

February - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Reshma, a college girl from Trichy received the all-India best cadet award from Prime Minister during the annual Prime Minister's NCC rally – 2020.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir's administration is set to host 1st - ever Global Investors Summit-2020 in the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu.
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched "Yodhav" (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala.
 - Using this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse & its distribution.
- ❖ Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched `Pyaar ka Paudha` (a plant of love) drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign with an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.
- ❖ Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh launched "Anganphou Hunba" (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal East.
- ❖ The Central Board of Directors of the RBI at its 582nd meeting recommended aligning the financial year of RBI (July-June) with the government's fiscal year (April-March) from the year 2020-21.
- ❖ GSM Association (Global System for Mobile Communication) has cancelled the Mobile World Congress 2020 to be held in Barcelona, Spain due to Coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ Indian men's team won bronze medal at the Badminton Asia team championships 2020.

NATIONAL

National Organic Food Festival

- ❖ The Government of India is to host the National Organic Food festival at New Delhi.
- ❖ The festival will be held under the Theme of "Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential".
- ❖ The 3-day festival is celebrated for the 1st time in order to boost organic products and to promote women entrepreneurship in the area of production & processing of organic products.



5-member panel on Defense

- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission has set up a five-member group to investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defence and internal security.
- ❖ This panel will be led by 15th Finance Commission Chairman, Nand Kishore (NK) Singh.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act -1996 Amendment

- ❖ The union government has amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015.
- ❖ It aims to make the arbitration process smooth, cost efficient, speedy execution of the case and ensure the mediation of the arbitrator.
- ❖ This amendment provides for the creation of an independent institution Arbitration Council of India.
- ❖ It allows appointment of arbitrators by “arbitral institutions” designated by the Supreme Court/High Court rather than Supreme Court or a high court themselves.

Establishment of Air Defense Command

- ❖ Chief of Défense Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called “Air Defence Command” (ADC) headed by an officer of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.
- ❖ He is also working on the creation of a Joint Peninsula Command and a Logistics Command.

INTERNATIONAL

IFAD’s 43rd Governing Council

- ❖ The IFAD’s 43rd Governing Council meeting was held in Rome, Italy on the theme “Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030”.
- ❖ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) stated that the sequences of climate change and it’s impacts on agriculture will push around 100 million people to poverty by 2030.



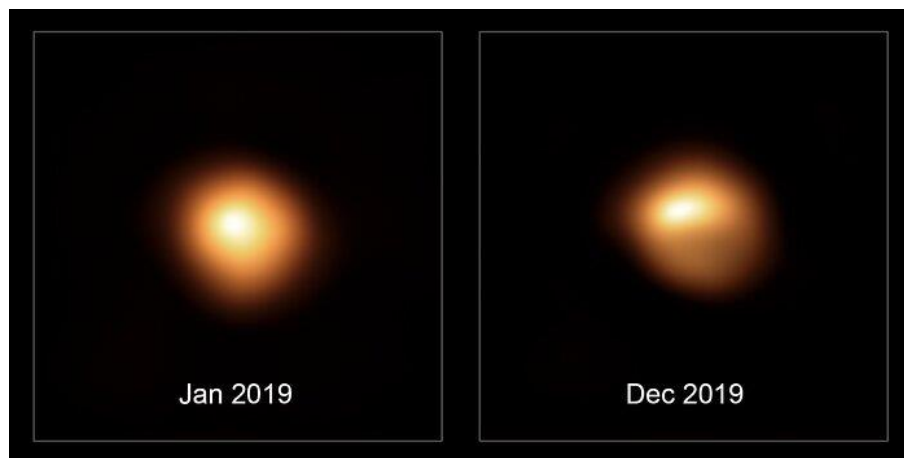
13th Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2020

- ❖ 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 & 4th edition – Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 held at Thailand with the aim to improve investment in India and Asia.
- ❖ As a part of this event, Asia One Magazine & URS Media organized a Networking Meet called 'India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together'.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dimming of Betelgeuse star

- ❖ The red supergiant star Betelgeuse appears to have finally stopped its unprecedented dimming.
- ❖ Betelgeuse, located some 722 light years away in the constellation of Orion.
- ❖ It has likely been a red supergiant for as long as 100,000 years.



STATES

Lui-Ngai-Ni Festival

- ❖ The Naga tribes of Manipur celebrated seed sowing festival 'Lui-Ngai-Ni' in Manipur.
- ❖ The 2-day festival was inaugurated under the theme of "Oneness through Culture".
- ❖ Lui-Ngai-Ni is one of the biggest festivals of the Naga community.



‘Appreciate and Commend’ scheme

- ❖ Punjab DGP launched the ‘Appreciate and Commend’ scheme in Punjab.
- ❖ It aims to boost the confidence of police officers who work extraordinarily and the best cops will be awarded every month.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the nominations of the best police will be sought from police chiefs of various districts by the 25th of every month.
- ❖ These Nominations will be screened by a committee consisting of senior police officers and the awardees name would be announced by the 5th of every month.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

COP 26 of UNFCCC

- ❖ The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled at Scotland, UK.
- ❖ Indian-origin Alok Sharma from Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been appointed as the minister in charge of the UK’s COP26 climate change summit.

65th edition Filmfare Awards 2020

- ❖ The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Zoya Akhtar’s directorial ‘Gully Boy’ emerged as big winner as it bagged several awards including the prestigious best film award.
- ❖ Ranveer Singh bagged Best Actor’s trophy for his performance in Gully Boy, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.

SPORTS

2020 Tokyo Olympics’ Motto

- ❖ The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, “United By Emotion”.
- ❖ It reflects the “universal values” and “unifying power of sport”, for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The motto highlights the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to connect & celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences.

- ❖ The official Olympic motto is “Citius, Altius, Fortius” or “Faster, Higher, Stronger”, but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Pangolin Day - February 15

- ❖ World Pangolin Day will be observed every year on 3rd Saturday in February month to raise awareness & to protect these unique species from extinction.
- ❖ The 9th World Pangolin day was observed on February 15, 2020.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) for the first time in order to know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan.
- ❖ Pangolins are also known as “scaly anteaters”, toothless animals & most trafficked wildlife species in the world.
- ❖ India is a home of 2 species of pangolins- Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) found in north-eastern India and Indian pangolin were distributed in other parts of the country (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan).
- ❖ The 2 species are protected & are listed under the Schedule I Part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and under Appendix I of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).



#WorldPangolinDay
Pangolin: Most trafficked wild mammal

THREAT:
Poaching & illegal wildlife trade

STATUS:
Atleast 650 poached every year in India for their scales and meat

SPECIES FOUND:
Global: 8
India: 2 (Indian Pangolin & Chinese Pangolin)

The infographic features a central image of a pangolin in a cage, a circular inset showing pangolin scales, and another circular inset showing a pangolin's tail. The text is arranged around these images, providing key facts about the species and its conservation status.

