

# Weekly Current Affairs

27 April- 3 May, 2020

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **1. Lucknow Medical Hospital first in the country to launch Plasma Treatment Therapy**

- On April 27, 2020, the King George Medical University in Uttar Pradesh became the first government hospital to launch plasma therapy to treat COVID-19. The first dose of plasma therapy was given to a 58-year old patient.
- The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) recently cleared the proposal of plasma therapy that was submitted by ICMR. The DGCI nodded to use plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients.

### **2. Team led by IIT Bombay student develops low-cost mechanical ventilator “Ruhdaar”**

- A team from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)- Bombay, NIT Srinagar and Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir has developed "Ruhdaar," a low-cost ventilator using locally available materials.
- This invention will solve the problem of the ventilator, which is the primary requirement to treat COVID-19 patients, as the high-end ventilators used in hospitals cost in lakhs of rupees.

### **3. Thuthukudi airport in Tamilnadu upgraded to level 3**

- The Thuthukudi airport in Tamilnadu, near the strategically important Bay of Bengal coast, has been upgraded to level 3 by the Airport Authority of India.
- This signifies a rise in the operational potentials of the airport and increases the scope of getting more funds for expansion activities.
- The airport runway is at present being extended to 3115 metres to enable bigger planes to use it.
- With the work of setting up a 720 acre industrial park in Thuthukudi well underway, the upgrading of Thuthukudi airport has been welcomed by the general public, industrialists and the commercial circles.

### **4. Celebrations of Madurai Chithirai festival of Kallalagar temple cancelled**

- The Kallalagar temple management said that all functions pertaining to the Madurai Chithirai festival in Tamil Nadu, have been cancelled in view of the coronavirus pandemic.
- In Madurai, the two-week-long Chithirai festival is among the biggest celebrations.
- The occasion re-enacts the wedding of Goddess Meenakshi (Lord Vishu's sister) and Lord Sundareswarar (Lord Shiva)

### **5. BRO opens Rohtang Pass after clearing snow**

- Border Roads Organization (BRO) has opened Rohtang Pass, more than three weeks in advance after clearing snow.
- It is the arterial road connecting Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh from rest of the country.
- Himachal Pradesh Government had approached BRO to expedite the snow clearance to facilitate return of farmers for starting cultivation and movement of essential supplies and to bring relief materials to Lahaul Valley in wake of COVID-19.
- Rohtang Pass is a high mountain pass on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas around 51 km from Manali. It connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.

### **6. Kerala govt hospital deploys robot to serve food, medicines to COVID-19 patients**

- A government hospital in Ernakulam, Kerala has deployed a robot to serve food and medicines to coronavirus patients.
- Malayalam star Mohanlal's Viswasanthi Foundation donated the autonomous robot to the COVID-19 ward of the Ernakulam government medical college hospital.
- The robot named 'KARMI-Bot' will be used to assist patients at the medical college's COVID-19 isolation ward. The robot is developed by ASIMOV robotics, a company working under maker village of Kerala start-up mission.

- The purpose of this project is to limit the interaction between COVID-19 patients and health workers as well as to address the shortage of PPE kits by minimizing its use.

### **7. Uttar Pradesh Government bans public gathering till June 30 amid coronavirus outbreak**

- Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the Uttar Pradesh Government has decided to ban the public gathering till June 30, 2020.
- The decision was taken by the state government during the Chief Minister's meeting with chairpersons of 11 committees of the state over the COVID-19 situation.

### **8. India's holding of US govt securities hits high record of USD 177.5 bn in Feb: US Treasury Dept**

- According to the latest data from the United States (US) Treasury Department (dep) the India's holding of US government (govt) securities has gone up by over USD 13 billion (bn) in a month to a record high of USD 177.5 bn at the end of February, since November 2019, the country has slowly climbed to USD 159.2 bn.
- In the last one year since February 2019, the overall holding of India has jumped by a staggering USD 33.2 bn .
- India is positioned at 13th position & the 1st position is held by Japan with securities worth over USD 1.268 trillion (tn) at February end, followed by China with holdings of USD 1.092 trillion & United Kingdom at USD 403.2 billion .
- Brazil is positioned in 4th with USD 285.9 billion, followed by Ireland- USD 282.7 billion, Luxembourg- USD 260.8 billion, Hong Kong USD 249.8 billion, Switzerland- USD 243.7 billion, Cayman Islands- USD 219.4 billion, Belgium- USD 218 billion, Taiwan- USD 201.9 billion and Saudi Arabia- USD 184.4 billion

### **9. Portal of Kedarnath Dham in Uttarakhand opened**

- The portal of the central Himalayan shrine of Kedarnath Dham in Uttarakhand opened after the winter break. The portals were thrown open amid chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of necessary rituals.
- Chardham Yatra is suspended due to nationwide lockdown following the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Kedarnath Mandir is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini river, Kedarnath is located in the state of Uttarakhand.
- Due to extreme weather conditions, the temple is open to the general public only between the months of April and November.

### **10. Chhattisgarh tops among other states in providing employment to workers under MGNREGS**

- Chhattisgarh has topped the list of states in providing employment to over 18 lakh unskilled labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- Around 77.85 lakh people are engaged in different work under the scheme across the country.
- The national participation of the workers working in the state is 24 percent, which is the highest in the country.
- Chhattisgarh has topped the country in providing employment to 18.51 lakh workers under MGNREGS.
- Rajasthan has provided employment to 10.79 lakh workers under the rural employment guarantee scheme and Uttar Pradesh is at third position with around 9.06 lakh workers engaged by it.

### **11. Tripura cabinet to start 'neighborhood classes' besides tele-classes for students amid lockdown**

- In Tripura, the state cabinet has decided to start 'neighborhood classes' in addition to the ongoing online and televised/aired classes to ensure every student gets an education during the lockdown period.
- In these neighborhood classes, one teacher will be teaching a maximum of five students until the school classes resume.

- Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath said the state education department has appealed to school teachers to take part in the new initiative.
- The state Education Department has started the distribution of free textbooks under SAMAGRA SHIKSHA Abhiyan among students of schools and Madrassas.

## 12. Government establishes IFSCA to regulate all financial services in IFSCs

- The Central government notified that it has established International Financial Services Centres Authority(IFSCA), a unified body to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres(IFSCs) in the country & its headquarters will be at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The main function of the authority is to regulate financial products such as securities, deposits, or contracts of insurance, financial services, and financial institutions that have been previously approved by any appropriate regulator in an IFSC.
- It will provide a single-window regulatory institution that accelerates the development of India's first IFSC at the Gujarat International Financial Tec (GIFT) City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

## 13. India ranks 53rd in budget transparency; New Zealand tops: IBP's Open Budget Survey 2019

- According to the 7th edition of 'Open Budget Survey 2019' conducted by International Budget Partnership (IBP), India has been ranked at 53rd position among 117 nations in terms of budget transparency and accountability with the score of 49 out of 100.
- While at the same time New Zealand has been topped the list with a score of 87. The global average transparency score on this survey was 45.

## 12. Delhi Police and AIIA organised "AYURAKSHA-Corona se jung" Programme

- A programme titled AYURAKSHA "Corona Se Jung- Delhi Police Ke Sang" was organized for Delhi Police personnel at New Delhi on 30 April. The programme aims to fight against corona through simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.
- The AYURAKSHA programme was organized by the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of Ayurvedic, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH) and Delhi Police.
- The programme comes after the joint venture of AIIA and Delhi Police, which is the biggest ever first of its kind and will be successful and role model for others, in treating COVID-19 patients.

## 13. Ramayan becomes highest viewed entertainment program globally with 77 million viewers


- The popular television show 'Ramayan' based on Valmiki's Epic Ramayana has become the highest viewed entertainment program globally.
- It registered record breaking viewership and created a world record when 77 million people watched the show in a single day.
- The record was created on the 16th of April at 9 p.m. Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan aired on Doordarshan for the first time between 1987 and 1988.
- Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar announced last month that his team was working out the logistics of telecasting the Ramayana after the nationwide lockdown was announced.

## 14. Reliance increases its stake to 26.3% in US-based transportation tech company SkyTran

- Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited(RSBVL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited(RIL), has increased its stake to 26.3% on a fully diluted

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basis in US-based SkyTran Incorporated(Inc), a venture-funded technology company which develops modern transport modes including personal rapid transit system.

- No regulatory approvals were required in India for the acquisition of shares.
- The company has hiked its stake in SkyTran Inc. to 17.37% through RSBVL on a fully diluted basis in November 2019.

RSBVL acquired convertible notes in two tranches, the first one on November 29, 2019, and the second one on March 23, 2020, which were converted into shares of SkyTran Inc on April 27, 2020, upon certain conditions being satisfied

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **1. Saudi Arabia abolishes flogging as punishment**

- Saudi Arabia has abolished flogging as a form of punishment.
- Court-ordered floggings in Saudi Arabia, sometimes extending to hundreds of lashes, have long drawn condemnation from human rights groups.
- Previously the courts could order the flogging of convicts found guilty of offenses ranging from extramarital sex and breach of the peace to murder.
- In the future, judges will have to choose between fines and/or jail sentences, or non-custodial alternatives like community service.

### **2. WHO map shows parts of Ladakh as Chinese territory**

- The World Health Organization has recently showed the parts of Ladakh as Chinese territory in its map. The region has been shown as dotted line and colour code. Also, the regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir has been shown as dotted line. Dotted line suggest that the region is a disputed territory.
- Many of the United Nations maps show parts of Kashmir as disputed region. However, this is the first time a UN body has shown Ladakh region in different colour.
- This new map of WHO differs from the standard depiction of the UN by not showing parts of Jammu and Kashmir that are under actual control of India. The region that are actually under the control of India has different colour.

### **3. Pakistan Navy successfully test-fires anti-ship missiles in North Arabian Sea**

- The Pakistani Navy has successfully test-fired a series of anti-ship missiles in the North Arabian Sea from surface ships, fixed and rotary wing aircraft. The announcement was made by Pakistan Navy spokesperson Rear Admiral Arshid Javed and didn't reveal the details of the drill.
- Pakistan's Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi was present at the time of testing the missiles and witnessed the event along with Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Asif Khaliq and other senior naval officers.

### **4. United Nations warns of "Hunger Crisis" in world on a very large scale**

- The United Nations recently has warned of "hunger pandemic" due to COVID-19. Apart from COVID-19, the other factors that are to contribute to the crisis include wars in Syria, crisis in Lebanon and desert locusts destroying crops in East Africa.
- The World Food Programme is currently in need of 1.9 billion USD in order to stockpile food in countries that are at risk of starving. If not addressed, there are possibilities of severe famines.

### **5. Pakistan's southern Sindh province Governor tests positive for COVID-19**

- Pakistan's southern Sindh province Governor Imran Ismail, a close aide of Prime Minister Imran Khan, has been tested positive for COVID-19.
- Mr. Ismail is the highest official in the country to test positive so far. Earlier, Sindh minister for education, Saeed Ghani, tested positive but recovered.

- Before he was tested COVID-19 positive, the governor spent 10 very busy days where he met a host of people and attended important meetings

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

### **1. Montek Ahluwalia to head expert group for post-COVID-19 revival in Punjab**

- The Punjab government has constituted an expert group, headed by former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission and economist, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, to form a post-COVID-19 revival strategy for the state.
- The group, which includes economy and industry experts, shall recommend to the Punjab government a short-term (one year) as well as a medium-term action plan, including a fiscal management strategy, along with other policy measures to revive the state's economy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, as per an official release.
- The 20-member group has been mandated to submit its initial set of recommendations by July 31.
- Montek Singh Ahluwalia is an Indian economist and civil servant who was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India

### **2. Justice Mohammad Rafiq takes oath as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court**

- Odisha Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath to Justice Mohammad Rafiq as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.
- Justice Rafiq will serve as the 31st Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. Justice Rafiq was previously serving as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
- Meanwhile, Justice Biswanath Somadder took oath as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

### **3. US President Trump nominated Indian-American “Manisha Singh” as US Envoy to OECD**

- President of the United States Donald Trump nominated senior Indian-American diplomat Manisha Singh as America's next envoy to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- Manisha Singh is currently serving as the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department. Prior to that, she served as the Acting Under Secretary of Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, and as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs at the State Department.

### **4. Justice Dipankar Datta took oath as new Chief Justice of Bombay High Court**

- Justice Dipankar Datta took oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari administered the oath of office to him at Raj Bhavan.
- In view of the coronavirus pandemic, a limited number of guests including Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and a few judges of the high court attended the ceremony.
- Datta succeeds Justice Bhushan Dhamadhikari who retired as chief justice.

### **5. T. S. Tirumurti appointed as Permanent Representative of India to UN**

- T. S. Tirumurti has been appointed as the next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.
- Tirumurti is an IFS officer of 1985 batch. He is currently the Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He replaces Sayyad Akbaruddin.

### **6. Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar appointed as the PESB chairman**

- Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar was appointed Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) for a period of three years.

- Kumar, 60 and a 1984 batch Jharkhand cadre IAS official, was in July 2019 designated as the Finance Secretary and retired in February this year.
- He will succeed the incumbent Kapil Dev Tripathi, a 1980 batch retired Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS official.
- He took over as the financial services secretary in September 2017 and initiated several reforms in the country's banking sector, to clean up the bad loan mess and to make public sector banks (PSBs) stronger.

#### 7. Deepak Mittal appointed as India's new Ambassador to Qatar, Piyush Srivastava to Bahrain

- Deepak Mittal has been appointed India's next Ambassador to Qatar, while Piyush Srivastava goes to Bahrain in the same capacity. Deepak Mittal is a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Mittal has served as a Joint Secretary in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran.
- The new appointees are of the 1998 batch of Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and both of them are expected to take up their assignments shortly.

#### 8. Ajay Tirkey assumes charge as Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development

- Shri Ajay Tirkey assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) in New Delhi on 1 May 2020. He succeeded Shri Rabindra Panwar who retired on superannuation on 30 April 2020.
- Ajay Tirkey is the 1987 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. Prior to this, He held the post of Special Secretary in the same Ministry.
- He worked as Joint Secretary in the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in the year 2017 before joining as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Women & Child Development. He has also been on deputation to the Ministry of Defence as Director and Joint Secretary from 2004 to 2009

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## BANKING

#### 1. ADB gives \$ 346 mn loans for the power sector in rural Maharashtra

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 346 million (around Rs 2,616 crore) loan to the Indian government to provide reliable power connections in rural areas of Maharashtra.
- Maharashtra is the second-most populous state in India, and about half of the state's labor force is engaged in agriculture and related activities in the rural areas.
- The loan will support the state government's high voltage distribution system (HVDS) program for new grid-connected rural agricultural customers across the state.
- The loan will be under ADB's results-based lending (RBL) modality, where fund disbursements are linked to the achievement of agreed program results rather than to upfront expenditures.
- This first ADB-financed RBL program in South Asia's energy sector will help in the early construction and installation of metered HVDS through the installation of about 46,800 kilometers of 11 kilovolts (kV) grid extension lines, construction and upgrading of 121 33/11 kV distribution substations.

#### 2. RBI extends regulatory benefits under SLF-MF scheme to all banks

- The Reserve Bank of India extended regulatory benefits to all banks including those deploying their own resources to extend liquidity support to the mutual funds under the Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds SLF-MF scheme.

- Earlier in the week, the Reserve Bank had announced Rs 50,000-crore SLF-MF scheme to bailout the mutual funds facing redemption pressure.
- The scheme was announced in the backdrop of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund deciding to shut several schemes.
- RBI said in a release that based on requests received from banks, it has now been decided that the regulatory benefits announced under the SLF-MF scheme will be extended to all banks, irrespective of whether they avail funding from the Reserve Bank or deploy their own resources under the SLF-MF scheme.

### 3. Former Axis Bank CEO Shikha Sharma named advisor to Google Pay India

- Google Pay India named Shikha Sharma, former Axis Bank CEO, as an advisor to digital payments app. Google Pay has been leading UPI Payments adoption in India.
- During the ongoing lockdown, Google launched its “Nearby Spot” to help users in Bengaluru to find local stores selling essentials like groceries that are open, amid the lockdown.
- The Nearby Spot will be launched in Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, and Delhi soon.

## SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

### 1. First merger of two unequal-mass black holes detected by LIGO

- The scientists of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory (LIGO) have recently recorded the first merger of black holes that were of unequal masses.
- On April 12, 2020, the LIGO-Virgo collaboration detected collision between two black holes that were 2.4 billion light years away. The scientists have now concluded from their researches and analysis that these black holes were of unequal masses.
- The black holes were 20 and 40 times the mass of the sun. One of the black holes was 29.7 solar masses and the other was 8.4 solar masses. Though they are heavier and uneven, they are the lowest-mass black holes recorded so far.

### 2. 1st ever digital geological map of moon released by US Geological Survey

- The scientists from USGS (United States Geological Survey) Astrogeology Science Center, in collaboration with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and the Lunar Planetary Institute have virtually released the first ever digital, unified, global, geological map of the moon namely “Unified Geologic Map of the Moon”.
- It will serve as a blueprint for future human missions and a source of research and analysis for the educators and the general public interested in lunar geology.
- It should be noted that the moon is the closest cosmic body to Earth.

### 3. The biennial warfare exercise hosted by Royal Australian Air Force cancelled due to COVID-19.

- The biennial warfare exercise hosted by Royal Australian Air Force was cancelled due to COVID-19 threats. The main aim of the exercise is to practice Defensive Counter Air combat and Offensive Counter Air Combat. The exercise is held in Northern Australia. The first pitch black exercise took place in June 1981.
- In 1990, the exercise began its training including Singapore. Later on, slowly, it began to spread to other international forces.
- In 2006, for the first time, more countries participated in the exercise. It included Thailand, Singapore, UK, US and Australia.

### 4. Largest Ozone Layer Hole Formed over the Arctic is Closed

- Scientists from Copernicus European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) reported that the largest hole in the Ozone layer spreading over 1 million square kilometers above the Arctic has closed due to unusual atmospheric conditions.



- The hole in Ozone was first identified by scientists in March 2020. The development of the hole was confirmed by Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Services (CAMS) by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).
- The scientist stated that the closing of the hole has nothing to do with the reduction in levels of pollution amid lockdown. But it is because of the polar vortex, high-altitude currents that are responsible for bringing cold air to polar regions.

### 5. CSIR developed robot named HCARD to assist frontline COVID-19 healthcare warriors

- HCARD robot is developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. The device is equipped with various state-of-the-art technologies and works both in automatic as well as manual modes of navigation.
- This robot can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station having such features as navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines and food to patients, sample collection and audio-visual communication.
- Prof. (Dr.) Harish Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI stated that “This Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device could be effective for frontline healthcare officials dealing with COVID-19 patients in delivering services while maintaining mandatory physical distancing”. The cost of this device is less than Rs 5 lakh and the weight is less than 80 kilograms, added Prof. Hirani

## SPORTS

### 1. Former Pakistan skipper Sana Mir announces retirement from international cricket

- Former Pakistan women’s team skipper Sana Mir announced her retirement from international cricket, ending a 15 year long illustrious career. Mir featured in 226 international matches for Pakistan, including 137 as captain from 2009 to 2017.
- The right-handed batter made her ODI debut against Sri Lanka in Karachi in December 2005, while her last ODI was against Bangladesh in Lahore in November 2019.
- Mir rose to number-one on ICC Women's Rankings for ODI bowlers in October 2018.
- She is one of the nine women cricketers to have taken 100 wickets and scored 1,000 runs in ODIs.

### 2. Pakistan Cricket Board bans Umar Akmal for three-years for match fixing

- Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal was banned for three-years by the Pakistan Cricket Board(PCB) Disciplinary Committee for the violation of ICC Anti-corruption code 2.4.4 failing to disclose the details of approaches to engage in corrupt conduct and 2.4.5 failing to disclose any incident that comes to the knowledge of any evidence that another participant received any approaches to engage in corrupt conduct.
- The Chairperson of the Disciplinary panel Justice(retired) Fazal-e-Miran-Chauhan handed the three-year ban to Umar Akmal from all cricket effective from February 20
- He was suspended from the Pakistan Super League (PSL) on 2nd February with two charges under the anti-corruption code by the PCB for failing to report the approach to fix the games.

### 3. AIU bans Indian runner Jhuma Khatun for 4 years for failing dope test

- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has banned the Indian middle-distance runner, Jhuma Khatun for 4 years for using banned substances (Steroids) for the doping case from 2018.
- The sample from Jhuma Khatun was collected during the National Inter-State Championships in June 2018 in Guwahati meet.



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- Khatun had won a bronze medal each in 1,500m and 5,000m at the Championships in Guwahati.

#### 4. Former Karnataka batsman J Arun Kumar named as USA national team coach

- Former Karnataka batsman J Arun Kumar was appointed coach of the USA cricket team.
- Jak, as he is known in the cricketing circles, has worked with the Karnataka team for several years and as batting coach with IPL franchise Kings XI Punjab.
- Arun Kumar was also in charge of a fledgling Puducherry team before quitting in February owing to differences with the association officials.
- Arun Kumar, who scored over 7,200 runs in first-class cricket and over 3,000 runs in List 'A' games, had guided Karnataka to a treble for two successive seasons Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Irani Cup, in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

## OBITUARIES

#### 1. Veteran sports photographer Ronny Roy passes away

- Veteran sports photojournalist Ronojoy 'Ronny' Roy died following a cardiac arrest. There is a lot of speculation that Roy could have died to COVID-19.
- Popularly known as 'Ronny', he was associated with Bengali daily Aaj kaal since 1990s and covered the ICC World Cup in England last year.
- Having started from the entertainment section, Roy switched to sports and became a well-known face in the Maidan establishing a good rapport with both players and officials of all disciplines.

#### 2. Renowned actor Irrfan Khan passes away at the age of 54

- Renowned actor Irrfan Khan passed away in a Mumbai hospital, losing his battle with a rare form of cancer.
- The Maqbool actor, who was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour in 2018, lost his mother in Jaipur just four days ago.
- Irrfan Khan made his Bollywood debut with Mira Nair's Salaam Bombay in 1988.
- Later, he did many films but was noticed with films like Maqbool, Life In A Metro, Paan Singh Tomar and Piku.
- He has also been associated with many international films like Slumdog Millionaire, A Mighty Heart, Jurassic World and The Amazing Spider-Man.
- His best though is Ang Lee's Life Of Pi which was a huge commercial success.

#### 3. Former Footballer Michael Robinson passed away

- The former Brighton and Liverpool striker Michael Robinson passed away on 28 April. He was 61-years-old. He was diagnosed with skin cancer in 2018.
- Robinson helped Liverpool squad to win the league title, European Cup and League Cup with the Reds in 1983-84. He also played for Preston, Manchester City, Brighton, and Queens Park Rangers club. In the year 1989, he finished his career with La Liga club Osasuna, the Spanish football team.
- He had an award-winning broadcasting career in Spain Robinson has won 24 caps in total for the Republic of Ireland, scoring four goals.

#### 4. Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passed away at 67 in Mumbai.

- Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor passed away in Mumbai on 30 April. He died at the age of 67. He died due to ill health. The actor was admitted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital. Rishi was diagnosed with cancer in 2018.
- Rishi Kapoor entered the Indian cinema with his first film Mera Naam Joker. He played the role of a child artist in the movie. The actor received a National Award for his role in the movie Mera Naam Joker. In 1973, Rishi made his film debut as an adult, with Actor Bobby in Dimple Kapadia. With this film, Kapoor became an overnight star and the country's new hero.

### 5. Legendary Indian footballer Chuni Goswami passes away at 82

- Legendary Footballer Chuni Goswami died in Kolkata after prolonged illness.
- Goswami led the Indian team in the 1962 Asian Games, in which India secured a gold medal.
- He was awarded Arjun, Padmasree and several others prestigious awards for his outstanding contributions in the field of Sports .
- He received Mohun Bagan Ratna awards in 2005.
- The West Bengal Government conferred him the highest civilian award Banga Bibhusan in 2013

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April

- International Dance Day is a global celebration of dance, created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.
- The event takes place every year on 29th April, the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet.
- Every year a message from an outstanding choreographer or dancer is circulated throughout the world.
- For 2020 the Executive Council of ITI in alignment with the Dance Committee of ITI and World Dance Alliance selected Gregory Vuyani Maqoma, the eminent dancer, choreographer, and dance educator from South Africa

### 2. Ayushman Bharat Diwas 2020 is celebrated on 30 April

- Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated on 30 April. The day aims to promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census database. It will also promote health and wellness and provide insurance benefits to the poor.
- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), also known as the National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 14 April 2018, at Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.
- The scheme will enable the beneficiaries to take cashless benefits from public and private hospitals across the country.

### 3. International Labour Day observed every year on 1 May

- Labour Day or International Workers' Day is observed each year on the first day of May to celebrate achievements of the working class.
- The day, also called 'May Day', is also observed as a public holiday in many countries.
- On 1 May, 1886, labour unions in the US decided to go on a strike demanding that workers should not be made to work for more than 8 hours a day.
- Just three days after the strike began, a blast occurred in Chicago's Haymarket Square leaving many dead. To honor those who died in the blast, the International Socialist Conference declared 1 May as a day designated for labourers.

### 4. Maharashtra and Gujarat celebrated their state formation day on 1 May

- Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day is celebrated in the Indian states of Maharashtra and Gujarat on 1 May every year. The day commemorates the formation of the state on this day in 1960.
- In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act, 1960 was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Bombay formerly consisted of speakers of different languages such as Gujarati, Marathi, Konkani, and Kutchi. As a result of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti movement, the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat were formed



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