

**NATIONAL****New Delhi****India withdraws Most Favoured Nation status from Pakistan**

- India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status granted to Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. A decision in this regard was taken during the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, CCS in New Delhi.

**Uttar Pradesh****Foundation stone of Defence Corridor**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of Defence Corridor in Jhansi. Jhansi is one of the six nodal points of the Uttar Pradesh defence corridor. He also laid the foundation stone of doubling of 425-kilometre long Jhansi-Manikpur and Bhimsen-Khairar railway lines. He also inaugurated the electrification of 297-kilometre long section of Jhansi - Khairar section. He also inaugurated Pahari Dam Modernization Project.

**INTERNATIONAL****Nigeria orders closure of all land borders**

- In Nigeria, the government has ordered the closure of all land borders to ensure a smooth presidential election to be held.

**US, Russia and France condemn Pulwama attack**

- Countries from across the globe have condemned the terror attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir, with US, Russia and France asserting that they stand with India in combating the menace of terrorism.

**BUSINESS & ECONOMY****Employment of Indian seafarers grows by 35 percent this year**

- The shipping sector has witnessed an unprecedented growth of 35 per cent in the number of Indian seafarers employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels this year.

**Centre increases MSP of Sugar by 2 Rs/Kg**

- The Centre has increased the minimum selling price of sugar by two rupees per kilogram to 31 rupees a kilogram for the year 2018-19.

**SUMMITS & CONFERENCES****Board of Trade Meeting**

- Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, chaired a meeting of the Board of Trade (BOT) at Vigyan Bhawan. On this occasion, Commerce & Industry Minister launched a new online “Anytime-Anywhere” export awareness course to train, mentor and hand-hold potential exporters so as to help them to tap international trade opportunities. This Online Course has been funded under the ‘Niryat Bandhu’ scheme of DGFT and is in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi.

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Shri Sushil Chandra - **New Election Commissioner**
- William Barr - **US Attorney General**

**SCHEMES****Celebration of Swachhta Pakhwada**

- The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan administered the Swachhta pledge to all the officials and employees of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in New Delhi marking the celebration of Swachhta Pakhwada scheduled from 16th to 28th February 2019.

**MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS****GeM and GS1 India Sign MoU**

- GS1 India, a standards organization set up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government e-Marketplace (GeM). This will enable GeM's buyers and vendors to access rich, accurate and standardized information on attributes of thousands of products across categories, empowering them to make more informed decisions.

**India signs Legal Agreements with the World Bank**

- The Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) and the World Bank signed a \$40 Million Loan Agreement to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area, who have been facing severe water shortages and water-borne epidemics over the last few years.

**Government liberalizes the e-Visa regime**

- The e-Tourist Visa which was introduced in September 2014 with 46 countries has now been made applicable for 166 countries. Recently,

government has made series of amendments in e-visa regime, liberalizing it further and making it more tourists friendly.

## AWARDS

### Sportstar Aces Awards Winners



**Sportstar Aces Awards winners**

POPULAR AWARDS	
Sportsman of the Year (Cricket)	Virat Kohli & Jasprit Bumrah
Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket)	Smriti Mandhana
Sportsman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	A. Sharath Kamal
Sportswoman of the Year (Racquet Sport)	P. V. Sindhu & Manika Batra
Sportsman of the Year (Track and Field)	Neeraj Chopra
Sportswoman of the Year (Track and Field)	Hima Das
Sportsman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	Sunil Chhetri
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Team Sport)	Gurjit Kaur
Sportsman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	Bajrang Punia
Sportswoman of the Year (Other Individual Sport)	M.C. Mary Kom & Vinesh Phogat
Sportsperson of the Year (Motorsport)	K.P. Aravind
JURY AWARDS	
Team of the Year	Vidarbha Ranji Team
Coach of the Year	Massimo Costantini
Lifetime Achievement Award	Prakash Padukone
Best Young Athlete (Male)	Saurabh Chaudhary
Best Young Athlete (Female)	Manu Bhaker
Parathlete Sportsman of the Year	Suyash Yadav & Manoj Sarkar
Parathlete Sportswoman of the Year	Deepa Malik
Best State for Promotion of Sports	Odisha
NOMINATED AWARDS	
Best University for the Promotion of Sports	Army School
Best PSU / Corporate House for the Promotion of Sports	Railways

Virat Kohli | Chairman's Choice Award: Cheteshwar Pujara | P. V. Sindhu

### President of India to present Tagore Award

- The President of India will present the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh); and Shri Ram Sutar Vanji for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively on 18.02.2019 at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.

## APP & WEBPORTAL

### LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System

- Inland Waterways Authority of India launches a new portal **LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System** for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways.
- The information will help better planning for movement of vessels.

## SPORTS

### Senior National Badminton Championship

- In the Senior National Badminton Championship at Guwahati, PV Sindhu, Vaishnavi Bhale, Ashmita Chaliha enter semi finals of women's singles in NBC.

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