

### India attends SCO defence and security experts meeting in Pakistan

Pakistan hosted a two-day meeting of defence and security experts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad which was attended by India and other member states.

The 9th Defence and Security Expert Working Group meeting of the SCO from February 19 to 20 discussed different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states' and regional security, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) – the media wing of the Pakistan army.

The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.

Its **founding members included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**. The grouping has **four observer** states, namely Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

### India needs to invest USD 109 billion to halve its road accident fatalities in next decade: World Bank

India needs to invest an estimated extra USD 109 billion in road safety over the next decade to halve its crash fatalities, the World Bank stated in a report released on a day when at least 35 people were killed in four separate accidents in the country.

The bank stated such an investment will bring economic benefits equivalent annually to 7 per cent of the GDP.

The report titled “**Delivering Road Safety in India**” was released at the ‘Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety’

### Haryana govt to open Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens to provide meals at concessional rate

Haryana government will open Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens in all mandis and sugar mills across the state to provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate.

### Arunachal Pradesh celebrates 34th Statehood Day

Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its 34th Statehood Day . Arunachal Pradesh attained statehood on February 20, 1987. Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the celebrations at Home Minister Amit Shah will launch a slew of projects on the occasion. He will launch the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial and Investment Policy, 2020, inaugurate the Joram-Koloriang Road constructed by BRO, lay the foundation stone of the new headquarters of the state police and along with other projects.



## India ranks 77th on sustainability, 131st in child flourishing index rankings

India ranked 77th on a sustainability index that takes into account per capita carbon emissions and ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives and secures 131st spot on a flourishing ranking that measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children

Norway leads the table for survival, health, education and nutrition rates – followed by South Korea and the Netherlands. Central African Republic, Chad and Somalia come at the bottom.

Each of the three emits 210 per cent more CO2 per capita than their 2030 target, the data shows, while the US, Australia, and Saudi Arabia are among the 10 worst emitters. The lowest emitters are Burundi, Chad and Somalia.

## P V Sindhu wins third successive ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award

World champion **shuttler P V Sindhu won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award** for a third consecutive time while young shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the honour in the male category.

Sprinter **Dutee Chand** became the **first winner of the Courage award** for being inspirational both on and off the field. Ace chess player Koneru Humpy won the award for the Comeback of the Year. Wrestler Deepak Punia bagged coveted ESPN's Emerging Sports Person of the Year award.

Chief National Badminton **Coach Pullela Gopichand** claimed the **Coach of the Year award**, for nurturing two Olympic medalists in Saina Nehwal and Sindhu. Sindhu's World Championship win, the first by an Indian in badminton, has also been selected as the Moment of the Year.

**Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary grabbed the Team of the Year** honour. Manasi Joshi won Differently-abled Athlete of the Year/Para-Athlete of the Year award. **Hockey legend Balbir Singh Senior**, one of independent India's most celebrated Olympians, has been conferred with ESPN's Lifetime Achievement award. ESPN Multi-Sport Awards recognized achievements across 10 categories.

## Divya Kakran wins a gold medal at Asian Wrestling Championships

Divya Kakran became only the second Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships defeating junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki in New Delhi . Divya won all four bouts in five-wrestler 68 kilogram category, as the competition was fought in the round-robin format.

Navjot Kaur had become the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Championships in 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 65 kilogram.