

February 4th and 5th news:

International:

North Korea earned \$200 MILLION in nine months from banned exports

North Korea's complete disregard for **United Nations** sanctions earned the country nearly \$200 million by exporting ban commodities in just nine months last year. A UN report issued accused Pyongyang of working with **Syria** to develop chemical and ballistic weapons, along with Myanmar.

The report found there was more than 40 previously unreported North Korea shipments between 2012 and 2017 to Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Centre - the body which is responsible for the country's chemical weapons program.

It also found North Korea continued to make money through exporting coal, iron, steel and other commodities which are banned under the UN sanctions between January and September last year.

Coal shipments were delivered to a number of countries, including China, Malaysia, South Korea, Russia and Vietnam by ship using 'a combination of multiple evasion techniques, routes and deceptive tactics,' the report found

Last year, the UN Security council voted to impose a number of stricter sanctions and expand exports banned with the aim of cutting of North Korea's military programs.

The United States pushed for tougher economic sanctions against North Korea after its sixth nuclear test and a host of ballistic missile launches which Pyongyang claimed could reached US mainland.

The panel found North Korea 'is already flouting the most recent resolutions by exploiting global oil supply chains, complicit foreign nationals, offshore company registries, and the international banking system'.

National:

First Ever International Kala Mela Inaugurated In New Delhi

The First ever International Kala Mela was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi. The International Kala Mela has been organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with IGNCA of the Ministry of Culture. More than 800 artists from across the world took part in the Festival.

Indian Heritage Network opened up

Fifth International Biennial Conference of Indian Heritage Network (IHCN) was opened up in Odisha signifying socio-cultural heritage surrounding art and craft of India which will go on for three days. International Biennial Conference of Indian Heritage Network was inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The outcome of the dialogue series is to arrive at policy-level recommendations to address the issues relevant to Odisha and also to raise awareness and be a platform for advocacy.

Economy:**Environment:****Maharashtra Government Approves New Wildlife Sanctuary At Ghodazari**

The Maharashtra government approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary in the state. The decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The sanctuary, in the North East of Tadoba, will include 159 sq km of Brahmapuri forest. This will not only save the forest but will also improve tourism in nearly 40 villages in the area.

Sports:**India wins U-19 World Cup**

India defeated Australia to lift the Under 19 World cup for the fourth time. In the final India defeated the three-time champions Australia at Bay Oval, New Zealand. Manjot Kalra was the Hero of the match with his brilliant century.

Persons in news:

Modi: Exam Warriors, a book written by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. The book has been written to inspire youths to face the difficult moments of examinations and life, with fresh and new energy. 'Exam Warriors' is published by Penguin India, which runs into 208 pages.

Nicos Anastasiades: Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades won re-election for a second term. The official final result after a second round run-off put the conservative incumbent on 55.99 per cent of the vote, ahead of Communist-backed Stavros Malas on 44 per cent.