

## Gujarat Current Affairs 2020

### **MPEDA inaugurated a quality control lab in Porbandar for seafood exporters**

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has opened a quality control laboratory to facilitate tests for seafood processors and exporters to confirm to product safety as per international regulatory requirements, the central agency.

The state of art laboratory will help to confirm product safety as per international regulatory requirements.

Gujarat has relatively low instances of antibiotic residue in seafood exports, yet a number of cephalopod consignments are rejected overseas due to the presence of heavy metals, mainly cadmium.

MPEDA is a coordinating agency under the Union Ministry of Commerce for central and state-level establishments engaged in fishery production and allied activities.

### **UKIBC Signed MoU with Gujarat govt to Strengthen Gujarat's Industrial Development**

The UK India Business Council has signed a memorandum of Understanding over a virtual platform with the Industrial Extension Bureau (iNDEXTb), Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat to speed up the business and industrial development process of Gujarat.

This collaboration between the countries and business and government will ensure the economic and social resilience.

This partnership will strengthen the contribution of Gujarat towards the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

UKIBC will support the interaction (in the form of dialogue, ministerial meetings and other delegation visits) between the UK business and the government of Gujarat to provide direct feedback on the ease of doing business, market access and other issues from the businesses.

### **Gujarat Performed best in Annual TB Report 2020**

Government of India renamed the 'National Tuberculosis Control Program' to the 'National Tuberculosis Elimination Program'. In a virtual event, the Annual TB Report 2020 was released on 24th June 2020.

In the larger state category, Gujarat was awarded as the best-performing state followed by Andhra Pradesh and Himanchal Pradesh at 2nd and 3rd place. In smaller states, both Nagaland and Tripura were awarded as best performers.

New cases notified in 2019 in India: 24.04 lakh. This as compared to 2018, amounts for a 14% increase in TB notification. Out of 24.04 lakh new cases, 6,64,584 cases were reported from the private healthcare sector.

Expanded provision of financial assistance provided through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to beneficiaries of 4 schemes under the NIKSHAY System

Almost every rural area in the country has been covered with the help of more than 4.5 lakh DOT Centres.

Number of missing cases significantly reduced to 2.9 lakh as compared to above 10 lakh missing cases in 2017

HIV testing for all notified TB patients increased to 81 % in 2019. This was 67% in 2018.

### **Gujarat launched Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana**

Gujarat Government launched a new scheme called the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana. The scheme will replace Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the state for the current year alone.

The scheme is being replaced as the insurance firms have sought high premium from the government this time. If approved, the state government will have to pay Rs 4,500 crores.

This amount is much higher than the average yearly premium of Rs 1,800 crores. The compensation is to be provided if the loss of crop is more than 33% due to excess rain or drought or unseasonal rainfall.

Under the scheme, a farmer can get compensation for a maximum of four hectares of land.

If the crop loss of the farmer is between 33% and 66%, the farmer will get compensation of Rs 20,000 per hectare for a maximum of four hectares.

### **Institute of national importance status to the cluster at Gujarat**

CCEA has approved to confer status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda by conglomerating cluster of institutes at Gujarat Ayurveda University campus, Jamnagar.

The institutes includes-

- Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Shri Gulabkunwerba Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya
- Institute of Ayurveda Pharmaceutical Sciences including Pharmacy Unit.

Apart from this, the Maharshi Patanjali Institute for Yoga & Naturopathy Education & Research will be subsumed into the Department of Swasthviritta of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda.

Providing national importance status will provide these institutions the autonomy to upgrade standard of Ayurveda education, frame various courses in Ayurveda as per national and international demand, adopt advanced evaluation methodology, etc.

### **3rd Global Potato Conclave held in Gujarat**

Prime Minister has addressed the 3rd edition of the Global Potato Conclave at Gandhinagar, Gujarat through video conference. The 4-day conclave from January 28-31 is being organised by Indian Potato Association (IPA) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, and ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh and International Potato Center (CIP), Lima, Peru.

The conclave is organised to make the participants exposed to the frontiers of knowledge and to enhance innovation in potato research. During the conclave, scientists, potato farmers and other stakeholders from around the world are participating where important topics related to food and nutrition will be discussed.

Gujarat is the leading state in potato production and productivity in India and holds the no.1 position for the last one decade. The area under potato cultivation has increased by about 20% over the past 11 years, while it has increased 170% in Gujarat in the same period.

Gujarat having major potato production companies in the state led it to be a major potato hub in the country.

The acreage of potatoes increased more than two fold to 13.3lakh hectare in 2017-18. The yields are at over 30 tonne per hectare in the state.

The 3rd edition of the potato conference is based on 10 themes out of which 8 themes are based on basic and applied research. The 10 themes are

Germplasm management and next generation breeding; Potato biotechnology and omics; AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Potato Research and development (R&D); Climate change and crop management,

Potato disease management; Potato pest management; Advances in seed technology; Post harvest management and value addition; Potato value chain management, Trade and industry and technology transfer, policy and social issues. iv. Agri Expo: The Agri Expo organised from January 28-30, 2020 showcases the status of potato based industries in trade, potato processing, technology transfer etc.

### **World's 2nd tallest statue of Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat**

Chief Minister of Gujarat unveiled the world's 2nd largest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at Sardardham campus near Vaishnodevi circle in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

This bronze statue which is 50 feet tall weighing 70,000 kilograms was built at a cost of Rs 3.25 crores.

The world's tallest statue known as the 'statue of unity' of Sardar Patel was built at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Central Gujarat.

Its height is 182 meters (597 ft) and was built at a cost of Rs 3000 crores.

### **Flipkart signed MoU with GSHHDC to promote artisans and craftsmen**

Flipkart has entered into a Memorandum of understanding with the Gujarat State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd (GSHHDC) for the promotion of local handicrafts by bringing on board thousands of artisans, weavers and craftsmen.

The agreement is a part of Flipkart's "Samarth" initiative & was signed in the presence of Gujarat chief minister (CM) Vijay Ramniklal Rupani at an event held in Rajkot, Gujarat.

The MoU will enable both the sides to work together to enhance business and trade inclusion.

Under this agreement, Flipkart will provide training and incubation support to eligible sellers under GSHHDC in the form of on-boarding, business insights, dedicated seller support and warehousing.

It will also enable handloom and handicraft artisans living in remote areas of Gujarat to access Flipkart's platform to expand their market outreach & they will also get better knowledge about developments in designs, colour patterns and selling techniques from the platform.

In July 2019, Flipkart Group launched 'Samarth' to support weavers, artisans, and makers of handicrafts to its platform.

### 1st of Krishi Manthan 2020 held in Gujarat

The 1st edition of the Krishi Manthan 2020 was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on December 28-29, 2019.

It is a Food, Agri-business and Rural Development Summit of Asia organised by the Food and Agribusiness Committee of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA).

More than 1,500 delegates including students and academicians participated in the two-day event to share ideas, knowledge, and expertise to create solutions.

### Gujarat led in water efficiency survey 2019

According to the rankings of 'Central and state governmental water departments based on their efficiency targets for 2019' released by Ministry of Jal Shakti, Gujarat ranked the best for parameters on efficiency targets, while National Capital Territory of Delhi remains in the worst-performing state category.

The Survey of India (SoI) received top spot among the 7 central government departments reviewed on parameters for procurement, finance, real-time data acquisition system, data digitization, analytical work, pieces of training.

SoI was followed by National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and the Central Water Commission. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) pushed to the last in the year 2019 ranking.

However, Delhi improved its position by 6 places to get 35th rank in 2019 as against bottom 41 in 2018. Tamil Nadu (TN) ranked best among the states that significantly improved its ranking. It stood at

Rajasthan has been ranked 3rd in the country this time, while in the April-May 2018 rankings, Rajasthan was ranked 16th. In the rankings released in December-2019, this state made a big jump and is one of the reputed states for best management of its water resources.

Telangana had topped the state's water efficiency in the previous year (2018) ranking while Gujarat was ranked seventh place.

### Gujarat launched 'At One Click' Initiative for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and bigger industrial units in the state, the Gujarat Government on 26th June 2020 has launched an online cash aid initiative. The initiative is named as 'At One Click'.

'At One Click' is an online aid initiative for which the Gujarat Government has committed Rs 1,369 crore of financial aid for the MSMEs and bigger industrial units (including the textile industry).

Through the initiative, the State Government looks to restore the former vibrancy of the state by motivating sectors such as MSME, traders, bigger industries, and businesses.

The online initiative is to encourage these sectors for taking up the challenge that the COVID-19 crisis has brought and convert this into an opportunity.

By transferring Rs 768 crore directly into the bank accounts of 12,247 MSMEs the initiative was launched. Bigger industrial units that include textile industries as well will be transferred Rs 601 crore under the initiative.

The Chief Minister at the launch of the initiative has informed that 1.3 lakh loan applications from MSMEs and other industries have been received in the state under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package of the Central Government.

The total loan amount of Rs 8,200 crore has been sanctioned as per the applications received to date, out of this, Rs 4,175 crore has already been disbursed.

If the crop loss is above 60% the farmer will get compensation of Rs 25,000 per hectare for maximum of four hectares. The farmers will also get additional compensation under the State Disaster Response Fund.

The new scheme is to benefit 56 lakh farmers of the state. Also, it is simpler than that of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. A dedicated portal is to be launched under the scheme for the farmers to register online. Also, the tribal farmers registered under Forest Rights Act are also eligible to gains benefits under the scheme.

### **Gujarat became second state to come up with a latest police manual**

After Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat has become the second state to come up with a latest manual for the police in recent times. The new manual has been drafted for the Gujarat police force after a gap of 45 years.

Some of the new points included in it are tools to detect cyber-crimes, forensic science, social media monitoring tools, multi-level marketing frauds, fake currency, human trafficking and organised crimes.

The new manual will be uploaded on the “Pocket Cop” mobile application in the form of an e-book to maximise its reach among the police fraternity.

It was in 1975 that the first Gujarat Police manual was introduced to assist police personnel in furtherance of their duty.

It also contains details about new technologies in policing such as the Cyber Forensic Cell, instruments for Cyber Crime investigation and social media monitoring tools, along with the inclusion of procedure to curb and control new financial crimes, drug trafficking, human trafficking and transnational terrorism.

### **World Class State of the Art Honey Testing Lab inaugurated in Gujarat**

Government of India has inaugurated the ‘World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory’ established by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Anand (Gujarat) with support of National Bee Board (NBB).

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers’ Welfare has approved the National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for a period of 2 years.

Government has taken up several activities to promote bee keeping under ‘Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)’ ‘National Mission for Beekeeping’ being implemented through National Bee Board and the States.

The establishment of this Honey Testing Laboratory will help for quality production of honey and its export to other countries.

Based on the parameters notified by FSSAI, the NDDDB has set-up this world class lab with all the facilities and developed the test methods/protocols, which have been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL).

FSSAI has now notified new standards of Honey, Bee Wax and Royal Jelly.

### **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals hosted in Gujarat**

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, an Environment Treaty Supported by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is going to hosted by India at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

Representatives from 130 countries, conservationists and International NGOs working in the field of Wildlife conservation will be attending the conference.

India unveils the logo and Mascot for the 13th CMS COP 2020, and the logo is Inspired by “Kolam” a Traditional art form of Southern India and the kolam art is used to Portray Important Migratory Species in India like Amur falcon, Humpback Whale and Marine Turtles, and the Great Indian Bustard (Gibi) is chosen as official Mascot.

The theme for the CMS COP 13 in India is, “Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them Home”, On February 15th and 16th India is going to conduct Pre-COP meeting where Stakeholder Dialogue, High level meeting and also the Champion Night Award Ceremony are going to take place and on February 17th opening Ceremony and plenary session followed by some International Organizations will showcase wildlife conservation practices and side events are going to held till the closing ceremony on 22nd February.

The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals (CMS) Since 1983 and also the Indian sub-continent is also part of the major bird flyway Network (Central Asian Flyway) between Arctic and Indian Ocean.

India signed non legally binding MoU with CMS on the Conservation and Management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007) and Raptors (2016), and India act as home for several migratory species like snow leopard, bar headed geese, black necked cranes dugongs and etc.

It is stated that India is going to discuss about the Inclusion of Asiatic Elephant and Great Indian Bustard in the CMS Appendix for concerted action on CMS COP 13, India takes over COP CMS presidency from Philippines and will hold presidency till 2021.

### **Home Affairs Minister Amit shah 2-day visit to Gujarat**

Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah has paid a 2- day visit to Gujarat from January 11-12, 2020. He addressed the 9th convocation function of Gujarat Technological University (GTU) & also attended the event at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar to digitally launch India’s 1st cyber AASHVAST & project VISHWAS (Video Integration and State Wide Advanced Security).

He also launched Netrang project that aims to Command and Control Room in 33 districts of the state, online portal to pay E Challan “<https://echallanpayment.gujarat.gov.in/>”.

Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated India's 1st Cyber Crime Prevention Unit called 'AASHVAST' (Assured Assistance Service Helpline for Victims at Shortest Time) which is a helpline for cyber crime victims.

A major e-governance initiative Project VISHWAS (Video Integration and State Wide Advanced Security) was also launched with the aim to improve the Law and Order Management, Proactive traffic management and control, Crime detection through video analytics and Post incident Investigation and video forensics.

It was initiated by then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in 2013-14 with a network of 279 CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) cameras installed in public places. Totally at 1256 sites 7000 CCTVs installed at 34 district Headquarter & 7 tourism sites.

### **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project's Unit 3 in Gujarat**

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited announced that, Unit-3 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-3), India's First 700 MWe (megawatt electric) and indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor(PHWR) in Surat, Gujarat achieved its first criticality – initiation of controlled and sustained nuclear fission reaction on 22nd July 2020.

KAPP-3 is India's 23rd nuclear power reactor that is completely designed and built by India.

The design and construction of the reactor is made with highest safety and quality standards in comparison to the best reactors in the world.

The reactor uses natural Uranium as the fuel and Heavy water as moderator.

The components and equipment of the reactor are manufactured by the industries in India and the construction was undertaken by multiple Indian contractors supporting the "Make In India" initiative.

The Safety features of the reactor includes,

- Steel Lined Inner Containment
- Passive Decay Heat Removal System
- Containment Spray System
- Hydrogen Management System

By Mid-March 2020, the fuel loading of the reactor core was completed and following the COVID-19 guidelines, tests and procedures were conducted in the period of lockdown.

The power will be increased progressively after further tests and experiments and the unit will be connected with the western grid.

### **31st International Kite Festival launched in Gujarat**

The 31st International Kite Festival has been launched at Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has inaugurated the colourful kite festival in the presence of Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat on this occasion.

In this festival around 140 kite flying experts from 40 countries are participating in this event.

The festival is also being organized in 9 other places across the state simultaneously including Statue of Unity- Kevadiya, Surat, and Vadodara and continue till 14th January MakarSankranti (Uttarayan)- the festival of kites in different parts of the state.

### **Eight North-Eastern states to celebrate Madhavpur Mela in Gujarat**

Union Minister Jitendra Singh chaired a high- level meeting for the preparation of the annual festival Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat which will be held at Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar district of Gujarat on 2nd April 2020.

The seven days festival celebrates the immortal journey of Lord Krishna and Rukmini from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat.

The eight North-Eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura will participate in this festival.

The Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat shares its connect to the Mishmi Tribe, an ancestry to the legendary King Bhishmak, of Arunachal Pradesh.

This year magnificent folk cultural performances from the North-Eastern states, especially Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur will be witnessed in the Mela.

Rukmini-Haran, a popular folk theater will be performed by the troupes of Assam and Musical troupes from Manipur will sing songs related to Rukmini in the Khullong Ishei and Nat genre in the Madhavpur Mela.

This will mark the cultural integration of Gujarat with the North-East under the Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya will conduct a Visual Art EXhibition on Lord Krishna and Rukmini during the festival under the Ministry of Culture.

The sale of art and crafts of Gujarat and handloom-handicrafts products from North-Eastern states will also be the part of Madhavpur Mela.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs), Song and Drama Division of Information & Broadcasting Ministry besides the concerned departments of the State Governments.

### **10k cameras to be used for 2020 Asiatic lion census in Gujarat**

The Wildlife Institute of India an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change, is set to conduct the Asiatic Lion Census in May 2020 by using around 8,000-10,000 cameras across 25,000 sqkm (Square kilometre) area spanning 7 districts in Gujarat. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)'s technology will be used for the lion census.

5,000 sqkm area surveyed in the last census in 2015, when WII reported 523 lions in the state. The number is said to increase as the population may have crossed the 1,000-mark.

Plan: The whole census area is to be divided into 3-km grid. Around 1,000 to 2,000 officers are to be employed to collect lion's hair, nails, teeth, etc by using scientific methods laid out by NTCA. In the 2nd phase, 10,000 cameras are to be used to capture the lions.

Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions. At present Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.

The most striking morphological character, which is always seen in Asiatic lions, and rarely in African lions, is a longitudinal fold of skin running along its belly.

It is listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List.

Asiatic lions were once distributed to the state of West Bengal in east and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, in central India.

### **KVIC's 1st Silk Processing Plant opens in Gujarat**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) opened its first Silk Processing Plant in Surendranagar district of Gujarat to increase the production of Gujarat Patola Sarees. The Plant was set up at a cost of Rs 75 lakh by Khadi institution where RS 60 lakh was contributed by KVIC. Patola Sarees are the trademark of Gujarat.

The Plant helps in reducing the production cost of silk yarn this helps in increasing the availability of raw materials for Gujarat Patola sarees.

90 local women were employed in the plant.

Patola sarees are costly because raw materials of silk yarn were purchased from Karnataka and West Bengal. iv. According to KVIC, cocoons will be brought from Karnataka and West Bengal to the plant and silk yarn will be processed, this helps in reducing the cost of Patola Sarees.

### **Gujarat to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center soon**

Gujarat will set its Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center (VSCIC) soon. The objective of the center is to identify, nurture and promote innovation of children up to 18 years in the state. The innovation centre will come up in Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Extension Research and Innovation at Gujarat University.

The centre provides a platform for children to identify their potential with a joint partnership between the Gujarat University and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The centre has been named after the noted Indian Physicist and astronomer Vikram Sarabhai who is known as the 'Father of the Indian Space Program'.

Children's Innovation Festival (CIF) organized by the Gujarat University Start-ups and Entrepreneurship Council (GUSEC) in which the 30 teams were selected among 480 teams from 25 districts of Gujarat.

### **Gujarat topped in SKOCH State of Governance 2019 ranking**

According to the 'SKOCH State of Governance 2019' report, Gujarat gained the top spot on the back of better performance in Health, Education, Power and e-Governance segments.

The projects undertaken by the states, have performed the best in terms of rankings across 22 different parameters have been listed as STARS.

Gujarat is also ranked top in terms of governance category (leaving Tamil Nadu to the 2nd) & other sectors including tourism and culture, e-Governance, Health, Education, Power Infrastructure. It ranked 3rd on municipal governance.

It is a Gurgaon (Haryana) based think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with a focus on inclusive growth since 1997.

### **Gandhinagar railway station to be add 5-star hotel above the tracks**

Indian Railways has planned to prepare 5-Star Hotel on the tracks in Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat to give passengers the experience of world class facilities. This will be the first experiment in India.

The hotel, being built by the famous hotel chain **Leela Group**, could be completed by December 2020.

The roof will be put on the pillars near the tracks and then the hotel will be built on top of it.

Its design has been made in such a way that no sound of passing trains is heard inside the hotel. Apart from this, an airport-style retail model will also help generate revenue for the Indian Railways.

The property will have 300 rooms & 22 metres above the ground. The way the Gandhinagar railway station is being redeveloped by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) – the Gandhinagar Railway & Urban Development Corporation (GARUD) – between IRSDC (Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation) & the Gujarat government, it will have three towers, which will look like petals. These three towers will be of 6, 8 and 10 floors respectively. The tallest building will house the Five Star Hotel.

### **Gujarat govt signed MoU with SBI to facilitate MSME loans**

State Government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with State Bank of India in order to provide enough credit to entrepreneurs in the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector. The bank will provide working capital to entrepreneurs aims to start new MSME within 15 days of making an application.

The agreement was signed between principal secretary M K Das and SBI Ahmedabad circle general manager Ramesh Kumar Agarwal in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani,

The new MSME Start-ups of the state can submit an application on either the MSME portal or to the local nodal agencies.

In October 2019, The Gujarat state announced that MSME units will no longer be required to take various approvals to start operations for the initial 3 years period. They can start operations after getting an acknowledgment certificate from the state nodal agency by submitting 'declaration of intent.'

### **Gujarat topped in domestic solar rooftop installations in 2020**

Gujarat ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations. Nearly 50,915 domestic solar rooftops have been fixed in the state of Gujarat with a capacity of 177.67 MW on 2nd March 2020.

Maharashtra is the second state to top in the domestic solar rooftop installations list with installation of 5,513 systems on 2nd March 2020.

About 79,950 systems have been installed throughout the country having a capacity of 322 MW. Government announces a scheme Surya Gujarat (Surya Urja Rooftop Yojana Gujarat): This Scheme is announced to provide Solar Rooftop facility to the state of Gujarat.

The scheme is revealed to provide solar rooftop system to 2 lakh domestic consumers by the year 2019-2020, and to cover over 8 lakh domestic consumers by 2021-2022. ₹912 crore has been allotted for the scheme.

### **Gujarat Police became first in India to introduce taser guns**

Gujarat Police is equipped with taser guns in order to ensure safety and security of the public. By introducing the taser guns as part of police weapons, Gujarat becomes the first state in India.

The taser guns were used in agencies such as the UK Metropolitan Police, the Los Angeles Police Department and the New York Police Department.

The taser guns have been introduced to find an alternative between “ineffective lathis” and “deadly guns”.

The taser guns (electrical weapon) use compressed nitrogen to fire, by sending electricity through attached wires, which disrupt voluntary control of muscles.

### **Gujarat signed an MoU with Dutch Flying car-maker, PAL-V**

A Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) was signed in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Vijay Ramniklal Rupani between state industries Principal Secretary MK Das and Carl Maasbommel, Vice President of PAL-V's international business development. A Dutch Flying car-maker, PAL-V (Personal Air Land Vehicle) will set up a manufacturing plant in Gujarat.

The Dutch car company sets up the firm for the first time in India and has set a target of commencing production by 2021.

The company has chosen Gujarat state for its world-class infrastructure, ease of doing business, better port and logistic facilities.

The car manufactured in the state would also be exported to the United States (US) and European nations. The company so far received 110 orders to export flying cars.

PAL-V is a Dutch company which developing the first commercial flying car or Roadable aircraft namely the PAL-V Liberty.

### **5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference held in Gujarat**

The 5th edition of **India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition** held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Theme of 2020: India Pharma: Meeting Challenges of Affordable and Quality Healthcare. The theme encourages innovations to further reduce the cost of quality healthcare for all and a platform to the global investment community to connect with stakeholders in the Medical Device Sector.

The objective of this event is to promote consumer centric manufacturing includes medical electronics, devices, health diagnostics, & surgical equipments etc., and technology demonstration will be held in the event to empower Electronics Technology Development and manufacturing base.

The Indian pharmaceutical market is the 3rd largest in terms of volume and 13th largest in terms of value and India is the largest supplier of generic medicines globally.

The Medical Devices industry in India is valued at 5.2 billion USD (United States Dollar), which contributes about 4 to 5% of 96.7 billion USD to the Indian healthcare Industry.

Nearly 200 Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices companies participated in the Exhibition and around 5,000 global pharmaceutical & biotechnology professionals will attend the 3 day Conference.

### Ahmedabad railway station becomes first station of IR to install sanitizing tunnel

Located in Gujarat, the **Ahmedabad railway station** of Western Railway became the first station of Indian Railways (IR) to install a **Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel** to ensure the safety of staff and passengers in the view of the COVID-19. The tunnel was inaugurated by Ahmedabad DRM (Divisional Railway Manager) Deepak Jha.

The tunnel uses WHO (World Health Organization) approved sanitizer and fitted with a sensor, so that when a passenger approaches the tunnel entrance it starts fogging automatically.

The distance of the tunnel is 20 feet long which can be covered within 10 seconds. The tunnel has a capacity of sanitizing 25 to 30 people per minute & consumes approximately 20 ml sanitizer per person.

The sanitization system runs on the principle of Vaporization process which converts the sanitizer mixture into vapour which forms a uniform layer over the surface & dries up quickly.

### Gujarat's water conservation scheme Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan initiated amid lockdown

Gujarat government has approved the 3rd edition of his government's 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan' (SSJA), a conservation plan to deepen water bodies in the state before monsoon. The scheme will continue till June 10, 2020 with a focus on deepening of lakes, check dams and rivers by removing silt.

It will be done with people's participation as well as under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

As the scheme has approved during lockdown to combat the coronavirus outbreak, it will adhere to the lockdown protocol social distancing. Also, local authorities provide masks and sanitizers to the workers.

The scheme will also create employment opportunities for the rural population amid the lockdown. It should be noted that soil excavated during the drive will be given free of cost to farmers.

The scheme was started in 2018 after a weak monsoon, the CM of Gujarat Vijay Rupani, to transform Gujarat from a water-deficit state to a water-surplus one. Till date, the state's water storage capacity has increased by 23,000 lakh cubic feet due to deepening of lakes, check-dams, rivers and reservoirs. Also, de-silted soil is used for farming.

### Gujarat launched unique initiative 'Umbare Aanganwadi'

The Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) of Gujarat State Government has launched a unique initiative called 'Umbare Aanganwadi (means doorstep Aanganwadi) under ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) programme to reach out to children during the lockdown.

Under this initiative, the ICDS department of the state will mainly offer ready to eat nutritious food packets through AMUL (an Indian dairy cooperative society) to its beneficiaries including 14 lakh children between 3-6 years of age, pregnant and nursing women and adolescent girls through the network of around 53 thousand Aanganwadi.

In addition to this, ICDS Department has also initiated a TV programme called 'Umbare Aanganwadi' which is telecast every alternate day through Vande Gujarat channel as well as on Jio TV & You Tube, where the regular theme-based modules of Aanganwadi are being taught in an interactive the way.

### **Gujarat's GBRC became the 2nd Indian institute to decode COVID-19 genome sequence**

Gujarat's Gandhinagar-based Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) has become the second institute in India after the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, Maharashtra to decode the entire genome sequence of the COVID-19 virus but with three new mutations.

GBRC has found nine mutations in its genome sequence. However, six of the mutations were already found by other research institutes globally but the three new mutations will help in developing medicines or vaccines needed to stop the spread of the deadly virus.

The first genome sequence of the COVID-19 virus was found by Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) in Beijing, China on January 10, 2020.

As per finding, the virus mutates (changes its form) in order to survive in different situations. It mutates when medicines try to control it.

It should be noted that COVID-19 biological macro molecule is RNA (ribonucleic acid) not DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

100 Positive COVID-19 samples have been collected in different parts of Gujarat. After analyzing their genome a strategy will be formed to curb the COVID-19 virus.

### **India's 1st indigenous Seam Sealing Machine for PPEs**

Gujarat based Macpower CNC Machines Ltd has made India's 1st indigenous hot air seam sealing machine used to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE) kits.

The make in India machine, manufactured with the guidance of doctors at Indian Medical Association (IMA), was launched by Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani through video conferencing (VC).

The machine, prepared in a short span of time, is used to seal the seam of the PPEs so that viruses cannot penetrate from the small pores and infect the coronavirus (COVID-19) warriors fighting to treat those affected by the disease.

The cost of this machine will be as much as 50% less than a foreign machine as at present, these are imported from abroad and its cost is high and the delivery time is 3 to 4 months.

The kit is 100% safe only when it is sealed & is 100% air as well as water proof with the help of this machine.

At present, the company will manufacture 200 units in the first batch at a cost of Rs 4 lakh. It will soon be available at affordable prices with adequate service, making it possible for manufacturers of PPE kits in India to supply the sealing machine.

### **Gujarat launched 'Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna' to provide loans to small businessmen**

Gujarat state government has launched a 'Atmanirbhar Gujarat Sahay Yojna (AGSY)' under which small businessmen and a cross-section of people falling under the lower middle-income group can take a guarantee-free loan of Rs 1 lakh from banks at a 2 % annual interest rate. While the rest 6 % interest will be paid by the state government.

The urban and district cooperative banks and credit societies in the state will provide this loan with a tenure of 3 years and the installment payment will start only after 6 months of the receipt of loan.

More than 10 lakh people of the state will get benefited by the loans, which will be provided on the basis of application, in which no guarantee will be required.

The scheme is in line with the central government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (or Self-reliant India Mission) , which has given a package of Rs 20 lakh crore to make India 'atmanirbhar' (self-reliant).

The other states have announced an assistance of only Rs 5,000 for small people like electricians, 'dhobi' and shopkeepers, skilled workers, auto rickshaw owners, among others.

### **IL&FS to sell 50% stake in GIFTCL to Gujarat government**

National Company Law Tribunal has given its nod to sell 50% stake in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Co Ltd (GIFT City) held by crisis hit Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) to the Gujarat state government for an aggregate consideration of Rs 32.70 crore.

3.27 crore shares with face value of Rs 10 each of the GIFT City Company Limited (GIFTCL) or GIFT City to the Gujarat Urban Development Company Ltd (GURDCL) were decided to be sold by the NCLT bench headed by acting president B S V Prakash Kumar.

IL&FS and the state government through Gujarat Urban Development Co Ltd hold 50:50 stake in GIFT City, which involves construction of a multi-services Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the International Finance Services Centre (IFSC).

IL&FS had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Gujarat government to develop an International Financial Services City (IFSC) in 2007. The integrated township was a joint venture provided with exit option with a right of first refusal of either party.

In 2019, IL&FS has issued Expressions of Interest (EoI) its entire real estate assets held by its 3 subsidiaries across Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad totalling 4.85 lakh square feet for sale at around Rs 3,500 crore. Significantly, the Gujarat government had indicated their willingness to take over the project.

The firms also decided to sell 9 road assets with total debt of over Rs 11,000 crore through an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).

IL&FS chairman Uday Kotak headed overseeing the significant portion of the company's debt by July 2020. Shareholders of the IL&FS Board assured to recover around 50 % of the Rs 90,000 crore of debt. The panel also assured shareholders that around Rs 45,000 crore can be recovered under very complex situation.

### 2nd & 3rd phase of Gujarat's SAUNI scheme to be completed by August 2020 & March 2021

The phase 2 and phase 3 of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) scheme to fill Saurashtra's 115 dams with Narmada water by August 15, 2020 and March, 2021 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The SAUNI yojana is a multipurpose project designed to provide irrigation and drinking water in the Saurashtra regions.

The second phase of the scheme included 541 kms of pipeline works to fill 57 reservoirs is set to finish by August, 2020.

The third phase includes 42 dam reservoirs that need to be filled through 457 kms of pipeline which is estimated to be completed by March 2021.

The first phase of SAUNI yojana was inaugurated in 2016 by Prime Minister Modi in Gujarat at Aji-3 dam connecting Machhu-II dam of Morbi district to 30 dams in 3 other districts (covering an area of 2.02 lakh acres).

The first phase of the scheme is completed and now filling 16 dam reservoirs.

Sauni Yojana has been launched in Gujarat in 2016 by PM Narendra Modi to divert one MAFT (Million Acre Feet) excess over flowing flood water of Narmada to Saurashtra Region that will be distributed to 115 reservoirs of 11 districts of Saurashtra through total 1126 km long four link pipelines.

### Gujarat Govt's Online Aid "At One Click" Initiative

Gujarat government launched the online aid initiative 'At One Click' with Rs 1,369 crore for around 13000 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) (i.e. MSMEs and textile industries) in Gujarat.

The initiative has been started with Rs 768 crore in bank accounts of 12,247 MSME units and Rs 601 crore aids to industrial units including textile industry in Gujarat.

After the entire process of framing the government resolution the package will be implemented in a week. The MSMEs in the state also get the utmost benefits under the Prime Ministers 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package.

Under this package, in just two weeks Rs 8,200 crore has been sanctioned by accepting loan applications of 1.3 lakh units in Gujarat.

The government of Gujarat is committed to restore the former vibrancy of the state with an aim 'Jaan hai to Jahaan Hai'.

### Gir Sanctuary Gujarat's Asiatic Lion population risen to 29% in 5 years

According to the "Poonam Avlokkan" survey the population of the Asiatic lion at the Gir sanctuary in Gujarat has seen a commendable rise to approximately **29%** (28.87%) from **27%** in **2015** i.e. their population went from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.

Subsequently the distribution area of the lions was also increased to **36%** from 22,000sq Km in 2015 to 30,000 sq Km in 2020.

This was an alternate approach for the counting of the Lion population instead of the Census in Gujarat's Gir forest due to the COVID -19 pandemic requiring more officials for policing duties.

The Asiatic lions are found in protected areas and agro-pastoral regions of Saurashtra covering about 9 districts in the Gir forest.

According to Prime Minister Modi the steady rise in the population of lions is an influence of the community participation in wildlife health-care and the proper habitat management to minimize human-lion conflict and other conservative methods.

### **World Class State of the Art Honey Testing Lab e-inaugurated in Gujarat**

Government has inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory' virtually. This is considered to be the first Government Honey Testing lab in India.

The testing lab was established by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Anand, Gujarat with support of NBB (National Bee Board).

Note: Shri Tomar also inaugurated 'Two Days Online Training Programme on Scientific Honey bee production' conducted by NDDB.

The MIDH (Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture) and National Mission for Beekeeping are implemented through the National Bee Board and the States.

The National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare for 2 years.

The NDDB has set up world class lab with protocols accredited by National Accreditation Board of Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)

**Best of Luck for Your Exams!**