



## Coal India subsidiary (NCL) sets up “SARAS”

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### India ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the production of crude steel.

- Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel **Dharmendra Pradhan** said that India became the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of crude steel for the year 2019, by replacing Japan.
- India moved its crude steel productivity **from 109.3 million tonnes (2018) to 111.2 million tonnes (2019)**.
- **China** remains at the top position with **996.3 million tonnes**, **US** and **Russia** ranks the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions respectively.

#### International Gandhi award for leprosy

- The president of India, Ramnath Kovind presented the **international Gandhi award for leprosy** to Dr.N.S .Dharmashaktu for the year 2019.
- The award was given under the Indian nomination (individual) category and the **Leprosy Mission Trust** under the institutional category.

#### Sri lankan PM visit to India.

- The prime minister of Sri Lanka has arrived at New Delhi airport on a **5 day visit to India**, he was received by Minister of State for Human Resources Development **Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre**.
- Discussions are to be made on the Sri Lanka-India annual defence dialogue and the trilateral maritime security cooperation with India and the Maldives.
- PM of Sri Lanka: **Mahinda Rajapaksa**

#### Commercial flight operation in Bidar airport in Karnataka begins.

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has kick started the first direct flight from Bidar airport to Bengaluru in Karnataka.
- **The Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)** of the Government of India has remodeled and developed the airport at an estimated cost of **₹11 cr** by the state government with the help of central government.
- This direct daily flights on the **Bengaluru-Bidar route** will be operated by **TruJet**.
- Chief minister of Karnataka: **B.S. Yediyurappa**

## Coal India subsidiary (NCL) sets up “SARAS”

- Coal India’s subsidiary NCL (**Northern Coalfields Limited**) has set up a Centre named “**Science and Applied Research Alliance and Support(SARAS)**”.
- The Centre was started to promote **Innovation, Research & Development** and skill development along with improving company’s operational efficiency and utilize resources at optimum level.
- NCL accounts for **15% of India’s coal production and 10% of thermal power generation** of the country is met by the coal produced by the Miniratna Company of Govt. of India
- Northern coalfields limited CMD: **Shri Prabhat Kumar Sinha**.

## DefExpo 2020: DRDO handed over 15 licenses to 17 industries.

- DRDO handed over 15 licenses for ToT (LATOT) to 17 industries on DRDO developed technologies at the DefExpo 2020, during the **MoU singing ceremony named as” Bandhan”**.
- This will develop cooperation between industries and Governmental organisations.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Karen pierce was appointed as the next ambassador to US from Britain.

- Britain appointed its UN envoy **Karen pierce** as the next ambassador to US.

### Al-Qaeda leader Qasim al-Rimi in counter terrorism operation in Yemen.

- US president Donald Trump has confirmed the **major counter terrorism operation in Yemen** where it killed **al-Qaeda leader Qasim al-Rimi**.
- The AQAP, considered as the most powerful branch of al-Qaeda's for its attempts to carry out attacks on the US mainland.
- This is considered as the **3<sup>rd</sup> major strike** by the trump administration, while they killed **ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** and **top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani** earlier.

## ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

### WhatsApp gets approval from NPCL

- The **National Payments Corporation Limited** of India(NPCL) has granted permission to the Facebook -owned messaging service WhatsApp to launch its digital payment platform “**WhatsApp pay**”.

## Financial literacy week 2020

- The financial literacy week will be conducted by RBI from **10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2020**.
- The theme of the programme is “**Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**”.
- The main aim of the financial literacy week 2020 is to update the people about formalization, collateral free loan, discounting of receivables, rehabilitation of stressed units and timely repayments.

### **U.K court directs Anil Ambani to pay \$100 MN.**

- A U.K government asks the reliance group chairman Anil Ambani to pay \$100mn.
- The action is towards a conditional order granted to three Chinese banks pursuing the recovery of over **\$680 mn** owed to them as a part of a loan agreement.

### **Bank of India and SBI to cut interest rates**

- The country's largest lending banks BOI and SBI have reduced their lending rates by cutting the marginal cost of fund-based lending rate(MCLR).
- This action was followed from the RBI announcing their measures to ease interest rates.
- **SBI** reduced the **MCLR by 5bps** across all maturities, the one year MCLR comes down to **7.85% per annum from 7.90%**.
- **Bank of India** reduced the MCLR by **10 bps** for maturities upto 6 months.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Raju Bharatan passes away**

- Legendary film historian and cricket journalist **Raju Bharatan** passed away.
- He was associated with the illustrated weekly of India. He was also a **popular radio commentator** for India's cricket matches across the world.

### **SAI and hockey India launches high performance hockey centers.**

- **Sports authority of India(SAI) and hockey India** jointly announced the launching of **high performance hockey centres** in 7 places across the country.
- The main aim of this move is to train young talent in view of 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games.



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