

Current Affairs=09-06-2020

India, China hold top military-level talks in Maldo, Ladakh amid May 2020 standoff; 2 new commands of ITBP operationalised

On the request of Indian Government, Lieutenant General-level talks were held between India and China at the Border Personnel Meeting Point in Maldo in the Chushul sector, on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The meet was held to restore status quo as on April 2020 end, which was affected by border standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020.



- The Indian delegation was led by **Lieutenant General Harinder Singh**, Commander of 14 Corps, while the Chinese side was headed by **Major General Liu Lin**, Commander of the Tibet Military District.

Notably, this meet took place after futile 12 rounds of talks between local commanders of the two armies and 3 rounds of discussions at the level of major general-rank officials.

Outcome of meet: Peaceful resolution of standoff situation

The year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and for further developments of these relations both sides agreed to peacefully resolve the situation in the border areas. Also, in accordance with various bilateral agreements India-China border regions is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

About India-China LAC border standoff:

Around 250 Chinese and Indian soldiers were engaged in a violent face-off on May 5-6, 2020 in Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh which was followed by a similar incident in north Sikkim on May 9, 2020. Pangong Tso Lake, located 14,000 feet (4,270 meters) above the sea level in the Himalayan region of Ladakh.

- The reason behind this is the **development of strategic road** in the finger area of Pangong Tso Lake region besides another road connecting the Darbuk-Shayok-Daulat Beg Oldie, the world's highest-altitude airstrip, in Galwan Valley in Ladakh by India, which is being opposed by China.

Indian economy to contract by 3.2% in FY20; World Bank GEP report June 2020



The Washington based multilateral lender, **World Bank** in its latest edition of the **Global Economic Prospect (GEP)** June 2020 analytical chapters reports states that

India's growth is **contract by 3.2%**(so growth is **-3.2%**) for FY20-21 .It was lower from 4.2% which forecasted in FY2019-20 at the end of March 2020.

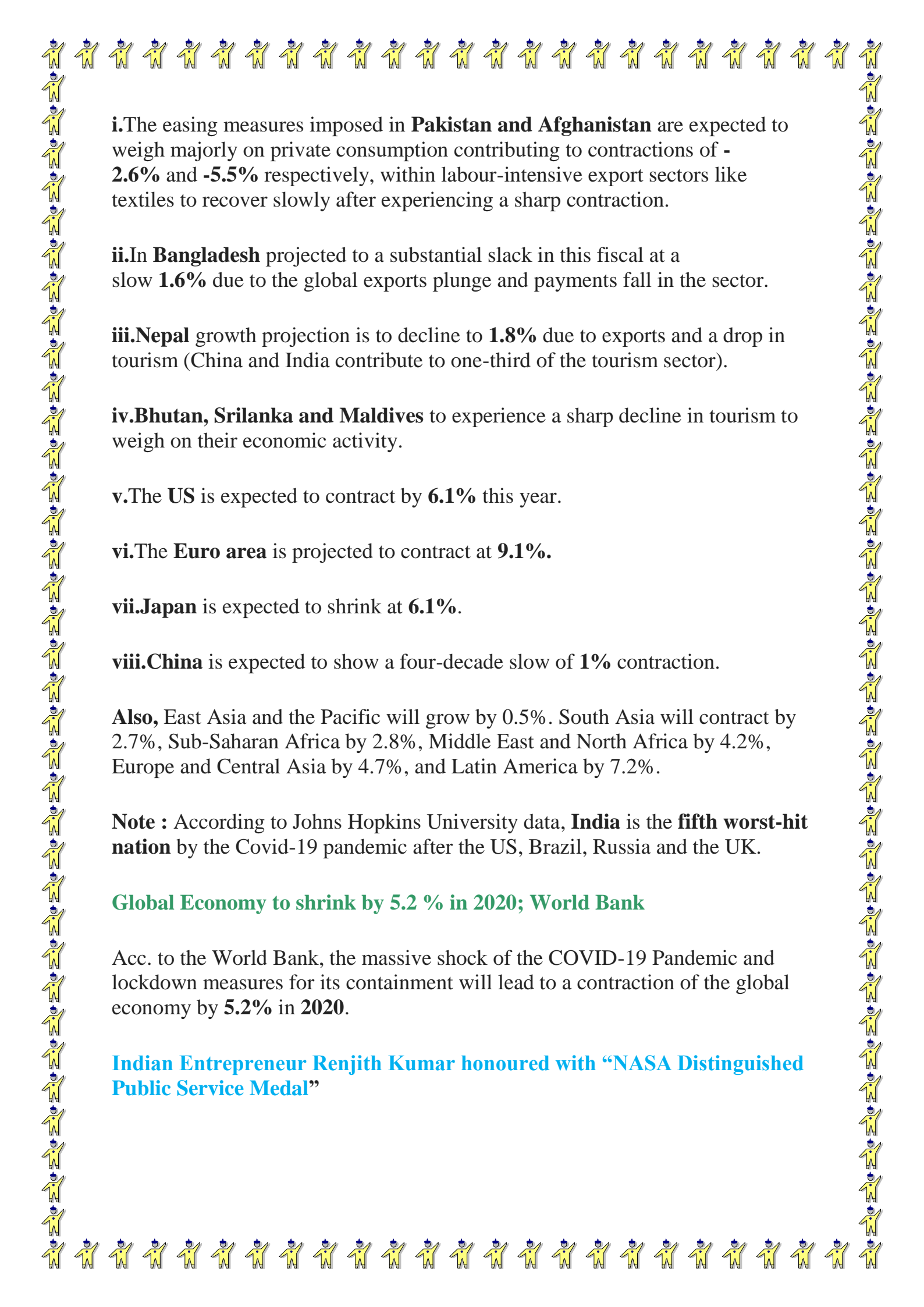
The growth forecast is 9 percentage lower than the GEP forecasts from January 2020 when the growth was projected as 5.8%. But it also highlights that country's growth will be expected to grow at 3.1%.

Acc. to the GEP report, the real impact of the Covid-19 and lockdown would be felt in the current fiscal (2020-21) beginning April, the **central bank** has been **purchasing government bonds** to ease the financial strains.

Indian Economy

- i. The growth rate of the Indian economy in **FY17** was **7%** which dropped to **6.1%** in **FY18** and then to **4.2 %** in **FY20**.
- ii. The impact of the pandemic and lockdown is being felt in the current financial year (2020-2021 beginning April), with a **negative growth rate of 3.2%**

Other Projected contractions Globally



i.The easing measures imposed in **Pakistan and Afghanistan** are expected to weigh majorly on private consumption contributing to contractions of - **2.6%** and **-5.5%** respectively, within labour-intensive export sectors like textiles to recover slowly after experiencing a sharp contraction.

ii.In **Bangladesh** projected to a substantial slack in this fiscal at a slow **1.6%** due to the global exports plunge and payments fall in the sector.

iii.**Nepal** growth projection is to decline to **1.8%** due to exports and a drop in tourism (China and India contribute to one-third of the tourism sector).

iv.**Bhutan, Srilanka and Maldives** to experience a sharp decline in tourism to weigh on their economic activity.

v.The **US** is expected to contract by **6.1%** this year.

vi.The **Euro area** is projected to contract at **9.1%**.

vii.**Japan** is expected to shrink at **6.1%**.

viii.**China** is expected to show a four-decade slow of **1%** contraction.

Also, East Asia and the Pacific will grow by 0.5%. South Asia will contract by 2.7%, Sub-Saharan Africa by 2.8%, Middle East and North Africa by 4.2%, Europe and Central Asia by 4.7%, and Latin America by 7.2%.

Note : According to Johns Hopkins University data, **India** is the **fifth worst-hit nation** by the Covid-19 pandemic after the US, Brazil, Russia and the UK.

Global Economy to shrink by 5.2 % in 2020; World Bank

Acc. to the World Bank, the massive shock of the COVID-19 Pandemic and lockdown measures for its containment will lead to a contraction of the global economy by **5.2%** in **2020**.

Indian Entrepreneur Renjith Kumar honoured with “NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal”



Renjith Kumar, Engineer from Kerala and Indian Entrepreneur based in Virginia is honoured with NASA's highest form of recognition for a non-governmental individual "NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal" for his

service to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and customer satisfaction.

NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal:

The "NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal" is given for the non-governmental individuals or individuals who are not a part of government employees during the performed service who provide a level of excellence supporting or impacting the success of NASA's missions and contribution in NASA's advancement of United States interests.

AIU banned Gomathi Marimuthu, Tamil Nadu's Track and Field athlete for 4 years due to doping

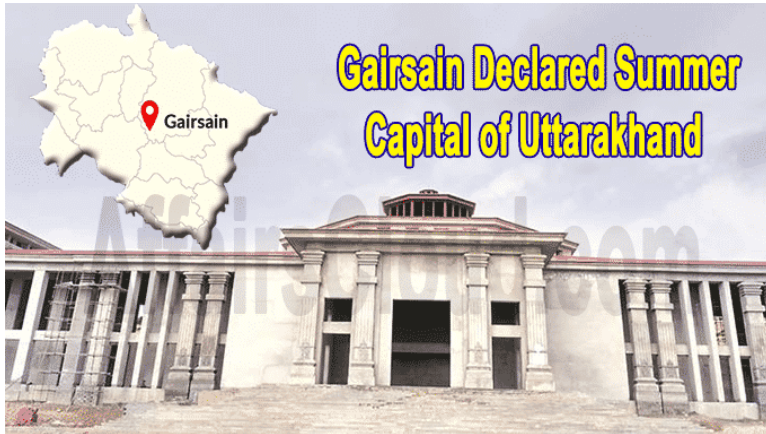


Athletics Integrity Unit(AIU) bans Gomathi Marimuthu, 31-year-old athlete from Tamil Nadu who won the gold medal for 800m in the 2019 Asian Championship, in Doha, Qatar for 4years from 17th May 2019 to 16th May 2023 after testing positive for banned substances. The titles, rankings, points and

prizes won by Gomathi from 18th March 2019 to 17th May 2019 will be forfeited and her results will be annulled.

Gairsain in Chamoli district declared as summer capital of Uttarakhand

i. Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya approved the declaration of **Bhararisen(Gairsain)** in Chamoli district as the state's **summer capital** in compliance with the provisions of clause (3) of Article 348 of "the Constitution of India".



ii. **Dehradun** (the largest city) will remain the **winter capital**.

iii. Uttarakhand's CM made the announcement about Gairsain being made the

summer capital of Uttarakhand during the budget session of the state assembly there on March 4.

Static

Uttarakhand's National Parks– Corbett National Park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind Pashu Vihar National Park & Sanctuary