

Karnataka Current Affairs 2020

Surya Raitha Scheme in Karnataka

Karnataka government has launched Surya Raitha Scheme to provide solar water pump sets to the farmers and replace the existing irrigation pump sets (IP Pumps) with these solar water pumps in order to produce excess energy.

In the initial phase, Karnataka govt. will replace 310 IP sets with solar water pump sets.

These solar pumps have around 1.5 times the capacity to pump more water than the existing IP Pump Sets.

Moreover, these pumps will supply 1/3rd of the total energy generated to the nearby electricity grid (assembly).

Karnataka Surya Raitha Scheme helps farmers in irrigation purposes as the farmers need not switch on their IP Sets during night.

Subsequently, the solar water pumps keep a check on the power and water wastage.

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Karnataka Arthika Spandana Scheme

Karnataka government has launched Arthika Spandana Scheme 2020 for disbursement of loans to the tune of Rs. 39,300 crores. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has started Arthika Spandana programme for disbursing loans through various cooperative institutions.

The state government has launched Karnataka Arthika Spandana Loan Disbursement Scheme 2020 by symbolically handing over cheques towards loans to 50 beneficiaries.

In the Arthika Spandana Loan Disbursement Scheme, primary agricultural cooperatives would be upgraded as multi-service centres.

As many as 1,549 cooperatives would be benefited by loan disbursement programme. Cooperation dept. had set up a target of distributing crop loans to a total amount of Rs. 15,300 crore this year.

Till date, around Rs. 7,929.30 crore had been disbursed to 12.11 lakh farmers at zero and 3% interest rates.

Karnataka Nekar Samman Yojane

Karnataka state government has launched Nekar Samman Yojane for handloom weavers on 6 July 2020.

For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers can fill Nekar Samman Yojane Online Application Form.

People can register themselves at the official Seva Sindhu portal which is developed as an initiative to deliver the various schemes and services of the Karnataka State Government at the doorstep of the citizens.

As per 4th All India Handloom Census (conducted in 2019-20), there are 54,789 handloom weavers registered in the state.

As of 6th July 2020, 40,634 handloom weavers have registered themselves under the Seva Sindhu portal for becoming a beneficiary of the scheme.

Under the scheme, the state government is transferring Rs 2000 of financial support to all weavers in the state registered with the Seva Sindhu portal.



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Karnataka Saptapadi Vivah Yojana 2020

Karnataka state government has launched Saptapadi Vivah Yojana on 10 January 2020.

Under this Mass Marriage Scheme, the state govt. will provide Rs. 55,000 to newly wed couples. For this assistance, the candidates will have to make Karnataka Saptapadi Vivah Yojana 2020 registration at the temples.

Chief Minister of Karnataka has released the logo and pamphlets of the 'Saptapadi' mass wedding ceremony. The answers to question such as how to avail Saptapadi Vivah Yojana 2020 assistance, how & where to make registration and what is the eligibility criteria is given in this post.

Moreover, the state govt. has announced dates for twice postponed mass marriage which will be held at Grade A temples coming under Religious Endowment Department.

All those couples who are going to be married in the next few days can avail benefits of Saptapadi Vivah Yojana. The plan is to conduct about 1,000 marriages in 90-100 temples.

Karnataka Samrakshane Scheme

Karnataka government has launched Samrakshane Scheme 2020 to start protecting unlisted heritage monuments in the state.

The state govt. aims to protect important monuments and buildings which does not figure in lists of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) or in the Karnataka archaeology department. All of these heritage monuments are of national importance and must be protected and preserved.

In the entire Karnataka state, there are over 25,000 temples, mosques, churches, heritage buildings and other monuments which requires attention.

Accordingly, the state govt. comes up with Samrakshane Scheme to take up restoration works of these structures.

Tourism Minister has lauded efforts of Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Dharmothana Trust (SDMDT) in protecting cultural sites.

The trust has already restored and protected around 176 temples of heritage value in the past 20 years. Taking help from SDMDT trust, govt. will carry out restoration works as they have team of engineers who are experts in restoring monuments.

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Karnataka Janasevaka Scheme

Karnataka government has launched Janasevaka Scheme 2020 for doorstep delivery of services. Karnataka Janasevaka is a programme under Sakala scheme to avail the benefits of government schemes at the doorstep.

The scheme was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Dasarahalli assembly constituency in Bengaluru.

It will now be extended to other constituencies including Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura and Rajajinagar assembly constituencies.

The Janasevaka scheme will enable citizens of the state to get home delivery of 53 important government services including issuance of ration card, health card, senior citizen identity card, revenue khata and marriage registration certificate.

The beneficiary will have to place the request for the service through the website. The request can also be made through phones.

After the request is placed, a Jan Sevak or a delivery executive will be assigned to deliver the service to the citizen, who will go to the citizen's residence and collect the required documents.

The delivery executive will be carrying a government-issued identity card, a tablet, a thermal printer and a biometric scanner.

Once the Jan Sevak receives the documents required to process the request, the documents will be uploaded on the backend server of the concerned department.

It will then be processed by the department and Jan Sevak will then contact the citizen and deliver the required document at a mutually agreed time. There will be no requirement for physical documents.

The service will cost a citizen Rs 115. The amount is excluding the money required for documentation.

New species of a Fan-Throated Lizard discovered in Karnataka

Researchers have found a new species of a fan-throated lizard, *Sitana dharwarensis*, from the barren lands of northern Karnataka's Bagalkot district. The study on the discovery was published in Bonn zoological Bulletin.

The species belongs to the genus *Sitana* and derives its name from the Dharwar craton, a piece of the Earth's crust formed 3.6-2.5 billion years ago.

Though it is similar to a fan-throated lizard species, *Sitana laticeps*, it bears a much larger throat fan or dewlap. Its distinctness was confirmed after comparing the DNA sequences and micro-CT-scans of the two species.

When compared to other fan-throated lizards, it is larger in size.

It is restricted to the area surrounded by two major rivers namely Krishna and Tungabhadra, which likely acts as biogeographic barriers for terrestrial lizards.

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Karnataka launched first accelerator for cyber security start-up

The Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security of Karnataka launched the first cyber security accelerator for startups in India, Hack is an Accelerator for Cyber Security in Karnataka inaugurated on 16th May 2020.

Hack is an Accelerator for Cyber Security in Karnataka (H.A.C.K) inviting all the cyber security startups in both early-stage and growth-stage, for applying for the zeroth cohort launching in Q2 2020.

H.A.C.K will provide an innovative incubation platform to connect startups with entrepreneurial ecosystems and marquee mentors around the world who are looking for a connection with government, industry and market players.

H.A.C.K is under the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Information Technology and Biotechnology with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) as an anchor institution and Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) as Implementing Agency.

The programme has 21 startups on board across three cohorts: 10x cohorts, 0-1 cohort and virtual cohort.

The key objective is to promote a cyber-safe and conducive environment for industrial collaboration, to address the skill gap, to build awareness and foster innovation in the emerging technology field of cyber security.

5th March 2020 was the last date for the eligible growth-stage startups for applying.

Price Monitoring and Resource Unit set up in Karnataka

A Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) has been set up in Karnataka under the aegis of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.

PMRU will function at the State level under the direct supervision of the State Drug Controller for increasing outreach of NPPA.

PMRUs are societies registered under the Societies Registration Act having its own Memorandum of Association/ Bye laws.

The Board of Governors of PMRU includes the representatives from Central Government and State Government concerned and other stakeholders.

NPPA, under its Central Sector Scheme named Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring (CAPP), has already set up of PMRUs in 12 States/ UTs. NPPA has plans to set up PMRUs in all the 36 States/ UTs.

The expenses of PMRUs, both recurring and non-recurring are borne by NPPA under the Scheme. The primary function of PMRUs is to assist NPPA in monitoring of prices of drugs, ensuring availability of drugs and raising consumer awareness.

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Mysuru zoo got 3 African hunting cheetahs from South Africa

Mysuru Zoo in Karnataka has acquired one male and two female African hunting Cheetah from Ann Van Dyke Cheetah Centre at Johannesburg, South Africa as part of the Animal Exchange Programme.

Three Cheetah's aged 14, 15 (female) and 16 months were flown in to Bengaluru from South Africa via Singapore on Monday afternoon. From the airport, zoo authorities brought the three big cats to the Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden in Mysuru by road.

Mysuru zoo is the second zoo in the country to house hunting cheetahs after Hyderabad zoo which has a pair of African Cheetah.

Karnataka to set up integrated biotech and life sciences Park

The Karnataka government has set up to lay the foundation stone for a life sciences park, in line with its plans to create an integrated biotechnology ecosystem to leverage the potential of the sector to attract investments, promote innovation and generate jobs in the city and state.

The 52-acre industrial cluster, which will form the third component, is estimated to be built at a cost of around \$500 million.

The new life sciences park will be built near the electronic city area of Bengaluru, and as part of the existing space, that already houses Biotech innovation centre and other facilities, it will synergize both IT and biotechnology sectors.

The life sciences park is estimated to house more than 150 companies and is expected to generate around 50,000 jobs.

The statement adds that Karnataka is home to 60% of the country's biotech companies and the state contributes one third of all biotech exports of the country.

Karnataka has 18% of the total registered biotech startups in the country and has recorded an annual growth rate of 30%.

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Karnataka Launched a Scheme “Weavers Samman Yojana”

Karnataka launched “Weavers Samman Yojana (Nekara Samman Yojane)” to provide financial assistance of Rs 2000 for about 19,744 handloom weavers in the state, through Direct Benefit Transfer.

The eligible handloom weavers will be given financial assistance under this scheme.

The state government has allocated Rs 10.96 crore for the scheme.

The Seva Sindhu software consists of 40,634 handloom weavers, among them 37,314 applications have been approved for financial assistance.

The power looms workers are also provided with Rs 2000 as one time financial assistance. Out of 1.25 lakh workers 8,897 applications have been approved.

Flipkart signed MoU with Karnataka State Mango Department to support mango farmers

The Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation and Flipkart signed a memorandum of understanding to support the mango farmers in this mango season to sell their produce through the online platform of Flipkart.

The Flipkart will provide the platform for the Mango Board Farmer Producer Organisations, sellers, growers and traders by enrolling on the platform.

Flipkart will provide training and capacity building on how to use the platform and the other user interfaces.

The fruits from the Bengaluru urban, Kolar, Haveri, Hubballi-Dharwad and Belgaum will be available for the customers access through this platform.

The varieties like Alphonso, Badami, Apoos, Banganapalli, Kesar, Neelam, Himam Pasand, Sendur and Mallika will be available on the Flipkart platform in batches of 3Kg.

Karnataka CM flagged off Bengaluru to Solapur RORO train

Chief Minister of Karnataka has flagged off the maiden roll-on roll-off (RORO) train from Bengaluru to Solapur through a videoconference.

The maiden ‘Roll On Roll Off’ (RORO) train between Bengaluru and Solapur in Maharashtra consists of open flat wagon on which trucks with goods are loaded.

It will be operated by the South Western Railway (SWR).

The train will take 17 hours to reach its final destination which is at a distance of about 682 kms.

The train will run via Dharmavaram, Guntakal, Raichur and Wadi to reach Bale near Solapur in Maharashtra.

As many as 42 trucks with goods can be carried at time in this train. The RORO service reduces accidents on the road, improves safety, saves fuel, and foreign exchange.

It ensures faster transport of essential goods, perishables, food items and smaller cargo. While it facilitates the large-scale movement of goods and reduces pollution, the cost of transport is lesser than transport by road.

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Flipkart signed MoU with Karnataka govt to Promotes local art

Indian popular e-commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with Karnataka MSME and Mines department to promote the states arts, crafts and handloom sectors by bringing them on to e-commerce and providing market access.

The partnership under the Flipkart Samarth programme will enable local artisans, weavers and craftsmen of Karnataka to showcase their hallmark products to a pan-India customer base.

Both the Government of Karnataka and the Flipkart Group will focus on creating avenues to increase business and trade inclusion opportunities for these underserved segments of the society.

The partnership will see renowned Karnataka based brands- Cauvery – Karnataka Handicrafts Development Corporation and Priyadarshini Handlooms, part of Karnataka Handlooms Development Corporation joining the Flipkart Samarth programme.

MSMEs in the state will also benefit from skills of branding, digital marketing and financial management while showcasing the locally made high-quality products.

Samarth programme also seeks to break entry barriers for artisans by extending time-bound incubation support, which includes benefits in the form of onboarding, free cataloguing, marketing, account management, business insights and warehousing support.

BBMP, Bengaluru launched “Pranavayu” to track oxygen levels of ILI patients

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru launched an initiative called “Pranavayu” as many COVID-19 patients have low oxygen levels that put them at risk of complications.

This initiative helps each individual to monitor blood oxygen levels and heart rates of patients showing influenza-like illnesses in fever clinics.

BBMP’s Special Commissioner (Health) Ravikumar Surpur, also added that this initiative is aimed at helping patients to monitor the progress of ILI to severe acute respiratory illness (SARI).

Through this initiative, the BBMP doctors at Fever Clinics will monitor patients using an oximeter. A pulse oximeter is a small device or probe that can be clipped onto a finger for the reading of blood oxygen level and heart rate.

With Oximeter, it is possible to detect respiratory distress well in advance and start treatment to mitigate the distress, even possibly the use of ventilators. Those who have flu-like symptoms can monitor the oxygen saturation every three-four hours.

If the level drops below 90, the patient may be taken to the hospital for clinical intervention.

When restrictions are relieved, there may be a spike in cases of ILI. If citizens can buy the oximeter and monitor the oxygen saturation levels, it allows for early clinical intervention.

The BBMP also stated that the cause for concern in COVID-19 is not simple, by which the infection in the upper respiratory tract resolves on its own in nearly 85% cases.

In case the progress of the disease to SARI (15-20%) where the lung functionality is impaired to an extent that patients need external support to sustain respiration.

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Karnataka exempted 38 categories of industries from lockdown

The Karnataka government has exempted at least 38 categories of industries to function during the week-long lockdown to help find a balance between the looming health and economic crisis staring the state and its growth capital.

The state government had reluctantly ordered the lockdown in Bengaluru urban and rural districts for a week after a surge in cases threatened to aggravate the crisis.

This includes a list of 28 industries classified as essential including rice and oil mills, dairy and food products, bulk drugs, pharmaceuticals, Ayurvedic and homeopathic medicine makers, sanitizers, bakery and confectionary, power generation and even those making paper napkins.

Even e-commerce companies for supply of food and grocery have been allowed, according to the notification by Gaurav Gupta, the principal secretary for the Commerce and Industries Department of Karnataka.

The notification allows units in industrial areas and estates in Bengaluru urban and rural districts to operate as in industrial township.

Industry bodies had reacted sharply against the decision to go in for another lockdown in Bengaluru that would impact their businesses further and add to their piling losses.

National Training Academy for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes in Bengaluru

E-Foundation stone laying ceremony of the new training Institute building of National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) was held in Bengaluru.

National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR) is a resource organization committed to Entrepreneurship Development through motivation, training and facilitation.

It is a joint venture promoted by two public sector Banks and an Educational Trust of Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala.

National Academy of RUDSETI (NAR), an offshoot of RUDSETI movement is spearheading the concept by Training the Trainers/facilitators and mentoring the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) established across the country.

National Academy of RUDSETI is a Trust registered under Indian Trusts Act.

IIM Bengaluru ranked third in Global MOOC Business School Rankings 2020

Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB), Karnataka, secured third rank in Global Massive Open Online Course Business School Rankings 2020 for its provision, design and delivery of Massive Open Online Courses.

This is the first-ever Business School rankings based on the provision of MOOCs.

MOOC Labs published ranking for the business schools globally who are providing MOOC courses.

Business schools across the world offers open online courses on 3 major MOOC platforms- Coursera, edX and Futurelearn.

The college were ranked based upon 4 parameters:

School's performance across the number of MOOCs provided. Facilities of learning pathways.

Provision of credit-granting credentials. School's teaching quality.

IIM, Bengaluru provides 43 open online courses available on the edX platform. It also provides professional certificate courses & 2 MicroMasters programs.

IMB online courses are also available on SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is an Indian platform created by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

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Lithium reserve found in Mandya near Bengaluru

Researchers of India's Atomic Energy Commission have found lithium reserves of 14,100 tonnes in Mandya, Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lithium is a rare metal used for manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.

The reserve is small compared to major producers such as Chile with its 8.6 tonnes million of reserve, Australia with 2.8 million tonnes, Argentina with 1.7 million tonnes & Portugal with 60,000 tonnes.

India currently imports all its lithium needs and lithium batteries worth \$1.2 billion for the year 2019 from \$384 million in 2017.

These reserves will be useful to promote clean-energy vehicles in India and the Government has a plan to implement \$1.4 billion to make India a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles.

India has set up Khanij Bidesh India Limited to source and acquire mines in Argentina (Buenos Aires), Bolivia (Sucre) and Chile (Santiago).

Karnataka launched Janasevaka Scheme

State Government of Karnataka launched Janasevaka scheme to provide doorstep government services under the scheme. Also, it intends to digitize several services and make these services easily available to the citizens through the scheme.

Under the scheme, the government has launched an exclusive mobile number (080-44554455), a website and mobile application. People can check around 53 services in the site.

The scheme offers to provide health card, ration card, marriage registration certificate, identity card, etc. at the door steps under the scheme. A Jan Sevak is appointed to deliver the services under the scheme

As the citizen places his request of service through the government website, a Jan Sevak is assigned to deliver the service. The Jan Sevak will reach the residence of the citizen, collect required documents and deliver the service at his door step.

The Cost of the service is Rs 115. This amount does not include the cost of documentation. The scheme is to be implemented in Bengaluru. Depending on the work load, it is to be extended to the rest of Karnataka.

PM Modi hold meeting regarding Extension of lockdown

Prime Minister Modi held a video conference with political leaders discussing the extension of lock down. Prime Minister has indicated that most of the suggestions he received was to extend the lock down.

The GoI is trying on possible options to contain the spread of the virus. Following this meet with the political leaders, PM is to hold a video conferencing with the Chief Ministers of the states as well on April 11, 2020 to make the right decision over extending the lock down.

The GoI is working on pros and cons of extending lock down till April 30, 2020.

The Central Government initially planned to go for a district wise lifting of lock down. However, the plan is considered highly challenging as the outbreak is spreading fast.

The states such as Telangana, Rajasthan, Assam and KARNATAKS have already raised concerns upon lifting the lock down. Around 15 districts in UP have been completely isolated as they were identified as hotspots.

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Karnataka amended its Industries Act for Attracting Investments

Karnataka state government has made amendments to sections of 'The Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2002'. An ordinance will be issued by the state government soon for the amendments to come into effect.

The amendment was made with the aim of creating an investor-friendly environment in the state. The amendment has simplified regulations and has reduced procedural requirements.

The amendment will improve the ease of doing business in the state. For the first three years, small and medium industries can begin manufacturing without having to wait for statutory clearances.

The amendment made by the Karnataka Government will be applicable for all small, medium, and large industries of the state. Gujarat and Rajasthan are the other states that have amended their Industries Act, but in both these states, the amendment was made only for small industries.

The Nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic has brought economic activities to a halt throughout the country.

Now, the slow transition of the economy and the uncertainty of when things could normalize have added further pressure on most state governments across the country due to an acute fund crunch.

In order to generate employment, the state government of Karnataka had amended the Factories Act on 22nd May 2020 under which all factories were exempted from provisions of daily and weekly stipulated hours until 21st August 2020.

Karnataka govt launched Helpline and application

Karnataka State Government launched “Apthamitra” mobile application and helpline to fight COVID-19. The application was launched by the Chief Minister of the state B S Yediyurappa.

The application aims at providing medical guidance and advice on COVID-19. When a person has symptoms of COVID-19, he or she can call to the helpline number of “Apthamitra”.

They will be advised by a team of medical experts based on the symptoms.

The application is to work for 12 hours in the day, that is, between 8 AM to 8 PM. The helpline Centres are to be located at 6 places, 4 in Bengaluru, 1 in Mysore and one in Mangalore.

Apthamitra is a two-tier system. In the first tier the application is manned by AYUSH professionals, nurses or student volunteers. In the second tier, the app is managed by MBBS professionals, volunteer doctors and AYUSH doctors.

The application aims to reach people at low risks of COVID-19 and counsel them for self-quarantine. Also, it will help to follow up low risk cases till they are cured completely.

It will also help to identify people in hotspot areas that have influenza like symptoms, COVID-19 symptoms or Severe Acute Respiratory Infection.

Karnataka to build “Transit Homes” for Migrant Workers

Karnataka Government will build transit homes for migrant workers to provide better living conditions for the migrant workers. This is being launched because of the reverse migration in Karnataka amid lock down.

The project is being launched with an inspiration from “Apna Ghar” project of Kerala. The expected cost of the project is Rs 50 crores.

The transit homes will have kitchens so that the migrant workers can cook their own meals. Also, they will have to pay minimal maintenance fee for their stay.

The plan is to build four transit homes. Each transit home is to accommodate 300 workers.

The key states from where migration occurs in India are UP, MP, AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan. The states where the migrants migrate to are Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Karnataka.

India constitutes to 309 internal migrants. This is 30% of total population according to Census 2001. Of the total migrants in the country, 70% are women. Marriage is one of the major reasons for increased female migration.

New World-Class Facility center in Karnataka to train astronauts

The new World-Class facility center for training astronauts will come up in India in the next three years at Challakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has proposed Rs 2700 crore, to set its young House Space Flight Centre (HSFC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka, which will be the single-top for all space related activities for space travelers.

By these facilities the cost of sending Indian astronauts to foreign countries for such facilities can be reduced.

Four pilots of India will train at the “Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre” in Russia for Gaganyaan mission 2022.

ISRO set its fourth RAC-S in Karnataka

Indian Space Research Organisation has set its fourth Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) at the National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NIT-K) at Surathkal in Mangaluru taluk.

The center helps for advanced research in the areas of relevance to the future technological and programmatic needs of the Indian Space program.

It also helps in the promotion of space technology in southern regions like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Pondicherry, and Lakshadweep.

RAC-S encourages institutions to take part in advanced research technologies related to space technology,

Joint Policy Management committee (JPMC) in RAC-S consists of experts from ISRO and NITK. These members will conduct activities in institutions on advanced space research technology.

ISRO has set its first RAC-S in Jaipur, second at Guwahati and third at Kurukshetra.

ISRO will provide Rs 2 Crore annually per year for the conduct of research and development projects.

NIC's Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology in Karnataka

Law and Justice Ministry inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology set up by the National Informatics Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The CoE has been set up with the aim of providing blockchain as a service and help all stakeholders to benefit from shared learning, experiences and resources.

The CoE which has developed Blockchain based Proof of Concepts (PoCs), will facilitate govt buildings to use the blockchain technology for deployment of large scale applications. With the support of NIC, the CoE will also provide Blockchain as a Service (BaaS) for hosting the Blockchain network efficiently.

The applications of blockchain in the govt. are expected to increase transparency, traceability and trust in e- governance systems.

Prior to the launching of CoE for Blockchain technology, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), in association with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), launched the Internet of Things (IoT) OpenLab, a CoE at Bengaluru on December 2019.

Apart from CoE in Bengaluru, the govt is also planning to launch another CoE for blockchain technology in Gurugram, Haryana also.

Around 16,000 courts in India have been transformed as e-courts and technologies related to Direct Benefit Transfer and e-scholarships have been developed by NIC.

Blockchain means growing list of records called blocks which will be linked with cryptography. It will be helpful in sectors such as health, finance, agriculture etc.

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107th Indian Science Congress held in Bengaluru

The 107th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) also known as ISC 2020 has inaugurated at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme of ISC for the year 2020 was “Science and Technology: Rural Development”.

The main objective of the summit was to bridge the gap between farmers and tech-developers. The key highlights of the event are as follows:

The Vice President Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu gave awards instituted by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) in the presence of the Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa.

The science congress was a 5-day event held from January 3-7, 2020 in which Nobel Laureates, dignitaries and students from across the country and the world over participated.

This is the 3rd time Bengaluru hosts ISC after 1987 and 2002. It is also the 4th time Karnataka hosts such event after organising ISC lastly in 2016 in Mysuru.

Vice President of India Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu and other officials were present during the event.

Hyderabad ranked 14th globally in Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q3, 2019

Hyderabad has ranked 14th among 150 cities in the World with an appreciation of 9% in residential prices on a YoY (Year-over-Year) basis in the Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index Q3 (Quarter) 2019.

In this index, Budapest in Hungary is at the first place with the highest annual growth rate of 24%, followed by Xi'an and Wuhan in China at 15.9% and 14.9%.

According to the report, Indian cities that have seen an appreciation in home prices are New Delhi at the 73rd rank globally with a 3.2% rise, Bengaluru at the 94th rank with a 2% appreciation and Ahmedabad at the 108th rank with a 1.1% growth.

Indian cities which have seen de-growth in home prices are Kolkata at the 130th rank with a decline of 2%, Mumbai at the 135th rank with a de growth of 3% and Chennai at the 136th rank with a fall of 3%.

Pune was the lowest-ranked Indian city standing at the 138th spot, registering a 3.5% decline in home prices.

The Global Residential Cities Index tracks mainstream residential prices on a city-by-city basis which are updated quarterly. The index tracks the performance of house prices across 150 cities worldwide.

Karnataka launched Janasevaka Scheme to Provide delivery of Govt Services at Doorstep

Karnataka state government launched the Janasevaka scheme in certain municipal corporation wards to provide home delivery of various government services like ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards, etc.

The scheme is launched by the chief minister of Karnataka Mr. Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, and the scheme will contain 53 services from 11 departments.

A toll-free helpline has been set up for this scheme which will work from 8 am to 8 pm, and Rs.115 has been charged to provide the home delivery service people can apply from home by paying the fee online.

Under the scheme, there will be one volunteer in each ward, initially the scheme was implemented in Dasarahalli area on a Navigation basis if it works well then it will be implemented across Bengaluru and then across Karnataka.

The main objective of the scheme is to ensure on-time delivery of government services and make the lives of the citizens of Karnataka Easy.

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Bengaluru recorded highest number of digital transactions among cities

India titled “Wordline India Digital Payments 2019”, Bengaluru (Karnataka) accounted for the highest number of digital transactions in India in 2019, followed by Chennai, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra.

Among states, Maharashtra (MH) has topped with the highest number of digital transactions. It is followed by Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi.

The most preferred mode of payment was United Payments Interface (UPI). It was followed by debit cards, immediate payment service (IMPS), and credit cards, in terms of volume share of digital transactions. UPI is also the fastest payment mode to hit 1 billion monthly transactions.

In 2019, payment modes recorded a combined transaction volume of over 20 trillion and a combined value of over Rs54 trillion.

UPI recorded around 10.8 billion transactions in 2019, a 188% year-on-year (YoY). In terms of value, UPI facilitated transactions worth Rs 18.36 trillion in 2019, up 214% YoY compared to 2018.

On the other hand, the transaction value of debit cards stood at Rs 6.8 trillion in 2019 while transaction value of credit cards stood at Rs7.1 trillion, registering YoY growth of 21% and 33% respectively.

Number of debit cards transactions at point-of-sale (PoS) terminals stood at 4.9 trillion in 2019, a 16% growth as compared with previous the year. While the number of credit card transactions at PoS machines stood at 2 trillion in 2019, achieving a 20% YoY growth.

Merchants in grocery, restaurants, fuel stations, apparel stores, and specialty retail recorded the highest volume share of transactions in 2019.

19th edition of WPC 2020 to be held in Bengaluru

The 19th edition of World Productivity Congress will be held from May 6 to May 8, 2020 at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka. WPC is the world's largest convention for productivity development which promotes innovation and world class practices that shape future productivity growth and to be held in India after 45 years.

Theme of 19th Productivity Congress 2020 is "Industry 4.0 – Innovation and Productivity". The theme represents the 4th Industrial Revolution & innovations based on AI (Artificial Intelligence), IoT (Internet of things) and connectivity in industry, advanced manufacturing & the service sectors to increase productivity in a sustainable manner.

World Confederation of Productivity Science (WCPS) headquartered at Montreal, Canada has been organising this future-shaping event since 1969.

The event is co-organized by PDA ventures private limited, (a group of Trade Fairs Pvt. Ltd), is one of India's largest home-grown Trade fair organising companies.

This global event has been held in the UK (United Kingdom), USA (United States of America), Canada, China, Australia, India, Chile, South Africa, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden and Bahrain in its past editions.

WPC event brings together a group of leading businessmen, industrialists, scholars, politicians, administrators & productivity sectors around the globe.

India's long-term GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth is considered stable and is expected to grow over 7% per year. India is expected to be the 3rd largest consumer economy as its consumption is projected to reach 4 trillion US dollar by 2025, due to an expanding middle-class population, growing disposable incomes, urbanisation and rising affluence & this WPC event will further boosts India to achieve its goal in economy.

The WPC topics under these events are Digital Transformation, Technologies for I-4.0, Innovation in Service Industries, Implications for Global challenges, Smart manufacturing, Warehousing & logistics, Smart Agriculture and aquaculture, Capacity building for I-4.0.

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