

### **PM Modi sets target of 5 billion dollars for defence exports in next five years**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that his government has set a defence export target of 5 billion dollars in the next five years.

Inaugurating the DefExpo, Mr Modi stated, in 2014, the export of defence equipment from India was about 2,000 crore rupees. In the last 2 years, it has gone up to 17,000 crore rupees. In the next five years, our target is export of 5 billion US dollars, which is about 35,000 crore rupees.

The eleventh edition of the mega defence event is being held in Lucknow with the theme “**India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub**”.

### **Cabinet approves India-Sri Lanka Alliance Air flights**

The Union Cabinet has granted ex-post facto dispensation to Alliance Air, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Air India, to fly on international sectors between India and Sri Lanka.

A special dispensation is allowed for the interim period till Alliance Air deploys minimum of 20 aircraft or 20 per cent of total capacity, whichever is higher for domestic operations.

### **World Cancer Day 2020: 1 in 10 Indians Likely to Develop Cancer in Their Lifetime, Says Study**

World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 and the World Health Organization (WHO) has released two global reports on this day. Organised by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the day is an opportunity to create awareness to end the injustice of preventable suffering from cancer.

The report reveals that one in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime and one in 15 will die from the disease. There is an estimated 16 million new cancer cases registered each year in India and around 7,84,800 people die from it each year.

### **India’s Ambassador to UAE assumes responsibility of India’s Co-Chair of Expo-2020 Dubai Committee**

Navdeep Singh Suri, who was until very recently India’s Ambassador to the UAE, has assumed the responsibility of India’s Co-Chair of the Expo-2020 Dubai Committee. Mr Suri was also a recipient of the UAE’s Order of Zayed II honour.

FICCI is the industry partner of the Indian Government for its participation in Expo-2020 Dubai.

India is one of the few countries which have been awarded to create a permanent structure at the Expo-2020 and proposes to showcase the country’s strengths in innovation and start-ups in the hi-tech sector.

Expo-2020 is a World Expo to be hosted by Dubai. It is scheduled to open on 20th October this year.

Through its theme, “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future” and its three sub-themes – Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability – Expo-2020



### **RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.15%**

#### **The RBI pegs GDP growth for 2020-21 at 6 per cent**

The Reserve Bank of India decided to maintain the status quo on rates and kept the repo rate unchanged at 15 per cent as inflation trajectory remained “uncertain” and economic growth remained subdued.

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) led by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

This was the sixth and last monetary policy review for the current financial year and comes just days after the Union Budget 2020-21, which had estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of 10 per cent next fiscal with fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent.

The Economic Survey has pegged GDP growth to recover to about 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent next fiscal from about 5 per cent this fiscal.

### **World Bank chief economist announces resignation**

World Bank chief economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg announced she will be leaving the institution, according to a letter sent to colleagues.

Calling it a “difficult decision,” Goldberg wrote that she will step down from her post on March 1 to return to teaching at Yale University.

### **Prime Minister inaugurates DefExpo in Lucknow**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the 11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

India’s biennial military exhibition seeks to showcase the potential of the country as a global defence manufacturing hub.

The 11th edition of Def Expo promises to bring new technologies, technological solutions, where Defence manufacturing companies from India and abroad showcase their products and services in the Defence arena, on a single platform.

DefExpo 2020 has become one of India’s largest defence exhibition platform as well as one of the Top DefExpo in the world.

This time more than a thousand defence manufacturers and 150 companies from all over the world are part of this Expo.

The Theme of the Expo is ‘India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub’ with main focus on ‘Digital Transformation of Defence’.

### **India ranks 40 out of 53 countries on global intellectual property index**

India has been ranked 40th out of 53 countries on a global intellectual property index, even as the country has shown improvement in terms of scores when it comes to the protection of IP and copyright issues, a top American industry body. India was placed at 36th position among 50 countries in

India's score, however, increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in 2019 to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in 2020, a 2.42 per cent jump in absolute score. However, India's relative score increased by 6.71 per cent, according to the International IP Index released by Global Innovation Policy Center or GIPC of the US Chambers of Commerce.

This year, it finds itself on the 40th place among 53 countries.

Two new Index economies (Greece and the Dominican Republic) scored ahead of India. The Philippines, and Ukraine leapfrogged India.

### **Virat Kohli retains top spot as the most valuable celebrity in 2019 : Duff & Phelps**

Kohli's brand value grew 39% to \$237.5 million. New faces in the top 20 include Ayushmann Khurrana, Tiger Shroff and Rohit Sharma

Ace cricketer Virat Kohli retained the top spot in the celebrity brand valuation rankings released by Duff & Phelps, for the third year in a row. His brand value grew by nearly 39 per cent to \$237.5 million in 2019.

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar bagged the second spot with a brand value of \$104.5 million up by nearly 55.3 per cent over last year.

Meanwhile, celebrity couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh held the third spot on the list with a brand value of \$93.5 million each.

### **Russian S-400 missile delivery to India to begin by end-2021**

Russia will begin delivering S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to India by the end of 2021.

India signed a \$5 billion deal for S-400 missiles in 2018, drawing warnings from the United States that such an acquisition would trigger sanctions as part of a wider program against Russia.

### **Jagmohan Dalmiya's son Avishek becomes youngest CAB president**

Former BCCI president late Jagmohan Dalmiya's son Avishek became the youngest president of Cricket Association Bengal after being elected unopposed. Avishek, 38, was holding the post of joint secretary before his elevation.