

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2020

Awards

The noted Hindi poet and novelist who has been chosen for the first Mathrubhoomi Book of the Year Award 2020 for his work Blue is Like Blue – **Vinod Kumar Shukla**

Defence

The air-launched nuclear capable missile which was test-fired by Pakistan is named – **Ra'ad-II**

The venue of 5th edition of joint military exercise Ajeya Warrior 2020 by India and United Kingdom which commenced on 13 Feb 2020 – **Salisbury Plain, England**

The Officer of the Indian Army who has developed first of its kind bullet proof helmet which can stop AK-47 bullets from a distance of 10 meters (He had earlier developed a bullet proof jacket, Sarvatra) – **Major Anoop Mishra**

The venue of Indo-Bangladesh joint military training exercise SAMPRITI-IX conducted from 03 Feb to 16 Feb 2020 – **Umroi, Meghalaya**

Persons

The former President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011 who passed away on 25 February 2020 – **Hosni Mubarak**

The American computer scientist and developer of copy and paste functionality who passed away on 16 Feb 2020 – **Larry Tesler**

The former chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Chairman and Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) who passed away on 13 February 2020 – **RK Pachauri**

The well-known fashion designer and a Padma Shri award recipient who passed away on 12 February 2020 – **Wendell Rodricks**

The 10 year-old Indian girl from Navy Children School, Mumbai who has become the youngest girl in the world to scale Mount Aconcagua, the highest mountain peak in South America – **Kamya Karthikeyan**

The NASA astronaut who has returned to Earth from International Space Station after spending 328 days thus breaking the record for longest stay in ISS by a woman (Peggy Whitson - 289 days) – **Christina Koch**

Places

The venue of a unique exhibition on India's ancient food history named "Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience" held from 19th to 25th February – **National Museum, Delhi**

The place at which 63 feet tall statue of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay was unveiled and dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Varanasi**

The venue of 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show held from 07 to 09 February 20 with the theme Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition – **Kochi, Kerala**

The island nation which has rejoined the Commonwealth of Nations on 01 Feb 2020 about 3 years after it quit in 2016 (became the 54th nation of the Commonwealth) – **Maldives**

The venue of DEFEXPO 2020 held from 05 to 09 February 2020 with the theme India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub – **Lucknow**

The theme State of the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2020 held from 01 to 16 February 2020 at Surajkund, Faridabad – **Himachal Pradesh**

The partner nation of the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2020 held from 01 to 16 February 2020 at Surajkund, Faridabad – **Uzbekistan**

Sports

The Indian cricketer who has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with immediate effect – **Pragyan Ojha**

The Indian hockey player who has been named the Player of the Year 2019 by International Hockey Federation – **Manpreet Singh**

The Indian badminton coach who has been awarded an Honourable Mention in the male category of the 2019 IOC Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards – **Pullela Gopichand**

The team which has won the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 beating Sports Authority of India in the finals – **Haryana**

Themes

The theme of India's first National Protein Day observed on 27 February 2020 – **#ProteinMeinKyaHai**

The theme of National Science Day observed on 28 February 2020 – **Women in Science**

The theme of the One-day International Judicial Conference 2020 held in New Delhi with the topic "Judiciary and the Changing World" – **Gender Just World**

The theme of 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar – **Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home**

Railways

The railway station in West Bengal at which Indian Railways has launched its first restaurant on wheels for railway passengers as well as for citizens of the city – **Asansol**

The station at which Indian Railways has launched first ever Fit India Squat machine which dispenses free platform tickets to those who perform 30 squats in 180 seconds – **Anand Vihar**

The station in Andhra Pradesh from where India's first fruit-train was flagged off with locally grown bananas – **Tadipatri**

Miscellaneous

The motto of 2020 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo from 24 July to 09 August 2020 – **United by Emotion**

The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi has been named after – **Late Shri Manohar Parrikar**

92nd Academy Awards (Oscars)

Best Picture- **Parasite** directed by Bong Joon-ho

Best Director - **Bong Joon-ho** for Parasite

Best Actor - **Joaquin Phoenix** for Joker

Best Actress - **Renee Zellweger** for Judy

Best Animated Film - **Toy Story 4**

Best International Feature Film - **Parasite** (Korean) directed by Bong Joon-ho

Most nominations - **Joker (11)**

Indian entry in the International Feature Film category - **Gully Boy** (Hindi) (Not nominated)

From this year Best Foreign Language Film category has been changed to Best International Feature Film.

Duties and Functions of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)

1. To head the Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.
2. To act as the Principal Military Advisor to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters.
3. To function as the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
4. To administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
5. To be a member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.

6. To function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
7. To bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services.
8. To ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the Services.
9. To implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans, as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan.
10. To assign inter-services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
11. To bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services with the aim to augment combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.

The mandate of the Department of Military Affairs inter-alia includes "Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands".

ESPN SPORTS AWARDS 2019

Female Sportsperson of the Year 2019: **P V Sindhu** (Badminton)

Male Sportsperson of the Year: **Saurabh Chaudhary** (Shooting)

Courage Award: **Dutee Chand** (Sprinting)

Comeback of the Year: **Koneru Humpy** (Chess)

Emerging Sportsperson of the Year: **Deepak Punia** (Wrestling)

Coach of the Year: **Pullela Gopichand**

Differently-abled athlete of the Year: **Manasi Joshi** (Para-Badminton)

Lifetime Achievement: **Balbir Singh** (Hockey)

Important Days of February

<p>World Wetlands Day: 02 February 2020 Designated by: Ramsar Convention Secretariat Theme: Wetlands and Biodiversity First Observed in: 1997</p>
<p>World Cancer Day: 04 February 2020 Designated by: Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) Theme: I am and I Will (for 2020-21) First Observed in: 2000</p>

<p>International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: 06 February 2020 Designated by: U.N.O. First Observed in: 2013 Theme: Unleashing Youth Power</p>
<p>World Pulses Day: 10 February 2020 Designated by: U.N.O. First Observed in: 2020</p>
<p>Safer Internet Day: 11 February 2020 Designated by: European Union Theme: Together for a better internet First Observed in: 2004</p>
<p>International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February 2020 Designated by: U.N.O. First Observed in: 2016</p>
<p>World Radio Day: 13 February 2020 Designated by: UNESCO Theme: Radio and Diversity First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>World Day of Social Justice: 20 February 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>International Mother Language Day: 21 February 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Languages without Borders First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>Rare Disease Day: 29 February 2020 (Last day of February) Designated by: European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) Theme: Reframe Rare for Rare Disease First Observed in: 2008</p>

New Appointments

Chief Vigilance Commissioner: **Shri Sanjay Kothari**

Chief Information Commission: **Shri Bimal Julka**

ICC U-19 World Cup

Host country: **South Africa**

Held from: 17 Jan 20 to 09 Feb 20

No. of countries: 16

Winners: **Bangladesh**

Runner-up: **India**

Player of the series: **Yashasvi Jaiswal (India)**

Most runs: **Yashasvi Jaiswal**

Most wickets: **Ravi Bishnoi**

International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy

Individual category: **Dr. NS Dharmashaktu**

Institutional category: **Leprosy Mission Trust**

Australian Open 2020

Title	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
Women's Singles	Sofia Kenin (USA)	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
Mens's Doubles	Rajeev Ram (USA) and Joe Salisbury (UK)	Max Purcell and Luke Saville (Australia)
Women's Doubles	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) and Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)
Mixed Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) and Rajeev Ram (USA)	Astra Sharma and John-Patrick Smith (Australia)

Highlights of Union Budget 2020-21

Three prominent themes of the Budget

1. Aspirational India - better standards of living with access to health, education and better jobs for all sections of the society
2. Economic Development for all - "Sabka Saath , Sabka Vikas , Sabka Vishwas".
3. Caring Society - both humane and compassionate; Antyodaya as an article of faith.

Points to Remember

- Kisan Rail to be setup by Indian Railways through PPP.
- Krishi Udaan to be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Jaivik Kheti Portal – online national organic products market to be strengthened.
- Zero-Budget Natural Farming (mentioned in July 2019 Budget) to be included.
- Doubling of milk processing capacity to 108 million MT from 53.5 million MT by 2025.
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign launched - commitment to end Tuberculosis by 2025.
- National Police University and National Forensic Science University proposed for policing science, forensic science, and cyber-forensics.
- Five new smart cities proposed to be developed.
- Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and two other packages to be completed by 2023.

- Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway to be started.
- Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains through PPP.
- An Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under Ministry of Culture proposed; with the status of a deemed University.
- 5 archaeological sites to be developed as iconic sites with on-site Museums: 1. Rakhigarhi (Haryana); 2. Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh); 3. Shivsagar (Assam); 4. Dholavira (Gujarat); 5. Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu)
- Government to sell a part of its holding in LIC by way of Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- New and simplified personal income tax regime proposed:

Taxable Income Slab (Rs.)	Existing Tax Rates	New Tax Rates
0 - 2.5 Lakh	Exempt	Exempt
2.5 - 5 Lakh	5%	5%
5 - 7.5 Lakh	20%	10%
7.5 - 10 Lakh	20%	15%
10 - 12.5 Lakh	30%	20%
12.5 - 15 Lakh	30%	25%
Above 15 Lakh	30%	30%

- New tax regime to be optional - an individual may continue to pay tax as per the old regime and avail deductions and exemptions.
- Dividend Distribution Tax removed making India a more attractive investment destination.
- Start-ups with turnover up to Rs. 100 crore to enjoy 100% deduction for 3 consecutive assessment years out of 10 years.
- 'Vivad Se Vishwas' scheme, with a deadline of 30th June, 2020, to reduce litigations in direct taxes.

Books in News

Death-An Inside Story by **Jaggi Vasudev**

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