

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 – Kanya 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 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

World Wetlands Day: 02 February 2020

Designated by: Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Theme: Wetlands and Biodiversity

First Observed in: 1997

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

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

World Pulses Day: 10 February 2020

Designated by: U.N.O.

First Observed in: 2020

Safer Internet Day: 11 February 2020

Designated by: European Union

Theme: Together for a better internet

First Observed in: 2004

International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February 2020

Designated by: U.N.O.

First Observed in: 2016

World Radio Day: 13 February 2020

Designated by: UNESCO

Theme: Radio and Diversity

First Observed in: 2013

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

International Mother Language Day: 21 February 2020

Designated by: UN General Assembly

Theme: Languages without Borders

First Observed in: 2008

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

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)

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).

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Books in News

Death-An Inside Story by Jaggi Vasudev

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