



# Monthly G.K Capsule

## August- 2019

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## National News

### ✚ 1. Glorious Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019 begins in Puri, Odisha

- The world famous Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019(also known as Chariot Festival) began at Puri in Odisha. The religious procession commemorates a journey by Hindu god Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, in specially made chariots as they travel to Gundicha temple, their birthplace.
- The Rath Yatra draws lakhs of devotees from across the country.The Jagannath Rath Yatra in puri coincides with Gujarat's Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra where its marks 142nd annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath.
- President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted people on the auspicious occasion of Yatra.

### ✚ 2. Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

- Famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his first death anniversary, from August 16, 2019. He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built on his name.

### ✚ 3.Pilot basis of one Nation one ration card scheme launched in 4 States

- In order to boost the National Food Security, pilot basis of One Nation One Ration Card scheme was launched by the government in four states namely Telangana , Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Families holding this card can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these four states.

### ✚ 4.India is the 46th highest risk country in the world: Water Stress Inde

- ✚ According to the Water Stress Index, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world. It measured the water consumption rates of households, industries and farm sectors and the available resources in rivers, lakes and streams and plotted the index with projected population growth trends to rank the cities facing the biggest threat to their water resources. Chennai is the "tip of the iceberg" for India's water stressed cities.

### ✚ 5.UP Government to install 251-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram in Ayodhya

- The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government has decided to install a 251-metre-tall statue of Lord Ram at Ayodhya which will become the world's tallest statue surpassing the record held by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Statue of Unity in Gujarat (182-metre).
- A separate unit of "Rajkiya Nirman Nigam" will be set up for the purpose of installation of the statue.
- UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled the 7-foot tall statue of Lord Ram which depicts Kodamb Ram, one of the five avatars of Lord Ram, during his visit to Ayodhya at the Shodh Sansthan Museum.
- The statue is made of a single block of rosewood and purchased for Rs. 35 lakh from Karnataka.

### ✚ 6.Rajya Sabha passed the IBC amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha approved the amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides clarity about preference to secured lenders over operational creditors.

### ✚ 7.Tarun Chaudhary Becomes First Pilot to Accomplish Wingsuit Skydive Jump

- Wing commander Tarun Chaudhary became the first pilot of Indian Armed Forces (IAF) to do a wingsuit jump.
- Tarun Chaudhary jumped from a Mi-17 helicopter from an altitude of 8500 feet. He has accomplished this feat in first attempt.
- It was for the first time when wingsuit jump demonstration held before an organised gathering. The jump was a tribute to the heroes of the Kargil.

### ✚ 8.Parliament passed Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019

- On July 30, 2019, Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019. It was passed with 99 votes in favour and 84 opposed against it. The bill criminalizes instant triple talaq among Muslims and attracts a jail term of three years for the husband.

**✚ 9.Flipkart launched 'Samarth' initiative to support weavers**

- Anurag Thakur, Minister of State, Finance and Corporate Affairs and Kalyan Krishnamurthy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Flipkart Group launched 'Samarth', an initiative of Flipkart, to support weavers, artisans and makers of handicrafts to its platform.
- It will help the community to on-board and sell the goods on the internet.
- Flipkart has tied up with 5 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to help the artisans use online marketplace to sell the products.

**✚ 10.J&K District Administration Udhampur launches helpline "Jeene Do"**

- Jammu and Kashmir, District Administration Udhampur has launched a helpline, "Jeene Do".
- The objective is to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques PCPNDT Act under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
- A Mobile Number 9469793363 has been dedicated to the public to register complaints regarding sex determination during prenatal checkups.

**✚ 11. NITI Aayog partners with WhatsApp to promote women entrepreneurs**

- NITI Aayog and Facebook-owned WhatsApp, under the aegis of its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), have announced a partnership to support the growth of a robust ecosystem to promote women entrepreneurs in India.
- WhatsApp, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, will announce an annual calendar of events aimed at capacity building of women entrepreneurs and develop specific programmes aimed at addressing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
- The initiative would target the registered users of WEP.

**✚ 12. West Bengal Government launched awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean'**

- The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in Kolkata, which will be celebrated every year. She participated in the Padayatra for this purpose. Save Green, Stay Clean. The percentage of tree plantation increased to 19% from 11% in the past 8 years.
- State Government will also distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

**✚ 13. "Pink coaches" introduced for women by the Northeast Frontier Railway zone**

- As a new initiative that would enhance the security of women, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NRF) zone has introduced pink colored SLRcoach (second Class -cum- Luggage-cum Guard's Coach) for women. NRF Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO)PranavJyoti announced that these pink coaches will help women passengers to identify their coach during rush hours.
  - Railway Police Force (RPF) and ticket checking staff will be deployed by the railway authorities to stabilize the new system. Initially a total of 8 trains in Rangiya district have begun the operations.
- **They are-**
- i. 6 trains between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati
  - ii. 2 trains between Rangiya and Murkongselek.

**✚ 14. Gujarat government launched Vhali Dikri Yojna**

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' from his hometown Rajkot, Gujarat. The scheme is introduced for the welfare of the girl child.
- The meaning of this scheme is Dear Daughter Scheme. The main details about this scheme is stated before. Vahali Dikri Yojana is launched to improve the sex ratio of girl child in the State. The successful implementation of this scheme State government allocated a budget of Rs 133 Crore.
- According to the scheme State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000. There will be a time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 at the time of marriage. It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat.

**✚ 15.Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to implement biofuel policy**

- Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan state Government , Sachin Pilot stated that Rajasthan is the 1st state in the country that released biofuel rules-2019 (after the notification of the Centre on April

30,2019) with the vision to promote the use of biofuels. He introduced the biofuel rules-2019 at a state level function on the eve of the World Biofuel Day.

- The pilot also stated that there will be no delay in taking necessary steps for progress and welfare of the society and country.
- Present status: 82% of fossil fuel in India comes from overseas which is a big burden on the taxpayers and India's economy. It categorizes the biofuels called Basic Biofuels into 3 categories which include
- First Generation (1G) ,bioethanol & biodiesel

#### **+ 16.RS passed the National Institute of Design Amendment Bill**

- Rajya Sabha passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019. It was introduced by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The Bill sought to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.
- The Bill declares four National Institutes of Design, from states namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana, as institutions of national importance.
- These institutes were registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. These institutes do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. As the four institutes are now declared institutions of national importance, the institutes will be allowed to grant degrees and diplomas.
- The institute will become socially inclusive and address the needs of design in various sectors including agriculture, health care, and transportation.

#### **+ 17.Samjhauta Express not suspended**

- The Pakistan Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed declared a decision that Samjhauta Express services will be permanently stopped on 8th August.
- It also said that the people who had already purchased their tickets can get their money reimbursed from Lahore DS office.
- Despite announcement Indian Railways maintained that the train that runs between the 2 neighbouring countries has not been suspended and it will run normally.
- Reason for the issue:
- The decision of Pakistan follows after after the resolution revoking Article 370 was passed by the Parliament of India.

#### **+ 18. President signs National Medical Commission Bill into a law**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has signed National Medical Commission Bill which was passed by both houses of Parliament.
- The NMC bill aims at mega reforms in the medical education sector and will replace the nearly 63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act. The bill will ensure probity, quality education and bring down costs of medical education.
- National Medical Commission Bill will also simplify procedures and provides wider access to people for quality healthcare. The NMC will have eminent medical personalities as members who will be appointed for only one term of four years and will not be eligible for any further extension.

#### **+ 19. Doordarshan produced a patriotic song "Watan"**

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister has released a patriotic song "Watan" to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019.
- The song is sung by singer Javed Ali, penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by Doordarshan.
- The song highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2". The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

#### **+ 20. Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal**

- Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- The wireless system, called 'Intelights', has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road, on a pilot project basis, and will regulate traffic signals with a smart bird's eye view wireless sensor system.
- The new system will have sensors which would automatically switch on the green and red signals depending upon the number of vehicles coming from that particular side.

**21. Udaipur to host India's Largest Education Brainstorm**

- The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will be held in the city of lakes, Udaipur. It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse.
- The theme for the fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from Conformity to Creativity'.

**22. Rajya Sabha passes Consumer Protection Bill**

- The Rajya Sabha has passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019. The bill will lead to setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- The Bill seeks to strengthen the rights of consumers and provides a mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.
- The bill will replace the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

**23. 5th edition of 'IASMC' kicks off in Jaisalmer**

- The 5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition with teams from 8 countries including India, China and Russia as participants was inaugurated at the Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of the Southern Command.
- Lt Gen DS Ahuja, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Southern Command, and Deputy Defence Minister of Russia Yunus Bek Evkurov unveiled the trophy of the competition and unfolded the event's flag at the inaugural ceremony. Army Scout Master Teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and India are participating in the 9-day event from August 6 to 14.

**24. India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement**

- The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed.
- On this date in 8 Aug 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.
- After the failure of Cripps Mission, Gandhiji gave the call to "Do or Die" in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai. The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

**25. Odisha police station in top 10 in India**

- Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in India in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
- The certificate of excellence and a trophy awarded by the Union Home Ministry were handed over to Tarava police inspector Dulamani Bhoi by Odisha DGP R.P. Sharma.

**26. Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record**

- The Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day. The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20, becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.

**27. 'One Nation, One Ration Card' to be rolled out in India by June 1, 2020**

- "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020. To implement the scheme successfully, centre has kick started inter state portability of ration card pairing two states each.
- The pairs are made between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.
- This means that beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the states.

**28. Manipur tops the Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country**

- Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions of the report card.
- National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States. The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.

- The Breastfeeding Improves the child's IQ level. The benefit of Breastfeeding not only saves child but also saves the mother from breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

#### **29. 2019 'Aadi Mahotsav' -national tribal festival begins at Leh-Ladakh**

- The 9 day long National tribal festival named "Aadi Mahotsav" commenced at the Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.
- The theme of this year's festival is "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft,Culture and Commerce".
- This 9 day event from August 17-25, is inaugurated by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Shri Satya Pal Malik.
- **Participants**
- Artisans: Nearly 160 artisans from more than 20 states will be exhibiting their products.

#### **30. Online revenue payment system launched by CM of Odisha**

- Chief minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik, launched online revenue payment system providing people, an easier way to make their land revenue payments-online, on 73rd Independence Day on August 15,2019 at Bhubaneswar.
- This online payment system was developed at National Informatics Centre- Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- This is the first of its kind initiative of State revenue department of Odisha under the "5-T mantra". The 5T mantras are Technology, Transparency, Team work, Time and Transformation which the CM urged all to follow,especially to the newly recruited civil service officers for better governance of the state.
- Gandhi talisman: Mahatma Gandhi's talisman (an object,idol typically an inscribed ring or stone that is thought to have magical powers and to bring good luck) was dedicated as part of his 150th birth anniversary. The talisman is inscribed on a brass plate in both English and Odia language with a neat sketch of the Father of the Nation.

#### **31. Centre plans to institute a Motor Vehicle (MV) Accident Fund**

- The announcement comes after passing the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act.The act says that the centre will provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in the country.
- The accident fund will be used for treatment of road accident victims or compensation to relatives in case of death by road accident under the sections of MV amendment act 161 and 162. The maximum liability amount to be paid in each case will be prescribed by the Centre.
- The MV Accident fund will be managed by an authority or agency who is appointed by the Centre. The agency will have high knowledge of insurance business of the agency, capability of the agency to manage funds and any other criteria fixed by the government. Comptroller and Auditor General of India will audit the fund in regular intervals.

#### **32. Assam Golden Butterfly tea variety auctioned for Rs.75,000 at GTAC**

- In Assam, a kilogram of Golden Butterfly tea struck gold at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) as it was sold at Rs.75,000. This is a new international record bettering the previous high of Rs.70,501 per kg.
- Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) said that the growing demand for speciality tea helped the 'Golden Butterfly tea' surpass the earlier record by Rs.4,499.
- The hand-crafted tea was made from tender leaves and buds available only around June-July. It was produced by Dikom Tea Estate near eastern Assam's Dibrugarh town.

#### **33. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launches 2nd Edition of Swaccha Survakshan Grameen for 2019**

- Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the 2nd Edition of Swaccha Survakshan Grameen, India's largest sanitation survey, for 2019 in New Delhi.
- To engage rural communities in improvement of the sanitation status of their districts and states through intensive campaign and to accelerate the momentum of Swachhta Abhiyan..
- Under the Swachh Survekshan Grameen, districts and states will be ranked on data collected from citizen feedback, direct observation and service-level progress.Coverage: 45-day long survey will take place in 18 thousand villages of 698 districts.

#### **34. Rotavirus vaccination extended across all states and UTs by September 2019**

- Rotavirus A, the most common species, causes more than 90% Of rotavirus infections in humans.

- Rotavirus causes 8,72,000 hospitalizations, 32,70,000 outpatient visits and 78,000 deaths annually.
- Rotavirus vaccination:
- The rotavirus vaccine (RVV) was recommended by an expert committee, National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI), in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

**35. President Ram Nath Kovind approves J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**

- Shri Ram Nath Kovind approved the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- The Ministry of Law and Justice issued the Gazette Notification.
- The Act seeks to make J&K a Union Territory (UT) with legislature and Ladakh, a UT without legislature.
- According to the notification by the Home Ministry the 2 new Union territories will come into existence on October 31, 2019.
- Ahead of the Independence day, a 15-km long tricolor unfurled by forming a human chain in Raipur, Chhattisgarh

**36. India's first clinical ecotoxicology facility inaugurated at AIIMS, Delhi**

- India's first-of-its-kind clinical ecotoxicology facility was inaugurated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.
- It will investigate the increasing number of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air.
- It will provide diagnostic and research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity. India's first clinical ecotoxicology facility inaugurated at AIIMS

**37. Doordarshan produced a patriotic song "Watan"**

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- The song is sung by singer Javed Ali, penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by Doordarshan.
- The song highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2". The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

**38. Kajin Sara lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest**

- A newly discovered Kajin Sara lake in Manang district of Nepal is all set to record the world's highest lake. It will replace the Tilicho lake, which is the current world's highest lake situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal (also in Manang) measures 4 km long, 1.2 km wide and around 200 metres deep. Kajin Sara lake in Nepal
- The lake called Singar locally, located at an altitude of 5,200 metres. But this measurement is yet to be officially verified. It is estimated to be 1,500-metre-long and 600-meter-wide.
- Once its altitude of over 5,200 metres, it will be the world's highest lake & will help promote tourism in the district. A team of mountaineers discovered this lake about a few months ago at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality in Nepal.

**39. 'Panchamirtham' of Palani temple in Tamil Nadu gets GI tag**

- Geographical Identity (GI) tag was given to the famous Panchamirtham, an offering of the Palani Dandayuthaswamy temple, in Tamil Nadu. It became the first temple offering – Prashad – from Tamil Nadu to be conferred this honour. Panchamirtham Key Points:
- Panchamirtham (Five Nectars) of Palani temple is prepared using 5 sweet substances including plantains, jaggery, grapes, forest honey and ghee. The quality of the offering is monitored by the Central Research Institute of Food Technology in Mysore, Karnataka.
- Earlier, the Tanjavor Veenai, Madurai Malligai, Neelgiri Tea leaves and Turmeric from Erode from Tamil Nadu were given the GI tags.

**40. A 3-day Global Investors Summit 2019 will be held in Srinagar, J&K**

- A 3-day Global Investors Summit 2019 starting from October 12, 2019, will be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) which will provide the state an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies, and potential. Global Investors Summit 2019 Key points:

- The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will be the national partner for the investor's summit, which has signed an MoU (Memorandum of understanding) with Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO).
- The summit, which was announced after the government removed special status to J& K under Article 370, will help reduce fears and apprehensions in the minds of trade and business communities outside the state.

#### **41. Air India is the first Indian Airline to fly over Zero Degree North Pole**

- Celebrating probably its last Independence day as a national carrier, Air India hoisted its Boeing 777 aircraft over the North pole to become the first Indian airline to operate commercial flights overflying the polar region.
- Its Delhi-San Francisco flight, which usually overflies the Atlantic or the Pacific ocean, cut across latitudes instead on Thursday to fly over zero degree north in a feat that would probably be Air India's last hurrah before it is thrown into the throes of privatisation.

#### **42. Tamil Nadu trifurcates Vellore district to form new districts**

- After taking a consensus from the ministers, MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and the general public, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami made announcement on trifurcation of Vellore district. Ranipet and Tirupattur will be the new districts carved out of Vellore. After the trifurcation, Tamil Nadu now has 37 districts.
- The announcement was made on August 15 2019 independence day celebration at Fort St George in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He also announced that K V Kuppam of Vellore district would be upgraded to a new taluka.
- The year 2019 has the largest no. of districts created with a total of 5 by the Edappadi K Palaniswami govt in Tamil Nadu.

#### **43. 3 new products from two states receive Geographical Indication (GI) tag**

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DIPP), Government of India (GoI) has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag for 3 new products from two states.
- Tawlhlohpuan (a woven fabric) and Mizo Puanchei (a colourful Mizo shawl) from the State of Mizoram and Tirur betel vine from Kerala are the latest addition in the GI list.

#### **44. Smriti Irani launches sustainable fashion project, 'SU.RE' in Mumbai**

- The Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated Project SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution), a joint project of CMAI (Clothing Manufacturers Association of India) & IMG Reliance (International Management Group), during Lakme Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The project was launched by Smriti Irani as well as the organizers of Lakme Fashion Week (CMAI, United Nations in India, and IMG Reliance). The aim of this initiative is to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.
- It is the 1st ever project in India's apparel industry that 16 biggest fashion brands of India (such as Future Group, Aditya Birla Retail, Shoppers Stop, Arvind Brands) come together to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian Fashion Industry and is also a major step towards responsible and smart business. It would help the Indian fashion industry to reduce carbon emissions, increase the efficiency of resources, combat waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

#### **45. Ladakh seeks tribal area status**

- Leaders of Ladakh have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a tribal-area status under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The move comes as the people are concerned to protect their land, culture, and identity after the abrogation of article 370 and the announcement of Ladakh as a Union Territory.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four north-eastern states namely Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. The schedule includes



Articles 244(2) and 275(1). It provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils.

- The states are provided with special provisions in terms of governance, powers of the president and the governor, type of local bodies, alternate judicial mechanisms, financial powers, etc.

#### **46. Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme**

- Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched “School Fagadaba” (Make education better) scheme.
- The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools. The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state. The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years.
- The 60 Assembly constituencies in the state selected under the 1st phase of the scheme. The state also set a target to increase enrollment of students from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session. The additional infrastructures like a modern school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities will be provided to these schools as per the Right to Education (RTE) norms.

#### **47. Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk**

- Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as "Atal Chowk" It is named in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The first death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Hazratganj Chowk renamed after him as "Atal Chowk" from August 16.
- He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow. A memorial named “Atal Smriti Upvan” be built on his name. The Mayor of the city prepared a draft for developing a memorial for Atal Smriti Upvan.

#### **48. Allahabad High Court bans DJ in Uttar Pradesh, asks govt to release toll-free number for complaints**

- The Allahabad High Court has banned DJs across the state and if someone is found guilty, they can be sentenced up to five years and may have to pay a hefty fine of Rs. 1 lakh.
- Citing the issue of noise pollution, the court ruled out the decision and has asked the govt to ensure that no noise pollution rules are violated in the state.
- The decision was given by Justice PKS Baghel and Justice Pankaj Bhatia of Allahabad High Court after public interest litigation was filed by advocate Sushil Chandra Shrivastava, an Allahabad native.

#### **49. Former PM Manmohan Singh Elected Unopposed To Rajya Sabha From Rajasthan**

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh got elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan after the opposition BJP failed to field a candidate against him. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of BJP parliamentarian Madan Lal Saini.
- Mr Singh was declared elected unopposed after the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the bypoll ended at 3 pm today. Mr Singh was a member of Rajya Sabha from Assam since 1991 until his term ended in June. The Congress did not have the strength to get him reelected from Assam, and there was no vacancy left elsewhere.

- The Congress, which had won the assembly polls last year, has the support of its 100 MLAs, 12 independents and six MLAs of Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party-- enough to get the party veteran through to the Rajya Sabha.

#### **50. The Karnataka government notified Nicotine as "Class A poison".**

- The Karnataka government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison". The step has been taken to strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes.
- The notification has also ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion. This will curb the illegal sale, smuggling of nicotine cartridges and e-cigarettes.
- Class A poison are "Highly toxic chemicals", which even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene).

#### **51. 2nd Uday Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada**

- Indian Railway's 2nd double-decker Uday (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. The train would consist of 9 double-decker coaches and 2 power cars.
- The trains are primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. They are equipped with WiFi facility, have striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens.

#### **52. President of India launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

- President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind planted a sapling of Maulsari in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate. They launched a plantation drive as part of Van Mahotsav celebrations. The President met students and urged them to encourage fellow citizens to plant more trees and reaffirm our commitment to a greener and sustainable planet.
- As part of Van Mahotsav celebrations, the President's Secretariat, over the next few weeks, will be planting 3,252 trees and 2,962 shrubs in the President's Estate. They include ornamental and fruit trees like Peepal, Neem, Maulsari, Champa, Gul Mohur, Mango, Chiko, Anjir and Amrud.
- President's Estate spread over 330 acres harbours a rich biodiversity. Noted trees of the Estate include, Sita Ashok, Bistendu, Shisham, Gab, Gourd Trees, Wild Almond, Lemon-Scented Gum, Doon Siris.

#### **53. SMVDU, NISE sign MoU to achieve national solar mission**

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Jammu and National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work jointly to achieve the objective of National Solar Mission through training programmes. The MoU, which will be valid till 5 years.
- International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries.

## **International News & Foreign Affairs**

#### **1. Nagar Kirtan(Sikh religious procession) from Pakistan reaches India for the first time since Partition**

- To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev , the Sikhism founder, a Nagar Kirtan , a Sikh religious procession was taken out for 1st time after Independence from Nankana Sahib district(birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev) of Pakistan's Punjab province entered into Attari village in Amritsar,Punjab Indian side through the Attari-Wagah land route .

#### ✚ 2. London named as World's Best Student City in QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019

- In the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019 compiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global education consultancy, London, the capital of United Kingdom (UK), was named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year. Tokyo and Melbourne were ranked second and third positions respectively.
- The Ranking was based on each city's performance across 6 categories- the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population made up of students; quality of life on offer; job opportunities available after graduation; affordability; and the feedback of the students themselves.
- Indian Students: Student numbers from India going to study in London registered an increase of 20% in 2017-18 from 4,545 in 2016-17 to 5,455 in 2017-18.
- Indian Cities: Bangalore was ranked 81st and Mumbai stood at 85th position, Delhi was ranked 113th and Chennai stood at 115 out of a total of 120 cities ranked in the list.

#### ✚ 3.US finalizes \$670 million foreign military sales to support India's C-17 aircraft

- The United States (US) approved foreign military sales worth \$670 million to support India's C-17 military transport aircraft in order to enhance operational readiness and ability to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) assistance in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The implementation of the proposed sale requires the assignment of 1 US government representatives and 23 contractor representatives to India

#### ✚ 4.North Korea successfully test fired two short range ballistic missiles off its East coast

- North Korea successfully test fired two short range ballistic missiles off its east Coast. They were fired from mobile launch vehicles.
- The first short-range missile, launched from Wonsan, a coastal town east of the capital, Pyongyang, flew 430 kilometers (267 miles), reaching a height of 50 kilometers (31 miles) before landing in waters between North Korea and Japan.
- The second missile flew 690 kilometers (430 miles).

#### ✚ 5. Bangladesh records highest level of Dengue cases in 18 years

- According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) of Bangladesh, 10528 patients were infected with dengue and nearly 700 more people were reported with dengue infection across Bangladesh. It is the highest in 18 years. Dengue cases in Bangladesh were first detected in the year 2000.
- 8 people were dead in the current spate of dengue outbreak.Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) data revealed that out of 800 beds in the medicine department, 561 were occupied by dengue patients .
- In 2018, a total of 10,138 Dengue patients were hospitalised.72 cases were reported in Dhaka division (except Dhaka city), 142 in Chittagong, 71 in Khulna, 40 in Rajshahi, 35 in Barisal and 13 in Sylhet division accounting for 373 cases.

#### ✚ 6. Iran launched 3 new precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" & "Ghaem"

- Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of "Ghaem" in Tehran. The air-to-air missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence of Iran and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.
- Yasin is a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres (30 miles) of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.
- Balaban is guided by GPS (Global Positioning System) and sensors. It is equipped with folding wings and can be mounted under the aircraft.
- Ghaem is a heat-seeking missile which can hit within 50 centimetres of a target.

#### ✚ 7. U.S. labels China a 'currency manipulator'

- The United States has officially labeled China a "currency manipulator". The US has accused China of using yuan to gain "unfair competitive advantage" in trade.

- The US took the action as Beijing has allowed its yuan to fall below the politically sensitive level of "seven" to the U.S. dollar for the first time in 11 years.

#### **8. Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia**

- Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).
- The deal was signed in Dhaka between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).
- Under this deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle

#### **9. Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles**

- Iran unveiled 3 precision-guided missiles. The new line-up of air-to-air missiles named the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.

#### **10. Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh**

- 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR's Bio-metric Identity Management System (BIMS) fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and UNHCR to all verified refugees over the age of 12.
- These cards will help in establishing and safeguarding the right of Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar. UNHCR's (BIMS) captures bio-metric data, including fingerprints and iris scans, which secure each refugee's unique identity as well as other important information such as family links.

#### **11. Hoverboard inventor Franky zapata crosses English Channel in his second attempt**

- 40 year old Jet powered hoverboard inventor and former jet ski champion Franky zapata of France, crossed the English Channel for the first time within 10days after his first failed attempt.
- He Started his 22 mile journey at 715 am from Sangatte, Northern France and landed at Saint Margaret's bay in Dover in around 25 minutes.Franky zapataPrevious attemptFranky Zapata made his first attempt to cross the English Channel on 25th July but failed as he fell into the water half-way when he tried to land on a boat for refuelling.
- Mr. Zapata received widespread attention following the annual Bastille Day parade in Paris on 14th July, as he took part in a military display on his futuristic flyboard(hoverboard).The attempt took place exactly 110 years since Louis Blériot made the first powered flight across the Channel in 1909.

#### **12. China successfully launched a new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1**

- A new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1 (SD-1) with 3 satellites, developed by the China Rocket Company affiliated to the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology (CALVT) was launched successfully from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.

#### **13. Japanese defense ship JS Sazanami visits Kochi**

- JS Sazanami, the fourth vessel of the Takanami class destroyers of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. The defence force is commanded by Commander Shoji Ishkawa. It is a 2-day goodwill visit from August 13 to 19, 2019.
- The activities such as the visit of Indian Navy personnel onboard JS Sazanami and professional interaction between the two navies were conducted during the visit. The visiting team provided with a conducted tour of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School and the Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS (Indian Navy Ship ) Sunayna.
- Shoji Ishkawa accompanied by Koichiro Maeda , Coast Guard Superintendent, Commanding Officer of the Somalia Dispatch Team of the Japanese Coast Guard, and Captain Taiko Eda, Resident Defence Attaché of Japan at New Delhi.JS Sazanami have about 25 officers, 156 sailors and 8 Japanese Coast Guard personnel (3 officers and 5 sailors) onboard depart for Bahrain from Kochi.

#### **14. Pakistan observed its Independence Day as Kashmir Solidarity Day on August 14, 2019**

- Pakistan observed its 73rd Independence Day as 'Kashmir Solidarity Day', after India revoked Article 370 of the Constitution. The Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan Syed Haider Shah read out the message of Pakistan President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan, hosted on the Chancery's lawns, by hoisting the Pakistani flag to the tune of its national anthem.

- Pakistan has announced to celebrate August 15 – India’s Independence Day – as “Black Day”.
- Pakistan introduced a special logo for Independence Day which has been created to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. It is based on the “Kashmir banega Pakistan” theme, with the word ‘Kashmir’, written in red, representing sacrifices rendered during the struggle for freedom by the Kashmiris.

#### **15. China to soon launch its own cryptocurrency**

- People’s Bank of China (PBoC) is issuing its own cryptocurrency. The bank’s researchers have been working last year to develop systems, and the cryptocurrency is “close to being out.” The event is held by China Finance 40 Forum over the weekend in Yichun, Heilongjiang.
- Mu repeated the PBoC’s intention that the digital currency would replace M0 or cash in circulation rather than M2, which would generate credit and impact monetary policy. The digital currency support the yuan’s circulation and internationalization.
- The remarks signal the PBoC is inching toward formally introducing a digital currency of its own after five years of research.

#### **16. Amazon inaugurates its world’s largest campus in Hyderabad**

- E-commerce company Amazon, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana. The campus was inaugurated by Mohammed Mahmood Ali, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, government of Telangana.
- This Hyderabad campus of Amazon, is the only one, placed outside US(United States). Having over 62,000 employees in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than 15,000 employees.

#### **17. Russia says US missile test 'escalation of military tensions'**

- Russia said on August 20, 2019 that the United States was escalating military tensions by testing a medium-range cruise missile weeks after tearing up a pact with Russia. The tested missile was not nuclear equipped.
- Russia said that the United States was ramping up military tensions by testing a medium-range cruise missile weeks after tearing up a pact with Russia. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said, the US has obviously taken a course towards escalation of military tensions.
- Earlier, the US Defence Department has announced that the test of a medium-range ground-launched cruise missile from the US Navy controlled San Nicolas Island off the coast of Los Angeles, California. The Pentagon said in a statement that the test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately hit its target after more than 500 kilometres of flight.

#### **18. PM signs 10 MoUs during his second visit to Bhutan**

- During his second visit to Bhutan PM Narendra Modi, he held talks with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.
- The leaders of the two countries signed 10 MoUs in fields like new energy, education, space research, aviation, IT, power and education. The talks also aimed to further improve economic and cultural ties between the two countries.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant which was built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. PM Modi launched the RuPay Card in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments, and trade and tourism. The leaders unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between India’s National Knowledge Network and Bhutan’s Druk Research and

Education Network. It marked India as the major partner in the development of Bhutan as India actively cooperates in Bhutan's five-year plans.

#### **19. Pakistan, India spar over using water as a weapon in Kashmir dispute**

- Accusing India of waging "fifth-generation warfare", Pakistan said New Delhi had failed to inform it about the release of water from a dam that could cause flooding across the border.
- India, however, rejected the claim saying that under the terms of a water treaty between the two nations it had informed Pakistan about the release of excess water late on Monday when it crossed a certain threshold.
- Relations between the neighbours, already hostile, have been further strained over India's decision this month to revoke the special status of its portion of the Kashmir region that both countries claim. Pakistan reacted with fury, cutting transport and trade links and expelling India's ambassador in retaliation.

#### **20. MoU between India and Maldives**

- During the Prime Minister of India's visit to the Maldives in June 2019, India signed MoU to provide training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil servants. Maldives Civil Service Commission signed with India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The aim to emphasize India's Neighbourhood First policy.
- India is now providing its full support to the Maldives in realizing its socio-economic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.
- The training program was operationalised after the discussions between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission.

#### **21. Iceland unveils memorial plaque for lost glacier**

- Iceland unveiled a plaque to its Okjokull ice sheet on Sunday, the first of the country's hundreds of glaciers to melt away due to climate change.
- Scientists see the shrinking of glaciers as one of many warning signs that the earth's climate is lurching toward dangerous tipping points.
- A ceremony to unveil the plaque was attended by scientists and locals at the glacier in west-central Iceland, which in 2014 no longer fulfilled the criteria to be classified as a glacier after melting throughout the 20th century.

## **New Appointments and Person in News**

### **1. Interim CEO Suparna Singh resigned from her role with immediate effect.**

- Singh was the former head of NDTV Convergence named as its CEO in December 2017. Suparna Singh informed the company that she will step down from her responsibilities as Interim CEO with immediate effect. The board resolved to appoint Suparna Singh as its CEO subject to the receipt of requisite approval from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- This approval was promptly applied for on December 12, 2017, The media company said that the matter will be placed before the board and committee members for consideration. CEO journalist Vikram Chandra's resignation from the role in the year 2016. She is the Director of Strategy at the NDTV Group. She established and headed NDTV's Metro Nation (its first English language, city-based channel in India) in September 2007.
- The probe agency booked the media outlet's former CEO Vikramaditya Chandra under charges of criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption. The company floated 32 subsidiaries in several tax haven countries to bring foreign funds to India through sham transactions.

#### **2. King of Bollywood, Shah Rukh Khan launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station**

- Indian actor, film producer, Shah Rukh Khan (SRK) launched heritage postal stamp of Bandra station in Mumbai, Maharashtra on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.
- He urged the people present at the launching event to use the postal stamps instead of online texting.
- Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra was also present at the event.

#### **3. Chief minister of Punjab launched "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana"**

- The chief minister of Punjab has launched a universal health insurance scheme "Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" benefiting nearly 46 lakh families. With this scheme, covering 76% of the state's population.
- Punjab has become the first state in the country to offer medical insurance cover to the maximum number of its people. The scheme would entitle beneficiaries to avail annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases.

#### **4. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina & Tennis Legend Sania Mirza will co-chair WEF's India Economic Summit 2019 to be held in New Delhi**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize 2-day India Economic Summit 2019 scheduled to be held in New Delhi from October 3 – 4, 2019 with the aim of promoting strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations.
- The theme of the event will be 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.
- Sheikh Hasina (Prime Minister of Bangladesh), Sania Mirza (Sportsperson and UN – United Nations Women Goodwill Ambassador for South Asia), Heng Swee Keat (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Singapore), Shobana Kamineni (Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise), and Shailendra Singh (Managing Director, Sequoia Capital India) will be the co-chairs for the Summit.

#### **5. PM Narendra Modi to receive 'Order of Zayed' during three-day visit to UAE, Bahrain from August 23**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain from August 23, the Ministry of External Affairs said. During the visit, PM Modi will receive the 'Order of Zayed', the highest civil decoration

of the UAE, which was conferred to him in April 2019 in recognition of his distinguished leadership that gave a big boost to bilateral relations between the two countries.

- "The award in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed," the MEA statement said.
- PM Modi will hold a meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interest.

## **Banking**

### **1. N S Vishwanathan gets extension by one year as RBI deputy governor**

- The government and the RBI started looking for a replacement of Vishwanathan and a few internal candidates were identified.
- The portfolios got reshuffled based on the availability and seniority of deputy governors for the past 15 years.
- Acharya's resignation complicated the matter because two deputy governors would be leaving the central bank in a month's interval Acharya set to leave on July 23. The central bank refused for power sector loans The Supreme Court turned down the RBI's objections.

### **2. India is the 7th largest economy in the world in 2018: World Bank**

- The World Bank data for 2018 showed that India is the 7th largest economy in the world at \$2.73 trillion.
- India's GDP rose from \$2.65 trillion in 2017 to \$2.73 trillion in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the sixth largest economy.
- It still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- The growth is estimated to slow to 7% in the current fiscal year that ends in March 2020.

### **3. RBI granted Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India**

- India's central banking institution, RBI (Reserve Bank of India) has allowed Bank of China (BoC) to provide regular bank services in India.
- **Second schedule:** All commercial banks including State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and ICICI Bank (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) are in the second schedule. Banks in this schedule have to comply with RBI regulations.

### **4. 7th Economic Census began from Tripura**

- 7th Economic Census (EC) for the year 2019 which is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) commenced from Tripura on July 29, 2019. It is held after a gap of 5 years. This is done to get a complete count of all economic units in India. After Tripura, it will be launched in Puducherry, and in other states and union territories in August and September, 2019.
- Implementing Agencies: Common Services Centers (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY), are the implementing agencies for the development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) platform system and conduction of fieldwork for the 7th Economic Census.

### **5. SBI Life Insurance, Indian Bank ink Bancassurance pact**

- Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank. SBI Life Insurance said that Bank assurance as a channel has been a strong differentiator for the life insurer and it continues to explore more opportunities through partnerships with credible organisations. The bank assurance agreement was signed in the presence of Padmaja Chunduru and Sanjeev Nautiyal.
- It comes on the heels of a similar agreement between Aditya Birla Sun Life SBI Life Insurance and Chennai-headquartered Indian Bank entered into a bank assurance pact to offer holistic financial planning solutions to the latter's customers. The partnership will see for 2,851 branches of Indian Bank across the country for insurance solutions.



- SBI Life will work with Indian Bank to ensure sales training, product support and smooth operational processes in order to offer life insurance policies to its customers. Indian Bank's customers have access to an array of life insurance products from SBI Life catering to varied life stage needs of the customer.

#### **6. RBI to set up "Central Payment Fraud Registry"**

- The Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up a "Central Payment Fraud Registry". The registry will track frauds in the payment systems.
- Under this registry, payment system participants will be provided access to it for near-real time fraud monitoring. The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks.
- Currently, banks report all banking frauds to the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell of the Reserve Bank of India.

#### **7. India's Reliance Industries Ltd is partnering with iconic US-based luxury jeweller Tiffany & Co to open a line of stores in the country.**

- Tiffany popular for its engagement rings and robin's egg blue boxes plans to open stores in New Delhi and Mumbai in the second half of fiscal years 2019 and 2020 respectively.
- The tie-up comes as Reliance, which is run by Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani and runs a sprawling conglomerate bolsters its consumer-focused units such as retail and telecoms to match the strength of its dominant oil and gas business. The company bought British toy retailer Hamleys.

#### **8. India's first National Time Release Study conducted from August 1-7, 2019**

- The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance conducted India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) from August 1-7, 2019. It will be conducted on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter. It is lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC).
- It is an internationally recognized tool advocated by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows. The WCO TRS is specifically referenced in Article 7.6 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) as a tool for Members to measure and publish the average release time of goods.
- Objective: To identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

#### **9. Google backed firm -Fynd's majority stake acquired by Reliance industries**

- 7 year old Mumbai startup Fynd, which is a Google backed firm that connects retailers with online stores and consumers, is now acquired by Reliance industries.
- Fynd's majority stake acquired by Reliance industries The acquisition announcement was made by Fynd's co-founder Harsh Shah. Reliance industries will now be owning 87.6% stake in Fynd.
- The acquisition has been made at a cost of 2.95 Billion Indian rupees( \$42.33 million).

#### **10. Walmart tops Euromonitor's 2019 list of India's top retailers**

- As per the latest report "Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019" by market research firm, Euromonitor International, Walmart Inc which acquired Flipkart in 2018(\$16 Bn deal) has topped the rankings in India for 2018 with Gross Merchandise Volume(GMV) of \$14. 49 Bn. Amazon(US) came on the second spot with \$9.8 Bn GMV followed by Mumbai based retail company Future Group with \$3.8Bn GMV(3rd position) and Reliance Group(4th position ) with \$3.6 Bn GMV.
- The Indian list also includes Tata Group(5th) &One 97 Communications' e-commerce unit, Paytm Mall(6th).For the list of the top 100 retailers in the whole Asian region, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (China)was ranked first.

#### **11. Reserve Bank tightens fit and proper guidelines for the position of elected directors on the board of PSBs**

- To keep out political appointees, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a new master direction called 'Fit and Proper' Criteria for Elected Directors on the Boards of PSBs(Public Sector Banks)) Directions, 2019 to determine 'fit and proper' status of person to be eligible to be elected as a director . These Directions are applicable to all PSBs &separate norms for private banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) will be issued soon.

#### **12. Mastercard launches 'Identity Check Express' for uninterrupted secured online transactions**

- On August 6, 2019, American multinational financial services corporation, Mastercard has launched a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution, called “Identity Check Express” that will help customers to do uninterrupted secured transactions while shopping online.
- The new card payment feature was showcased in New Delhi at the Global Mastercard Cybersecurity Summit 2019, held for the 1st time in India.
- As per the Mastercard’s analysis, up to 20% of mobile e-commerce transactions are interrupted mid-way. The present rules to verify an identity online are time-consuming which led to the shoppers away from a merchant’s website due to the issues such as consumers being redirected to a third website to complete the payment process or mobile network fluctuations.

#### **13. RBI clarifies rules on ‘free ATM transactions’**

- The Reserve Bank of India has clarified rules on ‘free ATM transactions’ provided by banks to its customers. Banks provide certain number of free transactions at ATMs to their customers and beyond that impose charges.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India, the following transactions should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer as the ‘free ATM transactions’: Transactions failed at ATMs due to technical reasons like hardware and software issues. Use of ATMs for non-cash withdrawal transactions such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes, funds transfer.

#### **14. CBDT increases the monetary threshold limit for IT department for filing appeals**

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) increased the monetary limit for an appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) to Rs 50 lakh from Rs 20 lakh. This is done to reduce litigation.

#### **15. Bandhan Bank join hands with standard Chartered for co-branded credit cards**

- Private sector lender Bandhan Bank has entered into the partnership with multinational banking and financial services company, Standard Chartered Bank to provide co-branded credit cards to its 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan.
- The co-branded cards are available in three variants. It includes, (i) One- for the mass market, (ii) Plus- for the affluent segment and (iii) Xclusive- for the premium segment. The credit period offered will be of 52 days.
- As part of this partnership, Standard Chartered Bank will take the risk of credit failure & Bandhan Bank will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers. Standard Chartered currently has 100 branches in 43 cities in India & It has 12 lakh customers base having credit card.

#### **16. Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the 10th fastest growing market globally**




- Prime Global Cities Index of London based consultancy Knight Frank has ranked Delhi as the 10th fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin (Germany) whereas Istanbul (Turkey) and Vancouver (Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively.
- Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) were ranked 15th and 30th on the list, respectively. 46 cities’ movement globally were tracked based on its luxury residential prices but only 35 out of those 46 cities have projected price growth. Despite Berlin ranking first in the index.

#### **17. Book My Forex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card**

- An online forex marketplace, Book My Forex has partnered with YES Bank and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad. They can load up to 10 currencies on the card.

- The forex travel card will be available to Customers on the Book My Forex platform and get doorstep delivery at free of cost across major cities in India. In order to promote the sale over currency notes, the platform will offer zero margin or exact inter-bank rates 24\*7 on purchases made through the forex travel card.
- Customers will be able to manage the travel cards through the mobile app by getting real-time notification alerts and view the INR (Indian rupee) equivalent of all amounts they spent. They will also get value-added services like tracking currency-wise balances, locating surcharge-free ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) nearby and reload their travel cards while traveling abroad.

#### **18. Paytm promoted CFO Madhur Deora as its President**

-  Indian largest digital wallet company, Paytm has promoted its CFO (chief financial officer) Madhu Deora as President of the company.
-  He joined the paytm in October 2016 and prior to this, he has served as Managing Director (MD) in Citigroup's investment banking business in New York, London, and Mumbai. He will now be tasked with several businesses in the consumer services segment to oversee their growth and financials.
-  On May 3, 2019, Bhushan Patil quits as a president of Paytm.

#### **19. State Bank of India aims to eliminate debit cards**

- State Bank of India bank debit cards from the banking system as the bank plans to promote more digital payment solutions and eliminate the plastic cards. The debit cards by customers of SBI which services a fifth of the population.
- Around 90 crore debit cards in the country as against 3 crore credit cards, and pointed out to digital solutions like its own 'Yono' platform as the key for achieving a debit card-less country. Kumar said through the Yono platform, one can withdraw cash at automated teller machines or pay for purchases at a merchant establishment without having a card at all.
- In the next five years, there will be a limited need to have any plastic cards in your pocket, Kumar said, pointing out that virtual coupons is the future.
- The QR code is also a very inexpensive way of ensuring payments.

## **New Appointments & Person in News**

#### **1. Atish Dabholkar, appointed as new Director of ICTP, Italy**

- Atish Dabholkar (56), an Indian theoretical physicist from Kolhapur, Maharashtra has been appointed as the new director of Italy based International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) for a five year term starting in November 2019 with the rank of Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). He succeeds Fernando Quevedo, who has led the centre since 2009.

#### **2. Guruprasad Mohapatra takes charge as secretary of DPIIT**

- Guruprasad Mohapatra (an IAS Officer of 1986 batch) assumed charge of the office of Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in New Delhi. He served as chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), a statutory body working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, where he brought many changes in AAI's strategic operations.

#### **3. R N Ravi took charge as 20th governor of Nagaland**

- On August 1, 2019, RN Ravi (A 1976-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Kerala cadre), a former Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer was sworn in as the 20th governor of Nagaland.
- Ravi, who is the interlocutor for the central government for the Centre-Naga peace talks.

- He played a key role in the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Indian government and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM).
- Ravi was appointed as Nagaland Governor by President Ram Nath Kovind on July 20, 2019.
- He worked closely with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval during the Doval's stint in the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

#### **4. Jagdeep Dhankar takes oath as West Bengal Governor**

- Jagdeep Dhankar, a former Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. He is a supreme court lawyer sworn in as the 28th governor of West Bengal.
- The function carried out at the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata. The function in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, state ministers, including urban development minister Firhad Hakim and finance minister Amit Mitra, and other dignitaries. He was administered oath by the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court TBN Radhakrishnan. He succeeded Keshari Nath Tripathy.

#### **5. IAS Rajiv Kumar appointed as new Finance Secretary**

- A 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre, Rajiv Kumar was appointed as the new Finance Secretary.

#### **6. India signs MoUs with Benin**

- India and Benin signed four MoUs on education, health and e-visa facilities.
- The signing of the agreement on mutual exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports and agreement on the fresh line of credit of 100 million US dollars by India to finance development projects in Benin.
- Benin also extended its support for India's candidature for permanent membership of UN Security Council.

#### **7. India's Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity 2019**

- Naaz Joshi made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant Miss World Diversity. She competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius.
- She dressed up in blue lehenga and choli and portrayed herself as the powerful Indian Goddess, who stands for 'shakti' - the feminine source of power and women empowerment.
- She is a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. She was sent to her relative's house in Mumbai.

#### **8. Abhinandan Varthaman and Balakot pilots to get top military honours**

- Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, an Indian Air Force pilot, is likely to be awarded a Vir Chakra for his gallantry.
- Mirage-2000 fighter jet pilots who dropped bombs on the terror facility of the Jaish-e-Mohammed will also get the Vayu Sena Medal for gallantry.

#### **9. Sonia Gandhi chosen as Interim Chief of Congress**

- The Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party, selected Sonia Gandhi, aged 72, as interim president of the Congress party.
- She had held the post of Congress President between 1998 and 2017. She succeeds Rahul Gandhi.

#### **10. Mission Shakti sports initiative launched by Bollywood actor Aamir Khan**

- Mission Shakti which is an initiative to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics by the Maharashtra minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, was launched by Bollywood film actor Aamir Khan in presence of Maharashtra sports minister Ashish Shelar.
- A team of tribal mountaineers who climbed Mount Everest under the "Mission Shaurya" by Maharashtra govt., were facilitated by Aamir Khan.

#### **11. Noel Quinn named as the new HSBC's interim CEO**

- HSBC bank announced that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HSBC John Flint steps down from his post after 1.5 years and is to be replaced by Noel Quinn, head of HSBC's global commercial banking unit, as the new interim CEO.
- Chairman of HSBC Mark Tucker informed that this replacement of a new CEO was needed for a change to meet the challenges.
- The lender bank also announced buyback of \$1 Billion.

**12. Harshad Pandurang Thakur designated as the Director of NIHFW**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India (GoI) has made Harshad Pandurang Thakur as the Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) for a period of 5 years.
- He replaces Shri. Sudhansh Pant. Prior to this appointment, Thakur was a professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai.
- He was also worked as a chairperson for the Centre for Health Policy, Planning & Management (CHPPM) from July 2008 to June 2010, and the chairperson for the Centre for Public Health (CPH) from June 2010 to March 2015.

**13. Simone Biles becomes the first woman to make 'triple-double' twist**

- 22 year old American Artistic gymnast Simone Arienne Biles became the first woman in the world to make a "triple-double" floor exercise landing which is a finale featuring two flips and three twists at the 2019 US (United States) Gymnastics Championships held at Kansas city, Missouri, US. Simone Biles Key points
- The event was held from August 8-11. The triple double involves two flips and three twists in the air (only 2 men in the world have done the move successfully).
- Biles was part of the "final five" gold medal winning team at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**14. Anurag Adlakha appointed as YES bank CFO replacing Ahuja**

- YES bank had made Anurag Adlakha as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) replacing Raj Ahuja who previously served as the senior group president and head of financial management of YES bank, will now be in charge of strategy, planning and functions of the bank.

**15. Chandrima Shaha to be the first woman president of INSA from 2020**

- Former director of the National Institute of Immunology (NII), Delhi, Ms Chandrima Shaha is all set to become the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) from January 1, 2020.
- she was the vice-captain of West Bengal's first women's cricket team and also the first woman cricket commentator for All India Radio (AIR)
- Shaha after becoming the INSA president wants to take similar initiatives like the 'Science Setu' that she initiated when she served as the director of NII. Science Setu was a part of which scientists would go and teach undergraduates.

## Science Tech & Defence

**1. Indian Air Force and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) participating in a bilateral air exercise Garuda VI at Mont de Marsan in France**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) are participating in the Garuda VI bilateral exercise at Mont de Marsan in France. The exercise has been started on July 1 and will conclude on July 12. The objective of this exercise is to validate the latest defence strategies by enhancing the interoperability level of the French and Indian crews in air defence and ground attack missions.
- Indian side – It comprised of 120 air-warriors and four Sukhoi 30 MKI along with an IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft. Also, IAF's C-17 Globemaster strategic lift aircraft will provide logistics support to contingent during induction and de-induction phases.

**2. NASA's TESS satellite discovers first nearby super Earth**

- A super-Earth was discovered by an International team of astronomers led by Lisa Kaltenegger and is considered to be the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system.
- The super Earth is named as GJ 357 d and it was discovered in NASA's Transiting Exoplanets Survey Satellite (TESS) according to new modelling research in "Astrophysical Journal Letters".

**3. Microsoft acquired BlueTalon, a data privacy & governance startup**

- Microsoft acquired BlueTalon, a data privacy and governance service, for an undisclosed sum. BlueTalon works with leading Fortune 100 companies. It helps enterprises to set policies for how their employees can access their data.
- It will become part of the Azure Data Governance group.

- It had raised \$25.87 million and was backed by firms like Biosys Capital, Signia Venture Partners, Maverick Capital, and Divergent Ventures.

#### 4. Air Force specification-cum-publicity Pavilion inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank"

- The Union Minister for Human Resource Development (MHRD) Mr Ramesh pokhriyal 'Nishank', inaugurated the Indian Airforce Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion in National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Facilitation-cum-Publicity Pavilion
  - i. The setup comprises of a flying simulator, a self-interactive career information kiosk( a counter, newsstand etc), a selfie point in G suite( cloud computing, collaboration and productivity tool) and mannequins.
  - ii. The pavilion has running videos related to IAF exercise/ operations, aircraft models of Indian Air Force, digital flexes etc.

#### 5. IIT Hyderabad developed an eco friendly solar cell using kumkum dye- DSSC

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad developed a low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells named Dye-sensitised solar cell (DSSC) by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make kumkum or vermilion.
- DSSC is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes. The research was published in the Solar Energy Journal.
- The research was led by Professor Sai Santosh Kumar Raavi from the Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad.

#### 6. Lt Gen Paramjit Singh to be new DGMO of Army

- Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, who has vast experience in counter-terror operations, will be the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
- Lt Gen Singh, currently serving as General Officer Commanding of the Army's Nagrota-based XVI Corps, will take over as the new DGMO on October, succeeding Lt Gen Anil Chauhan.

#### 7. ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research as a reward and recognition to journalists.
- Nominations: All Indian journalists can be nominated and those articles that are published from the year 2019 till 2020 can be submitted.
- Candidates will be nominated and judged based on the standard criteria set by ISRO. The names of the selected will be declared on August 1, 2020.

#### 8. First nearby super-earth planet GJ357d discovered by NASA

- The NASA scientists have characterized the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system that may be suitable for life. The super-earth planet - named GJ 357 d - was spotted by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- It is estimated that planet is about six times the size of our planet and located a mere 31 light-years away. The planet orbits a dwarf star in the Hydra constellation and may have the right conditions to support liquid water as it lies within its star's habitable zone.
- It may be noted that a super-Earth is an extrasolar planet with a mass higher than Earth's, but substantially below those of the Solar System's ice giants, Uranus and Neptune

#### 9. SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israel's Amos 17 telecommunications satellite

- The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called Amos-17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.
- The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit .
- The launch was a makeup launch for Spacecom when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded on the launch pad in 2016. Amos-17 has been designed to provide enhanced voice, video and data services to customers in Africa and parts of Europe, the Middle East, India and China.
- Before AMOS 17, Spacex launched the Europe's Arianespace consortium with two satellites from its spaceport in the South American country of French Guiana using its heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket.

#### 10. IIT-Guwahati develops hand-held device to detect bacteria

- A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati has developed a portable device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays.
- The hand-held device, with the bio-compatible sensor, can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis.
- This research has enabled rapid detection of bacteria, which is not just important in healthcare, but also in anti- bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring.

#### **11. DRDO successfully test fired QRSAM Missile**

- The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired an indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from a mobile truck-based launch unit from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile type. QRSAM missile has been developed for the Army.
- The entire mission was tracked by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.

#### **12. ISRO sets up SSAM in Bengaluru**

- K Sivan, chairman, Isro, laid the foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre at Peenya in Bengaluru.
- Isro has set up a directorate of space situational awareness and management aiming at protecting high valued space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions. The control centre would facilitate the intensified activities foreseen for SSAM, in view of increasing debris population and operational space assets.
- The control centre would host a range of activities pertaining to the protection of Indian space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near-earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions.

#### **13. NASA satellite uncovers 'first nearby super-Earth'**

- The Super-Earth planet named GJ 357 d was discovered in early 2019 owing to NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a mission designed to comb the heavens for exoplanets.
- Scientists have characterised the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system located about 31 light-years away.

#### **14. INS Tarkash participates in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 Bilateral**

- The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Tarkash, participated in the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK).

#### **15. PM announced the creation of CDS post**

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the creation of post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on 15 August. The rank of CDS will be a first among equals. It will be a fourth four-star officer who will be senior to the three other service chiefs. It is the most significant reform in the defence.
- The creation of the post aims to make the Indian defence forces even more effective. It will also ensure the better coordination between the three defence services.
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) will act as the single-point advisor to the Government. The CDS officer will be advising the Army, Navy and Airforce on matters related to all the three services. The officer concerned will make the Country's armed forces integrated.

#### **16. WhatsApp finally brings fingerprint authentication to Android beta users**

- WhatsApp's Messenger most awaited features, fingerprint authentication, is finally rolling out to Android users. The feature is currently available to those who have registered in WhatsApp's beta programme for Android.
- The Fingerprint authentication has been around on the platform since last year to iOS users.
- This is the first time the feature has made its way to a stable WhatsApp beta build for Android.
- The beta tester for WhatsApp, you can activate the functionality by tapping on the hamburger menu (three dots on the top right corner).

#### **17. Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL**

- Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in a formal function held at CIAL. The agreement was signed by Captain Satish Kumar S, Officer-in-Charge, NAE and Shri ACK Nair, Airport Director CIAL.
- The MoU was aimed with the commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery.
- The MoU sets the standard operating procedures for CIAL and the Indian Navy. It also ensures safe, secure and uninterrupted military air operations.

✚ **18. Researchers from the Max Planck Institute, Germany have found the largest black hole ever.**

- It was named Holmberg 15A. The researchers are to further continue studying the massive blackhole and will conduct more complex and detailed modelling surrounding it.
- The study will help them figure out how exactly these black holes are formed and how many such massive blackholes are yet to be discovered.

✚ **19. Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu**

- The Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh in Jammu.
- This Mission aims to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It was attended by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma, members of the civil administration, representatives of the J&K Police, CRPF, BSF and intelligence agencies.

✚ **20. Cerebras Systems reveals "world's largest computer chip"**

- Artificial intelligence(AI) company Cerebras Systems has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor named Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine.
- This chip has 1.2 trillion transistors, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips. The rectangular shape chip measures 21.5cm sq (8.5in sq), comes with 400,000 AI (Artificial Intelligence) cores and 18 gigabytes of on-chip memory.

✚ **21. NASA scientists fly over Greenland to track melting ice**

- NASA scientists are crossing Greenland on a mission to track melting ice. Greenland melting faster in the last decade and this summer it has seen two of the biggest melts on record since 2012.
- Global warming is the chief culprit of the melting ice issue. Both warmer air and warmer water are eating away at Greenland it causes to lose billions of tons of ice daily in the summer.
- A team of scientists and engineers aboard a research plane are dropping probes into the ice to help figure out which is the bigger cause. If water is playing a bigger role than scientists had thought, that could mean seas will be rising faster than expected.

✚ **22. SERB's new scheme called "Supra" will fund cutting-edge research**

- In a bid to promote research in cutting edge areas of science, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) plans to launch a new scheme called "Supra" (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) to fund scientists.
- The scheme has designed as a part of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100-day transformative ideas. The aim of this scheme is to fund new scientific and engineering breakthroughs with global impact.
- This will promote new areas of study, novel scientific concepts, new products, and technologies. It will also attract high-quality research proposals consisting of new hypotheses or challenge present ones and provide innovative solutions.

✚ **23. All CAPF personnel to retire at 60 now**



- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has fixed the retirement age for all Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel at 60 years.
  - All personnel in the Central Industrial Security Force and the Assam Rifles retire at 60. However, in the other four forces—Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Sashastra Seema Bal—those from the ranks of constable to commandant retire at 57 while those above them retire at 60.
  - The home ministry directive comes in the wake of a January order of the Delhi High Court where it had called the policy of different age of superannuation as “discriminatory and unconstitutional”, and said it created two classes in the uniformed forces.
- ✚ **24. DRDO delivered the new Mobile Metallic Ramp to Army**
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) delivered the design of the newly innovated Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army at a ceremony held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
  - The design of MMR was handed over by Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), Lt Gen Devraj Anbu.
  - The MMR will reduce the Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The requirement was projected by the Indian Army. The new MMR will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It will drastically reduce the time required for operational mobilization.

## Important days

✚ **1. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July**

- United Nations observes 30 July every year as World Day Against Trafficking. In 2013, the General Assembly designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.
- On the 2019 World Day UNODC is focusing on highlighting the importance of Government action with a tagline:
- **Human Trafficking:** call your government to action

✚ **2. Hiroshima Day 2019 observed on August 6**

- It marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States (US) in 1945. An American B-29 bomber had dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed ‘Little Boy’ on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
- Three days later i.e on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb “Fat Man” was dropped on the city of Nagasaki.
- Hiroshima Day, the annual event is organised by the Galway Alliance Against War (GAAW) in Eyre Square, Ireland. 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the disastrous event.

✚ **3. 7th August: National Handloom Day**

- **Objective:** to honour and revive the roots of handlooms and thus provide work to weavers and to spread awareness about the importance of the handloom industry to the socio economic development of the country.
- Handloom Mela and exhibition, workshops, panel discussion were organised and special stalls were put up for handloom products at Gandhinagar and Kolkata NIFT campuses.
- On 7 August, 2015 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first National Handloom Day at Madras University in Chennai.

✚ **4. World organ donation day observed on August 13**

- The organ donation day is observed every year on August 13 to create awareness about organ donation. To motivate people to donate organs thus saving lives after their death.

- According to the National Health Portal, there are nearly 5Lakh people dying due to lack of available organs.Spain has the highest donor rate in the world at 46.9million people followed by Portugal at 34 million as of 2017.

#### **5. World elephant day celebrated on August 12, 2019**

- Observed every year on August 12, The World Elephant Day is celebrated to create awareness and bring attention to the urgent plight (dangerous situation) of Asian and African elephants
- The day was first launched on August 12, 2012.
- Human activities like poaching, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity have become a great threat to both African and Asian elephants' survival.

#### **6. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: 22 August**

- United Nations observes 22 August every year as “International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief”.
- The day is observed to strongly condemn continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

#### **7. World Senior Citizen Day observed on August 21, 2019**

- The day is recognized to create awareness of the condition of elder people and support them through senescence.This day is observed to thank and acknowledge elders for all that they have done for their children. They sacrifice their entire life in nurturing their relationships.
- The day was first announced on 14th of December in the year 1990, by the United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) & it was celebrated for the first time on October 1, 1991.The day originates from the time of 1988. It was formally settled by the former president of the United States of America i.e. Ronald Reagan. He had marked the 5847 declarations on August 19, 1988, which showed August 21 as the National Senior Citizens Day.
- As per the 2017 census, 47 million senior citizens from India live in the United States of America. Several programs are held throughout the world where elders' life studies, personal experiences are shared and solutions are offered to fight the factors that affect their well-being.

#### **8. Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August**

- Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated on 20 August every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
- On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. Mr Rajiv Gandhi youngest Prime Minister of India.
- He was the youngest Prime Minister of the country. He became Prime Minister at the age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. He served from 1984-89.

#### **9. World Photography Day observed on 19 August**

- World Photography Day is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science, and history of photography. World Photography Day signifies about the photography event in the world.
- Early 19th century, photography has become an ever-increasing medium of personal expression and appreciation for countless people around the world..
- World Photo Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in 1837.World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. There are 270 photographers shared their pictures and people from over 100 countries visited the website.

## **Books & Authors**

#### **1. Former diplomat Rajiv Dogra pens latest novel “Second Night”**

- Former Indian diplomat, Television commentator,writer and artist Rajiv Dogra wrote his latest (third) novel “Second Night” published by Rupa. This novel describes and focuses on friendship, love and loss in the life of a woman.

- Jabalpur(Madhya Pradesh) born Rajiv Dogra has previously penned two books on the Indo-Pak relations named “Where borders bleed: An insider’s account of Indo-Pak Relation” and on the Durand Line(border line between Pakistan and Afghanistan) named “Durand’s curse: A line across Pathan Heart”.
- He is currently writing a book on foreign policy and legacy of Indian prime ministers.

#### **2. Book on the History of Jammu & Kashmir titled ‘Kashmir’s untold story:Declassified’ to be released**

- Book titled ‘Kashmir’s untold story: Declassification’ by Bloomsbury publishers was announced.The book portrays the time of political and geographical consolidations of Jammu & Kashmir(J&K), beginning from the era of Maharaja Gulab Singh till the present day.
- The book is authored by Delhi- based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defence analyst Maroof Raza.The book will be released on September 18, 2019.
- It shares the history of J&K when it first imposed central rule and dispossessed the rule of the then Maharaja Gulab Singh.

#### **3. Book ‘Listening, Learning and Leading’ launched by union home minister Amit Shah**

- The book ‘Listening, Learning and Leading’ marking Shri Venkaiah Naidu’s two years of service as vice president was launched by Union Home minister Amit Shah at kalaivanarArrangam, Chennai. ‘Listening, Learning and Leading’

## **Sports**

#### **1.PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal retained their top 10 place in the latest Women’s singles rankings in badminton**

- In the recently released women’s singles ranking by Badminton World Federation, India’s star players PVSindhu and Saina Nehwal have retained 5th spot and 8th spot respectively. The ranking is topped by Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi.
- Chinese Taipei’s Tai Tzu Ying was overtaken by Akane Yamaguchi to become the new world no.1 champion.
- Japan’s Nozomi Okuhara is ranked second and Tai Tzu Ying is ranked third in the BWF rankings.
- In BWF men’s ranking japan’s Kento Momota is ranked first whereas India’s Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma are ranked 10th and 13th respectively

#### **2. Former SC judge AK Sikri appointed as Ombudsman officer of Indian Federation of Sports Gaming**

- India’s first and only Sports Gaming self-regulatory industry body, Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) has appointed former Supreme Court(SC) judge, Justice A. K. Sikri, as its ombudsman and Ethics Officer.
- He will have the responsibility of investigating queries & complaints raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms and provide strategic council, resolve disputes brought forward regarding binding rules or financial discrepancies as well as steer hearings and make announcements for smooth operation and ease of functioning.

#### **3. ICC officially launches WTC**

- International` Cricket Council (ICC) officially launched the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC). It will begin from August 1, 2019 where Australia and England will face each other in the Ashes. It will bring relevance and context to bilateral Test cricket over the next 2 years (2021).
- WTC will comprise of the top 9 Test teams of the world- Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.71 Test matches will be played across 27 series over two years. The top two teams will contest in the ICC World Test Championship final from June 14-20, 2021 in the United Kingdom (UK).
- Points will be given for grabs during each match. Each team will play three home and three away series.Each series will count for 120 points, distributed over the number of matches in a series.

- The matches will be played in the same format as bilateral series. The number of matches in each series can vary between a minimum of two matches to a maximum of five matches. The first cycle of the WTC consists of only five-day matches and will include day-night matches.

#### **4. BCCI agreed to come under the jurisdiction of NADA**

- The Indian Sports Secretary, Radheshyam Jhulaniya stated that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to come under the jurisdiction of the anti-doping watchdog, National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) after years of resisting the move.
- BCCI had raised a number of concerns (quality of the dope testing kits, competence of pathologists and sample collection) but finally agreed to come under NADA after the sports ministry gave assurances about resolving issues of the cricket board.
- Background: BCCI calling itself an autonomous body, and was against the signing up with NADA for a period of time. The Indian cricket board decided in March 2019 to work with the country's anti-doping agency on a trial period of 6 months.

#### **5. P.V. Sindhu among Forbes 2019 list of world's highest-paid female athletes**

- India's badminton star P.V. Sindhu is the only athlete from the country to be named among the world's highest-paid female athletes by Forbes, a list topped by tennis great Serena Williams. Sindhu is tied for 13th place in The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 list released by Forbes.
- She secured total earnings of \$5.5 million, She became the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour finals in 2018. The list of the world's top 15 female athletes is topped by Williams. She earned total earnings of \$29.2 million. She built a venture portfolio worth more than \$10 million. The second spot is Naomi Osaka, who won the 2018 US Open. She defeated champ Williams at 23-time Grand Slam. She has total earnings of \$24.3 million.

#### **6. Amla retires from international cricket**

- South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all formats of international cricket.
- Amla played 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is between his 15-year-long cricketing career.
- Scoring more than 18,000 runs, including 55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50.

#### **7. Ravi Shastri re-appointed as head coach of Indian men's cricket team**

- Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) headed by Kapil Dev, former Indian cricketer, unanimously re-appointed Ravi Shastri as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team for 2 years, ending with the 2021 T20 (Twenty 20) World Cup in India.
- It will be Shastri's fourth stint with the national team, earlier, having served as the Cricket Manager (2007 tour of Bangladesh), Team Director (2014-2016) and head coach (2017-2019).

#### **8. India clinched gold at Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan**

- In the Under-12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held in Kazakhstan, India defeated Chinese Taipei by 2-1 in the summit clash and clinched the gold medal.
- Manas Dhamme and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin won their singles matches.

#### **9. New transgender inclusive policy to include transgender player in cricket unveiled by Cricket Australia**

- Cricket Australia took a revolutionary move announcing new guidelines with the International Cricket Council's (ICC) gender recognition policy to include transgender players to play cricket.
- The transgender players willing to play for the state and national women's team will have to undergo a test to verify testosterone level limit set out in the policy. The testosterone concentration should be less than 10 nanomoles per litre over at least for 12 months and players should demonstrate consistency in their elected gender on a daily basis.
- Cricket Australia's chief executive, Kevin Roberts announced that this initiative was taken to support the players to participate in elite cricket irrespective of gender identity allowing the players to experience Australian Cricket's inclusive culture.

#### **10. Aishwarya Pissay creates history by becoming the first Indian woman to win FIM Bajas World Cup**

- 23-year-old Indian motorsport rider, Aishwarya Pissay from Bengaluru became the first woman from India as well as the first Indian to win the FIM (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) Bajas

World cup with a tally of 65 points. The final round of the championship was held at Varpalota, Hungary.

- Aishwarya Pissay also finished second in the FIM junior category with 46 points. She was the only one to compete all the four rounds over her rivals and represented TVS (Thirukkurungudi vengaram Sundaram) motors.
- She finished 4th in the fourth and final level of the 2019 Bajas world cup to win the championship leading with four points. A total of 5 participants competed in the 2019 FIM Bajas World cup with Portugal's Rita Vieira (61 points) finishing in the second spot.

#### **11. Overview of 2019 Rogers Cup/Canadian Open**

- 2019 Rogers Cup/ Canadian Open presented by National Bank was held from August 5-11, 2019.
- The Men's tournament was held at IGA Stadium, Montreal, Quebec, Canada and Women's tournament was held at Aviva Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It was the 139th edition of Men's tournament
- It was a part of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour Masters 1000 of the 2019 ATP Tour, and of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Premier 5 tournaments of the 2019 WTA Tour, and 2019 United States (US) Open Series event.

#### **12. Indian team bags 2 Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019**

- The Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of Markoo Raginee and Sukhbeer Singh picked up the 1st gold for India by beating their Switzerland rivals with 152-147 scores at the World Archery Youth Championships 2019 organized by World Archery Federation held in Madrid, Spain from 19 -25 August 2019.
- 17-year-old Komalika Bari has got 2nd Gold medal in the final of recurve cadet class by beating Japan's Sonoda Waka with 7-3 scores. The Indian team of Sukhbir Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare also won the junior compound men's team bronze medal by beating Colombia's Jagdeep Teji Singh Mejia, Gomez Zuluga Felipe and Toro Vasquez Manuel with 234-231 scores.
- The Indians scored 60 out of 60 points in the final round, while the Colombian team managed only 56 points.

#### **13. Gold medal for India in World Police and Fire Games**

- B.N.S. Reddy beats Bruce Barrios of the U.S. in the men's singles final to win the gold medal at the World Police and Fire Games.
- The tournament was held in Chengdu, China. In the doubles event, Reddy and Surinder Mohan Sharma lost to the pair of Sabandon Eduardo (Phi) and Helminen Risto (Fin) in the finals and bags the silver medal.
- B.N.S. Reddy is a former Additional Commissioner of Police and a current member of the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit.

#### **14. Sreesanth's Life Ban on cricket reduced to 7 Years**

- Former India paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth's life ban has been reduced to 7 years. This order was passed by BCCI Ombudsman, Justice (Retd.) DK Jain. The Ban will end in 2020.
- The BCCI banned Sreesanth for life in September 2013, along with his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan, for indulging in alleged spot-fixing in the IPL.

## **Awards**

#### **1. 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award won by Ravish Kumar for journalism**

- India's senior executive editor of NDTV was awarded 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. Five other individuals were declared winners of this award along with Ravish Kumar.
- The winners will be awarded with a certificate and a medallion with the image of Ramon Magsaysay on August 31, 2019

#### **2. Bollywood's Advocate Dinesh Tiwari conferred with Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019**

- Bollywood's Advocate Dinesh Tiwari was conferred with 'The Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019', for his excellence in the field of law at an event hosted in London by the Society Magazine. He was presented the award by Gopichand Hinduja in presence of Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar who were the Chief Guests of the event.

**3. DD News received “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis**

- DD News(Doorarshan), a 24\*7 terrestrial cum satellite News Channel of India has awarded “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis.
- Mayank Agrawal, Director General of DD News has received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- Agrawal stated that it is the responsibility of DD News to aware people about various diseases and preventives by showing health-related programs, reports, and policies that help to spread awareness towards health in society.

**4. Former International tennis player Vidisha Balyan from Uttar Pradesh wins Miss Deaf World 2019 title**

- 21 year old Vidisha Baliyan from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh became the first Indian, crowned Miss Deaf World 2019 which was held in Mbombela, South Africa. S
- he is a former International tennis player who represented India in the Deaflympics.
- Vidisha Balyan from Uttar Pradesh wins Miss Deaf World 2019 title Mr. Deaf World 2019 was won by South Africa’s Phumelela Mapukata

**5. Priya Priyadarshini Jain facilitated with “Indian Women of Influence” award**

- Social entrepreneur philanthropist and eminent fashionista Priya Priyadarshini Jain was conferred with the prestigious “Indian Women of Influence” award at the House of Lords, The United Kingdom Parliament, London. Priya Priyadarshini Jaini.
- She was also one among the others featured in the coffee table book on ‘50 most influential Indian women worldwide’ featuring top Indian women like former Indian president Pratibha Patil, Nita Ambani, MP Caroline, Hema Malini, Shilpa Shetty.

**6. ISRO chairman K.Sivan conferred with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan awarded the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by the Tamil Nadu government. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, who led ISRO's successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission receive the award in person receive it from Chief Minister K Palaniswami.
- The award is given in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology. The Kalam award is to honour those who work for promoting scientific growth, humanities and students' welfare. The award carries 8 gm gold medal, Rs. five lakh in cash and a citation. Mr Sivan's leadership led to the historical achievement of most successful GSLV flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.
- Mr Sivan to receive the award at the Independence Day celebrations at Fort St George in Chennai. The Kalam's birthday (October 15) will be observed as "Youth Renaissance Day." The first Kalam award was presented by Jayalalithaa in 2015 to ISRO scientist N Valarmathi and it is given on Independence Day every year.

**7. 96 police personnel awarded Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation 2019**

- Union Home Minister’s Medal for Excellence in Investigation 2019 was conferred to 96 police personnel, including 15 Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers. The award was instituted in 2018 to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognize such excellence in investigation by officers.
- 11 were from Maharashtra Police, 10 from Uttar Pradesh Police, 9 from Kerala Police, 8 from Madhya Pradesh Police, 6 from Delhi Police and Karnataka Police and the remaining were from the other States/Union territories and Central Investigating Agencies.
- 13 women officers were among the 96 personnel.

**8. Likee platform creates Guinness World Record for I-Day campaign**

- Short video creation platform, Likee entered the 2019 Guinness World Records (formerly The Guinness Book of Records) for creating the largest online video album of people waving the Indian flag during its ‘No matter where I am, #IAMINDIAN’ campaign.
- The tricolour was waved by more than 1 lakh Indians including Indian printer Hima Das who participated in this initiative on the platform as a sign of patriotism to celebrate India’s 73rd Independence Day (August 15).

- The hashtag #IAMINDIAN became the most trending hashtag among Indians in likee as well as other social media platforms. More than 2.5 lakh videos were created by the Indians with about 225.3 million views online.

#### **9. Karnataka Tops In State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index(SARAL) 2019**

- RK Singh, the Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index 2019 (SARAL) at the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities in New Delhi.
- As per the Index, Karnataka got the top spot with SARAL score of 78.8 as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project followed by Telangana(72.2), Gujarat(67.9) and Andhra Pradesh(66.1). Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) has been ranked last with a score of 14.4. All the first 4 got A++ grade.
- The index has been designed jointly by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

#### **10. Prasar Bharati introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma**

- India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryaprakash. The agency introduces 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award'.
- The award memory of Doordarshan(DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma.
- She is a strong advocate for women empowerment. She started her career in Doordarshan in 1995. She associated with the channel for over 20 years. She was known for her programmes like 'Tejaswini'(Through this show, she focused on women achievers of India) and 'Badi Charcha'. She was awarded the 2018 'Nari Shakti Puraskar'(Highest civilian award for women in India) by the President of India Ram Nath Govind.

## **Obituaries**

#### **1. Madhubani painting and Sujni artist Karpuri Devi passed away in the Madhubani district of Bihar**

- Madhubani painting and Sujni artist Karpuri Devi, aged 94, passed away at the Heart Hospital at Mangarauni village in Madhubani district of Bihar where she was undergoing treatment. She hailed from Ranti village of Bihar and belonged to the first generation of Mithila painting artists. Karpuri Devi. The National Award recipient contributed towards setting up of the Mithila Museum which is located in Tokamachi hills in Japan's Niigata region.
- She was the recipient of several state awards and national merit certificate given by the Ministry of textiles, Union government.

#### **2. Indian coffee tycoon, V. G. Siddhartha Hegde found Dead**

- Indian billionaire and a founder of the largest coffee chain in India, Cafe Coffee Day(CCD), V. G. Siddhartha Hegde has been found dead on the banks of the Netravati river near Mangaluru. V. G. Siddhartha Hegde. Siddhartha was the son-in-law of former Karnataka chief minister SM Krishna.
- He is from the Chikmagalur district of Karnataka, established Cafe Coffee Day in 1996, which is an Indian café chain owned by Coffee Day Global Limited serves 1.8 billion cups of coffee, annually, in six countries like Malaysia, Egypt, the Czech Republic, and Austria.

#### **3. Gujarat's former MP and farmer leader Vitthal Radadiya dead**

- Former Member of Parliament (MP) from Porbandar, Gujarat Died at his residence in Ahmedabad, after a prolonged illness.
- Vitthal radadiya also served as director of Indian farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO)
- He was also the chairman of Rajkot district Cooperative Bank

#### **4. The voice of Disney's Minnie Mouse, Russi Taylor, passed away in Glendale, California, US**

- Veteran actor Russi Taylor, who voiced Disney's Minnie Mouse for more than 30 years, passed away in Glendale, California, US. She was 75. Born on May 4, 1944 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she became the voice of Minnie Mouse in 1986.
- She voiced for Martin Prince in The Simpsons, the cartoon character Strawberry Shortcake, Donald Duck's nephews- Huey, Dewey and Louie, in the original "Ducktales" animated series and filled roles

in “TaleSpin” and “Kim Possible.” She also played a part in different films and voiced for different TV shows & TV animated series.

- She was named a Disney Legend in 2008. She was nominated for Annie Awards in 2005 & 2007 and Emmy Awards in the year 2006, 2007 & 2018.

#### ✚ 5. Former Gujarat MP Vitthal Radadiya passes away

- Former Gujarat MP Vitthal Radadiya passed away. He was one of the Saurashtra’s most prominent politicians and was former Member of Parliament from Porbandar in Gujarat.
- Vitthal Radadiya also served as a director of IFFCO and was the chairman of the Rajkot District Co-operative Bank.
- Former Andhra Pradesh state Minister Mukesh Goud passes away
- Former Andhra Pradesh congress state Minister M. Mukesh Goud passed away. The Congress leader was suffering from cancer.
- He served as BC Welfare and Marketing Minister in Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy and Kiran Kumar Reddy Cabinets.

#### ✚ 6. Former T.N. Minister Jennifer Chandran passes away

- Former Fisheries Minister S. Jennifer Chandran passed away. She won from the Tiruchendur Assembly constituency in 1996 and served as a Minister in the DMK government from 1996-2001.

#### ✚ 7. The 'supermom' of India, former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away

- The 'supermom' of India, former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, passed away after late Tuesday night on 6th of August after a massive cardiac arrest.
- Sushma Swaraj was an Indian politician and a Supreme Court lawyer. A senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, Swaraj served as the Minister of External Affairs of India from 26 May 2014 to 30 May 2019.
- She was the second woman to hold the office, after Indira Gandhi.

#### ✚ 8. Former Padma Shri award winner Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passes away

- Former Padma Shri award winner and educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passed away. She received the Padma Shri award in 2010 for her contribution to the field of education. She was the founder of the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB) Group of Schools.

#### ✚ 9. Veteran Gujarati journalist Kanti Bhatt passed away in Mumbai

- On August 4, 2019, Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist Kanti Bhatt, aged 88, passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra after a long illness. Kanti Bhatti. Born on July 15, 1931 in Sachra village in erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat, he had joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai.
- He worked as a journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitralakha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan.

#### ✚ 10. Veteran cricket commentator of All India Radio, Anant Setalvad passed away

- Long term member in Cricket Club of India and veteran cricket commentator, Anant Setalvad from Mumbai, passed away at the age of 84 due to old age ailments. He is survived by his two sons.
- He was a cricket commentator for All India Radio (AIR) in Ranji Trophy, BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) tournaments and also for some test matches from the mid 1960s to 1980s. He shared the mike with former test opener and ex-selection panel Chief Vijay Merchant on AIR
- His last rites would take place at Worli crematorium, Mumbai.

#### ✚ 11. Neelam Sharma- Former DD news anchor passed away

- Neelam Sharma, one among the founding anchors of Doordarshan News (Former anchor) for more than 2 decades, passed away after battling with cancer on August 17, 2019.
- Sharma, a strong advocate for women empowerment started her career in Doordarshan in 1995 and was known for her programmes like ‘Tejaswini’ and ‘Badi Charcha’
- She was awarded the 2018 ‘Nari Shakti Puraskar’ by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Govind.
- She won various other awards like Best News anchor award, Aadhi Aabadi Award and KPS Gill Fearless journalist award.

#### ✚ 12. Roger Rabbit creator, Richard Williams passed away in Bristol, UK



- Triple Oscar-winning and triple BAFTA-winning animator who was best known for creating Roger Rabbit, Richard Williams, aged 86, passed away in Bristol, United Kingdom (UK). He was born in Toronto, Canada on March 19, 1933.
- For the film “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?”, he won two Oscars for Best Visual Effects and a Special Achievement Oscar. He also won a visual effects British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award.
- For his first film, “The Little Island”, he won a BAFTA in 1958. The first Oscar was received by him in 1971 for his animated adaptation of “A Christmas Carol.”

#### ✚ 13. Veteran actor Vidya Sinha passes away

- Veteran Bollywood actress Vidya Sinha passed away. She was renowned for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film "Rajnigandha".
- She was a major figure in Bollywood in the 1970s-1980s. Her list of notable films includes Mera Jeevana, Chhoti Si Baat, Safed Jhooth and many others.

#### ✚ 14. Music star DJ Arafat passes away

- Ivory Coast music star DJ Arafat passed away. He issued 11 albums, mainly of "coupe-decale", a dance music form combining rapid percussion, choppy rhythms with hip hop-style vocals.
- He was also named "Best Artist of the Year" at the Ivorian "Coupe-decale" Awards in 2016 and 2017.
- Freedom fighter Dayanidhi Nayak passes away
- Freedom fighter Dayanidhi Nayak passed away.
- Nayak has struggled against the British Government during the Quit India movement and he was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### ✚ 15. Former finance minister Arun Jaitley passes away

- Former Union finance minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley passed away.
- He was a lawyer by profession. He held the portfolios of Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs Ministry, Defence Ministry, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

#### ✚ 16. Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passes away at 82

- Jagannath Mishra, former Bihar chief minister and JD(U) i.e., Janata Dal (United) leader passed away after battling cancer on August 19, 2019. He was undergoing treatment in New Delhi and breathed his last there.
- Born on 24 June 1937, Mishra served as the chief minister of the state thrice. He was the last Congress chief minister of the state as well as a cabinet minister at the centre.

#### ✚ 17. Veteran Odisha based journalist and columnist Ranjit Guru passed away

- Senior journalist & editor of Odia daily Sambad, Ranjit Guru passed away following a brief illness in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was 61.
- After completing post-graduation and M Phil degree, Ranjit started his career in journalism as correspondent of Sambalpur for the language daily Sambad & with over 30 years long career, he promoted to the rank of the editor.
- He got his credit by highlighting important issues through his writings and columns. He was also associated with popular newspapers of Anandabazar Patrika and The Asian Age.

#### ✚ 18. NS Tasneem- Sahitya Akademi winner passed away at 91

- Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi (1999) award winner Professor Niranjan Singh Tasneem passed away at his residence in Ludhiana, Punjab due to old age ailments on August 17, 2019. He is survived by wife, two daughters and a son.
- Born in Amritsar on May 1, 1929, Tasneem served as a professor in Satish Chander Dhawan (SCD) government college in Ludhiana and was also a research fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 1998-1999.
- His first Punjabi novel was ‘Parchawein’. He wrote in Urdu initially before switching to English and Punjabi. His last Punjabi novel was ‘Talaash Hoyi Sadeevi’ (year 2000) and his last published work was ‘Sahitkaari Atey Sahitik Paripek’ (2014).

#### ✚ 19. Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passes away

- Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Babulal Gaur passed away. He served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from August 2004 to November 2005 and represented Govindpura Assembly seat for 10 times.