

## Narendra Modi participates in online Summit of NAM Contact Group



Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi participates in the online summit of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Contact Group on the theme “United against COVID-19” hosted by the current Chairman of NAM, President of Republic of Azerbaijan HE Ilham Aliyev through video conference to

discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

### Major Highlights of the meeting

- i. NAM Leaders assessed the impact of COVID-19, identified needs and requirements for possible remedies and urged action-oriented follow-up measures
- ii. Following the summit, the leaders **adopted a Declaration underlining the importance of international solidarity in the fight against COVID-19.**
- iii. Leaders announced the creation of a ‘Task Force’ to identify needs and requirements of member states through the establishment of a common database reflecting their basic medical, social and humanitarian needs in the fight against COVID-19.

### About NAM:

- i. It was founded in **1961** by initiatives of Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia & **has 120 member states**, 17 Observer Countries and 10 Observer organizations.
- ii. The basic concept for the group originated in 1955 during the Bandung Conference held in Indonesia, “Ten Principles of Bandung”, was proclaimed in the conference which was later adopted as the main goals and objectives of the policy of NAM
- iii. **The 1st NAM Summit Conference was held in Cairo, Egypt from 5-12 June 1961.**

## Dr Jitendra Singh attended Bamboo Conclave through Video Conference



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh participated in the Bamboo Conclave through Video Conference. The aim of the conference was to discuss the importance of Bamboo, which

will provide an opportunity for India to emerge as an economic powerpost COVID-19.

**It should be noted that the northeast consists of 60% of India's reserve of Bamboo.**

Also the govt. amended the 100 year old Indian Forest Act, 1927 brought in 2017, as a result of which, home grown bamboo has been exempted from it in order to enhance livelihood opportunities through bamboo.

## DRDO Develops "UV blaster", Ultraviolet Disinfection Tower



The Laser Science & Technology Centre (LASTEC), Delhi-based, laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence ministry with the assistance of New Age Instruments and Material Private Ltd., Gurugram developed "UV

blaster" an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection tower for a quick and chemical-free sanitization of areas that are highly prone to the infection of novel coronavirus in method.

### Features of UV Blaster

1. The disinfection tower can be used remotely through laptop or mobile phone using a WIFI link.
2. The device is effective for disinfecting areas having large flow of people such as airports, shopping malls, metros, hotels, factories, offices, etc.
3. The disinfection time for a room of about 12×12 feet dimension will be about 10 minutes.
4. A 400-square-foot area can be sanitized within 30 minutes if the device is positioned at different places within the room.

## World Asthma Day 2020: May 5



**World Asthma Day** is observed annually on the first Tuesday of May and this year it was celebrated on May 5, 2020. The day is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. **Theme for the year 2020:** Enough

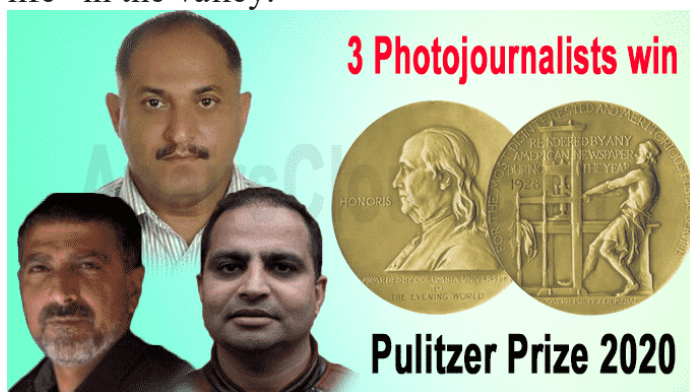
Asthma Deaths.

### About GINA:

GINA was launched in 1993 in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health, USA, and the World Health Organization (WHO)

## 2020 Pulitzer Prizes announced: 3 photojournalists from Jammu & Kashmir won the feature photography

The 2020 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced in **15** Journalism categories and **7** Book, Drama and Music categories by its administrator, **Dana Canedy**, via video-conference instead of a ceremony at Columbia University in New York, United States (US) due to the coronavirus pandemic for their “striking images of life” in the valley.



**Three Indian photographers Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand**, from the Associated Press, have been awarded the **2020 Pulitzer Prize for Journalism in Feature Photography** category.

They have been awarded for their outstanding coverage of the lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, after Article 370 was revoked, and all lines of communications were snapped.

The Pulitzer Prize is an award given for outstanding achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition by Columbia University in the United States.



### **About Pulitzer award:**

**Established in 1917**, the Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States (US). It is presented by Columbia University.

### **World Hand Hygiene Day : 05 May**

Every year, the World Health Organization (WHO) marks the World Hand Hygiene Day on May 5 to raise awareness among people across the globe about the importance of hand hygiene in warding off many serious infections.

**The theme for 2020 is ‘Save Lives: Clean Your Hands’.** The day recognizes hand washing as one of the most effective actions that can be taken to avoid a huge range of infections including the COVID-19 virus.

### **DBS Bank projects India’s GDP for FY21 at 1%**

DBS Bank has cut India’s FY21 GDP forecast to 1% as against 1.5% as predicted earlier. This projection is based on the assumption of an end in the lockdown in the June quarter, reopening of all sectors by third quarter (October-December).

### **Egypt tennis player Youssef Hossam banned for life on match-fixing charges**

Egyptian professional tennis player Youssef Hossam has been banned from professional tennis for life for match-fixing, as per the official notification by the Tennis Integrity Unit on 4 May 2020. Hossam has been found guilty of 21 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program from 2015 to 2019.

### **50.37 lakh people internally displaced in India in 2019: UNICEF**

More than five million people (50,37,000) were internally displaced in India due to natural disasters, conflict and violence in 2019 as per “**The Lost at Home’ report**”, published by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

**India has the highest number** of new internal displacements in the world in 2019. **Philippines, Bangladesh and China are on 2nd, 3rd and 4th spot** respectively. The report is about the risks and challenges for internally displaced children and the urgent actions needed to protect them

### **Amazon tops the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Global Retail Brands 2020 Ranking**

Amazon has topped the BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Global Retail Brands 2020 ranking. BrandZ ranking was unveiled by WPP and Kantar. It has a brand value of \$ 415.855 billion. Alibaba is on the second rank followed by McDonald’s on the third spot