

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



JUNE 2019

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## Current Affairs — June 2019

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This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **June 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

### Audience

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Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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# Appointments

## 1. SpiceJets Chairman and MD Ajay Singh was elected to the board of IATA

SpiceJet's Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh was elected to the board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), less than three months after the airline joined the global grouping.

Founder and former chairman of the now grounded Jet Airways Naresh Goyal, who was associated with the IATA for a long time, was a member on the previous board.



### Board of IATA

The new board of the global airlines' grouping would be chaired by Lufthansa Group Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr, who took charge after the conclusion of the IATA annual general meeting at Seoul, South Korea.

Spohr will be the Chairman of the IATA Board of Governors (BoG) for a one-year term. Other board members include Air Canada President and CEO Calin Rovinescu, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce and Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker.

In March, SpiceJet became the first Indian low-cost carrier to take membership of the IATA, a grouping of around 290 airlines.

### International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Formed on: 19 April 1945

Headquarters: Quebec, Canada

DG and CEO: Alexandre de Juniac

Membership: 290 airlines in 120 countries

IATA is a trade association of the world's airlines. IATA provides consulting and training services in many areas.

## 2. RBI approved the appointment of Rakesh Makhija as chairman of Axis Bank

In March, the board of the Axis bank had approved appointment of Rakesh Makhija as chairman subject to RBI clearance.

Rakesh Makhija, independent director was appointed as the non-executive (part-time) chairman of the bank, for a period of 3 years, with effect from July 18, 2019, up to July 17, 2022.

Rakesh Makhija has held a number of top management positions within the SKF Group. Prior to joining SKF, he was the chief executive officer and managing director of Tata Honeywell Ltd.

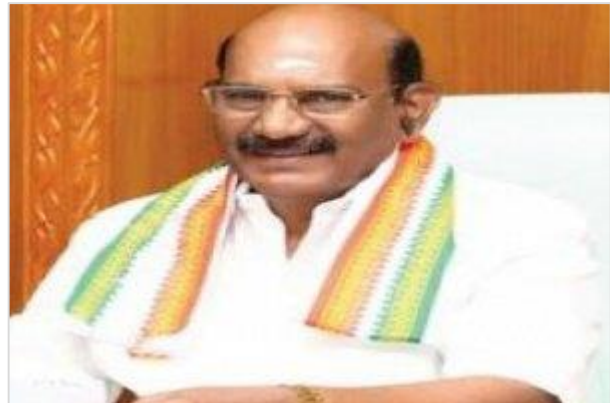


## 3. VP Sivakolundhu elected as Puducherry Assembly Speaker

Deputy Speaker VP Sivakolundhu was elected as the new Speaker of the Puducherry Assembly.

The post fell vacant after Congress' V Vaithilingam stepped down on March 21 to contest the Lok Sabha election from the lone Union Territory seat of Puducherry, which he won with a margin of 1,96,802 votes against his nearest rival K Narayanasamy of All India NR Congress.

The Congress leader, Sivakolundhu, was the sole contender for the Speaker's post.



## 4. Muhammad Bande has been elected as the next President of the 74th session UN General Assembly

Nigeria's Ambassador to the UN Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, elected as the next President of the 74th session UN General Assembly. He will succeed Maria Fernanda Espinosa. The next General Assembly session will commence in September 2019.



### Elected as per the rule

UNGA rule states that the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly should be elected from among the African States. In accordance with the rule, Muhammad-Bande has been elected.

He assumes charge as UNGA prepares to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its creation in 2020. India offered its support to Muhammad-Bande's candidature.

### Focus

Muhammad-Bande, a former University professor, said that his presidency will focus on peace and security, poverty eradication, zero hunger, quality education, climate action.

The 74th session of UNGA will focus on high-level meetings which include the High-level Political Forum, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the high-level events on Universal Health Coverage, Financing for Development and the commemoration of Beijing+25, providing major opportunities to promote the implementation of the goals and targets.

## **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**

Formed on: 1945

Headquarters: New York, United States

Members: 193

President: Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

India's Permanent Representative to the UN is Syed Akbaruddin

Note: Maria Fernanda Espinosa was only the fourth woman to be elected President of the General Assembly in the world organization's 73-year-old history and the first woman president of the world body ever from Latin America and the Caribbean region.

## **5. Rajnath Singh to chair the Committee on Parliamentary Affairs**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is to chair the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs in the second term of the NDA government. Decisions on all the parliament matters will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.



He was made a member of Cabinet Committee on Security and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.

He is also a part of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, the all-important panel on political affairs which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. All important political decisions in the ruling dispensation will be taken by the panel.

Apart from these 4 committees, he is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). In total, he is now a part of six key panels of the government.

In the last government, Rajnath Singh headed the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.



## 6. P Jayadevan appointed as IOCL executive director for TN, Pondy

P Jayadevan appointed as executive director of IndianOil Corporation Ltd for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry with immediate effect.

He succeeds R Sitharthan

He will function as the coordinator for the oil industry in the state and also in the union territory.

He will head as the chairman's secretariat at the corporate office, New Delhi.

He has over three decades of experience primarily in LPG, operations, engineering and sales.

He holds a master's degree in petroleum management from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

He is presented with the Prime Minister's Aadhaar Excellence Award for his contribution.



### About Indian Oil Corporation

Headquarters: New Delhi

Chairperson: Sanjiv Singh

Subsidiaries: Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Lanka IOC

## 7. Justice Prashant Kumar appointed as Acting CJ Of Jharkhand HC

Centre notified the appointment of Justice Prashant Kumar as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court with effect from the date present Acting Chief Justice D N Patel relinquishes charge following his appointment as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

Former Chief Justice Aniruddha Bose was appointed as Supreme Court judge on May 22.

Justice Patel appointed as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in the vacancy due to the retirement of former CJ Rajendra Menon.

He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Jharkhand High Court. In 2016, he was transferred to the Allahabad High Court.

He was transferred back to the Jharkhand High Court.



### About Justice Prashant Kumar

Justice Prashant Kumar is an Indian judge.

Presently, he is the Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.

### **8. Rakesh Sharma, Bajaj Auto Executive Director elected as IMMA Vice-President**

Rakesh Sharma, Bajaj Auto Executive Director and also a representative of SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers) elected as VP (Vice President) of IMMA, International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (based in Geneva) during the annual general meeting of (IMMA) at Yogyakarta in Indonesia.

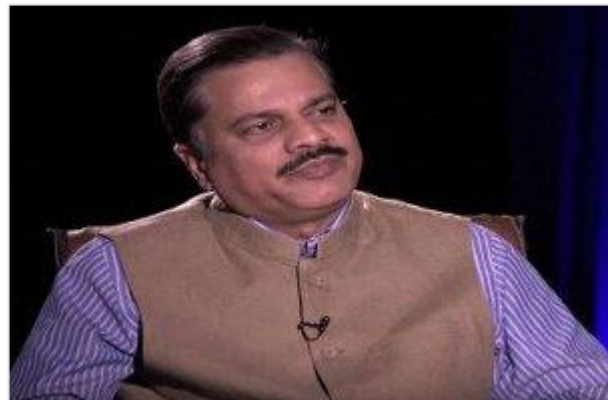


Rakesh Sharma has a wide range of experience in 2 and 3-wheeler industry and he is expected to efficiently direct IMMA towards being the trusted motorcycle manufacturers worldwide.

IMMA's president is Johannes Loman.

### **9. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra is appointed as IMD Chief**

Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist Mrutyunjay Mohapatra was appointed as the Chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD). He is popularly known as Cyclone man. He will take charge in the month of August.



Mohapatra and his team at the Cyclone Warning Division (CWD) of the IMD are noted for their accurate forecasts on cyclones which have enabled the authorities to ensure early evacuation of millions of people eventually saving many lives. In the past six years, the CWD has given accurate forecasts on cyclones including when Phailin in 2013), Hudhud cyclone in 2014 and Titli in 2018 that hit the eastern coast.

### **India Meteorological Department**

Formed on: 1875

Headquarters: New Delhi

Functions under: Ministry of Earth Sciences

Minister responsible: Harsh Vardhan

Director General: K.J. Ramesh

The IMD is responsible for the weather and climate-related forecasts in the country. It is also mandated to issue warning to people about severe weather phenomenon like cyclones, dust storms, heavy rain and snow, cold and heat waves, among others.



## 10. Mekathoti Sucharitha appointed as the Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Sucharitha, A Dalit Women was inducted into the Congress by the late Dr Y S Rajashekara Reddy (YSR) spotted her during his historic 'padayatra' in 2003.

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed Mekathoti Sucharita as the state home minister

She is one among five ministers to be selected from SC community

Her native is Poondla village near Bapatla and completed her studies at Phirangipuram, where her father was practising as a doctor.

She vowed to maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty in public life and thanked Chief Minister for reposing faith in her and promised that she would live up to the expectations.



### About Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy

Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, is an Indian politician.

He is serving as the 17th and current Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Party: YSR Congress Party

### About Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy (YSR Congress Party)

Governor: E. S. L. Narasimhan

## 11. BJP MP Virendra Kumar to be pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha

Virendra Kumar, a seven-time MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh chosen as the pro tem speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha.

He was MoS in the ministry of women and child development He was also in the minority affairs ministry in the previous government.

He is likely to be administered the oath of office at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 17, the day where newly elected Lok Sabha commences its first session.



On the first two days, the new MPs will take the oath.

The election for the speaker will be on June 19.

He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha for the first time in 1996.

He became a member of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare.

He served as a member and chairman of various committees.

He studied a Ph.D. started his political career in 1977

He became the convener of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.

He served a prison sentence of 16 months under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in protest against the imposition of Emergency when he was associated with RSS.

He was a minister of state in the previous Modi government.

### **Definition of Pro Term Speaker**

After the general election and formation of a new government, a list of senior Lok Sabha members prepared by the Legislative Section is submitted to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

He who selects a pro tem speaker.

The appointment should be approved by the President.

### **12. Narasimhan has been appointed as CEO of Reckitt Benckiser**

PepsiCo executive Laxman Narasimhan has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the British consumer goods giant Reckitt Benckiser. He will succeed Rakesh Kapoor. Narasimhan will join Reckitt as CEO-designate and be appointed to the board on July 16. He will resume his office and become group CEO on September 1.



Narasimhan's initial priorities will be to focus on delivering outperformance especially in the health business unit, and to drive the Lysol maker's plan to split the firm into two business units under the same company.

### **13. Zuzana Caputova sworn as Slovakia's first female President**

Zuzana Caputova sworn as Slovakia's first female President.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at Constitutional Court chair Ivan Fiacan parliamentary session held in Bratislava, Xinhua.

After her sworn in the ceremony she insisted to maintain and strengthen this space of the pillars of Slovakia.

She is the fifth president in the modern Slovak.

She was elected in the month of March.

She defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.



### **About Slovakia**

It is a landlocked country in Central Europe

Capital: Bratislava

Currency: Euro

### **14. Om Birla has been elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker**

Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker with the opposition Congress coming out in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s candidate. Birla will replace Sumitra Mahajan.



### **Mr.Om Birla**

He is a two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of Parliament (MP) from Rajasthan. Birla is also a member of the Standing Committee on Energy in Parliament, member of Committee on Petitions and Consultative Committee for Ministry of social justice and empowerment. He has an 86% average attendance in the House.

### **Nominated by**

Mr.Birla was nominated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, defence minister Rajnath Singh, home minister Amit Shah and minister for transport and highways and shipping Nitin Gadkari. He was also backed by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) which was led by the Congress has also decided to support Birla's candidature.

### 15. Shefali Juneja appointed as India's representative in the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

Government of India appointed Shefali Juneja appointed as India's representative in the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

The period of three years.

She is currently serving as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA).

She will replace Alok Shekhar (IAS officer ) who is named for the post in October 2015.

The council is composed of 36 states.

The council member states are chosen under three headings namely states of chief importance in air transport, states make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for air navigation.



### About the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

Founder: Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation

Founded: 1944

Headquarters: Montreal, Canada

Head: Fang Liu

### 16. Justice V Ramasubramanian appointed as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court

Justice V Ramasubramanian appointed as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

He succeeded Chief Justice Surya Kant.

The ceremony was administered by Governor Acharya Devvrat.

He served as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court

He joined as permanent Judge from November 9, 2009



### About Himachal Pradesh

Capital - Shimla

Chief Minister - Jai Ram Thakur

## 17. Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan appointed as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

Raghvendra Singh Chauhan appointed as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad.

He succeeded Chief Justice T.B. Radhakrishnan in April, 2019

He belongs to Rajasthan

He took oath before Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan.

Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi initiated swearing-in ceremony



The Registrar General of Telangana High Court A. Venkateswar Reddy read out the warrant

### About Telangana

Capital - Hyderabad

Chief Minister - K. Chandrashekar Rao

## 18. K Natarajan to be the new director general of Indian Coast Guard

Krishnaswamy Natarajan appointed as the next director general of Indian Coast Guard.

He replaces Rajendra Singh who is retiring after three and a half years of service.

K. Natarajan joined the Coast Guard on January 18, 1984.

He holds a Masters Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University.

He held various important command and staff appointments, both afloat and ashore.



The flag officer commanded all classes of ICG ships namely Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) Sangram, Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Veera, Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) Kanaklata Barua and Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) Chandbibi.

## 19. Samant Goel appointed as the new Chief of Research and Analysis Wing



The appointment comes after Samant Goel's key role in India's counter-attack on the terror infrastructure in Pakistan's Balakot. Goel is of the 1984 batch and hold the rank of Director General. He is from the Punjab cadre.

The appointment was finalized and approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). ACC is headed by PM Narendra Modi and comprising Home Minister Amit Shah.



### **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)**

Formed on: 21 September 1968

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Minister responsible: Narendra Modi, PM of India

It is the foreign intelligence agency of India.

The agency's primary function is gathering foreign intelligence, engaging in counter-terrorism, promoting counter-proliferation, advising Indian policymakers, and advancing India's foreign strategic interests.

It is also involved in the security of India's nuclear programme.

### **20. Author Amish Tripathi appointed as the Director of Nehru Centre in London**

Author Amish Tripathi named as the director of London's Nehru Centre.

Author of best-selling books like the Secret of the Nagas and Sita - Warrior of Mithila, Tripathi take over from diplomat Srinivas Gotru.

Gotru's four-year tenure ended this year.

Tripathi appointed for the post followed by an interview with a selection panel, ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabudhe.



The Nehru Centre founded in 1992

Gopalkrishna Gandhi as its founder director.

### **About Amish Tripathi**

He is an Indian author

His famous works are The Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of the Nagas, The Oath of the Vayuputras, Scion of Ikshvaku and Sita: Warrior of Mithila.

### **21. Acharya sworn in as the Governor of Manipur on 27 June**



Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya sworn in as the Governor of Manipur on 27 June. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir of the High Court of Manipur administered the oath of office to Acharya at the Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan, Manipur.



Acharya will discharge the functions of the Governor of Manipur, in addition to his current duty as the Governor of Nagaland, during the absence of Dr Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur. After swearing in Acharya said that the governor is the constitutional head of state and that he will discharge his constitutional duties.

### **Can a governor be appointed for 2 or more states?**

Yes he can.

Article 153 of Constitution: It says that there shall be a Governor for each state. The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 has facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states.

### **22. Arvind Kumar is appointed as Director of Intelligence Bureau**

Arvind Kumar, Senior IPS officers, is appointed the new Chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB). He is the IPS officer of 1984 batch. His appointment is confirmed by the Home Ministry. Arvind Kumar will succeed Rajiv Jain as IB Chief and will assume his charge on 30th June 2019.



Previously Arvind Kumar was involved in tackling the Left Wing Extremism at IB. He is considered to be an expert on Kashmir issues. The Director of the Intelligence Bureau or the IB Chief is the senior most ranked IPS officer in the IB and the senior most IPS officer in the country also.

### **23. Sharad Kumar Saraf is appointed as the new President of FIEO**

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected Sharad Kumar Saraf as its new president. Saraf will succeed renowned exporter Ganesh.



#### **Sharad Kumar**

Saraf in his earlier stints at FIEO has served twice as vice-president and four times as regional chairman. He is chairman and founder of Technocraft Industries (India).

## **FIEO**

Federation of Indian Export Organisations Interface between international trading community of India and Centre and state government, railways, ports, surface transport, financial institutions. Export development authorities in India. Its direct members contribute more than 70% of India

It was established in 1965 with headquarters in New Delhi by Union Ministry of Commerce and private trade and industry.

FIEO serves as a forum for two way transmission of views between the government departments and the exporting community.

FIEO has partnered with international agencies like International Trade Centre (ITC), World trade organisation(WTO), United nation conference on trade and development (UNCTAD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International trade money ITM.

## **24. Sarada Kumar Hota took over as NHB MD**

Government of India, Canara Bank General Manager (GM) Sarada Kumar Hota assumed charge as the National Housing Bank (NHB) Managing Director

It lasted for a period of three years.

He succeeds Sriram Kalyanaraman.

He served as the managing director of Can Fin Homes

A subsidiary of Canara Bank.

NHB wholly owned by the Government.

Last week, NHB tightened rules on leverage and capital adequacy ratio for HFCs, by capping the borrowing limit of these companies at 12 times the net owned fund as on 31 March, 2022



NHB is now 100% owned by the government.

## **About NHB**

Founded: 9 July 1988

Headquarters: New Delhi

# Awards

## 1. Former Indian President of India Pratibha Patil conferred the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca award

Former Indian President Pratibha Patil has been conferred the "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners, on 1 June 2019.

The Ambassador of Mexico to India, Melba Pria, conferred the award on Patil, who created history as this country's first woman President (2007-2012), at a special ceremony held in the MCCIA Bhavan, Pune.



### Recognized for

Mexico's highest distinction for foreigners is in recognition of their outstanding services to the Mexican nation or humanity, significant contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations between Mexico and other countries.

### Other India Awardees

Ms. Patil, 85, becomes only the second Indian head of state to get the award. Earlier, the late President S. Radhakrishna had been conferred this honour.

Other Indian recipients in various categories include Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, renowned artist Satish Gujral, industrialist Raghupati Singhania, Consul-General of Mexico in Mumbai Rajju Shroff and others.

### Order of the Aztec Eagle Award

The royal eagle is Mexico's national animal, sacred to the ancient Aztecs and it is present on the National Emblem of the Mexican flag. It is an essential symbol that links their Aztec past with the modern nation.

It is of gold and turquoise and is given to express the respect and admiration of the Mexican people.

The award was created by a decree in 1993 by the then President of Mexico, Abelardo L. Rodriguez, it is awarded to prominent heads of state or government, ambassadors after they have served in Mexico, important personalities who have made a major contribution in various fields, service to the country or its people.

The award comes in five degrees namely Collar, Sash of Special Category, Sash, Plaque, Venera and Insignia.

## 2. Maldives to confer its highest award Nishan Izzuddin on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Shri Narendra Modi is conferred with Maldives highest award 'Nishan Izzuddin'

The main aim of the visit is to further cement ties with the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi and President Solih held delegation-level talks as the two countries signed a slew of agreements to strengthen bilateral ties in a number of key areas including defence.

His last was in November 2018 to attend President Solih's swearing-in, this visit is the first by an Indian prime minister at a bilateral level in eight years.



### Relation between India and Maldives

The relations between India and the Maldives after the sworn in of President Abdulla Yameen.

The Imposition of restrictions on work visas for Indians and signing of a new Free Trade Agreement with Beijing also did not go down well with New Delhi.

The Maldives is a key to its Maritime Silk Road project in the Indian Ocean acquired Hambantota port in Sri Lanka and Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

Indian Government offered the Maldives a line of credit 800 million us dollars and three important projects have already been identified and the project report preparation is underway.

Water supply and sewerage for 36 of the Islands are implemented.

Another one is Addu Urban Development Centre

The third project is the SME Development Financing project.

### About Maldives

Capital: Malé

Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

Continent: Asia

President: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih Trending

### 3. Ministry for Information and Broadcasting instituted Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS)

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted its first Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS). It was announced by the Minister Prakash Javadekar. The aim of the award is to acknowledge the positive role & responsibility of media in disseminating the outreach of Yoga in India and abroad. The award will be conferred to Media Houses engaged in Print Media, Electronic and (Television & Radio).



Prize: The award comprises of a special medal/plaque/trophy and a citation.

Six juries will assess the contribution of Media in the popularising of Yoga. The duration of the coverage for AYDMS would be from 10th June to 25th June 2019.

Announcement of the honors will be announced and Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) ceremony in July 2019 (tentative date).

#### Categories

The award would be given under the following categories:

- 1) Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Newspapers - Eleven Sammans will be conferred in 22 Indian languages and English
- 2) Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Television - Eleven Sammans will be conferred in 22 Indian languages and English
- 3) Best Media Coverage of Yoga in Radio - Eleven Sammans will be conferred in 22 Indian languages and English

In 2019, the year the award was instituted, thirty-three awards have been conferred under the 3 categories.

#### Yoga

United Nations has universally acknowledged Yoga under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Yoga is being practiced globally around 200 countries on 21 June every year.

Yoga is a group of physical, mental, and spiritual practices or disciplines which originated in ancient India. Yoga is one of the six orthodox schools of Hindu philosophical traditions.



#### 4. JNU to confer alumni award to Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar

Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) planned to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar with the 'Distinguished Alumni Award' on the third convocation of the university

The function is to be held in the month of August.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman studied in the School of Social Sciences and the School of International Studies of the university for her MA and M Phil degrees respectively.



Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar studied in the School of International Studies where he completed his M Phil and Doctoral research with the specialisation in nuclear diplomacy.

#### About Nirmala Sitharaman

Nirmala Sitharaman is an Indian politician of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

It is currently serving as the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.

She is a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.

#### 5. Priyanka Chopra to be honoured with humanitarian award by UNICEF

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Snowflake Ball in the month of December.

The event will be held on December 3 in New York.

She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

She visited Ethiopia last month.

She is known for her contribution to social causes

She will raise her voice for children's education.

India to raise awareness against child welfare.

She is also to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.



#### About UNICEF

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States



Head: Henrietta H. Fore

Founded: 11 December 1946, New York, New York, United States

Executive director: Henrietta H. Fore

## 6. Author Amitav Ghosh was conferred the 54th Jnanpith Award

Author Amitav Ghosh was conferred the 54th Jnanpith Award. He was awarded for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature in English at a ceremony. The award was presented by the former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi in New Delhi on 13 June. Amitav Ghosh is the first English writer to get this prestigious Jnanpith Award.



### Amitav Ghosh

Amitav Ghosh is an Indian writer. He is best known for his work in English fiction. In 2007, the government of India awarded him the civilian honour of Padma Shri. He also received the Israeli Dan David Prize, together with Margaret Atwood.

His works and awards:

His book, *The Circle of Reason* won the Prix Médicis étranger which is France's top literary awards.

His work '*The Calcutta Chromosome*' won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for 1997.

Also, his work '*Sea of Poppies*' was shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize.

The book '*River of Smoke*' was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize 2011.

### Jnanpith Award

The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award. It was instituted in 1961. The award was sponsored by Bharatiya Jnanpith, a literary research organization. It is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their outstanding contribution towards literature. The award is bestowed only on Indian writers who writes in Indian languages that are included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral.

G. Sankara Kurup was the first who received the award in 1965. The award consists of a citation plaque, a cash prize of Rs.12 lakh (around), and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge and wisdom

## 7. Akshaya Patra was awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award

The Bengaluru-based NGO Akshaya Patra has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme. The award is presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, London. The award recognises a project or person who is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

Akshaya Patra was selected by an international panel of judges from nominations sent in by the World Service audience around the world. Other projects on the shortlist included UK charity WRAP, and Food 4 Education.



## Akshaya Patra

Akshaya Patra is a non-profit organisation which was established in 2000. The organisation runs one of the world's largest school meals projects in India.

The mission aims to ensure that no child is deprived of education because of hunger. It recognises that children may abandon education to do menial jobs to earn enough money to eat and also an empty stomach in the classroom can make it hard for them to concentrate.

20 years ago, the charity started its mid-day meal programme. Initially it provided 1,500 free school lunches every day. Today, it feeds 1.75 million children all over India.

The organisation has its location in various states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh.

## 8. Sahitya Akademi announces winners of 2019 Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Yuva Puraskar

Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters has announced a list of 22 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 23 recipients of the Yuva Puraskar for the year 2019. The selection of awardees in Agartala has been approved by the Executive Board of the Akademi, under the chairmanship of its President, Chandrashekhar Kambar.



The Bal Puraskar award is to be conferred upon the winners on Children's Day. The day for the Yuva Puraskar is yet to be decided.

### Prize

The winners of both the awards will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000.

### Awardees

Six books of children's poetry have won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar. The books include works by Vijay Sharma (Dogri), Naji Munauwar (Kashmiri), and Sanjay Chaubey (Sanskrit); five story books by authors including Govind Sharma (Hindi), Mohammad Khalil (Urdu), and

Swmim Nasrin (Assamese); and five authors for their total contribution in children's literature.

One folk tale author, Lakhminath Brahma, in Bodo language, three novels by Chandrakanth Karadalli (Kannada), Salim Sardar Mulla (Marathi), and Pawan Harchandpuri (Punjabi); one history book by Devika Cariapa in English, and one play by R K Sanahanbi Chanu in Manipuri

The books that won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2019 includes eleven books of poetry, including works by Anuj Lugun (Hindi), Sagar Nazir (Kashmiri), Anuja Akathoottu (Malayalam); six of short stories by authors, including Tanuj Solanki (English), Ajay Soni (Gujarati), Keerti Parihar (Rajasthani); five novels by Moumita (Bengali), and Salman Abdus Samad (Urdu).

## 9. Social activist Makarand Tiloo won 'Save Water Hero Award'.

Social activist Makarand Tiloo won 'Save Water Hero Award'.

This award presented to him in order to encourage his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city.

The ceremony was held in Pune, Maharashtra.

He is a Laughter Yoga trainer and motivational speaker and its campaign to save water by replacing leaking taps with new ones.



He was honored by the HridayMitra Foundation with the presence of writer and philanthropist Ramchandra Dekhane and foundation president Shrikant Mundada. He is the founder of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) named Jalrakshak Prabodhini.

### About HridayMitra Foundation

An organization aims to spread awareness about diseases as well as the surgeries required to remedy them.

They offer people financial guidance and also provide a free helpline.

## 10. Matri Shree Media Award was presented to 29 journalists from print and electronic media

Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were awarded the Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism. Apart from media personalities, a social activist was also presented the Bharat Mata shield at the 44th Matri Shree media award ceremony organized in New Delhi.



A former mayor of North Delhi Municipal Corporation Adesh Gupta was also felicitated for his contribution to social service.

The awards were presented by Working President of Punjab Kesari Delhi Swadesh Bhushan Jain and Chairman of the Committee Ashok Aggarwal, Harish Chopra, Ankush Aggarwal, Chetan Sharma, Ramesh Bajaj, Vishal Rana and Kailash Agrawal.

## 11. Indian engineer wins Innovation for Sustainable Development Award

Indian engineer Nitesh Kumar Jangir whose low-cost neonatal breathing device saved the lives of new-born babies across small towns.



India won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London.

Nitesh Kumar Jangir created Saans as a breathing support device to avoid deaths of premature babies from respiratory distress syndrome due to a lack of immediate access to complex medical equipment.

He received his award in the People category alongside 14 other innovators from across the 53 member-countries of the Commonwealth.

The main aim is to ensure that babies don't lose their lives due to the lack of access to a piece of technology.

This device can be used anywhere to deliver crucial support to premature babies.

### About CPAP Device

It is the world's first neonatal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device which can be used in multiple ways through direct source electricity including a vehicle's electrical supply, a rechargeable battery, compressed gas, or even manual air pumping.

It is of low cost and this award for use in similar conditions in regions like Africa.

The Commonwealth Innovation Awards receive a trophy, a certificate and 2,000 pounds in prize money.



The awards are divided with five thematic categories improving the lives of People; boosting prosperity; protecting the planet, promoting peace; and building partnerships for development.

## 12. Rachna Khaira of The Tribune News Service won the 2019 Journalist of the Year

Rachna Khaira of The Tribune News Service won the RedInk Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism Journalist of the Year 2019. She is currently working for The Huffington Post.

### Awarded for

The award is for her expose during 2018 on functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache. The investigation that was conducted by Rachna Khaira confirmed that personal data of millions of citizens were at risk of being hacked/traded for a price.

The journalists ran a series of sting operations regarding the issue and it helped to raise serious doubts over government claims that Aadhaar data stored on UIDAI servers was safe and secure.



### Other awardees

The Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019 was jointly awarded to two retired senior journalists, Dinu Ranadive, who retired from the Maharashtra Times, and Photojournalist Sebastian D'Souza, who served as Photo Editor of Mumbai Mirror.

Ranjeet Jadhav was awarded the RedInk 'Star Mumbai Reporter' award for 2019.

### About the award

The Red Ink awards are a set of annual awards which were instituted by The Mumbai Press Club in 2010. The award recognises an individual for his/her excellence in journalistic achievements as assessed by a special jury. These award grants national recognition to journalists by a professional body.

## 13. Sameer Gulati bags Rs. 3 lakhs for 'world's best coder' at TechGig Code Gladiators 2019

6th Edition of TechGig Code Gladiators 2019 Ex-champion, Sameer Gulati won the title as 'world's best coder' .

He won prize money of Rs 3 lakhs a trophy and a certificate

The event was held at Reliance Corporate Park, Navi Mumbai.

The event featured 10 hackathon theme rounds on technologies which includes Chatbots, Robotic Process Automation, Fintech, Software Testing, and New Commerce.

Around 2.6 lakh coders fought for 87 days to claim the title this year.

Around 21 per cent (55,633 out of 2,62,906) were female coders.



### **TechGig Code Gladiators 2019**

Industry: Competitive programming

Headquarters: Gurgaon, India

### **14. India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019**

India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019. Serrao edged past 26 other women from across the country in Melbourne to win the title on 27 June. She will now represent Australia in the Miss Universe Australia 2019.

Australian-Ugandan Bella Kasimba was announced the first runner-up in the finale. She is a law graduate who currently works in Department of Jobs, Precincts and regions in Melbourne.



### **Priya Serrao**

Priya was born in India and grew up in Oman she then migrated to Australia. Prior to becoming Miss Universe Australia, Serrao worked as a policy adviser for the Government of Victoria and was to be admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as a lawyer later in 2019.



# Banking and Finance

## 1. Financial Literacy Week observed during June 3-7

Financial Literacy Week 2019 was observed from June 3-7 on the theme - "Farmers" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.

Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness of key topics every year through a focused campaign.

Growth in agriculture is necessary for the overall economic growth and finance is an essential enabler for the same. RBI is actively involved in formulating policies that enhance the flow of credit to the farming community.



## 2. Overseas investors add over Rs 9,000 crore into Indian capital markets in May

Overseas investors pumped more than 9,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures.

According to the latest depositories data, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) infused around 7,920 crore rupees into equities and 1,111 crore rupees in the debt market during second to 31st of May, taking the cumulative investment to around 9,031 crore rupees. Prior to this, they had invested a net 16,093 crore rupees in April, 45,981 crore rupees in March and 11,182 crore rupees in February in the capital markets (both equity and debt).



## 3. GST collections cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark for third consecutive month

India's goods and services tax (GST) revenue collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the third consecutive month in May to Rs 1,00,289 crore, despite the slowdown in the industrial activities.

GST collections rose by 6.67 percent over the revenue of Rs 94,016 crore reported in May 2018. The revenue in May 2019 was 2.21 percent higher than the monthly average of GST revenue in the financial year 2018-19 (Rs 98,114 crore), according to a data released by the Ministry of Finance.



#### 4. G20 digital tax takes step closer

Global efforts to impose a unified tax policy on Google, Facebook and other internet giants have cleared a major hurdle ahead of a G20 summit in Japan.

The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) stated that 129 countries had signed off on a road-map to grab a fairer tax share of the companies' booming sales.



#### 5. ONGC regains most profitable public sector company title

ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer, has topped Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain the crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.

According to earnings statements of the listed companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) reported a 34 percent jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to Rs 26,716 crore.



#### 6. Forex reserves swell by \$1.8 bn to \$421.8 bn

The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion in the week ending 31st May 2019.

Reserve Bank weekly data released showed that foreign currency assets, which is a major component of the overall reserves, rose by USD 1.946 billion to USD 394.134 billion.



#### 7. RBI imposes Rs 2 crore penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank

The RBI has slapped a penalty of Rs. 2 crores on Kotak Mahindra Bank for the non-state lender's failure to adhere to the regulator's diktat on promoter shareholding.

The central bank has been engaged in a dispute with Kotak Mahindra since 2014 over its failure to meet the milestone for stake reduction by Uday Kotak, the billionaire promoter of the bank.



## 8. ZestMoney offers first-of-its-kind EMI insurance

India's largest and fastest growing consumer lending technology company ZestMoney, partnered with Digit Insurance to offer EMI insurance to the company's five million customers.



The policy will cover EMI cost in the event of hospitalization, death or permanent disability. The insurance product is specifically designed for ZestMoney's customers which can be availed while applying for a loan on the digital platform.

## 9. HDFC sells further 4.22% stake in Gruh Finance for ₹899 crore

Mortgage lender HDFC has sold over 4.22% stake in subsidiary Gruh Finance Ltd (Gruh), which is proposed to be amalgamated with Bandhan Bank for ₹899.43 crore. Post the completion of the aforesaid sale of shares, Gruh would cease to be a subsidiary of the Corporation.



Gruh is engaged in the business of providing home loans and is registered with the National Housing Bank as a housing finance company.

## 10. RBI asks banks to grout ATMs to wall, pill or floor to enhance security

Based on the recommendations of the Committee on **Currency Movement (CCM)**, the Reserve Bank have directed banks to ensure their ATMs are grouted to a wall, pillar, or floor by September-end, except those installed in high secured premises such as airports, to enhance the security of the cash vending machines.



The committee to review the entire gamut of security of treasure in transit is chaired by Shri D.K. Mohanty.

## 11. Jammu and Kashmir Bank now under RTI, CVC guidelines

The **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** will now come under the purview of **Right to Information Act** and **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** guidelines as per the decisions taken by the Board of Directors of the **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** to ensure **greater transparency** and **accountability**.



## 12. RBI fines HDFC Bank Rs 1 crore

**Reserve Bank** fined country's largest private sector lender **HDFC Bank Rs 1 crore** for not reporting **frauds** and **non-compliance** with other directions.

The fine pertains to submission of forged **bill of entries (BoEs)** by certain importers to HDFC Bank for remittance of foreign currency.



## 13. CBDT directs I-T department to share info of loan defaulters with banks

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** has directed the **Income Tax Department** to share in "**public interest**" the details of **assets** and **accounts** of all such loan defaulters whose details are requested by the **public sector banks**.



The policy move is aimed to tighten the noose on such entities and extract recovery of public money.



# Bills and Acts

## 1. Triple Talaq Bill tabled in the very first session of Parliament in the NDA government

The second term of Narendra Modi government is likely to place the controversial Triple Talaq Bill in its very first session of Parliament. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance was promulgated on February 21, 2019.

An ordinance will lapse after six months of the promulgation. The bill should be passed by both sessions of Parliament within 45 days after the first sitting of Parliament.



The Modi government's government in its first tenure has failed to get the Bill cleared in the Rajya Sabha as the Opposition opposed the criminality clause. Even after removing the clause the government could not table the Bill, owing to continuous disruptions.

### Ordinance

The ordinance is a decree or law promulgated by a state or national government without the consent of the legislature.

Article 123 of the Constitution of India grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session. The governor of a state can also issue ordinances under Article 213 when the state legislative assembly is not in session.

Ordinances cease to operate either if Parliament/State assembly does not approve of them within six weeks of once both houses of the Parliament are in session, or if disapproving resolutions are passed by both Houses.

## 2. The Union Cabinet approved two Medical Bills that was lapsed in the 16th Lok Sabha session

The Union Cabinet approved the two Medical Bills, Indian Medical Council (Amendment Bill), 2019, and the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment Bill), 2019. Both the bills had lapsed in the 16th Lok Sabha session.

The Bills are to be reintroduced in the upcoming Parliament session.



### Indian Medical Council (Amendment Bill), 2019

The Bill is aimed at bringing in accountability, transparency, and quality in the governance of medical education in the country. The bill will also provide for supersession of the Medical Council of India (MCI) for a period of two years from August 26, 2018.

The Board of Governors shall exercise the powers and functions of the MCI as assigned under the IMC Act, 1956. The Board of Governors (BoG) members will be increased from existing 7 to 12.

### Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment Bill), 2019

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment Bill), 2019 is intended to extend the period for reconstitution of the Central Council from an existing period of one year to two years. Also, the tenure of the Board of Governors will be extended for a further period of one year with effect from May 17, 2019.

### Dentists Act, 1948

The Centre has also approved the introduction of a Bill to amend the Dentists Act, 1948. The Bill aimed to make the Dental Council of India more effective. The Bill is expected to restructure the Dental Councils. Also, the representation of Central government members and elected members would no longer be made mandatory in the Dental Councils.

## 3. Union Cabinet cleared NDIAC Bill, 2019 on institutionalised arbitration

The Union Cabinet has cleared the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2019, which provides for setting up of an independent and autonomous body for institutional arbitration.

It also aims to acquire and transfer the undertakings of International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) with effect from March 2 this year.





The Bill provides to replace and repeal the NDIAC Ordinance, 2019.

The proposed New Delhi International Arbitration Centre is headed by a chairperson, who has been a judge of the Supreme Court or a judge of a high court or an eminent person, having special knowledge and experience in the conduct or administration of arbitration.

#### 4. Fresh bill to ban Triple Talaq to be introduced in Lok Sabha

A fresh bill to ban the practice of instant triple talaq introduced in the Lok Sabha.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 is been listed in the Lok Sabha's agenda replace an ordinance

This is issued in February by the previous BJP-led NDA government.

The 16th Lok Sabha the previous bill had lapsed pending in the Rajya Sabha.

The Bill proposes to make the practice of instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat) a penal offence.

The new bill is a copy of the ordinance in force.

Under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Ordinance, 2019

The divorcing through instant triple talaq is illegal, void and will attract a jail term of three years for the husband.



#### 5. Lok Sabha passed the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha passed the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 26 June. The amendment of sub-section (v) of Section 2 of the SEZ Act, 2005 will make a trust or any entity notified by the Central government eligible for consideration of grant of permission to set up a unit in special economic zones. The Bill aims at improving and encouraging more investments and introducing features including single-window clearance and to ease imports and exports.



#### Ordinance

The Bill will replace the ordinance promulgated in February 2019. The ordinance seeks to amend the definition of a person under the SEZ Act 2005, which will enable a trust to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit.

Exports from SEZs rose 21% on year to Rs 7 lakh crore in FY19. As of March 31, there were 232 SEZs, of which 25 are multiproduct and the rest are sector specific, with 5,109 approved units.

## 6. Lok Sabha passed the Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State, Ministry of AYUSH presented the Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha. It passed the Bill on 27 June. Once Rajya Sabha passes the Bill, it will replace the ordinance issued in the same regard by the previous government. This was the second bill to be passed in Lok Sabha, in the second term of NDA government, after the Special Economic Zone (Amendment) Bill 2019.



### Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 enables the government to extend the tenure of the Board of Governors (BoGs) for a further period of one year, with effect from May 17, 2019. The BoGs have been entrusted with the affairs of the Central Homeopathy Council.

The Board of Governors constitutes of eminent and qualified homoeopathy doctors and eminent administrators.

The opposition parties opposed the Bill and demanded that the government should further examine the proposed legislation and provide supervision mechanism for homoeopathy and ayurvedic medical institutions.

### Homeopathy Central Council Act, 1973

The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 was enacted for the constitution of the Central Council of Homeopathy, along with the maintenance of the Central Register of Homeopathy and matters related to the field of homoeopathy.

The Act was amended and passed in December 2002 as Homoeopathy Central Council Amendment Act, 2002. The amendment was to make provisions and seek permission from the central government for the setting up of new colleges or starting new courses or increase the admissions in the existing colleges. Despite the amendment many homoeopathic colleges are still struggling to meet the required standards necessary for quality education.

## 7. Rajya Sabha cleared the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Rajya Sabha cleared the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on June 27. that seeks to allow trusts to set up units in special economic zones, a day after the Lok Sabha passed the measure. The Bill will replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, promulgated in March. The amendment of sub-section (v) of Section 2 of the SEZ Act, 2005 will make a trust or any entity notified by the Central government eligible for consideration of grant of permission to set up a unit in special economic zones. The Bill aims at improving and encouraging more investments and introducing features including single-window clearance and to ease imports and exports.



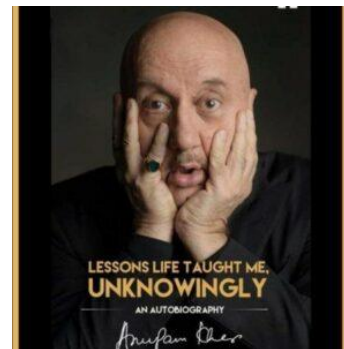
# Books & Authors

## 1. Anupam Kher pens his autobiography: “Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly”

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher is coming out with his autobiography, “Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly”.

Anupam Kher is one of the most prolific actors in the Indian film industry who has acted in over 530 films in several languages, both in India and the West.

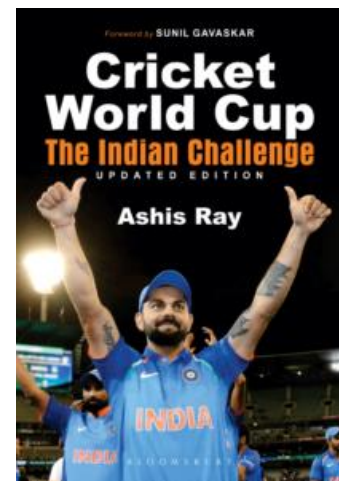
The book, which has in it the life story of Anupam Kher is set to hit the stands on 5th August.



## 2. Ashis Ray’s Book On World Cup “Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge” Launched

“Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge” – a book on the history of the tournament from an Indian perspective by veteran broadcaster and writer Ashis Ray – has been formally unveiled by the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Tom Harrison.

The book is written in the most comprehensive way and is a remarkable eye-witness history of the Cricket World Cup with an Indian perspective to it.



### 3. Meenakshi Lekhi's first novel: The New Delhi Conspiracy

"The New Delhi Conspiracy" is Meenakshi Lekhi's first novel to be published soon. She has co-written it with Krishna Kumar. The novel will be published by Harper Collins.

Meenakshi Lekhi is a politician from the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP).

The book is expected to shake the world of politics to a certain extent.





# Business and Economy

## 1. World bank retains growth forecast for Indian economy at 7.5%

The **World Bank** retained its forecast of **India's growth rate at 7.5%** for the current financial Year 2019/20.

In its **Global Economic Prospects report**, the World Bank also mentioned that growth rate is expected to remain the same for the next two fiscals.



## 2. JLR inks pact with BMW to develop next-gen electric vehicles

**Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover has** joined hands with **BMW** to develop next-generation electric drive systems.

The two partners will invest jointly in research and development, engineering and procurement with an aim to provide the necessary economies of scale to support increased consumer adoption of electric vehicles.



## 3. Repo rate reduced to 5.75%: RBI's 2nd bi-monthly monetary policy statement

The 2nd Bi-Monthly monetary policy statement has been released.

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** at its meeting decided to:

- Reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points to 5.75% from 6.00% with immediate effect, and**
- Lower the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7% due to slowdown in domestic activities and escalation in global trade war.



#### 4. Dell emerges as the most trusted brand in India in 2019: TRA

According to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research, "Dell" has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019. With 31% Brand Trust Index (BTI) difference from Dell, auto brand Jeep makes a dramatic entry in the second spot.

LIC and Amazon are ranked on the third and fourth spots and Apple iPhone emerged as India's fifth most trusted brand.



#### 5. Rating agencies should disclose the probability of defaults: SEBI

According to a recent circular by SEBI, **rating companies** will now create a uniform probability of default benchmark for **each rating category** on their website, for **one-year, two-year** and **three-year** cumulative default rates, both for the **short term** and **long term**.

Rating agencies also have to disclose factors that could potentially impact the rating of the instruments and it also include an **assessment of financials**.



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम बोर्ड  
Securities and Exchange Board of India

#### 6. RBI to infuse Rs 12,500 crore into the financial system through bond purchase

The **Reserve Bank of India** will infuse **Rs 12,500** crore into the financial system through bond purchases under the **Open Market Operation (OMO)**.

The RBI uses open market operations (OMO) for injecting liquidity into the system through the purchase of government bonds (G-Sec).



## 7. Facebook launches cryptocurrency "Libra"

**Facebook** has launched a digital currency called **Libra** that will allow its billions of users **to make financial transactions** across the globe.

Libra is being touted as a means to connect people who do not have access to traditional banking platforms.

Technology to make transactions with Libra will be available as a standalone app as well as on WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger platforms as early as **2020**.



## 8. Fitch cuts India growth forecast to 6.6% for 2019-20 fiscal

In its latest **Global Economic Outlook**, the global rating agency **Fitch** lowers **India's growth forecast** from **6.8% to 6.6%** for the current fiscal, as manufacturing and agriculture sectors showed signs of slowing down over the past year.

Fitch also retained its **GDP growth** forecast for the next fiscal (**2020-21**) at **7.1%** and **7.0%** for **2021-22**.



## 9. EAC-PM releases analysis on robustness of India's GDP estimation methodology

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister releases a detailed note titled 'GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts'.

The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements:

- Incorporation of **MCA21** database.
- Incorporation of the Recommendations of **System of National Accounts (SNA)**, 2008.



This change was in line with other countries that have changed their methodologies in line with **System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008** and revised their respective GDP figures.

## 10. Government to set up 51 incubators for aspiring entrepreneurs

The **GoI** will set up **51 new incubators for startups** in the information and communications technology space across India as part of its **Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (Tide) 2.0** scheme.



Tide 2.0 will offer **financial and technical** support to incubators **supporting ICT startups** that are involving usage of deep **technologies** including **artificial intelligence, blockchain, robotics, and internet of things** in "pre identified areas of societal relevance".

## 11. 249 startups given financial support with FFS: DPIIT

According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Fund of Funds for Startups have provided financial support to 249 startups in last 3 years.

The DPIIT is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India is the operating agency for FFS.

- iii. FFS contributes to the corpus of SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- iv. The AIFs in turn have to invest at least twice the contribution under FFS in startups.



## 12. Group of Secretaries constituted on e-Commerce

A Standing Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been constituted on e-Commerce by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

GoS under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is constituted to ensure inter-ministerial/inter-departmental coordination on resolving issues, cutting across Ministries and Departments of Government of India in e-Commerce.





### 13. Tech Mahindra signs contract with Airbus

IT firm Tech Mahindra has signed a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.

The contract aims to capitalize on the specialized skills and competencies in the growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.



### 14. SEBI sets up panel to review margins on derivatives

**NSE Clearing Ltd.** will head the panel set up by **SEBI** to review margins on derivatives. The panel will submit its recommendations to the **Secondary Market Advisory Committee**.

These **margins on the derivatives** segment are **pushing up the cost of trading** while **not managing risk** in the most efficient manner.



### 15. RBI allows ARCs to buy financial assets from peers

The **Reserve Bank of India** has allowed **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to **buy financial assets** from other **ARCs**. The transactions must be settled in cash between the 2 entities.

In view of amendment to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002, it has been decided to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from other ARCs.





## 16. RBI relaxes leverage ratio for banks

The **Reserve Bank** relaxed the **leverage ratio (LR)** to **4%** for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (**DSIBs**) and **3.5%** for **other banks**. This has been done to help them boost their lending activities.

The reduced leverage ratio will be **effective from** the quarter commencing **October 1, 2019**.

The leverage ratio, as defined under Basel-III norms, is Tier-I capital as a percentage of the bank's exposures.



## 17. CBDT directs I-T dept. to share info of loan defaulters with banks

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** has directed the **Income Tax Department** to share in "**public interest**" the details of **assets** and **accounts** of all such loan defaulters whose details are requested by the **public sector banks**.



Central Board of Direct Taxes  
(CBDT)

The policy move is aimed to tighten the noose on such entities and extract recovery of public money.

## 18. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigns

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has quit six months before the scheduled end of his term. He had joined RBI on January 23, 2017.

**Viral Acharya** was in charge of the Financial Stability Unit, Monetary Policy Department, Department of Economic and Policy Research, Financial Markets Operation Department, Financial Market Regulation Department, among others at the RBI.



# Committees

## 1. MoU Signed Between IBBI & SEBI for Better Implementation of IBC

An MoU was signed between IBBI and SEBI towards effective implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The MoU has in it new rules and regulations that cater to debt-equity relationship.

The MoU seeks to promote entrepreneurship and debt market.



# Deaths

## 1. Veteran industrialist BM Khaitan passes away

Veteran industrialist and Williamson Magor Group patriarch Brij Mohan Khaitan died on 1 June 2019 at his residence in Kolkata. He was 92. Khaitan is survived by his younger son Aditya and daughter Divya Jalan. Also known as the “evergreen tea man of India” globally, he had made the tea industry “Indian-owned” in the twilight era of independence.



### Mr. Khaitan's career

Khaitan had recently resigned as nonexecutive chairman from the boards of Eveready Industries and McLeod Russel. He continued to serve as chairman emeritus in both these firms. Considered a visionary, he has left an indelible mark on the world of entrepreneurship, education, business ethics, and service to mankind.

Khaitan developed the Williamson Magor Group as the largest tea producer in the world. After making his fortune in the tea business, he acquired the Indian business of Union Carbide, Eveready Industries, in 1993, pipping the Wadias of Bombay Dyeing in a \$96.5 million deal. It was the largest corporate takeover then. His demise marks the end of an era and loss of a leader and guide for the Indian tea industry.

## 2. Ex UEFA chief Johansson passed away at 89 due to a short illness

Ex-UEFA chief Johansson, also known as the father of Champions League, passed away due to a short illness. He was 89.

He oversaw the introduction of the Champions League during a 17-year reign as president of European soccer's governing body. He led UEFA from 1990-2007. He was succeeded by former France great Michel Platini in a presidential election.



His career as a sports administrator began in the 1960s. He became president of elite Swedish football club AIK, and then head of the Swedish football federation prior to his election as UEFA chief in 1990. In 1998, he was defeated by Sepp Blatter in his bid to become head of football's global federation FIFA.

Under Johansson's leadership at UEFA, the Champions League was born. It replaced the old European Cup tournament and became the world's most prestigious club competition.

He has also presided over the growth of the European Football Championship, with the number of finalists doubling from eight to 16.

### 3. Veteran playwright, actor and director Girish Karnad passed away

Veteran director, playwright and actor Girish Karnad passed away at the age of 81 on 10th June 2019. Karnad died due to a prolonged illness.



#### His career

Karnad made his acting and screenwriting debut in a 1970 on a release called 'Samskara' which won the President's Golden Lotus Award.

He served as the Director of the Film and Television Institute of India during 1974-1975. He was also the Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of the Performing Arts from 1988 to 1993. In the early 1990s, he hosted the Turning Point, a science magazine, on Doordarshan.

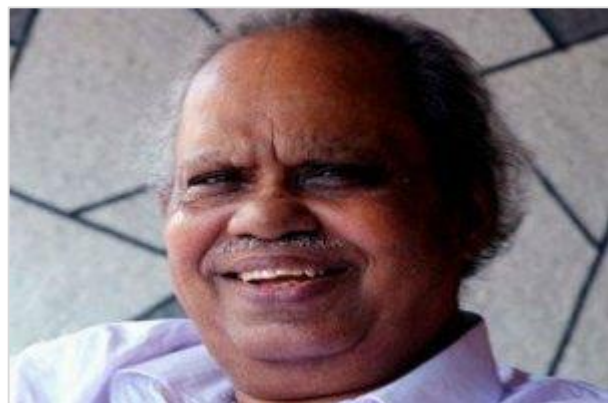
The Jnanpith awardee's plays have been translated into English and several Indian languages. His plays have been directed by directors like Alyque Padamsee, Ebrahim Alkazi, Arvind Gaur, BV Karanth, Zafer Mohiuddin, Satyadev Dubey, Shyamanand Jalan, Amal Allana, Vijaya Mehta and Prasanna.

#### Awards

Girish Karnad was conferred with Padma Shri award in 1974 for contributions to theatre. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for literature.

### 4. Poet and lyricist Pazhavila Ramesan passed away on 13 June

Poet and lyricist Pazhavila Ramesan passed away on 13 June 2019 at Thiruvananthapuram. He was 83. He was ailing for some time.



#### Pazhavila Ramesan

Ramesan had received the 2017 Kerala Sahitya Akademi award for overall contributions. He wrote lyrics for Malayalam movies such as Njattadi, Aashamsakalode, Uncle Bun, Malootty, and Vasudha. He was co-editor of K. Balakrishnan's Kaumudi Weekly in the sixties. He worked at the State Institute of Languages in various capacities till 1993.

He is a recipient of various awards, Ramesan brought out poetry collections such as Mazhayude Jalakam, Njan Ente Kadukalelikku, and Pazhavila Ramesante Kavithakal, besides collections of his writings such as Ormayude Varthamanam, Mayatha Varakal, and Nervera.



## 1. Rs 21,738 Crore Naval Helicopters to be new Govt's First Defence Buy

The Rs 21,738-crore procurement of 111 light Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH) for the Navy is on track to be the first big procurement of the new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

At least three international original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) submitted proposals to build their helicopters through an Indian industry designated as "strategic partner" (SP).

The OEMs who have responded include Lockheed Martin, Airbus and Bell Helicopters.



The proposal for building 111 helicopters allows the OEM to deliver the first 16 from its home production facility, but at least 95 helicopters must be manufactured in India with an ambitious level of 60 per cent indigenisation stipulated.

This NUH acquisition, which the defence ministry green lighted on August 25, is the first one being processed under the SP procurement model.

## 2. Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became the first IAF woman pilot to fly Hawk jets

Flight Lt. Mohana Singh becomes the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day on a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.

She landed after a grueling 4-aircraft combat sortie at Kalaikunda Air Force station in West Bengal.

The other women officers - Bhawana Kanth and Avani Chaturvedi - joined the fighter stream in June 2016.

Last week, Flight Lt. Bhawana Kanth became the first daytime woman fighter pilot to fly a MiG-21 Bison.



She involved flying both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions.

She has undertaken many practice missions which involved firing of rockets, guns and dropping high caliber bombs and has also participated in various Air Force level flying exercises.



She has a total of over 500 hours of incident-free flying of which 380 hours are on the Hawk Mk 132 jet.

## **Mohana Singh**

Mohana Singh Jitarwal is one of the first female pilots of India.

She was declared as the first combat pilot along with two of her cohorts, Bhawana Kanth, and Avani Chaturvedi.

All three women pilots were inducted into the Indian Air Force fighter squadron in June 2016.

### **3. Indian Navy deployed P-8I long range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti piracy**

Indian Navy deployed its P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden. This is the second time the P-8I is operated from Salalah for anti-piracy in 2019. It was operated from there first January. It is an expansion of its Mission Based Deployments (MBD) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



#### **P-8I**

The P-8I provides long-range Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA). The P8I is long-range anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft capable of broad-area, maritime and littoral operations.

India had placed orders for 12 P-8 India maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare from the US under a USD 2.2 billion dollar deal in 2012.

Also, the country had ordered four more planes to carry out extensive surveillance of the Indian Ocean region and the country's exclusive economic zone.

#### **Anti-piracy patrol**

India has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the commercially crucial Gulf of Aden, since 2008. The anti-piracy patrols have been escorting Indian flagged vessels and ships of other countries have also been provided protection.

The Indian Navy has escorted 3,440 ships, of which 3,027 were of the foreign flag and 413 Indian flags, till date. The Navy now maintains a ship at every choke point in the IOR at any point of time under the MBD concept.

The aircraft have also helped in detection of Chinese nuclear and conventional submarines operating in the Indian Ocean and waters close to India.

#### **India's maritime engagement**

As part of expanding engagement maritime engagement, India has stepped up cooperation with Indian Ocean littoral states and maritime neighbours. Under the Neighbourhood First policy, the Navy undertakes Joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius and Coordinated Patrols (CORPAT) with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia.

#### 4. Indian Army commissioned air quality monitor at Fort William as a part of 'Go Green' initiative

'Go Green' initiative, a "Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS)" at Fort William Military Station.

Lt Gen M M Naravane, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, commissioned the system, which monitors air pollution on a real time basis.

The CAAQMS at the Eastern Command headquarters will measure air pollution including particulate matter throughout the year.



It also displays wind speed, direction, ambient temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure and rain gauge.

The data can be remotely monitored on internet and collated into various desired formats.

#### About Indian Army

Founded: 1 April 1895, India

Headquarters: New Delhi

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

#### 5. India and France to carry out Garuda, a two week long mega air exercise

Indian Air Force and French Air Force have planned to carry out Garuda, a two-week-long mega air exercise, beginning on July 1 in France. The aim is to boost the military-to-military ties between the two countries. A fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force will engage in dogfights with France's Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the 'Garuda' exercise.



Other assets include mid-air refueller will also be sent to France by the IAF. It will be one of the largest air exercises between the two strategic partners. The exercise will also provide an opportunity to a sizeable number of IAF pilots to have a close look at the Rafale jets being operated by the French Air Force.

India had signed a government-to-government deal with France in 2016 to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of about Rs.58,000-crore. The first Rafale jet is scheduled to be delivered in September.

## 6. India to buy 100 more SPICE bombs, signed Rs 300 crore deal with Israel

The Indian Air Force signed a deal with Israel to buy more than 100 SPICE 2000 bombs, worth around Rs 300 crore.

SPICE bombs were used by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attack the madrasa of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, in response to the terrorist attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama which resulted in the martyrdom of 40 CRPF personnel.



### About SPICE bomb

Standoff range: 60 kilometres

Manufacturer: Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Defence Systems

### About Israel

Capital: Jerusalem Trending

Currency: Israeli new shekel

Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

## 7. BSF officer appointed as head of its Tekanpur-based academy

Border Security Force (BSF) appointed as the head of its Tekanpur-based academy, the alma mater of the officers of the country's largest frontier-guarding force.

S S Chahar took over the charge of the academy's director -- an Additional Director General (ADG) rank -- a senior official said.

He is the 13th officer of the cadre to have been elevated to the second top post in the organisation in the history of over 50 years.

He served on both the western and eastern frontiers of the country.



BSF guards the important Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh respectively.

Chahar, honours like the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) and police medals for meritorious and distinguished services under his belt.

## About BSF Academy

The BSF academy is located in Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh, near Gwalior.

It is also home to institutes of national importance like the tear smoke unit (the only factory in the country to produce tear smoke shells and similar ammunition) and the national training centre for dogs.

The ADG rank is very rarely occupied by a BSF officer as only one post is reserved for them and the rest four are taken by Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, who join the central force on deputation.

The academy trains BSF officers who come to it after clearing the UPSC exam and after graduating from it, they are posted as assistant commandants.

The BSF has a strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel and apart from rendering its primary task of guarding the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, it also conducts anti-Naxal operations and assists the state police units in undertaking law-and-order and counter-insurgency duties.

## 8. Lt Gen PJS Pannu designated as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (operation)

Lt Gen PJS Pannu take over as the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations) from Air Marshal Rajeev Sachdeva on June 1.

He is currently posted as Deputy Chief Integrated Defence Staff (Doctrine Organisation and Training).

The General Officer is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy and was commissioned into 22nd Battalion, The Maratha Light Infantry (MLI) on December 13, 1980, and commanded the battalion from May 1999 to February 2001 in Uri Sector (Jammu and Kashmir) during Operation VIJAY.

General Officer an instructor in the prestigious Indian Military Academy.

He has also held important appointments in various Formation Headquarters and Army Headquarters such as General Staff Officer grade 1 and Director in Military Operations Directorate, Colonel Military Secretary at HQ 1 Corps,

He has commanded an Infantry Brigade in Kashmir Valley, has been Commandant of MLI Regimental Centre, commanded an infantry division in the North East.

General Officer served as ADG MO and DG Infantry before taking over a prestigious Corps in the Northern Command.



## 9. Cabinet approved the setting up of Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO)



The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO), a new agency, which will develop sophisticated weapon systems. The approval aimed to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space.



### Members of DSRO

The agency will be headed by a Joint Secretary-level scientist. DSRO would constitute a team of scientists which would be working in close coordination with the tri-services integrated Defence staff officers.

### Functions of DSRO

DSRO will be entrusted with the task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.

It would provide the research and development support to the Defence Space Agency (DSA).

### About DSA

Defence Space Agency (DSA) will constitute of members from the three services. The aim of setting up of DSA is to help the country fight wars in the space.

DSA is being set up under an Air Vice Marshal-rank officer in Bengaluru. It will be gradually taking over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.

## 10. DRDO successfully tested the indigenously developed HSTDV along with several technologies

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden test of an indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) along with several technologies on 12 June.



The HSTDV missile was successfully launched from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. The missile was tracked by various radars, telemetry stations and electro optical tracking sensors through its course. It HSTDV being developed by DRDO with assistance from Israel and the UK and Russia.

### Aim



The project aims to serve multiple military and civil purposes. It also intends to develop a hypersonic vehicle that will be powered by a scram-jet engine. The HSTDV demonstrated the performance of a scram-jet engine at an altitude of 15 km to 20 km.

### Scram-jet technology

Scram-jet technology is dual-use technology. It will have multiple civilian applications when developed successfully. Scram-jet technology has the ability to fly at speeds in excess of Mach 6 while using atmospheric oxygen as oxidizer.

It will also be available for long-range cruise missiles. The combustion of fuel takes place in a chamber in the missile at supersonic speeds, in scram-jet technology. It can be used for launching satellites at low cost.

Till now, India is using ram jet system. In ram jet system, the system collects the air it needs from the atmosphere during the flight at subsonic speeds and the propellants burn in the combustion chamber.

## 11. Turkey rejected US' ultimatum to back down on Russian missile deal

Turkey announced that it will not back down from its decision to buy Russian S-400 missile defense systems despite U.S.'s ultimatum. This has created tension between Ankara and Washington, the NATO allies.

The S-400s are not compatible with NATO's defense systems. US said it would compromise its F-35s, which Turkey also plans to buy. Turkey has proposed that the allies form a working group to assess the impact of the S-400s, but has yet to receive a response from the United States.



### US' urge

U.S. urged Turkey to abandon its purchase of a Russian missile defence system. If Turkey does not end the deal, U.S. said that it would expel the Turkish pilots training on the F-35 fighter jet programme.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu suggested an offer to set up a joint working group to resolve U.S. concerns.

### Turkey

President: Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Vice President: Fuat Oktay

Capital: Ankara

Currency: Turkish lira (₺) (TRY)

## 12. Operation Sunrise was carried out between India and Myanmar to target militant group

Operation Sunrise 2 is a coordinated military operation which was carried out between India and Myanmar to target militant groups. The Indian army and Myanmar Army carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas from May 16. The operation targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.



### First Phase

The first phase of "Operation Sunrise" was conducted in March along the Indo-Myanmar border. In the operation a number of camps of north-east-based militant groups were busted.

### Second Phase

During "Operation Sunrise 2", the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB). Nearly six dozen militants belonging to these groups were nabbed and several of their camps destroyed during the operation.

India has been pushing for deeper coordination between the armies of the two countries while guarding the border.

## 13. Indian Navy to build 6 submarines

Indian Navy issued an 'Expression of Interest' for shortlisting potential strategic partners.

The construction of six P-75 (I) submarines costing nearly ₹45,000 crore.

This is the second project being undertaken under the latest Strategic Partnership (SP) Model.

The procurement of 111 naval utility helicopters (NUH) are obtained recently.



They provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India.

The latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project.

'Make in India' issued the Expression of Interest(s) for shortlisting of potential Indian Strategic Partners (SPs) for construction of six conventional submarines for P-75(I) project of the Indian Navy on June 20.

The case was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council on January 31.

The Expression of Interest (EoI) for shortlisting of Indian strategic partners been uploaded on the Defence Ministry and Navy websites.

The EoI for shortlisting of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will be issued in two weeks.

## About Indian Navy

Founded 1612

Country India

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS):Admiral Karambir Singh

## 14. Indian Navy launches Operation Sankalp in Gulf of Oman

Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Their main aim is to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area.

This deployment depends on the following recent maritime incidents in the region.

INS Chennai and INS Sunayna deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations.

An aerial surveillance in the area done by IN aircraft.

Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) of Indian Navy watch over the movement of ships in Gulf region.



## About Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

IFC-IOR, launched in December 2018

The partner nations decided to develop comprehensive maritime domain awareness and also share information on vessels of interest.

Operation Sankalp launched in escalating tension in Gulf of Oman.

The two oil tankers, one Norwegian-owned other Japanese-owned were attacked on 13 June 2019.

This incident has led to heightened tensions between Iran and the United States (US).

## About the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman

World's major oil exporters and importers in the security of the Gulf of Oman offer the only entrance from the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean into the Persian Gulf.

The Persian Gulf lies between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran  
It extends from Shatt al Arab delta to Strait of Hormuz.

# Environment

## 1. Lucknow development authority begins the construction of roads using plastic waste

The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) is constructing a road using plastic waste for the first time ever. The road is constructed from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) under a pilot project by LDA in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

The LDA has followed guidelines of the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in road construction. The research showed mixing plastic waste increases the durability of the roads by 40-50%. These roads will be more durable and will stay in good condition for a longer time. Around 8-10% of plastic waste is being mixed in coal tar. The initiative was inspired after the success of roads in many foreign countries.



## 2. Islands ice sheet lost more than two [gigatonnes](#) in a day: Researchers

Researchers have found that the Island's ice sheet has lost more than two gigatonnes (a gigaton is equal to one billion tonnes) of ice in just a day on June 13 to a widespread melting event. This is a sign that 2019 could once again set records for loss in Greenland ice.

The Danish Meteorological Institute, the Greenland melting season started very early this year on April 30. This is the second earliest in a record that stretches back to 1980. This year's start of April 30 is second only to 2016, when a very unusual weather pattern caused an early start to the melting season in mid-April.



## 3. India to host Conference of Parties (COP) -14 of UNCCD

India will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for the first time. COP-14 will be held between September 2 and 14 in Delhi. Participants:

It is expected that at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating. The Centre launched a flagship project, part of a larger international initiative called the Bonn Challenge ahead of the COP-14. The flagship project aims to enhance India's capacity for forest landscape restoration (FLR).





#### 4. Scientists has discovered a new frog species in the Northeast

Scientists from Delhi University and Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with researchers from Indonesia and the USA has discovered a new frog species in the Northeast. The frog is reddish brown in colour. It has prominent dark streaks and ash grey mottling on the lateral sides. Web is absent on its feet.

The frog has been named *Micryletta aishani*. It belongs to the Microhylid genus, the first known species of the genus was found in Sumatra, Indonesia.



#### 5. Every individual ingest 5g of microscopic plastic particles every week: Studies

Researchers said that the people could be ingesting 5g of microscopic plastic particles every week.

Micro plastics are tiny plastics pieces ranging from 5 millimeters down to 100 nanometers in diameter. Micro plastics enter our body through marine source, non-marine source and sometimes indoor dust.



#### 6. Mount Sinabung volcano erupted in Sumatra Island

Mount Sinabung volcano erupted in Sumatra Island of western Indonesia. A huge column of ash was blasted and spread 7 km high to southeast and south of crater. Mount Sinabung blew for nine minutes. It caused panic among the island's residents.

The volcanic activity was accompanied by multiple earthquakes felt in nearby villages. No casualties have been reported due to the eruption. Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country.



#### 7. Bihar government has announced to waive off 50% of the total taxes levied on e-rickshaws

The Bihar State government has announced to waive off 50% of the total taxes levied on the purchase and running of battery-propelled e-rickshaws. The announcement was made by the deputy chief minister of state Sushil Kumar Modi. The move is to combat air pollution.



3 cities of Bihar namely Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur are placed among the most 20 polluted cities of the world in a report by the World Health Organization (WHO). Seven departments of the state government have collectively prepared an integrated action plan to tackle the menace of pollution in the polluted cities of Bihar.

### 8. Indian Army commissioned a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System under Go Green initiative

Indian Army commissioned a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) at Fort William Military Station, Kolkata, West Bengal. It is a part of the countrywide Go Green' initiative.



The Air Quality Monitoring System was commissioned by Lt Gen M M Naravane, General Officer Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Command.

It will be overall sixth CAAQMS in Kolkata. CAAQMS: Along with measuring air pollution, the CAAQMS will display the wind speed, direction, ambient temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure, and rain gauge.

### 9. Europe's highest volcano Mount Etna erupted

Mount Etna, Europe's Highest Volcano and one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted spitting molten lava high into the sky. It is located on the east coast of Sicily, Italy, in the Metropolitan City of Catania.

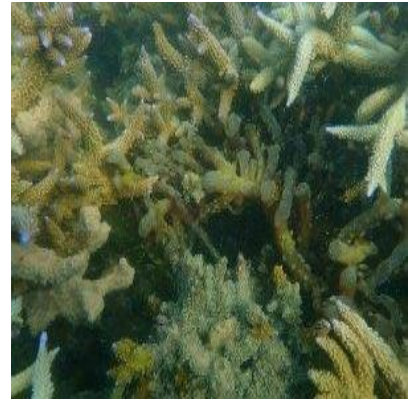


This is 2019's first eruption as the volcano on the island of Sicily as the Mount last erupted on 24 December 2018. The eruption did not affect the nearby residential areas or for flights at the closest airport at Catania. About Mount Etna: Etna is an active stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy.

### 10. Kappaphycus alvarezii seaweed spreads to coral reef areas in Valai island in GoM

The invasive *Kappaphycus alvarezii* seaweed, which smothers and kills coral reefs, has spread its wings to coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) and set to invade new coral colonies in the marine national park. Macrofaunal and fish density decreased when *Kappaphycus* cover increased.

After invading Shingle, Kurusadai and Mulli islands in Mandapam cluster of the GoM, the red algae invaded Valai island along Kilakarai coast following its cultivation in south Palk Bay.



### 11. A new species of [wasp](#) from the genus *Kudakrumia* found in Goa

Scientists have recently identified a new species of wasp from the genus *Kudakrumia* in Goa. The wasp, *Kudakrumia rangnekari*, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar. It belongs to genus *Kudakrumia*. The *Kudakrumia* is a genus of primitive wasps that is described and previously known only from Sri Lanka.

The new species was collected Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary. The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in South Goa district, of Goa. The sanctuary was established in 1968. Wasp: A wasp is any insect of the order Hymenoptera and suborder Apocrita that is neither a bee nor an ant. Wasps are adept at controlling pest populations and are regularly deployed to protect crops.



# Important Days

## 1. World Milk Day celebrated on 01st June

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) selected June 1st as World Milk Day, which celebrates the important contributions of the dairy sector to sustainability, economic development, livelihoods, and nutrition.

The theme for World Milk Day 2019 is "Drink Milk: Today & Every day." The aim is to educate people about the importance of milk in our life and society. Milk is one of the global foods, which is celebrated as a superfood all around the globe.



## 2. World Bicycle Day celebrated on 03rd June

The United Nations General Assembly declared 3 June as International World Bicycle Day.

The resolution for World Bicycle Day recognizes the uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries.



## 3. International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression observed on 4th June

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a United Nations observance each on 04th June. It was established on 19th August 1982.

Originally focused on victims of the **1982 Lebanon War**, its purpose expanded to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.





#### 4. World Environment Day celebrated on 5th June

Since its inception in 1974, **World Environment Day** is celebrated every year on **June 5<sup>th</sup>** in more than 100 countries.

The theme for World Environment Day 2019 is '**Beat Air Pollution**'.



#### 5. International Day for The Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing observed on 5 June

International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing is organized every year on 5th June.

According to the **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of US\$10–23 billion.



#### 6. World Food Safety Day celebrated on 7 June

World Food Safety Day is observed every year on 7th June.

The theme for World Food Safety Day 2019 is '**Food Safety, Everyone's Business**'.



#### 7. World Oceans Day celebrated on 8th June

World Oceans Day is celebrated on 8 June every year to remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in our everyday life.

They are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. The theme of World Oceans Day 2019 is '**Gender and the Ocean**'.





## 8. World Day Against Child Labour is observed on 12 June

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** launched the **World Day Against Child Labour in 2002** to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.



Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

The theme for World Day Against Child Labour 2019 is ***Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!***

## 9. World Blood Donor Day celebrated on 14th June

**World Blood Donor Day** celebrated by **World Health Organization** on **14th June**. The host country for World Blood Donor Day 2019 is **Rwanda**.



The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and also to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe and quality-assured blood and blood products.

## 10. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observed on 15th June

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is being observed on 15th June.

This day is observed on the 15th of June every year to voice opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people.



## 11. World Day to Combat Desertification celebrated on 17th June

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared **June 17** the "**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**" to promote public awareness of the issue.



The slogan for World Day to Combat Desertification 2019 is Let's grow the future together! India will host the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), from 7 to 18 October 2019, in New Delhi.

## 12. Autistic Pride Day observed on 18th June

**Autistic Pride Day** is being observed on **18th June** every year. Autistic pride recognizes the importance of pride for autistics and understands it not as a disease but as a difference.

Autistic Pride Day was initiated by **Aspies For Freedom**, a group that raises public awareness about autism rights.



## 13. Sustainable Gastronomy Day observed on 18th June

**Sustainable Gastronomy Day** is celebrated around the world on **18th June**.

It emphasizes the need to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play.

Gastronomy is basically the study of relationship between food and the culture.



## 14. World Refugee Day observed on 20th June

**World Refugee Day** is celebrated around the world on **20th June** to raise awareness about the precarious condition of refugees around the world who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, persecution and conflict.



Theme for World Refugee Day 2019: Step With Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day

## 15. International Day of Yoga celebrated on 21 June

The International Day of Yoga is being observed on 21st June every year.

The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. This is the **5th Edition of International Day of Yoga**.



The Theme for this year's Yoga day is **Yoga for Climate Action**.

### 16. World Music Day celebrated on 21 June

**World Music Day** is observed every year on **June 21**.

Each year there are events in over 120 countries and 700 cities around the world, not including France where there were too many events to count.

The event is also known as Fête de la Musique (or World Music Day) and was originated in France in 1982.



### 17. United Nations Public Service Day celebrated on 23 June

United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated around the world on 23rd June.

The day celebrates the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlights the contribution of public service in the development process; recognizes the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.



### 18. International Widow's Day observed on 23 June

The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day.

The day is celebrated to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need.



### 19. Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day celebrated on 27 June

The United Nations observe 27 June as the Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day.

Since 2017, Micro, small and Medium-sized businesses celebrate this day in recognition of their work in local and global economies. These enterprises, which generally employ fewer than 250 persons, are the backbone of most economies worldwide.



International Trade Center, United Nations will launch its flagship report: "The SME Competitiveness Outlook 2019: Big money for small businesses".

### 20. International Day of the Tropics observed on 29 June

The United Nations observe 29 June as International Day of the Tropics.

The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities the Tropical nations face.





## 1. US ends special trade treatment for India amid tariff dispute

The US will end preferential trade status for India next week, President Donald Trump has confirmed amid a deepening row over protectionism. India had been the largest beneficiary of a scheme that allows some goods to enter the US duty-free.



In March Trump announced that it would be revoked because India had failed to provide adequate access to its markets, but Mr. Trump gave no date.

## 2. Nayib Bukele sworn in as president of El Salvador

In the Central American country of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the nation's President. Bukele was sworn-in by the Speaker of the National Assembly in downtown San Salvador.



Bukele was elected in February to succeed Salvador Sanchez Ceren, a leftist former guerrilla.

## 3. ICA issues first UAE Permanent Residency 'Golden Card' in Abu Dhabi

UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in Abu Dhabi, as part of the Investors Permanent Residence System aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.

Brigadier Saeed Salem Al Shamsi, Executive Director of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Abu Dhabi, awarded the first permit to investor Yousuf Ali, Board Member of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI) and Chairman of the Lulu International Group.



#### 4. Jay-Z Named World's 1st Billionaire Rapper By Forbes Magazine

**Jay-Z** has been named the **world's first billionaire rapper** by **Forbes**.

Apart from a \$100 million stake in subscription-based streaming service Tidal, the 49-year-old rapper's assets also include shares in Uber and an art collection worth \$70 million each.



#### 5. Indian retail tycoon becomes UAE's first permanent expat resident

Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail tycoon **MA Yusuff Ali** has become the first expat to get the UAE's first gold card permanent residency.



**The LuLu Group chairman**, who was ranked the richest expat in UAE by the Forbes magazine, becomes the first of 6,800 investors with total investment exceeding **USD 27 billion to receive the gold card** under a scheme announced last month by **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai**.

#### 6. Russia Launches 1st Arctic Train Service

**In Russia, the first tourist train** traveling through **Russia's Arctic region** and on to Norway set off from **St. Petersburg station** with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.

The train, named, **Zarengold**, complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through, the whole trip will take 11 days and allow passengers to discover areas difficult to access by other means.



#### 7. Maldives to confer its highest award 'Nishan Izzuddin' on PM Modi

Maldives will confer 'Nishan Izzuddin' award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Male on the first leg of his two-nation tour to the Maldives and Sri Lanka. This will also be the first bilateral visit to the Maldives of an Indian Prime Minister after 2011.



### 8. Piyush Goyal leads Indian delegation to G20 Ministerial meeting in Japan

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is leading the Indian delegation for the two-day G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy beginning at Tsukuba city in Japan.

Mr. Goyal will discuss developments in the global trade situation, WTO matters, and digital trade. He will also hold dialogue with other participating Trade Ministers on current international trade and investments.



### 9. Amazon dethrones Google as top global brand: 100 Top BrandZ report

According to global market research agency Kantar in its 2019's '100 Top BrandZ Report', US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand.

The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, hence jumping from third to first place to replace Google.



### 10. Canada to ban single use plastics from 2021

Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021. He declared it a global challenge to phase out the plastic bags, straws and cutlery clogging the world's oceans.

Less than 10% of the plastics used in Canada are currently recycled. Each year a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals worldwide suffer injury or death by becoming entangled in plastic or ingesting it through the food chain.



### 11. Japan to invest Rs13,000 cr in northeast

**The Government of Japan** has decided to invest an amount of **205.784 billion Yen**, equivalent to approximately Rs.13,000 crore, in several ongoing as well as new projects in different states of India's North- Eastern region.



This was announced after a meeting which the DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh had with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu.

## 12. Global Peace Index 2019: India Ranks 141st, Iceland Tops

India's rank has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019, while Iceland remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation, as per the report by Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace.



In South Asia, Bhutan topped the index with 15th rank, followed by Sri Lanka 72, Nepal 76 and Bangladesh 101. The neighboring country Pakistan has been ranked 153rd on the index.

## 13. World's highest weather stations installed atop Mount Everest

A team of Tribhuvan University and National Geographic Society scientists and researchers have installed the **world's highest, fully automated weather stations atop Mount Everest.**



Total five weather stations, including one at a record height of 27,657 feet, were installed on the Earth's highest mountain above sea level.

## 14. Rating agencies will now have to disclose the probability of defaults: SEBI



**In Slovakia**, anti-corruption campaigner **Zuzana Caputova** was sworn in as country's **first female president**. Caputova scored a convincing victory against **Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic**.



Her allies from the Progressive Slovakia/Together party hope to use the momentum to unseat the ruling party in a 2020 general election.

### 15. Union Power Minister participates in G20 Ministerial Meeting

Union Power Minister participated in G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, Japan on 15-16 June, 2019.



# Miscellaneous

1. Prasanta Kumar Saikia Appointed as Chairperson of Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Amit Agarwal (Former Amazon India head) has been appointed as new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
3. Health insurer Max Bupa partnered with fintech platform MobiKwik to promote Micro health insurance products for MobiKwik customers.
4. Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra has been elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee.
5. Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe voted for restoring Russia's voting rights, 5 years after they were revoked over its illegal annexation of Crimean Peninsula (in 2014).
6. Govt. appointed Arvind Kumar as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) for 2 years, succeeding Rajiv Jain. Govt also appointed Samant Kumar Goel as Director of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), for 2 years, succeeding Anil K Dhasmana.
7. Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announced an annual financial health assistance of Rs.5 lakh to loktantra senanis or their spouse for treatment at private / government hospitals. Loktantra Senanis are people who were jailed during 1975-1977 Emergency under preventive detention laws.
8. June 26 - International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Proclaimed by United Nation General Assembly in December 1987 and Observed since 1989. 2019 Theme is *Health for Justice*. June 26 is also observed as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
9. RBI advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme, formulated by Indian Banks Association. It provisions Loan upto Rs 10 lakh for study in India, upto 20 lakh for study abroad and Collateral free loans upto 7.5 Lakh under Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL). Repayment period of 15 years.
10. India cancelled \$500 million arms deal with Israel for purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, after DRDO claimed that it could deliver an alternative with a partnership with VEM technologies Ltd within two years.
11. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will open a recruitment centre in Uttarakhand, as fifth ICG recruitment centre (Other 4 in Noida, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata).
12. India Signed a \$147 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank for improving basic urban services in Jharkhand and improve management capacity of urban local bodies (ULBs) in State.
13. India signed \$31.58 million Loan Agreement with World Bank Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project, that will help improve State's ability to manage its Financial Systems and lead to Better Utilization of Development Resources.
14. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) signed agreement with Telangana Government to offer payment options like UPI Collect Request, RuPay Debit and Credit Cards to users of 'MeeSeva' portal of Telangana Government. Meeseva offers 150 government services.
15. Unemployed youth having graduation degree will be given unemployment allowance by Rajasthan government. Male applicants will get Rs 3,000/month, while women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500 / month under Chief Minister

- Yuva Sambal Yojana, applicable from February 2019. Applicants must be natives of Rajasthan and amount will be given for 2 years or until they get employed.
16. Government will set up 51 new incubators for startups in information and communications technology space across India as part of its Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (Tide) 2.0 scheme. Scheme has categorized selection of incubators into three categories: Group 1 Centre (G1C), G2C, and G3C.
  17. Ireland Government will ban sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030, to combat greenhouse gas emissions and protect environment. This is one of 180 measures of Irish government published in its Climate Action Plan. Government would stop granting National Car Test (NCT) certificates to Petrol / Diesel vehicles by 2045.
  18. As per Asian Development Bank (ADB) Report, Bangladesh emerged as fastest growing economy among 45 countries of Asia-Pacific region. In FY year 2018-19, Bangladesh attained growth rate of 7.9 %, as its fastest rate since 1974. It is predicted to be 8% in FY 2019-20.
  19. India extended \$15 Million financial support to African Nation Niger, for organising African Union (AU) summit in July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger). The support extended by India was in response to a specific request by Niger government.
  20. June 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD), proclaimed in Jan 1995 by United Nations General Assembly.
  21. PM Narendra Modi accepted invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend outreach session of the 45th G7 Summit to be held in August 2019 in Biarritz (France), as a special invitee. G7 group of countries are - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, and USA.
  22. DRDO conducted First test of an indigenously developed Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha Coast. HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft, designed to cruise at Mach 6 speed with scramjet engine.
  23. Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) partnered with French National Railways (SNCF) & AFD, to support Railway Station Development Program in India. France's AFD will provide financing up to €700,000 to French Railways (SNCF), to provide technical support to IRSDC, the station development arm of Indian Railways.
  24. Chaukhandi Stupa, an ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been declared as 'protected area of national importance' by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Chaukhandi StupaName is known as 'Chaukhandi' because of its four armed plan, originally constructed in 5th Century AD.

## 1. The first session of 17th Lok Sabha from June 17th

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha will commence on 17th of this month. The Rajya Sabha will have its sitting from 20th onwards. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar stated the session will continue till 26th of next month (July).



The election for the Speaker of the Lower House will be held on 19th of June. The President will address the Joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on the 20th. The Economic Survey will be tabled on the 4th of July and the Union Budget will be presented on the 5th of July.

## 2. Nirmala Sitharaman to present First Union Budget on 05th July

The first session of the newly-elected Lok Sabha has been convened from 17th June to 26th July 2019 and the new government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present its first Budget on 05th July 2019 by Nirmala Sitharaman, who is Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs. The 40-day session will have 30 sittings.



## 3. Union Cabinet approves extension of PM-KISAN scheme

The newly-sworn in NDA government at the Centre has taken four major decisions related to farmers' and traders welfare in the first meeting of the Union Cabinet.

It has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to all the farmers in the country. Earlier the benefit of the scheme was applicable to farmers having two hectares of land.



## 4. PM Modi hikes National Defence Fund scholarship assistance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved changes to the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme for wards of deceased defense personnel under the National Defence Fund.



The quota of new scholarships for children of state police officials will be 500 in a year. The rates of scholarship have also been increased from Rs. 2000 per month to Rs. 2500 per month for boys and from Rs. 2250 per month to Rs. 3000 per month for girls.

### 5. India removes restriction on air space usage

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has removed all the temporary restrictions on all air routes in the Indian air space. The Indian Air Force had put temporary airspace restrictions on Indian air space on February 27.



Incidentally, Pakistan had extended the restriction on Indian aircraft overflying its territory till June 15 earlier this week.

### 6. Indian-origin Anita Bhatia appointed as UN Deputy Executive Director

Indian-origin Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilization, and management, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in the global body's agency focused on women empowerment and gender equality.



### 7. Kasturirangan committee submits new draft education policy to HRD Ministry

Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.



The policy draft recommends incorporation of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum, constituting a National Education Commission and curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools.

### 8. Assam government hikes parental income limit under the fee waiver scheme



Assam government has waived admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year.

All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.



### 9. Telangana celebrates its formation day on 02nd June

On the occasion of the fifth Telangana State Formation Day on 02nd June 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have extended their wishes to the people of the state.

Telangana Formation Day is celebrated on the formation of Telangana State on 2nd June every year since 2014. The State celebrates the occasion with formal events across the districts.



### 10. Telangana enhances Rythu Bandhu scheme

The Telangana Government has issued a notification to extend the Rythu Bandhu scheme for 2019-20 while enhancing the amount from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.

The scheme, which provides Initial Investment support to agriculture and horticulture crops through a grant of Rs 4000 per acre per farmer each season towards the purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour, and other field operations, has now been enhanced from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000 per acre per farmer per season.



### 11. Rajasthan government increases financial aid given to girls under 'Aapki Beti' scheme

Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme and ex-gratia payment to the families of polling personnel who die during election duty. Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died to get annual financial assistance in the state.



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Rajasthan

The amount has been increased to Rs 2,100 from Rs 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500. Similarly, the government has also increased ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of an officer killed on election duty to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 15 lakh.

## 12. Chandrani Murmu becomes the youngest MP in India's history

Odisha has a total of seven women MPs, making it the first state ever to have **33 percent or the largest share** of women MPs of its total of **21 seats**.

**Chandrani Murmu**, who has replaced **Dushyant Chautala**, was elected as Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate from the Keonjhar seat, as the youngest parliamentarian in the country.



This is in a first that a **25-year-old** engineering graduate from **Odisha** has become the youngest **Member of Parliament** to the **17th Lok Sabha**.

## 13. Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020

In an effort to raise awareness about science and environment through films, **the 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI)** will be organised in Tripura in January and February 2020.



The NSFFI debuted in Chennai eight years ago in 2011. It has covered almost all regions of the country since then including Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Guwahati and Mohali.

## 14. Nilekani panel suggests 24x7 RTGS, NEFT, elimination of all charges

To encourage digital payments, the **Nandan Nilekani committee** has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round-the-clock **RTGS and NEFT facility**, and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.



The committee, which was **appointed by the RBI** had submitted its suggestions on promoting digital payments to Governor **Shaktikanta Das** last month.

## 15. MP Cabinet passes resolution to increase reservation for OBCs to 27%

**Madhya Pradesh Cabinet** has passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** from existing **14% to 27%**.



The move will lead to the reservation in the state breaching the Supreme Court-mandated **50 percent cap to reach 63 percent**. If implemented, Madhya Pradesh will become the only state in the country to have a **27%**

quota

for

OBCs.

## 16. Draft National Education Policy revised

The **Kasturirangan committee** has revised the Draft **New National Education Policy** and effected some changes in the three-language formula.

The committee informed the government that there had been an inadvertent error in the draft submitted for public feedback.



## 17. L&T Financial Services Launches 'Digital Sakhi' in Tamil Nadu

**L&T Financial Services' (LTFS) 'Digital Sakhi'**, an educational programme aimed at digital financial inclusion of rural women, was launched in two villages of Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.

LTFS in association with Sri Aurobindo Society will train and develop a team of 100 rural women (Digital Sakhis) as digital enablers, who in turn, will train about 40,000 others in using digital modes of payments.



## 18. Tamil Nadu Gets \$287 million World Bank loan for healthcare reform

The Centre, the Tamil Nadu Government and the World Bank have signed a \$287-million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP).

TNHSRP aims to improve the quality of healthcare, reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services in the State, according to an official statement.



## 19. PM Modi forms 2 cabinet panels for growth and jobs

In a bid to spur investment and create new employment opportunities, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi set up two Cabinet committees** to deal with the two crucial issues. Both the panels, respectively on **Investment and Growth** and on **Employment and Skill Development**, will be headed by the prime minister.





The **Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth** will have Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sithataman, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal as its members.

## 20. India test fires Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from Chandipur in Odisha

India has successfully test fired **Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile** from Chandipur in Odisha.

Described as the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile with high rate of precision and accuracy, BrahMos can be fired from land, sea and air.



## 21. Government Reconstitutes 8 Cabinet Committees

The Government has **reconstituted eight Cabinet Committees**. These are Appointments Committee, Committees on Accommodation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.



The Cabinet Committee on Security will have Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has Prime Minister Modi and Mr Shah. While Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth will have the Prime Minister and Ministers of Home, Road Transport and Highways, Finance and Corporate Affairs and Railways and Commerce and Industry.

## 22. Delhi Metro becomes India's 1st project to receive power from waste-to-energy

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant. It has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.



The waste-to-energy plant set up by East Delhi Waste Processing Company Limited (EDWPCL) is based on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) involving the Delhi government and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), besides the EDWPCL.



### 23. CII launches new index to measure fiscal performance

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets.

The Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure, revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt arrive at a more holistic picture of fiscal performance than the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio according to the CII.



### 24. All states can now constitute foreigners tribunals

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has amended the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**, and has empowered **district magistrates** in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre. The amended Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019 also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. These tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, earlier unique to Assam.



### 25. NCGG and Maldives civil services commission sign MOU

The **National Center for Good Governance (NCGG)**, India's leading civil services training institution, has **entered into an MOU with the Maldives Civil Services Commission** for capacity building of 1000 Maldives civil servants over the next 5 years.

The agreement was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Male. The agreement envisages that NCGG will be the nodal institution for designing customised training modules and its implementation taking into account the requirements of the Civil Service Commission, Maldives.



### 26. India invited to G-7 outreach session

India has received an invitation from France to attend the outreach Session at the G-7 Summit to be held in France in August 2019.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee.



## 27. ICAT releases India's 1st BS – VI certificate in two wheeler segment

International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) released India's first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage – VI (BS – VI) norms that are the latest emission norms as notified by the Government of India for the two-wheeler segment. The certificate was released and handed over by Director ICAT, Dinesh Tyagi to top officials of the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers).



## 28. NDMA conducts training programme for CBRN emergencies

NDMA is conducting a basic training programme at the Deendayal Port Trust in Kandla, Gujarat, aimed at increasing the awareness and enhancing the preparedness of Seaport Emergency Handlers (SEHs) to respond to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) threats which emanate at seaports due to arrival, storage and transportation of a large amount of chemical, petrochemical and other CBRN agents.



## 29. BJP MP Virendra Kumar to be pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha

Virendra Kumar, a seven-term member of Parliament will be the pro-tem speaker of the Lok Sabha.

As pro-tem speaker, he will preside over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administer the oath of office to the newly elected MPs.



## 30. V.O. Chidambaranar port trust inks MoU with central warehousing corporation

The V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed an MoU for facilitating Direct Port Entry (DPE) of e-sealed factory stuffed export container to the port under 'Ease of Doing Business'.



With this MoU, Central Warehousing Corporation would make use of the 18,357 sqm area earmarked in the Truck Parking Terminal located opposite to Fisheries College, Tuticorin for operating and managing the DPE facility for 30 years on Annual Lease Rental basis.

## 31. Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) acquires Jaypore

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL), which retails brands such as Louis Philippe, Peter England and Van Heusen, has acquired ethnic apparel and lifestyle retailer 'Jaypore E-Commerce Pvt. Ltd' which sells ethnic fashion merchandise under its own brand 'Jaypore' for Rs 110 crore.



### 32. Very severe cyclonic storm 'VAYU' over east-central Arabian

**The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm 'VAYU'** over East-central Arabian Sea moved nearly northwards with a speed of about 13 kmph in last six hours and lay centred over East-central Arabian Sea, about 470 km west-northwest of Goa, 280 km south-southwest of **Mumbai (Maharashtra)** and 340 km nearly south of **Veraval (Gujarat)**.



It is very likely to move nearly northwards and cross Gujarat coast between Porbandar and Mahuva around Veraval & Diu region as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm with wind speed 145-155 kmph gusting to 170 kmph around morning of 13th June 2019.

### 33. Arjun Munda launches 'E-Governance initiatives for ST welfare schemes'

**Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs** launched the "**e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes**" at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. A power point presentation on these new e-governance initiatives was made on the occasion.



Munda applauded the teamwork efforts of the Ministry of Tribal affairs for these-governance initiatives for Scheduled Tribes Welfare schemes and stated that as per the "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas and SabkaVishwas", these e-governance initiatives will serve their purpose of the betterment of tribal communities across the nation.

### 34. Union cabinet clears NDIAC Bill 2019

The Union Cabinet has cleared the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2019. The Bill provides for setting up of an independent and autonomous body for institutional arbitration.



It also aims to acquire and transfer the undertakings of International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) w.e.f 2nd March 2019.



### 35. India accounts for 12% of the world's internet users

According to the annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker, India accounts for 12% world's internet users.

China has the largest base, accounting for 21% of all internet users globally, and the US comes third at 8%.



### 36. New app to help students wishing to study in the U.S.

The U.S. Embassy organised its fifth annual 'Student Visa Day' and launched 'EducationUSA India'.

It is a mobile application to provide Indian students with "current, comprehensive and accurate information about studying in the U.S."

It was launched by the Embassy in collaboration with the United States-India Educational Foundation.



### 37. Amitav Ghosh becomes the first English writer to win Jnanpith award

Renowned author Amitav Ghosh was awarded the 54th Jnanpith Award for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian Literature in English.

He was conferred the award by former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi.



### 38. HCL to roll out "Tech Bee" programme

HCL Technologies is all set to roll out "Tech Bee" programme, a company initiative under which it trains and hires students who have completed XIIth standard, across several states.

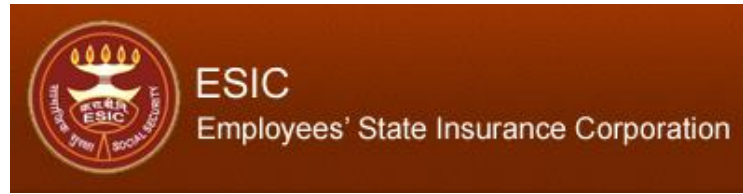
Tech Bee is HCL's early career programme in which company provides students an opportunity to start early and become financially independent and trendsetters. Enrolled students are paid stipend of Rs 10,000 per month.



### 39. Government reduces the rate of ESI contribution from 6.5% to 4%



The government has reduced the total rate of the contribution made by workers and employers towards the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI)** scheme from **6.5%** to **4%** for the first time in over two decades.



At present, nearly **4.75%** of a worker's monthly salary goes towards ESI as the employer's contribution and **1.75%** of the income is the employee's share at present. Now, **3.25%** will be the employer's share and **0.75%** the employee's.

**40. Culture Minister inaugurates the exhibition 'Astitva'**

**Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**, Minister of State (I/C) of Culture & Tourism, GoI inaugurated the exhibition titled "**Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe**".



The inauguration took place at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.

**41. Akshaya Patra wins BBC award**

Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organization, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award. It runs one of the world's largest school meals project in India.



The award, presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol this week, recognizes a person or project that is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

The Bengaluru-based NGO was selected by an international panel of judges from nominations sent in by the World Service audience around the world.

**42. 45 individuals to get Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar**

The Sahitya Akademi announced the name of 22 winners for Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 23 winners for Yuva Puraskar. The winners of both the awards will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000.



Six books of children's poetry, including works by Vijay Sharma (Dogri), Naji Munauwar (Kashmiri), and Sanjay Chaubey (Sanskrit); five story books by authors including Govind Sharma (Hindi), Mohammad Khalil (Urdu), and Swmim Nasrin (Assamese); and five authors for their total contribution in children's literature won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar.

#### 43. Kimberley process intersessional meeting 2019 held in Mumbai

The Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) will be hosted by India from 17th to 21st June 2019 in Mumbai.

Besides this, two special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes, will be held during the Intersessional.

India is one of the founder members of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019 with the Russian Federation as Vice Chair.



#### 44. TV channels to display title, credits in regional languages

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry directed all satellite TV channels to display the cast, credits and titles of Hindi and regional language serials that they broadcast in the respective languages too.

These orders were being issued for cinema too to promote Indian languages.



#### 45. ADB approves Rs 1,650 cr infra projects in Tripura

**The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved projects for infrastructure development worth **Rs 1,650 crore (\$235 million)** in seven of the eight districts headquarter towns in Tripura.



**The ADB would give 80%** of the amount as grant-in-aid and the Tripura Government would have to repay back **only 20%** loan in due course of time.

#### 46. Assam government to set up Skill University at Darrang district

Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district.



This will be perhaps the first skill university of the country with a capacity of **10 thousand seats**. The International Yoga Day will be observed at 459 centres of the **Skill Development Mission**.

#### 47. 5th meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi

The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi.



The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister of India, Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislatures and Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and four Union Ministers as ex-officio members and three Union Ministers as Special Invitees

#### 48. ISRO opens its laboratories for Indian school students

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year.



The training module has been devised as part of its new **Young Scientists Programme**, or **Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram**, **YUVIKA**.

#### 49. World Food India to be held in November 2019

The second edition of **World Food India** to be held from **1st to 4th November 2019** in New Delhi, which will position India as **Food Processing Destination of the World**.

The tagline of the event will be **"Forging Partnerships for Growth"**.



#### 50. Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Yury Trutnev Visits India

The **Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Yury Trutnev** addressed a gathering of businesspersons and industrialist in Mumbai and invited Indian Investments in the Russian Far East.

India Russia business tie has been hugely tilted favouring defence sector traditionally. Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Yury Trutnev will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.



#### 51. Diamond Jubilee of the Oldest Naval Air Squadron

Indian Navy's **first Naval Air Squadron 550** celebrated its **Diamond Jubilee** at naval base **Kochi** after Completing **60 glorious years** of yeoman service to the nation.

The squadron has flown 14 different types of aircraft starting with the Sea Land Aircraft to the Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft being presently flown.



#### 52. Unemployed graduates to get up to Rs 3,500 in Rajasthan

**Unemployed youth** having graduation or an equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by **Rajasthan government**.

Male applicants will get **Rs 3,000/month**, while the women and differently-abled will get **Rs 3,500/month** under **Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana** from February this year.





### 53. ICG co-hosts 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop

**Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** co-hosts **12th Capacity Building workshop** with **Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP)** Information Sharing Centre (**ISC**) in New Delhi.



Presently 20 countries are members of ReCAAP. **India** played an active role in the setting up and functioning of **ReCAAPISC** along with **Japan** and **Singapore**.

### 54. India grants \$15mn to Niger for African Union Summit

**India** has granted financial support of **\$15 million** to **Niger** for the **African Union Summit**. Sub-Saharan Niger is hosting the African Union Summit for the first time.



India is also **building a convention centre** in Niger as part of a plan to build **chain convention centres** across **20 African states** as signature infrastructure projects.

### 55. FM chairs the 20th Meeting of the FSDC in New Delhi

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs chaired the 20th Meeting of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** held in New Delhi.



The FSDC Meeting was also attended by senior officers of the Government of India and the Financial Sector Regulators.

The meeting reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including those concerning Banking and NBFCs.

### 56. Himachal Pradesh makes GPS device must for trekkers

The **Himachal Pradesh government** makes mandatory for **trekkers to carry a GPS device** so that they can be provided all possible help in case of any emergency.



According to the Himachal Pradesh government, as Himachal Pradesh being a disaster prone state, therefore Kullu and Dalhousie have been identified for installation of early warning system.

Rampur and Mandi towns have been zeroed in for setting up the relief and rescue base of National Disaster Response Force.

### 57. 35000 km of highways to be built by 2022 under Bharatmala

According to the President of India, construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometres of national highways are to be undertaken by 2022 under the '**Bharatmala** Project'.



Also under the 'Sagarmala Project', a network of good quality roads is to be constructed in coastal areas and areas adjoining ports.

### 58. IIIDEM (ECI) Organises Capacity Building Program On 'Electoral Technology'

The **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)** (ECI) organized five-day training programme on **Use of Technology** in Elections for Election Officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar.



The Capacity Building Programs on Electoral technology is the 7th program in the series of the 09 programs scheduled across 2018-2019.

# Resignations

## 1. Sarah Huckabee Sanders to step down as White House Press Secretary

After serving more than three years, Sarah Huckabee Sanders is stepping down from her current position as White House Press Secretary.

Sanders, 36, worked on the communications team of Trump's 2016 campaign, and later joined the White House as deputy press secretary when Trump took office.

She has been appointed as the White House Press Secretary in July 2017, after Sean Spicer resigned from the position.



## 2. Wipro Founder Azim Premji to retire as Executive Chairman by end of July

**Azim Premji** will retire as executive chairman of **Wipro** Limited upon the completion of his current term on **July 30**, 2019 but he would continue to serve on the board as non-executive director and founder chairman.

His son, **Rishad Premji**, chief strategy officer and a board member, will take over as the executive chairman following his father's retirement.

CEO Abidali Neemuchwala has been appointed as MD.

### About Wipro:

Founder: M.H. Hasham Premji

Founded: 29 December 1945, India

Owner: Azim Premji

Headquarters: Bengaluru



# Reports

## 1. Global Gender Equality Index Released: India Ranks 95, Denmark Tops

**India ranked 95th out of 129 countries** in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace. **The list was topped by Denmark.**



**Chad** was placed at bottom most position (129th). The **Sustainable Development Goals Gender Index** has been developed by **UK-based Equal Measures 2030**, a joint effort of regional and global organizations.

## 2. RBI Releases Report On 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems'

The report on '**Benchmarking India's Payment Systems**' which was released mentions that the country is "**strong**" in areas like having necessary laws and cash in circulation per capita.



The report provides a comparative position of the payment system ecosystem in India relative to comparable payment systems and usage trends in other major countries.

## 3. Traffic Index-2018: Mumbai 'Most Congested', Delhi Ranks 4th

Mumbai ranked first in the study, '**Traffic Index-2018**', compiled by location technology specialist TomTom, with a **congestion level of 65%**, while New Delhi ranked fourth with congestion of 58%.



The study covered 403 cities in 56 countries and defined congestion as the extra time added to road travel when traffic doesn't flow freely.



#### 4. Dell has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019: TRA

According to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research, "Dell" has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019. With 31% Brand Trust Index (BTI) difference from Dell, auto brand Jeep makes a dramatic entry in the second spot. LIC and Amazon are ranked on the third and fourth spots and Apple iPhone emerged as India's fifth most trusted brand.



#### 5. "Amazon India" best place to work in the country

Randstad rates Amazon India as country's most attractive employer brand. Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up.

ii. As per the study, salary and employee benefits continue to be the top driver, while choosing an employer for the Indian workforce, followed by work-life balance and job security.



#### 6. United Nation's World Population Prospects Report 2019

United Nation released its "World Population Prospects Report 2019". Findings of thereport are:

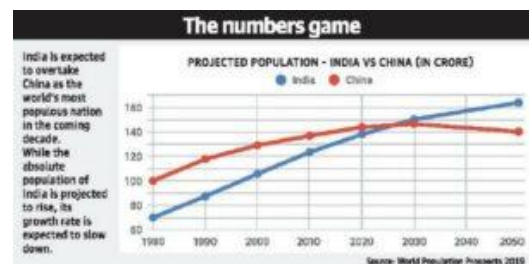
India will overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050.

The Central and the Southern Asia region is expected to see a 25% increase in population till 2050.

The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime.

India is still among the countries where the working-age population (25-64 years) is growing faster than other groups.

People aged above 65 are the fastest growing age group.



## 7. QS World University rankings for 2020

In the recently released **QS World University rankings for 2020**, **IIT-Bombay** which is **ranked 152** is India's best university for the second year in a row.

The next two Indian Universities in the top 200 are **IIT Delhi (182)** and the **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (184)**.

There are a total of **23 Indian institutions in the top 1,000**.



## 8. Beekeeping Development Committee Report

The **Economic Advisory Council** to the Prime Minister set up a **Beekeeping Development Committee** under the **Chairmanship of Bibek Debroy** to identify ways of advancing beekeeping in India.

Some of the **recommendations** in the report include:

Recognizing honeybees as inputs to agriculture and considering landless beekeepers as farmers.

Institutionalizing the National Bee Board and rename it as the Honey and Pollinators Board of India. Plantation of bee friendly flora at appropriate places and engaging women self-help groups in managing such plantations.

Training and development of beekeepers by state governments. Development of national and regional infrastructure for storage, processing and marketing of honey and other bee products.

Simplifying procedures and specifying clear standards for ease of exporting honey and other bee products.



## 9. 31.4% of Indian children will be stunted by 2022: Food and Nutrition Security Report

Recently released **Food and Nutrition Security Report** stated that **31.4%** of **Indian children** will be stunted by **2022**. Which means **one in every three Indian children** under five years will be stunted by 2022.

ii. In States like **Bihar (48%)** and **Uttar Pradesh (46%)**, almost one in two children are stunted, while it is only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each).

The report is **prepared** by the **UN World Food Programme** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.



## 10. Kerala tops health rankings: NITI Aayog report

Kerala has topped in NITI Aayog's Health Index followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Also, Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand showed the maximum improvement of health outcomes from base to reference year.

The health index has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, in consultation with the ministry of health and family welfare.



The report ranks the states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance with respect to each other.

## 11. The Rahimatpur Police station in Satara tops SMART survey

The Rahimatpur police station in Satara district in Maharashtra has emerged as the State topper in a survey based on the 'SMART' policing concept.

**'SMART'**: Strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno-savvy and trained.

The survey was executed by the Quality Council of India.



## 12. Mumbai in top 20 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates

Mercer has released 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey.

Some findings of the survey:

The costliest city in the world for the second consecutive year is Hong Kong followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.

Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked at the 67th position out of 209 cities surveyed.

Eight out of the top ten of the world's most expensive cities for expatriates are Asian.

The world's least expensive cities for expatriates are Tunis (209), Tashkent (208), and Karachi (207).



# Regional

## 1. Punjab to ban Online Food Delivery without Hygiene Rating

Punjab has announced that it is going to ban online food delivery without hygiene ratings. This was announced by the health minister Brahm Mohindra under Tandarust Punjab mission. A timeline of 3 months has been provided for compliance after which no online food will be delivered without hygiene ratings. The hygiene ratings will be provided as per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.



## 2. Rajasthan Government banned advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes; Increased financial aid under 'Aapki Beti' scheme

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (May 31), Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the ban on advertisement, production, distribution and online or offline sale of e-cigarettes in the state. This was a part of Congress party's manifesto for Elections 2019. Along with this, it has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme. For girls studying in class 1 to 8, it is hiked to Rs. 2,100 from Rs. 1,100 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, its hiked to Rs. 2,500 from Rs. 1,500.



## 3. Assam govt hikes parental income limit under fee wavier to Rs 2 Lakhs

Assam govt has increased the parent's annual income limit of students eligible for fee wavier scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh. This was announced by Assam education minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya.



## 4. Rs 384 crore sanctioned by Bihar Cabinet for old age pension scheme



Bihar cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar sanctioned Rs 384 crore for old age pension scheme under the Chief Minister Old Age Pension Scheme for financial year 2019-20. Under this scheme, people in the age group of 60-79 will get Rs 400 per month and people aged above 80 will get Rs 500 per month as pension with the total beneficiaries being 36.50 lakh.



### 5. IMD issued 'Red-colour' warning for Delhi due to rise in temperature

India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued 'Red-colour' warning for Delhi-NCR with as the temperature had reached 46.8 degree Celsius, the highest since May 2013. It forecasted that the heat waves in central and northwest central India including Rajasthan will continue to hit maximum temperatures and they are expected to reach 50 degree Celsius.



### 6. Free rides scheme for women's in Delhi

Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has announced free rides in Delhi metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for women to ensure safety and make transport with higher fare affordable. This project will cost Rs 700 crores to the Delhi government.



### 7. Satish Chandra Verma appointed as Advocate General of Chhattisgarh

The government of Chhattisgarh has appointment Sathish Chandra Verma as it's new Advocate General (AG) with immediate effect succeeding Kanak Tiwari. He has been appointed by the Governor of Chhattisgarh after exercising the powers conferred by Clause (1) of Article 165 of the constitution of India.



### 8. V.P Sivakolundhu elected as Puducherry Assembly Speaker

Deputy Speaker of Puducherry Assembly V.P Sivakolundhu has been unanimously elected as speaker of Puducherry assembly after congress's V Vaithilingam stepped down from the post. Congress member MNR Balan (Oulgret Constituency) has been appointed as Deputy Speaker.



### **9. Ajeya Kallam appointed as Principal Advisor to Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy**

Ajeya Kalama, Retired IAS officer and Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, was appointed as Principal Advisor to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Initially, the term of appointment will be 3 years with a fixed remuneration of Rs 2.5 lakh per month.



### **10. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh requested Prime Minister to declare 550th Parkash Parb as National Tolerance Day**

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the 550th Guru Nanak Prakash Purab as National Tolerance Day cited the Sikhism founder's message of love and compassion. Parkash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev (also known as Guru Nanak Jayanti), celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru and Sindhi Community Guru Nanak.



### **11. Justice Prashant Kumar Appointed as Acting Chief Justice Jharkhand High Court**

Justice Prashant Kumar, judge of Jharkhand High Court, is appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court following the appointment of the present Acting Chief Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The appointment has been made by Article 223 of the Constitution of India.



### 12. Madhya Pradesh Cabinet passed a resolution to increase reservation for OBCs to 27%

The Cabinet of Madhya Pradesh (MP) State Government passed the resolution to increase the reservation quota for OBC (Other Backward Class) from the current 14 percent to 27 Percent. The resolution will be taken in the monsoon session of the state assembly. If this resolution implemented, Madhya Pradesh will become the only state in the country to have a 27 percent quota for OBCs



### 13. Haryana cabinet approved changes in state job recruitment rules

The Haryana government Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, relaxed the state job recruitment rules in Group B posts such as teachers and educational supervisors and Group C, D posts. The cabinet decided to grant five extra marks for the first time candidates taking police exam and also decided to give 10 percent extra marks to widows, orphans and people from denotified tribes, besides those who do not have an immediate family member in any government job.



### 14. Haryana Govt Withdraws EPBG Quota for accommodating EWS reservations

Haryana government has issued an order to withdraw Economically Backward Persons in General Caste Category (EBPG) reservation since Economically Weaker Sections reservation (EWS) came into effect. EWS comes under Constitution 124th Amendment Bill, 2019 passed by the parliament to allow 10% reservation for economically backward sections in the general category in government jobs and academic institutions in January 2019





## 1. Liverpool beat Tottenham Hotspur to win Champions League trophy

In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time. In the all-English showpiece, the Reds got the better of Spurs with a 2-nil win. Mohamed Salah put Liverpool in front after just two minutes when he converted a penalty following a handball by Moussa Sissoko.

Last season, Liverpool had lost to Real Madrid, 1-3, at Kiev.



## 2. Indian Jr. Women's Hockey Team Clinch Cantor Fitzgerald U21

The Indian junior women's hockey team clinched the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland 1-0 in the final at Dublin, Ireland.

The win meant India ended the tournament with an unblemished record. With three goals in four games, Mumtaz Khan finished as the highest goal scorer of the tournament.



## 3. Sidharth Rawat Wins ITF Men's Futures Tennis Title

Third seed Sidharth Rawat defeated Rio Noguchi of Japan to clinch his maiden title in the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament. The tournament was held in Thailand.





#### 4. Sunil Chhetri Becomes Most Capped India Player

Sunil Chhetri became the most capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.

In his milestone match of the King's Cup football tournament in Buriram, Thailand, he scored the lone goal for his side for his 69th goal.



#### 5. 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup Starts In France

The **2019 FIFA Women's World Cup** is the 8th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the quadrennial international football championship contested by the women's national teams between 7 June and 7 July 2019.

**The Championship will be held in nine cities across France.** In March 2015, France won the right to host the event, the first time the country will host the tournament.



#### 6. Yuvraj Singh Announces Retirement From International Cricket

Yuvraj Singh announced retirement from international cricket, ending a roller-coaster career during which he became the hero of India's 2011 World Cup triumph and fought a gritty battle with cancer.

The 37-year-old cricketer announced his decision in Mumbai. Yuvraj played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is for India. He put together 1900 runs in the longest format, and 8701 in the one-dayers, the format in which he enjoyed the most success.



#### 7. French Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 French Open (also known as Roland Garros) was a Grand Slam tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts. It was the 123rd edition of the French Open. It took place at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.

Rafael Nadal was the defending champion in the Men's Singles and won his 12th French Open title. Ashleigh Barty of Australia won the Women's Singles Category after defeating Marketa Vondrousova.



Sl. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Austria Dominic Thiem
2.	Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic)
3.	Men's Doubles	Kevin Krawietz (Germany) and Andreas Mies (Germany)	Jeremy Chardy (France) and Fabrice Martin (France)
4.	Women's Doubles	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Duan Yingying (China) and Zheng Saisai (China)
5.	Mixed Doubles	Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) and Ivan Dodig (Croatia)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)

### 8. Lewis Hamilton Wins Canadian Grand Prix 2019

**Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton** secures a record-breaking **seventh win at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix** after Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) was penalised for dangerous driving.



### 9. Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs

The 417 innings to reach the milestone and bettered the time taken by legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara. India captain reached the milestone the score of 37 in India's 6th match in World Cup tournament against West Indies.

He scored 18,963 runs in international cricket before the innings and needed a further 37 to reach the 20,000 run mark. He has 416 innings (131 Tests, 223 ODIs and 62 T20Is).



### 10. Narinder Batra elected as IOC member

**Indian Olympic Association** president Narinder Batra elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

He secured 58 votes out of 62.

Narinder Batra has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC. He is heading a National Olympic Committee. He also belongs to the international federation. He is the first Indian to have this distinction.



### **About Indian Olympic Association**

Headquarters New Delhi, India

President Narinder Dhruv Batra

Secretary-General Rajeev Mehta

## **11. Sofia Kenin won the Mallorca Open Title 2019**

Sofia Kenin of the United States won the Mallorca Open Title 2019. Belinda Bencic of Switzerland with 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 6-4 points in the finals. The 4th edition of the tournament was held at Santa Ponsa Tennis Club in Mallorca, Spain.

This was her second WTA (Women's Tennis Association) singles title of the season.



### **About Mallorca Open Title 2019**

Champion: United States Sofia Kenin

Runner-up: Switzerland Belinda Bencic.

## **12. Italy won the bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics**

The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced that the **2026 Winter Olympics** will be staged at the **Italian venue of Milan/Cortina d'Ampezzo**. The Winter Games will happen from **6 February to 22 February** in 2026. Italy beat off a bid from Stockholm/Åre in Sweden. Italy won the bid by the approval of the IOC members by 47 votes to 34.



Italy has twice previously hosted the Winter Olympics twice. It first hosted Olympics in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and then in 2006 in Turin. It has been estimated that the Games will generate five billion euros (\$5.69 billion) and create 20,000 jobs.

The **2022 Winter Olympics** will be staged in **Beijing**.

### 13. India proposes to host 2023 IOC session in Mumbai

India proposed to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee session in Mumbai.

It is expected to choose the host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics.

Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra and IOC member Nita Ambani submitted the formal bid to the IOC chief Thomas. 2022-2023 is the 75th year of Indian Independence and Indian sports are celebrated in India in a better way.



Batra is elected as a new IOC member. IOC Session is the general meeting of the 100 members. It is held once a year where each member has one vote.

The IOC decisions are final. The extraordinary Sessions are convened by the IOC President. India planned to host the ongoing session but they lost to the Italian city of Milan. IOC rule prohibits host city candidates being elected in their home country. The Italian city named as host of 2026 Winter Olympics.

#### About International Olympic Committee

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Membership: 95 active members

Honorary President: Belgium Jacques Rogge

President: Germany Thomas Bach.

### 14. Indian women's hockey team won FIH Series

Indian Women's Hockey team won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) He defeated Japan 3-1 in the finals held at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium, Japan.

Indian team Captain Rani Rampal scored the first goal in the 3rd minute and Gurjit Kaur scored goals at the 45th and 60th minutes.

Japan's Kanon Mori scored the goal for the team. Gurjit Kaur emerged as World No. 9 Indian team qualified for the FIH Olympic Qualifiers 2019



#### About FIH/International

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

President: Narinder Batra

Founded: 7 January 1924.

### 15. IOC inaugurated its \$145 million new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) inaugurated 145 million Swiss francs (\$145 million) named Olympic House in a ceremony. It is held at the lakeside grounds of Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland.



It is inaugurated exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games. The newly built headquarters designed by architecture firm 3XN of Denmark. It is built of 95% of the old materials. The signature feature of the new building is a central staircase. Around 500 IOC employees under one roof.

IOC members gathered in Lausanne to choose the 2026 Winter Games host among Milan-Cortina from Italy and Stockholm from Sweden.

#### **About IOC:**

President: Thomas Bach

Founders: Pierre de Coubertin, Demetrius Vikelas

### **16. Cricket Australia signs a multi-year partnership with HCL**

Indian multinational information technology service HCL Technologies (Hindustan Computers Limited, HCL) signed a multi-year deal with Cricket Australia (CA), the administrative body of Australian Cricket. India's third largest sports deal, Accenture was working with Cricket Australia



A five-year deal from November 2013. HCL becomes the digital technology partner of Australia (CA). The company will help CA more fans, cricketers, fans, employees, and volunteers through digital experience around the world. HCL build CA's digital products such as Cricket Australia Live App, cricket.com.

Cricket Australia's fan following gradually increased upto 20 million per year.

#### **About HCL:**

CEO: C Vijayakumar

Founded: 11 August 1976

### **17. Indian Gymnast, Pranati Nayak won bronze at 2019 Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

India's Pranati Nayak won a bronze medal at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She is from West Bengal. She got qualified for finals.



She secured sixth place and came up with a score of 13.384 to win the bronze medal. She scored 13.400 and 13.367 in the first and second vault score recently.

## 18. Women's cricket nominated for inclusion at 2022 Commonwealth Games

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) nominated the inclusion of women's cricket in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which is scheduled to be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

International Cricket Council (ICC) in partnership with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) presented the compelling case for women's cricket to become part of the Commonwealth Games programme.

Beach Volleyball and para table tennis were also nominated for inclusion in the 2022 edition.

ICC Chief Executive: Manu Sawhney

### **About Commonwealth Games:**

2022 Venue: Birmingham, United Kingdom

Nations participating: 73

2018 Commonwealth Games was held in Gold Coast, Australia.

The first official Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.



## 19. World Archery appoints Bindra to sort AAI trouble

World Archery appointed Abhinav Bindra to sort out the ongoing mess in the Archery Association of India (AAI).

AAI violated the constitution by unanimously electing two parallel bodies in Chandigarh and New Delhi. Archery Association of India (AAI) is the national governing body of archery in India. Its headquarters are located in New Delhi. Its current president is Arjun Munda

### **About Archery Association of India (AAI)**

Founded: 8 August 1973

Location: New Delhi

President: Mr. Arjun Munda

Secretary: Mr. Virendra Sachdeva

## 20. England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes in an ODI

**England captain Eoin Morgan** set the world record for **most sixes (17) in an One Day International (ODI)**. He achieved this record during his **71-ball 148-run knock against Afghanistan** in World Cup on 18 June 2019. Morgan was assisted by **Joe Root** in the 189-run partnership for the third wicket during which Root made 88 runs off 82 balls.



**Previous records:**

The previous record for **most sixes (16 sixes)** was jointly held by **Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers**. England ended up with the **6th highest team total in a World Cup match** with 397 for 6 in 50 overs after they opted to bat first at Old Trafford cricket ground.

**21. Bronze for India in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics meet**

**Annu Rani** won the women's javelin bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, Croatia's Sara Kolak took the gold and Slovenia's Martina Ratej bagged the silver.



**About Annu Rani**

She is a Javelin thrower from Uttar Pradesh. She is supported by Olympic Gold Quest. A not-for-profit foundation that identifies and supports Indian athletes. She finished eighth a best of 56.37 meters in the final. At the Asian Games in Incheon South Korea, she won the bronze medal with a throw of 59.53 meters.

**22. PU Chitra and Sreeshankar strikes Gold & Johnson wins silver at Folsam Grand Prix 2019**

Asian champion **PU Chitra** of India won a gold medal in women's 1500m at Folsam Grand Prix 2019. The event held in Sollentuna, Sweden. She did her clocking 4 minutes 12.65 seconds (4:12.659).



She defeated Mercy Cherono of Kenya who finished a former IAAF World Cross Country champion. She is a silver medallist at the 2013 World Championships. 2018 Asian Games gold medallist Jinson Johnson from India won a silver medal in men's 1500m at Folsam Grand Prix by clocking 3:39.69. She finished behind Sweden's Andreas Almgren (3:39.68s).

### 23. India name 23-member squad for Asian Junior Badminton Championship

India named a 23-member squad to represent the country at the Asian Junior Badminton Championship. The tournament will be held in Suzhou, China.

Boys' singles challenge by Manipur's Maisnam Meiraba Luwang.

An impressive total of 1000 points by virtue of a fine run in the domestic circuit.

The girls' team led by Malvika Bansod of the Airport Authority of India.

She topped the list with 1000 points. Ishaan Bhatnagar and Vishnuvardhan Goud lead India's challenge in the boys' doubles competition, while Aditi Bhatt and Tanisha Crasto the ones to watch out for in girls' doubles.

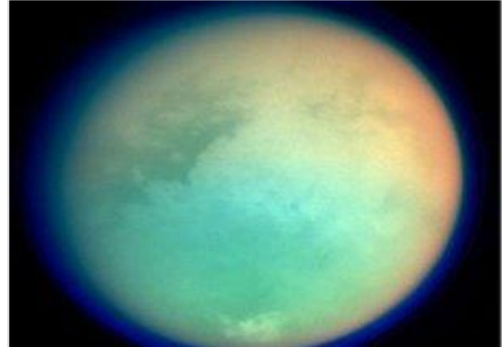




# Science and Technology

## 1. NASA announced a new mission to explore Saturn's largest moon

NASA announced a new mission to explore this fascinating world with a helicopter drone. The mission, called **Dragonfly** is the latest in NASA's New frontier program. NASA has earlier launched explorations of Pluto, Jupiter, the asteroid Benu, and now, Titan.



### **Titan:**

**Titan, the largest moon of Saturn**, has a lot in common with Earth. It has a thick, nitrogen-dense atmosphere and features like rivers, lakes, mountains, and, potentially volcanoes. The atmosphere of Titan is four times as dense as the Earth's and there's less gravity which makes it a prime location in the solar system to deploy a drone.

### **Dragonfly:**

Dragonfly is planned to launch in 2026 and arrive at Titan in 2034. With its eight rotors, Dragonfly will be able to fly tens of miles in a given day. It is powered by a plutonium battery.

Two-year mission, Dragonfly will travel hundreds of miles across the surface, sampling the chemistry of the moon and studying its geology and atmosphere. It will also look out for signs of life.

The study on Titan's methane cycle is interesting as Methane (the primary ingredient in natural gas) actually forms clouds and rains down on the surface of Titan, a lot like how water rains on Earth.

By studying the weather pattern on Titan, a better picture about the greater reaches of the cosmos, and help scientists understand what makes a planet or moon habitable or not. Giant asteroid '99942 Apophis' will fly past Earth in a decade

The 340m wide asteroid named 99942 Apophis will fly past Earth like a 'moving star- like point of light' on April 13, 2029. It will fly above the earth's surface at 30,500 km and first become visible with a naked eye in the night sky over the Southern Hemisphere from the east coast to the west coast of Australia.

## 2. NASA's Curiosity rover confirmed the presence of Methane in Mars

NASA has confirmed that the Curiosity rover, the NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission, recently detected the largest amount of methane ever measured during the mission. Curiosity's methane reading came to 21 parts per billion units by volume. It is thrice the amount it sniffed out during a surge in 2013.



During a follow-up test later, though, scientists found that the methane levels around the rover already dropped sharply. Curiosity detected normal methane levels, that is 1 part per billion by volume, following the sudden elevation. It suggested that the abnormally high values came from transient methane plumes.

As Curiosity is not equipped with instruments to determine whether the source of methane is biological or geological, the scientists are yet to figure out a pattern for Martian's transient plumes.

The scientists plan to gather more information through Curiosity and from other missions to gain a deeper understanding of the plumes. The scientist will be able to understand whether the presence of methane on the red planet truly is a sign of life only if they finds where the plumes are coming from.

### Methane:

- ◆ Methane is a gas formed by both geological and biological processes.
- ◆ It is the main constituent of natural gas. It is a group-14 hydride and the simplest alkane with the chemical formula CH<sub>4</sub>.
- ◆ The methane concentration in earth's atmospheric has increased by about 150% since 1750.
- ◆ Methane accounts for 20% of the total radiative forcing from all of the long-lived and globally mixed greenhouse gases.

## 3. Three astronauts landed after spending more than six months aboard the International Space Station (ISS)

Oleg Kononenko with the Russian space agency Roscosmos, Anne McClain of NASA and Canadian Space Agency astronaut David Saint-Jacques landed aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft on June 24. They landed after spending more than six months aboard the International Space Station (ISS).



Astronauts Anne McClain of the United States and David Saint-Jacques of Canada had completed their maiden flights. The expedition commander Oleg Kononenko of Russia has ended his fourth space mission. All three spent 204 days in space.

Soyuz MS-11 was the 57th Russian Soyuz spacecraft to fly to the International Space Station. It traveled a total of 86.4 million miles (139 million kilometers) over the course of 3,264 orbits of Earth.

#### 4. India has the highest data usage per smartphone in the World: Report

According to the Ericsson Mobility Report, monthly data usage per smartphone in India rose to 9.8 gigabytes (GB) at the end of 2018, the highest in the world.

It is expected that, Monthly data usage per smartphone would grow at 11 percent to reach 18 GB by 2024 from 9.8 GB in 2018.

The report also projects that total mobile data usage per month in the country will go up 23 per cent in the coming five years, rising from 4.6 exabytes (EB) presently to 16 EB. One EB equals one billion GB.



At the end of 2018, there were 5.1 billion smartphone subscribers globally, 99 percent of which were for 3G and 4G. North East Asia comes second with 7.1GB per month.

#### 5. ISRO opens its laboratories for Indian school students

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is an agency which has the legacy of India's ancient knowledge and modern technology.

She opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year.

first batch 108 students drawn from all states.

Union Territories completed their exposure in its laboratories in Bengaluru, Sriharikota, Thiruvananthapuram.

The training module devised as part of its new Young Scientists Programme.

Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram, YUVIKA.

ISRO's YUVIKA is modeled around the Indian government's vision 'Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan'.

The initiative is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to children to kindle their interest in the emerging areas of space activities.

The two-week-long program would include invited talks, experience sharing by eminent scientists, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.

#### About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Formation: 15 August 1969



Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

## 6. Scientists places worlds highest weather stations atop Mount Everest

Scientists from National Geographic Society and Tribhuvan University installed have installed **two highest weather stations** in the world in an expedition to **Mount Everest** that wrapped up in June 2019. The two weather monitoring stations are located at an altitude of **8,430 meters (27,657 feet)** and **7,945 meters (26,066 feet)**. Also, three other stations have been set up across the Mount Everest. The setting up of the weather station aim **to collect weather data**. The data gathered from the stations will help scientists to understand how rising global temperatures impacts the rapidly melting glaciers.



The nearly two month expedition involved a team of more than **30 scientists** from all over the world, including **17 Nepali researchers**. The team also collected the world highest ice core sample at 8,020 meters , which will help the scientists study the deep record of precipitation on the mountain and composition of the atmosphere during pre-industrial times.

The project also reached another milestone of placing the **world's highest helicopter-based lidar scan** and the most detailed photogrammetric imaging, also with lidar scans, of the Everest Base Camp area and the entire Khumbu Glacier.

## 7. Two female scientists Ritu Kridhal and Vanitha to head Indias 2nd Moon mission Chandrayaan-2

For the first time, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has appointed two women scientists - Ritu Karidhal (as mission director) and Muthayya Vanitha (as project director) - to head the India's second Moon mission Chandrayaan-2.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan announced that close to 30 percent of the ISRO team working on Chandrayaan 2 are women.

Ritu Karidhal was referred as the 'Rocket Woman of India'. She became famous with the launch of the Mars Orbiter Mission where she was the deputy operations director.

Muthayya Vanitha received the Best Woman Scientist award in 2006 by the Astronomical Society of India.

About Chandrayaan-2:

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to explore moon after Chandrayaan-1.

Developed by: ISRO

The Chandrayaan-2 mission is scheduled to launch on July 15.





The project cost is close to Rs 1,000 crore with the involvement of close to 600 industries and 15 academia collaboration.

## 8. NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft creates new record

**NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft** entered its second **orbital phase around asteroid Bennu**, called **Orbital B** on June 12, 2019. It broke its own world record for **the closest orbit of a planetary body**. In the Orbital B phase, the maneuver placed the spacecraft in an orbit 680 meters above the surface of asteroid Bennu. The previous record was set by OSIRIS-REx on 31 December, 2018, when the spacecraft flew 1.33 km above the asteroid's surface during Orbital A phase.



### OSIRIS-REx:

The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft was sent to study the asteroid Bennu and return a sample from its surface to Earth. The spacecraft is on a **seven-year journey**. The sample of a primitive asteroid will help the scientists understand the formation of the Solar System over **4.5 billion years** ago. Sample collection has been scheduled for summer of 2020. The spacecraft is expected to deliver the sample to Earth in September 2023.

## 9. ISRO unveiled plan to set up its own space station in seven years

ISRO unveiled plan to set up its own space station in seven years. ISRO is to set up a very small and a separate space station. It will not be a part of the International Space Station (ISS). The project will be an extension of the Gaganyaan mission, which aims to send an Indian crew to space in 2022.



The weight of the space station will be around 20 tonnes. ISRO's proposal will be sent to the government for approval by 2022 after the first Gaganyaan mission. the mission is looking at 5-7 years to execute the programme. The cost of the proposed space station was not disclosed.

The International Space Station (ISS) is a partnership between European Space Agency, the United States (NASA), Japan (JAXA), Canada (CSA) and Russia (Roscosmos). It is the world's largest international cooperative programme in science and technology. hina also plans to build a space station of its own.

## 10. MoSPI has proposed to set up a National Data Warehouse to leverage big data analytical tools

**Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has proposed to set up a **National Data Warehouse** with an aim to leveraging **big data analytical** tools. This move is to further improve the quality of macro-economic aggregates. MoSPI also plans to introduce a legislative framework so that the **National Statistical Commission (NSC)** can function with independence and give holistic guidance for improving the national statistical system.



**Significance:**

The move also lends its support to the **system reforms** that are currently ongoing. It will also ensure **theresponsiveness** to the changing needs of society that are necessary. This proposed set up is necessary as there are increasing demands on the statistical system for the production of relevant and quality statistics.

**National Data Warehouse for macro-economic aggregate:**

The Ministry also proposed to establish a **National Data Warehouse on Official Statistics**. Here, the technology will be leveraged for using big data analytical tools for further improving the quality of macro-economic aggregates. MoSPI has been criticized in some sections for the quality of **macro-economic data**.

**Merger of merger of CSO and NSSO:**

Regarding this the government has recently merged the **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)** and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** to streamline and **strengthen the statistical system**. The merger leveraged the strengths of the two organisations so that it can meet the increasing demands. The government use the statistical data to **revise the GDP** estimate would require concomitant changes in the sectoral data flows and associated regulatory framework in the data source agencies to facilitate the use of more macro modelling techniques.

**11. Researchers found 2 childrens milk teeth in north eastern Siberia**

Researchers found two children's milk teeth buried deep in a remote archaeological site in northeastern Siberia. This discovery has revealed a previously unknown group of people who lived there during the last Ice Age.

The group of people have been named as the Ancient North Siberians and described their existence as a significant part of human history. Researchers said that this population does not appear to be the direct ancestor of Native Americans.



The DNA was recovered from the only human remains discovered from the era, two tiny milk teeth, that were found in a large archaeological site found in Russia near the Yana River.

## 12. Google Maps launches features for real-time updates on public transports in India

Google tech **Behemoth** invented three new features- **bus travel times from live traffic in 10** of the largest cities in India.

The live train status for Indian Railways trains, and mixed-mode commute suggestions that now combine auto-rickshaw and public transport.

The travel plan of Indian users are predicted by transit time while traveling on buses. Google map enable users to know how long a bus trip will take when factoring in live traffic conditions. This feature launched in 10 cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, Chennai, Mysore, Coimbatore, and Surat.



The partnership app is Where is My Train app acquired by Google in December 2018. It helped for Google's 'Next Billion Users' initiative.

### About Google Maps

The feature is live in two cities in Delhi and Bengaluru. India is the top three countries for Google Maps transit usage. The search engine over 300 million users in the country. Google Map has more than 10,000 routes it can predict the transit time accurately. It will be available on Android and iPhones. Apple hiring spree to expand its products in India.

## 13. India Test Fires BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile From Chandipur in Odisha'

Supersonic cruise missile **BrahMos** was test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha.

Anti-ship version of the missile launched by complex-3 of the ITR, Defence Research and Development (DRDO) sources. World's fastest supersonic cruise missile with high rate of accuracy. Missile is fired from land, sea and air. The missile with a strike range of around 290 km is a strategic asset for India which act as a deterrence against any possible threats from China and Pakistan. BrahMos is a joint venture between the DRDO and the NPOM (a Russian military technology firm) of Russia.



BrahMos operationalized in the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force. Senior defence officials and scientists from DRDO and BrahMos witnessed the trial.

### Origin and history of Brahmos

It brings a supersonic speed when it is separated. At the second stage then takes the missile closer to 3 Mach speed in cruise phase. Stealth technology and guidance system

with advanced embedded software provides the missile an extraordinary performance  
Type: Cruise missile; Air-launched cruise missile.

Variants: Ship-launched; Surface-launched.

Manufacturer: BrahMos Aerospace Limited

Place of origin: India / Russia

### **About Brahmos**

Speed: Mach 2.8–Mach 3

Unit cost: US\$2.73 million

Place of origin: India / Russia

Manufacturer: BrahMos Aerospace Limited

## **14. James Webb Space Telescope successfully passed final thermal vacuum test**

NASA's \$8.8-billion James Webb Space Telescope, the world's largest and most expensive one, has successfully passed final thermal vacuum test, making its parts cleared for use in space.

The 6.5-meter diameter telescope has 18 gold-coated mirrors and a tennis court-sized sunshield to gather light and protect its instruments. The telescope set to launch in 2021. It took 20 years to build.



### **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST):**

Operators: NASA / ESA / CSA / STScI

Mission duration: 5 years (design), 10 years (goal)

Launch date: March 30, 2021 (planned)

Launch mass: 6,500 kg

It is planned to be the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope.

It will provide greatly improved resolution and sensitivity over the Hubble and will enable a broad range of investigations across the fields of astronomy and cosmology.

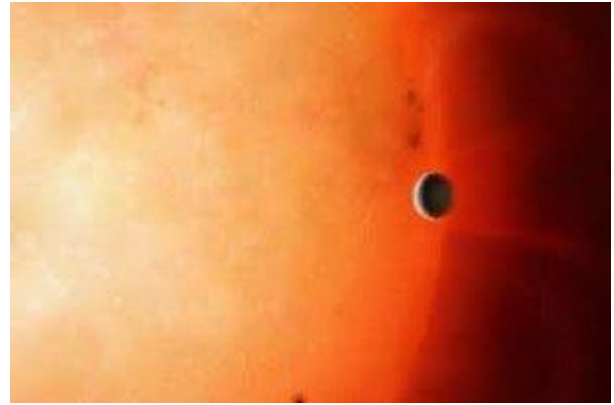
## **15. Astronomers discovered the Forbidden Planet, NGTS- 4b in the Neptunian Desert**



An international collaboration of astronomers with the University of Warwick, I-JK, have discovered an exoplanet, Next-Generation Transit Survey(NGTS)- 4b, the Forbidden Planet, in the Neptunian Desert.

It is smaller than Neptune but 3 times the size of the Earth.

The Research was led by Dr. Richard West including Professor Peter Wheatley, Dr. Daniel Bayliss and Dr. James McCormac from the Astronomy and Astrophysics Group at the University of Warwick.



This information was published in the Journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society(MNRAS).

The Forbidden Planet with a mass of 20 Earth masses, radius 20% smaller than Neptune and temperature of 1000 degree Celsius, orbits around the star in only 1.3 days and its atmosphere as gases.

NGTS, situated at the European Southern Observatory Paranal Observatory in the Atacama Desert, Chile.

## 16. ISRO partnered with IAF for Gaganyaan astronaut selection, training

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned mission.

AVM RGK Kapoor, ACAS Ops (Space), IAF handed over the MoU to Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.



### Agreement:

- Under the programme, a three-member crew will spend a minimum of seven days in space.
- A human-rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module, which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a three-member crew for the duration of the mission.
- The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will lead the selection and training of astronauts on behalf of IAF.
- The necessary infrastructure for crew training, a realization of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the program.
- The ISRO will collaborate extensively with national agencies, laboratories, academia, and industry to accomplish the objectives of the prestigious mission.

### Gaganyaan Mission:

Gaganyaan ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.

Gaganyaan was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.

The mission worth Rs. 10,000 crore.

The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021.

It was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018.

In its maiden crewed mission, ISRO's largely autonomous 3.7-tonne capsule will orbit the Earth at 400 km (250 mi) altitude for up to seven days with a three-person crew on board.

### **17. Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency, GlobalCoin, by the first quarter of 2020**

Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency by the first quarter of 2020. The company is expected to reveal more details about the currency before testing begins later in 2019. The currency, which is being referred to internally as "GlobalCoin," will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where it's expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.



The currency will need to overcome numerous technical and regulatory hurdles before it can be launched. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg met with the Bank of England's governor Mark Carney to discuss the opportunities and risks of the planned digital currency.

#### **India-Key focus:**

However, Facebook might have a harder job on its hands in India, which has taken a hostile attitude towards virtual currencies. India is reported to be a key focus for the new currency, where Facebook hopes it will allow Indian workers abroad to send money back home to their families using WhatsApp.

#### **What is a Cryptocurrency?**

A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security. A cryptocurrency is difficult to counterfeit because of this security feature. It is not issued by any central authority, rendering it theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation.

The first blockchain-based cryptocurrency was Bitcoin, which still remains the most popular and most valuable. Today, there are thousands of alternate cryptocurrencies with various functions or specifications.