

## Finance

### *NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave to be held in New Delhi today*

- **NITI Aayog is organising a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi today.**
- An official said, the objective of the conference is to shape India's continued ascendancy in **FinTech**, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- The Conclave will be featuring representatives from across the financial space - central ministries, regulators, bankers, startups, service providers and entrepreneurs.
- **The Conclave will be inaugurated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. It will host more than 300 representatives from the leading financial institutions.**

## India and states

### *IAF inducts Chinook helicopters at Chandigarh air base*

- In a major boost to the India's strategic airlift capability, **the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday inducted the first four battle-hardened Chinook heavy lift helicopters into its Chandigarh-based Air Force station.**
- **The four CH-47F (I) Chinook helicopters**, part of the 15 contracted by India from US firm Boeing in September 2015 for over Rs 8,000 crore, were commissioned into the IAF's 126 Helicopter Unit, nicknamed 'Featherweights', at Chandigarh.
- The helicopters will be used in transporting troops, artillery and other equipment to border areas.
- It joined IAF's 126 Helicopter Flight unit that operates the last batch of Russian made Mi-26 choppers, which would be phased out soon.
- **The other Chinook helicopters are likely to be delivered by March 2020.**

## Index & Reports

### *India ranks 76th on WEF global Energy Transition index*

- **India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index.** This annual list, compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- **Sweden remains on the top on this annual list and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.**
- India is also the second best in the BRICS block of emerging economies, with Brazil being the best at 46th place globally. However, India is the only amongst the five economies to improve its rank since last year.
- China is ranked even lower than India at 82nd position, though it ranks very high at seventh place in the world for regulation and political commitment.

### *India achieves 84 % reduction in TB deaths among HIV patients: UN*

- **India has achieved an 84 per cent reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017.**

- **According to the Joint United Nations Programme on the UNAIDS, it is the highest recorded decline among over 20 nations and it is also three years ahead of the 2020 deadline.**
- UNAIDS has urged countries to step up action to meet the 2020 target of reducing TB deaths among people living with HIV by 75 per cent, as outlined in the 2016 United Nations Political Declaration on Ending AIDS.
- World Health Organisation estimates show that globally, TB deaths among people living with HIV have fallen by 42 per cent since 2010.

## Appointments

### *Justice Prashant Mishra appointed as Chhattisgarh HC acting chief justice*

- The union government has notified the appointment of a senior-most judge **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra of the Chhattisgarh high court as the acting chief justice following the resignation of Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi.**
- Justice Tripathi relinquished his charge of the office of chief justice after he was appointed as the member (Judicial) of the Lokpal.
- According to the official notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, the duties of the office of Chief Justice will be performed by Justice Mishra, who was elevated as a judge of the high court in December 2009.

## Sports

### *India wins 368 medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games*

- **India finished the Special Olympics World Games with a rich haul of 368 medals, which included 85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze** in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.
- **It's a record haul for the country which fielded a 284-member team.**
- The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in **Sweden in 2021.**

### *Suresh Raina becomes first player to score 5,000 IPL runs*

- **Suresh Raina** added another feather to his illustrious cap, here on Saturday, as the Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) batsman **became the first in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history to amass 5,000 runs.**
- During the ongoing IPL 2019 opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Raina, a vital cog in the Chennai's armory, achieved the rare feat as soon as he touched the individual score of 15.
- The Uttar Pradesh cricketer also has 35 fifties in the league beside a century, averaging 34.27.

## World

### *Trump directs colleges to support free speech or risk lose funding*

- **US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 21, 2019 to promote free speech on college campuses by threatening the colleges** that the government will cut federal research funding if they do not protect those rights.
- Under the new order, the federal agencies are required to ensure that any college or university receiving research grants agrees to promote free inquiry and follow federal rules and regulations supporting free speech.

### ***New Zealand bans assault weapons***

- **New Zealand on March 21, 2019 imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following last week's Christchurch massacre** that claimed the lives of at least 50 mosque-goers.
- The announcement was made by **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern**, who said that all assault rifles and military-style semi-automatic weapons would be banned with immediate effect, making a pledge to ensure that nothing like the last week's attack ever occurs in the Pacific nation again.
- The Prime Minister added that high-capacity magazines and devices similar to bump stocks, which allow users to fire weapons faster, will also be banned.

## **Days**

### ***International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade observed***

- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is observed on **25 March, 2019**.
- The theme of 2019 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is "**Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice**".

### ***World Tuberculosis Day observed on 24 March***

- **World Tuberculosis Day 2019** was observed on **24 March, 2019**.
- The theme of World TB Day 2019 - '**It's time**'.

### ***International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims***

- **International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** was observed on **24 March, 2019**.
- This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of **Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero**, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

### ***International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members observed***

- **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members** was observed on **25 March, 2019**.
- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on the anniversary of the abduction of **Alec Collett**, a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) when he was abducted by armed gunman in 1985.