

### **Govt aims to achieve objective of Housing for All by 2022 under PMAY-G**

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A total of over one crore 50 lakh rural houses have been completed in the last five years. Ministry of Finance stated, the eligible beneficiaries will get one crore 95 lakh houses in the second phase of the scheme. Government has set a target of 60 lakh houses for the current financial year.

### **WHO declares International Emergency following outbreak of novel coronavirus from China**

World Health Organization has declared an international emergency over the novel coronavirus from

It is a rarely used designation that could lead to improved international coordination in tackling the disease.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that their greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems. He declared the disease a public health emergency of international concern.

### **FICCI survey projects FY20 GDP growth at 5%, to improve to 5.5% in FY21**

Industry body FICCI stated its Economic Outlook Survey has projected the country's annual median GDP growth for 2019-20 at 5 per cent, in line with the projections made by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO).

The survey has put the median growth forecast for agriculture and allied activities at 2.6 per cent for 2019-20, the industry and services sector at 3.5 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively, during the current year.

Growth is likely to improve to 5 per cent in 2020-21 as per the projections, the survey stated.

Further as per the survey, the economic growth has been pegged at 4.7 per cent for the third quarter of 2019-20

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## Economic survey likely to peg India's FY21 growth at 6-6.5%: Report

India's economic survey is seen projecting growth of 6 to 6.5 per cent in the next year starting April 1, boosted by a series of fiscal measures to revive demand that the government is likely to announce in the budget.

India faces its worst economic slowdown in a decade. Growth slipped to 4.5 per cent in the July-September quarter, imperilling job prospects for millions of young people entering the workforce each year.

The government has estimated gross domestic product expansion at 5 per cent for the financial year ending on March 31, which would be the slowest pace since the global financial crisis of 2008/09.

An economic survey by chief economic adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian will be officially announced later in the day and the government will present its budget.

## Uttarakhand to get first Snow Leopard conservation center of India

Uttarakhand is set to open the country's first snow leopard conservation center. The project aims at protection and propagation of the species in higher reaches of the hill state which happens to be the natural habitat of the elusive big cat.

The center will be built at the entry point of Gangotri National Park above 2800 meters sea level. However, no time limit has been set for the project. It will be built under central government scheme 'SECURE Himalaya'.

The animal is considered to be one of the most enigmatic wild cat species due to its reclusive nature which has earned it a title of 'Ghost of the Mountains'.

### **Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district tops Niti's ranking in Dec**

Chandauli district in Uttar Pradesh has topped the list of aspirational districts ranked by the government think tank Niti Aayog in December.

Belangir (Odisha) and YSR (Andhra Pradesh) have been placed at the second and third positions, respectively.

Sahibganj (Jharkhand) has been ranked at the fourth spot and Hailakandi (Assam) at the fifth.

The delta rankings took into account incremental progress made by over 112 aspirational districts across six developmental areas in December 2019.

### **Rani Rampal becomes first ever hockey player to win World Games Athlete of the Year' award**

Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal became the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award.

The World Games announced the winner last night after 20 days of polling in January this year by sports fans worldwide.

Last year, India won the FIH Series Finals, and Rani was named Player of the Tournament.