

## Current Affairs=March,2020

### Appointments and Resignations

- . Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed as Finance Secretary
- . Sudhanshu Pandey takes charge as new CMD of MMTCL Ltd
- . Former India Spinner Sunil Joshi named Chairman of BCCI's selection committee. The CAC committee comprised of Madan Lal, RP Singh and Sulakshana Naik.
- . RBI Deputy Governor NS Vishwanathan Quits ahead of Retirement
- . Janez Jansa Elected Prime Minister of Slovenia for Third Term
- . Puma signs Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new brand ambassador
- . Denys Shmygal Sworn in as new Prime Minister of Ukraine, Replacing Oleksiy Honcharuk
- . Daren Tang of Singapore elected as Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- . Ashraf Ghani Takes Oath as President of Afghanistan for Second Term
- The first phase of the Jewar International Airport, in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020.
- . V Praveen Rao Named for 7th Dr MS Swaminathan Award for 2017-19
- . Bill Gates Steps Down the Board of Microsoft and Berkshire Hathaway
- . Shri Debasish Panda, nominated on RBI Central Board
- . Ravinder Singh Dhillon appointed as CMD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
- . President nominates ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi to Rajya Sabha
- Former IBM India head Karan Bajwa has been appointed as Managing Director of Google Cloud in India

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- . Former SBI Head Arundhati Bhattacharya Resigns from CRISIL Board
  - . Iraqi President Barham Salih appoints Adnan al-Zurfi as new PM-designate
  - Shivraj Singh Chouhan appointed as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for 4th time
  - Before this, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has submitted his resignation to state governor
  - Lalji Tandon on 20 March 2020.

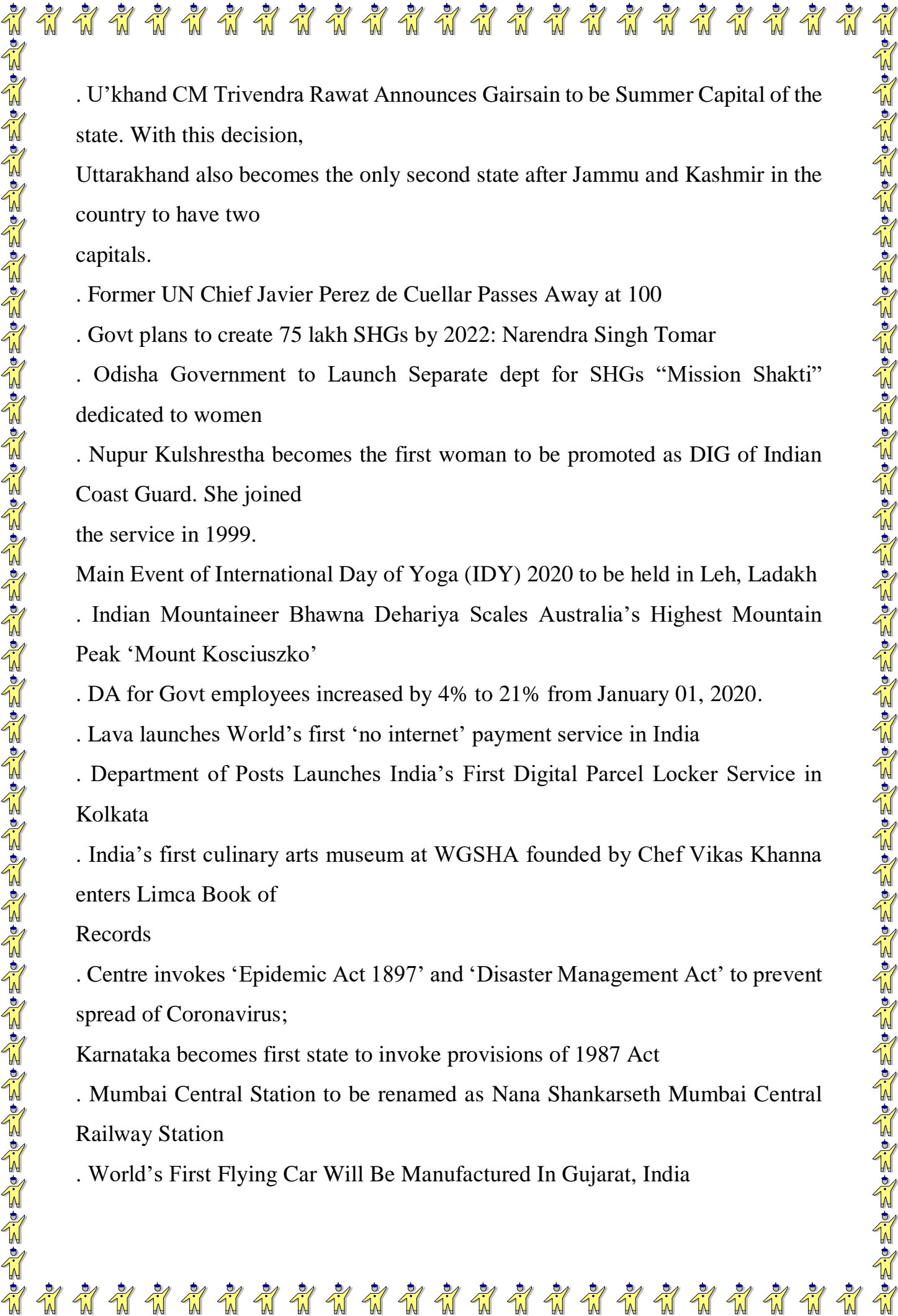
## Days

- . Zero Discrimination Day: 1 March
- Theme 2020: Zero Discrimination Against Women And Girls.
- . Janaushadhi Week being observed from 1st to 7th March
- . World Wildlife Day: March 3
- Theme 2020: “Sustaining all life on Earth”.
- . National Security Day: March 4
- . Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2020 is observed on March 7
- . International Women’s Day: 8 March
- Theme of 2020 International Women’s Day “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights”
- World Kidney Day 2020: 12 March 2020
- The theme of WKD 2020 is ‘Kidney health for everyone everywhere – from prevention to detection and equitable access to care’.
- . World Rotaract Day: March 13
- . International Day of Mathematics: 14 March
- . World Sleep Day 2020: 13 March
- The theme of 2020 is ‘Better Sleep, Better Life, Better Planet’.
- . World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March
- The theme for 2020 World Consumer Rights Day: “The Sustainable Consumer”.

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- . National Vaccination Day: 16 March
  - . Ordnance Factories' Day in India: 18 March
  - . Global Recycling Day: 18 March  
The theme for 2020 is #RecyclingHeroes
  - . International Day of Happiness: 20 March  
Theme 2020: 'Happiness For All, Together'".
  - . World Sparrow Day: March 20
  - . World Frog Day: 20 March  
UN French Language Day: 20 March
  - . International Day of Forests: 21 March  
theme for International Day of Forests 2020 is 'Forests and Biodiversity'.
  - . World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March  
Theme 2020: "We Deside".
  - . World Poetry Day: 21 March
  - . International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March

### National News

- . PM Lays Foundation Stone for Bundelkhand Expressway in Chitrakoot; Launches 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations
- . Mandatory for govt depts to make 20 pc handloom purchase from KVIC, registered weavers
- . Dronacharya Awardee Athletics Coach Joginder Singh Saini Passes Away at 90
- . Madhya Pradesh govt unveils mascot "Chilli Chaha" to rebrand the hot spice
- . India's biggest multi-level parking to come up in Noida
- . The Central Government has declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as an eco-sensitive zone.
- . Ghaziabad Police launches 'One Cop One Gangster' operation to track criminals



. U'khand CM Trivendra Rawat Announces Gairsain to be Summer Capital of the state. With this decision,

Uttarakhand also becomes the only second state after Jammu and Kashmir in the country to have two capitals.

. Former UN Chief Javier Perez de Cuellar Passes Away at 100

. Govt plans to create 75 lakh SHGs by 2022: Narendra Singh Tomar

. Odisha Government to Launch Separate dept for SHGs “Mission Shakti” dedicated to women

. Nupur Kulshrestha becomes the first woman to be promoted as DIG of Indian Coast Guard. She joined the service in 1999.

Main Event of International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2020 to be held in Leh, Ladakh

. Indian Mountaineer Bhawna Dehariya Scales Australia’s Highest Mountain Peak ‘Mount Kosciuszko’

. DA for Govt employees increased by 4% to 21% from January 01, 2020.

. Lava launches World’s first ‘no internet’ payment service in India

. Department of Posts Launches India’s First Digital Parcel Locker Service in Kolkata

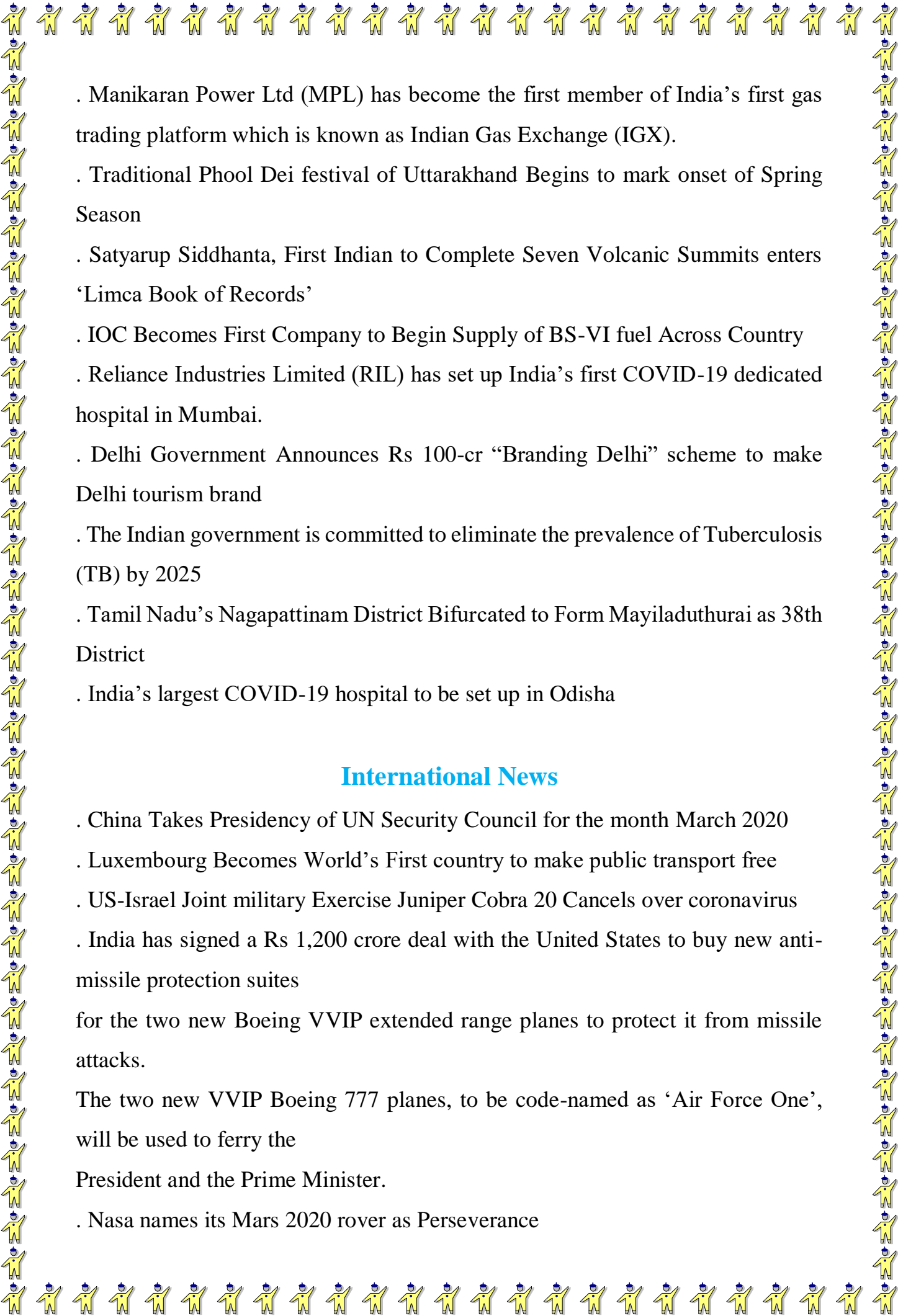
. India’s first culinary arts museum at WGSMA founded by Chef Vikas Khanna enters Limca Book of Records

. Centre invokes ‘Epidemic Act 1897’ and ‘Disaster Management Act’ to prevent spread of Coronavirus;

Karnataka becomes first state to invoke provisions of 1987 Act

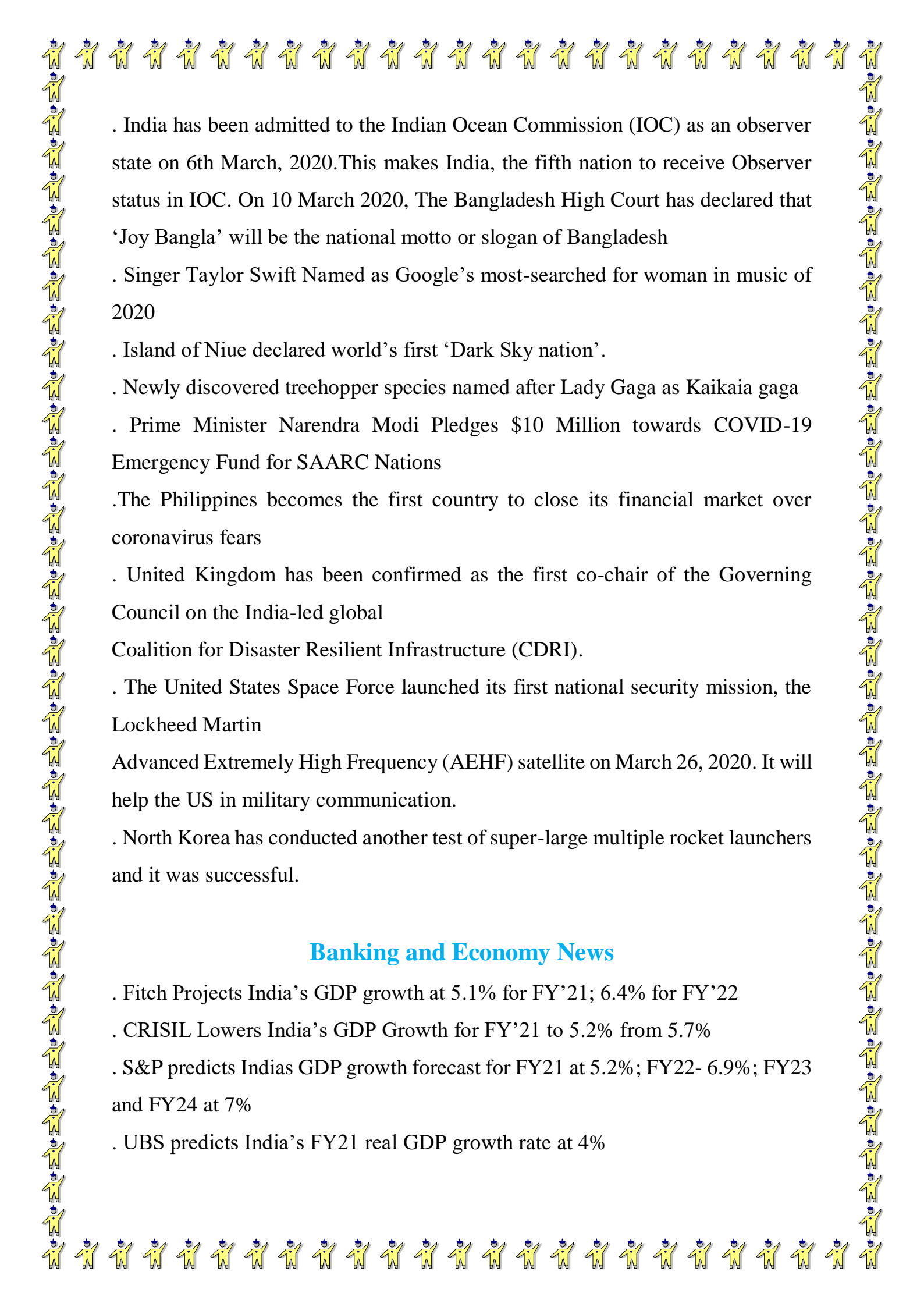
. Mumbai Central Station to be renamed as Nana Shankarseth Mumbai Central Railway Station

. World’s First Flying Car Will Be Manufactured In Gujarat, India

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- . Manikaran Power Ltd (MPL) has become the first member of India's first gas trading platform which is known as Indian Gas Exchange (IGX).
  - . Traditional Phool Dei festival of Uttarakhand Begins to mark onset of Spring Season
  - . Satyarup Siddhanta, First Indian to Complete Seven Volcanic Summits enters 'Limca Book of Records'
  - . IOC Becomes First Company to Begin Supply of BS-VI fuel Across Country
  - . Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has set up India's first COVID-19 dedicated hospital in Mumbai.
  - . Delhi Government Announces Rs 100-cr "Branding Delhi" scheme to make Delhi tourism brand
  - . The Indian government is committed to eliminate the prevalence of Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025
  - . Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam District Bifurcated to Form Mayiladuthurai as 38th District
  - . India's largest COVID-19 hospital to be set up in Odisha

### International News

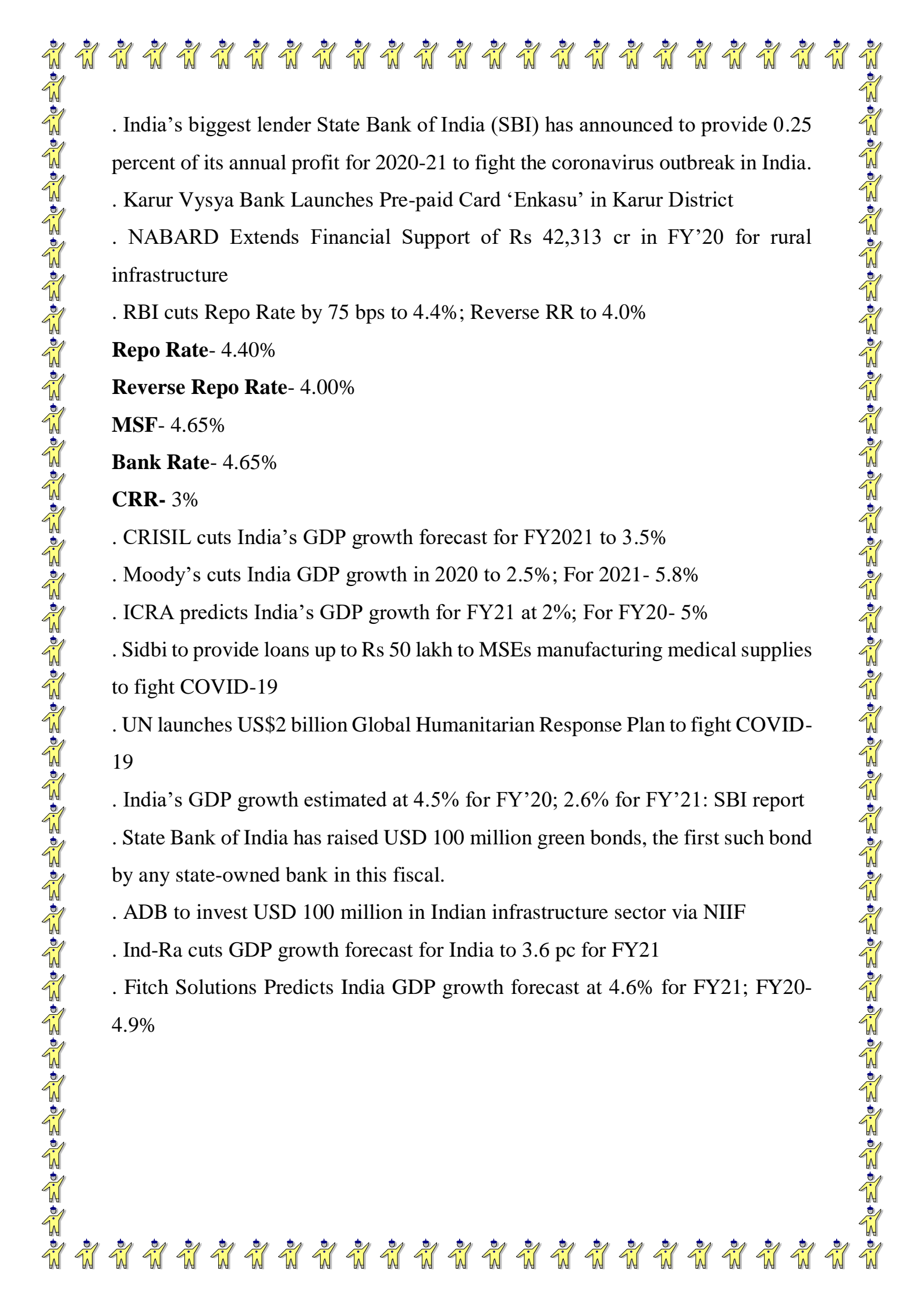
- . China Takes Presidency of UN Security Council for the month March 2020
- . Luxembourg Becomes World's First country to make public transport free
- . US-Israel Joint military Exercise Juniper Cobra 20 Cancels over coronavirus
- . India has signed a Rs 1,200 crore deal with the United States to buy new anti-missile protection suites for the two new Boeing VVIP extended range planes to protect it from missile attacks.  
The two new VVIP Boeing 777 planes, to be code-named as 'Air Force One', will be used to ferry the President and the Prime Minister.
- . Nasa names its Mars 2020 rover as Perseverance

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- . India has been admitted to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as an observer state on 6th March, 2020. This makes India, the fifth nation to receive Observer status in IOC. On 10 March 2020, The Bangladesh High Court has declared that ‘Joy Bangla’ will be the national motto or slogan of Bangladesh
  - . Singer Taylor Swift Named as Google’s most-searched for woman in music of 2020
  - . Island of Niue declared world’s first ‘Dark Sky nation’.
  - . Newly discovered treehopper species named after Lady Gaga as Kaikaia gaga
  - . Prime Minister Narendra Modi Pledges \$10 Million towards COVID-19 Emergency Fund for SAARC Nations
  - . The Philippines becomes the first country to close its financial market over coronavirus fears
  - . United Kingdom has been confirmed as the first co-chair of the Governing Council on the India-led global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
  - . The United States Space Force launched its first national security mission, the Lockheed Martin Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellite on March 26, 2020. It will help the US in military communication.
  - . North Korea has conducted another test of super-large multiple rocket launchers and it was successful.

### **Banking and Economy News**

- . Fitch Projects India’s GDP growth at 5.1% for FY’21; 6.4% for FY’22
- . CRISIL Lowers India’s GDP Growth for FY’21 to 5.2% from 5.7%
- . S&P predicts India’s GDP growth forecast for FY21 at 5.2%; FY22- 6.9%; FY23 and FY24 at 7%
- . UBS predicts India’s FY21 real GDP growth rate at 4%





. India's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has announced to provide 0.25 percent of its annual profit for 2020-21 to fight the coronavirus outbreak in India.

. Karur Vysya Bank Launches Pre-paid Card 'Enkasu' in Karur District

. NABARD Extends Financial Support of Rs 42,313 cr in FY'20 for rural infrastructure

. RBI cuts Repo Rate by 75 bps to 4.4%; Reverse RR to 4.0%

**Repo Rate-** 4.40%

**Reverse Repo Rate-** 4.00%

**MSF-** 4.65%

**Bank Rate-** 4.65%

**CRR-** 3%

. CRISIL cuts India's GDP growth forecast for FY2021 to 3.5%

. Moody's cuts India GDP growth in 2020 to 2.5%; For 2021- 5.8%

. ICRA predicts India's GDP growth for FY21 at 2%; For FY20- 5%

. Sidbi to provide loans up to Rs 50 lakh to MSEs manufacturing medical supplies to fight COVID-19

. UN launches US\$2 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan to fight COVID-19

. India's GDP growth estimated at 4.5% for FY'20; 2.6% for FY'21: SBI report

. State Bank of India has raised USD 100 million green bonds, the first such bond by any state-owned bank in this fiscal.

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

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

. Fitch Solutions Predicts India GDP growth forecast at 4.6% for FY21; FY20- 4.9%

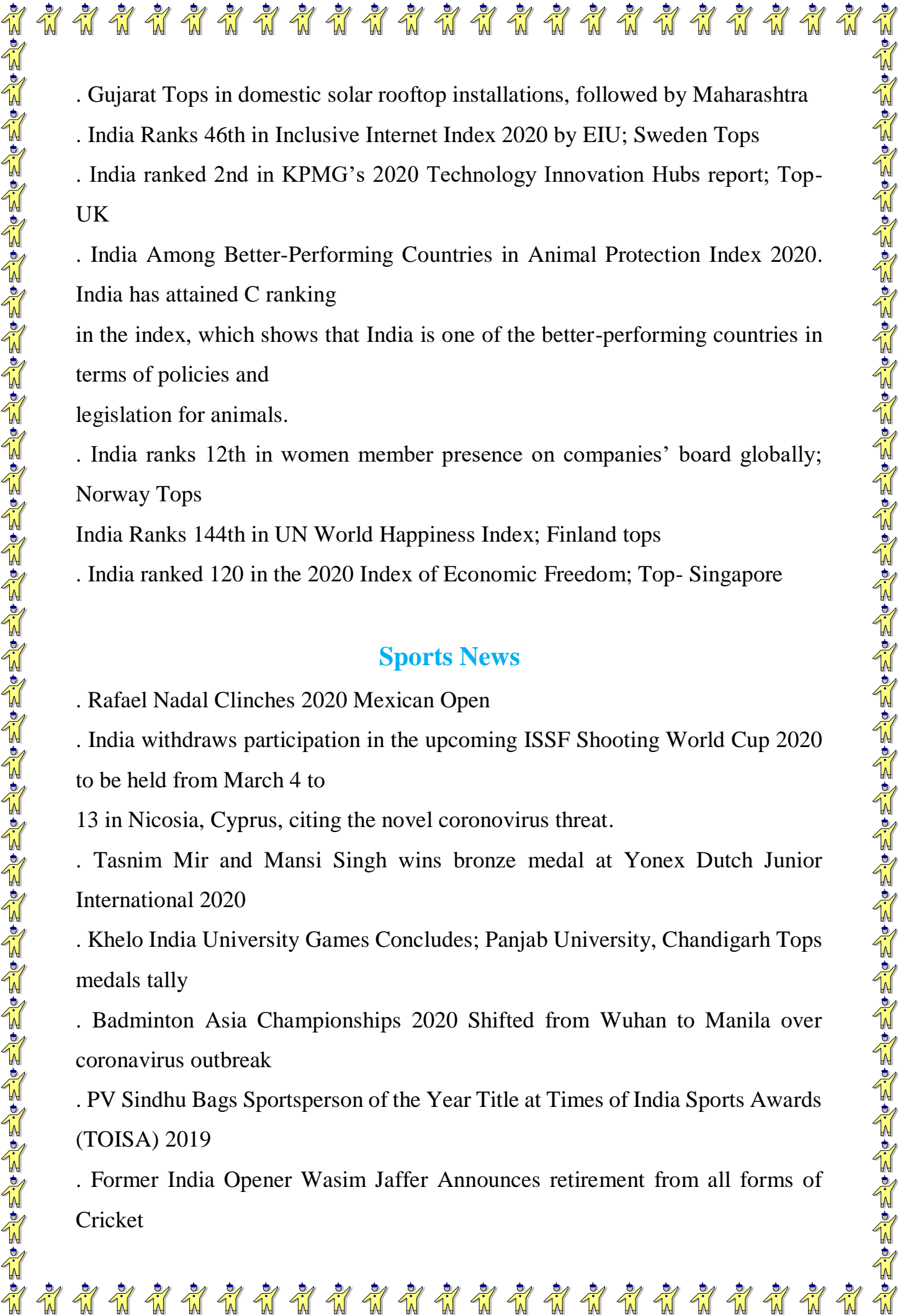
## Conference and Summits

- . Two-day Unique Nimad Chilli Festival 2020 Organised at Khargone district of MP
  - . World Productivity Congress 2020 to be held in Bengaluru in May
  - . 3-day Krishi Vigyan Mela organised in New Delhi
  - . Yog mahotsav begins in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
  - . Week-long Ekam Fest for Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs begins in New Delhi
  - . 35th edition of AAHAR Food and Hospitality Fair begins in New Delhi
  - . World Hearing Day : 3 March  
Theme of World Hearing Day 2020: Hearing for life Don't let hearing loss limit you.
  - . International Seminar 'Pragyan Conclave 2020' Begins in New Delhi
  - . 108 Indian Science Congress to be held in Pune in January 2021
  - . 4th Global Ayurveda Festival 2020 to be held in Kochi
  - . International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 Begins in Kolkata
  - . India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference Organised from 5 -7 March at Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud will chair an emergency virtual summit of G20 leaders on March 26, 2020. The meeting is titled 'G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19'.

## Rankings

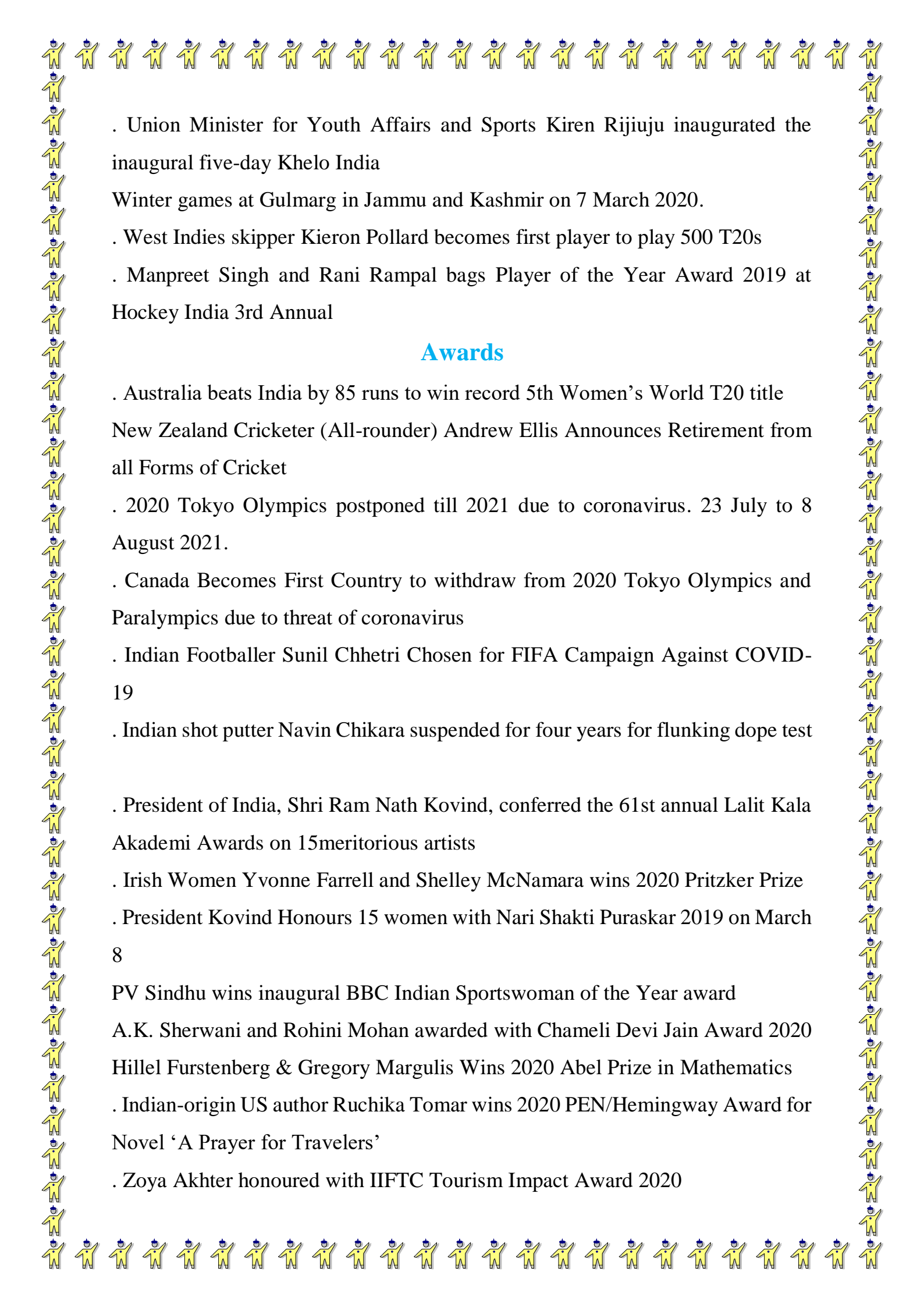
- . India ranks 83rd in Freedom in the world 2020 report; Finland tops
- . Andhra Pradesh Top State for overall implementation of Poshan Abhiyan. Apart from this, Tamil Nadu tops the list of the states in terms of the number of participants in the programme.



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- . Gujarat Tops in domestic solar rooftop installations, followed by Maharashtra
  - . India Ranks 46th in Inclusive Internet Index 2020 by EIU; Sweden Tops
  - . India ranked 2nd in KPMG's 2020 Technology Innovation Hubs report; Top-UK
  - . India Among Better-Performing Countries in Animal Protection Index 2020. India has attained C ranking in the index, which shows that India is one of the better-performing countries in terms of policies and legislation for animals.
  - . India ranks 12th in women member presence on companies' board globally; Norway Tops
  - . India Ranks 144th in UN World Happiness Index; Finland tops
  - . India ranked 120 in the 2020 Index of Economic Freedom; Top- Singapore

## Sports News

- . Rafael Nadal Clinches 2020 Mexican Open
- . India withdraws participation in the upcoming ISSF Shooting World Cup 2020 to be held from March 4 to 13 in Nicosia, Cyprus, citing the novel coronavirus threat.
- . Tasnim Mir and Mansi Singh wins bronze medal at Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020
- . Khelo India University Games Concludes; Panjab University, Chandigarh Tops medals tally
- . Badminton Asia Championships 2020 Shifted from Wuhan to Manila over coronavirus outbreak
- . PV Sindhu Bags Sportsperson of the Year Title at Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA) 2019
- . Former India Opener Wasim Jaffer Announces retirement from all forms of Cricket



. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the inaugural five-day Khelo India

Winter games at Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir on 7 March 2020.

. West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard becomes first player to play 500 T20s

. Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal bags Player of the Year Award 2019 at Hockey India 3rd Annual

### Awards

. Australia beats India by 85 runs to win record 5th Women's World T20 title

New Zealand Cricketer (All-rounder) Andrew Ellis Announces Retirement from all Forms of Cricket

. 2020 Tokyo Olympics postponed till 2021 due to coronavirus. 23 July to 8 August 2021.

. Canada Becomes First Country to withdraw from 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics due to threat of coronavirus

. Indian Footballer Sunil Chhetri Chosen for FIFA Campaign Against COVID-19

. Indian shot putter Navin Chikara suspended for four years for flunking dope test

. President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the 61st annual Lalit Kala Akademi Awards on 15 meritorious artists

. Irish Women Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara wins 2020 Pritzker Prize

. President Kovind Honours 15 women with Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019 on March 8

PV Sindhu wins inaugural BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

A.K. Sherwani and Rohini Mohan awarded with Chameli Devi Jain Award 2020

Hillel Furstenberg & Gregory Margulis Wins 2020 Abel Prize in Mathematics

. Indian-origin US author Ruchika Tomar wins 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Novel 'A Prayer for Travelers'

. Zoya Akhter honoured with IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020

. Ranveer Singh Wins Best Actor Award at Critics' Choice Film Awards 2020.

Winners in Hindi Language

**Best Actor (Male)** – Ranveer Singh (Gully Boy)

**Best Actor (Female)** – Geetika Vidya Ohlyan (Soni)

**Best Director** – Zoya Akhtar (Gully Boy)

**Best Film** – Gully Boy

**Best Writing** – Anubhav Sinha and Gaurav Solanki (Article 15)

The winners of The Hindu Prize 2019 have been announced. The winners are:

The Hindu Prize 2019 (Non-Fiction category)– Santanu Das For -India, Empire, and First World War Culture: Writings, Images and Songs.

The Hindu Prize 2019 (Fiction category)– Mirza Waheed For- Tell Her Everything.

### Books and Author

. The book titled “An Extraordinary Life: A biography of Manohar Parrikar” has been written by veteran

journalists Sadguru Patil and Mayabhushan Nagvenkar.

. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Releases Coffee Table Book ‘Invincible – A Tribute to Manohar Parrikar’

Authored by Tarun Vijay

. Bhalchandra Mungekar Authors book Titled My Encounters in Parliament

Book titled ‘Messiah Modi: A Tale of Great Expectations’ Penned by Tavleen Singh

. Book titled ‘Legacy Of Learning’ authored by Savita Chhabra launched

. Senior Journalist Chander Suta Dogra Pens Book ‘Missing in Action: The Prisoners Who Never Came

Back’

. Book titled “The Death of Jesus” by Nobel laureate J M Coetzee released