



Current Affairs February 2020

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CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	13
Defence.....	20
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	22
Honours/ Awards.....	27
Sports.....	34
Obituaries.....	40
Important Days with theme.....	44

National

Andhra Pradesh flagged off India's first 'fruit train' with bananas

India's first of its kind **fruit train** was launched from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district & from Kadapa district of **Andhra Pradesh**. This is the first time an entire train carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown **bananas** which has been sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNP) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Those bananas will be exported to Iran.

Key Points:

i. The bananas will be exported under the brand name 'Happy Bananas'. **Guntakal Railway division** (is one of the four divisions of South Coast Railway zone of the Indian Railways) has loaded bananas for export to West Asian countries from Tadipatri at very first time.

Prakash Javadekar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 in New Delhi

Shri Prakash Javadekar, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) was inaugurated a 3-day long **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020** based on the theme **"Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count"** at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.



The summit was organized by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**, a research institute specializes in the fields of energy.

- The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel **Shri Dhamendra Pradhan** has released the TERI's report **'Towards a Low Carbon Steel Sector : Overview of the Changing Market, Technology, and Policy Context for Indian Steel'**.

Kerala Government declares outbreak of novel coronavirus as state disaster

The Kerala government has declared the novel coronavirus epidemic as a "state calamity" after three people were tested positive for the infection in the state, which was announced by State Health Minister KK Shailaja, nearly 25 countries were infected by novel coronavirus so far.

CM Jagan mohan reddy inaugurates AP's 1st Disha police station in Rajamahendravaram

The **Chief Minister (CM)** of **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** **Yeduguri Sandinti (YS)** **Jaganmohan Reddy** has launched the **1st Disha Police Station** in the State at **Rajamahendravaram** in East Godavari district with the aim to provide speedy justice to female victims of sexual assaults and other heinous crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.



The CM also launched an app for women in distress to get immediate response from the police.

Key Points:

- The new police station will deploy counsellor, mobile kits to gather medical and scientific evidence, and care takers to help the victims who come to the station.
- The AP state government has also decided to set up 18 exclusive Disha police stations – one each in 13 district headquarters and the other 5 in Police Commissionerate limits.

PM Modi announced 15-member trust named 'Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust' for Ayodhya temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, **67.703 acres** of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust.

Key Points:

- i.** This 15 member's trust will also include a Dalit representative who would be in-charge of the entire land.
- ii.** The trust has been set up on the lines of Supreme Court direction to the central government in November 2019 to formulate a scheme with necessary provisions for the setting up of a trust within three months for the construction of the temple.

Background

On 9 November 2019, in its verdict, the Supreme Court ordered the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site of Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot an alternative 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque at a "prominent" place in the holy town in Uttar Pradesh.

Indian Army & Private firm developed the World's Cheapest Gun Shot Locator "Parth"

The **Indian Army's College of Military Engineering (CME)**, Pune, Maharashtra, jointly with a private firm developed gunshot locators named as "**Parth**". The device is much cheaper than the imported ones. Major **Anoop Mishra** displayed the Parth gun shot locator at **DefExpo 2020** held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

Key Points:

- i.** Parth gunshot locator costs around Rs 3 lakhs which is less than the imported ones, which costs around Rs 65 lakhs.
- ii.** The device can locate the exact location of a bullet from a distance of 400m & neutralize terrorists faster.
- iii.** Major Mishra had developed a **bulletproof jacket** for protection against sniper bullets & a **helmet** which is claimed first in the world that can **stop AK-47** (Automatic Kalashnikov- 47) bullets from a distance of **10 meters**.

India's first Glass floor bridge to replace the iconic Lakshman Jhula in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

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).

Key Points:

- i.** 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.
- ii.** The bridge will be built parallel to Lakshman Jhula with a total width of eight metres.
- iii.** The total width of bridge is 132.3 metres long with seven feet high toughened glass railings on either side of the structure.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Delhi, tops in Nature Ranking Index 2020

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) ranked **first** in the Nature Ranking Index 2020. All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from december 01, 2018 to 30th November , 2019.

Hyderabad Metro Rail becomes Country's 2nd Largest Operational Metro Project

Chief Minister of Telangana State **Mr. K.Chandrashekhar Rao** flagged off new Metro line from **Jubilee Bus Station (JBS)** to **Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS)** connecting twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and the stretch covering of 11-kms(Kilometers) becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.



Key points:

- i. The New 11kms Corridor II Green Line Metro rail stretch consists of 9 stations is expected to reduce the travel time to 16minutes from one end to another while it takes 45 minutes by road.
- ii. Hyderabad Metro Rail Project is constructed by **LARSEN & TOUBRO** and it becomes the world's largest Public-Private partnership (PPP) project with a total cost of Rs. 20,000 crores, and the Mahatma Gandhi bus stand interchange Metro Station is one of the largest Metro Station in the Country built with over 3lakhs square feet.
- iii. Karnataka's Namma Metro rail network is India's 3rd largest network of operational distance of 42.3kms.

Vice President released the book 'A Child of Destiny' an Autobiography by prof K. Ramakrishna Rao
The Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha **Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu** released a Book titled '**A Child of Destiny**' Autobiography penned by Professor **Koneru Ramakrishna Rao** at GITAM (Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management) University Vishakatapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

About Koneru Ramakrishna Rao:

- i. K. Ramakrishna Rao was an Eminent Scholar, Author, Researcher, Scientist and Gandhian, He was born in coastal region in Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India awarded him The Civilian Honour of Padma Shri in 2011.
- ii. Rao currently serving as Chancellor of GITAM (Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management) University Vishakatapatnam, He wrote around 20 Books and 300 Research papers.

BSNL, Air India and MTNL saw highest losses for 3rd consecutive year, ONGC most profitable: DPE survey

According to "**Public Enterprises Survey 2018-19**", which measures the annual economic condition of all central PSUs(public sector undertakings), **ONGC**(Oil and Natural Gas Corporation), Indian Oil Corporation(IOC) and NTPC(formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) were the **top three PSUs with profits in 2018-19**.

At the same time, **BSNL**(Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited), Air India and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) saw the **highest losses** for the third consecutive year.

- i. The survey has been prepared by **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** under the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.
- ii. The top three profitable public sector companies i.e. ONGC, IOC and NTPT have 15.3 %, 9.68 % and 6.73 % share in the total profits earned by all profitable central public sector companies

Mumbai to get India's largest air quality monitoring network

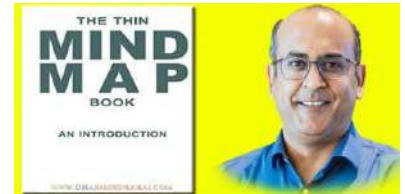
The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** will develop an air quality monitoring network across **90 locations** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the **largest network in India**.

Key Points:

- i. The new project is led by Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Conservation Action Trust (CAT) & partnered by pan-India air pollution research groups Respirer Living Sciences Private Limited (UrbanSciences) and Urban Emissions.
- ii. The project will be completed within next 5 years, funded by BMC and private organisations.
- iii. BMC is planning to invest Rs.9.5 crores to install 80 real-time air monitoring stations and the new project overtakes Delhi, which has 38 air quality networks at present.

Dharmendra Rai, Mind Map & Brain Literacy trainer launched his book “The Thin Mind Map”

Dharmendra Rai, Mind Map & Brain Literacy trainer launched his book “**The Thin Mind Map**”. The book is designed to be an expert in mind mapping. Dharmendra Rai was the first person in the world to talk on **TEDx** on creativity & mind mapping. He has conducted 380 plus mind map seminars less than 10 years which is a world record.



Key Points:

- i. **About Dharmendra Rai:** He had trained over 1,900 startups in mind mapping & has over 25 years of work experience in training, sales and marketing with companies like Xerox, Alliance capital etc., His last position was National Sales Head in Benchmark Mutual Fund.
- ii. Dharmendra Rai conducted seminars for giant companies like Amazon, Google, LinkedIn, Adobe, Unilever, Nestle, IBM, HP, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Oxford, Tata communications, Airtel etc.,

IndusInd Bank records highest growth in brand value among Top 500 Banking Brands 2020

As per the The Banker's ‘**Top 500 Banking Brands 2020**’ report, India's IndusInd Bank has topped the list of ‘**Highest increase in brand value**’ among global banks.

It's brand value saw an increase of **122%** over the past 12 months. The bank reported total assets of **Rs 3.1 lakh crore** at the end of Q3 FY20.

As a part of the report, the list “**Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country**” has been topped by **China**, followed by **United States (US)** at 2nd position while **Canada** and the **United Kingdom (UK)** ranked at 3rd and 4th spots. **Japan** has moved up to fifth spot.

- **India** ranked **8th** in this list in comparison to 10th place in 2019. India's brand value is **26,516 \$m** in 2020 showing an increase of **13%** in comparison to 23,409 \$m in 2019.

Facebook launched digital literacy training to 1 lakh women in 7 Indian states

Facebook launched “**We Think Digital**” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar.

It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.

Key Points:

- i. The training program aims to equip women with skills & provide equal access to economic opportunities, education & social connection through the internet.
- ii. The programme will start in the state of Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and expand to other states including Assam (Dispur), West Bengal (Kolkata), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Gujarat (Gandhinagar), Jharkhand (Ranchi) & Bihar (Patna).

Puducherry becomes 1st UT to pass resolution against CAA, NRC, NPR in Assembly

The **Puducherry Legislative Assembly** has passed a resolution against the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019**, the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** and the **National Population Register (NPR)**.

Chief Minister (CM) of the Union Territory Puducherry, Velu Narayanasamy moved the resolution & demanded the withdrawal of these legislations from the Central Government. Assembly Speaker VP Sivakolundhu said that the proposal has been unanimously accepted.

With this, it has become the first Union Territory (UT) to pass a resolution against the CAA.

Key Points:

i. Earlier, the Legislative Assembly of Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh had passed a resolution against the CAA.

Gandhinagar railway station in Gujarat to be the 1st in India to add 5-star hotel above the tracks: VK Yadav

According to the **Chairman of the Indian Railway Board, Sri Vinod Kumar Yadav**, Indian Railways has planned to prepare **5- Star Hotel** on the tracks in **Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat** to give passengers the experience of world class facilities. This will be the first experiment in India.

The hotel, being built by the famous hotel chain **Leela Group**, could be completed by December 2020.

Key Points:

i. About the Hotel:

The roof will be put on the pillars near the tracks and then the hotel will be built on top of it.

Its design has been made in such a way that no sound of passing trains is heard inside the hotel. Apart from this, an airport-style retail model will also help generate revenue for the Indian Railways.

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**. It is inline with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by **2022**.

Key Points:

i. 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.

India to switch to World's Cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1, 2020: Bharat Stage (BS)-VI

India to switch to World's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1, 2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present. India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.



Key Highlights

i. BS-VI contains 10ppm with good emission standards as Compressed Natural Gas whereas BS-IV contains 50ppm.

ii. Delhi and its surrounding regions supplied BS-VI by April 2019, while the other regions in India will start to supply from April 2020.

iii. It took 3 years to change from BS-IV to BS-VI. State-owned oil refineries spent about ₹35,000 crore to upgrade plants that could produce ultra-low sulphur fuel.

Northeast Frontier Railway Construction built India's tallest pier bridge in Manipur

The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge. It is built across the Makru river in the Tamenglong district, near Noney of Manipur

Structure of the Bridge

- i. Total amount spent was Rs 283.5 crore.
- ii. It is 100m tall similar to a 33 storey building.
- iii. The width 555m is a part of 111km Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad gauge line.

World Population Review Report: India becomes 2019's 5th largest economy; US tops

In accordance with the US-based think tank World Population Review, India has become the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of **\$2.94 trillion** overtaking the UK (United Kingdom) and France in 2019. The size of the UK economy is \$2.83 trillion and that of France is \$2.71 trillion. The list has been topped by the United States (US) with \$21.44 trillion GDP.

Key Points:

- i. In terms of **purchasing power parity (PPP)**, India's GDP is **\$10.51 trillion**, exceeding that of Japan and Germany. Due to India's high population, India's **GDP per capita** is **\$2,170**.
- ii. India's **service sector** is the **fast-growing sector** in the world accounting for 60% of the economy and 28% of employment.

Lithium reserve found in Mandya near Bengaluru

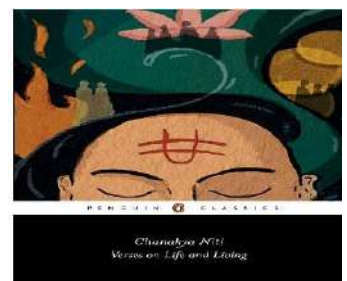
The **Researchers of India's Atomic Energy Commission** have found **lithium reserves** of **14,100 tonnes** in Mandya, Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lithium is a rare metal used for manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.

Key Points:

- i. The reserve is small compared to major producers such as Chile with its 8.6 tonnes million of reserve, Australia with 2.8 million tonnes, Argentina with 1.7 million tonnes & Portugal with 60,000 tonnes.
- ii. India currently imports all its lithium needs and lithium batteries worth \$1.2 billion for the year 2019 from \$384 million in 2017.

Penguin published the Book Chanakya Niti: Verses on Life and Living translated by A.N.D. Haksar

Indian Diplomat **Aditya Narayan Dhairyasheel Haksar** has translated the famous aphorisms (sayings) of the ancient master of statecraft **Chanakya or Kautilya** from Sanskrit to current existing languages for the readers and the book titled as "**Chanakya Niti: Verses on life and Living**" and it has been published by Penguin Random House India.



Key points:

- i. These Aphorisms are mainly about everyday life and living, family and social surroundings, friends and enemies, adequate or absence of wealth, good and bad in life and how to deal with difficult situations.
- ii. **About A.N.D Haksar:** He served as the Indian High commissioner in Kenya and the Seychelles, Minister in the United States and also served as Indian Ambassador in Portugal and Yugoslavia. He also translated

books like The Courtesan's Keeper, The Seduction of Shiva, Suleiman Charita, Raghuvamsam and Three Hundred Verses, etc.

Haryana Govt announced Rs 6 crores cash rewards to gold medal winners at Olympics games

The Chief Minister of Haryana **Manohar Lal Khattar** has announced that the state government will provide **Rs. 6 crores** for the players who bagged gold medals, **Rs. 4 crores** for the silver medalist and **Rs. 2.5 crores** for the bronze medalists at the **Olympics Games** and also employment in Haryana Civil Service or Haryana Police service to the sportsperson.

Key points:

i. Further he added that Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 1.5 crores will be provided to the players who have won gold medals at the Asian Games and Commonwealth games respectively, and an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs will be given to each player participating in the Olympics Game

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurated India's First Floating Jetty & Immigration office in Goa

Union Minister of State for shipping **Mansukh Mandaviya**, inaugurated the **India's first floating jetty** on the banks of **Mandovi river, Goa** and also an immigration facility office at a cruise terminal in Vasco, Goa.

Key Points:

i. **About floating jetty:** The floating jetty is made up of cement concrete which was built on a short time, will boost inland waterways, they are environment friendly and 3 more will be built in Goa.

Indian Army is Set to Get New Headquarters – the Thal Sena Bhawan in Delhi Cantonment

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Army Headquarters new building "**Thal Sena Bhawan**" in Delhi Cantonment. Thal Sena Bhawan, the multi-storeyed complex adopting Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA-5 rating) norms, designed like a "rising sun" and spread over nearly 39 acres.

Key Points:

i. The Army Headquarters is currently housed in the iconic South Block at Raisina Hill, Delhi.
ii. At present, the Army headquarters is split into 8 pockets across New Delhi such as South Block, Sena Bhawan, Hutments Area, R.K.Puram, Shankar Vihar etc., and the new building accommodates Army headquarters in one place ensures that they can work under one roof.

Sweden's Riksbank begun testing world's 1st digital version of currency, e-krona

Sveriges Riksbank (or simply the Riksbank), the central bank of **Sweden**, had begun testing its **digital version of currency, e-krona**. If this year-long pilot project successful, this would lead to the creation of world's 1st central bank digital currency (CBDC).

Key Points:

i. The pilot project, will be in operation for one year, until February 2021, will use distributed ledger technology inspired by the blockchains that operates cryptocurrencies.
ii. The digital currency e-krona will be used to simulate day-to-day banking functions like payments from a digital wallet such as a mobile phone application.

Central and UP government renamed 4 railway stations of Prayagraj

Four railway stations in **Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj** will get new names, in order to recognise the identity

of the ancient city. The names of the stations were changed by the State and Central Government.

Key Points:

i. Allahabad Junction will now be Prayagraj Junction, Allahabad City will now be known as Prayagraj Rambag, Allahabad Chhioki has been changed to Prayagraj Chheoki & the name of Prayagghat to Prayagraj Sangam.

PM Modi addressed the International Judicial Conference 2020, “Judiciary and The Changing World” held in New Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the International Judicial Conference – “Judiciary and The Changing World” in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was “Gender Just World”. Chief Justice of India **Sharad Arvind Bobde**, Attorney General Kottayan Katankot Venugopal, and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also addressed the gathering. The aim of the conference was to facilitate cross fertilisation of ideas between judges of India and those from abroad.



Key Points:

- i. The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women.
- ii. The Conference also focused on the need for technology for timely justice like “E-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project” and establishment of “National Judicial Data Grid”.

Mumbai airport gets world’s largest ‘Export Cold Zone’ to Store Agro, Pharma Products

Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture (JV) of the GVK led consortium and Airports Authority of India (AAI), has unveiled the world’s largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility, the ‘Export Cold Zone’ for processing and storage of agro and pharma products, for which **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport** will be the largest export gateway.

Key Points:

- i. The Export Cold Zone facility with over 700 tonnes of such cargo at one time with a combined annual capacity of 5.25 lakh tones, will be operated by cargo handling service provider and MIAL’s business partner, Cargo Service Centre.
- ii. Mumbai airport, which connects to over 500 cargo destinations across 175 countries through 60 airlines, is the first airport in India and the 3rd in Asia to receive the IATA CEIV (International Air Transport Association-Center of Excellence for Independent Validators) Pharma accreditation, a global industry recognition helping the air transport industry.

Himachal Pradesh: 1st State to achieve 100% LPG coverage

Himachal Pradesh became the 1st state in the country to have 100% LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas) coverage due to the implementation of PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) scheme.

Key Points:

- i. Following the implementation of the PMUY scheme, the state government launched ‘**Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana**’ in May 2018 to cover the scheme to remaining households.
- ii. Under the scheme except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.

Manmohan singh released “Yaaru Bharat Maate”, the Kanada version of the book “who is bharat mata ” translated by K E Radhakrishna

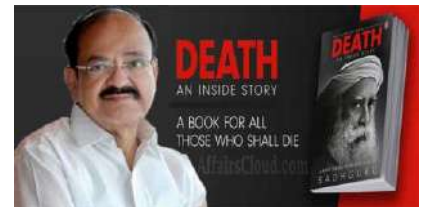
The Former Prime Minister of India Mr. Manmohan Singh has released the Kannada version of the book “who is bharat mata” translated by **Professor K E Radhakrishna** and titled as “**Yaaru Bharat Maate**” and the English version of the book is penned by professor Purushottam Agarwal, and the book was Published by the Swapna Book House, Bengaluru in association with Delhi Karnataka Sangha.

Key points:

- i. The book contains gatherings of speeches and writings of the 1st Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, including information from his books like “An Autobiography”, “Glimpses of World History”, “The Discovery of India” and etc.
- ii. The book also contains achievements of freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Moulana Azad, Arun Asaf Ali, Sheikh Abdullah, Subhash Chandra Bose, Mohammed Aris Singh, Ali Sardar and others.

Vice President Venkaiah naidu released Sadhguru’s book ‘Death-An Inside Story’

Vice-President President **Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu**, who was the chief guest at the 26th Maha Sivaratri celebrations at Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN), has launched a book titled “**Death; An Inside Story: A book for all those who shall die**” penned by Jaggi Vasudev, (generally referred to as Sadhguru), an Indian yogi, author & founder of Isha Foundation.



Key Points:

- i. The book has been Published by **Penguin Ananda** & talks about the author’s inner experience as he explains the more profound aspects of death that are rarely spoken about..

GSI estimates 160 Kg Gold Deposits in Uttar Pradesh’s Sonbhadra district, xnot 3,000 Tonnes

Geological Survey Of India(GSI) has denied the discovery of gold deposits of over 3,000 tonnes and mentioned that the mineralised zone having an average grade of 3.03 grams per tonne of gold is tentative in nature and the total gold which can be extracted from the total resource of 52,806.25 tonnes of ore is approximately 160 kg and not 3,350 tonnes in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

India 5th most polluted country with Ghaziabad as the most polluted city, globally: IQAir AirVisual Report

In accordance with the “**2019 World Air Quality Report-Region & City PM2.5 Ranking**” compiled by IQAir AirVisual, India ranked 5th as the most polluted country in the world and **topped in an annual list of cities** with the worst air quality in the world. The report has been prepared by monitoring the real time data to tackle the urgent issue of air pollution.

- **Bangladesh** emerged as the most polluted country for PM2.5 exposure. It is followed by **Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan**, and **India** at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.
- Of the world’s top 30 most polluted cities during 2019, 21 are located in India, 27 in South Asia, and all the top 30 cities are within greater Asia. Ghaziabad, India is the most polluted city in the world.
- **Bahamas** ranked 98th as the **cleanest country** with an average of 3 µg/m³.....

Bihar 1st NDA state to adopt resolution against NRC, and to implement NPR

Bihar became the **1st National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** state in India, which passed a resolution against **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** and also passed a resolution to implement the **National Population Register (NPR)**, according to 2010 format, with an amendment. In this regard, a unanimous resolution has been passed by the Bihar assembly.

Overview of US President Donald Trump visit to India on February 24-25

The President of United States of America (USA), **Donald John Trump**, paid a State Visit to **India on 24-25 February 2020**, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He arrived at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel international airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat for India visit to strengthen the Indo-US friendship and trade deal. He was accompanied by his wife Melania, and 12-member delegation including his daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner. He was received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was seventh American president and first visit by Donald Trump to India.



Deals & Agreement:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump met in New Delhi for bilateral talks.

—US surpasses China to become India's top trading partner

The US has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner, showing greater economic ties between the two countries. According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2018-19, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 87.95 billion. During the period, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at USD 87.07 billion. During April-December 2019-20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 68 billion. It stood at USD 64.96 billion with China in the same period.

—India, U.S. have finalised defence deals worth \$3 billion for MH60R navy choppers, Apaches

India and the US closed defence deals worth \$3 billion which included the sale of state-of-the-art choppers, six AH-64E Apache Helicopters, and 24 MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopters to India under the Foreign Military Sales program of the US government.

—ISRO-NASA joint space mission for 2022 launch; blueprint discussed in Modi-Trump talks

There would be collaboration between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for a joint space mission slotted for 2022.

“Namaste, Trump” event

Namaste, Trump event was organized for Donald Trump at Ahmedabad's newly-built **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Cricket Stadium** in Motera. It is the world's biggest cricket stadium. The 125,000-strong crowd gathered to welcome to US president on his first visit to India.

Bengaluru recorded 2019's highest number of digital transactions while MH topped among states: Report by Worldline India

In accordance with the report by online payment processor Worldline India titled “**Worldline India Digital Payments 2019**”, Bengaluru (Karnataka) accounted for the highest number of digital transactions in India in 2019, followed by **Chennai** (Tamil Nadu), **Mumbai** and **Pune** in Maharashtra.

- **Among states**, Maharashtra (MH) has topped with the highest number of digital transactions.

India to host 1st Artificial intelligence summit: RAISE 2020- ‘Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020’ in New Delhi

The Government of India announced India’s 1st Artificial intelligence summit, **RAISE 2020- ‘Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment’**, a ‘First-of-its kind’ summit organized by the Government of India in partnership with Industry & Academia & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to be held between April 11 & 12, 2020 in



New Delhi. The government launched **AI-Startup Challenge** & the event website. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the summit.

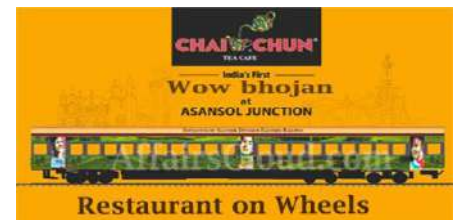
RAISE 2020 & its Aim

The summit is a drive to India’s vision & roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion & transformation through AI. The event will start with Startup Challenge-Pitchfest followed. The aim is to bring people together to exchange ideas on how to use AI for, social empowerment, inclusion & transformation in important sectors such as Healthcare, Agriculture, Education and Smart Mobility among other sectors.

Indian Railways launched its First “Restaurant on Wheels” at Asansol Station, West Bengal

Indian railways launched its First **“Restaurant on Wheels”** at Asansol Station (division of Eastern railway), West Bengal, for railway passengers and citizens of the city.

Shri Babul Supriyo, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoSEFCC) inaugurated the 1st “Restaurant on Wheels” at Asansol station.



Bihar to get north India’s first bird ringing station and MoU inked in Gujarat

Bihar becomes North India’s first **“bird ringing station”** for observation, monitoring & research on migratory birds and 4th state in the country after Tamil Nadu (Chennai), Rajasthan (Jaipur) and Orissa (Bhubaneshwar). The bird ringing station will be at **Bhagalpur**, Bihar, located close to the Ganges & is known to be a favorite destination of migratory birds.

Key Points:

- i.About MoU:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged between Deepak Kumar Singh, principal secretary of Bihar government, department of environment, forest & climate changes with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) in the presence of C K Mishra, secretary to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate change (MoEFCC).
- ii.** The MoU was signed on the occasion of CMS-COP13 (Conservation of Migratory species- conference of parties) or the 13th Conservation of Migratory Species- Conference of Parties held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, where delegates from 130 countries are participating in discussions on preservation of migratory species.
- iii.** The MoU would be valid for 5 years.
- iv.** In Bihar, migratory birds are also spotted in large numbers in Jamui, Begusarai, Darbhanga and Vaishali.

Nitin Gadkari inaugurated first inter-city electric bus service in Maharashtra

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service, between Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Pune (Maharashtra).

Key Points:

- i.About electric bus:** The electric bus has 43 seats manufactured by Mitra Mobility Solution, covers a range of 300 kilometre on single charge & will be operated twice between 2 cities.
- ii.** Nitin Gadkari mentioned that the government is planning to build e-(electric) highways.

INTERNATIONAL

India slips to 40th rank on GIPC's 8th International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020, US tops

The U.S.(United States) Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020 namely 'Art of the possible' which was authored by **Meir Pugatch** and **David Torstensson**. This report was conducted by Pugatch Consilium, a consultancy that provides evidence-based research, analysis, and intelligence on the fastest growing sectors of the economy. The 2020 index mapped the IP ecosystem in 53 global economies which included three new economies-**Greece, Dominican Republic, and Kuwait**, on the basis of 50 unique indicators.

Position of India in GIPC's IP Index:

- i. In 2020 GIPC's IP Index, India's position has downgraded to 40th rank in comparison to 36th position out of 50 countries in 2019. The index has been topped by the **United States (US)** followed by UK (United Kingdom), Sweden, France and Germany.
- ii. Among Asia, India is ranked 4th which is topped by **Australia** and followed by Brunei (2nd) and China (3rd).
- iii. Among Lower-middle-income economies, India is at 2nd position which is topped by Egypt

Prince Charles unveils children's protection fund for India & Katy Perry as new Ambassador

Britain's **Prince Charles** unveiled a new Children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust and announced **Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson (Katy Perry)**, American singer as the **new ambassador** for the British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund for India during a function at Banqueting House in London, England.

Key Points:

- i. The British Asian Trust Children's Protection Fund will protect the child from child labour, child sexual abuse, anti-trafficking fund in South Asia.
- ii. The British Asian Trust was working with business, government and civil society, to remove child labour from supply chains and promote child labour free products in markets as part of the Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative.
- iii. The partnership between the Freedom Fund and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, results first conviction to life sentence for a child trafficker in Jaipur & achieved in 2019.

World's largest solar telescope reveals never-before-seen images of Sun's turbulent surface

Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST), the world's largest solar telescope with 13-foot mirror, has captured first highest-resolution image of the Sun's turbulent surface at Hawaiian island of Maui.

Pop singer Lord J launches his Autobiography Book "Lord J: Lord of Anonymity"

Lord J is the 1st and only **Anonymous** singer in the world. Lord J was born in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, Lord J is a Self-Taught singer and Lyric writer in an Anonymous way, and he is a world famous celebrity without revealing his identity to the world. The Name Lord J was given to him by an LA(Los-Angeles)-based fan.

Albums: Lord J has done Lip Locks, Love Me for Me, Roger That and Beside Me.



About the book Lord of Anonymity:

- i. The book is an autobiography penned by Lord J himself about his initial days of understanding the value of music, lyrics, concepts of videography and making music videos, and it also speaks about hardships that he faced on the transition of global pop singer, from dream to achieve it.
- ii. The reason behind making the book is, it will motivate anyone who wants to chase their goals in life and willing to take risk to achieve it.

Maldives readmitted and becomes 54th member of Commonwealth family

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Maldives announced that Maldives has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family after the meeting between **Abdullah Shahid**, Foreign Minister of Maldives & **Patricia Scotland**, Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

The Maldives became the **54th family member** of the Commonwealth family.

Key Points:

- i. In November 2018, President Mohamed Solih, cabinet passed the country's interest to rejoin the Commonwealth family.
- ii. After the positive feedback from Commonwealth observer group, who visited Maldives in April 2019 & from 53 commonwealth nations, Maldives readmitted.
- iii. **Commonwealth meeting:** Maldives will be part of the “**Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)**” in Kigali, Rwanda (East Africa), between June 22 to 28, 2020.
- iv. Maldives joined the Commonwealth in 1982 and withdrew its membership in 2016 by its former President Abdulla Yameen.

About Commonwealth of Nations:

There are **54 countries in the Commonwealth**, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific. The Commonwealth countries are diverse – they are amongst the world's biggest, smallest, richest and poorest countries.

Theme 2020: The theme for the 2020 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), for Commonwealth Day is “**Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming**”.

Counterpoint data: India surpassed US to become 2nd largest smartphone market globally; China tops

According to the recently released **Counterpoint Research's** Market Monitor service report, **India** surpassed the United States (US) for the first time to become the **2nd largest smartphone market** in the world. India recorded 158 million shipments in 2019 with 7% year-on-year growth which was mainly due to Chinese smartphone brands that were introduced. The list was topped by China.

Counterpoint Research report:

- **Smartphone share:** The combined share of top 5 smartphone brands was around 84% which is the highest level ever recorded.
- **Top smartphone brand:** Chinese smartphone company **Xiaomi topped** the smartphone market for the second consecutive year with 28% market share. Xiaomi was followed by South Korean brand **Samsung** in the **2nd** place with 21% market share....

Iran unveils new ballistic missile 'Raad-500'; dedicated to former Major General Qasim Sulemani

In the midst of increased tension with the US(United States), **Iran's Revolutionary Guards** has launched a short-range ballistic missile, "**Raad-500**".

Key Points:

i.The new missile has a power generation **engine 'Zoheir'** (which is made of alloy) to put the satellite into orbit. Zoheir is lighter than the steel engine built earlier, so it is much easier for the missile to catch fast speed.

ii.**Firepower:** The Raad-500 missile is half the weight of the previously made Fateh-110 missile, however its firepower is **500 km** (200 km more than Fateh-110 missile, which was made public by Iran in the year 2002).

iii.**Dedication:** The Raad-500 has been dedicated to the former head Quds Force, a unit of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a drone strike by the US in Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.

U.S. announces launch of 27 nation International Religious Freedom Alliance

The United States (US) launched the 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance, which will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world. It was announced by US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo.

Reason behind this launch:

More than eight in ten people in the world today live in a place where they cannot practice their faith freely. So in order to provide them religious freedom, this alliance has been launched.

Participants:

Among the prominent countries to join the alliance are Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Israel, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Greece.

Point to be noted:

Poland will host the next ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Warsaw in July 2020.

NASA astronaut Christina Koch returns to Earth after record longest stay in ISS

NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut **Christina Koch** (41 years) from United States(US) who made the 1st all female space walk in 2019 landed in Kazakh desert steppe of **Kazakhstan** in a Soyuz MS-13 capsule. She has landed after making a record of longest stay on the International Space Station(ISS). She made her landing after ending a 328 days mission in space.

Key Points:

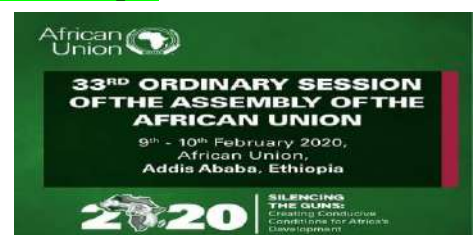
i.The Soyuz MS-13 also carried European astronaut Luca Parmitano and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov.

ii.**Koch's achievements:** Koch broke the record of NASA's Peggy Whitson for the longest continuous stay in space by a woman. Koch along with Jessica Meir marked stepping out of space station together by two women at the same time in October 2019.

33rd edition of African Union (AU) Summit 2020 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A 2-day long **33rd African Union (AU) Heads of State Summit 2020** under the theme "**Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development**" was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, is the



newly elected **Chairperson of the African Union** for one year. He replaces Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

WHO renames deadly coronavirus from China as 'COVID-19'

UN(United Nations) health agency, the **WHO(World Health Organization)** has officially renamed **Coronavirus** as '**COVID-19**' ["co" stands for "corona", "vi" for "virus" and "d" for "disease", while "19" was for the year, as the outbreak was first originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019].

- i. Earlier the WHO had given temporary name for the virus as "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease" & China's National Health Commission named it as "novel coronavirus pneumonia" or NCP.
- ii. The new name had been picked to avoid references to a specific geographical location, animal species or group of people and was pronounceable and related to the virus.

NASA's 'SuperCam' to study mineralogy of Mars during Mars 2020 rover mission

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is all set to send a new laser-toting robot named 'SuperCam' to Mars for studying mineralogy and chemistry from up to about 20 feet (7 meters) away, to help scientists in finding the signs of fossilized microbial life on the Red Planet i.e. Mars. SuperCam, a rock-vaporizing instrument is a part of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.

About Mars 2020 rover mission:

It is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program which will be launched between July 17 – Aug. 5, 2020 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. It will land at Jezero Crater, Mars on Feb. 18, 2021. The mission duration is at least one Mars year (about 687 Earth days). The Mars 2020 rover is designed to better understand the geology of Mars and seek signs of ancient life.

IISS Study: World Defence spending rose by 4.0% in 2019; India ranked 5th & US tops

The **International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)** annual "Military Balance" report states that global spending on defence hiked by 4% percent in 2019, showing largest growth in **10 years (2010-2019)**. The report showed top 15 countries, among them, the world's biggest defence spenders are **United States (US), China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India**.

Key Points:

- i. The increase in **US spending alone from 2018 to 2019 is USD 53.4 billion**.
- ii. There is **6.6% increase in China** and the **US defence spendings** while **Europe's spendings** hike by 4.2%.

2020 UN Climate Summit 'COP26' to be held in Glasgow, UK in November

The **26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26)** to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled to be held from 9-19 November 2020, at **Glasgow's** Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in Scotland under the presidency of the **UK (United Kingdom)** government.



- i. UNFCCC, the UN's climate body, holds an annual summit known as a COP, attended by national ministers and heads of state. All of the world's nations are 'parties to the Convention'.

Indian-origin minister Alok Sharma to lead UK's COP26 summit

Indian-origin **Alok Sharma (52)** from Agra, Uttar Pradesh(UP) has been appointed as the **minister in charge** of the **UK's COP26 climate change summit**.

i. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promoted Alok Sharma to the post of Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in cabinet reshuffle, where he replaced Claire Perry O'Neill, a former energy minister.

Sharma previously served as the secretary of state for international development.

UAE becomes 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant

The United Arab Emirates representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency **Mr. Hamad al-kaabi** announced that the National Nuclear Regulator has issued an **Operating license for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant** and becomes the **1st arab country in the world** to operate a nuclear power plant.

Key points:

i. The Barakah nuclear power plant is being built by the Korea Electric Power Corporation in a deal of USD 20 billion and the plant is on the Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi, out of 4 nuclear reactors in the plant only one got the license, if it is fully operational it can generate 5600 megawatts of electricity which is 25% of the Nation's need.

ii. The UAE has set a target to produce 27% of its electricity needs with the combined nuclear and renewable energy by 2021.

Hindi is the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin Chinese : 22nd edition of World language database, Ethnologue

The 22nd edition of the world language database **Ethnologue** stated **Hindi**, as the **3rd most spoken language** of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers. English language was at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers and Mandarin Chinese was at the 2nd position with 1,117 million speakers.

Key Points:

i. **About Ethnologue:** Ethnologue will publish an yearly database of living languages of the world, since its establishment in 1951.

ii. Bangla has been ranked as the 7th most spoken language of the world and has 228 million native speakers.

THE's emerging economies university rankings 2020: India has 11 institutes among world's top 100 universities, IISc at No. 16th

According to the **Times Higher Education's (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings 2020**, which ranks a total of 533 universities from 47 countries, **India** has **11 institutes** among world's **top 100** universities where **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore (Karnataka)** emerged as India's top-ranked institution by getting the rank **16th** with the score 48.4 .

Tsinghua University in China has **topped** the list with the score of 83.8.

i. A total of 56 Indian universities appear in the full ranking of a total of 533 universities across emerging economies of the world. China is ahead of India in the top 100, which includes 30 universities.

India ranks 77th in terms of sustainability & 131st in flourishing index: UN report

According to the report, "**A future for the world's children?**" commissioned by the World Health Organization (**WHO**), United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) and The Lancet medical journal, **India** ranks **77th** in terms of **Sustainability Index** and **131st** in the **Flourishing Index** of Children's Survival, health, education and Well-being.

Sustainability index is associated with per capita carbon emissions and ability of children in a nation to live

healthy lives.

i. A commission of more than 40 child and adolescent health experts funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) from around the world has released the report, where the capacity of 180 countries has been assessed whether they are able to ensure that their children grow and prosper.

Pakistan continues at grey list of FATF for another 4 months

The Paris based **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, an organization that monitors the financing of international terrorism, gave a 4-month extension to **Pakistan** & warned of action for its failure to combat money laundering and terror financing.

Islamabad (Pakistan) continues to remain on grey list & If it does not curb the financing of terrorism by June 2020, it will be put on the blacklist.

The decision has been taken by FATF after the completion of its 6-day plenary session in Paris, France.

Key Points:

i. **Background:** Pakistan was placed on the grey list in June 2018. It was given an action plan to complete by October 2019, under which it was entrusted with 27 tasks, including stopping terrorist funding, eradicating terrorism from its land. Out of this, Pakistan was able to complete only 14 tasks till February 2020. The FATF urged Pakistan to swiftly complete the remaining 13-action plan of the list.

iii. **Impacts of being Blacklisted:** If Pakistan is blacklisted, it may adversely impact its imports, exports, remittances and limit its access to international lending. Currently, only Iran and North Korea are on the black list.

Grey list:

FATF grey lists a country which it considers as a safe haven for terror funding and money laundering.

Saudi Arabia, 1st Arab Nation that hosts G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting 2020 from Feb 22-23

The G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 22-23 February 2020 on the theme “**Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All**”. The meet was chaired by the Saudi Arabia’s finance minister Mohammed al-Jadaan and central bank governor Ahmed al-Kholifey.



Key Points:

i. The objective of the meet was to enhance economic growth through financial mechanisms and to discuss the risks from the coronavirus epidemic.

ii. It should be noted that Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency and will hold the fifteenth meeting of Group of Twenty (G20) i.e. **G20 Leaders Summit 2020** from 21-22 November 2020, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

‘Henneguya salminicola’-First ever animal that can survive without oxygen discovered by Scientists from Tel Aviv University (TAU)

Researchers at Tel Aviv University (TAU), Israel have discovered a jellyfish-like parasite, ‘Henneguya salminicola’, **without a mitochondrial genome**, the first multicellular organism known to have this absence. That means it doesn’t breathe and lives its life completely free of oxygen dependency. The study has been published in the journal **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**. The finding was led

by **Prof. Dorothee Huchon** of the School of Zoology at TAU's Faculty of Life Sciences and Steinhardt Museum of Natural History. It is part of the same family as jellyfish, coral and anemones.

Astronomers at UBC Astronomy club discovers 17 new planets, including earth-sized world

A team of Astronomers including a student Michelle Kunimoto at **University of British Columbia (UBC)** astronomy in **Canada**, has discovered **17 new planets**, including a potentially habitable Earth-sized rocky body that may have liquid water, by combing through data collected by **NASA's** (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) **Kepler Space Telescope**, which was launched in 2009, and retired in October 2018.

Key Points:

- i.** The findings have been published in '**The Astronomical Journal**'. The finding also includes one such rare planet named 'KIC-7340288 b' which is one and a half times the size of Earth and in the habitable zone of its star & one of only 15 small habitable zone planets found in the Kepler Telescope data till now, however it is 1,000 light-years away.
- ii.** Out of the other 16 new planets discovered, the small planet is just only two-thirds the size of Earth, which is one of the smallest planets to be discovered with Kepler till now. The rest range in size with the largest around 8 times the size of Earth.

Astronomers detect biggest explosion in the Universe since the Big Bang

An international team of **Astronomers** including from the Curtin University node of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research in Perth, Australia, have discovered **biggest explosion** seen in the universe since the Big Bang by using X-Ray and radio telescopes, including India's Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) in Pune, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- i.** Astronomers used other 3 telescopes used for the discovery including NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Chandra X-ray Observatory, European Space Agency's (ESA) XMM-Newton and the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) in Western Australia.
- ii.** The explosion occurred in the Ophiuchus galaxy cluster, 390 million light-years from Earth. Researchers have discovered that the explosive force of the explosion caused a huge gap in the plasma containing hot gases in the galaxy cluster. This gas cloud is located around the Black Hole.
- iii.** The discovery has been published in **The Astrophysical Journal** & Lead author of the study was Dr Simona Giacintucci, from the Naval Research Laboratory in America.

Defence

In a first IAF'S AN-32 aircraft landed at Leh with indigenous bio-jet fuel

Indian Air Force's (IAF) successfully operated AN-32

aircraft powered with **10%** blend of Indian bio-jet fuel. This is the **1st time** both engines of the aircraft were powered by **bio-jet indigenous fuel**. Aircraft was took-off from **Kushok Bakula**

Rimpochee Airport, Leh because it was considered to be one of

world's highest and most difficult operational airfield. Before

undertaking operational flight to Leh, the flight was tested along with performance validation at Chandigarh Air Base.



Five day 11th edition of the Biennial Mega Defence Exhibition "DefExpo 2020" held in Lucknow, UP from Feb 5 – 9, 2020

The 11th edition of DefExpo-2020, organized by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with a support of Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) for the first time from 5th to 9th Feb 2020. It's main theme was **"India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub"** with focus on **"Digital Transformation of Defence"**. This expo is also termed as **"Mahakumbh of defence manufacturing companies"**. The last two days of the expo was opened for public.



- It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by Union Defence Minister and Local MP Rajnath Singh, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Yescho Naik, UP Governor Anandi Ben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and many ministers of state government.

India-UK joint Military EX: Ajeya Warrior to be conducted in Salisbury plains, UK

Fifth Edition of Joint Military Exercise between **Indian Army and United Kingdom(UK) Army AJEYA WARRIOR-2020** will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom(UK) from February (13 to 26) 2020. **120** Army Individuals each from Indian and United Kingdom Armies will participate in this Exercise and the Next Edition will be conducted in India, vice-versa.



Defence Exercise between India and United Kingdom:

- i. Konkan- In the field of Navy
- ii. Ajeya Warrior – In the field of Army
- iii. IndraDhanush – In the field of Air force.

CDS to establish 1st Integrated tri-service command "Air Defence Command" by June 2020

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called **"Air Defence Command (ADC)"** by **June 2020**, headed by an 3 star officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Key Points:

- i. The ADC formation ,by combining the resources of the three services under one command under the

mandate given to the Department of Military Affairs, will help to protect the air space of the country.

ii.The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.

iii.General Rawat is also working on the creation of a Joint Peninsula Command and a Logistics Command in addition to the theater command

India to get Peninsular & Air Defence Command by next 2021, theatre commands by 2022

In order to deal with future security challenges, India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has proposed **Peninsular Command** by merging Western and the Eastern Command of the Indian Navy, which will spread from the Sir Creek near the Arabian Sea to the Sundarbans in the Bay of Bengal. It will be under the operational control of the Navy Chief and will have air assets and support from the army. This tri-services Peninsular Command will be responsible for dealing with maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It will be rolled out by the end of 2021.

- It should be noted that currently, there are about 19 military commands in the country and only two of them are tri-service commands – **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** and the Strategic Forces Command, which looks after nuclear assets. ANC, the first tri-service command of the country, will remain as it is because it is focused on surveillance while the proposed Peninsular Command has focus on defence.

SC approves permanent commission to women officers in the army

The **Supreme Court(SC)** bench of Justices **D.Y. Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi** dismissed the central government's submission that women are physically weaker than men and agreed on Delhi High Court's decision about eligibility of **permanent commission and command post to short service commissioned (SSC) women officers in the army.**

Supreme Court ordered the government to implement its judgment in 3 months and judgement finalized of 10-year-old appeal filed by the government against the 2010 decision of the Delhi High Court (HC).

i.New changes:The grant of permanent commission means that women military officers can now work in the army till the age of retirement. Women officers in the army under the Short Service Commission have the option to choose a permanent commission also be entitled to pension.

ii. Female officers will be given permanent commissions in 10 stream of Judge Advocate General and Army Education Corps, Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Ajay Bisaria Appointed as Next High Commissioner of India to Canada

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (GoI) announced **Ajay Bisaria** as **Next High Commissioner of India to Canada**. Bisaria is an IFS (Indian Foreign Service) officer batch 1987.



Key points:

- i. Bisaria served as High Commissioner of India to Pakistan after India scrapped the article 370 (a constitution which gives special status to Jammu Kashmir) in 2019, he returned to New Delhi after Pakistan forced India to recall its Envoy.
- ii. Bisaria is going to replace **Vikas Swarup** who served as High Commissioner of India to Canada, he is now appointed as **Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs)** at the Ministry of External Affairs.

Indian-origin techie Arvind Krishna elected as CEO for IBM

Indian origin technology executive **Arvind Krishna** has been elected as **Chief Executive Officer** of American IT giant **International Business Machines Corp (IBM)** after a “world-class succession process” will be effective on April, becomes the third Indian to head US-based multinational company after Microsoft corporation chief Satya Nadella and Google ceo sundar pichai.



Key points:

- i. Krishna is currently IBM Senior Vice President for Cloud and Cognitive Software and will succeed **Virginia “Ginni” Marie Rometty (62)**, who will retire after almost 40 years with the company at the end of the year.
- ii. The IBM Board headed by **Michael Eskew** also elected **James Whitehurst** IBM Senior Vice President and CEO of Red Hat, as **IBM President**.

Govt appoints M.Ajit kumar(Georgian) as chairman of CBIC

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **M.Ajit Kumar** as **chairman** of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**. Ajit is an IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officer of the batch 1984.

Key points:

- i. Ajit served as member of CBIC and he will replace **Pranab Kumar Das** as the chairman of CBIC.
- ii. The order is signed by Rajeesh Lochan undersecretary, and the duly of that appointed has been given to revenue secretary **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi appointed as new PM of Iraq

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi, 65 years old, was appointed as the Iraq's new Prime Minister (PM) by its President Barham Salih. He was the successor of Adil Abdul-Mahdi who resigned in November 2019 due to anti-government protests.



Iraq Protests:

- i. Allawai was appointed as New PM after long protests, in which more than 480 had died & more than

30000 have been wounded since the rallies began in October, 2019.

ii. The Protests were against state corruption, unemployment, low wages, Anti-American sentiment, Anti-Iranian sentiment and poor public services.

iii. The 2019 Iraq Protests was also named as Tishreen revolution (October revolution) or Iraqi Intifada.

Key Points:

i. Mohammed Allawi served twice as communications minister under Former PM Nouri al-Maliki.

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.

Key Points:

i. **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.

ii. **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.

iii. **Sulakshana:** She had played two Tests, 46 ODIs and 31 T20Is for India in a career spanning 11 years.



Padma Shri awardee Deepa Malik elected as President of Paralympic Committee of India

India's lone woman Paralympic medalist **Deepa Malik**, 49 years old, Sonapat from Haryana, was elected as **President of the Paralympic Committee of India**. He was the successor of the acting interim president Gursharan Singh.

About Deepa Malik:

i. Deepa Malik won a silver in shot put F-53 event in the 2016 Rio Paralympic games.

ii. **Awards:** She was also awarded with Padma Shri award, Rajiv Gandhi khel Ratna Award & also won silver in the IPC World Championships in 2011 in shot put F 52-53 event and also bagged silver in discus (F 52-53) and javelin throw (F 53-54) events in 2108 Asian Games in Indonesia.



Pramod Agrawal became the Chairman of Coal India Limited

On February 1, 2020 **Pramod Agrawal** became the new Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of Coal India Limited (CIL). He was the successor of Anil Kumar Jha who retired on 31st January 2020.

Key Points:

Agrawal, 1991 batch IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer, served as the principal secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh (MP), Bhopal.



WB chief economist Pinelopi announced resignation

American Greek economist and **Chief Economist** of the **World Bank (WB)** **Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg** (57-years) announced her resignation. She will step down from her post on March 1, 2020 and will be teaching at Yale University in Connecticut, United States (US). WB



research director **Aart Kraay** will be the interim WB chief economist until the appointment of a new permanent chief economist.

Key Points:

i.Previous work: Pinelopi took over as the chief economist of WB succeeding Paul Romer at the end of April 2018. She has also served as the 1st editor in chief of the American Economic Review. Prior to joining the WB, she taught economics at Yale University.

Motto of the World Bank- Working for a World Free of Poverty.

President- David Robert Malpass.

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

Jeff Weiner becomes Executive Chairman of LinkedIn

Jeff Weiner became the Executive Chairman (EC) of LinkedIn. He was the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of LinkedIn for the past 11 years. LinkedIn is the professional networking company owned by Microsoft.



Jeff Weiner



Ryan Roslansky, senior Vice President (VP) of LinkedIn will become the CEO of the company as of June 1. He is the successor of Jeff Weiner.

Tom Cohan, current Vice President of Marketing Solutions will replace Roslansky.

Key Points:

i. Microsoft bought LinkedIn for USD (United States Dollar) 26 billion in 2016..

Arvind Kejriwal will sworn as Delhi CM for 3rd time on Feb. 16, 2020

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) party leader **Shri Arvind Kejriwal**, 51 years old, to be sworn as Chief Minister (CM) of New Delhi on February 16, 2020 at Ramlila Maidan, Delhi, with his cabinet members. He was CM of Delhi for consecutively 3 times during the period of 2013, 2015 and 2020. The party sent a letter to the Lieutenant Governor Shri Anil Baijal staking claim to form the government.



Key Points:

i. The AAP won 62 of the 70 seats in the 2020 Assembly election & in 2015, it had won 67 seats.

Government of India appointed Rajiv Bansal as new CMD of Air India

Government of India appointed Rajiv Bansal as CMD (Chairman & Managing Director) of Air India. He was the successor of Ashwani Lohani, who didn't agree to extend his 1 year contract, which expired on February 11, 2020.



Key Points:

i. Rajiv Bansal served as an additional secretary with the oil & gas ministry and also served as a CMD of Air India in 2017.

ii. Ashwani Lohani, who was reappointed Air India CMD in 2019, had earlier held the position for 2 years from 2015. He served as the Chairman of the Railway Board from August 2017 to December 31, 2018.

Indian origin, Rishi Sunak, named UK's new Chancellor of the Exchequer

Indian origin **Rishi Sunak (39)** has been appointed as the United Kingdom's (UK) new Chancellor of the Exchequer by Prime Minister **Boris Johnson**. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the UK government's chief financial minister. He succeeds Pakistani-origin **Sajid Javid** who resigned as Chancellor.



- Now, British cabinet has three Indian-Origin MPs namely **Alok Sharma**, secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy, **Priti Patel**, Home Secretary, and **Rishi Sunak** as Finance Minister.

Ex-IAS officers Sanjay Kothari and Bimal Julka to become next Chief Vigilance Officer (CVC) and Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)

A high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected **Sanjay Kothari**, current Secretary to the President as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner(CVC) and former Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Bimal Julka** , current Information Commissioner became new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.



Highlights

- Sanjay Kothari to succeed K. V. Chowdary as CVC.
- Bimal Julka to succeed Sudhir Bhargava as CIC.

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das is elected as the President and Champat Rai as general secretary of The Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das is elected as the **President** and **Champant Rai** as **General Secretary** of the The Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust in its meeting.

About the Meeting

- The aim of the meeting is to speed up the construction of The Ram temple in Ayodhya
- It was decided to open an Account in Ayodhya's State Bank of India branch for donations for the construction.

Appointments

Name	Post elected
Former secretary of PM Nripendra Misra	Head of temple construction committee
Swami Govind Dev Giri Maharaaj of Pune	Treasurer
Senior Lawyer Parasaran	Head of the Trust

World's Oldest govt leader Mahathir Mohamad (94) resigned as Malaysia's PM

The world's Oldest government leader **Mahathir bin Mohamad (94)** resigned as **Malaysia's Prime Minister (PM)** on February 24,2020. His resignation has been accepted by Malaysia's king Al-Sultan Abdullah of Pahang and also named him as the Interim prime minister of Malaysia until a successor is appointed.



Key points:

- i.** Mahathir has dissolved his entire cabinet and also called off his political party (Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia) from Pakatan Harapan coalition. He also resigned from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, the political party of which he was chairman.
- ii.** Mahathir served as Malaysia's Prime Minister in 1981 and retired in 2003 and returned to office in 2018.
- iii.** In 1994 Mahathir was honoured with the "Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding" presented by the Government of India.

US-India Business Council (USIBC) appoints Vijay Advani as a New chairman of Global board

The US-India Business Council (USIBC) appointed **Vijay Advani** as a new chairman of its Global board of directors. USIBC represents the top global companies across the United States, India and Indo-Pacific.

**Highlights**

- i.** Prior to the current position as an Executive Chairman, Vijay Advani was the CEO of Nuveen and earlier was Co-President of Franklin Templeton Investments.
- ii.** The council announced 2 new members of the Global Board of Directors namely, Lockheed Martin International Senior Vice President **Tim Cahill** and GE South Asia president & CEO **Mahesh Palashikar**.

About USIBC

It is a business advocacy organisation to encourage and enlighten the private sectors of India and US to increase investment flows.

Headquarter– Washington, D.C., United States

Chairman– Nisha Desai Biswal

Honours/ Awards

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2020

Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg has been nominated for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize by two lawyers Jens Holm and Hakan Svenning, who are both members of Sweden's Left Party. It is the second consecutive year that Thunberg has been nominated.

Amulya Mica chosen as Most Promising Brand 2019 at 7th MSME Excellence Award in New Delhi

Amulya Mica (Purbanchal Laminates Pvt Ltd), spear-headed by its Managing Director Rakesh Agarwal, was chosen as the **Most Promising Brand of the Year Award 2019**, Gold Category during the **7th** edition of the **MSME Excellence Award**. The award & summit was organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) at Le Maiden in New Delhi.

Award presented: The award was given by MSME minister Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari to Ankur Maheshwari, Channel Partner Delhi and Sunil Thakore, General Manager of Export at Amulya Mica.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das wins 'Central banker of the year 2020, Asia-Pacific' award

The **Banker magazine**, a British English-language monthly financial affairs publication owned by The Financial Times Ltd, has named **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das** as the '**Central Banker of the Year 2020**', **Asia-Pacific** for encouraging growth and balancing the economy.



Shaktikanta Das
Asia Pacific central Banker
of the year 2020

Apart from this, the announcement of the title of **Global Central Banker award 2020** has been given to **Jorgovanka Tabakovi**, the head of the National Bank of Serbia.

Key Points:

- i. The magazine made this announcement in an editorial in its issue published on 2 January, 2020.
- ii. As per Banker magazine, Shaktikanta Das has made many efforts to improve India's banking system from NPAs (non-performing assets) loans to banks struggling with fraud.

Actress Waheeda Rehman to be honoured MP govt's with Kishore Kumar Samman 2018

Noted yesteryear Bollywood actor **Waheeda Rehman** was selected for the **National Kishore Kumar Samman** of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government for the year **2018**. She will be awarded at her residence in Mumbai, Maharashtra by Culture minister of MP Vijaylaxmi Sadho.



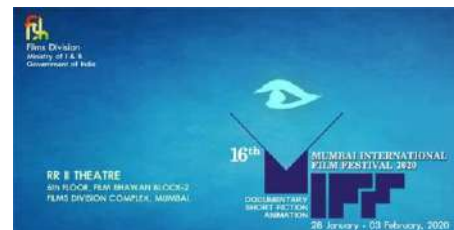
Key Points:

- i. **Award:** The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and a citation. The award couldn't be given to Rehman during a function in 2019 as she was unwell at the time. The function coincided with the death anniversary of Legendary singer Kishore Kumar after whom the award has been instituted.
- ii. Along with Rehman, on October 13, 2019 noted director Priyadarshan was also honoured with Kishore Kumar Samman.

16th MIFF 2020: Babenco: Tell Me When I Die by Barbara Paz bags Golden conch award for best documentary film

The 16th edition of **Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)** 2020, the oldest international event for non-feature films in South Asia, was held at Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli, **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

The festival screens documentaries, short fiction films and animation films & the awards for the best films of the festival have been presented by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at the closing ceremony.



Golden Conch, Silver Conch and other Special Awards:

S.No	Award Name	Won by	Director
1	Golden Conch Award 2020 for Best Documentary Film	Babenco: Tell Me When I Die (Brazilian documentary film)	Barbara Paz
2	Silver Conch Award for the Best Short Fiction Film	Marathi film Paavsacha Nibandh (An Essay of Rain)	Nagaraj Manjule
3	Silver Conch Award for the Best Animation Film	German film Portrait of Suzanne Indian film Panangaatu Nari (The Fox of the Palmgrove)	Izabela Plucinska Divakar S. K.

73rd BAFTA 2020 in London, UK: '1917' wins best film award73rd British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2020

ceremony, popularly referred to as BAFTA Awards 2019 was held on February 2, 2020 in Royal Albert Hall, **London, United Kingdom**. It honours the best national and foreign films of 2019.



Highlights:

The ceremony was hosted by Graham Norton, an Irish television and radio presenter, comedian and commentator.

First World War drama '1917' won the Best Film award, which was directed by Sam Mendes. The film 1917 won 7 awards including best picture & director for Sam Mendes, the 1st time he has been honoured for direction by the British academy.

Big Bang Boom Solutions wins prestigious SKOCH Award

Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt Ltd (BBBS), start-up company in the defence sector was awarded the prestigious SKOCH Award for "Boron Nitrate Based Personal Hybrid Combat Armour" at New Delhi, India.

Key Points:

- i. Big Bang Boom Solutions also won in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) competition around See-Through-Armour and Illegal Defence Drones in iDex (Innovations for Defence Excellence) category.
- ii. BBBS was the first company to consolidate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the defense sector.

About SKOCH award:

The Skoch Award was instituted in 2003, and is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an independent organisation. The award is contributed to the best efforts in the area of digital, financial and social inclusion.

Kohli most-valuable celebrity 3rd time in a row; Akshay, SRK in top 5 in Duff & Phelps' celebrity report

Duff & Phelps published the celebrity brand evaluation report for 2019. Indian Captain **Virat Kohli** has retained the top position for the third consecutive time. Kohli's brand value has gone up to \$237.5 million in 2019 with a jump of 39%.



Key Points:

- i. Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar becomes the 2nd position with a brand value of \$104.5 million.
- ii. Bollywood couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone became the 3rd position with a brand value of \$93.5 million each.
- iii. Padukone has also retained the most valuable female celebrity status for the 2nd consecutive year.

Pullela Gopichand -1st Indian to receive International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award

Pullela Gopichand, the Chief National coach for the Indian Badminton team has received the **International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Coaches Lifetime Achievement Award** in Male Category of the year **2019** on the 3rd edition of International Olympics Committee Annual Awards. He is the 1st Indian coach to be Honoured with this Lifetime award by the Olympics Committee.



Key points:

- i. Gopichand is a former Indian Badminton player, he founded the Gopichand Badminton Academy in 2008 where he trained, players like Saina Nehwal (Bronze medalist in 2012 summer Olympics), P.V. Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap, Srikanth Kidambi and etc.
- ii. Gopichand also served as the Official Coach for the Indian Olympic badminton team at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Brazil (where Pusarla Venkata Sindhu won Silver Medal in Badminton).
- iii. **Awards-** Gopichand had received Government of India's Arjuna award (1999), Rajiv Gandhi khel Ratna (2001), Padma Shri (2005), Dronacharya award (2009) and Padma bhushan (2014).

Overview of 92nd Academy awards 2020 (Oscars 2020) held in Los Angeles, US

92nd Academy Awards ceremony 2020 (commonly known as Oscars), presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), honoured the best films of 2019 was held at the **Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, United States(US)**.



- i. The ceremony was hosted by actor and singer Billy Porter, award-winning journalist and talk show host Tamron Hall, supermodel Lily Aldridge and film critic Elvis Mitchell.
- ii. American actor, producer, and environmentalist **Joaquin Rafael Phoenix (45)** clinched the **best actor trophy** for his performance in "**Joker**", whereas American actress, **Renée Kathleen Zellweger (50)** won the **best actress for "Judy"**.

India's President Shri Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Indian Naval Station ShivajiShri Ramnath Kovind.

President of India & Supreme Commander of IAF (Indian Armed Forces), awarded **President's colour** (highest military honour) to **INS** (Indian Naval Station) Shivaji, Lonavala, Maharashtra. The award was received by Nishan Adhikari, INS Shivaji and A special cover marking the Platinum Jubilee of INS Shivaji (completed 75 years of service) was released by the President.



Key Points:

- i. The ceremonial parade was organized by INS Shivaji consisting of 130 officers, 630 sailors of the Indian Navy, 150 men Guard of Honor and was commanded by Commodore Ravnish Seth.
- ii. **About President's Colour:** The award ranks high among the honour bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of the exceptional service rendered to the nation, in peace or war.

DMart's Founder Radhakishan Damani becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani

Supermarket chain DMart's Founder **Radhakishan**

Damani becomes **India's 2nd richest person** after Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited. According to Forbes 'Real Time Billionaires' Index, Damani has a net worth of \$17.8 billion.



Key Points:

- i. DMart's shares surged 700% in March 2017, with a market capitalisation of Rs 1.55 lakh crore.
- ii. DMart operates 196 stores in 72 cities across the country.

Top 3 persons:

- 1. Mukesh Ambani (\$57.4 billion),
- 2. Radhakishan Damani (\$17.8 billion),
- 3. Shiv Nadar (\$16.5 billion),

65th Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 in Guwahati, Assam: Gully Boy' bags best film

The 65th edition of **Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020** was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam** from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020.

The event was hosted by Karan Kumar Johar (often referred to as KJo), an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal.



Highlights:

- i. Zoya Akhtar's directorial '**Gully Boy**' emerged as big winner as it bagged several awards including the prestigious **best film** award.
- ii. **Ranveer Singh** bagged **Best Actor's trophy** for his performance in Gully Boy, while **Alia Bhatt** won the **Best Actor** in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.

ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced: PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary becomes Sportsperson of the year Female & Male

Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced **PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary** as 'Sportsperson of the year' 2019 female & male. PV Sindhu received this

‘Sportsperson of the year’(Female) award for the third consecutive time. Dutee Chand was named as the first winner of the **ESPN India courage award**.

20th edition of Laureus world sports awards 2020 held in Berlin, Germany:Sachin Tendulkar won sporting moment of the year 2000-2020

20th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards 2020 was held in **Berlin, Germany**.It was the 2nd Laureus World Sports Awards to take place in Berlin, following the 2016 ceremony which took place at the Messe Berlin.It was organized by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.Laureus World Sports Awards is known as ‘**Oscars of Sport**’.The event was hosted by Actor Hugh Grant.



Highlights:

i.Indian former international cricketer **Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar**’s 2011 World Cup-winning moment was voted the **Laureus Sporting Moment** of 2000-2020. This moment of Sachin has been titled ‘Carried on the Shoulders of a Nation’. With this win, he became the **first Indian sportsperson** to win a Laureus World Sports Award.

(India won the World Cup by defeating Sri Lanka by 6 wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai in 2011 under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni).

ii.Argentine star footballer Lionel Messi and Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton were jointly voted Sportsman of the Year 2020.

iii.South African rugby legend **Bryan Habana** has been inducted into the **Laureus World Sports Academy**.

Hrithik Roshan awarded as the Best Actor in Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2020

The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020** was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Hrithik Roshan** bagged the Best Actor award for film “**Super 30**”.

Key Points:

i.Divyanka Tripathi was honoured as the Best Actress for television.

List of Awards at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2020:

Category of Awards

Best Film
Best Actor
Most Promising Actor
Best Actor in Television Series
Best Actress in Television
Best Reality Show
Best Television Series
Best Actress Web Series
Best anchor
Decade Star 2020

Winners

Super 30
Hrithik Roshan
Kiccha Sudeep
Dheeraj Dhoopar
Divyanka Tripathi
Bigg Boss 13
Kumkum Bhagya
Dia mirza (kafir)
Manish Paul
Anupam Kher

Mangalore's Adline Castelino won LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title

Adline Castelino from Mangalore, Karnataka has won **LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020** title and was crowned by Vartika Singh, the winner of previous edition, at an event held in YRF (Yash Raj Films) Studios, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key Points:

- i. Adline Castelino will be representing India at Miss Universe pageant 2020.
- ii. **LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020:** Aavriti Choudhary of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh (MP) crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020 and was crowned by his predecessor Shefali Sood.
- iii. The participants underwent training and grooming under the able mentorship and guidance of Lara Dutta, Bollywood actor & former Miss Universe.



Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw won EY Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2019

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) of Bengaluru based biopharmaceutical company Biocon, won **Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019** (for her innovation & affordable life saving medicines), at the 21st edition of the awards held in New Delhi, India.

Key Points:

- i. **About Mazumdar-Shaw:** She will also represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo between June 4 and 6, 2020. She was also one of the Indian signatories of the Giving Pledge, who dedicated the majority of her wealth to philanthropic causes.
- ii. **Adi Godrej**, Godrej Group Chairman was conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Padma Shri awardee Manoj Kumar felicitated by London's World Book of Records for his contribution to Indian cinema

Famous actor **Manoj Kumar**, 82 years old, has been felicitated by the **World Book of Records (WBR)**, London, with the **WBR Golden Era of Bollywood honour** for highlighting patriotic, social and cultural feelings through his contribution to Indian Cinema.

Key Points:

- i. The certificate of honour was presented to Manoj Kumar by Santosh Shukla, Supreme Court Advocate (President World Book of Records), Usman Khan (Vice President, World Book of Records, India) and Professor Rajeev Sharma.
- ii. **Awards:** Manoj Kumar was the winner of 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015 and also awarded Padma Shri award by the Government of India in 1992.



Indian freelance journalist Ahmer Khan wins AFP's Kate Webb Prize

The 27-year old Indian freelance reporter **Ahmer Khan** was announced as the winner of the **2019 Kate Webb Prize** by the **Agence France-Presse**, for his series of videos and written reports on how people in Kashmir impacted while scraping article 370 by the Government of India.

Key points:

- i. **About Kate Webb Prize:** In 2008 AFP established the Kate Webb Prize with a cash reward of euro 3000 (approximately Rs.3.2 lakhs) to recognize Journalists working in difficult conditions in Asia, for the

remembrance of Kate Webb.

ii. And later in 2020, the Award will be formally presented in a ceremony at Hong Kong

Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to P. Ramakrishnan, Speaker of Kerala

Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the **Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019** to the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly **Shri P. Ramakrishnan**, during the inauguration of the 10th edition of the 4 day function “**Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad**” (Indian Student Parliament), from February 20 to 23, 2020, held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India.

Key Points:

- i. The **Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker Award-2019** recognises the significant contribution made by the Hon'ble Speaker in strengthening & safeguarding best legislative practices in the state.
- ii. **Ideal Chief Minister Award 2019** will be awarded to Amrinder Singh, CM of Punjab during the 4th day function on 23rd February 2020.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) won trophies for Republic Day Parade 2020

Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** presented trophies to the best marching contingents for Republic Day Parade 2020 at Delhi. The **Indian Air Force** contingent named as the best among the three services. The Central Industrial Security Force (**CISF**) is named as the best marching contingent in the Central Armed Police Forces and other additional forces category.

Key Points:

- i. On behalf of The Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Marshal M S G Menon and Flight Lieutenant Shrikant Sharma received the trophy.
- ii. On behalf of The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) DG CISF Shri Rajesh Ranjan & Deputy Commandant Prabh simran Singh received the trophy.

Hurun Global Rich List 2020: India ranked 3rd among countries; Jeff Bezos retains 1st rank, Mukesh Ambani at 9th position

The Hurun Global Rich List 2020 was jointly released by Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute and Shenzhen-based Shimao Shenhong International Center. **Jeff Bezos** retains 1st rank for the third running year and **Mukesh Ambani** is positioned at 9th.

Gist of Hurun Global Rich List 2020:

- It is a ranking of US-Dollar billionaires in the world.
- Ranking is based on the wealth calculation as of 31 January 2020

Sports

Rubigula state bird of Goa declared as official Mascot for 36th National Games in Goa

The Flame-Throated Bulbul or Rubigula bird the state bird for Goa, which is officially declared as the **Mascot** for the **36th National Games** going to held in Panaji, Goa.

The Mascot was unveiled by the Union Minister of State Independent Charge for Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Minister of State for Ministry of Minority Affairs **Mr.Kiren Rijiju** and the Mascot has been designed by **Sharmila Coutinho** (Goa based Artist). Chief Minister of Goa **Pramod Sawant** also present in the unveiling ceremony.



About 36th National Games:

i. Goa will be hosting the 36th National Games from 20th October, 2020 to 4th November, 2020. Around 12,000 (Athletes and officials) will participate from 36 states and union territories, and there will be **37 sports events** across **24 venues** in Goa.

ii. Previously 35th National Games was held in Kerala on 2015, while 37th Edition of National Games is going to held in Chhattisgarh.

Overview of 108th Australian open 2020 held in Melbourne, Australia

Australian open 2020, a Grand Slam tennis tournament was held from 20 January – 2 February 2020 at **Rod Laver Arena**, a multipurpose arena located in Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, **Australia**. The tournament marks the 108th edition of the slam and the 52nd edition in the Open Era.

The prize money of the tournament was AUD 71 million (USD 49.1 million) and comprised singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.



Highlights:

i. Serbia's Novak Djokovic claimed his 17th Grand Slam title & a record 8th Men's singles title in Australian Open 2020 in Melbourne.

ii. America's 21-year-old Women's Singles champion Sofia Kenin of USA becomes the youngest Australian Open finalist in 12 years. Her victory follows the 2008 victory of Maria Sharapova, who was 20 when she won.

Highlights of India Vs Newzealand T20I series 2020

The Indian men's cricket team Played 5 T20I (Twenty Twenty Internationals) series against New Zealand as part of the India Tour of New Zealand 2020 from January 24- February 02, 2020. The matches were held in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Mount Maunganui and Christchurch cities of New Zealand. The **Indian** men's cricket **won** the match against New Zealand for a 5-0 win. The highlights of the match are as follows:



- It was the first time in the history of cricket that a team has won a five-match T20I series by a margin of 5-0. Apart from India being the 1st team to win 5 match series, it was also the first time India won a T20I series in New Zealand

- The Indian cricket won their maiden T20 series win against New Zealand in the 3rd T20I with a super over. The 4th T20I match also had a super over.
- **Ross Taylor** became the **1st New Zealand male cricketer** to play 100 T20I matches. He achieved this feat during the final T20I match.

BCCI President Sourav Ganguly to be Goodwill Ambassador of Indian team at Tokyo Olympics: IOA

Indian Olympic Association(IOA) has invited BCCI President Sourav Ganguly to become the Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Olympics Games 2020, which is scheduled to be held from July 24 to August 9, 2020.

60-year-old Mo O'Brien becomes world 1st deaf person to row across Atlantic Ocean

A 60-year-old pharmacy worker Mo O'Brien has become the first deaf person on record to row across the Atlantic ocean by finishing a 3,000-mile journey, with her daughter Bird Watts, and their friend Claire Allinson and reached finish line(Caribbean island of Antigua) after 49 days of journey from the Canary Island of La Gomera in December 2019.

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.



Key Points:

- 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.
- Singles Player:** Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Sumit Nagal & Ramkumar Ranganathan are the singles players in the six member squad.
- Doubles Player:** The doubles players of the tie match are Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan and Leander Paes are the doubles players in the six member squad.

About Davis Cup:

- The Davis Cup is the premier international team event in men's tennis. It is run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) & Kosmos Holding, contested between teams from competing countries in a knock-out format.
- The present champions are Spain, who defeated Canada and won the Davis cup for the 6th time in 2019.

Bangladesh won the 13th ICC Under 19 Cricket World Cup 2020 defeating India in South Africa

13th edition of **2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup**, an international limited-overs cricket tournament was held in **South Africa** from 17 January – 9 February 2020. It was administered by International Cricket Council (ICC) & 16 teams participated in the cricket tournament with a total of 48 matches played between the teams.



Winner: The Finals were held at the JB Marks Oval, Potchefstroom, South Africa between Bangladesh & India. **Bangladesh's** youth team defeated India by three wickets in a thrilling match in the final. With this, the Bangladesh team won the under-19 World Cup title for the first time.

- India's **Yashasvi Jaiswal**, was adjudged **Player of the tournament**, he also scored the **highest runs(400 runs)** in the tournament.
- ICC suspends Canada's Under-19 spinner **Raqib Shamsudeen** for illegal bowling action.

Australia clinches ICC women's championship trophy 2020 for the 2nd time

Australia were awarded the **ICC (International Cricket Council) Women's Championship trophy 2020**, which they maintained by winning victories in the eight-team one-day championship between 2017 and 2020.

Key Points:

- i. The Australia's team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning (also known as Meg Lanning), which also won this trophy last time (ie 1st edition 2014–16).
- ii. With this, Australia making it to the Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand 2021.
- iii. The ICC Women's Championship has given hosts New Zealand and four top teams a direct place in the World Cup 2021. The remaining teams will play qualifiers through the Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2020 scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from July 3 – 19, 2020.



ITF women's tennis event 2020 in Thailand: India's Ankita Raina wins 18th career doubles title
Ankita Ravinderkrishan Raina(27), an Indian professional **tennis player** along with her partner **Bibiane Schoofs** of the Netherlands, won the finals of the **ITF (International Tennis Federation) Women's doubles** event against the pair of Miyabi Inoue of Japan and Jia-Qi Kang of China with a 6-2, 3-6, 10-7 scores held in Nonthaburi, **Thailand**.

The winner pair, won \$ 25,000, earlier clinched their 1st doubles title together in Belgium in 2017.

Key Points:

- i. This is the 18th career doubles title for the Ankita in the professional circuit, and the 3rd with Schoofs. She won both singles and doubles titles in Thailand on February 1, 2020 with the Dutch player Bibiane Schoofs.

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**.

Key Points:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



13th edition of ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019: England's Eoin Morgan named captain of the year

On **ESPNcricinfo** (sports news website) announced the **13th edition of the Annual ESPNcricinfo Awards 2019**. Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan was named as the 'captain of the year' for leading England to win the World Cup Title against New Zealand.

Key Points:

- i. **Ben Stokes** was awarded the 'ODI (One Day International) batting performance of the year'.



ii. The awards were presented under 12 categories & selected by a jury comprising former cricketers, ESPNcricinfo senior editors, writers & global correspondents.

iii. The jury was comprised of former cricketers such as Ian Chappell, Ajit Agarkar, Daniel Vettori, Mark Butcher, Michael Hussey, Daryll Cullinan, Russel Arnold, Shahriar Nafees, Isa Guha, Snehal Pradhan and Peter Borren etc.,

Sophie Devine becomes 1st cricketer to hit 5 successive 50-plus scores in T20 International

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine has become the first international cricketer to score five consecutive 50-plus scores in T20I cricket, surpassed Mithali Raj, Brendon McCullum and Chris Gayle who all had four straight fifty-plus scores to their name in the shortest format of International Cricket.

Premier Badminton League 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana: Bengaluru Raptors become champions for 2nd time in a row

Bengaluru Raptors, led by World Championships bronze medallist B. Sai Praneeth and World No. 2 Tai Tzu Ying has defeated the mixed doubles pair -Chan Peng Soon and Eom Hye Won of North Eastern Warriors to clinch the **Premier Badminton League (PBL) title 2020** for the 2nd time in a row by 4–2 scores, performing best in the final of the league's fifth season.



The tournament was held at the **GMC Balayogi SATS Indoor Stadium** in **Hyderabad, Telangana** January 20, 2020 – February 9, 2020.

Key Points:

i. Player of the Tournament was won by Taiwanese badminton player, Tai Tzu Ying. Emerging Player of the League was Priyanshu Rajawat & Indian Player of the League was bagged by Sikki Reddy.

About Premier Badminton League 2020:

It is also known as Star Sports PBL for sponsorship reasons & was the 5th edition of Premier Badminton League.

The total prize money of the League was Rs 6 crore, where winners can get prize money of Rs 3 crore & Runner can get Rs 1.5 crore.

New Zealand beats India to win the ODI 2020 series held in New Zealand from Feb 5 – 11

Indian men's cricket team played ODIs (One Day Internationals) against New Zealand from February 5 – 11, 2020. **New Zealand defeated India** in the 3 match ODI series in 3-0. The ODI was part of the India tour of New Zealand, which were held at Seddon Park, Hamilton, New Zealand (1st ODI), Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand (2nd ODI), Bay Oval, Tauranga, New Zealand (3rd ODI). **Ross Taylor** of New Zealand won the **Player of the series**.



i. **Indian cricketer, Shreyas Santosh Iyer** has surpassed former **Australia cricketer Ian Chappell** with a half-century and took a special world record.

Hockey player Manpreet Singh became the 1st Indian to receive FIH player of the year award 2019

Manpreet Singh Pawar (27), the captain of India men's national field hockey team, has been selected as the **FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019** by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). With this he becomes the 1st Indian to receive this honor.

At the same time, Netherlands women's captain **Eva de Goede (30)** has been named as **FIH Women's Player of the Year 2019**.

Key Points:

i. In the race for the award, Manpreet has overtaken Belgium's Arthur van Doren and Lucas Vila of Argentina, who finished second and third respectively. Whereas, Goede took the prize ahead of Argentina's Carla Rebecchi and Janne Müller-Wieland of Germany, who finished second and third respectively.

"United by Emotion" to be 2020 Tokyo Olympics Motto

The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, **"United By Emotion"**, which reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming **2020 Olympics** to be held in **Tokyo, Japan** from July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020.

The motto highlights the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to connect & celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences.

Key Points:

i. The official Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger", but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.

India's Koneru Humpy wins Cairns Cup chess tournament 2020 held in United States (US)

Grandmaster **Koneru Humpy** has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St. Louis, US (United States). She won the title after finishing **6 points** off **9 rounds** and a cash prize of **\$45,000**. This was the second edition of the Cairns Cup. With this win, she was ranked 2nd in the recently released chess world ranking.



Key Points:

i. Reigning world champion Ju Wenjun finished with 5.5 points secured 2nd place while Russia's Alexandra Kosteniuk came 3rd who finished with 5 points followed by Ukrainian Mariya Muzychek with 5 points and India's Harika Dronavalli secured 5th with 4.5 points.

ii. In 2019, Koneru Humpy won the world rapid chess championship award and defeated China's Lei Yingjie in the final playoff match.

India to host the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2020; 'Kick Off the Dream' is official slogan

Union Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** announced the 5 host cities of India for the FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) Under-17 Women's Football World Cup which begins on 2nd November 2020.

The official **slogan** of the tournament is: **Kick Off the Dream**.

Key Points:

i. **Host cities:** Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Guwahati (Assam), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) were confirmed as the 5 host cities for the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.



ii.Finals: The final match will be held at Dr D Y Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on 21st November 2020.

Russia will host new edition of AIBA World Cup 2020

Russia will be the **1st country to host the new format of AIBA** (Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur or International Boxing Association) Team World Cup 2020 which was approved by AIBA Executive committee members, at the meeting held at Budapest, Hungary, Europe.

Key Points:

i.The Boxing tournament will be coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II under the motto “**Boxing for Peace**”.

ii.The best national teams all over the world will take part in the tournament.

iii.Finals: The final match is scheduled in October 2020 in the city of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

FC Goa created history by becoming the 1st Indian club to reach 2021 AFC Champions league group stage

FC Goa, an Indian professional football club (FC) has created new history in Indian football when it defeated **Jamshedpur FC** in an **Indian Super League** (ISL 2019-20)) match to become the 1st Indian club to qualify for the group stage of the **AFC** (Asian Football Confederation) Champions League 2021. FC Goa beat Jamshedpur with 5–0 scores in a brilliant performance at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

Key Points:

i.The win ensured FC Goa their top spot in the league stage of the ISL. At the end of the league stage of the ISL, the team that was at the top was scheduled to get a place in the continent’s top club tournament 2021 AFC Champions League.

Russian tennis star and 5 time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova gets retired

Russian tennis star and 5 time Grand Slam winner Maria Yuryevna Sharapova, 32 years old, announced her retirement. She became the **World No.1 in 2005** and as a Grand Slam winner with 2 titles in French Open (2012, 2014), a Australian Open(2008), a US [United States] Open (2006) and Wimbledon Open (2004).



Key Points:

i.About Maria Sharapova: She was born on April 19, 1987 at Nyagan, Russia and settled in Florida, US. She was one of the world’s most recognisable and the highest-paid sportswomen..

Obituary

Famous NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson passed away at 101

Famous NASA (National Aeronautics and Space

Administration) **mathematician Katherine Johnson** passed away at the age of 101 in Virginia, US (United States). She was born on August 26, 1918, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, US. Her life was portrayed in the movie “**Hidden Figures**”.



Key Points:

i.Awards: Katherine was awarded a “**Presidential Medal of freedom**” by former President Barack Obama in 2015.

ii.Katherine and her colleague were the first to calculate the parameters of the suborbital 1961 flight of astronaut Alan Shepard, the first American in space.

iii.She also worked on the Mercury and Apollo missions, including the first moon landing in 1969.

Kenya’s longest serving Ex-President Daniel Moi Passed Away at 95

Daniel Arap Moi Kenya’s Ex-President, who is a former School Teacher and became Kenya’s longest serving President dies at 95 due to age issues and also getting treatment in Hospital for a month. Moi’s Death was announced by Kenya’s President **Uhuru Kenyatta** on the State Broadcaster with a Statement.



Padmashri awardee & Eminent Punjabi novelist Dalip Kaur Tiwana passed away at 84

Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi **novelist, Dalip Kaur**

Tiwana passed away at the age of 84 due to old age ailments. She was well known for novels ‘Teeli da Nishaan’ and ‘Sooraj te Samandar’. She was also a former president of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.



Key Points:

i.Awards: She won Padma Shri in 2004 for literature and education. She also won several other prominent awards which includes Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971 for novel Eho hamara jivan, Saraswati Samman in 2001 for novel Katha Kaho Urvashi etc.

ii.Returning Padma shri award: Dalip also returned her Padma Shri award in 2015 to express solidarity with writers who were protesting against the suppression of freedom of expression and communalism.

Former Assam Speaker and sitting MLA Pranab Kumar Gogoi passed away at 84

Former Assam Legislative Assembly Speaker and sitting Congress MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) Pranab kumar Gogoi, 84 years old passed away in Guwahati, Assam due to age-related illness. He was born on 19th August 1936 in Dibrugarh, Assam.

Key Points:

i.Pranab Kumar belongs to Indian National Congress (INC) party and was first elected as Legislator from the Assam Legislative Assembly from Sivasagar, Assam for 4 consecutive terms.

ii.He also served as minister in Tarun Gogoi-led cabinet from 2006-2011 and speaker of the Assam legislative assembly in 2011.



Famous Philosophical Author & RSS veteran P Parameswaran dies at 93

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Veteran, Orator and

Philosophical Author P.Parameswaran (93) passed away at Palakkad, **Kerala** due to age related ailments.

Key points:

i.Parameswaran was born in Thamarasseril Illam, Muhamma village in Alappuzha district in the year 1927. He established Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram in 1982. He served as editor in magazines Kesari, Manthan, Yuva Bharathi and Vivekananda Kendra patrika. He also served as President of Vivekananda Kendra.

ii.Awards: He won Padma Shri in 2004 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018 for Literacy and Education.



Famous Hollywood Actor Kirk Douglas Passes Away at 103

Issur Danielovitch Demsky named **Kirk Douglas** was born on December 9, 1916 in Amsterdam, New York, U.S. Kirk was an American actor, producer, director, and author passed away at **103** announced by his son Michael Douglas as a statement to **People Magazine**.

Key points:

i.Kirk made his film debut in The Strange Love of Martha in 1946. He acted more than 90 movies across his seven decades in Cinema, the movies like “Spartacus in 1950s and The Vikings in 1960s” made him a biggest box-office star.

ii.Awards: Douglas was honored with lifetime achievement award in the 1996 (68th Oscars) Academy Awards for being creative and moral force in the movie industry for 50 years.



Padma Shri awardee & Fashion designer Wendell Rodricks passed away at 59

Famous Indian Fashion designer **Wendell Rodricks**, 59 years old, passed away at Colvale, Goa. He was born on 28th May 1960 in Goa.

Key Points:

i.Awards: Wendell Rodricks was awarded with Padma Shri in 2014 and also Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 2015.

ii.He had also authored books namely: “Moda Goa- History & Style”, “The Green room”, “Poskem: Goans in the shadows”.



Nobel Prize awardee & Former TERI, IPCC chief Rajendra Kumar Pachauri passed away at 79

Rajindra Kumar Pachauri, former Chairman and Director General of **The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)**, passed away at the age of 79 in New Delhi, India due to cardiac ailments.

He was born on 20 August 1940 in Nainital, Uttarakhand.

Key Points:

i.In April 2002, Pachauri was elected as the **chairman** of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, established by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988.



ii.Awards: Pachauri received the **Nobel Peace Prize** on behalf of the IPCC, with the former United States (US) Vice President, Al Gore, for the year 2007, Padma Vibhushan in 2008 & Padma Bhushan in 2001 from the Government of India.

Tapas Pal, former Trinamool Congress MP & Bengali actor, passed away at 61

Bengali actor & former Trinamool Congress MP (Member of Parliament) **Tapas pal** passed away at the age of 61 in Mumbai, Maharashtra due to cardiac arrest.

He was born on 19th September 1958 in Chandannagar, West Bengal and completed his graduation from the Hooghly Mohsin College in Bio-Science.



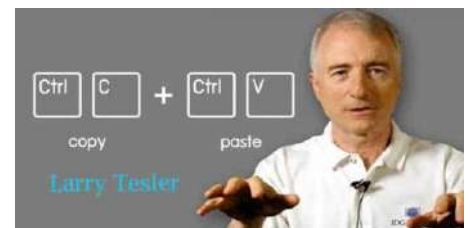
Key Points:

i. Tapas Pal was a member of All India Trinamool Congress. He was an MLA from Alipore for 2 terms (2001-2006 & 2006-2009) and former MP (Member of Parliament) of Krishnanagar constituency from 2009 to 2019.

ii. He became popular with his debut film Dadar Kirti (1980) and other films are Saheb (1981), Parabat Priya (1984), Bhalobasa Bhalobasa (1985) and Anurager Choyan (1986) etc.,

Larry Tesler Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste passed away 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** in Portola Valley, California, U.S.



Key points:

i. 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.

Three-time MP, Netaji kin Krishna Bose passed away at 89

Krishna Bose, former Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) and wife of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose, passed away at the age of 89 in Kolkata, West Bengal due to heart-related ailments.

She was the Chairperson of the Netaji Research Bureau.

She was born on 26th December 1930 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Key Points:

i. Krishna Bose joined politics in the mid-1990's. She was elected as MP from the Jadavpur, West Bengal constituency in 1998 and 1999 as TMC (All India Trinamool Congress) candidate and in 1996 as a Congress candidate.

ii. During her term she served as Chairperson of the Committee on External Affairs & also member of other important committees.

Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak passed away at 91

Muhammad Hosni El Sayed Mubarak, former President of Egypt passed away at the age of 91, in Cairo, Egypt. He was born on 4th May 1928 in Egypt. He served as the president of Egypt for nearly 30 years (1981-2011).



Key Points:

- i.About Hosni Mubarak:** He joined the Egyptian Air Force in 1949 and became the commander -in-chief of the Egyptian Air Force in 1972.
- ii.**He also served as the Vice President (VP) of Egypt on October 14, 1981, when his mentor, President Anwar Sadat, was assassinated by fighters while reviewing a military parade.
- iii.**Mubarak resigned the post of president during the Egyptian revolution of 2011.

Centenarian Vedic Scholar & Kannada Rajyotsava awardee Pandit Sudhakar Chaturvedi passed away at 122

Sudhakar Krishna Rao, Centenarian Vedic Scholar and Freedom fighter passed away at the age of 122 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on April 1897 at Balepete, Bengaluru. He was the founding editor of Veda Taranga, the Kannada magazine devoted to Vedic studies. He was given the title “**Pandit Sudhakar Chaturvedi**” for his authority on all the four Vedas.



Key Points:

- i.About Chaturvedi:** He was closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi during the freedom struggle and later the Arya Samaj Movement. Chaturvedi was the title given to him for his mastery over the 4 vedas.
- ii.**He was also called “**Gandhi’s postman**” as he delivered the letters dictated by Gandhi addressed to the Viceroys or Governor-general and Gandhi called him ‘**Karnataki**’.
- iii.**He was also the eye-witness of the 1919, Jallianwala Bagh massacre and many independence movements.

Bihar Lok Sabha MP Baidyanath Prasad Mahto passed away at 72

Baidyanath Prasad Mahto, Janata Dal (United) MP (Member of Parliament) from Bihar passed away at the age of 72 in AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) hospital, New Delhi. He was born on June 2, 1947 in West Champaran, Bihar.



Key Points:

- i.2 times MP:** Baidyanath Prasad Mahto was a JD(U) MP from Bihar’s Valmiki Nagar constituency as well as a Member of Indian Parliament to the 15th and 17th Lok Sabha.
- ii.**He had won the 2009 and 2019 general elections.
- iii.3 times MLA:** Mahto was elected 3 times to the Bihar legislative Assembly from Nautan and also served as the Minister of Rural Development Department from 2005 to 2008 in Bihar.

Important Days with theme

World Cancer Day 2020 was observed on February 4

The **World Cancer Day** is organized by the **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**, Geneva, Switzerland, every year on **February 4** to raise awareness to encourage cancer's prevention, detection and treatment. The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to reduce the illness & death caused by cancer. The theme of WCD from **2019-21** is **"I am and I will"**. The theme highlights that all of us can fight against cancer.



Key Points:

- i. This year marks the 20th Anniversary from the commencement of initiative.
- ii. On February 2000, World Cancer Day was written into the Charter of Paris against Cancer. The document was signed in between French President Jacques Chirac and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) General Director Koichiro Matsuura at that time.

World Pulses Day 2020 was observed on February 10, 2020

World Pulses Day was observed on Feb 10, 2020. World Pulses day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as global food.



Key Points:

- i. World Pulses day has been designated on Feb 10 every year since 2019 by the 73rd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on December 20, 2018.

World Unani Day was observed on February 11, 2020

World Unani Day was celebrated on February 11, 2020, since 2017. The day marks the birthday of great Unani scholar and social reformer **"Hakim Ajmal Khan"**.

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was the chief guest of the 4th Unani day function organized by AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) Ministry, New Delhi, India.

Key Points:

- i. **Objective:** The main objective of the day is to spread awareness about health care delivery through the Unani system of Medicine through its preventive and curative philosophy.
- ii. **About Hakim Ajmal Khan:** Ajmal khan was born on 11th February 1868. He was a Unani physician, noted freedom fighter, Unani medical educationist & founder of scientific research in the Unani system of Medicine.
- iii. He was one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi, India.



World Radio Day (WRD) celebrated on February 13, 2020

World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated all over the world with the theme **“Radio and Diversity”**. The day aims to highlight the unique power of radio which connects lives and brings people together from across the world.

Key Points:

- i. The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) proposed the observation of World Radio Day. Later, UN General Assembly, adopted a resolution to make 13 February as World Radio Day marking the day on which United Nations Radio was established in 1946.
- ii. In the year 1924, Radio was 1st introduced to India by Madras Presidency Club, which worked on radio broadcasting for 3 years, but due to financial constraints, the club closed it in 1927.



World Day of Social Justice was observed on February 20, 2020

World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. The day creates awareness against social injustice regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

Theme of 2020: “Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice”.

The theme aims to uphold the principles of social justice by promoting gender equality, or the rights of indigenous people or migrants.

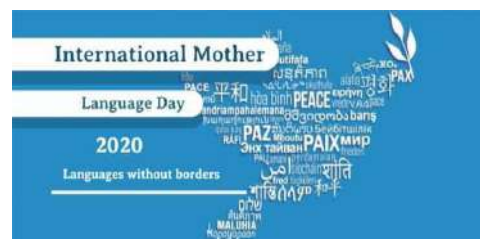


International Mother Language Day (IMLD) was observed on Feb 21, 2020

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on **February 21** since 2000 as a worldwide observance of UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).

The day creates an awareness on linguistic, cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism and in India the day is observed as **‘Matribhasha Diwas’**.

Theme of IMLD for the year 2020 is “Languages without Border”.



National Science Day (NSD) was observed on Feb 28, 2020

National Science Day (NSD) was observed all over India on Feb 28, 2020. This day marks the discovery of the **Raman effect** by Indian physicist **Sir ChandraShekhara Venkata Raman** (also called Sir C V Raman) on 28th February 1928 for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.

In 1986, the Government of India (GOI) declared Feb 28 as National Science Day.

Theme of the NSD 2020: “Women in Science”.