

## National News

### **1. Task force is constituted by Government of India to restrict Novel Coronavirus.**

- ✦ A task force has been constituted by the Government of India to restrict the Novel Coronavirus outspread in India.
- ✦ Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy and Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri are the members of the task force.

### **2. India becomes second largest steel producer of Crude Steel.**

- ✦ As per World Steel Association data, India became the second largest steel producer of crude steel after China in 2018 and 2019, by replacing Japan. India's crude steel production in 2018 was at 109.3 MT, an increase of 7.7 per cent from 101.5 MT in 2017.
- ✦ China remains number one with 920 million tonnes of production in 2018 and 996.3 million tonnes in 2019.
- ✦ The United States and South Korea rank fourth and fifth respectively.

### **3. Uttarakhand's iconic Lakshman Jhula to be replaced by India's first Glass floor bridge.**

- ✦ Uttarakhand government has cleared the design of a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand as a replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. It has been in place for 94 years. The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).
- ✦ The floor of the bridge is to be made of 3.5 inches thick toughened transparent glass, which is capable of bearing a load of more than 750 kg per squaremetre at a stretch. The bridge will be built parallel to Lakshman Jhula with a total width of eight metres.

### **4. 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.

### **5. 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.

### **6. Andhra govt launches doorstep pension distribution scheme under "YSR Pension Kanuka".**

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh Government has initiated a doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state, under which, various welfare pensions are being delivered at the doorstep of the pensioners.
- ✦ The "YSR Pension Kanuka" initiative to end the struggles of old people who find it difficult to go to the pension office.
- ✦ Also, the age for old age pensioners (OAP) has been reduced from 65 to 60 years. With the increase in the pensioners, the list of beneficiaries has gone up to 54.64 lakh this year.

### **7. Frequency of Maitree and Bandhan Express connecting Bangladesh and India increased.**

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- ✚ The frequency of the Maitree Express and Bandhan Express trains connecting Bangladesh and India has been increased.
- ✚ In a press release issued the High Commission of India in Bangladesh said that Maitree Express running between Dhaka and Kolkata will now run 5 days a week. Earlier it was running 4 days a week.
- ✚ Bandhan Express running between Kolkata and Khulna will now be running twice a week. Earlier it was running once a week.

### 8. 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.

### 9. Union govt sets target of 30km of highways a day in current fiscal.

- ✚ The Union Government has set the target for construction of highways about 30 kilometres per day in the current fiscal.
- ✚ In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said, the average construction of Highways is 25.23 kilometres per day till December in 2019-20 whereas it was 24.37 kilometres per day during the corresponding period in 2018-19.
- ✚ A total of two thousand one hundred 55 kilometres length of roads have been built in the first three months of the current financial year as compared to two thousand three hundred 51 kilometres in the corresponding period last year.

### 10. Karnataka launches Janasevaka scheme for home delivery of govt services.

- ✚ State Government of Karnataka launched Janasevaka scheme. The Government aims 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 (janasevaka.karnataka.gov.in) 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

### 11. Flipkart shuts down fashion portal Jabong, to focus fully on Myntra.

- ✚ E-commerce marketplace Flipkart is downing shutters on Jabong and the portal is now redirecting the users to the Myntra website.
- ✚ Walmart-owned Flipkart had acquired Jabong for \$70 million in 2016. Earlier in July 2019, Flipkart had said that it had started to cut a significant chunk of its marketing expenditure in Jabong and redirecting its users towards Myntra by providing discounts.
- ✚ Flipkart had acquired fashion e-commerce platform Myntra in May 2014. Soon after the Walmart acquisition in November 2018, Flipkart merged both Myntra and Jabong.

### 12. Financial closure of Arun-III hydropower project inked b/w India and Nepal.

- ✚ The Arun-3 hydropower project, the largest Indian-backed project in Nepal, secured NPR(Nepaleses rupee) 100 Billion for the 900 MW (mega watt) hydropower project being built on the Arun River in Nepal's Sankhuwasabha District.
- ✚ India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-III Power Development Company, the developer of the Arun-III hydropower project has signed the financial closure of the project with 7 banks in Kathmandu, Nepal.

### 13. Railway Line between India and Bangladesh project to End by 2021.

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- ✚ The 15.6km long railway line between Agartala, India(Tripura)-Akshaura in Bangladesh will be completed by September 2021, these railway routes will improve connectivity between Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railways and will boost trade between the two countries. The project started in January 2010 during the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina's visits to India.
- ✚ The railway link connects Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India and from Nischintapur to Agartala railway station in Tripura, India. The Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is bearing the cost for laying the track on the 5.46km Indian side and the cost of laying the 10.6 km-long track on the Bangladesh side is being Funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

### 14. Jammu & Kashmir admin renames PHE & IFC department as 'Jal Shakti Dept'

- ✚ The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration renamed Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department (PHE & IFC) as the 'Jal Shakti Department'.
- ✚ The Administrative Council meeting was met under the Chairmanship of Girish Chandra Murmu, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, sanctioned the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to achieve 100% coverage of piped water supply by December 2021.

### 15. 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.

### 16. 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.

### 17. 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.

### 18. 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.

### 19. NIFM Faridabad to be renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management.

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- ✚ 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.

### 20. 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).

### 21. 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.

### 22. 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.

### 23. 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".

### 24. Hyderabad to host 3-day 'BioAsia 2020'.

- ✚ Hyderabad is hosting the three-day BioAsia 2020, Asia's largest biotechnology and life sciences forum.
- ✚ The event themed 'Today for Tomorrow' will witness as many as 2,000 delegates from 37 countries.
- ✚ Switzerland will be the partner country at the event this year.
- ✚ An eminent 40-member team consisting of industries, academia and start-ups from Switzerland will participate in the event.
- ✚ As many as 800 companies are set to take part in BioAisa 2020.

### 25. 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign launched by Bihar govt to encourage practice of planting trees.

- ✚ 'Pyaar ka Paudha' (a plant of love) campaign has been launched by the Bihar government's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna, to encourage the practice of planting trees in the state.

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- ✦ Department of Environment, humbly request you to gift one plant of love to your closed ones and provide good care.
- ✦ The aim of this campaign is to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.

### 26. SEBI constitutes municipal bonds development committee.

- ✦ SEBI has constituted a committee which will suggest on policy matters pertaining to development of municipal debt securities and facilitate municipalities for issuance of such bonds.
- ✦ The regulator has constituted a municipal bonds development committee headed by its Executive Director Sujit Prasad.
- ✦ The panel will advise SEBI on issues related to regulation and development of primary and secondary market of municipal debt securities.
- ✦ It will suggest the regulator on matters required to be taken up for changes in legal framework to introduce simplification and transparency in systems and procedures in the primary and secondary market.

### 27. Kerala CM launches "Yodhavu" mobile app to combat drug menace.

- ✦ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched 'Yodhavu' (Warrior), a mobile app as part of efforts to curb the growing menace in the State. Through this app the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- ✦ A special feature of the application, introduced by the Kochi city police, was that the informer's identity could be kept secret.
- ✦ The chief minister urged people to fight against the growing drug menace in the state.

### 28. Delhi-based IGIA becomes 1st single-use plastic-free airport of India.

- ✦ According to the GMR Group-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), Delhi-based Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the 1st airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage.
- ✦ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) -ITC Sustainable Development Center of Excellence (CESD) also recognized DIAL for successfully implementing the campaign to make the airport voluntary plastic free.
- ✦ With the resolve to 'Beat plastic pollution' on the occasion of World Environment Day in the year 2019, the IGIA campus has also become the first airport in the country to complete it by launching a campaign to make plastic single-free.

### 29. Pak High Commission issued visas to Indian pilgrims to visit Katas Raj temples.

- ✦ The Pakistan High Commission has issued visas to a group of Indian Hindu pilgrims for visiting Katas Raj temples in Chakwal city of Pakistan's Punjab province from February 19 to 25, 2020, these visit governs under The Pakistan-India Protocol on visits to Religious Shrines (1974) signed by both the countries.
- ✦ Katas Raj temple is also known as Qila katas or complex of Katas temple is considered as one of the holiest places for the Hindu community, the temples form a complex and its surrounded by a pond named Katas.
- ✦ A large number of Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan to observe various religious festivals every year.

### 30. Sub-group of terror financing watchdog FATF recommends continuation of Pak in 'Grey List'.

- ✦ A sub-group of the global terror financing watchdog FATF recommended the continuation of Pakistan in the 'Grey List' for its failure to check terror funding. The decision was taken at the meeting of the FATF's International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG), held at the ongoing Paris plenary.
- ✦ The final decision will be taken on Friday when the FATF takes up issues concerning Pakistan.
- ✦ The FATF meeting is being held a week after an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan sentenced Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attack, to 11 years in two terror financing cases.
- ✦ Pakistan was placed on the 'Grey List' by the FATF in June 2018.

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### 31. NITI Aayog will organize SDG(Sustainable Development Goals) Conclave 2020 in Assam.

- ✦ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020: Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States has been scheduled to be held from 24-26 February at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam. The conclave will be a part of NITI Aayog's continuous efforts towards fostering partnerships at the sub-national level.
- ✦ The conclave will be organized by NITI Aayog in association with North Eastern Council, Assam government, Tata Trusts, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
- ✦ The conclave will host technical sessions that pertain to SDG localization in the northeast, climate adaptive agriculture, economic prosperity, and sustainable livelihoods, health, and nutrition, education and skill development and entrepreneurship, infrastructure development & inequality and exclusion. The sessions are expected to take stock of progress and discuss and deliberate on the way forward for the region in the aforesaid areas.
- ✦ NITI Aayog will review the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.

### 32. Indian Railways launched upgraded version of AI based online Chatbot "ASKDISHA".

- ✦ Ministry of Railways upgraded services of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based ASKDISHA chatbot to converse with Railway customers in the Hindi language. It aims to resolve queries of railway passengers over the internet pertaining to various services offered.
- ✦ Indian Railways introduced the services of AI-based ASKDISHA chatbot in October 2018.
- ✦ The Chatbot was initially launched in English. In order to further enhance the customer services rendered and to further strengthen the services of the chatbot, IRCTC has now powered voice-enabled ASKDISHA to converse with customers in the Hindi language.
- ✦ The customers can now ask queries to ASKDISHA in the Hindi language by voice and text.

### 33. Maharashtra govt banned the cultivation centres of Thai Mangur fish.

- ✦ The Maharashtra state government has launched a special drive to destroy the centre that cultivates the centres of the exotic Thai Mangur fish. The decision was made at a meeting which was held between fish traders and officials of the Maharashtra fisheries department headed by Minister "Aslam Shaikh" after a detailed review of the situation.
- ✦ The fish is popularly known as Thai Mangur or African Mangur or foreign Mangur. It looks like freshwater Mangur.
- ✦ Thai Mangur is cultivated in highly unhygienic conditions, which may lead to people falling sick after consuming it.

### 34. Northeast Frontier Railway built India's tallest pier bridge in Manipur.

- ✦ India's tallest railway pier bridge which is 100 m tall has been constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway Construction Organisation.
- ✦ The bridge has been built across Makru river in the Tamenglong district of Manipur. The bridge has been constructed at the cost of Rs 283.5-crore.

### 35. 1st edition of Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav commenced in Agartala.

- ✦ The 1st edition of the Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav-Tourism festival has commenced in Agartala, Tripura to promote tourism in Tripura.
- ✦ The festival has been organized in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war as well as to boost the tourism sector of Tripura.

## International News & Foreign Affairs

### 1. WHO names the new Corona Virus: "COVID-19".

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- ✚ 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 a way that it does not affect normal lives of a country.

### 2. Bhutan ended free entry for Indian Tourists.

- ✚ The Government of Bhutan, Thimphu decided to implement a daily fee of Rs.1200 (\$17) for "regional tourists" from India, the Maldives, Bangladesh from July 2020. The fee is called SDF "Sustainable Development Fees" in order to regulate a new tourism policy (tourism facilities, better infrastructure).
- ✚ The decision was passed by the National Assembly(lower house of Bhutan) as a "Tourism Levy & Exemption Bill of Bhutan 2020". Children under the age of 5 from India, Maldives, Bangladesh will not have to pay the tax and between 6 to 12 years will be required to pay Rs.600.
- ✚ The SDF fees is lower than foreign tourists (\$65), also charged a compulsory flat cover charge of (\$250) per day, Dorji Dhradul, Bhutan's Tourism Council Director, mentioned SDF was to provide better facilities for regional tourists. SDF cancels the free entry of Indian tourists to Bhutan.

### 3. India ranked 40th in Intellectual Property Index.

- ✚ Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chamber of Commerce released the International IP (Intellectual Property) Index. According the ranking, India was at position 40 of the 53 economies.
- ✚ The report released by GIPC says that India remains to be the most challenging but still promising market for IP-intensive industries. The hurdles mainly remain in patent eligibility and enforcement.
- ✚ This year India scored 16.22 in Intellectual Property Index. India's score has shown improvement by 7% as compared to the previous year reporting of GIPC. However, based on relative performance, India was pushed four ranks backwards. In 2019, India was at 36th rank improving from 44th position in 2018. It was the highest gain for any country in 2019.

### 4. 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.

### 5. ShaktiKanta Das named as best central banker in Asia Pacific.

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Dash has been named the central Banker of the Year 2020 for the Asia-Pacific region by financial intelligence magazine "The Banker".

### 6. Jaipur received UNESCO World Heritage City certificate.

- ✚ Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay presented the 'World Heritage City' certificate to the Pink City – Jaipur on February 05, 2020. Minister of Urban Development Shanti Dhariwal received this award in a ceremony held at Albert Hall.
- ✚ The UNESCO team visited the Diwan-i-Aam, Diwan-i-Khas, Sheesh Mahal, Mansingh Mahal, and the Amer Fort. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has described Amer Fort as a mesmerizing reminder of the past.

### 7. International Seafood Show in Kochi will be held from 7-9 February 2020.

- ✚ The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI), is organizing the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020.

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- ✦ The theme of this year's seafood show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition". Over 200 exhibitors, 350 stalls and more than 5000 delegates, including foreign delegates, are expected to attend the three-day event at Kochi.
- ✦ The delegates include seafood processors, buyers and stakeholders, from other related sectors, representing firms in India and abroad. IISS 2020 will highlight the technological advances and sustainable practices followed in the seafood processing sector in India.

### 8. 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.

### 9. 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.

### 10. 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.

### 11. 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.

### 12. 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.

### 13. Donald Trump likely to inaugurate, Motera Cricket Stadium, world's largest cricket facility in Ahmedabad.



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- ✚ 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.

### 14. Singapore firm wins bid to buy India's longest road tunnel.

- ✚ Singapore-based infrastructure investment platform Cube Highways has won the bid to acquire India's longest road tunnel - the 9.2-km Chenani-Nashri project in Jammu & Kashmir - for Rs 3,929 crore.
- ✚ The IL&FS board has declared Cube Highways as the highest bidder (H1), and invited lenders to vote for the sale through the e-voting process.
- ✚ The tunnel project has a debt of around Rs 5,454 crore and a sale of the asset will help bring down the overall debt position of the company.
- ✚ Cube Highways, a platform floated by I Squared Capital and backed by International Finance Corp and ADIA, operates 1,700 km of highways in India.
- ✚ In October 2019, The government has renamed Chenani-Nashri tunnel on national highway 44 in Jammu & Kashmir as Dr.Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel.

### 15. IISc ranked 16th in Times Higher Education Ranking.

- ✚ Times Higher Education Ranking was released in London. The ranking was titled "The Emerging Economies University Ranking 2020".
- ✚ Around 11 Indian Universities were included in the top 100. However, China had more Universities than India in the ranking. Around 30 Universities of China were in the top 100.
- ✚ The ranking included 533 Universities from 47 countries all over the world. Out of these, 56 Indian Universities appeared in the ranking.
- ✚ The IIT Kharagpur moved up 23 places to 32nd rank, IIT Delhi improved by 28 places and was at 38th rank and IIT Madras was at 63rd rank climbing 12 places.

### 16. Hindi is 3rd most spoken language in the world with 615 million speakers after English and Mandarin.

- ✚ Hindi is the 3rd most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers. The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated English at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers.
- ✚ Chinese Mandarin is at the second position with 1,117 million speakers. Bangla has been ranked as the 7th most spoken language of the world. Bangla has 228 million native speakers.
- ✚ Ethnologue brings out an yearly database of living languages of the world since its establishment in 1951.

### 17. India & Norway signed LoI(Letter for intent) for collaboration on blue economy for sustainable development.

- ✚ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan along with Norway's Minister for Climate and Environment, Mr Sveinung Rotevatn have jointly inaugurated the 'India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development' at the 3rd meeting of the Task Force.
- ✚ The 2 countries also signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) & agreed to support and work together on Integrated Ocean Management & Research. The LoI was signed in the presence of Mr. Ratan P. Watal, Member Secretary, EAC to PM & Mr. M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India among others.
- ✚ It was launched jointly by the Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, and the Norwegian Prime Minister (PM) Ms Erna Solberg, during her visit to India in January 2019. It primarily aims to promote and undertake joint initiatives between the two nations. It enables respective stakeholders from both the countries at the highest level. It will also ensure continued commitment and progress across ministries and agencies.

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

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## 1. Govt appoints M Ajit Kumar as chairman of CBIC.

- ✦ The Government of India appointed M Ajit Kumar IRS as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ✦ The appointment came just two days before the Union Budget 2020 presentation. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment.
- ✦ The new Chairman's immediate responsibilities will include accelerating the Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues and to deal with the changes introduced in customs duties in the Union Budget for 2020.

## 2. BCCI inducted Madan Lal, R.P. Singh & Sulakshana in Cricket Advisory Committee.

- ✦ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the appointment of its 3-member Cricket Advisory Committee(CAC). The committee comprises Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik and the term of appointment is 1 year.
- ✦ **Madan Lal:** He represented India in 39 tests and 67 One Day Internationals(ODI). He represented India during the 1983 World Cup where India won against West Indies. He also served as national selector and coach of Indian team.
- ✦ **R.P Singh:** He played for India in 14 Tests, 58 ODIs, 10 T20I (Twenty Twenty International) and was part of the Indian team which won the World T20 against Pakistan. It was hosted in South Africa in 2007.
- ✦ **Sulakshana:** She had played two Tests, 46 ODIs and 31 T20Is for India in a career spanning 11 years.

## 3. Albin Kurti named as Kosovo's prime minister

- ✦ Albin Kurti has been named as Kosovo's prime minister.
- ✦ Once dubbed 'Kosovo's Che Guevara' for his radical antics, the 44-year-old was named PM after his left-wing Vetevendosje party forged a coalition with the centre-right Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK).
- ✦ Mixing a left-wing agenda with fervent nationalism, Kurti has long been an insurgent force in Kosovo politics.
- ✦

## 4. Deepa Malik Elected as President of Paralympic Committee of India.

- ✦ Indian Paralympic medal-winner Deepa Malik has been elected president of the Paralympic Committee of India.
- ✦ Malik, who won silver in shot putt F-53 at Rio 2016, was elected unopposed.
- ✦ She was also awarded Padma Shri award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

## 5. Jagmohan Dalmiya's son Avishek becomes youngest CAB president.

- ✦ Former BCCI president late Jagmohan Dalmiya's son Avishek became the youngest president of Cricket Association Bengal after being elected unopposed.
- ✦ Avishek Dalmiya, 38, was holding the post of joint secretary before his elevation. BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's elder brother Snehasish Ganguly, a former Bengal left-hander, is the new joint secretary.
- ✦ Avishek has become the 18th president of CAB. The CAB president's post was lying vacant after former India captain Sourav Ganguly took over the reins of the BCCI.

## 6. 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.

## 7. 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.

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- ✚ 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.

### 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.

### 9. 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.

## Banking

### 1. Insurance cover on bank deposits increased from Rs one lakh to five lakh.

- ✚ Insurance cover on bank deposits has been increased to five lakh rupees from one lakh rupees. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement that the cover is provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI.
- ✚ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made the announcement regarding increasing insurance cover to five lakh rupees in her Budget Speech. The move will help boost the confidence of people in the banking system.
- ✚ As the insurance cover stands increased, the banks will pay a premium of 12 paise against 10 paise per 100 rupees deposited.

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Govt data: \$118.3 billion received in remittances since 2018-19.

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- ✚ Indian govt. has released data of remittances received in the country since April 2018- September 2019. As per the report around 13.62 million Indian nationals are staying abroad & around \$118.3 billion has been received as remittance.
- ✚ The foreign countries in which a large number of Indians were living include Nepal, the Middle East region, the UK(United Kingdom), the US(United States), Malaysia and Germany.
- ✚ As per data of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), \$76.4 billion was received as remittances during 2018-19 while \$41.9 billion was received during 2019-20. Indians involved in financial irregularities with the banks & those under criminal investigation since 2015 are 72.
- ✚ Indians caught in Pakistan: An estimated no. of 275 Indians including fishermen are estimated to be in Pakistan's custody as prisoners. There is also issue of 83 missing Indian defence personnel, including prisoners of war.

### 5. Moody's Investors Service slashes India's growth forecast to 5.4 per cent for 2020.

- ✚ Moody's Investors Service slashed India's growth forecast to 5.4 per cent for 2020 from 6.6 percent predicted earlier.
- ✚ In its on Global Macro Outlook, Moody's said India's economy has decelerated rapidly over the last two years and expects economic recovery to begin in the current quarter.
- ✚ The growth projections are based on calendar year and as per its estimates. Global GDP growth forecast has been revised down, and Moody's now expect G-20 economies to collectively grow 2.4 per cent in 2020.

## Science Tech & Defence

### 1. Delhi Police integrated with Uber launched "Himmat Plus app"

- ✚ Delhi Police along with Uber launched "Himmat Plus app", at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, New Delhi, to ensure safety and security of the people travelling in cabs.
- ✚ The police headquarters will receive the real time location of a driver or rider in case of emergency through this app so that PCR (Police Control Room) van can be assigned to provide assistance.
- ✚ Nearly, 1000 Himmat QR (Quick Response) verification cards were distributed among drivers. Once a rider scans the QR card, they can access a driver's details and vehicle information on the Himmat app & can report their journey directly to police.
- ✚

### 2. 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

### 3. Navy conducts coastal security exercise 'Matla Abhiyaan'

- ✚ The Indian Navy carried out a five-day coastal security exercise, 'Matla Abhiyaan', with personnel of two naval boats.
- ✚ The exercise, named after Matla River, aimed to interact with coastal communities to spread awareness on coastal security and understand the navigational complexities in the Sunderban delta waters. During the exercise, the two boats undertook patrol in the Sunderban delta, and along the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route.
- ✚ The personnel of the naval boats interacted with the crew of fishing boats, tankers and launches operating in the Matla and Hooghly rivers and the narrow creeks of Sunderbans.

### 4. Indian Army Major develops world's first bulletproof helmet.

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- ✦ 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.

### 5. 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.

### 6. 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.
- ✦ of the sun's polar regions.

### 7. HAL to provide IAF with 83 Tejas fighters in Rs 39,000 crore deal.

- ✦ With the overall cost of IAF acquiring 83 single-engine Tejas fighters and their support package from defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) being slashed from the earlier around Rs 56,500 crore to Rs 39,000 crore.
- ✦ The over Rs 17,000 crore reduction in overall cost has come after hard-nosed negotiations spread over a year.
- ✦ The defence ministry and IAF were initially shocked at the "exorbitant price" being demanded by HAL to produce the 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets along with the maintenance and infrastructure package.
- ✦ HAL promises to begin deliveries of the Mark-1A jets in three years.
- ✦ It was in November 2016 that the Defence Acquisitions Council had first approved the procurement of 83 Tejas jets at a cost of Rs 49,797 crore.
- ✦ But HAL had responded with a quote of around Rs 56,500 crore, which led to protracted cost negotiations.

### 8. IDSA to be renamed as "Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses".

- ✦ The Union Government has decided to rename the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, IDSA as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. The decision has been taken to honour the commitment and legacy of late Manohar Parrikar.
- ✦ It will align the vision and aspiration of the premier defence institute with the contribution of the former Defence Minister and Padma Bhushan awardee. He was Defence Minister from 9th November 2014 to 14th March 2017.
- ✦ An autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence, IDSA was established as a registered society in New Delhi in 1965, dedicated to objective research and policy-relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.

## Important days

### 1. World Cancer Day observed every year on February 4th.

- ✦ World Cancer Day is being observed every year on February 4 by the Union for International Cancer Control. The day is being set apart from 2008. The day is observed by the United Nations also.
- ✦ Theme: I am I will. This subject is being followed for the long stretches of 2019-2021.

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- ✦ As indicated by WHO, consistently, 8.8 million individuals die due to cancer in low-and center salary nations. World Cancer Day observed to lessen illness and demise brought about by cancer and to spread awareness about the same.

### 2. 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).

### 3. 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.

### 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".

### 5. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated on 19 February.

- ✦ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated on 19 February. He was an embodiment of courage, compassion and good governance.
- ✦ His life continues to motivate millions. The year 2020 marks the 390th birth anniversary of great Maratha warrior Shivaji. PM Narendra Modi paid his tribute to India's great hero.
- ✦ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a valorous warrior and an outstanding administrator. He was born 19 February 1630, at Shivneri Fort. He built a strong navy to usher several pro-people policies. He opposed injustice and intimidation. In 1664, he sacked the Mughal trading port of Surat. In June 1665, Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I signed the Treaty of Purandar. In October 1670, he harassed the British forces at Bombay for their support of the Mughals. He fell ill and died on 3 April 1680 at Raigad.

## Sports

### 1. 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.

### 2. Chess champion "Koneru Humpy" won Cairns Cup.

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- ✚ World Rapid Chess Champion Koneru Humpy re-asserted her supremacy in style by winning the Cairns cup title.
- ✚ He won with 6 points from nine rounds and bagged the 45,000 dollar winner's purse in St. Louis.
- ✚ Interestingly, in the final round, Humpy drew with GM Dronavalli Harika, who finished sixth with 4.5 points.

### 3. NADA bans javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years.

- ✚ National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) has banned javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years for evading sample collection and trying to cheat officials during the 2nd National Javelin Throw Open Championship 2019 held at SAI Centre in Sonapat. NADA had issued the charge of notice to Dahiya on July 16 for violating rule 2.3 of the NADA.
- ✚ The doping agency presented the case to the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) on January 9 where the athlete's justification was found to be unsatisfactory.
- ✚ NADA said the ADDP has now passed an order to suspend him for four years from the date of his provisional suspension.

### 4. India will host 2021 junior men's Hockey World Cup.

- ✚ India will host next year's Junior Men's World Cup. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced this at Lausanne in Switzerland.
- ✚ This is the second time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament, having staged it in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 2016, where the hosts lifted the coveted trophy. The competition will be played towards the end of 2021 and the exact venue and dates for the tournament will be announced at a later stage.
- ✚ In all, 16 teams will compete for the title in the Junior Men's World Cup, out of which six will be from Europe, four from Asia, including hosts India, two from Africa, two from Oceania and two from Pan America.

### 5. Novak Djokovic wins his record 8th Men's singles title in Australian open.

- ✚ In tennis, Serbia's Novak Djokovic won his record 8th Men's singles title in Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.
- ✚ He beat first-time Australian Open finalist Dominic Thiem of Austria.
- ✚ The men's doubles title was clinched by Joe Salisbury of the UK and American Rajeev Ram who beat Australia's Luke Saville and Max Purcell.

### 6. Rohit Rajpal to continue as India's Davis Cup captain 2020.

- ✚ All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced Rohit Rajpal will continue as India's non-playing Davis Cup captain 2020, in the selection committee meeting held at New Delhi, India.
- ✚ India will travel to Croatia for their next tie on 6th and 7th of March, 2020. Zeeshan Ali will be the coach of the team.

### 7. 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.

### 8. "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

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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.

### 9. Haryana govt announces Rs six crore to those winning gold medals at Olympics.

- ✦ The Haryana government has decided to give 6 crore rupees to players of the state that bag gold medals at the Olympic Games.
- ✦ State Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, 3 crore rupees will be given to those winning gold medals at Asian Games and 1.5 crore rupees to the winners of yellow metal at Commonwealth Games.
- ✦ An amount of 15 lakh rupees will be given to each player participating in the Olympic Games so that the players can make the state, as well as the country, proud.

### 10. Asian Wrestling Championship began in New Delhi.

- ✦ Asian Wrestling Championship begins in New Delhi. It will be held at the KD Jadhav Hall of Indira Gandhi Stadium till the 23rd of this month.
- ✦ The event will have a total of 30 weight classes, 10 each in Freestyle Men, Women, and Greco Roman.
- ✦ The Championship will begin with Greco-Roman events, followed by women's wrestling and men's freestyle.

## 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.

## Awards

### 1. Waheeda Rehman to be conferred MP govt's Kishore Kumar Samman.



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- ✚ Noted actor Waheeda Rehman will be conferred the Madhya Pradesh government's National Kishore Kumar Samman. The award, for the year 2018, will be given to Rehman at her Bandra residence in Mumbai by Madhya Pradesh Culture Minister Vijaylaxmi Sadho.
- ✚ Rehman, one of Hindi film industry's most successful leading ladies with a string of box office hits and several awards. The award, which carries a Rs 2 lakh cash prize and citation, could not be given to Rehman during a function held in October last year as the actor was unwell.
- ✚ The function was held on October 13 coinciding with the death anniversary of singing legend Kishore Kumar.

### 2. Vinod Shukla bags first Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award.

- ✚ Noted Hindi poet-novelist and Sahitya Akademi honouree Vinod Kumar Shukla has bagged the inaugural Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue".
- ✚ The stories in "Blue Is Like Blue", translated into English by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra and Sara Rai.
- ✚ The award, given to the best fictional work released in the previous year, carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a plaque designed by Riyas Komu and a certificate.
- ✚ The award was presented at the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters 2020.

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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.

### 5. Sachin Tendulkar's 2011 world cup moment becomes Laureus best sporting moment.

- ✚ Sachin Tendulkar being carried on the shoulders of his teammates following India's world cup triumph in 2011 was voted as the Laureus best sporting moment in the past 20 years. Former Australian captain Steve Waugh presented the trophy to Tendulkar, after Tennis great Boris Becker announced the winner at a ceremony.
- ✚ First held in 2000, the Annual Laureus Sports Awards honour the greatest and most inspirational sporting triumphs of the year.
- ✚ On the 20th anniversary of the awards, the Laureus sporting moments award allowed people to vote for the most inspiring sporting moment of the past 20 years.

### 6. Sunil Kumar wins gold in 87-kg Greco Roman category in Asian Wrestling Championships.

- ✚ Greco Roman wrestler Sunil Kumar opened India's medal account in the Asian Wrestling Championships at New Delhi by winning a Gold. The seasoned grappler beat Azat Salidinov from Kyrgyzstan in the final of the 87 kg category.
- ✚ Sunil Kumar had reached the final by a victory over Kazakh opponent Azamat Kustubayev to finish the semi-final about 12-8.

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- ✦ Last year also, Kumar had made it to the final and ended with a silver medal.

### Obituaries

#### 1. Famous Punjabi writer Jaswant Singh passed away at 101.

- ✦ Jaswant-Singh-Kanwal(101) , The Eminent Punjabi Writer, Novelist and Sahitya Academy Awardee, passed away in his native village Dhudike, Moga district in Punjab, due to age related illness issues.
- ✦ In 1996 Jaswant was bestowed with Sahitya Academy Fellowship Award for his Book “Pakhi” (Hand Fan) and in 1998 for his Novel “Taushali Di Hanso” (Laughter of Taushali) he received the Sahitya Academy Award. Later in 2007 he was honored with Sahitya Shiromani Award of the Punjab Government, on the next year Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) for his contribution to Punjabi Literature.

#### 2. 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.

#### 3. 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.

#### 4. Veteran Kannada actress Kishori Ballal passed away.

- ✦ Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal passed away on 18 February 2020. She was 82 years old. She passed away due to age-related ailments in Bengaluru.
- ✦ She has acted in around 75 movies including her role in Shah Rukh Khan starrer "Swades".

#### 5. Greatest woman golfer, Mickey Wright dies at 85.

- ✦ Mickey Wright, often described as the greatest woman golfer of all time, died. Her haul of 13 major victories included four US Women's Open titles and four US Women's PGA Championships.
- ✦ Wright had accumulated 82 titles of Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Tour titles during a professional career which stretched from 1954 to 1969.
- ✦ She won the 1954 World Amateur Championship before turning professional the following season. Her retirement in 1969, which came at the relatively early age of 34, shocked women's golf.

#### 6. Larry Tesler, creator of copy, cut and paste function, died at 74.

- ✦ Lawrence Gordon Tesler known as Larry Tesler was an American computer scientist who worked in the field of human-computer interaction and also the Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste functions for computers in 1973 has passed away at the age of 74.
- ✦ Tesler was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1945 and served as a young researcher in photocopying company Palo Alto Research Center (Parc), and he also worked for blue-chip firms including Apple, Amazon, and Yahoo. Later he Established UX consultancy in California.

#### 7. Former FICCI president “V L Dutt” dies in Chennai.

## Monthly Current Affairs- GK.Capsule

- ✚ V L Dutt, the former Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) president has passed away.
- ✚ He headed the federation in 1991-92 and also served as the chairman of the India Vietnam Joint Business Council of FICCI.