

Centre forms 11 empowered groups and task force to deal with Covid-19 outbreak

Prime Minister Modi government has constituted ten empowered groups and a strategic task force in order to deal with coronavirus spread and its aftermath. These 11 groups, which together have 68 bureaucrats, have been set up under the Disaster Management Act.

All the empowered groups has senior representatives from PMO and Cabinet Secretariat to ensure seamless coordination. Each group has been empowered to formulate plans to minimise the impact of the disease and to take all necessary steps for their time bound implementation. The six member strategic task force will deal exclusively with the issues related to the lockdown.

Of these 11 empowered groups, 9 are headed by secretary level officers, one by Member, NITI Aayog and one by CEO, NITI Aayog. In case of any need of guidance, these groups may seek guidance from Union Cabinet Secretary.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath Constitutes 'Team-11' to Fight COVID-19 Spread

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has set up "Team-11", which comprises of 11 inter-departmental committees to fight the coronavirus spread, by tackling multiple issues ranging from ensuring medicare to victims to the supply of essentials and tackle long marches of jobless workers back home.

Each of the 11 committees will be headed by a senior bureaucrat of the state while the 'Team 11' will be headed by the Chief Minister himself.

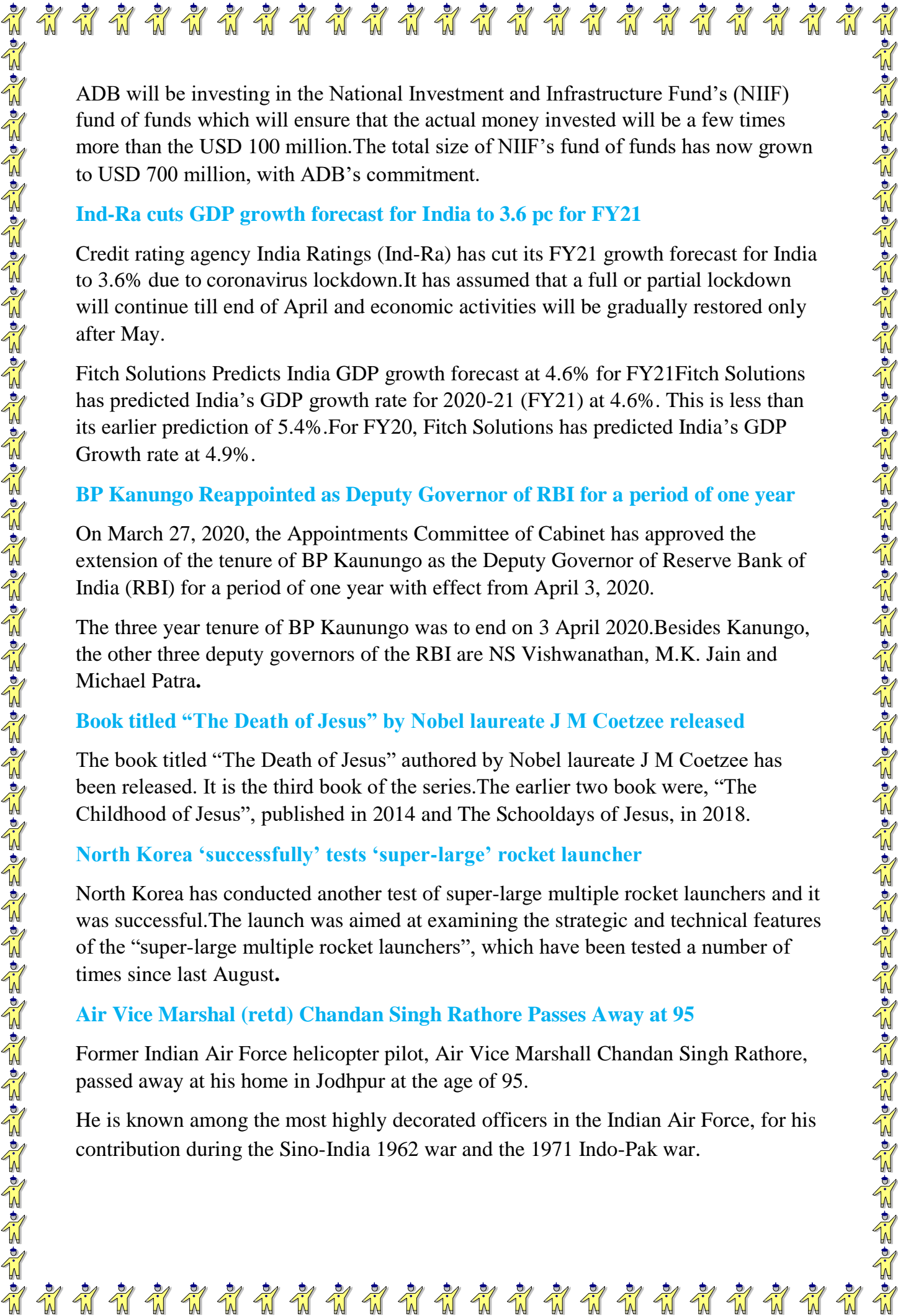
Northern Railways makes first prototype of hospital isolation coach for COVID-19 Patients. The Northern Railways zone of the Indian Railways has successfully made the first prototype of hospital isolation coach, to battle the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

There are 10 isolation wards in each coach. As per the Railways, after clearance, when the prototype will be finalized, 10 railway coaches per week will be converted into isolation wards for Covid-19 patients by each Zonal Railway.

ADB to invest USD 100 million in Indian infrastructure sector via NIIF

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest USD 100 million funding for the Indian infrastructure sector through the government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF).





ADB will be investing in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) fund of funds which will ensure that the actual money invested will be a few times more than the USD 100 million. The total size of NIIF's fund of funds has now grown to USD 700 million, with ADB's commitment.

Ind-Ra cuts GDP growth forecast for India to 3.6 pc for FY21

Credit rating agency India Ratings (Ind-Ra) has cut its FY21 growth forecast for India to 3.6% due to coronavirus lockdown. It has assumed that a full or partial lockdown will continue till end of April and economic activities will be gradually restored only after May.

Fitch Solutions Predicts India GDP growth forecast at 4.6% for FY21. Fitch Solutions has predicted India's GDP growth rate for 2020-21 (FY21) at 4.6%. This is less than its earlier prediction of 5.4%. For FY20, Fitch Solutions has predicted India's GDP Growth rate at 4.9%.

BP Kanungo Reappointed as Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year

On March 27, 2020, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the extension of the tenure of BP Kaunungo as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a period of one year with effect from April 3, 2020.

The three year tenure of BP Kaunungo was to end on 3 April 2020. Besides Kanungo, the other three deputy governors of the RBI are NS Vishwanathan, M.K. Jain and Michael Patra.

Book titled "The Death of Jesus" by Nobel laureate J M Coetzee released

The book titled "The Death of Jesus" authored by Nobel laureate J M Coetzee has been released. It is the third book of the series. The earlier two books were, "The Childhood of Jesus", published in 2014 and "The Schooldays of Jesus", in 2018.

North Korea 'successfully' tests 'super-large' rocket launcher

North Korea has conducted another test of super-large multiple rocket launchers and it was successful. The launch was aimed at examining the strategic and technical features of the "super-large multiple rocket launchers", which have been tested a number of times since last August.

Air Vice Marshal (retd) Chandan Singh Rathore Passes Away at 95

Former Indian Air Force helicopter pilot, Air Vice Marshall Chandan Singh Rathore, passed away at his home in Jodhpur at the age of 95.

He is known among the most highly decorated officers in the Indian Air Force, for his contribution during the Sino-India 1962 war and the 1971 Indo-Pak war.