

Weekly Current Affairs

23-29 March 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. India ranked 144 the World Happiness Report 2020 out of a total 156 nations

- India was at a dismal 144 rank of a total of 156 nations surveyed on the World Happiness Report 2020. Finland was once again crowned as the world's happiest country, extending its lead over Denmark and Switzerland.
- The World Happiness Report is an annual survey by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations.
- The data used to compile this ranking was collected in the years 2018 and 2019 Afghanistan ranked lowest among 153 countries, with South Sudan and Zimbabwe just above it.

2. Star health launches 'Star novel coronavirus policy' for corona victims

- On March 20, 2020, Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd, a company specializes in providing health insurance at low-cost rates to its customers, has launched 'Star Novel Coronavirus Insurance Policy' that provides coverage for hospitalized patients who test positive for the current pandemic COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus).

3. Gujarat Police becomes first in India to introduce taser guns

- The Gujarat Police is equipped with taser guns in order to ensure the 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.

4. Gujarat Government signs an MoU with Dutch company of Flying car-maker PAL-V

- Flying car-maker PAL-V (Personal Air-Land Vehicle) of the Netherlands will set up a manufacturing plant in Gujarat. 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.

5. COVID-19: Govt bans export of all ventilators, sanitizers

- In its efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has prohibited the export of all ventilators, including any artificial respiratory apparatus or oxygen therapy apparatus or any other breathing device.
- Commerce and Industry Ministry said that the government has also prohibited the export of all Sanitizers. The Ministry said, the Ventilators were put in the prohibited category on the 19th of this month itself.

6. Bridge constructed by BRO over Teesta River in North Sikkim opened for traffic

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge for traffic over Teesta River in Munshithang near Chungthang town, North Sikkim. The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in Lahen town, North Sikkim.
- Under the Project Swastik, the 86 Road Construction Company (RCC) of 758 Border Roads Task Force

(BRTF), commenced the construction of the bridge in October 2019 & completed in January 2020. □ The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forwarding areas and also acts as tourist spots.

7. India ranks 120th in Economic Freedom Index 2020, Singapore tops

- Heritage Foundation published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 to measure the level of economic freedom in 186 countries. India (56.5) ranks in 120th position & Singapore (89.4) tops the index for the 1st time .Hong Kong(89.1) for the 1st time secured 2nd rank since the 1st publication in 1995.India secures 28th rank among 42 countries in the Asia-Pacific region & also has made improvement in its score by 1.3 points from 2019.
- New Zealand(84.1) secured the 3 rank, North Korea(4.2) is positioned in 180th rank, Venezuela (25.2) in 179th rank & Cuba(26.9) in 178th rank. Due to lack of reliable statistics Iraq, Libya, Liechtenstein, Somalia, Syria, Yemen is not ranked.

8. Punjab become 1st State to impose curfew amid Lockdown

- The Punjab government imposed a curfew to stop the spread of coronavirus, making it the first state to take the drastic measure. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced the curfew as people were defying the lockdown imposed in the state. Curfew was imposed as people were still coming out in large numbers. So the curfew is imposed to keep them inside.

9. IOC becomes 1st company to begin supply of BS-VI fuel across country

- Indian Oil Corp, the nation's biggest oil firm, has begun the supply of the world's cleanest petrol and diesel across the country with all its 28,000 petrol pumps dispensing ultra-low sulphur fuel a good two weeks before the April 1 deadline.
- Other fuel retailers, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), are also progressively supplying BS-VI grade fuel and the entire country will switch to the cleanest fuel within this week.
- The government had set April 1 as the deadline for starting supply of Euro-VI emission compliant fuels.

10. India's first dedicated COVID-19 Centre set up by Reliance in Mumbai, Maharashtra; to produce 1,00,000 facemasks per day

- As a measure to curb deadly coronavirus (COVID-19), Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital in collaboration with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), has set up India's first 100 bedded centre at Seven Hills Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra for positive COVID 19 patients.
- The Centre fully funded by Reliance Foundation includes a negative pressure room that helps in preventing cross contamination and helps control infection, among necessary infrastructure and bio-medical equipment.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has also built a fully-equipped isolation facility in Lodhivali, Maharashtra and handed it over to the district authorities.

11. ECI defers Rajya Sabha elections due to coronavirus pandemic

- The Election Commission of India has deferred the Rajya Sabha elections amid rising risk of rapidly spreading coronavirus pandemic.
- Elections to 18 seats of Rajya Sabha were scheduled to be held on 26 March 2020.

12. PM Modi allocates Rs 15,000 Cr for Healthcare Infrastructure to combat Covid-19

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the entire country will go into complete lockdown for 21 days. The government has allocated 15,000 crore rupees to strengthen health infrastructure to the spread of coronavirus.
- Testing facilities, Personal Protective Equipments, Isolation Beds, ICU beds, ventilators, and the number of other necessary tools will be increased rapidly

13. First 'Made in India' COVID19 Test Kit to diagnose COVID-19 gets the commercial approval

- First Made in India Test Kit to diagnose COVID-19 has got commercial approval by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- According to the developers, it would cost nearly one-fourth of the current procurement cost and is faster as it screens and detects the infection within 2.5 hours as compared with over 7 hours by others.

14.38th district to be formed in Tamil Nadu

- In Tamil Nadu, a new district is going to be formed after bifurcating the Nagappattinam district. The new district will be headquartered at Mayiladuthurai, in the heart of the Delta region.
- Mayiladuthurai, located at a distance of 281 kilometres from Chennai, is home to several temples dating back to the medieval Chola era. There are currently 37 districts in Tamil Nadu, of which five new districts were formed only last year. The state Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy made the announcement saying it would be the 38th district in the state.

15. IRSDC is developing 1st of its kind “Form Based Codes” for Railway land

- The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) with support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation is developing a 1st of its kind “FormBased Codes” for the development of railway land. The code is being designed & approved for layout plans, building plans for station areas that will ensure a compact, pedestrian-friendly, market-responsive, transit-oriented & sustainable development.
- It will enable the desired kind of development around station areas & includes Layout Regulating Plans, Sub Plot Property Development Card, Building Design Codes. Several stations across the country are being developed into world-class transit hubs; the first two being Habibganj in Madhya Pradesh and Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

16. Union Cabinet approves MoU between India & Germany in Railway sector

- Union Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approves Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February 2020 between Ministry of Railways with DB Engineering and Consulting GmbH of Germany for technological cooperation in railways.
- It will enable cooperation in freight operations (includes cross-border transport, automotive transport, logistics), passenger operations (includes high-speed cross-border traffic), infrastructure building & management (includes dedicated freight corridors, development of passenger stations).

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. US Food and Drug Administration approves first rapid 'point-of-care' test for coronavirus

- The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a coronavirus diagnostic test that can be conducted entirely at the point-of-care and can deliver results in 45 minutes.
- US Health and Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar said the test will be able to provide results within hours, rather than days like the existing tests. The company will roll it out by March 30. Developed by California-based company Cephid, the test would help fast identification of infected people and quickly start treating them and their quarantine.

2. UK Confirmed as 1st co-chair in India-Led Climate Change Initiative CDRI

- The United Kingdom (UK) was confirmed as the first co-chair of the governing council of India-led global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Governing Council of CDRI is the highest policy-making body of the society. The council is co-chaired by India and a representative of another national government nominated by rotation every two years.
- The UK Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, represented the UK at the first council meeting. The minister is President of the 2020 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). He held a meeting with Pramod Kumar Mishra, the Indian Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, over videoconference. The UK will host COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020.

3. Trump cancels in-person G7, summit to be held via video-conference

- The US President Donald Trump has cancelled an in-person G7 Summit and is to conduct the summit through video conferencing. This is being done due to the increasing threat of Corona Virus.
- The G7 organization is made up of the largest economies of the world namely France, Canada, US, UK, Italy, Japan and Germany. They contribute to 45% of world's GDP. Hence, decisions taken at G7 is highly essential and has great impacts over the global trade.
- The G7 Groupings believe that though China is the second largest economy in the world, it relatively has low level of wealth per head population. This means that China is not an advanced economy according to the G7 members.

4. Cabinet approved the extradition treaty between India and Belgium

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi announced that it has approved to sign & ratify the extradition treaty between India and Belgium, which will enable the countries to surrender any person found in its territory who is accused of or convicted in an extraditable offense in the territory of the other party.
- It means an offense punishable by 1 year or more in accordance with the laws of both parties. If extradition is requested, the sentencing period will be at least 6 months. Taxation, or even one of the income-related offenses or financial matters, is within the scope of this agreement.
- The treaty states that if the offense involved is a political offense & also if the offense requested is a military offense the extradition will be refused.

5. Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan jointly contribute \$3.5 mn to SAARC corona emergency fund

- The Government of Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan have pledged to contribute \$1.5 million, \$1 million and \$1 million respectively to the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Corona Emergency Fund proposed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on March 15, 2020 with an

initial grant of \$10 million from India to deal with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- Earlier, the governments of Maldives and Bhutan also pledged to provide \$200,000 and 100,000 respectively. The remaining two nations of SAARC- i.e Pakistan and Sri Lanka are yet to declare their contribution for the fund.
- India also provided material assistance in the forms of masks, gloves and disinfectants with a cost of \$1 million to SAARC countries in the wake of the outbreak of Covid-19

6. Bangladesh govt to release Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for Six months

- Government of Bangladesh has decided to suspend the sentence of the former Prime Minister and Chairperson of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) with certain conditions on humanitarian grounds. Khaleda Zia will be allowed to receive treatment at her home but she would not be allowed to go abroad.
- BNP Chairperson is in jail since 2018 after the court sentenced her to five years imprisonment in 2017 in connection with the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.
- Khaleda Zia is a Bangladeshi politician who served as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 1991 to 1996, and again from 2001 to 2006.
- She was the first woman in the country's history and second in the Muslim majority countries to head a democratic government as prime minister.

New Appointments and Person in News

1. Shivraj Singh Chauhan takes oath as CM of Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chauhan has become the Chief Minister of the state for the fourth time. Governor Lalji Tandon administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a simple ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, a short while ago.
- Mr. Shivraj Singh took oath alone due to the outbreak of Coronavirus. Earlier, Mr. Chauhan was unanimously elected as the BJP Leader of the Legislative Party in a special meeting held this evening. Mr. Gopal Bhargava proposed the name of Mr. Chauhan and was approved by several members

2. Satyarup Siddhanta becomes first Indian to complete volcanic Seven Summit, enters 'Limca Book of Records'

- An Indian mountaineer, Satyarup Siddhanta has been nominated for the coveted Limca Book of World Records for his extraordinary achievement to be the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of each of the 7 continents. After Guinness Book of World Records, the Bengaluru-based 37-years-old techie mountaineer is now shining on the prestigious index of 'Limca Book of records'.
- It is to be noted that he achieved this feat last year in Jan 2019 but received the official acknowledgement and certificate recently. He climbed the highest volcano of Antarctica - Mt Sidley to complete his 7 summits and Volcanic 7 summits.
- Satyarup holds a world record for being the youngest in the world to summit the highest mountains (7 Summits) of each continent, including the Mt Everest in Nepal, and highest Volcanoes (Volcanic 7 summits) of each continent.

3. Shilpa Shetty Kundra partners with Fit India, announces 21-day weight loss program

- In a first-of-its-kind step, the government's flagship fitness movement, Fit India, has partnered with Bollywood actress and fitness icon Shilpa Shetty Kundra to provide her premium 21-Day Weight Loss Programme. The program includes diet tips, free of cost on the Shilpa Shetty App (SS App), during the 21-day lockdown owing to Covid-19. For this period of lockdown that India is in right now, we have made the App's premium "21-Day Weight Loss Program" free for all Indian and global users.

BANKING

1.101 Special Economic Zones denotified between April 2008 and Feb 2020: Govt

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal informed that The Board of Approval on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has approved 101 cases of de-notification between April 1, 2008, & February 29, 2020, on the request of SEZ private developers which include poor market response, lack of space demand & a change in the fiscal regime for SEZs.
- The denotified approval is subject to the refund of all obligations and tax credits obtained by SEZ Private Developers and on receipt of no-objection from the concerned State Governments.
- Under the Chairmanship of Baba Kalyani, the chairman of Bharat Forge the government formed a committee to study the SEZ Policy of India on 04.06.2018. Several recommendations of the committee have already been implemented.

2. Centre waives ATM withdrawal charges for three months

- Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman waived minimum balance charges for savings bank accounts to help citizens deal with the lockdown due to the coronavirus crisis.
- Also, debit cardholders can now withdraw cash from ATMs of all banks free of charge for the next three months. Sitharaman further extended the deadline for filing GST (goods and services tax) returns for March-May to June 30.

3. Jana SFB along with NPCI launches UPI QR-based loan installment payment facility

- On March 24, 2020, Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) , a leading digitized bank in partnership with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a UPI QR-based loan installment payment facility to its existing 40 lakh plus customers & 5 crore microfinance agencies.
- Now the bank's customers can generate UPI (Unified Payments Interface) QR (Quick Response) code for their loan account and make instalment payments instantly using any of the UPI applications. The UPI QR-based payment mode is available for P2P (person to person) and P2M (person to merchant) payments. This move taken by the bank as it advises their customers to carry out banking operations from their home due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic & advised them to make use of Net Banking / Mobile Banking Services 24x7 during emergency.

4. IRS officers KM Prasad and SK Gupta appointed as CBDT board members

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of two Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers Krishan Mohan Prasad and Satish Kumar Gupta as members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- The interaction for 2 vacant CBDT board member posts was held on January 23, 2020 & finally these 2 officers were appointed as board members from 8 shortlisted candidates.
- Krishan Mohan Prasad is a 1984 batch IRS officer, serves as the head of Faceless e-Assessment scheme as first Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax, National e-assessment centre in Delhi.
- Satish Kumar Gupta is a 1984 batch IRS officer, serves as the Principal Chief Commissioner (PCCIT) of I-T (Income Tax) in Mumbai, Maharashtra & also served as Director-General of Investigation of Bhopal and Jaipur.

Awards and Books

1. Hillel Furstenberg & Gregory Margulis named as winners of Abel Prize Laureates 2020

- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters named Hillel Furstenber from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and Gregory Margulis from Yale University, USA as winners of the Abel Prize 2020. They share the prize & the amount of Norwegian Krone (NOK) 7.5 Million (USD 8.3400).
- They are awarded for their “pioneering use of methods from probability & dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics”. They used probabilistic methods & random walks techniques to solve deep problems in diverse areas of mathematics.
- Hillel Furstenberg hails from Berlin. He is the winner of the Israel Prize for exact sciences and the Wolf Prize in mathematics Gregory Margulis hails from Moscow, in 1978 he won the Fields Medal at 32 years old but did not receive the medal in Helsinki due to the refusal of Soviet authorities & is the winner of the Lobachevsky Prize and the Wolf Prize in Mathematics

2. Author Ruchika Tomar wins PEN/Hemingway Award 2020 for debut novel

- Indian-origin American author Ruchika Tomar is named as the winner of the annual PEN/Hemingway Award 2020 for her 1st novel (debut) ”A Prayer for Travelers”. She hails from California & is currently working as a lecturer at Stanford University.
- The award includes a prize of USD 25,000 & also a 1 month residency fellowship (includes all finalists & runner up) at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, worth USD 10,000.
- The 2 runner-ups of the award are Madeline ffitch for her novel Stay and Fight & Regina Porter for her novel The Travelers.

3. Savita Chhabra authors her debut book 'Legacy of Learning'

- Award-winning businesswoman, Savita Chhabra, Chairperson, HRIPL has launched her debut book, called 'Legacy of Learning'. The book offers simplistic and relatable interpretations of the Bhagavad Gita in an attempt to connect the youth of India to the age-old, but relevant scriptures.
- Empathising with the stressful lives that today's generation of millennials and zillennials lead, the book offers fictional stories woven around chosen verses.
- The book introduces readers to the importance of performing good karma and nudges them to be conscious about the purpose of their lives in every decision they make.

4. National Book Trust of MHRD Launches “StayHomeIndiaWithBooks” initiative due to Coronavirus outbreak

- National Book Trust (NBT) of Human Resource Development HRD Ministry launches #StayHomeIndiaWithBooks” initiative to encourage people to read books while at home.
- As part of this initiative, it provides select and best-selling titles for FREE Download of 100+ books, in PDF format, from the NBT’s website <https://nbtindia.gov.in>.
- The books are available in Hindi, English, Asamiya, Bangla, Gujarati, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Kokborok, Mizo, Bodo, Nepali, Tamil, Punjabi, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu and Sanskrit.
- The PDFs are read-only, and no unauthorized or commercial use is permitted.

5. Zoya Akhtar won IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020

- Zoya Akhtar won the IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020 for her outstanding contribution to world tourism through her cinema at the 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC).
- Zoya Akhtar set the trend in the film tourism space with her 2011 classic „Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara“ shot in Spain, following it up with 2015 comedy-drama „Dil Dhadakne Do“ shot in Turkey. She has single-handedly promoted tourism of these countries through her films. Since its inception in 2013, IIFTC’s single-minded objective is to bring the global film locations to the Indian film industry.

Science Tech & Defence

1. TRIFED launches “Tech For Tribals” program to bring technology to tribal entrepreneurs

- A 30- days long capacity-building program called “Tech for Tribal” has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with IIT-Kanpur , IITRoorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- More than 3 lakhs Tribal people will be benefitted by this program comprising 120 sessions.
- The program has been supported by the Ministry of MSME & it will be linked with Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK). One VDVK consists of 15 Self Help Groups (SHG), 20 Tribal gatherers. The person who enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) can participate and they will get to know how to market their products through all available distribution channels.

2. NASA’s CNEOS detects 4 asteroids approaching the earth

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) identifies 4 asteroids namely, 2020 FK, 2020 FS, 2020 DP4 & 2020 FF1 approaching the earth which follows Earth-intersecting orbits.
- The 2020 FK asteroid is the smallest of the four, with a diameter of 43 feet. The 2020 DP4 asteroid is the largest of the four, and is large enough to hit nearly 12 limousines with a diameter of 180 feet. The 2020 FF1 asteroid is 48 feet in diameter. The 2020 FS asteroid is 56 feet in diameter.

3. India-Turkey Kashmir Irritant: India proceeds with FSV Indian Navy Agreement with Turkey

- India had put the Fleet Vessel Ship (FVS) Agreement on hold. The agreement was signed with Turkey to manufacture 45,000-tonne FSV at Vishakhapatnam. India and Turkey signed the FSV agreement in 2016. FSVs are important for the Indian Navy to transport fuel and other supplies for warships at sea.
- According to the 2.3 billion USD agreement, a Turkey company is to build five 45,000 tonnes Fleet Vessel Ship at HSL (Hindustan Shipyard Limited), Vishakhapatnam.

4. US successfully tested its first nuclear-capable hypersonic missile

- In a major development, the United States (US) Navy and Army has successfully tested its common hypersonic glide body (C-HGB), a first unarmed prototype of a hypersonic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The test was carried out at the Pacific Missile Range

Facility in Kauai, Hawaii and was monitored by Missile Defense Agency (MDA) of US Department of Defence i.e. The Pentagon. C-HGB flew at five times the speed of sound, or Mach 5 to a designated impact point.

- In December 2019, Russia became the first country to have an operable surface-to-surface hypersonic weapon named “Avangard hypersonic missile” which can reach speeds of up to Mach 27, roughly 20,500 miles (33,000 kilometers) per hour.
- China also has hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) namely DF-ZF/WU-14 with a speed between Mach 5 and Mach 10.

5. IIT Madras to host India’s first “Global Hyperloop Pod Competition”

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras is organizing India’s first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition to increase awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India.
- The competition is open globally and the final round will take place in the IIT Madras campus in July 2020. The objective of this competition is to encourage student teams in India and abroad to develop a Hyperloop Pod and compete to build the fastest, most innovative and efficient design and prototype of the relevant technologies in the field

6. ITU launches “Global Network Resiliency Platform” amid COVID-19 pandemic

- On March 24, 2020 The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) launched a “Global Network Resiliency Platform” to help global networks remain “safer, stronger and more connected” during the COVID-19 crisis.
- The platform will assist the government & private sector to ensure that networks are kept flexible and all telecommunication services are available to all. To ensure telecommunication services are available to the maximum, the platform will also share best practices & initiatives put in place during the COVID-19 crisis. The portal will gather relevant information and expertise on the activities that telecommunication policymakers and others in the regulatory community can use to ensure that their networks serve their country’s needs.

Sports

1. Tokyo Olympics postponed to 2021

- Japan's Prime Minister and the head of the International Olympic Committee Shinzo Abe today agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by a year in an extraordinary move, unprecedented in peacetime, as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic.
- The move would be a devastating blow for the city of Tokyo, which had won widespread praise for its organization, with venues finished well ahead of time and tickets massively oversubscribed.

2. Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri named in FIFA campaign against Coronavirus

- Indian Football Captain Sunil Chhetri was selected among 28 members for FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) video campaign against Coronavirus.
- FIFA and WHO (World Health Organization) have teamed up to combat the coronavirus by launching ‘Pass the message to kick out coronavirus’ (awareness campaign) led by world-renowned footballers.
- The ‘Pass the message to kick out Coronavirus’ campaign promotes 5 key steps such as hand washing,

coughing etiquette, not touching your face, physical distance and staying home if feeling unwell and these steps protect the people's health according to WHO guidance.

Obituaries

1. Western Music icon & 3 times grammy winner Kenny Rogers passed away at 81

- Kenneth Ray Rogers, long time star of country music, passed away at the age of 81 in Colbert, Georgia, US (United States). He was born on August 21, 1938, in Houston, Texas, US. He was inducted to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2013, for his “distinctive & husky voice”.
- Kenneth Rogers was a six-times Country Music Awards (CMA) winner and 3 times Grammy award winner. He is well-known for his hits like ‘Lady’, ‘The Gambler’, ‘Islands in the Stream’, ‘Lucile’, ‘She Believes in Me’ and ‘Through the years’ and has 24 number-one hits, throughout his career

2. Former footballer Abdul Latif passes away

- Former India midfielder Abdul Latif, who was also a key member of bronze medal winning team at the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games died in Guwahati on Monday. He was also represented India in Asia Cup Qualifier in 1968 in Myanmar and Merdeka Cup in 1969 in Kuala Lumpur

3. “Asterix and Obelix” co-creator & founding father of modern comics, Albert Uderzo, passes away at 92

- The co-creator of the “Asterix and Obelix” comics, Albert Uderzo passed away. He produced Asterix in 1959 along with the fellow Frenchman and writer Rene Goscinny.
- “Asterix and Obelix” entertained its audience over the past 60 years. “Asterix the Gaul” was the first Asterix book that was launched in 1961 and became an overnight sensation

4. Brahma Kumari's Chief Dadi Janki passes away at 104

- Rajyogini Dadi Janki, the Chief of Brahmakumaris Sansthan, the world's largest spiritual organization run by women, passed away at the age of 104 after a prolonged illness. She was suffering from respiratory and stomach-related problems for the last two months.
- Rajyogini Dadi Janki was born on 1st of January 1916 in Hyderabad city located in Sindh province now in Pakistan. She had embraced the spiritual path at the age of 21. In the 1970s, she moved to western countries to establish Indian philosophy, Raj Yoga and human values. She had set up 'Seva Kendras' in 140 countries around the world. Dadi janki was appointed the brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Mission) by the government for her work in the field of maintaining cleanliness

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