

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 21-01-2020



### **PM Modi, Nepali PM KP Sharma Oli to inaugurate ICP Biratnagar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart K P Sharma Oli will inaugurate Integrated Check Post (ICP) Biratnagar . The two Prime Ministers will jointly inaugurate the prestigious project through video conferencing at 11 A.M. ICP Biratnagar has been built on 260 acres of land at a cost of around 140 crore rupees. It has the facilities for immigration clearance of foreign passengers, export and import cargo handling.

### **50th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum begins in Davos**

The 50th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, a congregation of rich and powerful from across the world, opens in Davos, Switzerland . Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation to the WEF. Besides, over 100 CEOs, political leaders including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers will take part in the 50th edition of the annual event. The welcome message was followed by the annual crystal awards and this year's recipients included celebrity film star Deepika Padukone.

### **West Bengal emerges at the top in vegetable production**

West Bengal has overtaken Uttar Pradesh and emerged as the top State in vegetable production in 2018-19, the data presented at a recent horticultural meeting showed. Andhra Pradesh continued to hold on to the pole position in fruits with 17.61 mt, followed by Maharashtra (10.82 mt) and UP (10.65 mt). While Andhra Pradesh marginally improved its position, Maharashtra overtook Assam, which occupied the second position in 2017-18. UP, too, moved several notches up from 2017-18 levels to reach the third rank

### **Lt Gen SK Saini Appointed As India's Vice Chief Of Army Staff**

Indian Army's Southern Command Chief, Lt Gen SK Saini will be the force's new vice chief.

The post fell vacant after Lt Gen MM Naravane was elevated to the post of Chief of Army Staff.

He had also served as the Deputy Chief Military Personnel Officer in UN Mission in Iraq, attended an exercise on peacekeeping conducted by the Global Peace Operations initiative in Mongolia and a counter-terrorism exercise in Australia.

### **IMF cuts India's growth rate for 2019-20 to 4.8%, projects 5.8% growth in next fiscal**

Calling it one of the “negative surprises”, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on sharply cut India's growth estimate for the current fiscal to 8 per cent, darkening the economic picture from the rosy 7.5 per cent made this time last year.

The latest cut follows a downward trend which reduced India's growth to 6.1 per cent in October.

IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) blamed India's economic slowdown for a “lion's share” of the 0.1 per cent cut in the global economic growth projections for last year to 2.9 per cent and to 3.3 per cent for the current year from those made in October.

### **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw fourth Indian to receive highest Australian civilian honour**

Australia has conferred its highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia honour, on Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw for her contribution towards advancing the country's relationship with India.

Australia's High Commissioner to India Harinder Sidhu invested Mazumdar-Shaw as an Honorary Member within the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division at a ceremony in Bengaluru.

### **IAF inducts its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft equipped with BrahMos missiles**

The Indian Air Force has inducted its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles in the South at its Thanjavur base in Tamil Nadu .

The Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Bhaduria inducted the squadron at an impressive ceremony. The newly reinstated 222-squadron, also known as the Tigersharks, would serve as a lethal weapons platform capable of carrying both aerial and maritime roles in the Indian Ocean Region