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## Top Current Affairs of the Week (1 - 7 March 2020)

### 1. New explosive detection device, developed by DRDO & IISc Bangalore

- RaIDer-X, a new explosive detection device, was unveiled at the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020) in Pune.
- It has the capability to detect explosives from a stand-off distance.
- Bulk explosive in a concealed condition can also be detected by the device.
- RaIDer-X has been co-developed by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

### 2. Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurates the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020

- The Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela-2020 in New Delhi.
- During the ceremony, he called for the retention of talent in Agriculture.
- Shri Tomar said the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given priority to agriculture and set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

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### 3. ADB to provide \$4 million to member countries to contain coronavirus

- Asian Development Bank will provide a total of USD 4 mn to help developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to fight the outbreak COVID-19.
- The ADB had earlier in Feb announced USD 2 mn for fighting the disease.
- The ADB has approved a further USD 2 million to help developing countries in Asia and the Pacific contain the outbreak coronavirus.
- The funds will be available for all ADB developing member countries in updating and implementing their.

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## 4.Olympic medalist hockey player Balbir Singh Kullar passes away

- Former Indian hockey player and Olympian Balbir Singh Kullar passed away.
- Kullar was part of the Indian side which bagged a bronze medal in the 1968 Mexico Olympics.
- He was born in the Sansarpur village of the Jalandhar district in 1942.
- He made his India debut in 1963 in Lyon, France.
- He gained a reputation as an inside forward in the Indian team and toured several countries like

## 5.Rafael Nadal wins Mexican Open title 2020

- Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal won the Mexican Open 2020. This is his 85th ATP Tour title and his first title of the year.
- He defeated unseeded Taylor Fritz in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, in the final of the ATP Mexico Open.
- In the women's final, seventh-seeded Heather Watson captured her first WTA title in three years by grinding out a 6-4, 6-7, 6-1 win over Canadian teen Leylah Fernandez.

## 6.Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launches 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan' in Kota

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan' in his Loksabha Constituency Kota, Rajasthan.
- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani was also present in the program.
- Mr Birla appealed to every section of the society to cooperate in the malnutrition-free India campaign.
- Keeping newborn and pregnant women healthy is the main objective of the 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan '.

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## 7. Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal was presented Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award

- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was presented the prestigious Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award 2020 for Politics at the 6th India Ideas Conclave in Gujarat.
- The award, instituted by India Foundation carries a citation, a specially designed trophy and a cheque worth Rs. one lakh.
- The award was presented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed.

## 8. Dronacharya awardee athletics coach Joginder Singh Saini passes away

- Veteran athletics coach and Dronacharya awardee Joginder Singh Saini (90-years) passed away in Patiala due to age-related problems.
- Mr. Saini remained the chief national athletics coach for many years from the 1970s to 90s.
- Saini received the Dronacharya Award in 1997 for his contribution to Indian athletics.
- Saini was a science graduate and became an athletics coach in 1954.

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## 9. Afghanistan's Taliban, US sign agreement aimed at ending war

- US officials and Taliban representatives have signed an agreement after months of negotiations in Doha that is aimed at ending the United States's longest war, fought in Afghanistan since 2001.
- The US and NATO troops would withdraw from Afghanistan within 14 months.
- About 14,000 US troops and approximately 17,000 troops from 39 NATO allies and partner countries are

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## 10. Amit Shah inaugurates the campus of NSG Regional Hub at Kolkata

- Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Security Guard (NSG) Regional Hub campus at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- It aims to provide adequate facilities to the brave NSG jawans.
- NSG also referred to as "The Black cats", combats terrorist activities with a view to protecting states against internal disturbances.
- It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## 11. World Productivity Congress in India after 45 years of gap

- The 19th World Productivity Congress will be held in Bengaluru aims at catalyzing government approaches in enhancing productivity (6-8th May 2020).
- The Congress is held under the theme 'Industry 4.0-Innovation and Productivity'.
- It was last held in India in 1974.
- The World Productivity Congress has been conducted by the World Confederation of Productivity Science since 1969.

## 12. Tourism Minister launches Incredible India website in New Delhi

- The Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has launched the multilingual Incredible India website in New Delhi.
- Incredible India website is a promotional website with an aim to project India as a 'must-visit' destination across the globe.
- Now, the website comprises of a plethora of information around 165 destinations, 2700+ pages, 28 States + 9 UTs along with multiple attractions.

## 13. World Wildlife Day being observed today

- World Wildlife Day is observed globally on 3rd March to celebrate and raise awareness regarding varied forms of wild fauna and flora.
- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2020 is "Sustaining all life on Earth" and the year 2020 is known as "biodiversity super year."

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- The theme of World Wildlife Day 2020 aligns with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 12, 14 and 15 of the United Nations.

## **14.Arunachal Assembly implements e-Vidhan project, goes paperless**

- The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly went paperless with the implementation of e-Vidhan, a project under the Digital India programme.
- Now, MLAs can access every information regarding the Assembly, see the list of business, read questions and other documents pertaining to House proceedings through their laptops & tablet.
- Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the "nodal ministry" for the implementation of e-Vidhan in all the 31 states and UT of the country.

## **15.Government permits Wifi on Flights**

- Government has permitted airlines operating in India to provide in-flight Wi-Fi services to passengers.
- The Pilot-in-Command may permit the access of Internet services by passengers on board an aircraft in flight, through Wi-Fi onboard,
- Wi-Fi is a family of wireless networking technologies, commonly used for local area networking of devices and Internet access.

## **16.Centre declared National Chambal Sanctuary in MP as eco-sensitive zone**

- The Government of India has declared 870 sq km area around National Chambal Century (Madhya Pradesh) as the Economic Sensitive Zone for conservation of its ecology.
- It lies across Sheopur, Morena and Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- The sanctuary is located along river Chambal which is the cleanest river and harbours fresh water dolphin.

## **17.China took the presidency of UN Security Council for March 2020**

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- China has taken over the presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of March 2020 from Belgium to promote solidarity and cooperation in this capacity.
- China is the permanent member of UN.
- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter in 1945 with the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The council has 15 members (5 permanent 10 non-permanent members).

## **18. President conferred 61st annual Lalit Kala Akademi's awards**

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred 61st annual Lalit Kala Akademi's awards on 15 artists at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The awardees include Anoop Kumar Manzukhi Gopi from Kerala, David Malakar (West Bengal), Hari Ram Kumbhawat (Rajasthan), Devendra Kumar Khare (Gujarat), Dinesh Pandya (Maharashtra), Mohan Kumar (Karnataka) and Yashwant Singh (Delhi).
- Lalit Kala Akademi organises art exhibitions and award ceremonies every year to promote art as well as to honour talents.

## **19. Shafali Verma gained the top spot in the ICC women's T20I rankings**

- Teen sensation Shafali Verma rises to top in ICC women's T20 rankings, riding on her stellar run at the ongoing World Cup scoring a total of 161 runs in four innings.
- She has become only the second India player after Mithali Raj to top the women's T20 International rankings.
- The 16-year-old Shafali has replaced New Zealand's Suzie Bates, who had been at the top of batting charts since October 2018.

## **20. Jaydev Unadkat broke 21-year-old record in Ranji Trophy**

- Left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat broke a 21-year-old record in history of Ranji Trophy to emerge as the highest-wicket taking pacer in a single season.

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- With his 10 wickets in the semis, three in the first innings and seven in the second, Unadkat took his tally of wickets to 65 in the 2019/20 season as he surpassed Karnataka's Dodda Ganesh who had 62 wickets in 1998/99.

## **21.Sunil Joshi appointed as the New Chairman of BCCI's Selection Committee**

- Former India spinner Sunil Joshi is selected as the chairman of the national selection panel by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) replacing MSK Prasad.
- Along with him, former fast bowler Harvinder Singh replaces Gagan Khoda in the panel as the committee member.
- The CAC comprised of Madan Lal, RP Singh and Sulakshana Naik.

## **22.Luxembourg becomes first country to provide free public transport**

- Luxembourg abolished fares for trains, buses and other public transport to tackle road congestion and pollution, as well as supporting low earners.
- Travellers can still pay for first class, at a cost of 660 euros a year.
- Luxembourg has just over 600,000 inhabitants, but 214,000 travel for work every day from neighbouring Germany, Belgium and France, causing heavy traffic jams. causing greenhouse gas emissions.

## **23.Mumbai to host International Olympic Committee Session 2023**

- Mumbai is set to host the International Olympic Committee's session 2023.
- The year 2023 will be significant for India as it coincides with the India's 75th independence year.
- This will be the second-ever IOC session to be held in India after a long gap of 37 years.
- India last hosted an IOC session way back in 1983 in New Delhi.

## **24.Indian Army's International Seminar 'Pragyan Conclave 2020' held in Delhi**

- The Indian Army's International Seminar "Pragyan Conclave 2020" held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

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- The 2-day event (4-5 March) with 4 sessions brings together cross-domain national and international experts to deliberate on the complex subject.
- The overall theme of the seminar is 'Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military'.

## **25. Google to launch Second Cloud Region in India**

- Google is all set to launch its second cloud region in India at New Delhi till 2021.
- Google launched its first cloud region in Mumbai in 2017.
- The new cloud region will expand Google's existing network which stands at 8 regions in the Asia Pacific and 22 regions globally.
- It will also enable in-country disaster recovery for the customers' mission-critical applications.

## **26. Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival to be held in Kochi, Kerala**

- The 4th edition of Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) will be held at Kochi, Kerala from 16th to 20th May.
- The theme for the five-day event will be "Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility".
- GAF-2020 will bring together the world of Ayurveda wellness providers and its seekers to one platform.

## **27. Union Minister Smriti Irani released 'Chronicles of Change Champions'**

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani has released a book titled "Chronicles of Change Champions" in New Delhi.
- The book is a compilation of 25 innovative initiatives flagship scheme of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme was launched in 2015 at Panipat, Haryana as a comprehensive programme to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and the related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum.

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## 28. Manila will host Badminton Asia Championships

- The Badminton Asia Championships which was to be held in Wuhan, China will be held in Manila, Philippine due to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak in China.
- The Novel Coronavirus outbreak has caused cancellation, postponement or shifting of the several badminton tournaments as well as other tournaments in recent weeks all over the world.

## 29. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana signed MoU with Amazon

- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs today signed MoU with Amazon for e-marketing of products made by Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the country in urban areas.
- Giving impetus to Women empowerment and sustainable livelihoods in urban area, the Mission has also undertaken similar collaboration with for the 2nd edition of Shehri Samridhi Utsav to be organised from March 28 to April 12, 2020.

## 30. India-European Union Flagship Call on Integrated Local Energy Systems

- During India Smart Utility Week 2020, India-European Union Flagship Call on Integrated Local Energy Systems to help in clean energy and climate by DST.
- This Indo-EU flagship call is fully in line with both the European Union's and India's involvement in Mission Innovation (MI), a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Commission committed to reinvigorate and accelerate global clean energy innovation with the objective to make clean energy widely affordable.

## 31. Janaushadhi Diwas is being celebrated across the country

- Today, Janaushadhi Diwas has been celebrated across the country.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrations through video conferencing from New Delhi.
- Janaushadhi Kendras is considered the biggest retail pharma chain in the world with around 6,200 outlets in 700 districts.

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- Total sales in the financial year 2019 - 20 has crossed 390 crore rupees and lead to a total savings of approximately 2,200 crore rupees for common citizens.

## **32.Lt Gen Milind Hemant Thakur unveils renovated Animal Memorial in Bengaluru**

- LG Milind Hemant Thakur (DG of Supply and Transport Corps of the Indian Army) unveiled a renovated Animal Memorial for mules and horses of the Indian Army in Bengaluru.
- Erected in 2006, the first of its kind animal memorial in Asia signifies the pivotal role played by the mules and horses belonging to the Army Service Corps.
- These army trained animals have rendered yeoman service in relentlessly hauling war stores up the goat tracks of the treacherous Himalayas.

## **33.Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival to be held at Kochi from 16th May**

- The Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) will be held at Kochi in Kerala from 16th to 20th May this year.
- The theme for the five-day event is 'Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility'.
- It will be the largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held anywhere across the world and will witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders and business explorers from the field of Ayurveda.

## **34.Bimal Julka is new Chief Information Commissioner**

- Former IAS officer, Bimal Julka was sworn in as the new Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission.
- The oath of office was administered by the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind at an even in the Rashtrapathi Bhavan.
- Information Commission includes 1 Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than 10 Information Commissioners (IC) who are appointed by the President of India.

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## **35. Annual Festival of St Antony's Shrine begins in Katchatheevu Island**

- The annual festival of St Antony's Shrine begins in Katchatheevu Island of Sri Lanka.
- The festival began with the traditional flag hoisting ceremonies.
- St Antony is being worshipped by the devotees as the patron saint of seafarers.
- Priests from both India and Sri Lanka conducts the mass and car procession in connection with the festival.

## **36. India, US sign Rs 1200 crore deal for protection system of new VVIP aircraft**

- India and the United States have signed a Rs 1200 crore deal for acquiring missile protection suites for the new Boeing VVIP planes for the President and the Prime Minister.
- The deal was signed between the two countries around the two-day visit of US President Donald Trump to Ahmedabad and New Delhi.
- A new 28-acre facility will also be created at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for housing the new Boeing 777 wide-bodied aircraft.

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