

# WEEKLY G.K.

10 February – 16 February 2020

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## National News

### 1. Mega Industrial Exhibition 'Engiexpo 2020' to be held in Vadodara, Gujarat.

- In a bid to promote 'Made in India' products, the Federation of Small Scale Industries (FSSI) will organise a mega industrial exhibition 'Engiexpo 2020' in Vadodara, Gujarat from February 15.
- Over 10,000 industrial products will be showcased in more than 300 stalls at the sixth edition of the exhibition.
- The exhibition will showcase various products, including weighing, welding and cutting tools, products related to construction work, electronic and solar items, and packaging material. Several companies from Uzbekistan have also shown their interest in participating in the exhibition.

### 2. MP Governor Lalji Tandon inaugurates Hunar Haat in Indore.

- Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon inaugurated Hunar Haat in Indore. Hunar Haat is being organised till 16th February.
- Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities. It is organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Hunar Haat is organized under USTTAD-Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development scheme.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Madhya Pradesh

**Capital:** Bhopal

**Governor:** Lalji Tandon

**Chief minister:** Kamal Nath

### 3. After Nagaland, Tripura holds Hornbill Festival to boost eco-tourism.

- Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Deb inaugurated the two-day Hornbill Festival at Baramura Eco-Park, 40 kilometres west of Agartala.
- Organised for the first time in the state, the festival has been organised with twin goals in sight-conservation of Hornbill and to boost the livelihood of the people through tourism.
- Nagaland celebrates Hornbill Festival in December every year to mark their conservation efforts for the species.
- While Nagaland's Kisama village is known for conserving hornbill birds, the local community of Tripura's Baramura Hills also has a traditional culture of conserving these birds.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About Nagaland

**Capital:** Kohima

**Governor:** RN Ravi

##### About Tripura

**Capital:** Agartala

**Governor:** Ramesh Bais

**Chief minister:** Biplab Kumar Deb

### 4. Hyderabad Metro Rail becomes 2nd largest metro network in India.

- Hyderabad Metro Rail, the world's largest public-private partnership project, is now the 2nd-largest operational metro network in the country covering 69.2 km.
- With the launch of another 11-km stretch, Hyderabad Metro Rail has become the second-largest metro rail network in the country after Delhi.

**Foot Notes:****About Telangana****Chief Minister:** K. Chandrashekar Rao.**Governor:** Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan.**Capital:** Hyderabad.**5. BSNL, Air India, MTNL highest loss-making PSUs in FY19; ONGC most profitable: Survey**

- ✚ ONGC, Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC were the top three profitable PSUs in 2018-19, whereas BSNL, Air India and MTNL incurred highest losses for a third consecutive year, according to a survey tabled in Parliament.
- ✚ The top three profit making PSUs including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC contributed 15.3 per cent, 9.68 per cent and 6.73 per cent, respectively to the total profit earned by all profitable CPSEs.
- ✚ Total income of all CPSEs during 2018-19 stood at Rs 24,40,748 crore compared to Rs 20,32,001 crore in 2017-18, showing a growth of 20.12 per cent.

**6. Kerala to host global meet on climate change, ocean health.**

- ✚ ClimFishCon 2020, a three-day international conference on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security' will begin in Kerala on 12 February.
- ✚ More than 300 delegates from 12 countries including scientists, researchers, administrators, policymakers, academicians, and entrepreneurs will participate in the event.
- ✚ Fishers, aqua farmers, students and other stakeholders will also attend.
- ✚ The conference is organised jointly by the CUSAT School of Industrial Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries, Kerala.

**7. India stands 17th on a list of countries at risk of importing coronavirus.**

- ✚ According to a mathematical model for the expected global spread of the coronavirus developed by the researchers at Germany's Humboldt University and Robert Koch Institute, India is at number 17 on the list of countries at risk of importing novel coronavirus (nCoV) that originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019.
- ✚ The top 5 countries at risk of importing coronavirus cases include: Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, USA (United States of America).
- ✚ The "relative import risk" for India was found to be 0.219 %, while for Thailand it is 2.1 %. So far 3 coronavirus infections have been reported in India. All three patients are in Kerala. In terms of Indian airports, the status of Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi is the most dangerous. It is followed by number of airports such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi.

**8. Haryana Government launched 'Reading Mission' to promote reading habits among students.**

- ✚ Kanwar Pal, Haryana education minister, launched 'Reading Mission- Haryana' to inculcate reading habits among students.
- ✚ The mission has been launched based on the Central Government's "Reading Mission -2022" & aims to address the lost glory of reading books.
- ✚ Book review sessions will be organized by students once a month in educational institutions & 45 minute mass- reading programme will be held on 4th Saturday of every month.

**Foot Notes:****About Haryana****Capital:** Chandigarh.**Chief Minister(CM):** Manohar Lal Khattar.**Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya.

**9. NIFM Faridabad to be renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management.**

- ✚ National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad will be renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).
- ✚ The renaming of the institution is decided by the Government of India to align the vision and aspiration of the Institute for the future with the vision and contribution of Late Shri Arun Jaitley. Late Shri Arun Jaitley was the former Union Finance Minister of India.
- ✚ The National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad was established in 1993.

**10. Uttar Pradesh Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved Ground Water Act-2020.**

- ✚ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved Ground Water Act-2020. The act aims to improve ground water level.
- ✚ The act makes the registration of submersible pumps mandatory. The farmers and domestic users need not pay fees to use the pumps. The act makes rain water harvesting mandatory in all private schools, colleges.
- ✚ It also penalizes persons polluting ground water through boring pipes. Also, it is mandatory for the boring companies to register under the act. The companies have to update their information every three months.

**Foot Notes:****About Uttar Pradesh****Chief minister:** Yogi Adityanath**Governor:** Anandiben Patel**Capital:** Lucknow**11. WHO names the new Corona Virus: "COVID-19".**

- ✚ World Health Organization announced a new name for the Corona Virus, "COVID-19". Today more than 42,000 are infected with the virus according to the organization.
- ✚ WHO has chosen the name with no reference to geographical location. According to WHO, the name was chosen in such away that it does not affect normal lives of a country.

**Foot Notes:****About WHO****Head:** Tedros Adhanom**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland**12. UP Govt launched toll free helpline numbers for students.**

- ✚ Taking a unique initiative to solve the queries of students ahead of the Board Examinations starting next week, the Uttar Pradesh Government has launched toll-free helpline numbers.
- ✚ The helpline numbers will remain active from 8 am to 8 pm.
- ✚ In case students have any queries regarding the board exams they can contact at the helpline numbers, 1800-180-5310 and 18001805312.
- ✚ Experts of different subjects including English, life sciences, geography, general science, Hindi, Sanskrit, chemistry will be available on call on these numbers.

**Foot Notes:****About U.P****Governor:** Anandiben Patel**13. Mobile World Congress cancelled due to fear of coronavirus.**

- ✚ The Mobile World Congress, the annual telecoms industry gathering that draws more than one lakh visitors to Barcelona, was cancelled after a mass exodus by exhibitors due to fears over the coronavirus outbreak.

- ✚ The GSMA telecoms association that hosts the get-together said it had cancelled the Feb 24-27 event despite assurances from local and national health officials.
- ✚ The decision comes after dozens of tech companies and wireless carriers dropped out, with the latest cancellations by Nokia, Vodafone, Deutsche Telekom and Britain's BT.

#### 14. Ministry of Finance to release new one rupee note soon.

- ✚ The Government of India is set to introduce a new Rs 1 currency note soon.
- ✚ The new one rupee notes will be printed by the Ministry of Finance, unlike the other denomination notes which are printed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✚ The new Re 1 note will come with the words 'Bharat Sarkar', above the words 'Government of India'.
- ✚ They will have the bilingual signature of Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

#### Foot Notes:

About Ministry of finance

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 29 October 1946

#### 15. IRCTC starts booking of ticket for third corporate train “Kashi Mahakal” Express.

- ✚ Indian Railway's PSU IRCTC has started booking tickets for the third corporate train Kashi Mahakal Express. This train will run between Varanasi and Indore.
- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the train from Varanasi on 17 February. According to the Railway Ministry, the Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corp's (IRCTC) Kashi Mahakal Express will be inaugurated on February 16 from Varanasi and it will start its commercial run from February 20.
- ✚ The train will operate thrice a week between Varanasi and Indore via Ujjain, Sant Hiranagar (Bhopal), Bina, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow/Prayagraj and Sultanpur.

#### Foot Notes:

About IRCTC

Headquarters: New Delhi

Parent organization: Indian Railways

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#### 16. President Kovind presents President's Colour to Indian Navy's INS Shivaji.

- ✚ President Ram Nath Kovind presented President's Colour to Indian Navy's INS Shivaji at Lonavala on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee of this premier training establishment. The President's Colour is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit. INS Shivaji is commemorating 75 years of its glorious service to the Indian Navy this month.
- ✚ The Platinum Jubilee year celebrations started from 15th February last year. The establishment has trained more than two lakh officers and sailors, both Indian and International, since inception. All courses conducted at INS Shivaji are recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

#### Foot Notes:

About Indian navy

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Karambir Singh



**Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS):** Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar  
**Founded:** 5 September 1612

#### 17. Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi renamed as “Sushma Swaraj Bhawan”.

- ✦ Government has decided to rename Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Foreign Service Institute in the national capital as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.
- ✦ The announcement was made by the Ministry of External Affairs on the eve of the birth anniversary of Mrs Swaraj. During her four decade long career, Sushma Swaraj was elected to the Lok Sabha four times and thrice to Rajya Sabha.
- ✦ She served as Minister for External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Parliamentary Affairs, Health and Family Welfare. She also served as Leader of Opposition in the Lower House.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About New Delhi

**Lt Governor:** Anil Baijal

**Chief Minister:** Arvind Kejriwal

#### 18. Aviation security regulator BCAS has banned e-cigarettes on flights and airports.

- ✦ India's Aviation security regulator BCAS has announced the ban on e-cigarettes in both domestic and international flights and at airports.
- ✦ BCAS in a circular said that e-cigarettes will not be allowed in both domestic and international flights as well as at airports. It also proposed a jail term for offenders up to one year and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.
- ✦ In September last year, the Central government banned production, sale and import of e-cigarettes and similar products citing health risk to people, especially the youth.

#### Foot Notes:

##### About BCAS

**Established in:** January 1978

**Parent organisation:** Ministry of Civil Aviation (India).

#### 19. Ladakh, Tamil Nadu paired under “Ek Bharath Shrestha Bharath” programme.

- ✦ Union Territory of Ladakh and Tamil Nadu have been paired under the Ek Bharath Shrestha Bharath programme. UT administration of Art, Culture and Languages Academy has organized a cultural exchange programme with the pair State Tamil Nadu.
- ✦ Ladakh has a unique cultural Identity and to showcase the rich and composite culture aspect of Ladakh, UT Administration of Art, Culture and Language Academy Leh under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat programme have organized culture trip to Tamil Nadu.

#### Foot Notes:

**Ladakh Lt Governor:** R K Mathur

**Tamilnadu Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit

**Tamilnadu CM:** Edappadi K. Palanisamy

#### 20. Manipur CM launches “Anganphou Hunba” programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal East.

- ✦ Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched “Anganphou Hunba” (Early Paddy Crop) programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal.
- ✦ The state government has prepared a 260-crore rupee project to provide irrigation facilities by pumping groundwater and is awaiting the Centre's approval. Mr Biren Singh said, the government has also taken up steps to produce sufficient quantities of fishes by providing loans to 800 selected fish farmers.

#### Foot Notes:

**Manipur Governor:** Najma Heptulla

**Formation:** 21 January 1972

**21. Delhi paired with Sikkim under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme**

- ✚ Ek Bharat shreshth Bharat abhiyan focused campaign is underway in the country. National Capital Delhi has been paired with Sikkim under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.
- ✚ Cultural exchanges are taking place from time to time in Sikkim and Delhi with food festivals, dance festivals etc.
- ✚ With people to people contact, the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative has strengthened the bond between Delhi and Sikkim a sense of oneness in the country.

**22. Govt of India will host “National Organic Food Festival” in New Delhi**

- ✚ The government will organise an organic food festival for women entrepreneurs “National Organic Food Festival” from February 21-23 in New Delhi. The aim of this program is to promote the segment which is projected to expand nearly three-fold to Rs 75,000 crore in market size in the next five years.
- ✚ The three-day festival will be organised jointly by Food Processing and Women & Child Development ministries at JawaharLal Nehru Stadium in the national capital.
- ✚ The theme of this festival is "Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential".

**Foot Notes:**

**Food Processing Minister:** Harsimrat Kaur Badal

**Women & Child Development:** Smriti Irani

**23. Maharashtra govt announces five-day working week for its employees**

- ✚ The Maharashtra government announced a five-day working week for its officers and employees.
- ✚ The cabinet also extended the current work hours by 45 minutes.
- ✚ The new routine would start from February 29. Currently Maharashtra government officials work on the first and third Saturdays of the month and get an off on the second and fourth Saturdays.

**Foot Notes:**

**About Maharashtra**

**Governor:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**Chief minister:** Uddhav Thackeray

**Capital:** Mumbai

**24. EIU lowers global growth forecast for 2020 to 2.2%**

- ✚ The Economist Intelligence Unit has revised downwards its global growth forecast for 2020 to 2.2 per cent, from 2.3 percent previously.
- ✚ It has lowered the forecast due to the new risks that have emerged following the novel coronavirus outbreak in China.
- ✚ The Economist Intelligence Unit's baseline scenario is that the public health emergency in China will be brought under control by end-March.

**Foot Notes:**

**About China**

**Capital:** Beijing

**Currency:** Renminbi

**President:** Xi Jinping

## International News & Foreign Affairs

### 1. India to host COP13 UN Summit on conservation of migratory birds from Feb 17.

- ✦ The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), is going to be hosted by India during 17 to 22 February at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✦ As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years. The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Wild Animals since 1983.
- ✦ The theme of CMS COP13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home". The CMS COP 13 logo is inspired by 'Kolam', a traditional artform from southern India.
- ✦ The mascot for CMS COP13, "Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard" is a critically endangered species which has been accorded the highest protection status under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### 2. African Union summit held in Addis Ababa.

- ✦ The 33rd African Union (AU) summit was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of the summit was "Silencing the Guns: Creating conducive conditions for Africa's development".
- ✦ The summit highlighted three challenges namely eradicating poverty, tackling the climate crisis and silencing guns in Africa.
- ✦ The Democratic Republic of the Congo will replace South Africa as AU chair in 2021. The African Union is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa.

#### Foot Notes:

**Headquarters:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### 3. Amit Shah inaugurated Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking for BIMSTEC partner nations.

- ✦ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking for BIMSTEC Partner Nations in New Delhi.
- ✦ The conference is being organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau.
- ✦ This platform will provide an opportunity to all the member nations to deliberate on the increased threats posed by drug trafficking.
- ✦ The BIMSTEC is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand besides India.

#### Foot Notes:

**About BIMSTEC**

**Headquarters location:** Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Founded:** 1997

### 4. President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to arrive in New Delhi on a 4-day visit to India

- ✦ President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will arrive in New Delhi on a four day visit to India.
- ✦ This will be President Marcelo's first visit to India.
- ✦ The last visit by a President of Portugal to India was in 2007.
- ✦ During the visit, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan followed by a visit to Rajghat.
- ✦ President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will also travel to the states of Maharashtra and Goa during his visit.

#### Foot Notes:

**About Portugal**

**Capital:** Lisbon

**Currency:** Euro



**5. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020**

- ✚ Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise hosted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Bhubaneswar.
- ✚ The theme of this year's exercise is "A cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in the earthquake and flooding or storm."
- ✚ Five-member countries namely, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal are participating in this three-day-long exercise.
- ✚ Two other member countries Bhutan and Thailand are not participating in the exercise this year.

**Foot Notes:****About Odisha****Capital:** Bhubaneswar**Governor:** Ganeshi Lal**6. Donald Trump likely to inaugurate, Motera Cricket Stadium, world's largest cricket facility in Ahmedabad.**

- ✚ The World's Biggest Cricket Stadium, the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad – renamed as the Sardar Vallabhbhai Stadium will be inaugurated by US President Donald Trump during his visit to India.
- ✚ The stadium has a capacity of 1.10 lakh people.
- ✚ Sardar Vallabhbhai Stadium emerged as the World's Biggest Cricket Stadium after the previous 53000-seater Motera Stadium was demolished back in 2015.
- ✚ US President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit India along with his wife Melania Trump.

**Foot Notes:****About US****Capital:** Washington, D.C.**Currency:** United States Dollar**7. UK Minister of Indian Origin "Alok Sharma" to lead UN climate summit.**

- ✚ Indian-origin Alok Sharma was named the new UK Minister in charge of the crunch UN climate talks to be hosted by Britain this November.
- ✚ Agra-born Sharma has been promoted to the post of Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Cabinet reshuffle.
- ✚ He will take charge of the crucial summit 'COP26' as its former president was removed due to controversy just weeks ago.

**Foot Notes:****About UK****Prime minister:** Boris Johnson**Capital:** London**Currency:** UK Pound

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## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. C N R Nair has been appointed by Supreme Court to make inventory of ornaments at Sabarimala temple.**

- ✚ Retired Kerala High Court judge C N Ramachandaran Nair has been appointed by the Supreme Court of India for the formulation of the inventory and valuation report of ornaments at Sabarimala temple.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About Kerala**

**Chief Minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan

**Governor:** Arif Mohammed Khan.

### **2. Pinelopi Koujianou has resigned from the World Bank as the chief economist.**

- ✚ Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg has announced her resignation as the Chief Economist of the World Bank.
- ✚ Aart Kraay will be the interim WB chief economist until the appointment of a new permanent chief economist.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About World Bank**

**President:** David Robert Malpass.

**Managing Director(MD) and Chief Financial Officer(CFO):** Anshula Kant.

### **3. Kaamya Karthikeyan becomes youngest girl to climb Mt Aconcagua.**

- ✚ Mumbai-Girl "Kaamya Karthikeyan" became the youngest girl in the world to summit Mount Aconcagua.
- ✚ Mount Aconcagua at 6962-meter, is the highest peak in South America. Kaamya had summited Ladakh's 6,260 metres Mt. Mentok Kangri II, under extreme cold weather conditions on August 24, 2019.
- ✚ Kaamya is studying in 7th standard at Navy Children School in Mumbai.

### **4. Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsyayan took over as Eastern Fleet Commander.**

- ✚ The command of the Eastern Fleet was handed over to Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsyayan by Rear Admiral Suraj Berry at a ceremony at Visakhapatnam. He previously served as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at New Delhi.
- ✚ Rear Admiral Suraj Berry will take over as Chief of Staff of the tri-services Andaman and Nicobar Command shortly.

### **5. Atul Kumar Gupta will be the new President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020-21.**

- ✚ Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for 2020-21.
- ✚ Atul Gupta, who has served the chartered accountancy profession for about two decades, was the Vice President of ICAI for the term 2019-20.

#### **Foot Notes:**

##### **About ICAI**

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Agency executive:** N. D. Gupta (President)

**6. Narayana Murthy's son-in-law "Rishi Sunak" appointed as UK's new Finance Minister.**

- ✚ Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's son-in-law, Rishi Sunak has been appointed as UK's Finance Minister. He replaced Pakistani Chancellor Sajid Javid. After the reshuffle, three Indian origin Members of Parliament are now a part of Britain's most diverse cabinet led by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- ✚ The 47-year-old Priti Patel has been appointed as the Home Minister. The 51-year-old Alok Sharma has been appointed as the Business Secretary in the British Cabinet. Along with these three, 15 Indian-origin MPs are among 65 non-whites elected to the new 650-member House of Commons, reflecting 10 percent of its strength.

**Foot Notes:****About U.K****Prime minister:** Boris Johnson**Currency:** UK Pound**7. MakeMyTrip founder Kalra steps down as group CEO, Magow to take over**

- ✚ Deep Kalra, group chief executive of Nasdaq-listed MakeMyTrip, has stepped down.
- ✚ Kalra, a St Stephen's College and IIM-Ahmedabad alumni, will now serve as executive chairman. Rajesh Magow, who was heading its India business, taking over Kalra's role.
- ✚ Magow will work closely with Kalra in his new role and focus on driving the next phase of growth for the MakeMyTrip Group through its three brands - MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and Redbus.

**8. Former India all-rounder "Robin Singh" appointed as UAE's Director of Cricket**

- ✚ Former India all-rounder Robin Singh was appointed director of cricket of the United Arab Emirates. The 56-year-old's appointment comes following the sacking of Dougie Brown as head coach.
- ✚ Singh, who had represented India in one Test and 136 ODIs between 1989 and 2001, has over the years made a name for himself in coaching.
- ✚ He was associated with the Indian Premier League's highly successful Mumbai Indians franchise, Caribbean Premier League's Barbados Tridents since 2013 and T10 franchises in the T10 league here.

**Foot Notes:****About UAE****Capital:** Abu Dhabi**Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham**President:** Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## **Banking**

**1. PFRDA doubles minimum net worth for pension fund managers to Rs 50 cr from Rs 25 cr.**

- ✚ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), the regulator of the National Pension System (NPS), has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to 50 crore from the 25 crore stipulated earlier. Now, pension funds are on par with mutual funds which have to meet a minimum net worth requirement of ₹50 crores, under SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) rules.
- ✚ Provision has also been made for licenses to have indefinite validity. Earlier, the licenses of pension fund managers were granted for a period of 5 years. But now, the license will remain valid until cancelled by the regulator.
- ✚ A pension fund or its sponsor cannot acquire equity stake in another pension fund. Existing pension funds that have such cross holdings can continue with the same but cannot increase them without the permission of the regulator.

**Foot Notes:****About PFRDA**

It is a pension regulator of India.

**Establishment:** 23 August 2003

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairperson:** Pankaj Jain

**2. IndusInd Bank tops list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks.**

- ✚ IndusInd Bank has topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks, according to 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report. As per the Report, the brand value of IndusInd Bank has increased by 122% over the past 12 months, making it the highest placed for growth in brand value, across the globe. The bank reported total assets of Rs 3.1 lakh crore at the end of Quarter 3rd of FY20.

**Foot Notes:**

**CEO:** Romesh Sobti (from 1 Feb 2011)

**Headquarters:** Pune

## **Science Tech & Defence**

**1. Indian Army Major develops world's first bulletproof helmet.**

- ✚ World's first bulletproof helmet has been developed by the Indian Army Major.
- ✚ The bulletproof helmet can stop an AK-47 bullet round fired from a distance of 10 meters.
- ✚ The Ballistic helmet is developed by An Indian Army Major Anoop Mishra.

**Foot Notes:**

**28th Chief of Army Staff:** General Manoj Mukund Naravane.

**2. Fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise "Ajeya Warrior-2020" between India and the United Kingdom.**

- ✚ Fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise "Ajeya Warrior-2020" between India and the United Kingdom will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from 13 to 26 February 2020.
- ✚ The exercise will comprise of 120 soldiers each from Indian and United Kingdom Army.
- ✚ The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorists operation in Urban and Semi Urban areas. The exercise is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India.

**Foot Notes:****About UK**

**Capital:** London

**Currency:** Pound sterling

**Prime minister:** Boris Johnson

**3. Indian Army, firm developed world's cheapest gun shot locator named as "Parth".**

- ✚ 'Parth' gunshot locator device developed by the Army's College of Military Engineering jointly with a private firm costs much cheaper than the imported ones.
- ✚ The device costs around Rs 3 lakhs, and if inducted, would replace a similar imported item which costs around Rs 65 lakhs.
- ✚ The device can locate the exact location of a bullet from a distance of 400m and will help to locate and neutralize terrorists faster.

**4. Solar Orbiter launches on historic mission to study the sun's poles.**

- ✦ The European-built Solar Orbiter spacecraft launched towards the sun to take a unique look at their blazing poles.
- ✦ The 1,800 kilograms spacecraft lifted off atop a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, USA.
- ✦ Solar Orbiter is a collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA. The mission is expected to return unprecedented data and images, as well as our first views of the sun's polar regions.

## **Important Days**

**1. National De-Worming Day celebrated on 10 February.**

- ✦ National De-Worming Day is conducted on February 10 each year.
- ✦ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to make every child in the country worm free.
- ✦ According to the World Health Organization 241 million children between the ages of 1 and 19 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms in India, also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH).
- ✦ Helminths (worms) which are transmitted through soil contaminated with faecal matter are called soil-transmitted helminths (Intestinal parasitic worms).

**2. International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrated on 11 February.**

- ✦ International Day of Women and Girls in Science is celebrated on 11 February every year to promote the participation of women and girls in science.
- ✦ According to the United Nations, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women.
- ✦ The day's purpose is to promote full and equal access to participation in science for women and girls.

**3. National Productivity Day is observed on 12 February.**

- ✦ National Productivity Day is observed on 12 February. The day is celebrated by the National Productivity Council (NPC) to promote productivity culture in India. Also, National Productivity Week is celebrated from 12-18 February 2020. The day aims to propagate productivity, quality, competitiveness, and efficiency.
- ✦ NPCI aims to bring forth innovative enterprises in different sectors. The main objective is to raise consciousness towards innovation and productivity. It encourages shareholders and database that helps in decision-making, improving system and procedures.

**4. World Radio Day: 13 February.**

- ✦ World Radio Day is observed every year on 13 February.
- ✦ The day is observed every year on this date to raise greater awareness among the public and the media of the importance of radio and to encourage decision makers to establish and provide access to information through radio.
- ✦ Radio is a low-cost medium specifically suited to reach remote communities and vulnerable people.
- ✦ It also plays a crucial role in emergency communication and disaster relief.
- ✦ **Theme:** "Radio and diversity".



## Sports

### 1. Armand Duplantis breaks the Pole Vault World Record.

- ✚ Armand Duplantis broke the world record in the pole vault with a jump of 20 feet 2¾ inches, or 6.17 meters.
- ✚ At an indoor meet in Torun, Poland, Duplantis edged by a centimeter the previous record set in 2014 by Renaud Lavillenie of France, the 2012 Olympic champion.
- ✚ Duplantis, known widely as Mondo, has already been selected to compete at the Tokyo Games.
- ✚ He will represent Sweden, his mother's home country, instead of the United States at the Olympics.

### 2. Haryana thrashed SAI 6-0 to win 10th Hockey Senior Women National Championship.

- ✚ Haryana thrashed Sports Authority of India (SAI) 6-0 to win the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division) title at Kollam.
- ✚ Manisha was the first to get on the score sheet for Haryana in the 19th minute.
- ✚ Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-1 in the third-fourth place play-off match.

#### Foot Notes:

**About Haryana**

**Capital:** Chandigarh

**Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya



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### 3. Bangladesh U19 cricket team won their maiden U19 World Cup title after defeating India.

- ✚ Bangladesh beat India by three wickets to win maiden ICC U-19 World Cup title in Potchefstroom, South Africa by the Duckworth-Lewis method.
- ✚ Batting first, India were all out for 177 in 47.2 overs. India was unbeaten in the tournament so far, winning all five matches.
- ✚ In the semifinal, India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by 10 wickets. First-time finalists Bangladesh, beat South Africa and New Zealand in their journey to the finals.

### 4. "Amit Panghal" ranked No 1 by IOC's Boxing Task Force rankings for Olympic Qualifiers.

- ✚ World silver-medallist Amit Panghal has been ranked number one in the 52 kilogram category for Olympic Qualifiers. This made him the first Indian pugilist in over a decade to achieve the global top position in the category. The list was released by the International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers.
- ✚ The rankings took into account the last two world championships for both men and women and the continental championships and Games in 2019. Last year, he became the first Indian to claim a silver medal at the world championships after notching up a gold at the Asian meet.

#### Foot Notes:

**About IOC(International Olympic Committee)**

**Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**President:** Thomas Bach

**Director-General:** Christophe De Kepper  
**Founded:** 23 June 1894, Paris, France

## **Books and Authors**

### **1. Vice President releases the book 'A Child of Destiny'.**

- ✚ The Vice President of India Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'A Child of Destiny' an autobiography penned by Prof. K. Ramakrishna Rao.
- ✚ K. Ramakrishna Rao was an Eminent Scholar, Author, Researcher, Scientist and Gandhian, He was born in the coastal region in Vishakapatnam, Andh.

### **2. Dharmendra Rai launched his book "The Thin Mind Map Book".**

- ✚ Dharmendra Rai, a Mind Map & Brain Literacy pioneer just launched his book "THE THIN MIND MAP BOOK".
- ✚ The book is designed to make anyone an expert in mind mapping by devoting two full days to reading and doing all the experiential exercises mentioned in the book.
- ✚ Dharmendra Rai has trained over 1,900 startups in Mind Mapping.
- ✚ He has over 25 Years work experience in training, sales & marketing with companies like Xerox, Morgan Stanley, Alliance Capital & Karvy.
- ✚ Dharmendra Rai is the first person in the world to talk on TEDx on Creativity & Mind Mapping.
- ✚ He was recently nominated for an award by Forbes. He recently received an UN Award for Mind Mapping & Brain Literacy. Previous winners include Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India & Amul's Verghese Kurien.

### **3. Abhinav Kashyap releases 'The Crossfire of Love', a novel by US-based author Dhiren Tiwari.**

- ✚ Filmmaker and screenwriter Abhinav Kashyap of the 'Dabangg' fame recently unveiled the novel 'The Crossfire of Love', a racing psychological romantic thriller by US-based author Dhiren Tiwari.
- ✚ Within days of the release, the novel has topped the WH Smith Bestseller charts and has garnered high praise from both critics in print and television.
- ✚ The novel is an explosive #MeToo story told from the perspectives of Saira, a failed journalist obsessed with reviving her career.

## **Awards**

### **1. Indian hockey players Lalremsiami & Vivek Sagar wins FIH women and men's rising star of year 2019.**

- ✚ Indian professional hockey player Lalremsiami (19) from Mizoram was voted the best FIH(International Hockey Federation) Women's Rising Star of the Year 2019. At the same time, Indian team's midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad (19) was selected as the best FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year 2019.
- ✚ Lalremsiami defeated Argentina's Julieta Jankunas and the Netherlands' Frederique Matla, who finished second and third respectively & received 40 % of the vote. She made her debut in 2017 in a test series against Belarus.
- ✚ Prasad won the award, beating Argentina's Maico Casella and Blake Govers of Australia, who finished second and third respectively. Sagar garnered a total of 34.5 % of the vote. Sagar became the 2nd youngest player to represent the country during the four-nation invitational tournament at the age of 17

in January 2018. He was also part of the silver medal winning team in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in 2019.

**Foot Notes:****About FIH/ International Hockey Federation**

**Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**President:** Narinder Batra

**Founded:** 7 January 1924

**2. Indian hockey captain “Manpreet Singh” named Player of the Year 2019 by IHF.**

- ✚ The Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh was named Player of the Year for 2019 by the International Hockey Federation.
- ✚ Manpreet, a midfielder, became the first Indian to win the accolade since the awards were introduced in 1999. He beat competition from Belgium's Arthur van Dorren and Lucas Villa of Argentina, who came second and third.

**Foot Notes:****About IHF(International Hockey Federation)**

**Headquarters:** Basel, Switzerland

**President:** Erwin Lanc

**President:** Hassan Moustafa

**Founded:** 11 July 1946

## Obituaries

**1. Veteran journalist Nandu Kulkarni passes away.**

- ✚ Veteran journalist Nandu R Kulkarni died of a heart attack.
- ✚ The Mumbai bureau chief of "The Statesman" was 70.
- ✚ Having started his career as an intern with 'The Indian Express' in 1976, Nandu as he was known in journalistic circles used to report on economic offences.
- ✚ Nandu joined "The Statesman" in 1992 and as the bureau chief, he would report on a wide range of subjects including politics and business.

**2. Padma Shri awardee fashion designer, Wendell Rodricks passed away**

- ✚ Noted fashion designer and Padma Shri awardee Wendell Rodricks passed away. Apart from being a giant in the fashion and lifestyle industry, Rodricks was an advocate for queer rights and environmental issues in India.
- ✚ He is credited with revolutionising Indian fashion and promoting it globally.
- ✚ He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014 and was a recipient of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres (Knight of the order of arts and letters) in 2015.

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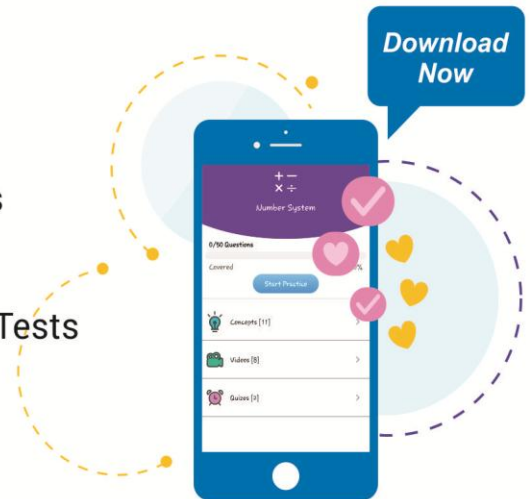
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