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INDIA-UK's 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee meeting 2020 held virtually



On July 24, 2020, the 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) 2020 was held virtually for the first time amid COVID-19 between India and United Kingdom (UK), which was co-chaired by Minister for Commerce and Industry **Piyush Vedprakash Goyal** and UK Secretary of State for

International Trade, Elizabeth Mary Truss. They were assisted by Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry **Hardeep Singh Puri** and his counterpart, UK Minister of State for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena.

- Both nations have affirmed their shared commitment towards Free Trade Agreement (FTA). In this regard, the two sides will engage in early harvest schemes or limited trade agreements in a staged manner as steps towards FTA.
- It should be noted that the **Early Harvest Programme** basically consists of those projects which are to be implemented within a short timeline.

Key Points:

-As the UK leaves European Union (EU), both sides are exploring the building blocks that would allow for more ambitious trade arrangements in the future.

-Both sides have identified **five key sectors**: food and drink, information communications technology (ICT), life sciences and services, and chemicals to address non-tariff barriers to trade.

-It was also decided that a deliberation led by Mr Goyal and Ms Truss will be held in Autumn 2020 in New Delhi to carry forward the dialogue. Apart from this, Hardeep Singh Puri and Ranil Jayawardena will conduct monthly meetings for the same.

-Both sides also resolved to cooperate in the health sector especially in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

-The Co-chairs of Business led Joint Working Groups on Life Science and Health, ICT and Food and Drink set up during the last JETCO made their recommendations to the Ministers.

22 million children from South Asia missed out on early childhood education due to COVID-19: UNICEF



In accordance with the new research titled “Childcare in a global crisis: The impact of COVID-19 on work and family life” by the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund

(UNICEF), 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their pre-school year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic closure. This report was produced by UNICEF’s Office of Research – Innocenti.

- In the South Asia region, UNICEF covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the research.
- At least 40 million children worldwide, of which nearly 22 million are from South Asia, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year
- Prolonged school closure and limited access to distant learning have **deprived children of their universal right to education.**

Key Point:

-Childcare and early childhood education builds a foundation upon which every aspect of children’s development relies. The pandemic is putting that foundation under serious threat.

-Lockdown has left many parents struggling to balance childcare and paid

employment, with a disproportionate burden placed on women who, on average, spend more than three times longer on care and housework than men.

-The research recommended social protection systems including cash transfers that reach families working in non-formal employment.

-Governments and employers must play their part to help ensure proper childcare and access to education.

Croatian Parliament Approved New government Led by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic after Election



On July 23, 2020 The **Croatian parliament** approved the new **government** led by Prime Minister **Andrej Plenkovic** whose Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party won the most parliamentary seats in the general election held on July 5, 2020.

- Andrej Plenkovic was the prime minister of the previous

government that was also led by his HDZ .

Key Info

i. Andrej Plenkovic's government won the support in the 151-member assembly in a 76-59 vote, where the remaining lawmakers didn't vote or were not present there.

ii. The government now also has the support in parliament of two small liberal groups and national minorities.

iii. The government won 66 seats in the parliament in the July 5 vote. The main opposition party gained 41.

Tunisia's Interior Minister Hichem Mechichi appointed as new PM; to form govt in 1 month



Tunisian President Kais Saied appointed **Hichem Mechichi** (46-year-old), Interior Minister as it's new **Prime minister**. He has a month to form a government i.e., should be capable of winning a confidence vote in parliament by a simple majority. He succeeded **Elyes Fakhfakh**, who resigned over allegations

of a conflict of interest.

Key Info

i. If Hichem Mechichi cannot form the government in a month the president will dissolve parliament and call for another election.

ii. Hichem Mechichi was not one of the names proposed by the governing political parties to the President.

China launched new high-resolution mapping satellite Ziyuan-III 03 from Shanxi



On July 25, 2020, China sent a new high-resolution mapping satellite namely “Ziyuan III 03”, developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, into space through Long March-4B carrier rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Northern Province of Shanxi, China.

ii. It was the 341st flight mission by the Long March rocket series.

iii. Along with high-resolution mapping satellite, there were two small satellites used for dark matter detection and commercial data acquisition were also sent which were developed by the Shanghai ASES Spaceflight Technology Co. Ltd.

Haryana to host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2021



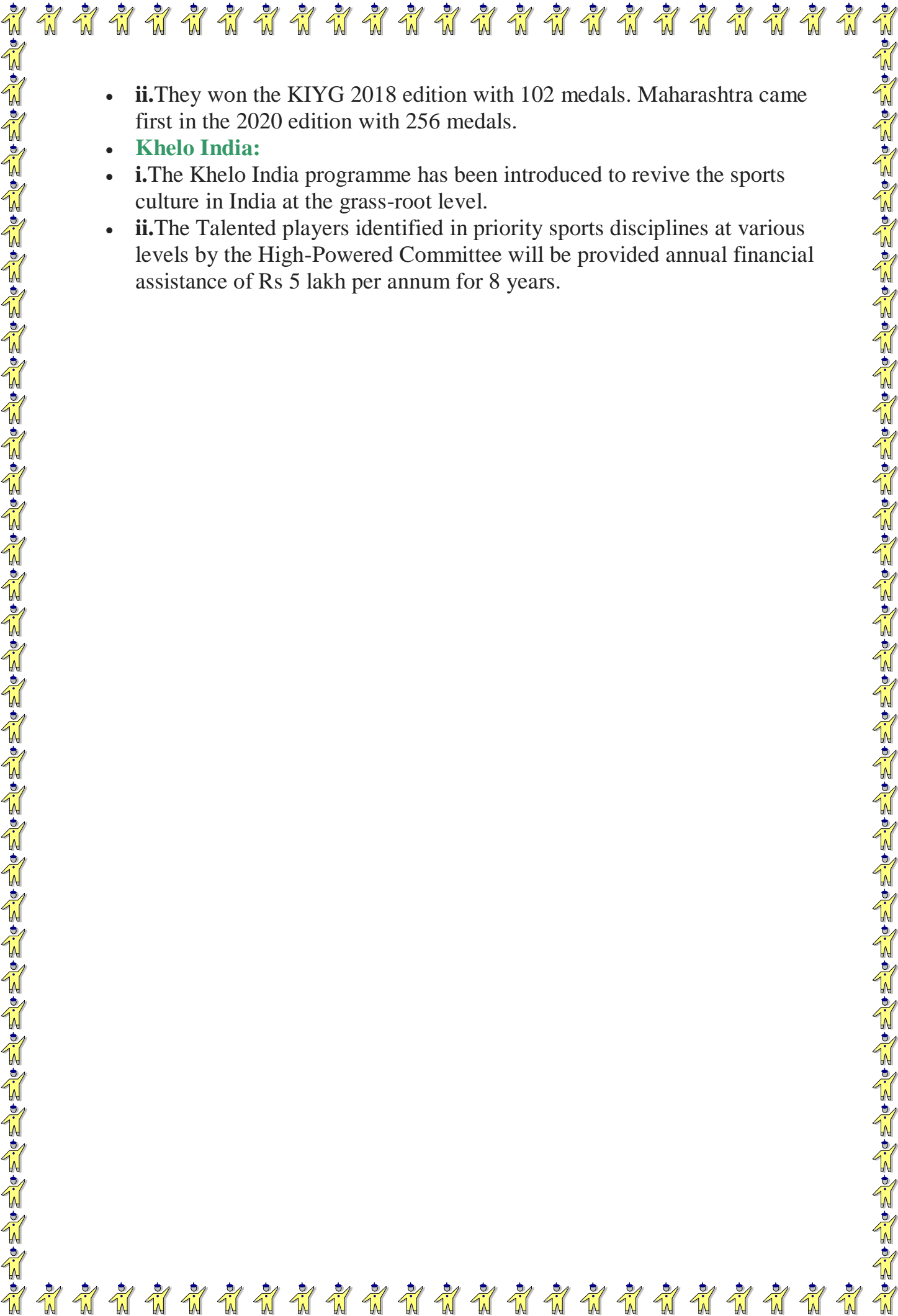
The Minister of State of Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju and Haryana Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar announced that Haryana will host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in 2021 through video

conference. The Games will be held in Panchkula in Haryana.

Star Sports will be the Official Broadcast Partner like the previous year. The games will take place after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

- **Key facts**

i. Haryana came second in KIYG 2019 and 2020 editions (200 medals in 2020 and 159 medals in 2019).

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- **ii.**They won the KIYG 2018 edition with 102 medals. Maharashtra came first in the 2020 edition with 256 medals.
 - **Khelo India:**
 - **i.**The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level.
 - **ii.**The Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.