**February, 2020**

**The 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition “DefExpo 2020” held in Lucknow.**

The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. It’s main theme was “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” with focus on “Digital Transformation of Defence”. This expo is also termed as “Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies”. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.

**Uttar Pradesh state becomes the first in India to to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department.**

In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government has implemented the Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department. Consumers will now get financial compensation for delay in resolving their complaints by the department. According to the notification issued by the government, the consumer would get Rs 50 per day if there is a delay in repairing the defective meter and also non-response by call centre. In case of delay in repairing underground cable breakdown, the consumer would get Rs 100 per day.

**5-day long 5th edition of India-UK bilateral air exercise “Indradhanush-V” 2020 was held in Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP).**

‘Base Defence and Force Protection’ was the focus of this edition’s exercise. 36 specialised combatants from RAF Regiment & 42 combatants of the GARUD Force from IAF team participated in this exercise with para drops from C-130J aircraft, tactical insertions by Mi-17 V5 helicopters and use of various airborne sensors. During the exercise both the elements of the air force will share and jointly validate strategies and tactics to tackle terror threats to their installations.

**NTPC has signed an MoU with Central Pollution Control Board to provide financial support for installation & commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations.**

NTPC will provide financial support of Rs 80 crore for installation of 25 CAAQMS across 6 states and 3 Union Territories (UTs). 6 States: CAAQMS will be installed in Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Patna (Bihar), Varanasi, Lucknow, Kanpur & Allahabad (all in Uttar Pradesh [UP]), Pimpri Chinchwad (Maharashtra) and Madurai (Tamil Nadu). 3 UTs: CAAQMS will also be installed in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Port Blair), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (Silvassa) and Daman & Diu (Daman).
Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved to change the name of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, Arabi-Farsi University.

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a proposal to change the name of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Urdu, ArabiFarsi University which is known as Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Languages University. The university is in Lucknow.

“We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women launched by Facebook.

Facebook launched “We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar. It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.

15-member trust named ‘Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust’ for the construction of Ram Mandir led by Kesava Iyengar Parasaran.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, 67.703 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust. This 15 member’s trust will also include a Dalit representative who would be in charge of the entire land.

UP Cabinet approves Ground Water Act-2020 to improve ground water levels

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the Ground Water Act-2020 on February 11, 2020 to improve the deteriorating level of groundwater. The Ground Water Act has made registration mandatory for installing submersible pumps.
- An online registration facility has also been made available for the same.
- Besides this, the UP government has made rainwater harvesting system mandatory in all private and government schools and colleges.

Operation Nakail: Auto-rickshaws in Ghaziabad to bear unique number as authorities aim to curb crime

The Ghaziabad authorities will allot unique number that will be painted on auto-rickshaws plying in the district to ensure that the drivers or miscreants posing as passengers do not get away after crime.

The police launched ‘Operation Nakail’ under which the identity of all auto-rickshaw drivers will be verified and a unique four-digit number will be allotted to them. The drivers will be required to get the unique number painted on front, left, right and rear side of the auto-rickshaws.
UP govt inks MoU with eGov Foundation for state-wide implementation of municipal financial accounting platform

In another step towards reforming the urban sector, the Govt of UP entered into a collaboration with eGov Foundation on January 31, 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to implement the municipal financial accounting system. This initiative is a part of the municipal accounting reforms across the entire state and covers all 652 ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) of Uttar Pradesh. Under the MoU, eGov Foundation will provide the accrual-based double-entry financial accounting application of DIGIT (Digital Infrastructure for Governance, Impact & Transformation) - India's largest open-source platform for urban governance. The govt envisages digitizing the accounting records and operations, thereby strengthening the financial autonomy and financial sustainability of the ULBs.

UP government launches helpline numbers ahead of board exams

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched toll-free helpline numbers to solve the queries of students ahead of the Board examinations. Helpline numbers will remain active from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. In case, students have any queries regarding the board exams they can connect to the helpline numbers - 1800-180-5310 and 1800-180-5312. Experts of different subjects including English, Life Sciences, Geography, General Science, Hindi, Sanskrit, Chemistry will be available on call on these numbers. Academicians will be open to queries regarding any subject.

4 railway stations in Uttar Pradesh’s Prayagraj get new names

Four Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh’s Prayagraj will now sport new names, a move aimed at reviving the identity of the ancient city. According to an official communication on Thursday, Allahabad Junction will now be Prayagraj Junction, Allahabad City will now be known as Prayagraj Rambag, Allahabad Chhioiki has been changed to Prayagraj Chheoki and the name of Prayagghat has been changed to Prayagraj Sangam. The names of the stations were changed by the central and the state government.

India 5th Most Polluted Country In The World: Report

India was the 5 most polluted country in 2019, with Ghaziabad in the National Capital Region ranked as the most polluted city in the world, according to a global compilation of PM 2.5 particulate pollution data by IQAir, a company that primarily works on air filtration. On the whole, air pollution in India decreased in 2019 from 2018 though about half of the 50 most polluted cities were in India, the report notes. India launched a National Clean Air Programme in 2019 that commits to reducing air pollution in 102 most polluted cities by a maximum of 30% by 2024.
4,000-year-old crafts village unearthed near Varanasi

A nearly 4,000-year-old urban settlement has been unearthed by a team of surveyors from the Banaras Hindu University, which experts say could be one of the craft villages mentioned in ancient texts.

The university’s Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, which did the preliminary survey of the site in Babhaniyav village, 13 km from Varanasi, said it found remnants of one of the settlements mentioned in ancient literature about the holy city. The survey found a temple dating back to the 5th century through 8th century, potteries which are 4,000-year-old and walls which are 2,000-year-old.

Padma Shri awardee Giriraj Kishore passes away

Well-known Hindi novelist and Padma Shri awardee Giriraj Kishore passed away on Sunday in Kanpur, following a cardiac arrest at his residence. Giriraj Kishore was best known for his novel "Pehla Girmitiya" that was based on Mahatma Gandhi’s stay in South Africa. He was awarded the Padma Shri by the President of India and was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award. He was also conferred the Vyas Samman in 2000, and an honorary Ph.D. by Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University in 2002.