
- The three judge bench was **headed by Justice N V Ramana** and comprised justices B R Gavai and R Subhash Reddy.

#### National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal

- The **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in)** is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber-crimes online through the portal.
- Under this, the concerned law enforcement agencies will access the related cyber-crime complaints in the **States and Union Territories**.

#### Industrial Production in November 2019

- The growth in the manufacturing sector was **2.7 % as against a contraction of 0.7% in November 2018**.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** had grown by 0.2% in November 2018.

#### Mission Purvodaya

- As per the government's data, the eastern belt has the potential to add **over 75 % of the country's incremental steel capacity** envisioned by the National Steel Policy.
- The eastern states of India (**Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal**) and Northern part of **Andhra Pradesh** collectively hold **80 per cent of the country's iron ore, 100 per cent of coking coal**.

#### National Youth Festival 2020

- The NYF is organised with an **objective** to provide a platform to the youth of the country and provide them with an opportunity to showcase their talents in various activities.

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- It is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in collaboration with **one of the State Governments annually**.

## National Highway Excellence Awards 2019

- The award **aims** to recognise best performing companies at various stages of highway development like construction, operations, maintenance, road safety and tolling.
- The award is instituted to create a spirit of **healthy competitiveness amongst all stakeholders** involved in the development of highway infrastructure in the country.

## Country's First Cyber Crime Prevention Unit Launched

- **AASHVAST** to pay E Challan online and provide Cyber Crime Prevention which will have a dedicated service helpline for victims of cyber crimes.
- Six different **postal memory cards** were released by the Minister depicting various folk dances of Gujarat.

## Retail Inflation in December

- The data showed that the spike in **inflation in the vegetable segment was 60.5%** during the month compared to December 2018.
- The **overall food inflation rose to 14.12 % on December 19** as against (-) 2.65 % on December 18.

## BANKING

### IBBI (Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020

- The amendment is done in the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016**.
- The amendment clarifies that a person, who is not eligible under the Code to submit a resolution plan for insolvency resolution of the corporate debtor, shall not be a party in any manner to a compromise or arrangement of the corporate debtor under **section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013**.

### SBI announced RBBG Scheme

- The 'residential builder finance with buyer guarantee' (RBBG) scheme aims at giving a push to **residential sales and improve homebuyers' confidence**.
- Under the scheme, the SBI will issue a **guarantee for completion of select residential projects** to customers who have availed **home loans from it**.

### RBI amended the KYC Norms

- The RBI has amended the KYC norms to use **Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)**.
- Under the new norm, banks and other lending institutions regulated by RBI are allowed to use a **Video based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)**.

## REPORTS

### IEA India Report 2020

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- The IEA report praised the **draft National Energy Policy by NITI Aayog** and said to adopt and implement across central and state governments.
- India spent **\$25 billion in 2018 on subsidies for the consumption of fossil fuels**, mostly supporting oil consumption in the form of LPG (\$17 billion) and gas (\$4 billion).

## INDEX AND RANKING

### State Energy Efficiency Index 2019

- The State Energy Efficiency Index 2019 tracks the progress of Energy Efficiency Initiatives in **36 States and Union Territories** based on **97 significant indicators**.
- The index is developed by **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** in association with **Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy (AEEE)**.

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Ravindra Nath Mahto	Jharkhand Assembly Speaker

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Award
Dr M S Swaminathan	'Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National Award for Excellence'
Dr. Gutta Muniratnam	'Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service'
Jasprit Bumrah	Polly Umrigar Award

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas	To mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	World Hindi Day	To promote the use of Hindi language abroad.
14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Fourth Armed Forces Veterans Day	To respect and recognise the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14th Jan 1953.

## MOU'S SIGNED

### MoU signed Between SCR of Indian Railways and SBI

- The doorstep Banking will provide **direct pickup of earnings covering all 585 Railway stations over SCR Zone**.

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- The direct pick up of cash from all the railway stations on SCR dispenses with the tedious and complex activity of movement of cash earnings through “Cash Safes” by trains.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

### Civil Aviation Ministry announced Scheme for Registration of Drones

- The scheme is announced days after top Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US drone attack.
- All persons in possession of drones are required to complete the process (of online registration) by January 31, 2020.

### Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- The Centre is implementing PMFBY to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss or damage arising out of unforeseen events.
- The scheme provides comprehensive insurance coverage against crop loss on account of non-preventable natural risks, thus helping stabilise farmers' income.

## DEFENCE

### MILAN 2020

- MILAN 2020 is a multilateral naval exercise hosted by Indian Navy, aimed to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies and learn from each other's strengths and best practices in the maritime domain.
- The Exercise will be held with the theme 'Synergy Across the Seas'.

### Naval Version of LCA successfully Landed on INS Vikramaditya

- The Naval LCA is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization, DRDO.
- With the landing, India has entered into the club of selected nations having the capability to design a fighter jet which can land on an aircraft carrier.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### New Wetland Conservation Rules

- A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.
- As per the new rule, each state and Union Territory will have to set up an authority that will define strategies for conservation of wetlands within their jurisdiction.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### Second National GST Conference

- The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Revenue Secretary Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

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- The **1st National GST Conference** of Commissioners of State Tax and Chief Commissioners/Director Generals of Central Tax was held on **25th November 2019** under the chairmanship of the Union Revenue Secretary **Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey, in New Delhi.**

### Kochi to Host Global Investors Meet

- The ASCEND meet 2020 will also see organisers showcasing 70-odd other projects classified as **large, medium and small** in the descending order of their capital investment and capacity to provide jobs.
- **KINFRA (Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation)** is to set up Rs 400 crore logistics hub (in Palakkad) with warehousing facility.

### World Future Energy Summit

- World Future Energy Summit in the **Middle East's largest future energy and sustainability event.**
- WFES brings together thousands of decision-makers, policy-makers, investors, experts and media from **175 countries** to source cutting-edge technologies, network with solution providers and does business.

### Raisina Dialogue

- The Dialogue is being jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs and the Observer Research Foundation.**
- The Dialogue was initiated in **2016** and involves a variety of global policymakers including heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials.