

Top 20 Current Affairs of 17 & 18 May 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Rajnath Singh approves Rs 400 crore Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme



Union Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme(DTIS) with a cost of Rs **400 crores** to create testing infrastructure for the defence sector so as to boost domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.

Centre approves modified DPR of Ujh Multipurpose Project in Jammu and Kashmir



On 16th May 2020, The Centre approved to modification of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Ujh multipurpose Project (MPP) located on the river Ujh,

main tributaries of river Ravi in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir at the estimated cost of Rs.9,167 crore.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-3: Package for agriculture Fisheries and Food Processing Sectors detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman



The Part 3 of “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan” (self-reliant India Movement) is consisted of **11 measures**. 8 measures are for improving agricultural infrastructure and 3 measures are for administrative and governance reforms, including removing restrictions on sale and stock limits of farm produce.

- NABARD anchored Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers
- Rs 10,000 crore scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE)
- 20,000 crore allocated for fisherman through Pradhan MantriMatsyaSampadaYojana (PMMSY)
- Rs. 13,343 cr National Animal Disease Control Programme launched
- Rs. 15,000 cr Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund to be formulated
- Rs. 4,000 cr allocated to promote Herbal Cultivation
- Rs 500 cr allocated towards Beekeeping initiatives
- “Operation Greens” extended with Rs 500 cr
- Amendments to Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable better price realisation for farmers

- Agriculture Marketing Reforms to provide marketing choices to farmers
- Agriculture Produce Pricing and Quality Assurance

3rd advance estimates of production projects all time high foodgrain production of 295.67 million tonnes for 2019-20



According to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare’s 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for **2019-20**, the total **foodgrain production** in the country is estimated to achieve a record of all-time high **295.67 million tonnes** in 2019-20 for the **4th consecutive year** since 2016-17 crop year (July-June).

e-NAM reaches 1000 mandis across 18 states and 3 Union Territories



On 15th May 2020, The Ministry of Agriculture announced that the e-NAM reached 1000 mandis across the nation in 18 states and 3 union

territories(UTs) with 38 new mandis integrated with the e-NAM platform of electronic agriculture trading portal.

Ultra-mega solar parks initiated India's clean energy transition: US-based IEEFA report



- i. Indian government has set a target of installing 75 gigawatts of renewable energy by the **FY 2021-22** and 275 gigawatts by **FY 2026-27** to transform the country's power sector from an expensive, unreliable, and polluting fossil fuel-based system into a low-cost, reliable and low-emission system based on renewable energy.
- ii. The **Bhadla Solar Park** in Rajasthan is the world's largest such installation to date, covering more than 14,000 acres with total capacity of 2,245 megawatts (MW)

GoM proposes land pooling to corporatise agri, merging MNREGA with skilling programmes



A Group of Ministers(GoM) panel headed by Social Justice and Empowerment Minister **Thawar Chand Gehlot** on employment and skill development has drafted a set of **proposals** that includes **land pooling** to corporatise agriculture, merging MNREGA with skilling programmes to create a wage subsidy programme.

BANKING & FINANCE

Centre, WB govt inked loan agreements with AIIB and World Bank for \$413 mn Irrigation and Flood Management Project

Government of India and West Bengal Government have inked two loan agreements worth \$413.8 million for the “**West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project**” to improve irrigation services and flood management in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) of West Bengal. World Bank has provided a loan of \$145million which has a **6-year grace period**, and a maturity of **23.5 years**.Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)has provided a loan of \$145million which has a **6-year grace period**, and a maturity of **24 years**.

Rs 1,500 crores sanctioned for Punjab to ensure continuous credit flow to farmers: NABARD



The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has sanctioned **Rs 1,500 crores** for **Punjab** to ensure continuous credit flow to

farmers, through state cooperative banks, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the total amount **Rs 1,000 crores** is sanctioned to **Punjab State Cooperative Bank** and **Rs 500 crores** to **Punjab Gramin Bank**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Zubair Iqbal appointed as **MD of J&K Bank**, **Chibber** to continue as **chairman**



On May 16, 2020, The **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration** approved the appointment of senior vice president (SVP) of HDFC bank **Zubair Iqbal** as the new Managing Director (MD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, for a period of 3 years. **Rajesh Kumar Chibber**, who is currently MD and Chairman of J&K bank, has been reappointed as the Chairman for the period of 3 years.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Godrej consumer products arm picks **balance 25% stake** in **Kenya's Canon Chemicals**



Godrej East Africa Holdings Ltd, a subsidiary of FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods) firm Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), has acquired the balance **25% stake** in Kenya-based **Canon Chemicals Ltd** for an undisclosed sum. Earlier on February 04, 2016, the Godrej group has acquired 75 % stake in Canon for an undisclosed sum.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Navy commissions 7th ship of MK IV class Landing Craft Utility ‘IN LCU L57’ at Port Blair



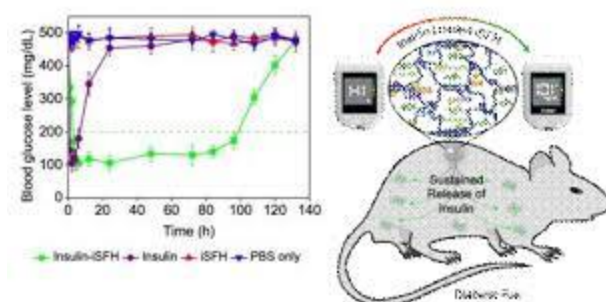
Lt. General PS Rajeshwar, Commanding-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command, has commissioned the 103rd Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class vessel ‘**INLCU L 57**’ (Yard no: 2098) into the **Indian Navy** at Port Blair. It was the 7th in the series of 8 such vessels being indigenously made by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) for the Navy. The ship can be used for beaching operations, search and rescue, disaster relief operations, supply and replenishment and evacuation from distant islands.

CSIR collaborates with Intel India and IIIT-Hyderabad to develop solution and strategies to combat COVID-19



The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**) working with Intel India and International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Hyderabad in developing a faster and cost efficient COVID-19 diagnostic solution, an IT technology to understand epidemiology and AI based risk stratification for the patients.

Scientists of JNCASR Develops Injectable Silk Fibroin-based hydrogel for Insulin delivery in diabetic patients



The Research team of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (**JNCASR**) headed by Prof.T.Govindaraju developed the Silk Fibroin (**SF**) formulated using biocompatible additives and an injectable SF hydrogel (**iSFH**) to ease the insulin delivery for diabetic patients.

Bhopal's CSIR-AMPRI faculty Rajeev kumar develops lightweight carbon foam that can replace lead batteries

Dr. Rajeev Kumar of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (**CSIR -AMPRI**), who received the Inspire Faculty Award, has developed a porous lightweight **carbon foam** with a density of less than 0.3g/cc that can replace lead-grids in lead acid batteries.

COVID-19: University of Hyderabad, CSIR-CCMB ties up with Vins Bioproducts for antibody therapy



On May 15, 2020, University of Hyderabad (UoH) and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), have tied up with Vins Bioproducts Limited, an antisera manufacturing company incubated at UoH's BioNEST incubation centre, to develop **antibody-based immunotherapy** for immediate treatment for Covid-19 pandemic.

A novel tool to help gain deeper insights into Parkinson's disease



Scientists of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (Indian School of Mines ISM) Dhanbad and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR)-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology(IICB) teamed up to find a solution to understand Parkinson's disease which is a common neurodegenerative disease with no cure.

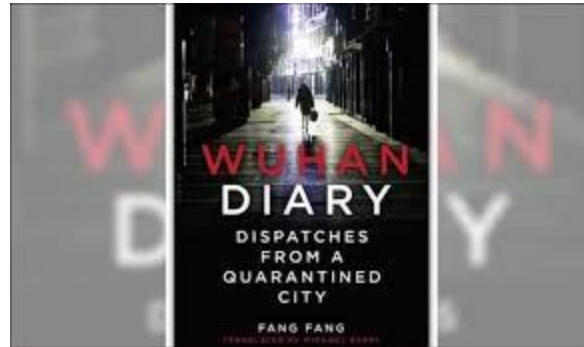
BOOKS & AUTHORS

Union HRD Minister e-Launches seven titles on “Psycho-Social Impact of Pandemic & Lockdown and How to Cope With”



On May 15, 2020, Union HRD (Human Resource Development) Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** e-Launched print as well as e-editions of the set of 7 titles on “**Psycho-Social Impact of pandemic & lockdown and how to Cope With**” under the corona studies series published by National Book Trust (NBT), India. These books will serve as guides to mental well-being of people at large.

A Book titled “Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City” authored by Fang Fang



The book titled as “**Wuhan Diary: Dispatches from a Quarantined City**” authored by Chinese literary writer **Fang Fang** is a compilation of online diary entries and social media posts that document 60 days of lockdown during COVID-19. The book was released in **India** in an **ebook format** on May 15, 2020, published by **HarperNonFiction**, the audio will follow on May 26.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Light 2020: May 16



The **International Day of Light (IDL)** is celebrated every year on May 16 globally. The day marks the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**. The day was organized by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) which celebrates the role light plays in science, culture, art,

education and sustainable development as well as in the fields of medicines, communications & energy.

National dengue day 2020, May 16



On 16th May Every year India observes National Dengue Day suggested by the Union Health Ministry to create awareness about measures on dengue prevention and to control the spread of the vector-borne disease and preparedness before the transmission season of dengue begins.

STATE NEWS

AP govt forms 5-member panel headed by Neerabh Kumar Prasad to probe Vizag gas leak

The **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** government has formed a 5-member high-powered committee led by **Neerabh Kumar Prasad** to probe into the causes behind the leakage of **styrene gas** from the **LG Polymers India Ltd** located at RR Venkatapuram in Visakhapatnam. The panel required to submit its final report within one month.