

## **Top 15 Current Affairs of 15 May 2020**

### **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

#### **EAM Jaishankar participated in SCO Foreign Ministers video conference on COVID-19**



On 13th May 2020, External Affairs Minister(EAM) S.Jaishankar participated in a virtual conference of foreign ministers hosted by Russia from Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) member states to discuss on the ongoing COVID-19 situation and insisted on the collective action against the terrorism and the security challenges.

#### **PM CARES Fund trust allocates Rs 3,100 crore: COVID-19**



**PM CARES**(Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund Trust has allocated **Rs 3100 crores**(Rs 2000 crores- purchase of

ventilators, Rs 1000 crores- care migrant labourers and Rs 100 crores- support vaccine development) to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

## ICMR fast-tracks roll out of ‘Solidarity’ trial to find treatment: COVID-19



The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has fast-tracked the roll out of the global ‘**Solidarity**’ trial launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19. The ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute(NARI) is the national coordination site for the trial in India.

## Centre sets up “Rice Export Promotion Forum” to promote rice export



On 12th May 2020, Centre set up a new body **Rice Export Promotion Forum** to give impetus to rice exports under the aegis of Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Promotion Development Authority(**Apeda**).

**Jal Jeevan Mission: Haryana and J&K to provide tap water to every household by Dec 2022**



The Union Territory (UT) **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)** and the state Government of **Haryana** have planned to provide tap connection to supply water to all rural families by **December 2022** under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. While the national target has been set for the year 2024-25.

**Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan Part-1: MSME focused package detailed by Nirmala Sitharaman; EPF contribution reduced**

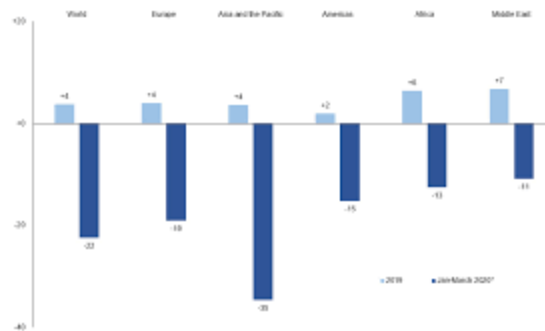


Measures taken in the package are focused on “**Getting back to work**” which enables employees, employers, and businesses to get back to production and workers back to gainful employment.

- Rs 3 lakh crore Emergency Working Capital Facility for Businesses, including MSMEs for 4 years
- Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs; Max upto Rs 75 lakhs
- Rs 50,000 crores equity infusion for MSMEs through Rs 10,000 cr Fund of Funds
- Global tenders to be disallowed upto Rs 200 crores in government procurement
- 2500 crore Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Support for Business & Workers for 3 more months
- EPF contribution reduced for Business & Workers for 3 months- Rs 6750 crores Liquidity Support
- Rs 30,000 crores Special Liquidity Scheme for NBFC/HFC/MFIs
- Rs 45,000 crores Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 for Liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs
- Rs 90,000 crore Liquidity Injection for DISCOMs by PFC & REC
- Reduction in Rates of ‘Tax Deduction at Source’ and ‘Tax Collected at Source’ by 25% for the remaining period of FY 20-21
- Relief to Contractors; extension provided upto 6 months
- Relief to Real Estate Projects

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### International tourism to decline 60-80% in 2020: UNWTO report



According to the latest data of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the international tourism could decline by **60-80%** in **2020** when compared with 2019 figures, due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

### India likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025: WHO's Global Nutrition Report 2020



According to World Health Organization (WHO)'s Global Nutrition Report 2020, **India** is one among 88 countries to **miss global nutrition** targets by 2025 & is with highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition. India along with Nigeria & Indonesia are worst in disparities in stunting & the levels varied four-fold across communities.

## Forest loss rate globally declined from 2015 to 2020: FRA 2020



According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment(FRA) 2020 released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO), the **forest loss rate** in 2015-2020 has **declined** to an estimated 10 million hectares(mha), down from 12 mha in 2010-2015.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### Reserve Bank extends interest subsidy scheme for exporters till 31 March 2021



The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the interest subsidy period by one year to **31 March 2021** on export credit received before and after shipment of goods to exporters. Exporters get the subsidy under the '**Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post shipment Rupee Export Credit**', which was ended on March 31, 2020.

### Federal bank, MoneyGram tie up for direct-to-bank deposits in India



On 14th May 2020, MoneyGram Payment System, a subsidiary of MoneyGram International, global leader in P2P payments tied up with Federal Bank Limited, a private bank in India to provide the customers a cost-effective way to receive deposits directly in their bank accounts in India.

### **ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

**UN forecasts India to grow at 1.2% in CY20 and global economy to shrink by 3.2%**

On 13th May 2020, In the United Nations(UN) World Economic Situation and Prospects(WESP) mid year report forecast that the COVID-19 pandemic situation will shrink the world economy by 3.2% in 2020 this is the sharpest contraction since the 1930's Great Depression and India's economy to grow at 1.2% in 2020

### **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

**Lieutenant Commander Akshay Kumar was awarded Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy 2020**



On May 14, 2020, Lieutenant Commander **Akshay Kumar** of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) in Kochi was awarded the Vice Admiral G.M. Hiranandani Memorial Rolling Trophy for the year 2020 by Vice Admiral A.K. Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief (FOC-in-C) of the SNC. The award ceremony was held at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi, Kerala.

## OBITUARY

### Former JDS MP Raja Rangappa Nayak passes away at 61



Former JDS (Janata Dal [Secular]) MP (Member of Parliament), **Raja Rangappa Nayak**, passed away at the age of 61 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He had represented the Raichur constituency, Karnataka, & was elected in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1996.



## STATE NEWS

### West Bengal govt launches 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000-acre barren land in 6 districts

On May 14, 2020, The West Bengal (WB) Government (govt) launched 'Matir Smristi' scheme to utilise 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts for income-generating activities like horticulture and pisciculture involving the locals. Chief Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee also added that the scheme will benefit around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal.

**About West Bengal:**

**Capital–** Kolkata.

**Governor–** Jagdeep Dhankhar.