

Top 15 Current Affairs of 20 May 2020

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Government implements Shekatkar Committee's recommendations to create border infrastructure



Government has accepted and implemented 3 important recommendations of the Committee of Experts(CoE) under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant General **D B Shekatkar** (Retd) relating to **border Infrastructure** so as to speed up road construction, which leads to socio-economic development in the border areas.

6 Cities rated 5 Star, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star for garbage free cities: MOHUA



Ministry Of Housing and Urban Affairs(MOHUA) announced the results of the **Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities**, for the assessment year 2019-2020,

where **6 Cities** were rated **5 Star**, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities & also launched the **revised protocol** for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.

India Provides 2 million USD to support UN agency working for Palestinian refugees



On 19th May 2020 India provides 2 million USD (Rs 15 crore) to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to support the Palestinian refugees for its programmes and services like education and healthcare in the COVID-19 situation.

Army proposes 3-year stint for civilians under “Three-Year Short Service” Scheme



If this proposal gets approved, it will be a voluntary engagement and will not affect the current selection criteria. Initially, 100 officers and 1,000 men are being

considered for recruitment. The proposal suggests several measures to incentivize this scheme like a tax-free income for 3 years.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nepal approves new political map including India's Kalapani, Lipulekh as its territory



On May 19, 2020, Amidst the border dispute with India, Nepal's cabinet has accepted a new political map showing **Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura** under its territory. India and Nepal are at a dispute after the Indian side released its new political map on 2 November 2019, which covers above three areas in Indian territory.

BANKING & FINANCE

NABARD extends Rs 20,500 crores special liquidity facility to co-op banks & RRBs



The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has informed that it has extended **Rs 20,500 crores special liquidity facility** to co-

operative banks(**co-op**– Rs 15,200 crores) and Regional Rural Banks(**RRB's**– Rs 5,300 crores) in various States.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Indian economy to contract 5% in FY21: Goldman Sachs



American brokerage **Goldman Sachs** expects the Indian economy to contract by **5%** in **FY21**, which will be the deepest compared to all recessions India has ever experienced since 1979. It is against its earlier forecast of 0.4% contraction before revising it down to a level it shares with Japanese brokerage Nomura.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar wins 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award from UK



On 18th May 2020, The National Hydrographer to the Government of India, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar is honored with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award.

The award was first presented in 2006 by the UK Ministry of Defence sponsored UK Hydrographic Office (**UKHO**) named after the first Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Accenture acquires startup Byte Prophecy to deliver AI solutions to enterprises



On May 18, 2020, **Accenture plc** (stylised as Accenture), an Irish-domiciled multinational professional services company, has acquired Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based AI (Artificial Intelligence) startup **Byte Prophecy** for an undisclosed sum. **i.**The deal will deepen existing consulting and technology capabilities that help provide enterprise-scale AI and digital analytics solutions across the region.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SCR develops robot “Rail-BOT (R-BOT)” to assist railway doctors



On May 17, 2020, South Central Railway (SCR) zone developed a robotic device, “**RAIL-BOT**” (R-BOT) to assist in hospital management functions

towards patient care in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. The robot provides medicines, medical accessories & to serve food to the patients, without any need for physical contact. This will enable doctors, nurses and other support medical staff to stay away from the risk of contracting infections.

ENVIRONMENT

Zoological Survey of India lists 20 species of amphibians as critically endangered and 35 as endangered



On 17th May 2020, The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) updated the checklist of Indian amphibians, a list of **20 species** as **critically endangered** and **35 species** as **endangered** on its website compiled by research scientists, K P Dinesh from ZSI's western regional centre at Pune, C Radhakrishnan from Calicut, B H Chennakeshavamurthy from ZSI, Calicut, P Deepak from Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru and Nirmal Kulkarni from the Mhadei Research Centre, Goa.

SPORTS

COVID-19 impact: ICC cricket committee led by Anil kumble recommends ban on use of saliva to shine ball



On May 18, 2020, The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Cricket Committee, chaired by former Indian cricketer & commentator, **Anil Kumble** has recommended a ban on the use of saliva to make the ball shine due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. However, the committee considered ball-shining as safe from the use of sweat. The committee also recommended that two non-neutral umpires (both from the host nation) should be appointed for a short period of time.

OBITUARY

Veteran Marathi writer, playwright Ratnakar Matkari passed away at 81



On 17th May 2020, Veteran Marathi writer, playwright, actor, director and Producer Ratnakar Matkari passed away at 81 in a hospital at suburban Marol,

Mumbai. Last week he was tested positive to coronavirus. He was born on 17th November 1938 in Mumbai, India.

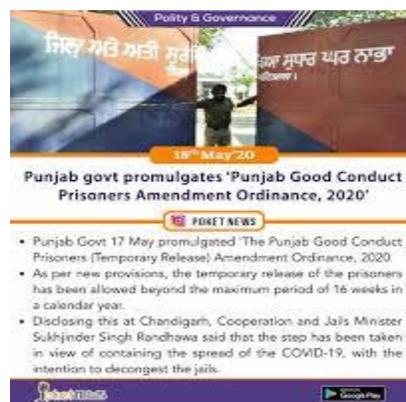
STATE NEWS

J&K promotes e-learning under Samagra Shiksha programme



In Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Union territory (UT) administration has initiated a slew of measures under “**Samagra Shiksha programme**” to facilitate students with complete access to education through technological interventions and other viable means in wake of COVID-19 lockdown.

Punjab govt promulgates ‘Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners Amendment Ordinance, 2020’



On May 17, 2020, Punjab government (govt) promulgated ‘**The Punjab Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Amendment Ordinance, 2020**’. As

per new provisions, the temporary release of the prisoners has been allowed beyond the maximum period of 16 weeks in a calendar year.

UP presents largest ever Rs 5.12 lakh crores budget in state assembly



Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented the Uttar Pradesh(UP) government's largest ever budget of **Rs 5,12,860.72 crores** for **FY 2020-21** which estimates total receipts of 5,00,558 crores(Rs 4,22,567 crores-revenue and Rs 77,990 crores-capital receipts) & a deficit of Rs 12,302 crores.

AC GAZE

Jaipur based company 'Club First' develops India's first service robots "Sona 1.5 and Sona .5"

Jaipur-based company 'Club First' has developed India's first service robots named as "Sona 1.5 and Sona .5" to help health workers in conducting a thermal screening of the people amid COVID-19 crisis. The robot which is 95 per cent made in India is the first in the world to be based on spine technology.

Actor Sai Gundewar passed away at 42

Actor Sai Gundekar passed away at the age of 42 years due to brain cancer in the United States(U.S), who was known for his appearances in shows like Survivor and Splitsvilla, as well as acting in films PK and Rock On!.

