

Current Affairs: 10.02.2021

India's First Thunderstorm Research Testbed to be established at Balasore in Odisha



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has announced to set up the **first 'Thunderstorm Research Testbed'** of the country at **Odisha's Balasore district**.

Objective : to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes.

The facility will be established in a collaboration between the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, IMD, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. Besides this, the IMD has also planned to set up a **first-of-its-kind monsoon testbed near Bhopal**.

Currently both the projects are in the planning stage and detailed project reports are being made.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General – **Mrutyunjay Mohapatra**

National Horticulture Fair 2021 begins in Bengaluru



The **Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Kailash Choudhry**, inaugurated the **National Horticulture Fair (NHF) 2021** on February 08, 2021 in **Bengaluru** via virtual mode.

The **five-day** long event has been organised by the **Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)**, from **February 8 to February 12** at its IIHR

campus situated in Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru.

The theme of NHF 2021 is **'Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India'**.

For the first time, the event is being held in hybrid mode, i.e., the participants are allowed to attend the event online as well as offline.

The NHF will showcase cutting edge technologies, crop varieties, pest and disease management practices and processing methods among others.

The IIHR is a subsidiary of the **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.

Madhya Pradesh launches 'SAANS' campaign to reduce infant mortality



In **Madhya Pradesh**, the state health department has launched a **Social awareness campaign called 'Social Awareness and Action to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully ('SAANS')**, to curb infant mortality or **death rate due to pneumonia**.

Under the SAANS campaign, training will be imparted to medical staff at the community and primary health centres.

The state has set up around **4,000 Health and Wellness Centres for this purpose**.



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The Madhya Pradesh government has also partnered with **PGIMER, Chandigarh, and UNICEF** to develop training modules which will be used to enhance the skills of health workers, including doctors and paramedical staff .

CRPF inducts first-ever 34 All-Women Commandos Into Elite Anti-Naxal CoBRA Unit



For the first time in its history, the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has inducted **34 women commandos** in its elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) unit.

The induction took place on the occasion of the 35th Raising Day of the 88th Mahila battalion of CRPF on February 06, 2021.

The 34 women personnel from the 6 Mahila Battalions of CRPF who are joining the COBRA, will undergo a strenuous CoBRA pre-induction training of 3 months, before being sent to Naxal-hit areas of the country.

Apart from this, CRPF have also introduced an all **Mahila brass band**, making CRPF as the first force to have a women brass band.

FSSAI caps trans fatty acids to 2% in food products from January 2022



The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has restricted the permissible amount of **industrial Trans Fatty Acid (TFA)** in food products to **2 percent**. FSSAI has amended the **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011** to put into effect the new **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2021**.

The latest amendment will come into effect from **January 01,**

2022.

What does this amendment mean: As per the new rule, the food products in which edible oils and fats are used as an ingredient shall not contain industrial trans fatty acids more than 2% by mass of the total oils/fats present in the product, starting from January, 01, 2022

Currently, the permissible limit for trans fats in food products in **2021 is 3 percent**, cut down from the previous limit of 5 per cent.

14th International Children's Film Festival concludes in Bangladesh

The **14th edition of the International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh (ICFFB)** was held from 30 January 2021 to 05 February 2021.

The festival is organised by the **Children's Film Society (CFS) of Bangladesh** since 2008.

The week-long 2021 ICFFB film festival showcased **179 films from 37 countries.**

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Apart from Bangladesh, films from **India, Armenia, US, UK, Ireland, Japan and China** among others were shown in the festival.

The festival showcases full-length features, shorts, experimental films made for and by children from around the world.

India and Afghanistan Inks MoU for the construction of the Lalandar “Shatoot” Dam in Afghanistan

India and Afghanistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] on February 09, 2021 over video-teleconferencing (VTC), for the construction of the **Shahtoot Dam (Lalander Dam)** on a tributary of the **Kabul river** in Afghanistan.



The project, which costs nearly **\$ 300 million**, is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.

The MoU was signed between **External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar and Afghanistan Foreign Minister Mr. Hanif Atmar**, in the presence of Indian **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and **Afghanistan President Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani**.

The Lalander [Shatoot] Dam would meet the safe drinking water needs of Kabul City, provide irrigation water to nearby areas, rehabilitate the existing irrigation and drainage network, aid in flood protection and management efforts in the area, and also provide electricity to the region.

This is the **second major dam** being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam [**Salma Dam**], which was inaugurated in June 2016.

GMR Group inks MoU with Airbus for aircraft maintenance & other airport services

The Indian airport operator and aviation infrastructure developer, **GMR Group [Headquarter: New Delhi]**, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Airbus**, a European multinational aerospace corporation based in **Leiden, Netherlands**, to **explore collaboration opportunities across aviation services, technologies and innovation**.

The MoU was signed at Aero India 2021, Bangalore on February 04, 2021.

The main objective of this partnership will be to explore potential synergies in several strategic areas of aviation services like maintenance, components, training, digital and airport services both for commercial and military aircraft to benefit the entire aerospace ecosystem in the country.

Skyroot Aerospace joins hand with Bellatrix Aerospace to launch latter's Orbital Transfer Vehicle on its Vikram rocket



Skyroot Aerospace has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bellatrix Aerospace** to make use of the **Orbital Transfer Vehicle**, being developed by Bellatrix Aerospace, in the upper stage of **Vikram series of launch vehicles**, being developed by Skyroot.

The vehicle is expected to launch to low earth orbit in 2023 on the Vikram rocket. The vehicle is expected to help global operators reduce time and costs for launching communication and earth observation satellites.

Orbital Transfer Vehicle (OTV)

It is a spacecraft that can perform various in-orbit operations such deployment of customer payload to precise orbits, allowing a launch vehicle to deliver satellites to more orbits than what was conventionally possible.

In simple words, OTV is like a **'taxi in space'** to take small satellites into their operational orbits.

OTV will offer ride-sharing for small satellites and drop each one of the passengers to their intended slots in space.

World Pulses Day: 10 February



The **United Nations** designated **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **10 February**.

In 2018, the UN General Assembly decided to mark 10 February as World Pulses Day. The first WPD was held on February 10, 2019.

Theme 2021: "Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future".

The day has been established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations** to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as a global food.