

Top Current Affairs of the Week (17 Jan. – 23 Jan. 2021)

Nazhat Shameem Khan elected as President of UN Human Rights Council

- **Nazhat Shameem Khan** has been elected as the **President of UN Human Rights Council for 2021** during 15th annual meeting of Human Rights Council through a secret ballot process.
- She won 29 votes out of total 47.
- She succeeded Australian lawyer **Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger**, who was serving as the President of human rights body for 2020.
- Nazhat Shameem Khan is the **Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations**.
- Human Rights Council HQs: **Geneva, Switzerland**.

NDA & Other Exams: <https://t.me/joinchat/TX7hKUXmUvKsOL5IFHsbRA>

CDS & Defence Exams: <https://t.me/joinchat/TX7hKVbSbpp5PDJuRccltw>

Air Force X & Y: <https://t.me/GradeupAirforce>

Amresh Kumar Chaudhary awarded 'Chief of Army Staff Commendation'

- **Amresh Kumar Chaudhary** has been awarded with prestigious '**Chief of Army Staff Commendation**' for his outstanding contribution to Armed Forces during Covid19 pandemic and other operations.
- He is currently working as **Chief Controller in Mil Rail**.
- **Mil Rail:** It is an extension of Traffic Directorate of Ministry of Railways, headed by Executive Director (ED) level officer with office at Army HQ. It works in close coordination with Ministry of Defence.

Piyush Goyal inaugurates 'Prarambh: Startup India International Summit'

- Piyush Goyal has inaugurated two-day '**Prarambh**', **Startup India International Summit** in New Delhi
- Summit has been organized by **Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under M/o Commerce & Industry.
- Inaugural event of summit was participated by **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** nations
- It act as a platform to the startups and young minds across the world to come together and work collectively

India's First Indigenously Designed & Developed Driverless Metro Car

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched **India's First Indigenously Designed & Developed Driverless Metro Car**
- This driverless metro has been indigenously designed & developed for **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**.
- It has been manufactured at **BEML Bengaluru manufacturing facility**.



- These trains are made up of stainless-steel and has a capacity of carrying 2280 passengers in six-cars Metro train-set.

India signs MoU with Japan to enhance cooperation in ICT

- **India** has signed MoU with **Japan** to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)**
- Under the MoU, both nations will enhance mutual cooperation in ICT including 5G technologies, telecom security, submarine optical fiber cable system to islands of India, spectrum management, smart cities, high altitude platform for broadband in unconnected areas, disaster management and public safety etc.
- Minister for IT: **Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

PM Modi flag off 8 trains connecting different regions to Kevadia

- PM **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **8 trains connecting different regions of the country to Kevadiya, Gujarat**
- These trains are launched to facilitate seamless connectivity to **Statue of Unity** situated in Gujarat
- He also inaugurated Dabhoi – Chandod Gauge converted Broad Gauge railway line (BGRL), Chandod – Kevadiya new BGRL and station buildings of Dabhoi, Chandod and Kevadiya
- **Kevadiya station is India's 1st railway station with Green Building Certification**

Publication of notice under Special Marriage Act made optional

- **Allahabad High Court** has ruled that provision of notice publication of intended marriage affecting inter-faith couples under **Special Marriage Act, 1954** is not mandatory
- This means notice under **Section 6** and inviting or entertaining objections under **Section 7** is only directory in nature.
- The judgment will invade fundamental rights of liberty and privacy, including right to marriage without interference from state and non-state actors, of the persons concerned.

Indian- American author Ved Mehta passes away in New York

- Renowned Indian-American author **Ved Mehta (86 years)** passed away in Manhattan, New York due to Parkinson's disease
- He was blind since he was 3 years from meningitis.
- He is best known for his **12-volume memoir**, which focused on the troubled modern history of India and his early struggles with blindness from 1972 to 2004
- **Other works:** Walking the Indian Streets (1960), Portrait of India (1970) and Mahatma Gandhi and His Apostles (1977)

Six Indians in top-10 BWF world junior rankings

- Indian shuttlers **Varun Kapur** and **Samiya Imad Farooqui** along with four other Indians have been named in Top-10 spots in the world junior rankings of Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- Varun and Samiya has been ranked as **World No. 2**
- BWF rankings released earlier this week, saw shuttlers-**Tasnim Mir (4), Treesa Jolly (8) and Aditi Bhatt (10)** in the women singles category under top-10
- In the women's doubles category, Tressa (8), Tanisha Crasto (9) and Aditi (9)

Kerala Governor launches 'One School One IAS' scheme



- Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** has rolled Vedhik Erudite Foundation's '**One School One IAS**' scheme
- It will provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students
- It will give children a chance to completely redecorate their future plans and broaden their horizons totally, rewriting their value capital
- Beneficiaries will be selected by a panel headed by the heads of educational institutions.

Biswajit Chatterjee conferred IFFI Indian Personality of the Year Award

- **Biswajit Chatterjee** has been conferred with **Indian Personality of the Year Award** at the opening ceremony of **51st edition of the International Film Festival of India** held in Goa
- He is actor, producer, director and singer of Hindi and Bengali cinema
- He is known for his roles in **Bees Saal Baad, Kohra, Night In London, Kismat, Chowringhee (1968), Jai Baba Taraknath (1977)** and **Amar Geeti (1983)**.
- The award will be presented to him during National Film Awards in March 2021

Railway Ministry approves new Iron-ore policy 2021

- **Ministry of Railways** has approved **Iron-ore policy 2021** governing the allocation of rakes and transportation of iron-ore.
- The new policy shall come into effect from **February 10, 2021**.
- Its provisions will be updated in the rake allotment system module by **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**.
- Railways Scrutiny of documentation has been removed
- **Executive Director Rake Movement of Railway Board (EDRM) office, Kolkata** will have no regulatory role in the new policy.

Khelo India 1st Zaskar Winter Sports Festival began today

- **First Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival** has begun today to engage the Youth and opening new vistas of tourism in Zaskar.
- **Chadar Trek** has been inaugurated to kick start and set the tone for the festival from the confluence of Indus and Zaskar rivers near Sangam, Leh
- It is a **13- Day Festival** that will open new arena in Ladakh for adventure and Nature loving tourists and a boost for local Youth to hone up their skills in winter sports to represent India.

USI Study shows 'Army Losing More Personnel In Suicides Than Enemy Action'

- **United Service Institution of India (USI)** study shows more than half of Indian Army personnel seem to be under severe stress.
- USI research was undertaken during 2019-20 by **Col. AK Mor**.
- Army has been losing more personnel every year due to suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents
- Prolonged exposure of Indian Army personnel to Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorism environment has been one of the contributory factors for increased stress levels.

DRDO hands over Motor Bike Ambulance Rakshita to CRPF



- **DRDO** handed over 21 Motor Bike Ambulance '**Rakshita**' to the **CRPF**.
- It was developed by DRDO lab **Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)**, New Delhi.
- It is a bike-based casualty transport emergency vehicle.
- The customised 'Rakshita' ambulances have been created on 350cc **Royal Enfield Classic** bikes.
- Rakshita is fitted with a customized reclining Casualty Evacuation Seat (CES).
- Chairman DRDO: **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**
- DG CRPF: **Dr A P Maheshwari**

National Cadet Corps, NCC organized 'Swachhata Pakhwada'

- **National Cadet Corps, NCC** has organized '**Swachhata Pakhwada**' at India Gate, New Delhi.
- The event was inaugurated by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.
- The theme of this Swachhata Pakhwada is '**Clean India, Green India, Yeh Hai Mera Dream India**'.
- During the **Swachhata Pakhwada**, the NCC cadets will keep Rajpath clean for the **Republic Day Parade - 2021** by spreading awareness through displaying banners, distribution of pamphlets and showcasing Swachhata through **Nukkad Natak**.

India and French to conduct 'Ex-Desert Knight 21' joint military Exercise

- **India** and **France** will carry out a five-day **Mega Air Ex- Desert Knight 21** near **Jodhpur**.
- It is expected to see **Rafale** jets of the two countries engaging in complex manoeuvres to enhance operational coordination.
- The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure and share best practices towards enhancing combat capability.
- **Both** the air forces will deploy frontline fighter jets as well as transport, and tanker aircraft in the exercise.

India, Japan sign agreement on movement of 'skilled workers'.

- **India** and **Japan** have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on a basic partnership framework for the operation of the 'specified skilled worker' (SSW) system.
- **SSW** is a new status of residence created in **Japan** in **April 2019**, to accept foreign nationals who have a certain level of expertise and skill.
- Indian nationals with certain professional and language skills will be eligible to work under the SSW system.
- There are 14 specified industry fields that fall under SSW.

Netaji's birthday to be marked as 'Parakram Diwas' every year

- **GoI** has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** that falls on **January 23** as '**Parakram Diwas**'
- The Day will be marked to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable **spirit** and **selfless** service to the nation.
- Bose, a noted freedom fighter, had floated Azad Hind Fauj to fight for India's independence.
- The GoI has decided to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary year of Netaji beginning from January 2021 in a befitting manner at national level

First bird fest at Mahananda sanctuary from Feb 20



- In a first, a bird festival is being organised at the **Mahananda wildlife sanctuary** in **West Bengal** to provide an opportunity for enthusiasts to explore the forest and watch different birds from February 20 to 23.
- **Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary** is rich in fauna and has more than 300 species of birds.
- The sanctuary has been designated as an '**important bird area**' due to its critical role in the conservation of birds and their habitat.

Kerela to get India's first Labour Movement museum

- **India's first Labour Movement Museum** will be launched in **Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha** showcasing the history of world labour movement
- It will feature **huge repository of documents** that showed labour movements across the continents and impacted Alappuzha, the cradle of the labour movement in the country
- It is launched as part of the **LDF government's second 100-day programme**
- **New Model Cooperative Society Ltd** has been converted into the **Labour Movement Museum**

PM Modi appointed as Chairman of Gujarat's Somnath Temple Trust

- **PM Narendra Modi** has been unanimously appointed as the **chairman of Shree Somnath Trust (SST)**
- He is the 2nd PM after Morarji Desai to hold this position.
- **SST**: religious body which manages and maintains the famous **Somnath Temple**, situated in Gujarat.
- Chairman's post was vacant since the death of Keshubhai Patel in October 2020
- Other members of SST:
 - **Home Minister Amit Shah**
 - **BJP leader LK Advani**
 - **Harshvardhan Neotia**
 - **Pravin Laheri**
 - **Jeevan Parmar**

Carolina Marin & Viktor Axelsen won Singles Titles in Yonex Thailand Open

- **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** conducted **Yonex Thailand Open Super 1000 badminton tournament** from 12 to 17 January 2021.
- **Winners List**
 - **Men's Single: Viktor Axelsen of Denmark** by defeating Angus Long (Hong Kong)
 - **Women's Single: Carolina Marin of Spain** by defeating Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)
 - **Men's Double:** Taiwan's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin
 - **Women's Double:** Indonesia's Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu
 - **Mixed Double:** Thailand's Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai

Union Minister inaugurates LNG truck-loading unit of Shell India in Gujarat

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has inaugurated **LNG truck-loading unit of Shell India at Hazira, Gujarat.**
- It will **boost availability of natural gas in off-grid areas** where there are no gas pipelines and will promote the use of LNG in long-haul trucking.
- Increasing competition in LNG sector will help in emergence of new markets, creating new employment opportunities, ensuring cleaner fuels for industries and facilitate environment conservation.



India defeated Australia in Brisbane test

- **Indian cricket team** achieved a **historic win in 4th Test by 3 wickets against Australia at Gabba, Brisbane** to win the series by 2-1
- It was the **first defeat for Australia at their fortress Gabba in 32 years**
- Australia was last defeat at Gabba by West Indies in 1988.
- Since 1988, Australia has played 31 matches at this venue and won 24 of them, while drawing the remaining 7
- This is also India's first victory at Gabba in 7 Tests
- Man of the match: **Rishabh Pant**.

Joe Biden takes oath as 46th US President

- **Joe Biden (78 years)** was sworn in as the **46th President of United States** in the US Capitol building in Washington.
- He succeeded Donald Trump.
- He is the **oldest US President in history**.
- Along with him, Kamala Harris also took oath as the new Vice President, becoming the first woman, Black person, and first Asian-American to serve in the position.
- She was sworn in by Supreme Court **Justice Sonia Sotomayor**.

15th India Digital Summit 2021 held virtually

- Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Law & Justice, **Ravi Shankar Prasad** has inaugurated **15th edition of India Digital Summit 2021** virtually
- It is a two-days Digital Summit and is one of the biggest conference for the digital industry
- It was first held in 2006
- Theme of 2021 Summit: **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Start of New Decade'**
- India Digital Summit is the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)**.

MoRTH signs MoU with DRDO for sustainable geo-hazard management

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has signed with **DRDO** to strengthen collaboration in technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management
- DRDO and MoRTH will co-operate on conceptual planning of integrated avalanche and landslide protection schemes for all weather connectivity in snow bound areas
- It will **ensure safety of road users on National Highways** and safeguard them from adverse effects of landslides and other natural calamities

Goa CM Pramod Sawant releases book 'Manohar Parrikar – Off The Record'

- Goa Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** has released book titled as **'Manohar Parrikar - Off the Record'**
- Book has been written by senior journalist **Waman Subha Prabhu**.
- The book narrates the multi-faceted personality of late Manohar Parrikar, based on the collection of memories held by **Waman Prabhu** who happened to be with late Parrikar during the journey of his life.
- **Manohar Parrikar**: He was CM of Goa from 2017 and from 2000 to 2005 and from 2012 to 2014 and from 2017 to 2019.



Bhawana Kanth to become 1st Woman Fighter Pilot to take part in R-Day

- Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** will be the **1st woman fighter pilot** to take part in the Republic Day parade on 26 January 2021
- She is one of the **first women fighter pilots to be inducted in IAF**
- He will be the part of IAF's tableau in the parade.
- IAF tableau will showcase mock-ups of the light combat aircraft, light combat helicopter and the Sukhoi-30 fighter plane.
- Currently, she is posted at an airbase in Rajasthan where she flies the MiG-21 Bison fighter plane.

India & Singapore signs pact on submarine rescue support

- Defence ministers of India and Singapore held **5th edition of the Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD)** virtually wherein the navies of the two countries signed an implementing agreement on submarine rescue support and cooperation
- During the meeting, '**Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation**' was signed between the two Navies.
- Agreement was signed between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Singaporean counterpart Dr. Ng Eng Hen.

Gujarat govt to rename dragon fruit as 'kamalam'

- **Gujarat govt** has decided to rename dragon fruit as '**kamalam**'
- **Dragon fruit:** Fruit of a species of wild cactus indigenous to South and Central America, where it is called pitaya or pitahaya.
- World's largest producer and exporter of dragon fruit: **Vietnam**, where the plant was brought by the French in the 19th century.
- Dragon fruit is also cultivated in apart from its **native Latin America to Thailand, Taiwan, China, Australia, Israel, and Sri Lanka.**

NITI Aayog releases book on faecal sludge and septage management

- **NITI Aayog** has released book on **faecal sludge and septage management (FSSM)** in urban areas.
- It is jointly developed with **National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance**
- It presents 27 case studies across 10 states and various service and business models adopted by Indian cities while implementing FSSM initiatives.
- After achieving the target of open-defecation-free, India has now moved towards becoming ODF+ and ODF++

POWERGRID signs MoU with HPSEBL to improve telecom connectivity

- **Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)** has recently signed MoU with **Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd. (HPSEBL)** to improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas
- It is signed for utilization of 500 Kms of OPGW Telecom network.
- Through this OPGW, Telecom Service providers will be able to provide uninterrupted mobile/Internet services to the people of the state.
- **OPGW:** an optical fiber composite overhead ground wire.



India and EU virtually held first maritime security dialogue

- **India** and **European Union (EU)** held their **1st maritime security dialogue** in virtual format.
- The dialogue involved exchanges on developments in maritime security environment, regional cooperation activities, developments of mutual interest and opportunities for cooperation between India and EU.
- It was chaired by EU Director **Joanneke Balfoort** and Joint Secretary **Sandeep Arya** on Indian side.
- It seeks to develop mutual understanding and cooperation opportunities.

Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Managing Director of LIC

- **Siddhartha Mohanty** has been appointed as **Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** with effect from 1st February.
- He will succeed **TC Suseel Kumar**, who will retire on 31st January 2021.
- He is currently serving as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of LIC Housing Finance.
- He will serve as the MD of LIC till his superannuation in June 30, 2023.
- LIC has four MDs: **Vipin Anand, Mukesh Kumar Gupta and Raj Kumar**
- Chairman: **MR Kumar**.

Indian Railways renames Howrah-Kalka Mail as Netaji Express

- **Indian Railways** has renamed **Howrah-Kalka Mail train** as '**Netaji Express**' as a tribute to freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose who was known by the nick name 'Netaji'.
- **Howrah-Kalka Mail** has been in service for more than 150 years, after coming into operation in 1866.
- It is currently the oldest running train in operation.
- This train runs between **Howrah in West Bengal (Eastern Railway) and Kalka in Haryana (Northern Railway)** via Delhi.

Exercise Kavach' to be conducted in coming week

- **Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force** and **Indian Coast Guard** are together conducting Joint Military exercise '**Exercise Kavach**' in the coming week
- It is being conducted under the aegis of **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** in Andaman Sea
- Exercise will comprise synergised application of maritime surveillance assets, coordinated air and maritime strikes, submarine, landing operations.
- **Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance** exercise will also be conducted

Malayalam actor Unnikrishnan Namboothiri passes away in Kannur

- Veteran Malayalam actor **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri (98 years)** passed away due to COVID-19.
- He made his acting debut in 1996 with **Desadanam**.
- However, he became household name among Malayalam film audience for his performance as grandfather in **Kalyanaraman (2002)**
- **Movies:** Kaikudunna Nilavu (1998), Kaliyattam (1997), Pammal K Sambandam (2002), Sadanandante Samayam (2003), Madhuranombarakattu (2000), Rappakal (2005), and Pokkiri Raja (2010).

SC upheld the validity of Section 32A of IBC



- **Supreme Court** has recently **upheld the validity of Section 32 A of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)** that mandated minimum of 100 home buyers to file an insolvency application together in National Company Law Tribunal against defaulting developer.
- Successful bidders for corporate debtor under IBC would be immune from any investigations being conducted by any investigating agencies or Enforcement Directorate (ED) **or other statutory bodies**.

Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad passes away

- Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and senior Congress leader **Mata Prasad (95 years)** passed away at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) due to multiple organ failure.
- Mata Prasad hailed from Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- He served as the **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh in 1993** and as **Minister in the Congress government in UP in 1988- 89**.

CCI approves Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail acquisition by Flipkart

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **acquisition of Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL) by Flipkart Investments Pvt Ltd (FIPL)**.
- **FIPL**: newly incorporated company and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Flipkart Private Limited (FPL). FPL belongs to the Walmart Group.
- **ABFRL**: It is engaged in the business of manufacturing and retailing branded apparels, footwear and accessories, through its retail stores, online retail platforms and e-commerce.

MeitY establishes Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** along with **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** will establish '**Quantum Computing Applications Lab**' to accelerate quantum computing-led research and development
- It will provide quantum computing service to ministries and depts, researchers, scientists, academia, and developers enabling advances in manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, aerospace engineering
- It will be World's first quantum computing applications lab on AWS

DPIIT launches Regulatory Compliance Portal

- **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has launched **Regulatory Compliance Portal** to minimize Regulatory Compliance Burden for Businesses and Citizens.
- Aim: to act as a bridge between citizens, industries and the Government minimizing burdensome compliances.
- It will also act as a first-of-its-kind central online repository of all Central and State-level compliances for examining laws or rules under their purview and implement an Action Plan

Indian Army Signs MoU with SIDM on Indigenisation and Innovation

- **Indian Army** has signed MoU with **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** to provide further impetus to indigenisation.
- It will facilitate strategic independence by reducing dependence on foreign origin equipment.
- MoU was signed on the occasion of **25 Years of Army-Industry Partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**.
- With this, Indian Army has reiterated its firm resolve towards achieving self-reliance with indigenous defence industry.



Harsh Vardhan inaugurates 7th edition of MASCRAGE

- Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated **7th Edition of MASCRAGE (Movement against Smuggled & Counterfeit Trade) 2021**
- It is being organised by **FICCI Cascade**.
- It will deliberate and discuss actionable, innovative policy solutions that can reverse the rising tide of counterfeit, smuggled and spurious products.
- It will foster a healthy discussion on newer and practical strategies to mitigate the challenges of counterfeiting and smuggling in a post COVID era.

WEF releases 16th edition of Global Risks Report

- **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in partnership with **Marsh McLennan, SK Group** and **Zurich Insurance Group** has released **16th edition of Global Risk Report**.
- Report presents the results of latest **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)**.
- It had two categories:
 - **Risk by Livelihood:** Extreme weather, followed by climate action failure, Human environment damage.
 - **Risk by Impact:** Infectious disease top this factor followed by Climate action failure, weapons of mass destruction.

DRDO successfully test fires Smart Anti Airfield Weapon from Hawk-i

- **DRDO** has successfully conducted captive and release trial of indigenously developed **Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW)** from **Hawk- Mk132** of **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** off the Odisha coast.
- This was the 9th successful mission of SAAW conducted by DRDO
- **SAAW:**
 - It is 125 kg class smart weapon that is capable of engaging ground enemy airfield assets such as radars, bunkers etc. up to 100 kms range.
 - It is light weight as compared to weapon system of the same class.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs virtually launches “Shramshakti” portal

- **Arjun Munda** has virtually launched ‘**ShramShakti**’ at a programme in Goa
- It is **National Migration Support Portal** that will help in the smooth formulation of state and national level programs for migrant workers.
- It will address the data gap and empower migrant workers who generally migrate in search of employment and income generation.
- Along with this, **tribal migration cell, tribal museum at Goa** and ‘**ShramSaathi**’ (training manual for migrant workers) has also been launched.

Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa rolls out Avalokana Software

- Karnataka CM **B. S. Yediyurappa** has rolled out e-governance software titled as ‘**Avolokana**’
- It will enable the govt to access data on sanctions and expenditures incurred by 39 state departments on 1,800 programmes implemented by them.
- It is a **transparent e-governance tool** to provide Assembly constituency-wise release of Govt grant
- **Focus:** SDGs, SC Sub-Plan, Tribal Sub-Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes

- Karnataka statistics Development programmes 2019-20 was also released

India's longest Road Arch Bridge inaugurated in Meghalaya

- Meghalaya CM **Conrad K. Sangma** has formally inaugurated India's longest road arch bridge named as '**Wahrew Bridge**' at Sohbar in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya
- The bridge has been constructed with an estimated cost of **Rs 49.395 crore** under **Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)** of the **Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER)**.
- It will connect Bholaganj & Sohbar to Nongjri, Meghalaya.
- It will boost the tourism in the State.

Famous author Narendra Luther passes away in Hyderabad

- Renowned author **Narendra Luther (89 years)** passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- He was a writer, civil servant, author and columnist and 1955 batch IAS officer.
- He served in various positions before retiring as the chief secretary of the undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1991.
- He worked on the **history and culture of erstwhile Hyderabad state** and its rulers since the city's birth in 1591.
- He was **President of the Society to Save Rocks, Hyderabad, India**.

Iconic Bhajan Singer, Narendra Chanchal passes away in Delhi

- Famous Indian Bhajan singer **Narendra Chanchal (80 years)** passed away in Delhi due to age-related ailments
- His popular bhajans include Chalo Bulawa Aaya Hai, Tune Mujhe Bulaya Sherawaliye, Ambe Tu Hai Jagadambe Kali, Hanuman Chalisa, Sankat Mochan Naam Tiharo, Ram Se Bada Ram Ka Naam among others.
- Besides several bhajans, Chanchal had also given voice in several Hindi films like **Beshak Mandir Masjid** for Bobby movie and won **Filmfare Best Male Playback Award**

VP launches book of poems of Sree Narayana Guru, 'Not Many But One'

- **Vice President** has launched two volumes of book of poems titled as '**Not Many, But One**'.
- The book is the English translation of poems of Sree Narayana Guru and is compiled by **G.K. Sasidharan**.
- **Narayana Guru**: Philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India. He led reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala.

