

Monthly Current Affairs= February,2020

Important Days

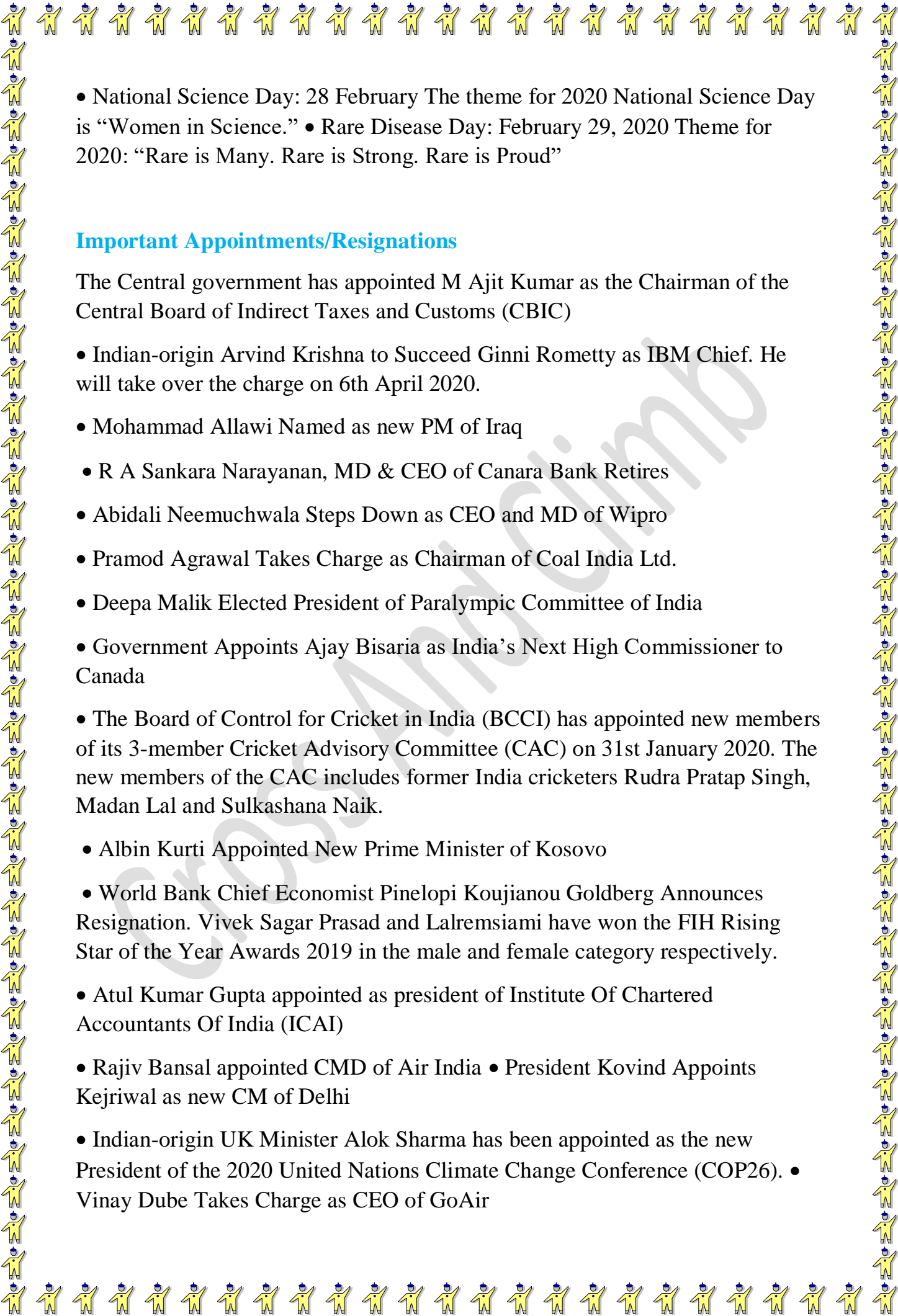
- World Wetlands Day: February 2 Theme 2020: ‘Wetlands and Biodiversity.’
- World Cancer Day: February 4 World Cancer Day 2019-21 theme: ‘I Am And I Will’
- International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation: 6 February 2020 Theme: Unleashing Youth Power.
- World Pulses Day: 10 February The theme of the World Pulses Day 2020 is Plant proteins for a sustainable future

International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February 2020 Theme – ‘Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth.’

- World Radio Day: 13 February The theme of World Radio Day 2020 is ‘Radio and Diversity’.
- National Women’s Day in India: 13 February
- World Pangolin Day 2020: 15 February (third Saturday of February)
- 5th Soil Health Card Day Observed on 19 February 2020 Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme.
- World Day of Social Justice: 20 February 2020 Theme: “Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice”

International Mother Language Day: February 21 The 2020 theme is “Languages without borders”

- World Thinking Day: 22 February World Thinking Day Theme 2020: Living Threads.
- Central Excise Day: 24 February
- February 27, 2020 observed as India’s first ‘Protein Day’ Theme for 2020: #Protein Mein Kya Hai.
- World NGO Day: 27 February

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- National Science Day: 28 February The theme for 2020 National Science Day is “Women in Science.”
 - Rare Disease Day: February 29, 2020 Theme for 2020: “Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud”

Important Appointments/Resignations

The Central government has appointed M Ajit Kumar as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

- Indian-origin Arvind Krishna to Succeed Ginni Rometty as IBM Chief. He will take over the charge on 6th April 2020.
- Mohammad Allawi Named as new PM of Iraq
- R A Sankara Narayanan, MD & CEO of Canara Bank Retires
- Abidali Neemuchwala Steps Down as CEO and MD of Wipro
- Pramod Agrawal Takes Charge as Chairman of Coal India Ltd.
- Deepa Malik Elected President of Paralympic Committee of India
- Government Appoints Ajay Bisaria as India’s Next High Commissioner to Canada
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed new members of its 3-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) on 31st January 2020. The new members of the CAC includes former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulkashana Naik.
- Albin Kurti Appointed New Prime Minister of Kosovo
- World Bank Chief Economist Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg Announces Resignation. Vivek Sagar Prasad and Lalremsiami have won the FIH Rising Star of the Year Awards 2019 in the male and female category respectively.
- Atul Kumar Gupta appointed as president of Institute Of Chartered Accountants Of India (ICAI)
- Rajiv Bansal appointed CMD of Air India • President Kovind Appoints Kejriwal as new CM of Delhi
- Indian-origin UK Minister Alok Sharma has been appointed as the new President of the 2020 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). • Vinay Dube Takes Charge as CEO of GoAir

• Ashraf Ghani Wins Afghanistan Presidential Elections for Second Successive Term

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar Steps Down, to Remain in Caretaker Capacity

• Bhaskar Khulbe and Amarjeet Sinha Appointed Advisors to Prime Minister

• US-India Business Council Appoints Vijay Advani as new Chairman of Global Board

• PM-led Panel Selects Sanjay Kothari as Central Vigilance Commissioner

• Rajalaxmi Deo re-elected as Rowing Federation of India President

• Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited.

• Mahathir Mohamad resigns as PM of Malaysia

• Rajesh Kumar of HDFC Bank appointed as MD, CEO of CIBIL

• Michael Miebach appointed as new CEO of Mastercard. He will replace Ajay Banga

• Axis Bank appoints Puneet Sharma as CFO

• SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi Gets 6-month Extension

• Sumant Kathpalia named new MD-CEO of IndusInd Bank. He will replace Romesh Sobti from March 24, 2020.

• Muhyiddin Yassin appointed prime minister of Malaysia

Awards/Honours

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw wins EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019

• Veteran Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar has been felicitated by the World Book of Records, London with the WBR Golden Era of Bollywood honour for being a legendary actor and for his contribution to Indian cinema.

Indian Feminist Scholar Gita Sen Wins prestigious Dan David Prize

• Complete List of FIH Award 2019 (Hockey) 2019

FIH Women's Player of the Year: Eva de Goede 2019 FIH Men's Player of the Year: Manpreet Singh 2019

FIH Men's Coach of the Year: Colin Batch (Australia) 2019
FIH Women's Coach of the Year: Alyson Annan (Netherlands) 2019

FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year: Rachael Lynch (Australia) 2019

FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year: Vincent Vanasch (Belgium) 2019

FIH Men's Rising Star of the Year: Vivek Prasad (India) 2019

FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year: Lalremsiami (India)

● **2020 Laureus World Sports Awards has been announced. The winners of the award are:**

Laureus World Sportsman Of The Year 2020: Lewis Hamilton (F1 racer) and Lionel Messi (Football)
Laureus World Sportswoman Of The Year: Simone Biles (Gymnastics- US)

Laureus Sporting Moment Of The Year- Sachin Tendulkar (Cricketer- India)

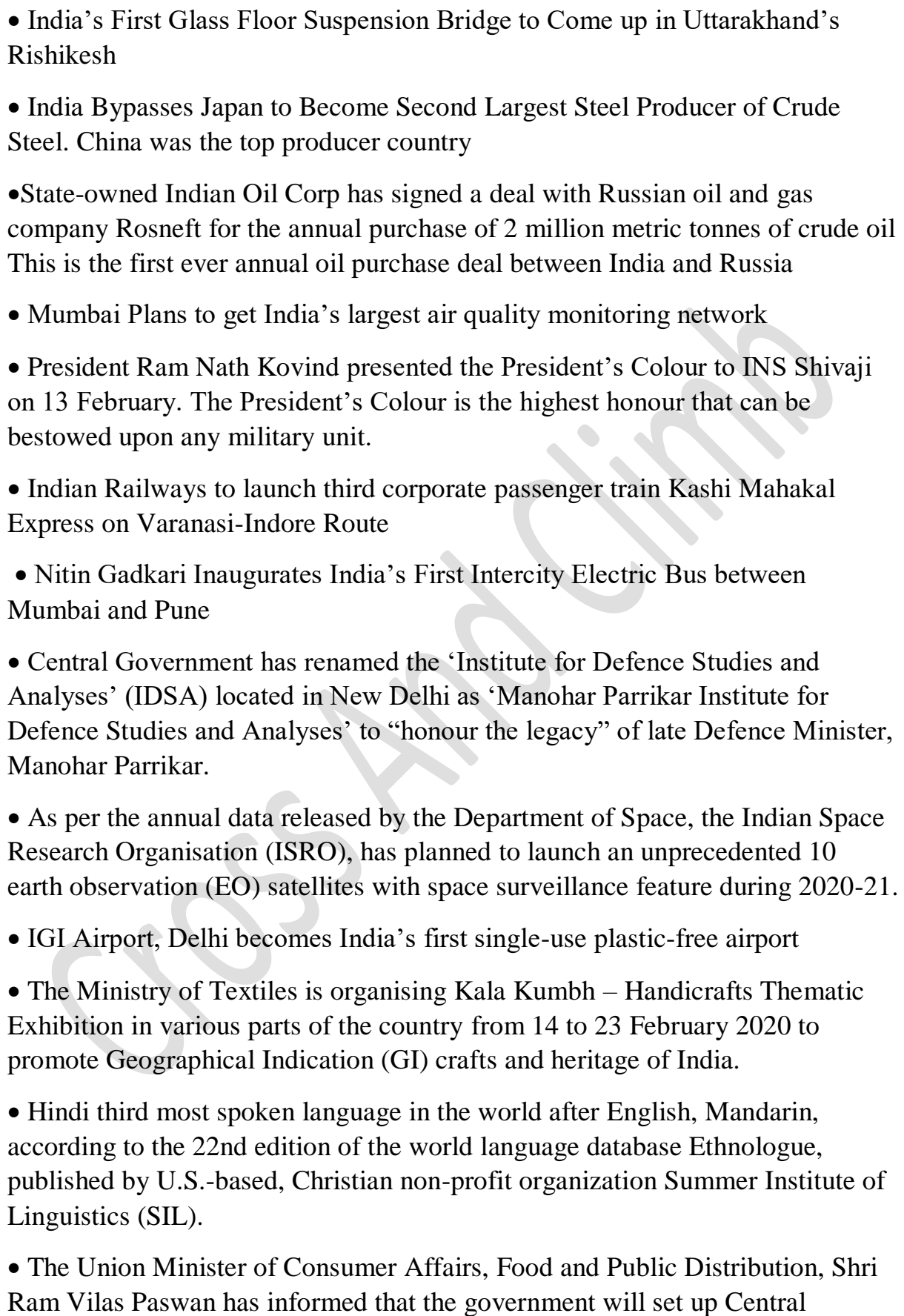
Laureus World Team Of The Year: South Africa Rugby Union Team
Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award 2020: Dirk Nowitzki (Basketball- Germany)

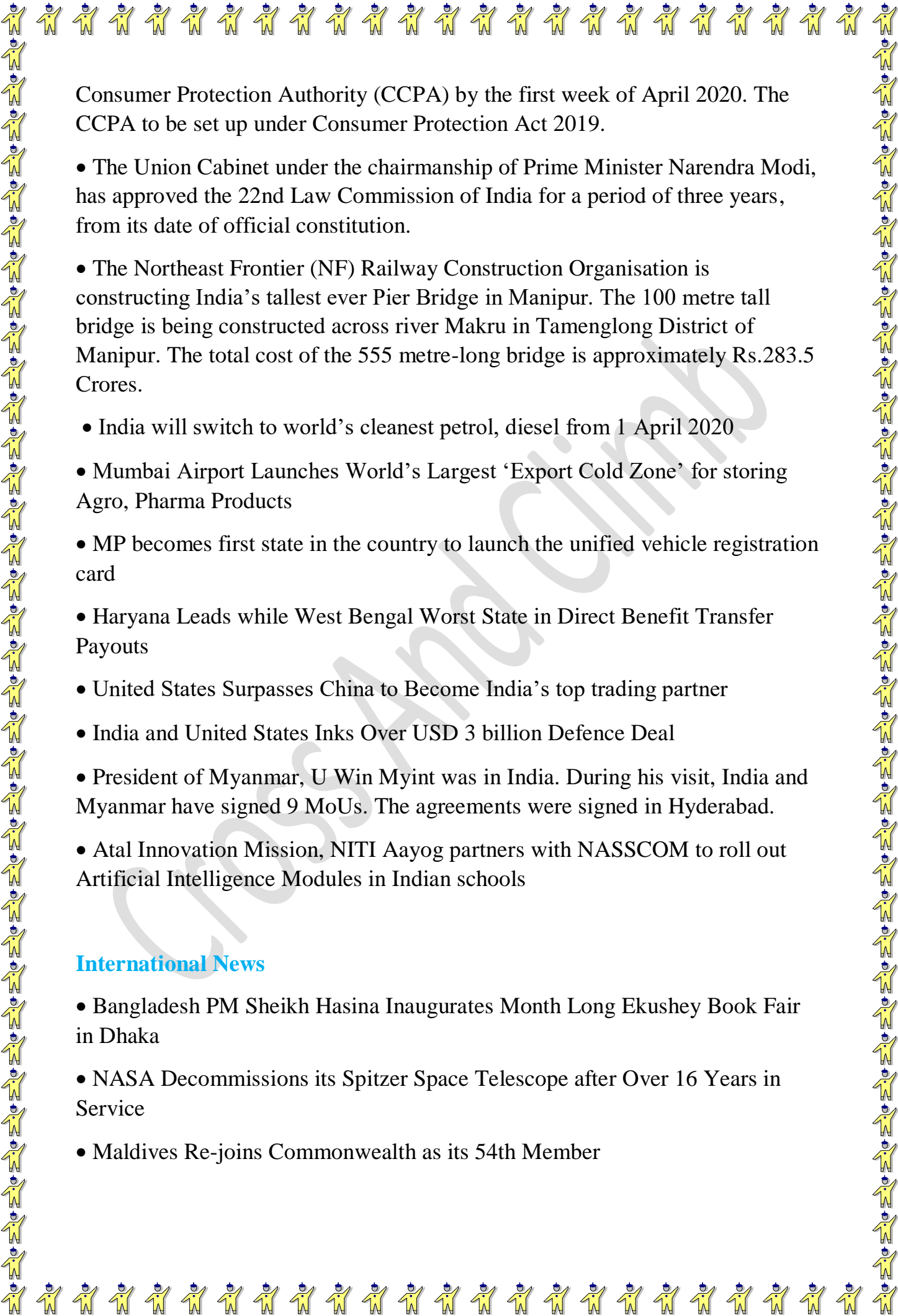
Winners of BAFTA 2020

1. Best Film – 1917
2. Best Director – Sam Mendes for 1917
3. Best Actor in a Leading Role – Joaquin Phoenix (Joker as Arthur Fleck / Joker)
4. Best Actress in a Leading Role – Renee Zellweger (Judy as Judy Garland)

National and State News

- India's First Fruit Train Flagged Off From Andhra Pradesh to JNPT, Mumbai
- Mumbai's Iconic 'Kala Ghoda Arts Festival' Begins from 1st Feb
- Indian – Russia Sign 11 MoUs at DefExPO 2020
- The Government has set a target of installation of 100 GigaWatt solar power and 60 GigaWatt wind power capacity in the country by December 2022 by implementing various schemes.
- Government aims to achieve a defence export target of US\$ 5 billion (about Rs 35,000 crore) in the next five years (2020-2025).

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- India's First Glass Floor Suspension Bridge to Come up in Uttarakhand's Rishikesh
 - India Bypasses Japan to Become Second Largest Steel Producer of Crude Steel. China was the top producer country
 - State-owned Indian Oil Corp has signed a deal with Russian oil and gas company Rosneft for the annual purchase of 2 million metric tonnes of crude oil This is the first ever annual oil purchase deal between India and Russia
 - Mumbai Plans to get India's largest air quality monitoring network
 - President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colour to INS Shivaji on 13 February. The President's Colour is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any military unit.
 - Indian Railways to launch third corporate passenger train Kashi Mahakal Express on Varanasi-Indore Route
 - Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates India's First Intercity Electric Bus between Mumbai and Pune
 - Central Government has renamed the 'Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' (IDSA) located in New Delhi as 'Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' to "honour the legacy" of late Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar.
 - As per the annual data released by the Department of Space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has planned to launch an unprecedented 10 earth observation (EO) satellites with space surveillance feature during 2020-21.
 - IGI Airport, Delhi becomes India's first single-use plastic-free airport
 - The Ministry of Textiles is organising Kala Kumbh – Handicrafts Thematic Exhibition in various parts of the country from 14 to 23 February 2020 to promote Geographical Indication (GI) crafts and heritage of India.
 - Hindi third most spoken language in the world after English, Mandarin, according to the 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue, published by U.S.-based, Christian non-profit organization Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL).
 - The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has informed that the government will set up Central




Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) by the first week of April 2020. The CCPA to be set up under Consumer Protection Act 2019.

- The Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the 22nd Law Commission of India for a period of three years, from its date of official constitution.
- The Northeast Frontier (NF) Railway Construction Organisation is constructing India's tallest ever Pier Bridge in Manipur. The 100 metre tall bridge is being constructed across river Makru in Tamenglong District of Manipur. The total cost of the 555 metre-long bridge is approximately Rs.283.5 Crores.
- India will switch to world's cleanest petrol, diesel from 1 April 2020
- Mumbai Airport Launches World's Largest 'Export Cold Zone' for storing Agro, Pharma Products
- MP becomes first state in the country to launch the unified vehicle registration card
- Haryana Leads while West Bengal Worst State in Direct Benefit Transfer Payouts
- United States Surpasses China to Become India's top trading partner
- India and United States Inks Over USD 3 billion Defence Deal
- President of Myanmar, U Win Myint was in India. During his visit, India and Myanmar have signed 9 MoUs. The agreements were signed in Hyderabad.
- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog partners with NASSCOM to roll out Artificial Intelligence Modules in Indian schools

International News

- Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina Inaugurates Month Long Ekushey Book Fair in Dhaka
- NASA Decommissions its Spitzer Space Telescope after Over 16 Years in Service
- Maldives Re-joins Commonwealth as its 54th Member

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- WHO Launches USD 675 million Donation Fund to Fight the Deadly Coronavirus
 - US announces Launch of 27-Nation International Religious Freedom Alliance
 - US Astronaut Christina Koch Returns To Earth After Record-Breaking 328-Day Space Mission
 - Tropical Cyclone Damien Hits Australia's Northwestern Region, Pilbara
 - Asian Development Bank (ADB) Approves USD 2 million in new funding to support efforts to combat the spread of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
 - Deadly winter storm named 'Storm Ciara' or Sabine (as the storm is called in German-speaking countries) hits western and northern Europe.

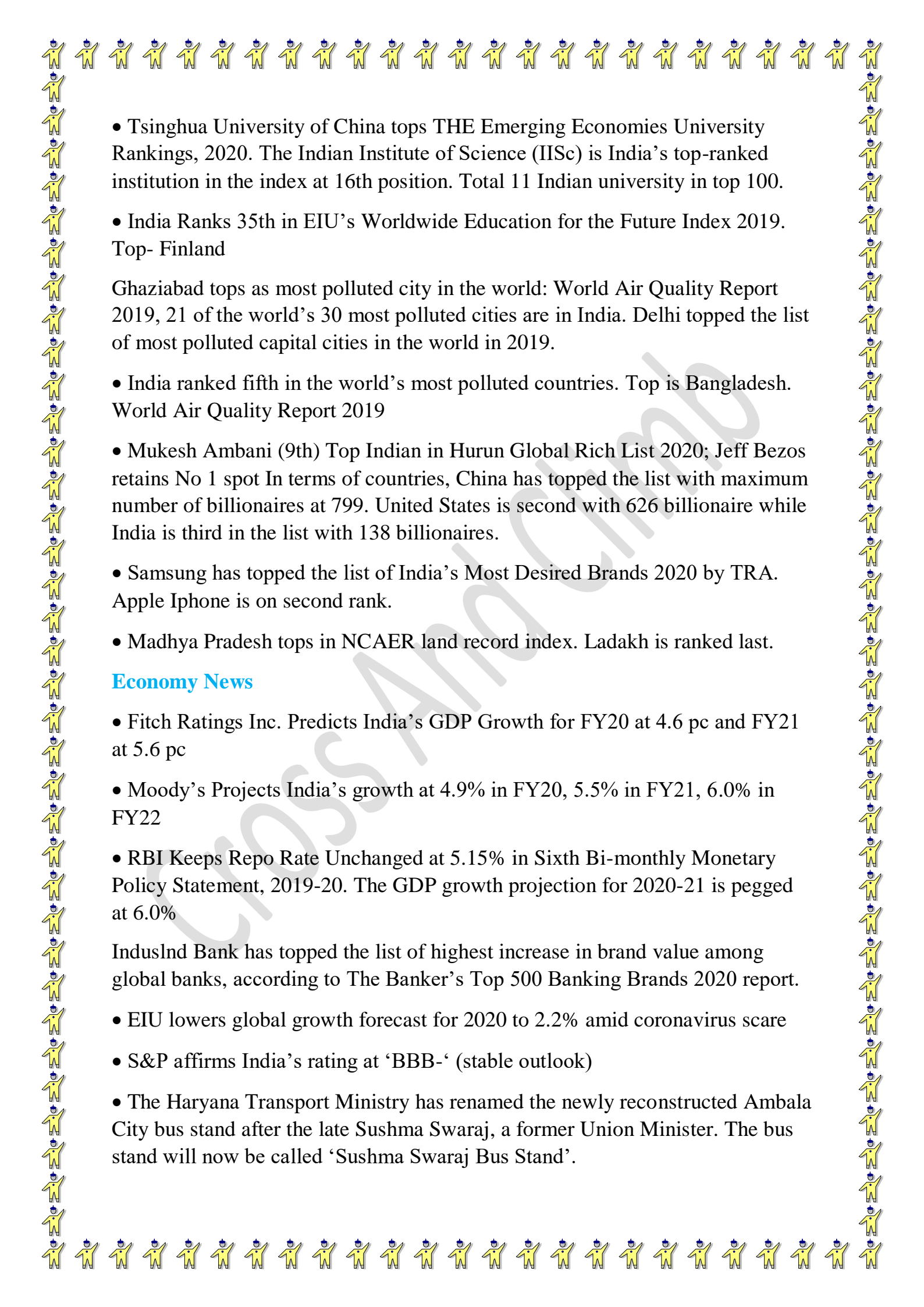
The official name for the disease caused by the new coronavirus is Covid-2019: World Health Organization (WHO)

- France to Shut Down its Oldest Nuclear Complex Fessenheim Power Plant by June 2020
- Nepal Commemorates 70th National Democracy Day (Rastriya Prajatantra Diwas) on 19 February 2020
- Pakistan Successfully Conducts Testing of Nuclear-Capable Air-launched Cruise Missile Ra'ad-II
- USD 10bn Jeff Bezos Earth Fund Launched to fight climate change
- Bangladesh Observes Language Martyrs' Day 'Amar Ekushey' on 21 February 2020
- U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced a 7 point "call to action" on human rights to countries, businesses and all people to help renew and revive human rights across the world.

Rankings

- India Slips to 40th Rank in 2020 U.S. Chamber International IP Index, US Tops

DMart's Radhakishan Damani Becomes India's Second Richest Person, Mukesh Ambani Tops: Forbes (Forbes' Real Time Billionaires' Index)



- Tsinghua University of China tops THE Emerging Economies University Rankings, 2020. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is India's top-ranked institution in the index at 16th position. Total 11 Indian university in top 100.

- India Ranks 35th in EIU's Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019. Top- Finland

Ghaziabad tops as most polluted city in the world: World Air Quality Report 2019, 21 of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India. Delhi topped the list of most polluted capital cities in the world in 2019.

- India ranked fifth in the world's most polluted countries. Top is Bangladesh. World Air Quality Report 2019

- Mukesh Ambani (9th) Top Indian in Hurun Global Rich List 2020; Jeff Bezos retains No 1 spot In terms of countries, China has topped the list with maximum number of billionaires at 799. United States is second with 626 billionaire while India is third in the list with 138 billionaires.

- Samsung has topped the list of India's Most Desired Brands 2020 by TRA. Apple Iphone is on second rank.

- Madhya Pradesh tops in NCAER land record index. Ladakh is ranked last.

Economy News

- Fitch Ratings Inc. Predicts India's GDP Growth for FY20 at 4.6 pc and FY21 at 5.6 pc

- Moody's Projects India's growth at 4.9% in FY20, 5.5% in FY21, 6.0% in FY22

- RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 5.15% in Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20. The GDP growth projection for 2020-21 is pegged at 6.0%

IndusInd Bank has topped the list of highest increase in brand value among global banks, according to The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020 report.

- EIU lowers global growth forecast for 2020 to 2.2% amid coronavirus scare

- S&P affirms India's rating at 'BBB-' (stable outlook)

- The Haryana Transport Ministry has renamed the newly reconstructed Ambala City bus stand after the late Sushma Swaraj, a former Union Minister. The bus stand will now be called 'Sushma Swaraj Bus Stand'.



Indian Railways launches its First “Restaurant on Wheels” at Asansol Station (West Bengal)

Defence News

- IAF Aircraft AN-32 Successfully Flight Tested with Indigenous Bio-Jet Fuel. The aircraft took-off from Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh and its performance was validated at Chandigarh Air Base prior to undertaking the operational flight to Leh.
- Indian Navy Conducts Coastal Security Exercise ‘Matla Abhiyan’ in Kolkata
- 14-Day India-Bangladesh Joint Exercise ‘SAMPRITI-IX’ Begins in Umroi, Meghalaya
- Indian Army Major Anoop Mishra Develops world’s first “bulletproof helmet” to stop AK-47 bullet
- 5th India-UK Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR 2020 to begin from Feb 13 at Salisbury Plains, the United Kingdom
- DRDO Developing new 200-km strike range Pranash ballistic missile
- Offshore Patrol Vessel-6 “VAJRA” launched at Chennai
- EX Indradhanush – V 2020 between Indian Air Force and British Air Force commences at Hindan

Sports News

- Flame-Throated Bulbul ‘Rubigula’ Unveiled as Official mascot for National Games 2020 in Goa
- Novak Djokovic and Sofia Kenin Clinches Australian Open 2020 Tennis Tournament
- Anjali Saraogi and Awadh Yadav wins Kolkata Full Marathon 2020
- NADA Suspends Weightlifter Ramshad AR for 2 Years and Wrestler Ravinder Kumar for 4 Years
- Mirabai Chanu sets new national record to win gold at Senior National Weightlifting Championships
- SAI & Hockey India to Launch 7 High Performance Centres Across the Country



- Pullela Gopichand Receives IOC Male Coaches Lifetime Achievement Awards 2019

FIFA, FIFPRO to launch global fund for salary protection of players – \$16m by 2022

- Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal Wins 77th Senior National squash Championship

- Indian Grand Master Koneru Humpy wins 2020 Cairns Cup Chess Tournament in USA

- Australia's James Duckworth Clinches 2020 Bengaluru Open Tennis Tournament

- 'United by Emotion' is the official motto for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics Games.

- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) Bans Haryana-based Javelin Thrower Amit Dahiya for four years for 'intentionally evading dope sample collection'

- India will host AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022

- FC Goa becomes first Indian club to qualify for AFC Champions League

- PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary Wins ESPN Sportsperson of the Year 2019 Award

- Pragyan Ojha Announces Retirement from International and First-class Cricket

- PM Modi Inaugurates first-ever Khelo India University Games at Cuttack


- New Zealand Cricketer Ross Taylor Becomes First Cricketer to play 100 International Matches in all 3 formats

- Great Britain women's field hockey Champion Alex Danson-Bennett announces her retirement

- The 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships was held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium, Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi from February 18 to February 23. India Finishes Third with 20 Medals . Japan stood first

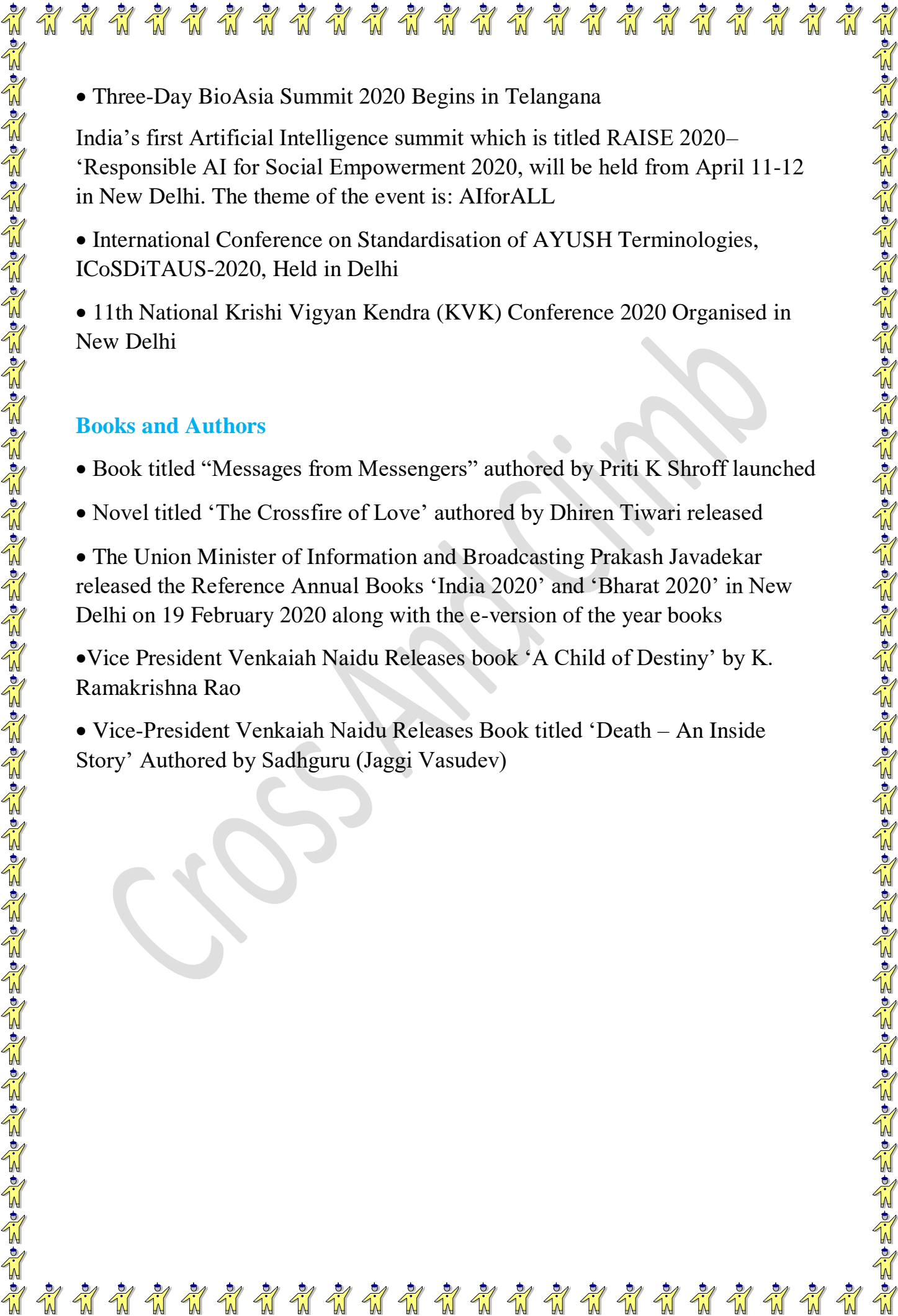
- ICC bans Oman cricketer Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi for 7 years

- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh wins 34th Cannes Open in France

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- First-ever Khelo India Winter Games Begins at NDS Indoor Ice Hockey Rink in Leh, Ladakh on 25 February 2020
 - India to host Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships in January 2022
 - Russian Tennis star Maria Sharapova announces retirement
 - 2020 Asia Cup Cricket Tournament Shifted from Pakistan to Dubai

Conference and Summits

- 21st IIFA Awards to be held in Indore in March 2020
 - PM Modi Inaugurates 11th edition of Biennial 'DefExpo' in Lucknow The Theme of the Expo is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' with main focus on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'
 - 4th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation to be held in Chennai on 6-7 February 2020
 - India's biggest rural technical festival 'Antahpragnya 2020' held in Hyderabad
 - First India-Central Asia Business Council Meeting Held in New Delhi
 - 33rd African Union (AU) Summit Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Two-day 'Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking' for BIMSTEC Partner Nations Held in New Delhi • Difficult Dialogues 2020 Begins in Panaji, Goa. The Difficult Dialogues 2020 focuses on the "State of Law" in India.
- 3-day global conference on traditional medicines to be held in New Delhi
 - All India Conference of Central Administrative Tribunal 2020 held in New Delhi
 - PM Modi Inaugurates 'Kashi Ek Roop Anek' Event at Varanasi
 - 13th Conference of Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Organised in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
 - The third edition of the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety will be held in Stockholm, Sweden on February 19-20, 2020. The theme of the two-day conference is Achieving Global Goals 2030.



- Three-Day BioAsia Summit 2020 Begins in Telangana

India's first Artificial Intelligence summit which is titled RAISE 2020— 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020, will be held from April 11-12 in New Delhi. The theme of the event is: AIforALL

- International Conference on Standardisation of AYUSH Terminologies, ICoSDiTAUS-2020, Held in Delhi

- 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference 2020 Organised in New Delhi

Books and Authors

- Book titled "Messages from Messengers" authored by Priti K Shroff launched

- Novel titled 'The Crossfire of Love' authored by Dhiren Tiwari released

- The Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar released the Reference Annual Books 'India 2020' and 'Bharat 2020' in New Delhi on 19 February 2020 along with the e-version of the year books

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Releases book 'A Child of Destiny' by K. Ramakrishna Rao

- Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu Releases Book titled 'Death – An Inside Story' Authored by Sadhguru (Jaggi Vasudev)