

## Current Affairs=22-04-2020

### International Mother Earth Day: 22 April

International Mother Earth Day is celebrated every year on 22 April to recognise that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth. The day was **established in 2009** by the United Nations General Assembly.

**The theme** of 2020 International Mother Earth Day is Climate Action.

### Civil Services Day: April 21

In India, the ‘Civil Services Day’ is celebrated on April 21 every year as a thanks giving day to all the Civil Servants for their service to the society and also for Civil Servants to ‘rededicate themselves to the cause of citizen and renew their commitments to public service’.

The day April 21 has been chosen **to commemorate the day when the first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi.** In his address, he called Civil Servants, the ‘Steel Frame of India’.

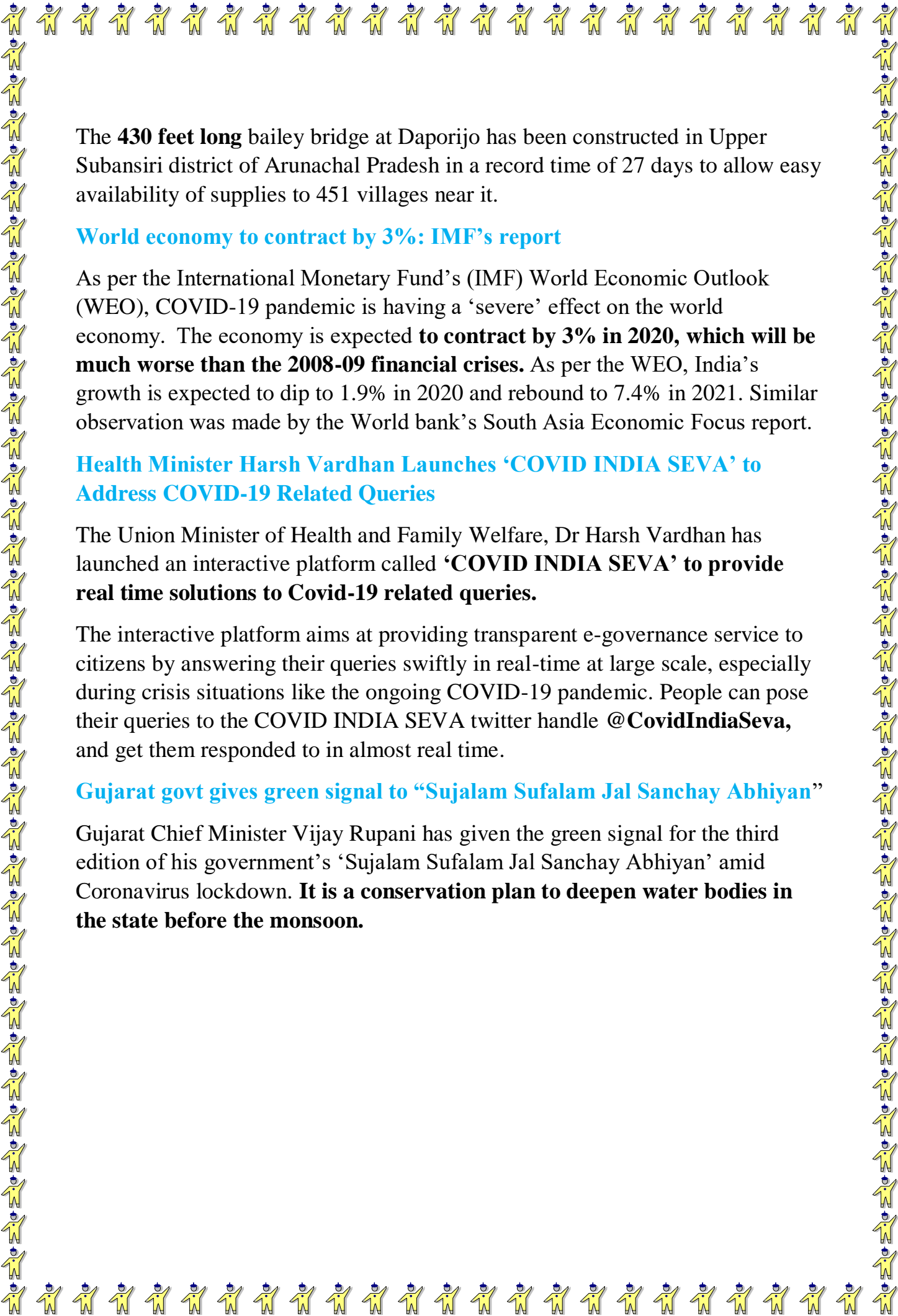
### Audio Book Titled “How the Onion Got Its Layers” by Sudha Murty to be Released on April 23

Veteran author Sudha Murty’s first book in an audio format titled “How the Onion Got Its Layers” is all set to be released on April 23, on the World Book Day.

The book is a latest offering for children to help them in knowing answers of several questions related to the bulb like many layers of onions and why it brings tears to the eyes when cut. **It is an initiative to use this lockdown time to do something new or even learn something.**

### BRO Constructs Daporijo Bridge over Subansiri River in Arunachal Pradesh

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed Daporijo bridge over Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh, to provide adequate movement of supplies to about 3,000 troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, amid lockdown due to COVID-19.



The **430 feet long** bailey bridge at Daporijo has been constructed in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh in a record time of 27 days to allow easy availability of supplies to 451 villages near it.

### **World economy to contract by 3%: IMF's report**

As per the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO), COVID-19 pandemic is having a 'severe' effect on the world economy. The economy is expected **to contract by 3% in 2020, which will be much worse than the 2008-09 financial crises.** As per the WEO, India's growth is expected to dip to 1.9% in 2020 and rebound to 7.4% in 2021. Similar observation was made by the World bank's South Asia Economic Focus report.

### **Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Launches 'COVID INDIA SEVA' to Address COVID-19 Related Queries**

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched an interactive platform called **'COVID INDIA SEVA' to provide real time solutions to Covid-19 related queries.**

The interactive platform aims at providing transparent e-governance service to citizens by answering their queries swiftly in real-time at large scale, especially during crisis situations like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. People can pose their queries to the COVID INDIA SEVA twitter handle **@CovidIndiaSeva,** and get them responded to in almost real time.

### **Gujarat govt gives green signal to "Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan"**

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has given the green signal for the third edition of his government's 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' amid Coronavirus lockdown. **It is a conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before the monsoon.**