

## **January 10th news:**

### **International:**

#### **Koreas agree military talks to defuse border tension**

North and South Korea have agreed to hold military talks to defuse border tension, after their first high-level meeting in two years. The North will also send a delegation to the 2018 Winter Olympic Games taking place in South Korea in February.

Agreement was also reached to reinstate a military hotline suspended two years ago, the South's government said.

However, the North's delegation was negative on the subject of denuclearisation, the South added. The United States gave a cautious welcome to the meeting.

The state department said the US remained in close consultations with South Korean officials who would ensure the North's participation in the Winter Olympics did not violate UN sanctions.

The South asked the North to end any hostile acts that might raise tension, while the North agreed there was a need to guarantee a peaceful environment on the peninsula, a statement from the South's government said.

Other details had been released throughout the day by officials from the South:

- The South proposed that athletes from both Koreas march together at the opening ceremony in Pyeongchang as they did at the 2006 Winter Olympics
- The South pushed for the reunion of family members separated by the Korean War - a highly emotional issue for both countries - to take place during the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls in the middle of the Games
- The South said it would consider temporarily lifting relevant sanctions, in co-ordination with the UN, to facilitate the North's participation in the Olympics

### **National:**

#### **Playing of national anthem in cinema halls optional: Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court on 9<sup>th</sup> January made the playing of national anthem in cinema halls before screening of movies optional, modifying its earlier order. The apex court modified its November 30, 2016, order by which it had made the playing of the anthem mandatory in cinema halls before the screening of a film.

#### **Matunga Rly station enters Limca Book of Records for having all-women staff**

The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway of Mumbai division has figured in the Limca Book of Records 2018 for having an all-woman staff.

The achievement comes six months after Matunga became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff. A team of 41 women staffers at the station includes personnel from the RPF, commercial and operating departments are working. These staffers work under the supervision of station manager Mamta Kulkarni.

### **Indias Second FTII to be Set up in Arunachal Pradesh**

Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh announced that Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the Union Government as part of tapping the potential of the Northeastern region. This would be the second such one in the country. The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune. FTII is an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

### **Bilateral:**

#### **PM Narendra Modi inaugurated first PIO Parliamentary Conference in Delhi today**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra' at Chanakyapuri Delhi. As many as 124 Members of Parliament and 17 mayors from 23 countries will participate in this conference.

While 124 MPs from the UK, Canada, Fiji, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and other countries are slated to take part in conference, 17 mayors from US, Malaysia, Switzerland, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago will also participate in it.

Every year, January 9 is celebrated as Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), an annual celebratory day that marks the contribution of overseas persons of Indian origin (PIO) towards their homeland. This is the first PIO Parliamentary Conference and it is a way of reaching out to the Indian community overseas by the government.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in order to celebrate the spirit of the conference, has also organised an open competition to design a logo that would best reflect the spirit of the First PIO Parliamentarian Conference.

### **Sports:**

#### **BCCI bans all-rounder Yusuf Pathan**

Indian all-rounder Yusuf Pathan was on 9<sup>th</sup> January handed a five-month retrospective suspension for failing a dope test. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement that Pathan has been suspended after he inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance, commonly found in cough syrups. The BCCI said, terbutaline, a specified substance, is prohibited both In and Out of Competition in the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List of Substances.

Yousuf Pathan had provided a urine sample as part of the BCCI's anti-doping testing program during a domestic T20 competition in March last year.

The BCCI said, in all of the circumstances, the five-month period of ineligibility will be deemed to have started to run on 15th August and end at 14th of this month

**Persons in news:**

**Sunny Verghese:** Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Verghese, Co-Founder and the CEO of Singapore's agri-business group Olam International Limited, is the first World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Chair from the agri-sector.

He succeeded Paul Polman, the CEO of Unilever, on January 1 and will serve a two-year term. WBCSD is a global network of more than 200 CEOs who are responsible for a combined revenue of more than 8.5 trillion US Dollars and 19 million employees.