

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 16, 2020

STATES

- **The Gujarat Government – has decided to import water-soluble fertilizers from China.**
- ✓ The Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation (GAIC) had commenced the import, packing and selling of the water-soluble fertilizers to farmers in the State.
- ✓ The new fertilizers have been named 'AGRO', which will be used for Precision agriculture
- ✓ Precision agriculture is the farming management concept in which the inputs such as pesticides, nutrients, water and seeds are used at minimal amount to get maximum output.
- ✓ GAIC is the nodal agency appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture to implement its schemes in the state of Gujarat.
- ✓ The move will also assist in achieving the Government's target of doubling farmer's income by 2022
- ✓ Gujarat has the maximum acreage of land under drip irrigation among all the states in the entire country.

NATIONAL

- **Union Home Minister, Amit Shah - launched the country's first Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called the "Cyber AASHVAST" in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- ✓ The Minister had also launched 'VISWAS', a Video Integration and State Wide Advance Security project along with ' Cyber AASHVAST'
- ✓ During the occasion, along with AASHVAST and VISWAS, Project NETRANG was also launched.
- ✓ The Cyber AASHVAST will focus on the prevention of cyber crimes with the help of VISWAS and NETRANG.



- ✓ The AASHVAST will monitor, prevent and control cyber-crimes in Gujarat
- ✓ It will establish command and control rooms in 33 districts of the State.
- ✓ Recently, the Government had launched the I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre) and established Cyber and Information Security Division (C&IS).

- ✓ **India – has decided to erect non-cut steel fence along the borders of sensitive areas of Pakistan and Bangladesh**



- ✓ The decision to strengthen the borders was taken after security agencies have detected Afghan fighters along India-Pakistan border
 - ✓ The first steel fence will be erected across 7-km stretch in Assam's Silchar, along the border across Bangladesh.
 - ✓ The implementation cost of the fence has been estimated at Rs 2 crores for every 1000 metres.
 - ✓ Apart from steel fences, the Government also plans to implement LASER fences across the two borders
 - ✓ In order to implement these projects, the Home Ministry's Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIMBMS) has been utilized.
- **The Ministry of Steel - announced the launch of "Purvodaya", a world class steel hub in the country.**
- ✓ The Ministry will collaborate with CII (Confederation of India Industries) in the implementation of "Purvodaya"
 - ✓ The hub will focus on the accelerated development programme of eastern states.
 - ✓ The steel hub will be able to create 2.5 million jobs in the region
 - ✓ The initiative will also help in achieving India's steel policy target of 300 MT by 2030.
 - ✓ The 5 eastern states namely West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Northern Andhra Pradesh are extremely rich in coking coal, bauxite and dolomite reserves
 - ✓ The region also has major ports such as Haldia, Paradip, Kolkata and Vizag
 - ✓ So far, 12 major steel zone has been identified under the 'Purvodaya' initiative in the region.

- ✓ **Smart phone users - have been infected with a new Trojan called 'Shopper malware'**
 - ✓ The malware, which focuses on retail applications, screens unsolicited ads and flashes fake reviews.
 - ✓ After acquiring the personal information, it will use the Google and Facebook data to register on popular retail shopping sites
 - ✓ Around 28.46% of Russians were infected due to the latest malware.
 - ✓ It had also affected 14.23% of Indian computers.
 - ✓ Prior to Shopper Malware, the largest such infection was created by "Trojan-Dropper", between October to November 2019
 - ✓ The Government has set up Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK) to identify such malware infections and clean them at the earliest.
 - ✓ The CSKs operate under Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under Ministry of Electronics and information Technology.
 - ✓ They are basically Botnet cleaning and Malware analysis centres
- **The NIIT (National institute of Information Technology), a multi-national company -has been selected as one of the EdTech companies for the Centre's NEAT initiative**
- ✓ The NIIT will collaborate with AICTE to implement the vision of Ministry of HRD (Human and Resource Development) on NEAT.
 - ✓ The National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) was launched to customize learning process using Artificial Intelligence.
 - ✓ It will be a common one-stop access to technological solutions
 - ✓ The NEAT programme is being implemented by AICTE.
 - ✓ NIIT, a non-profit university of higher education and research, was established in 1991
- **The Statue of Unity in Gujarat - has been included in 8 wonders of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).**



- ✓ The statue was a monumental tribute to Sardar Vallabhai Patel
- ✓ It was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2018
- ✓ The world's tallest statue at 182 metres was unveiled on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.
- ✓ In one year, since its inauguration, it attracted 2.9 million tourists and earned 82 crores of rupees to the exchequer
- ✓ The Wonders of SCO include archaeological and historical monuments of SCO.
- ✓ It includes Statue of Unity in India, Daming Palace in China, Navruz Palace in Tajikistan, Mughals Heritage in Pakistan, Tamgaly Gorge in Kazakhstan, Po-i-

Kalan Complex in Uzbekistan, The Golden Ring of Russia and the Mughals heritage in Pakistan

- ✓ India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are the member countries of SCO
- ✓ India and Pakistan became members of the economic bloc in 2017
- ✓ For the first time, India is hosting heads of Government meet of SCO countries this year.

➤ **The South-Central Railways and SBI - signed MoU to implement door step banking in 585 railway stations on January 14**

- ✓ The agreement will facilitate direct pick up of cash from all the railway stations
- ✓ Prior to the signing of agreement, the earnings generated at the railway stations were manually sent to nearest 'authorised' banks to collect the deposit on behalf of the Indian railways
- ✓ The door step banking will ensure uniform cash remittance mechanism in all the railway stations.
- ✓ It will also avoid unwanted accumulation of cash at railway stations.
- ✓ The system will also provide real time information about the cash that is deposited by different stations.

➤ **The Government – has proposed to conduct 'Saksham' campaigns across the country to highlight the importance of fuel conservation**

**SAKSHAM 2019: FUEL
CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN
IN ENGLISH**



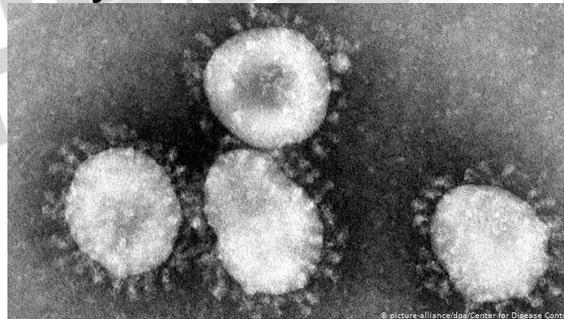
- ✓ The Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) operating under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas will launch the campaign on January 16, 2020
- ✓ PCRA has also developed energy efficient burners for gas stoves
- ✓ The most successful Saksham campaign of PCRA was recently conducted on switching-off of engines at red light in traffic signals
- ✓ The move helped to reduce fuel losses by 22%, before and after the campaign.
- ✓ PCRA is a Government agency that is engaged in the promotion of energy efficient programmes
- ✓ It also develops strategies and policies on petroleum conservation and environment protection

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court of India – has held that Right of access to internet is a fundamental right**
- ✓ Referring to the internet ban in Jammu and Kashmir, the Court had asked the administration to review the curbs on internet in the region.
- ✓ The Centre had been using internet shut down as a tool to control protest in the country against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, especially in the North Eastern states
- ✓ The internet services were banned in Kashmir also in the last five months now, since the scrapping of Article 370.
- ✓ The bench had declared that freedom of speech and expression and freedom to practice any business or trade over internet is constitutionally protected under Article 19 (1)
- ✓ Way back in 2016, the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council) released a resolution that condemned disruption of internet access by governments.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - reported the first death due to pneumonia caused by the outbreak of a new virus in the city of Wuhan.**



- ✓ As per the Chinese scientists, the new strain of virus is that of the 'corona' virus.
- ✓ Corona Viruses were first found in humans in 1960s.
- ✓ The viruses cause flu and gastro intestinal problems.
- ✓ The virus has protrusions on its surface, which makes it look like an emperor's crown and hence they have been given a name of 'Corona' virus.
- ✓ The Virus can also infect cattle, dogs, pigs, camels and birds apart from human beings.
- ✓ In 2002-03, the flu-like Sars virus that belongs to Corona virus family, killed more than 700 people in the world.
- ✓ The Sars virus originated in China.
- ✓ The other deadly virus belonging to the family of the corona virus is the MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), which does not have any specific vaccine till now.

- ✓ The MERS virus was first identified in 2012 in Saudi Arabia with most of the cases being identified in Arabian peninsula

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The World Future Energy Summit - began at Abu Dhabi on January 13.**
- ✓ It will be held for four days until January 16.
- ✓ The Summit will have 33,500 participants from 170 countries
- ✓ Theme - Rethinking Global Consumption, Production and Investment



WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT

13-16 January 2020 | ADNEC, Abu Dhabi

SMART CITIES EXPO & FORUM

- ✓ The summit focuses on five main pillars namely energy, water, solar, waste and smart cities.
- ✓ The summit is an annual event being conducted at Abu Dhabi since 2011

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **World Health Organization (WHO) - releases list of Global Health Challenges of the forth coming year**
- ✓ The list included 13 potential threats with the foremost being Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and climate crisis, which were listed there in 2019 as well
- ✓ The climate change has increased malnutrition and was the main reason behind the spreading of infectious diseases such as malaria.
- ✓ Stroke, heart attack, chronic respiratory disease and lung cancer were responsible for causing around 25% of the total deaths.
- ✓ Unhealthy food diets are also listed as another major threat in the list.
- ✓ A new entrant to the list of top 13 potential threats is Lack of Access to vaccines, diagnostic tools, medicines and other essential health products.
- ✓ Shortage of health care workers is also the major global concern.
- ✓ As per WHO, about 18 million health workers are required for the hospitals by 2030

DEFENCE

- **Indian Navy – has conducted a multinational military drill called ‘Milan 2020’ at Visakhapatnam recently**
- ✓ MILAN stands for ‘Multilateral Naval Exercise’.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Synergy Across the Seas
- ✓ The biennial ‘MILAN’ series of naval exercises were commenced in 1995
- ✓ The exercise was conducted at Eastern Naval command (ENC) this year.

- ✓ It was carried out at Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) until last year
- ✓ The main areas of focus in the drill include capacity building, training, operational exercise marine domain awareness, hydrography, technical assistance.



- ✓ More than 30 countries from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that shares defence cooperation with India have participated in the drill

AWARDS

- **Agricultural Scientist Prof M S Swaminathan - was awarded the first “Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu National award for Excellence” on January 14.**



- ✓ During the celebrations, the professor was given the title of “Father of Green Revolution and the Doyen of Agricultural Science”.
- ✓ Prof Swaminathan is an Indian Geneticist, who played a major role in Green Revolution programme of India.
- ✓ He had also served as the Director General of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), Director of IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) and President of IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources).
- ✓ Apart from Prof Swaminathan, well-known social worker, Dr. Gutta Muniratnam was conferred with the inaugural ‘Muppavarapu National Award for Social Service’
- ✓ Dr Muniratnam is Founder Secretary of Tirupati -based Rashtriya Seva Samiti
- ✓ He dedicated his service in transforming rural India by empowering people.

RANKINGS

- **The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) – has recently launched the ‘State Energy Efficiency Index, 2019’ in association with Alliance for Energy Efficient Economy.**
- ✓ The index was prepared in accordance with the basic energy requirements such as coal, electricity, gas and oil.
- ✓ The report monitors the progress of Energy Efficiency initiatives in 36 states and Union Territories.
- ✓ This year, BEE has included Energy Conservation Building Code as one of the new indicator.
- ✓ Karnataka, HP, Haryana and Puducherry were identified as the best performers
- ✓ Manipur, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir were the least performers, as per the index.
- ✓ The first such Index in the country was released in August 2018.

NATIONAL DAY

- **The IMD - celebrates its 145th Foundation Day on January 15, 2020**
- ✓ The day is celebrated by Ministry of Earth Sciences under which IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) functions.



- ✓ The observance of the day was begun in 1875.
- ✓ Five observatories of IMD received recognition from World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- ✓ The five observatories are located at Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram and Panjim.
- ✓ IMD is one of the six regional specialised Meteorological centres of WMO
- ✓ The headquarters of IMD is in Delhi
- ✓ It is the principle agency of the Government that makes weather forecasts, meteorological observations and seismological observations.
- ✓ IMD operates observatory stations in India and also in Antarctica.