

Monthly G.K Capsule

JUNE- 2019

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National News

1. PM Narendra Modi to swear in on 30th May

- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take the oath of office on May 30 (Thursday) at 7 pm at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ✚ The President will administer the oath of Office and secrecy to the Prime Minister and other members of Union Council of Ministers. The BJP on May 23 got an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha, crossing on its own the 300 marks while storming back to power for the second consecutive term.
- ✚ Modi is the first BJP leader who has been elected for the second time after completion of his five-year tenure. From BJP, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also elected as a prime minister for two consecutive terms, but his first stint had lasted only for one year and seven months.

2. Government invites BIMSTEC leaders for the swearing-in ceremony on May 30

- ✚ Leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) have been invited for PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony to be held on 30th May. However, Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina will not attend the event due to her prior commitments. Myanmar State Councillor Aung San Suu Kyi's presence is also uncertain as she is travelling overseas. Kyrgyzstan, the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), too, has been invited for the event.
- ✚ Apart from India, BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. Indian-origin Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth, who visited India for Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in January, has also been invited for the May 30 event.

3. 20th Meeting of the FSDC chaired by Nirmala Sitharaman held in New Delhi

- ✚ On June 20, 2019 The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi. This was chaired under the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, and Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg among others. Current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including those concerning Banking and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) were reviewed in the meeting. Consultations held on the progress to set up the Financial Data Management Centre (FDMC) and Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to strengthen cybersecurity services in the financial sector & Suggestions of Financial Regulators for Union Budget 2019-20.

4. 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.

5. Indian woman crowned Miss Universe Australia

- ✚ India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019.
- ✚ India born Priya Serrao, whose family migrated to Australia from Middle East, has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019. Serrao edged past 26 other women from across the country in Melbourne on Thursday night to win the title. The 26-year-old will now represent Australia in the Miss Universe competition later this year.
- ✚ Western Australia's Bella Kasimba and another Victorian Marijana Radmanovic rounded out 2019's top three, placing second and third.
- ✚ Serrao said winning the title was a huge surprise for her as it was her first beauty pageant contest.

6. Miss India 2019 winner: Suman Rao:

- ✚ Suman Rao, Miss India Rajasthan was crowned the winner of Femina Miss India World 2019 during a star-studded grand finale of the beauty pageant, held on June 15, 2019 at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in Mumbai.
- ✚ Miss India 2019 winner Rao was crowned Miss India World 2019 by her predecessor, Miss India 2018 Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu.
- ✚ While Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh was crowned Femina Miss Grand India 2019, Shreya Shanker from Bihar won the Miss India United Continents 2019 title

7. Telangana hosts International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) congress

- ✚ Telangana hosts 32nd edition of the International Seed Testing Association congress. This is the first edition of ISTA congress to be held in Asia.
- ✚ Scientists, policy makers, researchers and members of public and private seed industry from over 80 countries are participating in the congress.
- ✚ The eight-day congress would have the main event for three days and technical committee meetings/sessions would be held over the next five days.

8. Meeting of Expert Working Group of Paris Pact Initiative to be held in New Delhi

- ✚ The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is hosting a Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative in New Delhi.
- ✚ The meeting focuses on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan.

- ✚ The Meeting is being organised with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes. The Meeting will be attended by the representatives of the Member Countries of Paris Pact, Regional Representatives of UNODC and Senior Officers of the Indian agencies like DRI, ED and NCB.

9. Mumbai in top 20 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates

- ✚ Mercer has released 25th Annual Cost of Living 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).

10. Nirmala Sitharaman To Present First Union Budget On 05th July

- ✚ The new Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her first Union Budget (for FY20) on 5 July, the government decided on Friday.
- ✚ A day before the Union Budget, Sitharaman will table in Parliament the Economic Survey 2018-19 authored by chief economic adviser Krishnamurthy Subramaniam and his team.
- ✚ The date of presenting full budget for FY20 by the NDA government was finalized at a meeting of the union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, according to an official announcement.

11. Union Cabinet approves the 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.
- ✚ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar stated that nearly 14 crores 50 lakh farmers will be now covered under the revised scheme. Total burden on the exchequer will be over 87,000 crore rupees for the year 2019-20. Over three crore farmers have been benefited so far. Six thousand rupees per year is being given in three installments to the farmers, under the scheme.

12. Man on a mission to turn Udhana railway station into India's first Green Railway Station

- ✚ Viral Sudhirbhai Desai, a young entrepreneur from surat launched an initiative to change Udhana railway station in Gujarat into India's first green and clean railway station like Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.
- ✚ In order to achieve the mission of 'Clean India-Green India', Desai installed oxygen bomber and over 1700 air purifying plants at the station and also painting has been made by him for environmental protection on the wall of the station.

- About 23,000 trees and 38 tree guards distributed to the people for tree plantation and environment protection by Desai and his organization, 'Hearts at Work Foundation'.

13. Binny, India's Only Orangutan Dies In Odisha Zoo

- A 41-year-old orangutan at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park died following a prolonged illness. The great ape was under treatment for the last one year by experts from the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry OUAT who were under constant advice of the Orangutan experts from UK and Singapore. Binny, was brought to Nandankanan Zoo from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on November 20, 2003, when she was 25.
- Orangutans are one of the world's three extant species of great apes and are native to Indonesia and Malaysia. Orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra.
- Considered to be among the most intelligent primates, orangutans can live up to 45 years in the wild and even more in zoos, according to experts.

14. PS Golay was sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister

- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as PS Golay took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim. He was administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls. The 51-year-old party chief when he was taking the oath in the Nepali language.
- Former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling and senior Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) leaders were conspicuous by their absence at the swearing-in ceremony. The SKM won a slender majority in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by the SDF.

15. PepsiCo to build Rs 500 crore food plant in Uttar Pradesh

- PepsiCo India will invest nearly 500 crore to build a food manufacturing plant in Uttar Pradesh. It will invest \$2.1 bn in India by 2022, which is part of the \$5.5 bn it had promised in November 2013.
- The makers of Lay's chips and Kurkure snacks, PepsiCo will invest along with its local bottling partner. PepsiCo, which sells Tropicana, 7Up, Mountain Dew and Kurkure chips, among others, services the domestic market through 62 food and beverage plants.
- The bottling operations are owned by its local partner Varun Beverages. The packaged snacks and foods market in India is expected to grow 22.3% between 2018 and 2022.

16. Arvind Kejriwal's free Delhi Metro, DTC Bus rides for women defies Gender Equality

- Just months before the Delhi Assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement of making DTC bus and the Metro rides free for women in the national capital has raised quite a storm on Twitter among the Twitterati's.
- Some of them think it's a good initiative for women and senior citizens, while others are saying that the Delhi government's decision is completely unjustified and defies Gender 'Equality'.

- ✚ Kejriwal said that the Delhi government would bear the expense, around Rs 1,600 crore for the year. He added that the decision has been taken keeping the safety of women in mind. It would take about three months for the rollout of the scheme.

17. India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly

- ✚ India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in Nairobi. The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly started on May 27th at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi and will go on till May 31st.

18. 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.

19. Impressive' tortoise discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- ✚ A tortoise considered beautiful enough to be named 'impressed' has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✚ A team of herpetologists from the Forest Department and two NGOs — Help Earth and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) — found the Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) in Yazali area of the Lower Subansiri district a few days ago.
- ✚ This is the first record of the tortoise in India, taking the count to five and the non-marine chelonian count to 29. Chelonian is an order of reptile that includes turtles, terrapins and tortoises.
- ✚ "There are only two species of tortoises under the *Manouria* genus. India was known to be the home of only the Asian Forest Tortoise (*Manouria emys*) until the discovery of the Impressed Tortoise," Guwahati-based Jayaditya Purkayastha of Help Earth.

20. Maharaja Ranjit Singh honoured on his 180th death anniversary

- ✚ A statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the legendary ruler of Punjab, was unveiled at the Lahore Fort on his 180th death anniversary.
- ✚ Around 500 people crossed the Wagah border to attend the unveiling event.
- ✚ The sculpture is the result of collaboration between Fakir Khana Museum and Sarkar Khalsa Foundation.

21. Noida police to issue 'red cards' to men found harassing women

- ✚ The Noida Police will issue "red cards" to offenders found harassing women in public places as a warning before initiating criminal proceedings against them if they are caught indulging in the act.

- ✚ "The 'red cards' will be handed out to offenders as a warning and if a person who has been previously issued this card is found indulging in such activities again, criminal proceedings will be initiated against that person," a police spokesperson said.
- ✚ In order to check harassment of girls and women, the Noida Police also plans to reach out to students in schools and colleges and seek their feedback regarding the deployment of the anti-Romeo squads in public places.

22. 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' launched

- ✚ Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' (SS 2020), saying parameters pertaining to wastewater treatment, reuse and fecal sludge management have been given special focus in the survey.
- ✚ He said there will be a quarterly cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India.
- ✚ This will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted from January February 2020 by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U).

23. Madhya Pradesh's Orchha makes it to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- ✚ The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.
- ✚ The ASI had sent a proposal to the UNESCO on April 15, 2019 to include the sites in its list, an ASI official told PTI. According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first has to be on the tentative list. After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO, the official said.
- ✚ Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa river. It is located around 80 km away from Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh and 15 km from Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh. Orchha was built by king Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century. The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.

24. IMD issues red-code warning for Delhi after temperature rises to highest in 5 years

- ✚ IMD's red-code warning denotes extreme weather situations. Heat wave conditions continued unabated in Delhi even as the MeT department issued a "red-colour" warning for the national capital.
- ✚ The IMD has four colour-coded messages -- green, yellow, amber and red. Green indicates normal conditions while red denotes extreme weather situations.
- ✚ The MeT department recorded a high of 46.8 degree Celsius, the highest in five years.

25. UP CM Yogi Adityanath unveils Lord Ram statue at Ayodhya Shodh Sansthan

- ✚ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a 7-foot tall statue of Lord Rama at the Shodh Sansthan museum in Ayodhya. Adityanath will also inaugurate the event to celebrate Mahant Nritya Gopal Das.
- ✚ The statue is made out of a single rosewood block statue which was from Karnataka for Rs.35 lakh from Karnataka. The statue will depict Kodamb Ram, one of the five avatars of Lord Ram.
- ✚ Kodamb Ram is worshipped in the south. The statue depicts the stage of Ram's life when Sita was kidnapped by Ravan, the demon king. The statue shows Ram alone, without Sita and Laxman.

26. Punjab to ban online delivery of food without hygiene rating as per FSSAI guidelines

- ✚ Punjab State government plans to ban online delivery of food without hygiene rating as per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.
- ✚ The announcement was made by the Health Minister Brahm Mohindra announced on 30 May. The decision was taken under the 'Tandarust Punjab Mission'. Health Minister of the State Brahm Mohindra has issued directions to all online food order and supply companies to display the hygiene rating of the food business operators registered with them.
- ✚ The State has given three months for compliance with the law. After the deadline, no online food order will be delivered in the state without the hygiene rating.
- ✚ The online food companies can take orders from consumers and deliver it after procuring the hygiene rating from the Food Business Operators associated with them.

27. Cabinet approves Rs 3,000 pension scheme for small shopkeepers, retail traders

- ✚ The newly-inducted Union Cabinet approved a new scheme which assures minimum monthly pension of 3,000 per month to small shopkeepers, retail traders and the self-employed people after attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme will benefit three crore retail traders and shopkeepers. Five crore traders are expected to join the scheme in the next three years.

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

- ✚ The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet on passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from existing 14 per cent to 27 per cent.
- ✚ The matter will now be taken up in the monsoon session of the state Assembly.
- ✚ The Cabinet has also increased by three per cent the dearness allowance for employees and pensioners. It will cost the state exchequer Rs 1,647 crore and will benefit around seven lakh employees.

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

- ✚ The film festival would include films produced by UNICEF, UNESCO and filmmakers from different countries. It will also include entries from Tripura and other states. 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 on January and February 2020, Director of Vigyan Prasar Nakul Parashar said today.

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30. Bancha, the first solar kitchen only village in India

- ✚ Bancha in Betul district is the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs.
- ✚ The project of installing solar power plates, batteries and stoves in all the 74 houses was started in September 2017 and got completed by December 2018

31. Second Edition of World Food India to be held in New Delhi from 1- 4 November, 2019:

- ✚ Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced that World Food India (WFI) 2019, a biennial event, will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi from 1- 4 November, 2019.
- ✚ It will be the biggest gathering of all global and domestic stakeholders in Food Processing Sector.
- ✚ This will be the second edition of World Food India, first edition was held in 2017.
- ✚ The tagline of the event will be “Forging Partnerships for Growth”.
- ✚ The ministry targets to partner with at least 15 countries and participation from at least 80 countries.
- ✚ Indian Food processing industry has grown and registered a growth of 11% which is twice the pace of global industry.

32. For The First Time, India To Host COP-14 Of UNCCD In September 2019:

- ✚ India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019. It will be held between September 2 and 13, 2019 at the India Expo Center and Mart, New Delhi. COP-14 will review the reports submitted by COP to convention and look into the details like how they carry out their commitments.
- ✚ The conference will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India.
- ✚ 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating in the event.
- ✚ India will take over the COP presidency from China for the next two years till 2021 until the next COP.
- ✚ Last Conference was held from 6-16 September 2017 in Ordos in the People's Republic of China.
- ✚ The 3 major Conventions of the United Nations (UN) are UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UNCCD.

33. Himachal Pradesh Government makes GPS tracking devices mandatory 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.

34. Punjab Government set to launch a universal health insurance scheme named “Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY)” from July 2019

- ✚ On June 13, 2019, Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu announced that the State Government is set to launch its flagship universal health insurance scheme named “Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY)” with effect from July 1, 2019. This Health scheme will be the first of its kind in the state and provide annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family to 43.18 lakh families of Punjab. Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu states that besides all government hospitals, 364 private hospitals in Punjab had been empanelled, where the beneficiaries would get the secondary and tertiary care treatment. 14.86 lakh families of Punjab will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM JAY) in the state and the cost of the premium for the families covered under the PM JAY would be borne by the Centre and the state government in the 60:40 ratio while for the rest of the beneficiaries, it would be borne by the state government.

35. For the First time, India opens water clinic for Elephants in Mathura

- ✚ India has opened its first specialized hydrotherapy treatment centre for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments. It is situated in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. It is a collaboration of Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), Wildlife SOS. The jumbo hydrotherapy centre: It is near the Wildlife SOS’ Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which has over 20 rescued elephants. State-of-the-art modern facilities: It includes digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging and ultrasonography to treat injured, sick and geriatric elephants. The jumbo pool: It is situated 11foot deep and has 21 high-pressure jet sprays that help in massage the elephants’ feet and body and increase blood circulation of the elephant.

36. 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.

37. Jammu and Kashmir government appointed RK Chibber as interim chief of J&K Bank

- ✚ Jammu and Kashmir government removed Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Bank Chairman Parvez Ahmad. They decided to take long term measures to improve the functioning of the bank so that it becomes an example of a well managed government-owned bank.
- ✚ They appointed R K Chibber as interim chairman of the lender.
- ✚ Ahmad was appointed in 2016 as the chairman of the bank. The Vigilance Organisation made 1,200 appointments during the previous PDP-BJP dispensation in the state during Ahmad's tenure as chairman of the bank.
- ✚ Jammu and Kashmir Bank decided to take long term measures to improve the functioning of the bank and it becomes a shining example of a well managed government-owned bank.
- ✚ Last year the Governor-led State Administrative Council (SAC) approved the proposal for treating Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited as a public sector undertaking (PSU) and to make it to the state legislature from its employees. The government will re-examine the issue of accountability.

38. India's first Dinosaur Museum inaugurated in Gujarat:

- ✚ Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Saturday inaugurated India's first dinosaur museum and fossil park at Raiyoli village near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
- ✚ According to government officials, Raiyoli is globally known to be the third largest fossil site and the second largest dinosaur hatchery from where about 10,000 dinosaur eggs have been found.
- ✚ This is the first such park in the country and also the world's third park which exhibits remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records. 3D projection, 360 degrees virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks, gaming consoles are the facilities equipped with the museum.

39. Mamta Banerjee Unveils Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar statue:

- ✚ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled a bust of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar at the Hare School ground.
- ✚ Vidyasagar was a 19th-century social reformer and his bust was vandalised in clashes between BJP and TMC workers at Vidyasagar College on May 14.
- ✚ Trinamool Congress leaders, ministers in the West Bengal government, as well as some spiritual leaders were present in the event.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. India's first iron ore mine discovered in Bangladesh

- ✚ Iron ore mine discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur.
- ✚ This announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh. After the effect of extensive drilling over two months in the area. A 400-foot thick iron layer was found in Bangladesh after the result of the Geological Survey.
- ✚ Around 1,750 feet beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometer. The percentage of iron in the mine around 65.
- ✚ It indicates the high quality of the ore. The other countries like Canada, China, Brazil, Sweden, and Australia have the percentage of iron ore is below the level of 50.
- ✚ Other minerals such as gold, copper, nickel, and chromium also found at various levels of the mining. The discovery of the iron mine opened up economic prospects for the country. The iron concentration in the magnetite ore is 65 percent.

2. 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.

3. India Designated As Guest Country at Guadalajara International Book Fair In Mexico

- ✚ India designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Guadalajara International Book Fair) in Mexico, the National Book Trust. The book fair organized from November 30 – December 8, India pavilion at the fair will showcase over 35 Indian authors and artists, along with 15 publishing houses. India displays a wide array of its rich and composite literary and cultural heritage through literary and academic activities comprising conferences. Ancient and rare manuscripts including “Mahabharata” and “Ramayana” will be put on exhibition, along with photo books, handicrafts, and paintings. The “Festival of India” will showcase folk, classical and contemporary cultural programmes.

4. India will overtake China as world's most populous country: UN report:

- ✚ According to the 26th edition of the United Nations population estimates and projection report, “World Population Prospects 2019” published by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs states that India is going to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027.
- ✚ According to the World Population Review 2019, India currently ranks second in the index out of 230 countries with over 17 per cent of the world population.
- ✚ India likely to add nearly 273 million people between 2019 and 2050.
- ✚ The report also stated that among the Southeast Asian countries, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar have witnessed a large net outflow of migrants between 2010 and 2020.
- ✚ Nigeria with 733 million, the United States with 434 million, and Pakistan with 403 million are the three countries will expected to get place after India and China.

5. Japan gifts Manipur a Peace Museum built on World War-II memories

- ✚ Japan gifted Manipur, one of India's north eastern state a Museum of Peace built on the memories of Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of 2nd World War (WWII). The inauguration of Imphal Peace Museum marked 75th anniversary of Battle of Imphal
- ✚ The Imphal Peace Museum was inaugurated at Red Hill which lies about 20 km southwest of Imphal (Manipur capital).
- ✚ The museum is funded by Nippon Foundation, a private, non-profit grant-making organization based in Japan.

6. US-Iran crisis: Trump lashes out at 'ignorant and insulting' statement

- ✚ US President Trump struck at Iran by issuing "hard-hitting" financial sanctions against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates. Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said actions by President Trump to impose new sanctions was "yet another indication of continued US hostility" against the country and its leaders.
- ✚ The tweets came after Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said the move proved the White House was "mentally retarded".
- ✚ The sanctions target a number of individuals, notably Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who Mr Trump said was "ultimately responsible for the hostile conduct of the regime".

7. Council of Europe restores Russia's voting rights

- ✚ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has voted in favor of restoring Russia's voting rights, five years after they were revoked over its illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.
- ✚ In a statement, the Council of Europe said the assembly affirmed its members' rights "to vote, to speak and to be represented in the assembly and its bodies."
- ✚ The assembly voted 118 in favor and 62 against, with 10 abstentions.

8. PM Modi to attend G-20 summit in Japan from June 27-29, says MEA

- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G-20 summit in Osaka in Japan from June 27 to 29, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.
- ✚ MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar announced that former Union minister Suresh Prabhu would be India's Sherpa at the meet.
- ✚ "This would be the sixth time that Prime Minister Modi would be participating in the summit. He would hold bilateral (discussions) and participate in plurilateral meetings which would be announced closer to the date," Mr. Kumar said.

9. 7th India and Brunei Darussalam Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi.

- ✚ The 7th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Brunei Darussalam was held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary(East) and Brunei side was led by Hajah Siti Norishan Haji Abdul Ghafor, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Government.
- ✚ They reviewed bilateral relations between the 2 countries, including political, trade and investment, defence, cultural & people to people contact and exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues.
- ✚ They agreed to explore cooperation in energy, health and pharmaceuticals, higher education and agricultural sectors.

- ✚ The next round of Consultations will be held in Brunei on mutually agreed dates.

10. Russia extends ban on EU Food Imports till December 31, 2020

- ✚ In 2014, Russia had imposed an official ban on a wide range of imports from the EU and other countries in retaliation for international sanctions over Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis.
- ✚ This has affected Russian economy by pushing up food prices.

11. G-20 summit has begun in Osaka, Japan.

- ✚ The theme of the summit is Human centred future society.
- ✚ 19 countries, the European Union and several special invitees are participating at the Osaka Summit.

12. Cyril Ramaphosa takes oath as South Africa's President

- ✚ Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a five-year term as South Africa's President with a delicate fight against government corruption ahead of him.
- ✚ He was elected earlier this month with a majority of 57.50%, the smallest since the party came to power 25 years ago.
- ✚ Mr. Ramaphosa initially took over from Jacob Zuma in 2018 after Mr. Zuma was accused of corruption. Mr. Ramaphosa is the country's fifth democratically elected president since apartheid ended in 1994.

13. Facebook plans to launch 'GlobalCoin' cryptocurrency in 2020

- ✚ Facebook is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency in early 2020, allowing users to make digital payments in dozen countries. The currency, dubbed GlobalCoin, would enable Facebook's 2.4 billion monthly users to change dollars and other international currencies into its digital coins. The coins could then be used to buy things on the internet and in shops and other outlets, or to transfer money without needing a bank account.

14. Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala

- ✚ Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year. With the lifting of the embargo, he said Kozhikode airport was alone handling 20 tonnes of fruits and vegetables per day valued at \$50,000 to various destinations in Saudi.
- ✚ Kerala ships around 150 tonnes of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis to various gulf countries and of this, the consignment to Saudi alone was 30-40 tonnes.

15. World's Highest Weather Stations Installed Atop Mount Everest

- ✚ A team of Tribhuvan University and National Geographic Society scientists and researchers have installed world's highest , fully automated weather stations atop Mount Everest. Scientists announced that they successfully installed five automated stations, including the highest weather station in world, on Mount Everest's flank. 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.

16. Sri Lanka signs tripartite agreement with India and Japan

- ✚ Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.

- ✚ The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed in Colombo by Sri Lankan ports minister Sagala Ratnayake, Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu and a Japanese representative.
- ✚ As per the agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51 percent majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 percent.

17. Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's

- ✚ Scott Morrison has been sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election. Along with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Morrison was sworn in by Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, in the capital Canberra. Also sworn in was Morrison's revamped Cabinet, which includes a record seven women, and Australia's first Aboriginal federal Cabinet member, Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt, who wore a traditional kangaroo skin.

18. Trump Says U.S. Will Hit Mexico With 5% Tariffs on All Goods

- ✚ President Trump said that he would impose a 5 percent tariff on all imported goods from Mexico beginning June 10, a tax that would "gradually increase" until the flow of undocumented immigrants across the border stopped.
- ✚ President Trump has declared a national emergency to tackle what he claims is a crisis at the US southern border.

19. James Marape elected new Papua New Guinea prime minister

- ✚ James Marape, a former finance minister and critic of a major global gas development deal, has been elected by prime minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG)
- ✚ He succeeds Peter O'Neill. Marape, the member for Tari-Pori in New Hela province was a key minister in O'Neill's Government. He was elected by MPs who voted 101 to 8, to make him the next leader.

20. Centre launches song 'Hawa Aane De' on air pollution

- ✚ Song 'Hawa Aane De' launched to spread awareness about Air pollution Union Environment Ministry today launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution. The song was launched by Secretary, Ministry of Environment C K Mishra ahead of the World Environment Day on 5th of June.
- ✚ This year the theme of Environment Day is Air Pollution. He said, the awareness on the environment should be carried out round the year and the centre has launched the National Clean Air Programme to control and reduce air pollution across the country.

21. British Airways resumes flights to Pakistan more than 10 years after suspending its service

- ✚ Britain's flagship carrier stopped flying to Pakistan after the Marriott hotel in the capital, Islamabad, was bombed in 2008, killing more than 50 people.
- ✚ The airline is now scheduled to fly three times a week, with Boeing 787 Dreamliners, to the Pakistani capital from London Heathrow.
- ✚ It is the only western airline to resume its service to Islamabad. Pakistan's flag carrier, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was the only airline to run direct flights between Islamabad and London.

22. WHO award for Rajasthan Health Department.

- ✚ The World Health Organization has selected the Rajasthan government's Medical & Health Department for its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.
- ✚ The department's Additional Chief Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh, will receive the award at a function to mark World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi.
- ✚ The Health Department of the State is the only government body in the country which will be awarded for its tobacco-free initiatives.

23. 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.

24. Russia launches first Arctic train service

- ✚ The first tourist train traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from Saint Petersburg station Wednesday with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.
- ✚ The train, named "Zarengold" ("The Tsar's gold" in German) complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through Petrozavodsk, the historic town of Kem and Murmansk.
- ✚ The whole trip will take 11 days and allow passengers to discover areas difficult to access by other means, according to the organizers.

25. Facebook brings interactive game show 'Confetti' to India, will allow viewers to win Rs 3 lakh per day

- ✚ Social media network Facebook is set to launch 'Confetti', its interactive game show, in India.
- ✚ To be launched on June 12, the show will be aired live five days a week – from Wednesday to Sunday – on Facebook's dedicated video platform, Facebook Watch. It will challenge participants to answer pop culture trivia questions for a chance to win a cash prize of up to Rs 3 lakh everyday.
- ✚ "Confetti is a new social video interactive initiative from Facebook for our Indian users," said Manish Chopra, director and Head of Partnerships, Facebook India. "This is first of its kind live interactive show that is aimed at building community together. It has seen success in various South Asian countries already."

26. Agreement between India and Marshall Islands for Exchange of Information notified

- ✚ The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information with respect to taxes was signed on 18th March, 2016 at Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Indian-Marshall Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) was notified to the gazette of India.
- ✚ The agreement provides framework for exchange of Information in tax matters which helps in tax evasion and tax avoidance.

- ✚ It provides information like banking and ownership between two countries for tax purposes.

27. India Ranks 95 Among 129 Countries in Global Gender Equality Index

- ✚ 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 Sustainable Development Goals Gender Index has been developed by UK-based Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global Organisations including African Women's Development and Communication Network, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and International Women's Health Coalition

28. Gandhi peace rally held in Saudi Arabia

- ✚ To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy organized the 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace', in Saudi Arabia. The rally was organized in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.
- ✚ The rally was flagged off by the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr.Ausaf Sayeed.The Saudi nationals, diplomats, Indian Diaspora attended the rally.
- ✚ This was the first time this kind of rally held in Diplomatic Quarters in Riyadh,Saudi Arabia.

29. Sri Lankan Airlines named world's most punctual air service for second consecutive time

- ✚ SriLankan Airlines named as the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time with over 90 percent of its flights in May.This status was achieved for the second time in less than 12 months.They achieved a punctuality rating of 91.37 percent reports Xinhua news agency.In a may month they achieved a punctuality rating of 90.75 percent.
- ✚ Flightstats analyzed 41 carriers data from Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and South America and includes most of the world's most prestigious airlines.
- ✚ The punctuality rating of 90.75% by SriLankan Airlines in May 2019 facing challenges caused by heightened security at airline's hub at Bandaranaike International Airport (in Sri Lankan capital Colombo).

30. India, Myanmar conducted joint operation:

- ✚ The first semi-open prison for women will be inaugurated on June 20, 2019 in Tihar, Delhi.
- ✚ The premises are a 4 minute drive from Jail where 375 women inmates are lodged.
- ✚ On the first floor is a work station, where the five women make seviyan.
- ✚ Semi-open and open prisons for men have been functioning at Tihar Jail for a while now.

31. WHO launched a new tool to handle AMR named "AWaRe"

- ✚ On June 18, 2019, The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign "AdoptAWaRe, Handle antibiotics with care" urging governments to adopt a tool named "AWaRe" (Access, Watch, and Reserve), to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs.

32. Ireland plans to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2030

- ✚ In order to combat greenhouse gas emissions, Ireland Government decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 as part of a major strategy to protect the environment. This is one of 180 measures the Irish government published in the 'Climate Action Plan'.

33. Bangladesh, South Korea state channels now telecasted on state-owned DD Free Dish

- India has signed agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea for DD India to be telecasted on the state platforms of the respective countries. As per the agreement, BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV and KBS World, an English language of South Korea, will now be available on the state-owned DD Free Dish.

34. G20 Ministerial Meeting On Energy Transitions And Global Environment For Sustainable Growth Held In Karuizawa, Japan .

- In order to deal with the economic and financial crisis triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the former G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was promoted to the summit-level meeting as a forum of leaders of major industrialized countries and emerging countries in November 2008. The first G20 Summit was held in Washington D. C. After that, the leaders met every half year until 2010. Since 2011, it has been held once a year. The 2019 Summit will be held in Japan. Title of the meeting: G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth Date: June 15-16, 2019 Venue: Karuizawa Prince Hotel (Karuizawa Town, Nagano) Outline and purpose: The G20 Ministers will meet together to discuss energy transitions and global environment toward sustainable growth.

35. The US overtook China as India's largest goods trading partner in 2018-19

- The United States (US) overtook China to become India's largest goods trading partner in 2018-19. Trade surplus of India with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion for 2017-18. A trade deficit of India with China was at \$53 billion in 2018-19, down from \$63 billion for 2017-18. India's dependency on Chinese imports saw a decline to \$70 billion from \$76 billion in 2017-18, with over a fourth increase in exports to \$16.7 billion in 2018-19.

Banking

1. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya quits 6 months before his term ends

- RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, who was in-charge of the monetary policy department, has resigned six months before the scheduled end of his term.
- This is the second high profile resignation in the past six month at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In December, governor Urjit Patel resigned nearly nine months before the end of his schedule term over differences with the government.

2. UAE launches UN-developed anti money laundering platform 'goAML'

- The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch 'goAML', a new anti money laundering reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes.
- All financial entities and Designated Non Financial Businesses or Professions have to register on 'goAML'.
- The platform will help the Financial Intelligence Unit of UAE to prevent money laundering, financing of terrorism and other illicit financial activities.

3. Saudi Arabia became the first Arab country to get FATF membership

- ✦ Saudi Arabia became the first Arab country to get membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).The number of permanent members of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is 39.
- ✦ The membership admitted into the global money laundering after the Annual General Meeting in Orlando, Florida.FATF celebrated their 30th anniversary of its first meeting.
- ✦ Saudi Arabia received an invitation from FATF in 2015 and they joined as an "observer member'.

4. Maruti Suzuki inks partnership with BOB for dealer financing

- ✦ Maruti Suzuki, an Automobile manufacturer in India signed 'Preferred Financier' MoU(Memorandum of understanding) with Indian multinational with Bank of Baroda(BOB) in order to improve credit for dealership inventory financing.
- ✦ The partnership with Bank of Baroda allows Maruti Suzuki to finance opportunities to dealers as well as customers. The financing will work in line with the Bank of Baroda's product program of Supply Chain Finance.
- ✦ The tight liquidity situation in the financial system of the IL&FS crisis and rising bad loans prompted the banks.Lenders introduced strict credit norms for automobile dealers due to the rising cases of bad loans in this segment of the automobile industry.The dealers were asked to provide collateral extended by banks.

5. Korean Ambassador to India Bong-kil Shin signed agreement with BMVSS and launched 'Jaipur Foot Korea'

- ✦ South Korean Ambassador to India Bong-kil Shin launched a collaborative initiative between South Korea and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) named 'Jaipur Foot Korea'. An agreement was also signed by the Korean Ambassador with BMVSS to provide assistance in prosthetic limbs sector.
- ✦ Korea will grant financial and technical assistance for research and development collaboration in the med-tech sector in the area of prosthetic limbs, bionic arms, 3-D printing-based Flat foot solution and mobility solutions.It will provide opportunities to the Korean med-tech students to join the various prosthetic fitment camps in various countries and participate in certificate programmes offered by Jaipur Foot.
- ✦ It will provide overseas development assistance and grants from the Government of Korea and donations from private institutions and corporations from Korea to India.

6. RBI's Complaint Management System To Improve Customer Experience In Grievance Redressal Process

- ✦ The newly launched Complaint Management System (CMS), symbolizes Reserve Bank of India or RBI's commitment to improve customer experience in grievance redressal process by ensuring timely resolution of complaints received at the Reserve Bank, noted the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- ✦ Sustaining the confidence of consumers in banks and other Financial Service Providers (FSPs) through prompt and effective grievance redressal, together with empowering customers through education is pivotal for maintaining trust in the banking system.
- ✦ CMS envisages improved customer convenience by providing a single window on Reserve Bank's website for lodging complaints against any regulated entity

7. MobiKwik partnered with Max Bupa to launch 'shampoo-sachet' health plan

- ✚ Max Bupa and MobiKwik launched a HospiCash plan which has an annual premium of Rs 135.
- ✚ It provides daily cash allowance of Rs 500 for up to 30 days during the hospital stay.
- ✚ There is an inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs 1 lakh. The higher variants with annual premium of Rs 225 and Rs 400 will provide cash allowance of Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000 per day respectively.

8. IOB launches 'Bank on Wheels' in 13 TN districts

- ✚ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) on Monday launched 'Bank on Wheels' in all its 13 Lead Districts in Tamil Nadu, for enhancing customer service and bringing banking services on wheels to rural and semi urban areas of the State.
- ✚ The 'Bank on Wheels' has been launched in Kanyakumari, Karur, Nagapattinam, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Thanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruvarur, Virudhunagar and Chennai. It has been launched in Vijayawada, Kakinada and Thiruvananthapuram regions.
- ✚ The facility will enable the public, especially the senior citizens of the society, to conveniently get doorstep banking facility available at identified locations of the Lead Districts.

9. Corporation Bank launches loan scheme for MSME sector

- ✚ State-owned Corporation Bank has launched 'SMESuvidha' scheme to provide loans to the GST-registered MSMEs at affordable interest rates.
- ✚ The product is designed as a part of the lender's efforts to improve service and provide the best products to the MSME sector. This is a unique product for GST-registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✚ The bank is actively participating in the government's flagship programmes including 'MUDRA' and 'Stand-up India' to provide the much-needed push to the MSME sector.

10. RBI extends timings for RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

- ✚ RBI has extended timings for customer transactions in the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to 6:00 pm from 4:30 pm. The new time window for RTGS will come into effect from 1st June 2019. The customer is charged a 'time-varying charge' on each outward transaction in addition to the flat processing charge. The fee for transfers between 8 am to 11 am is nil, from 11 am to 1 pm is Rs 2, and from 1 pm to 6 pm is Rs 5. The fee for transfers made after the initial cut off of 6 pm will be Rs.10.
- ✚ The initial cut off for customer transactions will be 6 pm and the final cut off for inter-bank transactions will be 7:45 pm. The IDL reversal will take place between 7:45 pm and 8 pm.

11. L&T Finance launches 'Sabse Khaas Loan' for two-wheeler customers

- ✚ L&T Finance, a subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings, launched 'Sabse Khaas Loan' for two-wheeler customers.
- ✚ The scheme not only provides hassle-free and low-cost finance for two-wheelers but also eliminates the need for hypothecation of vehicle to the financier over the tenure of the loan, the company said in a statement.
- ✚ The borrowers can choose from 3 different EMI tenures 6, 12 and 18 months with interest rates between 7.99 per cent and 8.99 per cent.

12. ICICI Bank launches center in Bengaluru exclusive for MSME

- ✚ ICICI bank launched a center in Bengaluru to provide hazard free services to small business owners and startups. Sandeep Batra, Executive Director, ICICI Bank along with Mr. Viral Rupani, Retail Business Head – South, ICICI Bank inaugurated the center.
- ✚ The center provides various services which include working capital loans of up to Rs. 20 crore, business loans (based on GST returns) of up to Rs. 1 crore, instant overdraft facility of up to Rs. 15 lakh, extensive trade solutions and cash management services and others.
- ✚ The center also provide legal and valuation desk to help customers in resolving challenges related to collateral for various loans.

13. RBI appoints Rabi Mishra as Executive Director -:

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has promoted Odisha-born Rabi N Mishra as the executive director (ED) after Rosemary Sebastian. Previously, Rabi N Mishra was the principal chief general manager of the bank's risk management department.
- ✚ Mishra, a Ph.D holder in Monetary Economics hails from Mahendra Pur Shashan in Dhenkanal, Odisha.
- ✚ He will handle the newly-created specialized supervisory and regulatory cadre within the RBI. He will be supervising cooperative banks and the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- ✚ There are 12 executive directors including the chief financial officers in RBI.

14.Canara Bank updates new rules for cash deposits of up to Rs 50,000

- ✚ From July 1, Canara Bank customers can deposit cash of up to Rs 50,000 for free only thrice a month. From the fourth transaction or for cash deposits of over Rs 50,000, there will be a service charge of Rs 1 per thousand, with a minimum of Rs 50 and a maximum of Rs 5,000 plus GST.

15. ADB sanctions Rs 1,650Cr infra projects in Tripura:

- ✚ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project submitted by Urban Development Department (UDD) of Tripura amounting to Rs.1650 crore for overall infrastructure development of seven district headquarter towns of Tripura.
- ✚ The fund is meant for development of piped water supply, underground drainage, underground sewage or scientific septage management, roads with pavement.
- ✚ The ADB will give 80 per cent of 1650 crore as grant-in-aid and the state Government of Tripura will have to repay back only 20 per cent loan in due course of time.
- ✚ The seven district headquarters include-Khowai (Khowai), Ambassa(Dhalai district), Dharmnagar(North Tripura), Kailashahar (Unakoti), Udaipur (Gomati), Bishramganj (Sepahijala), Belonia (South Tripura) ,where the plan will be implemented.

16. Jammu and Kashmir Bank brought under RTI, CVC guidelines:

- ✚ The Board of Directors (BoD) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank under the chairmanship of the bank's Interim Chairman and Managing Director (MD) R.S. Chhibber decided to bring the bank under Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines with effect from June 17, 2019.
- ✚ The decision was taken after receiving directions from the State Government, which owns 59% of the bank's shares, in order to improve the governance and bring transparency & accountability in the functioning of the bank.
- ✚ BoD decided to arrest any further slippage of accounts to Non Performing Assets (NPA) by initiating strong action against wilful defaulters.

- ✚ This move is implemented after Parvez Ahmed was removed as the Chairman of the J&K Bank for alleged corruption, nepotism and favouritism.

17. "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.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos

18. RBI fines HDFC Bank for 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.

19. Facebook to launch Blockchain-based Libra cryptocurrency in 2020

- ✚ On June 8, 2019, Facebook confirmed that it will launch a blockchain-powered stable-coin 'Libra' in 2020 through the release of white paper. It will be a form of digital money backed by a reserve of assets. It will be governed by the independent Libra Association, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

20. Bangladesh emerged as the fastest economy in Asia-Pacific: Asian Development Bank

- ✚ Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) stated that Bangladesh emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Higher public sector investment, stronger consumption demand, revival in exports, improved power supply and higher growth in private sector credit were the key factors of the high growth performance of Bangladesh. In 2018-19, Bangladesh registered a growth rate of 7.9%. It was the fastest rate since 1974. It predicted that the growth will be 8% in the next financial year 2019-20. It stated that the growth will be moderate across most of developing Asia – 5.7% in 2019 and 5.6% in 2020 from 6.2% in 2017 and 5.9% in 2018. South Asia will witness slow growth in Asia at 6.8% in 2019 and 6.9% in 2020.

21. CCI approves Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger

- ✚ Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of the Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank. Lakshmi Vilas Bank is going to merge with Indiabulls Housing Finance in a share swap deal with intent to create a combined entity with a larger capital base and wider geographical reach. After the merger, Indiabulls Housing Finance will get access to low cost deposits, geographical diversification and expanded client base and cross selling opportunities. MD & CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank: Parthasarathi Mukherjee.

22. RBI panel on MSMEs suggested Rs 20 lakh collateral-free loan under Mudra Scheme

- ✚ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expert committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) headed by the former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman U K Sinha, has recommended doubling the capital on collateral-free loans from the current Rs

10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, for borrowers falling under the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA), self-help groups, and MSMEs.

- ✚ According to the 2006 definition, manufacturing units with investment below Rs 25 lakh were termed micro, those between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 5 crore termed small, and from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore medium.
- ✚ For service units, the corresponding amounts were up to Rs 10 lakh for micro, Rs 10 lakh-2 crore for small, and Rs 2 crore-5 crore for medium enterprises.

23. Paytm Payments Bank ahead of major banks in digital transaction target with 501.16 crore digital transactions

- ✚ Paytm Payments Bank with 501.16 crore digital transactions for the financial year 2019-20 was ahead of major banks including HDFC Bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank and Punjab National Bank in digital transaction target set by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It is only behind the State Bank of India (SBI) which has the highest target for digital transactions.
- ✚ Only 5 banks have received a target of more than 100 crore transactions. They are HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India.
- ✚ In FY 2018-19, Paytm payments bank had crossed the target of 354 crore transactions and recorded 393 crore digital transfers. It has a market share of 19% and 32% respectively in terms of mobile banking and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.
- ✚ It processes over Rs 3 lakh crore worth of digital transactions on an annual basis. In terms of deposits, it has more than Rs 500 crore deposits in savings accounts as of April 2019. It is largest among the payments bank in India.

24. SBI cuts interest rate on CC/OD, introduces repo linked home loan product

- ✚ On June 7, 2019, State Bank of India (SBI) announced to introduce repo-linked home loan product from July 1, 2019. It has become the first bank to offer this facility.
 - ✚ The home loans up to Rs 75 lakh will be priced at 2.65% over the repo rate of 5.75% resulting in the interest rate of 8.40%. At present, it offers home loans linked to its marginal cost of funds at 8.55%. SBI also reduced the interest rate on Cash Credit Account (CC) and Overdraft (OD) customers with limits above Rs 1 lakh, after the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75%.
 - ✚ At present, the effective Repo-Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for CC/ OD customers is 8% whereas for savings deposits above Rs 1 lakh the new rate is 3%.
- iv. In March, SBI had linked all CC accounts and ODs with limits above Rs 1 lakh to the repo rate plus a spread of 2.25%. For above Rs 1 lakh, it had set its savings deposit rates to 2.75% below the repo rate.

25. Kazakh-Indian Investment Forum held in Ahmedabad

- ✚ Kazakh-Indian Investment Forum was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on June 7, 2019 to attract investments. It was organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in India with the support of the Honorary Consulate of Kazakhstan in the state of Gujarat Dilip Chandan, the National Company- Kazakh Invest and Jain International Trade Organization.
- ✚ The event witnessed the participation of the leaders of more than 30 Indian companies.
- ✚ Preliminary agreements were given during the B2B (business-to-business), also known as e-biz, meetings.

27. A penalty of Rs.11.25 lakh imposed on Zip Cash, Yes Bank by RBI

- ✚ A penalty of Rs.11.25 lakh imposed on ZipCash, Yes Bank by RBI. The Reserve Bank of India slapped a monetary penalty 11.25 lakh each on Private sector lender 'Yes Bank' and Online Wallet Service, 'ZipCash Card Services' for violating PPI norms pertaining to issuance and operation of PPIs.

- ✚ The fine imposed in exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.

28. Tata Consultancy Services Indian Company has the Higher Market Value than IBM at \$120.5 bn.

- ✚ India's largest software services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has surpassed US technology giant IBM in terms of market capitalisation.
- ✚ As of recent closing, the market cap of TCS stood at Rs8.37 lakh crore (\$120.5 billion) compared to IBM's \$119.5 billion.
- ✚ TCS reported revenue of \$20.9 billion in the previous fiscal while IBM ended 2018 with \$79.6 billion in revenue.

29. Rating agencies will now have to disclose the probability of defaults : Sebi

- ✚ According to the Sebi circular, 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

30. Recent Reports Says The Global Internet Users Have Touched 3.8 Billion

- ✚ According to the Mary Meeker's 2019 Internet Trends Report that the global internet users have touched 3.8 billion which is more than half of the world's population.
- ✚ China was found to have the largest internet user base at 21%. The internet users in India are 12%, and the United States are 8%.
- ✚ The report said Asia Pacific region was found to be leading in terms of both the number of users and potential internet users with 53% of users coming from this part of the world.
- ✚ Global internet users making 51% of the world's population is a considerable growth as compared to 29% of the world's population using the internet in 2009. The report noted a slowdown in the year-on-year growth in the volume of global internet users.

31. UNCTAD World Investment Report 2019

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2019, India received foreign direct investments (FDI) worth USD 42 billion in 2018.

India attracted over 77% of the total foreign direct investments that came to the South Asian region.

India's rank as a source country for FDI dropped one place to the 10th position as it was overtaken by Spain.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. 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 and 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.

2. Vinit Goenka pens new book titled "Data Sovereignty - The Pursuit of Supremacy"

- ✚ The book, "Function of Data Sovereignty - The Pursuit of Supremacy. It is written by Vinit Goenka, Author, Secretary. He is a member of the Governing Council- CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems) and Ministry of Railways.
- ✚ The book focuses on steps and concrete actions required to build highly capable data centers to ensure data security.
- ✚ The book tells aspect of data generation and consumption. It encourages policymakers on data localization and creates awareness among the people on the potential of data and implications of data.

3. First-time TMC MPs Nusrat Jahan, Mimi Chakraborty take oath as Lok Sabha members

- ✚ The first-time parliamentarians, TMC MPs Nusrat Jahan Ruhi Jain and Mimi Chakraborty took oath as members of the 17th Lok Sabha on June 25, 2019. Both the actresses were not present on the day that the oath of the office was administered to all the Lok Sabha MPs, due to Nusrat Jahan's wedding.
- ✚ So, as soon as the Lok Sabha convened for the day, the two actresses took oath as first-time MPs in Bangla. Both of them ended their oath by saying "Jai Hind, Vande Mataram and Jai Bangla". The two later touched Lok Speaker Om Birla's feet before taking their seat.

4. Qu Dongyu the first Chinese to head the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization.

- ✚ China's agricultural deputy minister, Qu Dongyu (55) elected as the new director general of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at Rome, Italy for a period of 4 years w.e.f. August 2019. He will succeed Brazil's Jose Graziano da Silva.
- ✚ He won 108 votes, followed by Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France (the first woman to run for the post, a former head of the European Food Safety Authority) with 71 votes and Georgia's Davit Kirvalidze (a former agriculture minister) with 12 votes in the first round of voting.
- ✚ The election held as the fight to eradicate world hunger is threatened by global warming and wars, as FAO has sounded the alarm over rising food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition.

5. BharatPe appoints Pratekk Agarwal as Chief Business Officer

- ✚ To lead its push into lending, digital payments firm BharatPe, has appointed Pratekk Agarwal as its Chief Business Officer. Agarwal holds more than 18 years of experience and has worked across financial services companies like Indostar Capital, Bajaj Capital, and Fullerton India.
- ✚ He also co-founded Self in December 2016 to work on insurance, financial management, and lending.
- ✚ BharatPe on boards micro merchants for Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based transactions through quick response (QR) codes. It is now making a foray into lending and other financial services for merchants.

6. Binny Bansal sells Flipkart shares worth Rs 530 crore to Walmart'

- ✚ Binny Bansal, the co-founder of India's leading e-tailer Flipkart, sold around 54 lakh of his equity shares valued at \$76 million (₹531 crore) to world's retail giant Walmart's Luxembourg entity FIT Holdings SARL, business intelligence platform Paper.
- ✚ The current sale is estimated to have reduced Bansal's holdings.

7. Narinder Batra elected as IOC member

- ✚ Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra has been elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee. He secured 58 votes out of 62.
- ✚ Narinder Batra now has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee as well as an international federation.
- ✚ He is the first Indian to have this distinction.

8. Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya sworn in as Governor of Manipur.

- ✚ Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya sworn in as Governor of Manipur.
- ✚ Nagaland Governor PB Acharya taking oath during the swearing-in ceremony as the Governor of Manipur at Raj Bhavan.
- ✚ He will serve as Governor of Manipur as an additional charge during the absence, on leave, of Dr Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.

9. Nirmala Sitharaman among 100 most influential women in UK power list

- ✚ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward alongside one of Britain's senior-most Cabinet ministers Penny Mordaunt.
- ✚ The '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list was launched by UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid to mark India Day in the Houses of Parliament in London.
- ✚ It credited Sitharaman, also the Minister of Corporate Affairs, as one of India's most "powerful women" who plays a "pivotal" role in the bilateral relationship – as India's former defence minister and now finance minister.

10. Indian Army officer appointed the commander of UN Mission in South Sudan

- ✚ UN Secretary, General Antonio Guterres, has appointed Indian Army officer, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- ✚ The UN chief made the announcement that 57-year-old Lieutenant General Tinaikar will succeed Lieutenant General Frank Kamanzi of Rwanda who completes his assignment.
- ✚ The decorated Indian Army officer “has had a long and distinguished career with the Indian Armed Forces spanning over 34 years,” a statement by the UN Spokesperson said. He has won the Sena Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal for his service.

11. Maldives Ex-Leader Mohamed Nasheed Tipped As New Speaker

- ✚ The former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed has been nominated as the country's parliamentary speaker and is set to be sworn in Tuesday, a party official said.
- ✚ Nasheed was unanimously chosen to head the People's Majlis, or the parliament, by his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) which won a near three quarter majority in the 87-member assembly in April.
- ✚ "He is unanimously chosen as the Speaker," a party official told AFP. "He will be sworn in at the inaugural session of the new parliament elected at the historic April vote."

12. V D Savarkar's birth anniversary being celebrated 28 May.

- ✚ Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary is being celebrated. Born in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra, Savarkar was popularly called Veer Savarkar. He was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government.
- ✚ In a tweet, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said, the nation will always remember the sacrifices made by Veer Savarkar during the freedom struggle.
- ✚ Mr Modi said, Veer Savarkar epitomises courage, patriotism and unflinching commitment to a strong India and he inspired many people to devote themselves towards nation building.

13. Walmart Appoints Suresh Kumar as Chief Technology Officer

- ✚ US-based retail chain Walmart has appointed Suresh Kumar, an IIT Madras graduate and former Google executive, as chief technology officer and chief development officer.
- ✚ He will directly report to President and Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon, Walmart said in a statement. The appointment comes at a time when Walmart is transforming its customer and associate experiences.
- ✚ He brings over 25 years of technology leadership experience coming from Google, Microsoft, Amazon and IBM, it said. "The technology of today and tomorrow enables us to serve our customers and associates in ways that weren't previously possible. We want to take full advantage of those opportunities," McMillon said.

14. Military tribunal allows Karambir Singh to take charge as new Navy Chief

- ✚ The Armed Forces Tribunal cleared the way for Vice Admiral Karambir Singh to become the next Navy Chief, while it deferred for four weeks the matter of Vice Admiral Bimal Verma which seeks to quash Singh's appointment.
- ✚ Karambir Singh, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, will take over as the Navy Chief on 31st May 2019

15. Indian-origin Anita Bhatia appointed UN Deputy Executive Director

- ✚ Indian-origin Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilisation and management, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in the global body's agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.
- ✚ She has been appointed the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships, a statement from the UN Spokesperson's Office.
- ✚ Ms. Bhatia served for several years as Director of Global Partnerships for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm.

16. Yoga Instructor, Namrata Menon appointed as brand ambassador to promote yoga in Goa

- ✚ State Health Department of Goa announced the appointment of Panaji-based, Namrata Menon, Yoga Instructor, and fitness expert, as brand ambassador to promote yoga in Goa.

- ✚ She is appointed to promote the ancient system of physical and mental practices to raise awareness about the benefits of yoga so that people follow it on a daily basis.
- ✚ She is practicing yoga for 17 years. The main objective of this initiative is to increase awareness about the benefits of yoga and encourage people to inculcate a healthy lifestyle.

17. Mohana Singh becomes first woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet

- ✚ Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft, a defence release has said. She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal
- ✚ "Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became the first woman fighter pilot to become fully operational by day on Hawk advanced jet aircraft as she landed after a gruelling 4 aircraft combat sortie at Air Force station Kalaikunda, West Bengal, which was the last syllabus sortie, of being fully operational on the Hawk Jets.
- ✚ She has a total of over 500 hours of incident-free flying, of which 380 hours are on the Hawk Mk 132 jet. She had, along with two other women pilots, Bhawana Kanth and Avani Chaturvadi, joined the fighter stream in June 2016.

18. Ajit Doval reappointed National Security Advisor with Cabinet rank

- ✚ The government reappointed retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser, according him a Cabinet rank.
- ✚ He becomes the first NSA to get Cabinet status in the table of precedence.
- ✚ In his previous stint as an NSA, he had the stature of a Minister of State (MoS).
- ✚ According to one official, the decision was taken since Mr. Doval leads strategic dialogues with many countries and a Cabinet rank will facilitate his interactions with the most senior officials. "A case in point is China, where there has been a mismatch between him and the Special Representative for boundary talks, who is normally a State councillor of Cabinet rank. China had raised discomfort about the mismatch," the official said

19. Lt Gen PJS Pannu designated as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence staff (operation)

- ✚ On June 5, 2019, The Defence Ministry, Government of India appointed Lt Gen PJS Pannu as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence staff (Doctrine organisation and training) after Air Marshal Rajeev Sachdeva with effect from June 1. He is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy and was commissioned into 22nd Battalion, The Maratha Light Infantry (MLI) on December, 1980 and commanded the battalion from May 1999 to February during operation
- ✚ 'VIJAY' He also held prestigious appointments in army force such as General staff officer grade 1, Director in Military operation directorate, colonel military secretary and Deputy military assistant to chief of army staff. He is also served in UN mission in Mozambique and Sudan. He was awarded the Param Vishist Seva medal in 2018 and Arti Vishist seva medal in 2014.

20. 'Cyclone Man' Mrutyunjay Mohapatra appointed as chief of Indian Meteorological Department

- ✚ Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist Mrutyunjay Mohapatra was appointed as the chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- ✚ Mohapatra and his team at the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD have earned praise for their accurate forecasts on cyclones, its wind-speed and likely impact on life and property including during the recent cyclone 'Fani', when their timely warnings enabled the authorities to ensure early evacuation of millions of people.
- ✚ The 54-year-old Scientist 'G' and Additional Director General in the IMD has been appointed as Director General of Meteorology, IMD, for a period of five years, the order said. He will assume charge in August.

21. P Jayadevan Appointed as IOCL Executive Director for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

- ✚ P Jayadevan has been appointed as the executive director of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry succeeding R Sitharathan. He will be coordinating oil company. He was previously heading Chairman's Secretariat at the corporate office, New Delhi. Prime Minister's Aadhaar Excellence Award was awarded to him for his contribution.

22. PM Modi reconstitutes NITI Aayog; Shah appointed ex-officio member

- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday approved reconstitution of government think-tank Niti Aayog, dropping Bibek Debroy while retaining other full time members and including Home Minister Amit Shah as an ex-officio member.
- ✚ Rajiv Kumar will continue as vice-chairman of the body, along with other full-time members V K Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and V K Paul, an official statement said.
- ✚ Debroy was appointed full-time member when the Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. Besides Shah, other three ex-officio members are Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.

23. Wipro Founder Azim Premji to Retire as Executive Chairman by End of July, Son Rishad to Take over Reins

- ✚ IIT czar Azim Premji will retire as executive chairman of Wipro Limited, a company that he founded and helmed for 53 years, with his son Rishad set to take over his position, the city-based firm said Thursday.
- ✚ Azim Premji would retire as executive chairman 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, the company said.

- ✚ The company said Rishad Premji, chief strategy officer and a board member, will take over as the executive chairman following his father's retirement.

24. India to enhance its commitment to Sri Lanka

- ✚ India's foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale said that India will enhance its commitment to Sri Lanka in the wake of the recent bomb attacks on churches and hotels that killed more than 250.
- ✚ The announcement is made ahead of the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka on June 8.
- ✚ The PM will be visiting the Maldives also. This will be his first foreign trip since winning a second term in power.

25. Zuzana Caputova sworn in as first female president of Slovakia:

- ✚ lawyer and Anti-corruption campaigner, Zuzana Caputova(45) sworn in as country's Slovakia's first female president. She defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.
- ✚ Zuzana CaputovaKey points:
- ✚ She is the fifth president of Slovakia .
- ✚ She was elected in March 2019 with 58% of votes over Mr Sefcovic(42%).
- ✚ She was honoured with the Goldman Environmental Award in 2016 for her strong leadership regarding the Pezinok landfill affair, Caputova.

26. Lt General Faiz Hameed Appointed Pakistan ISI Chief:

- ✚ Pakistan has appointed Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed as the new Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).
- ✚ He was previously serving as the head of the Counter Intelligence wing in the ISI. Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed replaced Lieutenant Gen Asim Munir.

27. Om Birla Elected as 17th Lok Sabha Speaker by the NDA

- ✚ Om Birla, a two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of Parliament (MP) from Rajasthan, is set to be unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker. Om Birla was elected to the 17th Lok Sabha from the Kota-Bundi constituency.

28. Romila Thapar elected as a member of American Philosophical Society

- ✚ Famous Writer Romila Thapar elected as an international member of American Philosophical Society (APS) at its Annual Spring Meeting. She is Emerita professor whose principal area of study is ancient India.
- ✚ She wrote several books including the popular volume, A History of India, and is currently Professor Emerita at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi.
- ✚ She was offered Padma Bhushan award but declined both times.
- ✚ Her famous Works: Aśoka, epigraphy of Mauryan period, and ground-breaking studies and multiple historiographies surrounding contested Hindu and Muslim history of Somnath.

29. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev as the new president of Kazakhstan

- ✚ Interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has won the 2019 Presidential election of Kazakhstan with 70.96% of the vote.

- ✚ He was recognised as the elected president by the Central Election Commission (CEC) and will take an oath of office June 12. Earlier, on 20th March 2019, Tokayev took office as the Interim President of Kazakhstan & succeeded Nursultan Nazarbayev who served as the President from the country's independence in 1992 until his resignation.
- ✚ The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the head of state, commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the Republic of Kazakhstan.

30. Culture Minister, Shri Prahalad Singh Patel, to inaugurate the exhibition-‘Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe’.

- ✚ Shri Prahalad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/c) of Culture & Tourism, Government of India will inaugurate the exhibition titled “Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe”, at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi.
- ✚ ‘Astitva : The essence of Prabhakar Barwe’, is the first of its kind to be held in New Delhi that will present his artistic oeuvre in four distinct phases.
- ✚ Exhibition will be open for public until Sunday 28th July, 2019.

Science Tech & Defence

1.Communication gadgets to fishing vessels

- ✚ The Indian Space Research Organisation has distributed 250 NavIC Messaging Receivers to fishermen of Kerala on a trial basis.
- ✚ The device will provide Emergency Warning Alerts like cyclone, high waves and Tsunami and also provides information on Potential Fishing Zone and International boundary crossing based on the position information from NavIC..

2. BSES Yamuna Power Ltd launches behavioural energy saving app 'Susthome'.

- ✚ BSES Yamuna Power Ltd launches behavioural energy saving app 'Susthome'. The app was launched as part of its Demand Side Management programme.
- ✚ BSES partners with energy resources institute TERI, Panasonic India and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water to launch the app.
- ✚ The other two initiatives are "Green Division concept and solar micro grids with battery storage".With the launch of the initiative, the discom aims to save around 72 million units (MUs) and help consumers save up to 10% in energy bills.

3.NASA unveils schedule for ‘Artemis’ 2024 Moon mission

- ✚ NASA unveiled the calendar for the “Artemis” program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024. The original lunar missions were named for Apollo – Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.
- ✚ Administrator Jim Bridenstine confirmed that Artemis 1 will be an uncrewed mission around the Moon planned for 2020. Next will come Artemis 2, which will orbit Earth’s satellite with a crew around 2022; followed finally by Artemis 3 that will put astronauts on lunar soil in 2024, including the first woman.

4. DRDO successfully test fires new version of Akash air defence missile

- ✚ DRDO successfully test fired the new version of the Akash surface to air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker.
- ✚ The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag,
- ✚ Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles. The supersonic missile has a range of around 25km and up to the altitude of 18,000 meters.

5-UAE Defence agreement comes into force

- ✚ The United States and the United Arab Emirates have announced that mutual defense cooperation agreement had come into force, amid increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran.
- ✚ The DCA (Defense Cooperation Agreement) will enhance military coordination between the United States and the United Arab Emirates, further advancing an already robust military, political, and economic partnership at a critical time.
- ✚ US President Donald Trump bypassed Congress to sell USD 8.1 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia and other Arab allies, citing the alleged threat from Iran.

6. IAF chief's squadron to be first Rafale combat aircraft unit

- ✚ The first Rafale combat aircraft would be inducted into the Indian Air Force's 'Golden Arrows' 17 Squadron which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999.
- ✚ The first unit to receive the Rafale combat aircraft would be the 17 Squadron which was earlier located in Bhatinda in Punjab and will now be shifted to Ambala in Haryana.
- ✚ The first Rafale is expected to be handed over to the Indian Air Force in September 2019 but it would be required to undergo intensive 1,500 hours of testing to validate the India Specific Enhancements on it. So, the first batch of the four planes is likely to arrive at Ambala around May 2020.

7. IIT Guwahati signs MoU with ISRO to set up space technology

- ✚ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed an MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC) at the institute where Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi inaugurated a new academic complex and research and development.
- ✚ IITG-ISRO STC would be first of its kind in the North-east region to augment research and capacity building processes in the field of space technology.

8. 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 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.

9. A new way of using MRI scanners to look for evidence of multiple sclerosis in the brain.

- ✚ A new way of using MRI scanners to look for evidence of multiple sclerosis in the brain has been successfully tested by researchers at The University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

- ✚ Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological condition which affects around 100,000 people in the UK. It is notoriously difficult to diagnose as it has many symptoms but not all sufferers experience all of them and the disease can progress at different rates.
- ✚ MRI scans have been used as a diagnostic tool to detect white matter lesions in the brain but these are not always an indicator of the disease.

10. IAF aircraft with 13 people on board goes missing

- ✚ The disappearance of an Indian Air Force AN-32 transport aircraft with 13 people onboard in Arunachal Pradesh's West Siang district bears an uncanny resemblance to the 2009 crash of another AN-32 carrying an equal number of passengers in the same region.
- ✚ IAF AN-32 had crashed over Rinchi Hill near Heyo Village (also located near Tato) in West Siang district, killing 13 personnel. The plane's wreckage was found about 30 km away from the Mechuka Advanced Landing Ground (ALG). It had taken off from the ALG and was headed towards Mohanbari Air Force Station in Assam, but disappeared within minutes of becoming airborne.

11. 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.

12. Kharga Prahar exercise concluded in Punjab

- ✚ A week long exercise between Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF) – Kharga Prahar concluded in Punjab.
- ✚ The exercise was under taken by various units and formation of kharga corps. The key aspects of this exercise is to validate operational aspects and brought out many lessons to the corps.
- ✚ The exercise was successful in validating latest operational concepts which are designed to deliver a swift punitive blow to India's adversary.

13. Indian Navy successfully conducted 'live mating' of submarine rescue system DSRV

- ✚ On June 2, 2019, The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) based at Visakhapatnam, successfully conducted the live mating exercise. It involved the transfer of personnel from the bottomed submarine, INS Sindhudhvaj. It was inducted into the Navy by the former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba in December.
- ✚ The live mating exercise is a historic achievement towards DSRV integration into the Indian Navy. It paved way for the Indian Navy to emerge as a Submarine Rescue Provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ✚ The DSRV is equipped with sophisticated radar and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV).
- ✚ It is operated by a crew of three and can rescue 14 personnel from a disabled submarine at one time.

14. BSF and BGB agreed to increase coordinated patrols:

- ✚ Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) signed a Joint Record of Discussion at the 48th Director General (DG)-level talks which concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✚ It was signed between DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md Shafeenul Islam. Both sides agreed to undertake joint efforts to bring down the killing incidents to zero. They will increase the coordinated patrols in the areas vulnerable to cattle and narcotics smuggling, educate the border population about the sanctity of International Border (IB) and prevent criminals from crossing the IB.
- ✚ The next DG level conference will be held in New Delhi during the first week of November, 2019.
- ✚ Both sides agreed to implement Coordinated Border Management Programme (CBMP) to curb the danger of trans-border crimes.
- ✚ They agreed to pursue and share real-time information including a preliminary questioning report as applicable about the persons apprehended with smuggled items.
- ✚ They agreed to resolve the pending issues regarding development works including single row fencing of integrated check posts and land customs stations within 150 yards of IB by joint verification or re-verification of appropriate levels at the earliest.
- ✚ They agreed to declare new areas as crime free zone in phases. The proposed area within Sarail region or Tripura Frontier may be formalized in the first phase.

15. Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched State Transport Corporation's Chalo app

- ✚ Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched the State Transport Corporation's Chalo app for Guwahati. It will help the travellers to know about the live arrival time of their bus.
- ✚ He also launched a transport map for the State Transport bus network in Guwahati developed by Chalo.
- ✚ Assam became the first state in India to have a state-wide smart transport solution and common mobility card for its commuters.
- ✚ Free travel was announced for Divyangs, freedom fighters and meritorious students of the state in State Transport buses.
- ✚ The Chalo app is developed by the Zophop Technologies Pvt Ltd, a technology-driven transport solutions company.

16. Lucknow builds its first road from plastic waste:

- ✚ The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has started using plastic waste to construct roads as a pilot project.
- ✚ This environment-friendly road is being constructed as a trial from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow.
- ✚ The LDA will follow all the road-making guidelines set by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) for the construction.
- ✚ Mixed plastic waste increases the durability of roads by 40 to 50 per cent. About 8-10 per cent of plastic waste mixed in coal tar and it will be durable for a longer time.

17. Sri Lanka launched its first satellite 'Ravana-1' into orbit

- ✚ On June 17, 2019, Sri Lanka successfully launched its first satellite 'Ravana-1' into orbit from the International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal. It was deployed to the 400-km of orbit at an inclination of 51.6 degrees using the JAXA (Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency) owned Kibo experiment

module. The satellite was designed and developed by 2 Sri Lankan engineers – Tharindu Dayaratne and Dulani Chamika who are studying space engineering at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology. Ravana 1 measures 11.3 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm and weighs around 1.05 kg. It was officially handed over to the JAXA on February 18, 2019, and was sent to the ISS on April 17, 2019, through the assistance of Cygnus-1 spacecraft from the US. The satellite is expected to fulfill five missions. It will have a minimum lifespan of one-and-a-half years but is expected to be active up to 5 years.

18. 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.

19. Union Government Restored 'ration in kind' to military officers in peace areas

- ✚ On June 18, 2019, The government of India has brought back the provision of 'ration in kind' to military officers in peace areas by approving proposal given by the Ministry of Defence. The decision is taken by the new Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In 2017, The facility was withdrawn by the central government after the implementation of the seventh pay commission. All officers of the Armed Forces including those in peace stations will be getting ration now which was initially applicable only to junior officers. Instead of the ration, defense officers in peace areas were paid Rs 96 as 'ration money allowance'.

20. Indian Navy executes Operation Sankalp in the Gulf of Oman to undertake maritime security

- ✚ On June 21, 2019, India Navy launched "Operation Sankalp" in the Gulf of Oman. It is to recheck Indian flagged vessels operating through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime incidents in the region. Deployment of Warships: Indian Navy has deployed (Indian Navy Ship) INS Chennai and INS Sunayna in the region to undertake maritime security operations. Aerial surveillance: It is also undertaken by Indian Navy aircraft in the area to check the movement of ships in the Gulf region, Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (Gurugram) keeping a close watch on the region. Background: The Operation was launched after the escalation of tension in Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers were attacked and four tankers off the United Arab Emirates. The incident has since heightened tensions between Iran and the United States. The US (United States) blamed Iran which denied the allegations for the incident.

21. NASA's First Astrobe Robot "Bumble" Starts Flying in Space

- ✚ A robot named Bumble became the first Astrobe robot to fly under its own power in space.
- ✚ Astrobe is a free-flying robot system that will help researchers test new technologies in zero gravity and perform routine work alongside astronauts aboard the International Space Station.
- ✚ Robots that can operate on their own in space, such as Astrobe, can be caretakers for NASA's lunar gateway and will play a significant part in NASA's future missions to explore the Moon and Mars. Astrobe robots can move in any direction and turn on any axis in space.

22. India's first solar cruise vessel will debut in Kerala

- ✚ India's first solar-powered ferry in 2016, Kerala is gearing up for the launch of the country's premier solar-powered cruise boat.
- ✚ The initiative comes from the State Water Transport Department (SWTD), whose solar ferry Aditya in the Vaikom-Thavanakadavu route proved to be a success.
- ✚ The 3-crore cruise boat can carry 100 passengers is under construction at a boatyard in Aroor and comes from the stable of the builders of Aditya.
- ✚ It will be rolled out in Alappuzha in December.
- ✚ The hybrid vessel will be powered by a motor that can source energy from solar panels, battery, and generator. Its battery will have 80 KWh (kilowatt hour) power backup, as compared to 50 KWh backup in Aditya..

23. India successfully launched new Technology Demonstrator Missile in Odisha

- ✚ On June 12, 2019, India successfully launched new Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and
- ✚ Development Organisation (DRDO) had carried out the trials from Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal. HSTDV will help DRDO to develop technologies for futuristic missions.
- ✚ The test was conducted by the Premier Defence Research Agency in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Secretary (Defence Production) Ajay Kumar at the test firing range in Balasore, Odisha. HSTDV, developed by DRDO with help from Israel and the UK, will be mounted on a solid rocket motor to take it to the required altitude. After the required altitude is reached and the Mach is achieved, the cruise vehicle will be ejected out of the launch vehicle.
- ✚ It is a dual-use technology Project with civilian applications. It has a flight duration of 20 seconds at an altitude of 31 km.

24. Facebook is set to launch an updated version of its video chat device 'Portal' later in 2019.

- ✚ Social networking giant Facebook is set to launch an updated version of its video chat device 'Portal' later in 2019.
- ✚ Andrew Bosworth, Vice President of Facebook's Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) confirmed that the company has a lot more to unveil "later this fall", related to Portal, The Verge reported.
- ✚ The device was first launched in November 2018. While the smaller device was priced at \$199, the larger "Portal Plus" was made available for \$349 with 10-inch display and 15-inch display, respectively.

25. Dell tops the list of most trusted brand in India, while Amazon is most trusted Internet Brand: TRA Research 2019

- ✚ Dell has emerged as India's most trusted brand in 2019, according to a research by Trust Research Advisory (TRA), a research firm that releases a Brand Trust Report annually.
- ✚ Dell, which was at the 6th position last year, has risen to the top, while Samsung, which was 2018's most trusted brand now ranks 6th. Interestingly, automobile brand Jeep has emerged the second most trusted brand, up a whopping 551 ranks from last year.
- ✚ Known for its rugged military vehicles in India and the world over, the brand made its entry in the country in the 1950s.

26. India to have its own space station: ISRO

- ✚ Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announce that India plans to have its own space station, and modalities for it will be worked out after the first manned mission, Gaganyaan, scheduled for August 2022,
- ✚ Dr. Sivan said the proposed space station is envisaged to weigh 20 tonnes and serve as a facility where astronauts can stay for 15-20 days, and it would be placed in an orbit 400 km above earth.
- ✚ The time frame for launch is 5-7 years after Gaganyaan, he added.

- ✚ The ISRO would also join the international space community for a manned mission to moon and beyond.

27. 2nd Moon Mission Chandrayaan-2 : Two Scientists Ritu Kridhal And Vanitha

- ✚ 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.

Important days

1. Goa celebrates its statehood day

- ✚ Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May. It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.
- ✚ It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from the colonial rule.
- ✚ Once Goa was liberated there was a controversy regarding merging Goa with the neighbouring state of Maharashtra or Mysore. However, an opinion poll of 1967 suggested that Goa, Daman, and Diu be Union Territory.

2. World No Tobacco Day celebrated on 31st May

- ✚ Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day.
- ✚ The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- ✚ The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health."

3. Yoga Mahotsava was organized in New Delhi

- ✚ A Two-day Yoga Mahotsava, a Curtain Raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 was organized in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the Vice-Chairman, NITI AYOJ Rajeev Kumar.
- ✚ The Yoga Mahotsav-2019 was organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). This is to sensitize the masses for the celebration of IDY 2019.
- ✚ On this occasion Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha announced two Applications related to International Day of Yoga 2019.
- ✚ Yoga Locator which is specially designed for IDY to record and show Yoga events across the world (b) Bhuvan App which provides geo time location and documentation during IDY 2019. Bhuvan App has been designed in collaboration with ISRO.

4. World Environment Day: 5th June

- ✚ Since its inception in 1974, World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5th in more than 100 countries.
- ✚ The theme for World Environment Day 2019 is 'Beat Air Pollution'

5. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June.

- ✚ By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- ✚ Supported each year by individuals, communities and various organizations all over the world, this global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.
- ✚ This year's theme highlights that justice and health are two sides of the same coin when it comes to addressing drug problems.

6. Celebration of World Food Safety Day

- ✚ The first-ever World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, was celebrated on 7 June 2019 under the theme "Food Safety, everyone's business". WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to facilitate Member States effort to celebrate the World Food Safety Day this year and in coming years. Access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health.
- ✚ Foodborne diseases impede socioeconomic development by straining health care systems and harming national economies, tourism and trade. With an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne diseases annually - almost 1 in 10 people in the world fall ill after eating contaminated - food safety is an increasing threat to human health. Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden with 125 000 deaths every year.
- ✚ Food safety is key to achieving several UN Sustainable Development Goals and is a shared responsibility between governments, producers and consumers. Everybody has a role to play from farm to table to ensure the food we consume is safe and will not cause damages to our health. Through the World Food Safety Day, WHO pursues its efforts to mainstream food safety in the public agenda and reduce the burden of food borne diseases globally.

7. World Oceans Day is celebrated on 8th June

- ✚ World Oceans Day is celebrated on 8th June every year. The day was declared in 2008. June 8 was marked as it marks the day when it was first proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit, UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ✚ The Conference supported the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- ✚ The theme for the year 2019 is Gender and Oceans. The theme is to build greater ocean and gender literacy and to discover possible ways to

promote gender equality in ocean-related activities such as marine scientific research, fisheries, labour at sea, migration by sea and human trafficking, as well as policy-making and management.

8. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2019 observed on June 17:

- + World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCD) 2019 was observed on June 17.
- + It is celebrated to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- + 2019 Theme of WDCD is “Let’s Grow the Future Together”.
- + Desertification is the degradation of land in various areas like arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid. It is caused by human activities and then by climatic variations.
- + It was declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1995.
- + United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) celebrates 25 years of progress made by countries on sustainable land management in 2019.
- + The campaign slogan for 25th anniversary is “Let’s grow the future longer”.
- + The 25th anniversary Convention on 17 June, 2019 was held in Ankara, Turkey. It was hosted by the government of Turkey.

9. International Picnic Day celebrated on June 18, 2019:

- + Picnic Day was celebrated all over the world. It is a day to encourage people to go outdoors and enjoy each other’s company.
- + The word “picnic” originated from the French language. It relates to informal outdoor meal. Picnic became a popular time pass in France after the Revolution.
- + According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the world’s largest picnic was held in Lisbon, Portugal.
- + Charity events, school picnics and various types of group meals are held to commemorate this day.

10. World Refugee Day is Observed On 20 June 2019

- + 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 2019: Step With Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day

11. International Day of Yoga: 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. Theme: Yoga for Climate Action

12. World Day against Child Labour 2019 celebrated on June 12

- + World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) was observed on June 12, 2019. It was introduced to focus on the extent of child labour worldwide and the efforts required to eliminate it.

- ✚ The theme for the year is “Children shouldn’t work in fields, but on dreams!”.
- ✚ In India, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the National Consultation Workshop on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child Labour in New Delhi. It was organised by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

13. International Albinism Awareness Day 2019 observed on June 13

- ✚ On June 13, 2019, International Albinism Awareness Day was observed. The day is observed to preserve the rights of persons with albinism and take efforts to ensure equal access for them to employment, education, justice and good health. The theme for the year is “Still Standing Strong”.
- ✚ On December 18, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted Resolution A/RES/69/170 to observe June 13 as International Albinism Awareness Day with effect from 2015.
- ✚ Albinism is a genetic condition that causes very little or no pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes. The symptoms of Albinism are absence of color in the hair, skin, or eyes, lighter than normal coloring of the hair, skin, or eyes and patches on skin that have an absence of color. It is accompanied by a number of vision defects including nystagmus, amblyopia and photophobia.

14. World Blood Donor Day 2019 observed on June 14

- ✚ World Blood Donor Day 2019 (WBDD) was observed on June 14. It is celebrated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness on blood donation. The theme of this year’s campaign is blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion, as a component of achieving universal health coverage. It encourages people all over the world to become blood donors and donate blood regularly. The Slogan for World Blood Day 2019 is “Safe blood for all”. World Blood Donor Day marks the birth anniversary of Karl Landsteiner who was born on June 14, 1868. He was a scientist who won the Nobel Prize for his discovery of the ABO blood group system
- ✚ First celebration was initiated and established on June 14, 2004 by the WHO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- ✚ The host country for the celebration was Rwanda and the global event was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

Sports

1. ICC launches criiio campaign on eve of World Cup

- ✚ The ICC has launched the criiio campaign on the eve of the men’s World Cup, bringing together 460 million people playing cricket globally to celebrate the magnificent diversity of cricket.
- ✚ The ICC asked the fans to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how they play cricket across the world using the newly launched #criiio and visiting criiio.com.

- ✚ This builds on the success of the recent user-generated social media initiative #WorldWideWickets and is the first of a series of programs that will be launched by the ICC over the next 12 months.

2. ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 begins on 30 May

- ✚ The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 has started on 30th May 2019. England has opened the tournament at The Oval in London when they will take on South Africa.
- ✚ The World Cup will span 48 matches in all, of which 45 will make up the group stage. Each team will play nine group stage matches, and the top four will progress to the semifinals, similar to how the 1992 World Cup was held.

3. ICC World Cup 2019 | ICC Ask Dhoni to Remove Army Insignia from Keeping Gloves

- ✚ India's opening game in the ongoing World Cup saw former skipper M.S. Dhoni once again profess his love for the security forces after he was spotted with regimental dagger insignia of the Indian Para Special Forces on his wicket-keeping gloves. But the International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to get the symbol removed from Dhoni's gloves.
- ✚ Speaking to IANS, Claire Furlong, ICC General Manager, Strategic Communications, said that the BCCI has been asked to get the symbol removed from Dhoni's gloves. "We have requested the BCCI to get it removed," she said.
- ✚ The "Balidaan Badge" or the Army insignia was spotted on Dhoni's gloves as television replays showed him stumping Phehlukwayo in the 40th over of the innings bowled by Yuzvendra Chahal.

4. IAAF To Be Renamed World Athletics

- ✚ The IAAF Council approved the global governing body's new name and logo at the 217th IAAF Council Meeting in Monaco.
- ✚ The athletics body's new name, 'World Athletics', builds upon the organization's restructuring and governance reform agenda of the past four years to represent a modern, more creative and positive face for the sport.

5. IOC lifts sanctions against India to host international sporting events

- ✚ On June 20, 2019, A non-governmental sports organization based in Lausanne, Switzerland, IOC (International Olympic Committee) lifted its sanctions imposed on Indian Olympic Association (IOA) hosting international sports events. The decision was taken after finally receiving a letter of guarantee from the Government that it will allow all eligible athletes, sportspersons, and officials in events held in the country. The restriction imposed under points 2 and 3 of the IOC EB decision in relation to giving permission to host sports events, lifted by the IOC. Background: Pakistan shooters were denied visa by the Indian government for participation in the International Shooting Sport Federation Shooting World Cup 2019 that was held in New Delhi in the wake of the terror attack in Pulwama, Kashmir.

6. India Remained At 101 In The Latest FIFA Rankings, Belgium On Top

- ✚ The Indian men's football team remained static at the 101 position in the latest FIFA rankings. India recently participated in King's Cup in Thailand, in which it lost one match and won the other in the tournament.
- ✚ Belgium remained to top the overall FIFA world rankings, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.

- ✚ The Indian team is at the 18th spot among the Asian countries. Iran has become the only Asian country to feature in the top 20 as they moved one spot to finish at the 20th rank.
- ✚ FIFA President is Gianni Infantino and Headquarter is Zürich, Switzerland

7. The International Olympic Committee has formally opened new headquarters in Switzerland exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.

- ✚ The International Olympic Committee has formally opened its 145 million Swiss francs (\$145 million) new headquarters exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games was revived.
- ✚ The International Olympic Committee was founded by Pierre de Coubertin, who was a great visionary and brought together entire world together in one peaceful competition. The Olympic Games are a symbol of hope and peace for all humankind, to signify this rooftop of headquarters takes the shape of a dove which is another universal symbol of peace.
- ✚ The new headquarters costs 145 million US Dollars.

8. Virat Kohli fined 25% of match fee for excessive appealing during India vs Afghanistan match

- ✚ Indian skipper Virat Kohli has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee for excessive appealing during India's fifth ICC World Cup 2019 tie, against Afghanistan in Southampton.
- ✚ Kohli has been found guilty of breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct and has received one demerit point to his disciplinary record, for whom it was his second offence since the introduction of the revised Code in September 2016.
- ✚ "Kohli was found to have breached Article 2.1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to excessive appealing during an International Match", an ICC release said.

9. IOC suspends Olympic status from AIBA

- ✚ International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the Olympic status from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and took over the responsibilities of the qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games. In May 2019, IOC members had voted to support the executive board's recommendation to suspend AIBA's Olympic status.
- ✚ AIBA had created "very serious reputational, legal and financial risks" for the IOC and its American stakeholders.
- ✚ AIBA has debts of about \$17 million and it may be bankrupt in the near future. It is cut off from future income from Tokyo revenues.
- ✚ In 2018, IOC had started to investigate AIBA's governance, debts and integrity of Olympic bouts after the election of AIBA president Gafur Rakhimov, who is under United States federal sanctions for suspected links to eastern European organized crime.

10. Pankaj Advani clinches men's Asian Snooker Championship

- ✚ India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship in Doha to complete a career grand slam in cue sports.
- ✚ Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon 6-3 in the final on Friday to become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats.
- ✚ He conquered the ACBS Asian Snooker events - 6-red (short format) and 15-red (long format) - along with the IBSF World Championships in both formats too. Pankaj will now take part in IBSF World Cup next week in Doha.

11. Chris Gayle of West Indies to retire from international cricket

- ✚ He is the second-highest run-getter in ODIs (One Day Internationals) for West Indies.
- ✚ He is the first batsman to hit 200 in a World Cup game and the only batsman to hit a triple century in Tests, a double-century in ODIs and centuries in T20 Internationals.
- ✚ Gayle has played in 103 Tests, accumulating 7215 runs at an average of 42.19. In 294 ODIs he scored 10345 runs and in 58 T20 Internationals he scored 1627 runs.

12. Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 11,000:

- ✚ Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in one-day internationals after scoring a fine half century against Pakistan.
- ✚ He broke the record of Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the milestone in 276 innings.
- ✚ Kohli, who took only 222 innings to achieve the record, has become the third Indian and ninth overall to reach the 11,000 mark in ODIs.

13. Gary Woodland wins 119th US Open 2019 in Pebble Beach Golf Links, California .

- ✚ American professional golfer Gary Woodland(35) has won the 119th United States(US)open 2019 held at the at Pebble Beach Golf Links, California. Gary Woodland wins 119th US Open 2019 . He secured his first major career title after defeating two-time defending champion Brooks Koepka (US).

14. Punjab Police (Men) and Eastern Railway (Women) won 2019 Federation Cup trophies in Greater Noida .

- ✚ The 33rd Federation Cup Basketball Championship for Men and Women for the year 2019 was held at the Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The Punjab Police (Men) and Eastern Railway (Women) won the prestigious gold medals in the tournament. The tournament was held from June 12-16, 2019 and was organised by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and the Uttar Pradesh Basketball Association (UPBA).

15. IOC lifts sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events

- ✚ The International Olympic Committee (IOC)lifted the sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events with immediate effect.
- ✚ The decision was taken after the government wrote a letter of guarantee to the Indian Olympic Association that all eligible athletes, sports persons and officials will be allowed to participate in events held in the country.
- ✚ The sanctions were imposed on india when Pakistani shooters were not issued visas for the World Cup held in Delhi in February 2019.Japan's capital Tokyo will host 2020 Summer Olympics from 24 July to 9 August 2020.

Awards

1. 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.

2.Mahindra wins Gold Award in South Africa

- ✚ The automobile Giant Mahindra Group won the Gold Award in South Africa. It clinches the top spot among 29 vehicle brands for the award.
- ✚ Mahindra Group received the Gold award from National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA).
- ✚ Satisfaction among its dealers and being fair and responsive in the way allocated vehicles to its dealers gave the Mahindra group at the top honor.
- ✚ It has 60 dealers in South Africa.

3.Prianka Chopra awarded Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF

- ✚ Indian actress Priyanka Chopra was selected for “Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award” by United Nations International Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) American chapter.
- ✚ She will be presented with this award at UNICEF American chapter’s Snowflake Ball which is to be held in December 2019 in New York.
- ✚ She is the National and Global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights in 2010 and 2016, respectively.
- ✚ She was part of United Nation’s global “Girl Up” Campaign. In India, she is also associated with several NGOs (Non-governmental organizations) to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.

4. Four Indian movies selected to be screened at South Korea's Film Festival 2019

- ✚ Among 288 movies from over 29 countries, four Indian movies to be screened at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2019.
- ✚ The Bollywood movies which will be screened include Gully Boy, Andhadhun and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi and one Tamil movie which will be screened is Super Deluxe.
- ✚ Gully Boy, Andhadhun, Manikarnika & Super Deluxe selected for Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival

5. Dr Gaurav Nigam conferred with the 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019'

- ✚ A well-known educationist, pediatrician and author, Dr Gaurav Nigam was conferred with the 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' by Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, Minister for Labour and Human Resources of Bhutan at the Asian Leadership Summit held at Thimphu, Bhutan.
- ✚ He was conferred this award for his excellence in school education on the basis of his excellent performance, splendid achievement and outstanding contribution towards the innovative development and research activities in the field of school education in South Asian Region. He is the author of the book titled 'Devil Inside My Mind'.
- ✚ The event was organized by Global Leaders Foundation.

6. Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun) became the first Indian film to win 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award.

- ✚ Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun) have become the first Indian film to win 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award at the Shanghai International Film Festival.

- ✚ The film is directed by Bijukumar Damodaran. This was the 22nd edition of the Shanghai International Film Festival.
- ✚ The film was the only Indian entry at the biggest film festival in China this year.

7. The Tribune's reporter wins the 'Journalist of the Year' RedInk Award

- ✚ The RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism are conferred to encourage good quality reporting and analysis, fair play and high ethical standards in Indian journalism.
- ✚ The following are the winners of awards in different categories :Rachna Khaira of The Tribune has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year'. She won it for exposing the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.
- ✚ Two retired senior journalists Dinu Ranadive from the Maharashtra Times, and Sebastian D'Souza, from the Mumbai Mirror, have jointly received the Lifetime Achievement Award for this year.

8. Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix

- ✚ Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen.
- ✚ But Verstappen had earlier picked up a five-second time penalty. So even though he finished just behind Hamilton, Verstappen was fourth overall behind Bottas in third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel in second.

9. China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup

- ✚ China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning, China. They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for the 11th time.
- ✚ In the latest Men's singles match, Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. Japan have never won the Sudirman Cup.

10. Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup

- ✚ Indians had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany. Apurvi Chandela grabbed a gold, winning the women's 10m Air Rifle
- ✚ competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8. This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi in February. This was also her career's fourth ISSF medal.

11. Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m Air Pistol gold; beats own World record

- ✚ In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's Saurabh Chaudhary has won 10m Air Pistol Gold beating his own World Record.
- ✚ The 17-year old Chaudhary scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that was set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year.
- ✚ Chaudhary has already secured a berth for the Tokyo Olympics. This is India's second Gold in the championship.

12. 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 Priá, 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.

13. Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq President Adena Friedman to get 2019 Global Leadership Award

- ✚ Google's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq President Adena Friedman have been picked for the coveted Global Leadership Awards 2019 by business advocacy group USIBC.
- ✚ The duo has been recognised for their companies' contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms. The Washington-based US-India Business Council (USIBC) gives this award for achievements in over 30 categories to leaders who took extra efforts in nation building while nurturing the global economy to grow. The award will be conferred upon Indian-American Pichai, 46, and Friedman, 50, during the next week's 'India Ideas Summit'.

14. Malayalam Actor Sheela J.C. Honoured With J.C. Daniel Award

- ✚ Malayalam Actor Sheela J.C. has won the J.C. Daniel Award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema.
- ✚ She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnammamma in 2005.
- ✚ She won the State and National Awards for the Second Best Female Actor for Akale.

15. Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar to be honoured with 'Distinguished Alumni Award':

- ✚ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will honour Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar with 'Distinguished Alumni Award'. This was decided by the Executive Council of JNU. They will be awarded on the third convocation ceremony of the university, which will be held in August 2019. They will be the first recipient of this award.
- ✚ Union External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is an alumnus of JNU's School of International Studies. He completed his Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) as well as Doctoral Research from JNU. He is specialized in the field of nuclear diplomacy from JNU.
- ✚ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is an alumnus of the University's School of Social Sciences. She earned her Master of Arts (M.A) degree and she completed her M.Phil from School of International Studies.

Obituaries

1. Goa freedom fighter Mohan Ranade passes away

- ✚ Veteran freedom fighter from Goa and Padma Shri winner Mohan Ranade passes away after a prolonged illness.
- ✚ Mohan Ranade was a member of the Azad Gomantak Dal, a group of revolutionaries who believed in the doctrine of armed attacks against the Portuguese colonial rule and participated in ambushes on several Portuguese installations in Goa.

2. Actor-director Vijaya Nirmala passes away

- ✚ Veteran actor-filmmaker Vijaya Nirmala passed away in Hyderabad.
- ✚ Vijaya Nirmala, born in Tamil Nadu, was one of the most accomplished women in the south Indian film industry.
- ✚ She acted in more than 200 films in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

3.Eminent Gandhian Jharna Dhara Chowdhury Passes Away

- ✚ Jharna Dhara Chowdhury, an Eminent Social Activist and secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Trust in Jayag, Noakhali, Bangladesh passes away in Dhaka.
- ✚ She devoted her whole life to promoting peace, communal harmony and social justice. In recognition of her work, she was honored with Padma Shri in 2013.
- ✚ She was awarded Jannalal Bajaj award in 1998.

4. Muzaffarpur (Bihar): Death toll Rises to 66 in Due to Encephalitis

- ✚ Muzaffarpur district of Bihar reported death of 69 children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
- ✚ 130 children have been hospitalised in the district Till now.
- ✚ The district Magistrate of Muzaffarpur has announced that for students till class eight, schools will remain closed till June 22 and for students in higher standards, classes will be held only till 10.30 am.
- ✚ Encephalitis is an inflammation or swelling and irritation of the brain.
- ✚ It is also called acute viral encephalitis or aseptic encephalitis.

5. Veteran industrialist BM Khaitan passes away at 92

- ✚ Also known as the “evergreen tea man of India” globally, he had made the tea industry “Indian-owned” in the twilight era of independence.
- ✚ Veteran industrialist and patriarch of the Williamson Magor Group, Brij Mohan Khaitan, passed away at his residence in Kolkata on Saturday . He was 92.

6. Dronacharya awardee, veteran athletics coach N Lingappa passed away in Bengaluru

- ✚ Veteran athletics coach N. Lingappa passed away at the age of 95 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He is a resident of Bengaluru. He represented Mysore in National Games for seven years consecutively and qualified as a walker in the 1954 Manila Asian Games but the event was cancelled. He had trained several international athletes like D.Y. Biradar, P.C. Ponnappa (400m silver medallist at the Bangkok Asian Games in 1970), Uday Prabhu and Ashwini Nachappa. He won a silver medal in 10 km walk in the first National Games held in Delhi in 1954. He was a coach of the Indian athletics team at four successive Olympic Games, three Asian Games and numerous State and National – level meets.

Awards Received:

- ❖ In 1987,he won Karnataka State Dasara award,
- ❖ In 1994,he won Rajyotsava award,
- ❖ In 2002,he won Karnataka Olympic Association award for outstanding coach,
- ❖ In 2002,he won Kempegowda award,
- In 2014,he won prestigious Dronacharya award in recognition of his work as a coach.