

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 14-15-03-2020



### World Sleep day

World Sleep Day is organised by the World Sleep Society every year on the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox - which is March 13 this year. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about all aspects of sleep including the importance of getting good sleep, sleep medicines and social aspects of sleep problems. Through this spread of information, the World Sleep Organisation aims to reduce the global burden of sleep disorders. **Theme 2020 is 'BetterSleep, Better Life, Better Planet'.**

### International Pi Day

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (3/14 in the month/day format) since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant digits of  $\pi$ . In 2009, the United States House of Representatives supported the designation of Pi Day.

### The International Day of Action for Rivers

International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on 14th March to raise voice to protect rivers and demand for improving the policies for Rivers. It is a day to educate one another about the threats facing our rivers and to find solutions. The International Day of Action for Rivers **2020 theme is "Women, Water, and Climate Change"**

### Census India-2021 to be conducted in two phases IC

The Census India-2021 will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will begin from the 1st of next month and will continue until the 30th of September of this year. The second phase is Population Enumeration which will be conducted from 9th February to 28th February next year throughout the country simultaneously. Indian census is the largest single source of a range of statistical data on different characteristics of the people of the country. With a history of more than 130 years, this reliable and time-tested exercise results in the comprehensive collection of data relating to the people of India every 10 years.

### Union Cabinet approves construction of 780 kilometer of green highways in four states

Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for the construction of 780 kilometer of green highways at a cost of 7,660 crore rupees. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar stated the project pertains to rehabilitation and upgradation of various National Highways in four states, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Union Cabinet also approved reconstruction scheme for Yes Bank. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated SBI will invest 49 per cent equity in Yes Bank with other investors

also being invited. She stated, the moratorium on withdrawals from Yes bank will be lifted within 3 days of notification of the reconstruction scheme.



### **Iran seeks financial assistance from IMF for the first time since 1962 to counter coronavirus pandemic**

For the first time since 1962, the Islamic Republic of Iran is seeking financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund. Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif announced that the Ministry had written a letter to IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva seeking a loan to help contain the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the country through IMF's Rapid Financial Instrument. IMF's KGeorgieva has stated that countries affected by #COVID19 will be supported via Rapid Financial Instrument. Central Bank requested access to this facility immediately.

### **RBI to infuse ₹4.05 lakh crore rupee liquidity**

To counterbalance possible domestic liquidity effects of the \$2 billion sell-buy swap operation that it will conduct on March 16, 2020, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to provide rupee liquidity for seven days aggregating ₹25,000 crore to the financial system. This is in addition to the already announced provision of 14-day rupee liquidity aggregating ₹3.80 lakh crore. The rupee liquidity infusion will be via variable rate 'reverse' repo auctions.

### **UBS cuts India GDP growth forecast to 5.1 per cent for FY21**

Swiss brokerage UBS sharply cut its 2020-21 GDP growth forecast for India to **5.1 per cent** on fears around the coronavirus outbreak and also weak credit growth domestically. The brokerage also cut its FY20 growth estimate marginally to **4.8 per cent**. The GDP growth is set to slip to a decadal low of 5 per cent for FY20 as per official estimates and hopes of a revival are being pinned on the next fiscal. The brokerage's economist Tanvee Gupta Jain stated even though there are only over 50 positive coronavirus cases in India so far, the fear and uncertainty over its impact could worsen near-term consumer sentiment and hit domestic demand.s India GDP growth forecast to 5.1 per cent for **FY21**

### **HAL inks pact with Blue Ray Aviation for supply of two Dornier Do-228 multi-role aircraft**

Blue Ray Aviation Pvt Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Transport Aircraft Division, a division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, for deployment of two HAL made Dornier Do-228 aircraft. Transport Aircraft Division of HAL based in Kanpur produces Dornier Do-228, a 19-seater multi-role utility aircraft for various applications, including commuter, reconnaissance, surveillance and utility operations. Blue Ray Aviation is a DGCA approved CAR 145 and Flight Training Organisation based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat and having operating bases at Mahasena and Osmanabad.