

May 20th news:

National:

BS Yeddyurappa resigns as Karnataka chief minister ahead of the trust vote

Running out of options in the full glare of the Supreme Court and facing inevitable defeat in the event of a trust vote to test his two-day-old BJP government, Karnataka's new Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa announced his decision to resign without putting the confidence motion to vote in the Karnataka Assembly on 19th May

Yeddyurappa later submitted his resignation to Governor Vajubhai Vala paving the way for the Governor to call a JD(S)-Congress coalition led by former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy to form the new government in Karnataka. Kumaraswamy said that he will take oath as CM on Monday, May 21, after he is called to form the new government by the Governor

Bilateral:

India drags US to WTO over hefty tariff hike in steel, aluminium

India has dragged the US to the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement mechanism over the imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium. India has stated that the decision will impact exports of these products to the US and it is not in compliance with global trade norms.

The country has sought consultations with the US under the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism. Seeking consultation is the first step of dispute settlement process. If the two nations are not able to reach a mutually agreed solution through consultation, India may request for a WTO dispute settlement panel to review the matter.

On March 9, US President Donald Trump imposed heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, a move that has sparked fears of a global trade war.

Trump signed two proclamations that levied a 25 per cent tariff on steel and a 10 per cent tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico.

India too has sought exemptions from the hefty tariffs. India's exports of steel and aluminium products to America stood at about \$1.5 billion every year.

Some experts, however, opined that dragging the US in the dispute over the issue is not in favour of India as New Delhi has a trade surplus with America. India's exports to the US in 2016-17 stood at \$42.21 billion, while imports were \$22.3 billion.

Both the countries are already involved in disputes at the global trade body. The disputes are in the areas of poultry, solar and steel.

The US recently filed a dispute against India on export incentives alleging these support measures harm its workers by creating an uneven playing field.

Economy:

PM Modi inaugurates 330-MW Kishenganga hydel power project in Srinagar

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 330-MW Kishenganga hydel power project in Srinagar. The project has been built by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. It has been constructed at a cost of 5200 crore rupees.

It is expected to generate 1,713 million units of electricity per annum. Jammu and Kashmir would get 12 percent of power from the project. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the ring road project in Srinagar. This will boost connectivity with Bandipora, Uri and Ganderbal.

In Jammu, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of a 1,000 MW hydroelectric power project. Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project is being built on the tributary of the Chenab river in far-flung Kishtwar district. It is expected to be completed in over five years at an estimated cost of 8,112 crore rupees. The project would be equipped with an underground powerhouse having 4 units of 250 MW each.

PM Modi will also lay the foundation stone of ring road project in Jammu. The road project is being built at an estimated cost of 2,024 crore rupees.

Zojila tunnel inaugurated: Narendra Modi on 19th May kickstarted work for Zojila tunnel, Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel, to provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. The tunnel will be cutting down the time taken to cross the Zojila pass from three and a half hours presently to just fifteen minutes. Zojila pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National highway and remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir through roads. The project aims at construction of 14.15 kilometer long two lane bi-directional single tube tunnel.

Environment

Union Environment Ministry Launches Green Skill Development Programme

The Union Environment Ministry launched the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) with an aim to train over 5.5 lakh workers in environment and forest sectors in the country. Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan also launched a related mobile app 'GSDP-ENVIS' to boost employability and entrepreneurship of the youth in the country. The app can be used for information and for applying to the courses. The GSDP-ENVIS app can be downloaded on android mobile phones without any hassle.

Sports:

First Para-National Games To Be Held Under Khelo India Scheme

The inaugural National Para Games, on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru. The Games will be held for the age group of 16 to 40 (men and women) in 10 disciplines namely para-athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para

powerlifting, shooting para-sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing

Awards:

Award for Yatra

The Yatra, an Indian charity that organizes 15-day train journeys around India to understand and build the India of smaller towns and villages through enterprise has won an award in London.

Jagriti Yatra was among a series of worldwide charities and individuals recognized for their impact within their communities at the Asian Voice Charity Awards. Jagriti Yatra organizes 15-day train journeys, covering 800 km for 400 young change-makers across India every year. It has created some of India's foremost social entrepreneurs and pioneers of enterprise-led development that cuts across socio-economic boundaries in India.