



# Monthly G.K Capsule

September- 2019

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## National News

### 1. Kiren Rijiju flags off 'Great Ganga Run' marathon

- ✦ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Kiren Rijiju along with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat flagged off "Great Ganga Run" at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The marathon was organised to create awareness about 'Ganga'.
- ✦ "It is a good initiative by Ministry of Jal Shakti. This marathon has been organised by them. It has a very elaborative message. Ganga is very important for the country and we needed to create awareness.

### 2. Rajasthan Government launches Jan Soचना Portal 2019

- ✦ The first-ever public information portal launched in Rajasthan promising to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement started in 1990s.

### 3. Kerala govt and RCC jointly signs MoU with Maldives on cancer care

- ✦ The govt. of Kerala and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) jointly signed Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) with Maldives to strengthen cancer care in the island nation by giving training to doctors.
- ✦ Maldivian minister Abdulla Ameen and Kerala's health minister KK Shylaja signed the MoU in presence of Kerala Chief Minister(CM) Pinarayi Vijayan. Kerala govt and RCC jointly signs MoU with Maldives

### 4. Indian Railways undertakes "Massive Shramdan" drive

- ✦ The Indian Railways has once again carrying out a "Massive Shramdan" drive movement aimed at collecting plastic waste from all railway premises to create awareness for a greater impact against single-use plastic.

### 5. Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated NCCCR&D at IISc-Bengaluru

- ✦ Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development (NCCCR&D) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc)- Bengaluru, Karnataka which was set up by the union government through the Department of Science & Technology (DST)

### 6. EAM and MHRD launched PhD fellowship programme for ASEAN students in IITs

- ✦ External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India Dr S Jaishankar and Minister of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) fellowship programme, initially launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for the students from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

**7. The Supreme Court has set date October 18th as the deadline to conclude the hearings in Ayodhya land dispute case**

- ✦ The constitution bench hearing the Ayodhya dispute is headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi, who is set to retire on November 17, 2019 so the verdict has to be delivered before then or the case will be heard afresh with a new judge in place of Justice Gogoi.

**8. India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub inaugurated in Kolkata, West Bengal**

- ✦ It was developed by ICMR in association with the United States (US) Department of Health and Human Services.
- ✦ ICMR director-general Balram Bhargava, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED) director Shanta Dutta and US ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster were among the dignitaries present at the inaugural ceremony.

**9. Hyderabad-Karnataka Region has been renamed as the 'Kalyana Karnataka' recently**

- ✦ Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa recently announced that Hyderabad-Karnataka Region has been renamed as Kalyana Karnataka Region that comprises six districts of Karnataka: Koppal, Ballari, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Raichur.

**10. Google to launch AI Research Lab in Bengaluru**

- ✦ Google Pay has grown more than three times to 67 million monthly active users, driving transactions worth over \$110 billion on an annualized basis across offline and online merchants.
- ✦ The two-thirds of the transactions are coming from tier-II and -III cities and towns. Google Pay competes with players like Paytm and PhonePe is introducing the Spot platform that will enable merchants to create branded commercial experiences and reach new customers.
- ✦ Google already onboarded merchants like UrbanClap, Goibibo, MakeMyTrip, RedBus, Eat.Fit and Oven Story through its early access programme.

**11. NTPC to build India's biggest solar park in Gujarat**

- ✦ India's largest energy conglomerate NTPC Ltd. has unveiled its plans to set up a 5 gigawatt (GW) solar park in Gujarat. This solar park is expected to be the biggest in the country. The move of the company is toward cleaner energy.
- ✦ NTPC has located a spot in Gujarat for the project. The estimated cost for the project is Rs.250 billion. The project will begin in the year 2024. It is also expected that the company might invite bids from developers to set up projects in the park.
- ✦ Recently, the Central government has laid regulations to cap emissions from coal-fired power plants. This have also triggered the NTPC to turn to green energy for growth.

**12. Google partners with BSNL to bring public WiFi to villages**

- ✦ The search engine giant Google has signed a partnership agreement with the state-owned operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). The partnership aims to bring public WiFi to villages in states namely Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra. The agreement will focus on villages that had no Wi-Fi connection previously.
- ✦ The announcement comes after the 5th edition of Google for India event which took place in New Delhi on 19th September.
- ✦ In July 2019 Google collaborated with Cisco for its gStation to provide free and high-speed WiFi at public locations across India.

**13. Andhra Pradesh State to ban the private practice by govt. doctors**

- ✦ The Andhra Pradesh State government has announced that it is to ban the private practice by doctors working in government hospitals. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy after consulting with the committee on reforms in the health sector.
- ✦ Also, as compensation, the govt. has announced to increase their salaries in accordance with the recommendations made by the experts committee on reforms in the health sector headed by former Union Health Secretary K. Sujatha Rao.
- ✦ The committee members have been asked to prepare proposals for an increase in doctors' salaries.

**14. Centre to launch NEAT AI learning scheme to boost higher education**

- ✦ The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has announced a new National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Artificial Intelligence (AI) scheme.
- ✦ MHRD will start awareness programmes to create awareness of the NEAT solutions to teachers and students. The NEAT AI scheme will be launched and made operationalized in early November 2019.
- ✦ The scheme aims to boost better learning outcomes in Higher Education. The scheme will ensure to use Artificial Intelligence which will make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.

**15. Uttarakhand school children to learn Sanskrit poems sung by teachers**

- ✦ The children studying in government schools would now learn Sanskrit poems of their curriculum sung by their teachers as per an effort by the state education department to make the ancient language an easy learning process for them, said officials.
- ✦ The initiative is for the school children studying in classes 3-8 of the government schools in state. Chief Minister (CM) Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the CD comprising the Sanskrit poems in the form of songs along with some written content, added officials.

**16. India's first central police university to come up in Greater Noida**

- ✦ The country's first central police university will be set up by the Union home ministry off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.
- ✦ The Centre had given in-principle approval for the university and a 100-acre plot has been identified in Sector Techzone.
- ✦ The government wants to set up an institution to tackle modern-day policing challenges. The national university for policing will help in improving police personnel training, skills, research and also policymaking with regard to policing in India.

**17. Tata Communications partners with Cisco**

- ✦ Tata Communications has partnered with Cisco to offer enterprises a secure, fully-managed, multi-channel, intelligent and cloud-based Cisco Webex Contact Center solution.
- ✦ This joint offering is an end-to-end managed solution and gives contact centre users a seamless user experience across up to 150 countries on the back of Tata Communications' global network.
- ✦ The solution will allow for simplified licensing; pre-deployed hardware and software with integrations to workforce optimisation.

**18. Shri Amit Shah launches Emergency Response Support System ERSS- Dial 112**

- ✦ Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh. The services include the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App'.
- ✦ The 'Dial 112' emergency response service is an initiative to strengthen proactive community policing that would end confusion amongst distress callers, who at times end up dialling 100 in fire or medical emergency cases.
- ✦ The Emergency Number for Road Accidents (1073), Women Helpline (1091, 181), Child Help Line (1098), including other Helpline services would be added under the 112 unified emergency response number.

**19. India's longest electrified rail tunnel in Andhra Pradesh inaugurated by Vice president**

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the longest electrified railway tunnel (6.7km) between Cherlopalli and Rapuru costing ₹437 crores, and the electrified railway line (112km) between Venkatachalam (krishnapatnam) and Obulavaripalli costing ₹1,993 crores.

**20. 5th edition of Aqua Aquaria India for the year 2019 held in Hyderabad**

- ✦ The 5th edition of Aqua Aquaria India for the year 2019 was held at Hitex International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana with the theme "To take Blue Revolution to India's hinterland". It was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. The 3-day biennial event was organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Commerce Ministry. It is the largest aquaculture exhibition in India.
- ✦ India is the second largest fish producer in the world with a production of 13.70 million tonnes during 2018-19.

**21. "Garvi Gujarat Bhavan" inaugurated by PM Modi in New Delhi**

- ✦ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the "Garvi Gujarat Bhavan" at Akbar Road in New Delhi. The building was built by the Gujarat government at a cost of Rs 131 crore which will serve as home for Gujarati people in Delhi and the old Gujarat Bhavan at Chanakyapuri, Delhi will also continue to function.
- ✦ Members present: Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Deputy Chief Minister (Gujarat) Nitin Patel and other officials were present during the event.

**22. Raksha Mantri co-chairs Japan-India Defence Ministerial Meeting**

- ✦ Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh co-chaired the Japan-India Defence Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. Japan's delegation was represented by Defence Minister of Japan Mr Takeshi Iwaya.
- ✦ The dialogue discussed ways to further strengthen the existing bilateral co-operative arrangements and adopt new initiatives towards achieving peace and security in the region.
- ✦ Raksha Mantri also paid homage to the martyrs of Japanese Self-Defence Forces at Ichigaya in Tokyo.

**23. Reliance Power will give electricity to Bangladesh for next 22 years**

- ✦ Bangladesh has signed a power project agreement to buy 718 megawatts (MW) of electricity from India's Anil Ambani led Reliance Power over the next 22 years. For which the company plans to invest about \$1 billion to set up a local plant at Meghnaghat in Narayanganj, over 20

km southeast of the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh by 2022. It will be a combined cycle power plant, which will be owned by Reliance.

- ✦ Bangladesh has signed an agreement with China earlier, under which renewable energy projects will be prepared. These projects, to be built with an investment of \$ 400 million, will generate 500 MW of power by 2023.

#### 24. New Health Insurance Scheme AB-MGRSBY Launched In Rajasthan

- ✦ Rajasthan state government launched a new health insurance scheme called Ayushman Bharat-Mahatma Gandhi Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojna (AB-MGRSBY) by integrating the Bhamashah Health Insurance Scheme (BSBY) of the State Government and Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna Scheme (AB-PMJAY) of the Central Government.
- ✦ The natives of Rajasthan can take advantage of this scheme. The poor families covered in any of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 are considered eligible for the scheme.

#### 25. 'Namaste Pacific' Cultural Event held in New Delhi

- ✦ The High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji jointly organised a cultural event 'Namaste Pacific' held in Delhi, India.
- ✦ This event is organised to showcase the culture of the Pacific countries. There was also showcase of the International Solar Alliance and Pollinate Energy based in Australia, Nepal and India and solar lanterns from Barefoot College in Rajasthan.

#### 26. Vaishno Devi Shrine adjudged as Best Swachh Iconic Place in India

- ✦ Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged as the 'Best Swachh Iconic place' in the country in the 'Swachh Iconic Places' list released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ✦ The shrine was in direct competition with dozen other iconic places including Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Maharashtra), Taj Mahal (Uttar Pradesh), Tirupati Temple (Andhra Pradesh) Golden Temple (Punjab) Manikarnika Ghat (Varanasi), Ajmer Sharif Dargah (Rajasthan) among others.

#### 27. 1st National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics

- ✦ Central Bureau of Investigation's 1st National Conference on Cyber Crime Investigation and Cyber Forensics inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ✦ The 2 days conference aimed at creating the platform and bringing together investigators, lawyers, forensic experts and academia to discuss challenges related to cybercrime and ways to find solutions.
- ✦ It also acts as a platform to share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

#### 28. India among top 10 nations in gold reserves

- ✦ India has surpassed the Netherlands to move into the list of top 10 countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- ✦ According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.
- ✦ According to the World Gold Council, the U.S. leads the country list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.

**29. PM to launch a pension scheme for traders**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana, the Centre's pension scheme for traders.
- ✦ A few of the first subscribers from across the country will be given pension cards by the PM.
- ✦ The scheme, which is an extension of the PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana, will make all beneficiaries eligible for a monthly pension of Rs 3000 after the age of 60 at a miniscule monthly contribution.

**30 .India moves up 6 places to 34th rank on world travel and tourism competitiveness index**

- ✦ The WEF report shows, over 1.5 crore international tourists arrived in India while the share of travel and tourism industry was 3.6 per cent and that of industry employment was 5.1 per cent.
- ✦ Spain tops the ranking index followed by France and Germany. Other countries in the top 10 include Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Switzerland.

**31 .Fun zone has been set up by the Railways at the Visakhapatnam Railway Station**

- ✦ A fun zone, the first of its kind in India, has been set up by the Railways at the Visakhapatnam Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh. The Gaming zone was inaugurated at platform number Fun zone has been set up by the RailwaysKey Points:
- ✦ The children can enjoy games during their waiting period for trains.
- ✦ The gaming zone has different interesting games to children & adults.

**32 .PM to launch a new initiative to control FMD**

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch a new initiative in the National disease management Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis. Under this scheme, the Centre will allocate Rs.13,500 crore central scheme to control livestock diseases.
- ✦ The scheme will be launched on 11 September from Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh. On this day, PM will also launch the National AI Programme throughout the event on 11 September in Mathura.
- ✦ The aim of the Programme is to regulate Foot and Mouth sickness and Brucellosis by 2025 with vaccination and ultimate demolition of FMD by 2030.

**33. Telangana CM presents budget in legislative assembly**

- ✦ The Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao has presented the annual budget for the year 2019-20. He downsized the budget to 1 lakh 46 thousand 492 crore rupees.
- ✦ K Chandrasekhar Rao government had to consider the financial crisis which is looming large around the country and forced to take practical decisions.
- ✦ He assured people in his hour-long budget speech that the government will make all-out efforts to fulfil the assurances given during elections.

**34. Madras High Court Chief Justice Sends Resignation Papers To President**

- ✦ Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani sent her resignation papers to President Ram Nath Kovind three days after the Supreme Court collegium rejected her request to reconsider her transfer to the Meghalaya High Court. The decision to transfer her was taken by the collegium based on the feedback received from the Madras High Court.

- ✦ The collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had recommended her transfer to the Meghalaya High Court on August 28. The collegium already transferred Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court, Justice AK Mittal, to the Madras High Court.

### 35. PM inaugurated AURIC

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC), India's first industrial smart city, in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. The programme aims to boost the Government of India's Smart Cities programme.
- ✦ AURIC is India's first greenfield smart city. Aurangabad has been planned to be the new benchmark of industrial progress. It is situated in the underdeveloped Marathwada region. The 10,000-acre big AURIC is a part of the under-construction Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). The city is being promoted as a major industrial hub on the DMIC.

### 36. Code of Conduct introduced for non-official directors at PSBs

- ✦ The Finance Ministry has introduced a Code of Conduct for non-official directors of public sector banks. Under the new rules, the PSBs board will also have to send an annual performance report that rates a director based on professional and ethical conduct, and contribution to the board.
- ✦ The performance evaluation by peers will measure the director on various parameters including avoidance of direct or indirect conflict of interest, acting according to rules in the best interest of the bank, avoiding any gain to self or associates and maintaining confidentiality.
- ✦ The above measures taken by the department of financial services at the finance ministry aims to improve corporate governance in banks.

### 37. World's highest marathon "Ladakh Marathon" held in Leh

- ✦ The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Ladakh Marathon was held in Leh. It is the highest marathon in the world as it is held at over 11,000 feet above the mean sea level.
- ✦ The Marathon was held in the categories of 42 Km Full Marathon, 21 Km half marathon and 7 km long Run for Fun. Over 6000 runners from 25 countries participated in the four categories of Ladakh Marathon.
- ✦ The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition to be held in 2020 will be a qualifying race for the Abbot World Marathon Majors.

### 38. Prime Minister to Launch Kisan Man Dhan Yojana on the 12th of September

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana on the 12th of September at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ✦ The Scheme shall secure the lives of 5 Crore Small and Marginal Farmers by providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month to attain 60 years of age.
- ✦ The scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,774 Crore for the next three years. The small and marginal farmers who are currently between the ages of 18 to 40 years can apply for the scheme.

### 39. Two UTs J&K, Ladakh will have a common high court

- ✦ State Judicial Academy of Jammu & Kashmir said that J&K and Ladakh will become two separate Union territories (UTs) from 31 October but it will have a common high court. This order was issued by the State Judicial Academy's Director Rajeev Gupta.



**40. Gurugram Police ties up with tech giant Google**

- ✦ The Gurugram traffic police have tied up with Google maps for real time traffic updates. The traffic related information will be shared in real time for public use.
- ✦ The information such as planned road closures, diversions, traffic alerts regarding road crash etc. will be shared by Gurugram traffic police with Google maps. Responding to the situation, Google maps will immediately update the information on its public maps.
- ✦ The basic idea behind this arrangement is to prompt commuters to make intelligent choices in order to make their commuting experience hassle-free.

**41. PM to inaugurate Sahibganj Multi Modal Terminal at Jharkhand**

- ✦ Sahibganj Multi-Modal Terminal (MMT) will be inaugurated by PM Modi with the Minister of Shipping & Chemical Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya on 12th September in Jharkhand.
- ✦ It is a two-way data communication system and India's second riverine Multi-Modal terminal on the Ganga river. The MMT was built at a cost of Rs.290 crores in 2 years.
- ✦ Sahibganj Multi-Modal Terminal will play an important role in the transportation of domestic coal from the local mines in Rajmahal to varied thermal power plants settled on National Waterway 1 (NW-1)

**42. Jammu and Kashmir topped the highest consumption of iodized salt**

- ✦ Jammu & Kashmir topped the highest consumption of iodized salt and Tamil Nadu ranked last as the lowest consumption of iodized salt in the country. The study has shown 76.3% of Indian households use iodized salt with fifteen components of per million of iodine.
- ✦ The survey was conducted by Nutrition International unitedly with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and also the Indian Coalition for the management of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD). The survey tested the iodine content in samples of preparation salt from households to estimate the coverage of iodized salt.

**43. “CHC Farm Machinery” App launched for farmers**

- ✦ Minister of State for Agriculture, Parshottam Rupala has launched a multilingual Mobile App “CHC Farm Machinery” during a conference on Crop Residue Management in New Delhi.
- ✦ The app will allow farmers to avail custom hiring services of CHCs located in a radius of 50 km. With the help of app, the farmers will now be able to get affordable access to cutting-edge technology at their doorsteps.

**44. Haryana CM launches two insurance schemes for traders**

- ✦ The State Government of Haryana launched two insurance schemes for registered small and medium traders. The schemes are Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana and Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana.
- ✦ The insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh would be provided under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana. The insurance cover ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh would be provided under the Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana.

**45. Gujarat retains top spot in ‘logistics ease’ index**

- ✦ Gujarat has retained its first position in the country in the ‘Logistics Ease Across Different States’ (LEADS) report 2019 This is the second consecutive year the state has bagged the number one spot in the ranking. Punjab and Andhra Pradesh are ranked second and third, respectively

- ✦ Himachal Pradesh stood last on the chart. Bihar ranked at 20th position. The report, published by the Union ministry of commerce and industry, prepared with the help of consultancy firm Deloitte.
- ✦ Among the union territories, Chandigarh occupied the top position followed by Delhi and Puducherry.
- ✦ Among hilly states, Tripura retained the top spot. It was followed by Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✦ The index was based on an analysis of perceptions with regard to nine parameters, including infrastructure, quality of logistics, services, promptness of cargo delivery, regulatory processes and safety of cargo.

#### 46. UP govt announces it's maiden Agriculture Export policy, 2019

- Uttar Pradesh Government has announced its maiden Agriculture Export policy, 2019 to double the income of farmers in the state.
- Government aims at doubling the export of agricultural commodities by 2024 with the help of farmer producer organisations and various steps like giving incentives and promoting startups.

## International News & Foreign Affairs

#### 1. Robert O'Brien becomes National Security Adviser of US

- Robert O'Brien has been appointed as the National Security Adviser of United States of America.
- Robert O'Brien will replace John Bolton as the NSA of US.
- Robert O'Brien has had a long career in foreign policy working for both main US parties and currently heading the hostage negotiations at the State Department.

#### 2. US lawmakers have urged President Trump to reinstate India's preferred trade status

- Forty US lawmakers have urged US President Donald Trump to reinstate India's preferential trade treatment under GSP programme.
- The lawmakers stated that the withdrawal of India's preferential trade status has resulted in retaliatory tariffs from India, which are hurting the US industry.

#### 3. UNESCO to publish an anthology of Guru Nanak Dev's writing in world languages

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to translate and publish an anthology of the writings of Guru Nanak Dev in world languages to mark his 550th birth anniversary.
- The main aim is to construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district in Punjab to the international border, the development of the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi as a heritage town on the smart city principle. The upgradation of Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and release of commemorative coins and postage stamps.

#### 4. The US becomes the world's top oil exporter surpassing Saudi Arabia and Russia

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) notified that the United States (US) became the top oil exporter in the world by overtaking Saudi Arabia and Russia. In June 2019, crude exports grew above 3 million barrels per day (bpd) in the US.

- IEA has estimated the growth in global oil demand in 2019 at 1.1 million bpd and 1.3 million bpd for 2020. Non-Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production growth will grow to 2.3 million bpd in 2020, up 400,000 from 2019.
- The demand for OPEC crude is set to reach 28.3 million bpd in the first half of 2020.

#### **5. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September**

- The United Nations observes 16 September every year as International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun and thus help in preserving life on the planet.
- 32 Years and Healing. The theme for this year celebrates over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.
- The Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and many other products.

#### **6. Taiwan loses second ally in a week as Kiribati switches to China**

- Taiwan has lost its second diplomatic ally in less than a week after the Pacific nation of Kiribati moved to sever diplomatic ties with Taiwan and establish foreign relations with China.
- The decision comes after the Solomon Islands announced it was breaking away from Taiwan, and means that in just a week the number of Taiwan's diplomatic allies has dropped from 17 to 15.
- Taiwan's foreign minister Joseph Wu announced that the country was cutting diplomatic ties with Kiribati and immediately closing its embassy in the country.

#### **7. PM jointly unveiled the Buddha Statue in Mongolia**

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President H.E. Mr. Khaltmaagiin Battulga jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha and his two disciples. The statue was installed at the historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- In 2015, during his visit to Mongolia, Prime Minister had announced to gift a statue of Lord Buddha to the monastery. The gift was announced to honour the common Buddhist heritage and civilizational links between the two countries and peoples.

#### **8. Overview Of EAM Dr S Jaishankar's Visit To Finland**

- The External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, Dr S Jaishankar made an official visit to Finland from 19-21 September, 2019. It was his first visit to Finland, after assuming charge as EAM. S Jaishankar's visit to Finland
- He was received by Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland. He unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Helsinki, sculpted by Gautam Pal. It was gifted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India to the Government of Finland to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji.
- He also met the Indian community in Finland; Visited the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) and delivered a speech on "India and the World – Priorities of Indian Foreign Policy".

**9. PM has begun his 3 day visit to Russia**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has begun his three-day trip to Russia on 3 September. PM Modi along with Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the Russian Zvezda shipbuilding complex. He is the first Indian prime minister to visit the Russian Far East Region.
- During his visit, the PM will hold India-Russia 20th Annual Summit talks with President Putin. Also, Mr.Modi has been invited to attend the Eastern Economic Forum. Also, Modi and Putin are expected to discuss a gamut of bilateral and regional issues.

**10 .China's Yutu-2 lunar rover discovers 'gel-like' substance hidden on the Moon**

- China's Yutu-2 rover has discovered a "gel-like" substance inside a crater on the surface of the Moon. The rover landed on the surface after as part of China's Chang'e 4 mission to the far side of the Moon.
- The gel's shape and color are significantly different from the surrounding lunar soil. The colour of the material has been described as unusual. The material is located on the inner edge of the impact crater. The substance was found during the 8th day of an exploration mission to a region covered in small impact craters.

**11 .Iran will lift all limits on nuclear R&D**

- Iranian President Hassan Rouhani ordered the removal of all limits on nuclear research and development, taking the country's third step in scaling down its commitments to a 2015 deal with world powers.
- His announcement came shortly after the United States hit the Islamic Republic with further sanctions, the latest in a series of punitive measures including an embargo on Iranian oil exports.
- It also acts as a platform to share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

**12. Heartland International Film Festival and USA to explore Special Focus on India**

- ✚ The representatives from the International Film Fraternity of Toronto International Film Festival 2019. The important discussions includes the participation at the Golden Jubilee Edition of IFFI with the Ease of filming in India recent initiatives to promote film facilitation in the form of single window clearance and the growth potential of different verticals under the M&E Sector of India.
- ✚ The special focus on India for the Festival commencing from 10th October 2019 under the Foreign Language Category.

**13. 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue 2019 Held In New Delhi**

- ✚ Three day organised 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue(SED) was held in New Delhi from September 7-9, 2019 between India and China. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman(VC) of National Institution of Transforming India Aayog(NITI).
- ✚ The delegation from China was led by Mr. He Lifeng, chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
- ✚ The dialogue was held among Joint Working Groups (JWG) on Infrastructure, Energy, High-Tech, Resource Conservation, Pharmaceuticals and Policy coordination.Senior representatives of policy making, industry and other fields participated in the dialogue.

**14. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held at Geneva**

- ✦ The UN Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in its 22nd Session took up India's initial Country Report for consideration at UNHRC in Geneva.
- ✦ India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). In November 2015, India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India which was ratified in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention.

**15. SIWI organised 2019 World water week observed in Stockholm**

- ✦ Week-long conference on global water issues the 2019 World Water Week organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute(SIWI) observed in Stockholm, Sweden from 25 to 30 August
- ✦ The theme is Water for society – Including all.

**16. NRI industrialist Rami Ranger nominated to upper house in UK Parliament**

- ✦ Leading NRI entrepreneur Rami Ranger was nominated to Britain's House of Lords for his outstanding service to the business fraternity, the Conservative Party and the public.
- ✦ Former Prime Minister Theresa May had recommended Ranger's name for the peerage in her resignation letter.
- ✦ Presently, Ranger is the chairman of the British Sikh Association.

**17. SL's new luxury train Pulathisi Express by Indian railways 'make in india' product flagged off**

- ✦ The new luxurious train of Sri Lanka(SL), Pulathisi Express which was produced under the 'Make in India' project of the Indian Railways was launched.
- ✦ The president of SL Shri Maithripala Sirisena flagged off the new train from Fort railway station in Colombo to Polonnaruwa, North central province of SL.
- ✦ The train was supplied under Line of Credit (LoC) by Rail India Technical and Economic Service(RITES) ltd and was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

**18. Thailand 1st in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging**

- ✦ Thailand became the first Asian nation to unveil plain cigarette packaging to reduce the appeal of smoking and complied with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) guidelines.
- ✦ In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos.

**19. Cryodrakon boreas is the largest flying animal of all time**

- ✦ Scientists have unveiled a newly discovered species of a pterosaur, the largest ever flying animal according to a study conducted by Queen Mary University in London.
- ✦ These species come from the Azhdarchid group of pterosaurs. The pterosaur's name Cryodrakon boreas roughly translates to 'frozen dragon of the north wind'.
- ✦ Cryodrakon boreas is the largest flying animal of all time, With a wingspan of 10 m and weighing 250 kg, researchers reported in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

**20. India Russia signed Contract for Modernisation of Radar and Missile Systems**

- ✦ India-Russia signed Contract for Modernisation of Radar and Missile Systems of Delhi Class of Indian Navy Ships.

- ✦ Under the welfare of labor modernization, the renovation scheme would be undertaken in India in producing important hardware partnerships with the Indian trade.
- ✦ The contract for modernization of Air Defence advanced Kashmir and radar Fregat MAE on P-15 of ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and JSC Rosoboronexport land in Delhi.

### 21. Marriott to ban small plastic bottle toiletries from December 2020

- ✦ Marriott International, the world's largest hotel chain, it will eliminate small plastic bottles of shampoo, conditioner and bath gel from its hotel rooms worldwide by December 2020. They'll be replaced with larger bottles or wall-mounted dispensers, depending on the hotel.
- ✦ Marriott has wanted to get rid of small bottles for years, President and CEO Arne Sorenson said. There are just too many of them, he said, and they're difficult to recycle because of the time it takes to clean them out.

### 22. China Sees Decline In Electric Vehicle Sales For Second Consecutive Month

- ✦ China has reported a decline of 16 per cent in electric vehicle sales for the month of August. Last month the cumulative sales of all pure-electric, fuel-celled, and plugin hybrids vehicles stood at 85,000 units the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, compared to 100,000+ vehicles sold during the same month in 2018.
- ✦ In addition to the decline in year-on-year (YoY) sales, China also registered month-on-month (MoM) drop of 4.7 per cent compared to the total EV sales in July 2019.

## New Appointments and Person in News

### 1. Sitharaman hands over 12th century Buddha statue to culture minister

- ✦ Almost a month after a 12th century was Buddha statue stolen from the ASI Museum at Nalanda in 1961 was returned to the Indian High Commission by the London Met. Police, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over the statue.
- ✦ “The 12th Century AD Bronze image of Buddha seated in the Bhumipasara mudra was amongst the 19 bronze statues stolen from the Archaeological Survey of India’s (ASI) Nalanda site museum in August 1961. After a gap of nearly 57 years, in early 2018, the image was spotted by Art enthusiasts at an auction organised by a London based dealer.

### 2. GoI Appoints Four Supreme Court Judges

The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are:

- ✦ **Himachal Pradesh High Court:** Chief Justice V. Ramasubramanian
- ✦ **Punjab and Haryana High Court:** Chief Justice Krishna Murari
- ✦ **Rajasthan High Court:** Chief Justice S. Ravindra Bhat
- ✦ **Kerala High Court:** Chief Justice Hrishikesh Roy
- ✦ The Supreme Court vacancies had increased its judicial strength from 31 to 34 following the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019.

**3. Mayank Vaid becomes first Indian to complete Enduroman triathlon**

- ✦ Mayank Vaid becomes the first Indian to complete the Enduroman. It is a triathlon from England to France which is considered to be one of the toughest endurance competitions in the world. He is the 44th person in the world to have completed this triathlon. He is also the first Asian person to complete this triathlon in solo capacity.
- ✦ He also broken the record for the shortest time taken to complete the Enduroman Arch to Arc triathlon. He completed the triathlon involving running, swimming and cycling. The time duration is around in 50 hours and 24 minutes.
- ✦ The previous record for this triathlon was 52 hours and 30 minutes. It is held by Julien Deneyer of Belgium.

**4. Justice P Lakshman Reddy sworn in as first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh**

- ✦ Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of the state after its bifurcation in 2014.
- ✦ Governor Biswabhusan Hairchandani administered the oath of office to Justice Reddy at a function in Vijayawada.
- ✦ Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, judges of the High Court and senior state government officials attended the event.

**5. Anurag Kashyap's 'Gangs Of Wasseypur' in the Guardian Best 100 list**

- ✦ Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's Gangs Of Wasseypur has become the only Indian film to feature in "The Guardian" list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century. The film has bagged the 59th position.
- ✦ The two film Gangs Of Wasseypur series was released in 2012 and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseypur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.
- ✦ Both films were loved by the masses for their drama and rawness and acclaimed by the classes for cinematic aesthetics.

**6. Wing Commander Anjali Singh becomes India's first female military diplomat**

- ✦ Wing Commander Anjali Singh became India's first female military diplomat posted in an Indian mission abroad after joining the Indian Embassy in Russia as Deputy Air Attache (air force officer involved in diplomatic operations).
- ✦ She previously served the Indian Air Force (IAF) for 17 years as an Aeronautical Engineer (AE) and is also trained on MiG-29 aircraft.

**7. Actor Govinda appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh to promote the state's traditions and tourist places**

- ✦ Public Relations Minister of Madhya Pradesh government PC Sharma notified that Indian Bollywood actor Govinda, aged 55, is appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh to promote the state's traditions and tourist places.
- ✦ The government also has plans to set up a film city in the state. Brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh

**8. Oleksiy Honcharuk named as a new prime minister of Ukraine**

- ✦ Ukrainian parliament of the 9th convocation appointed Oleksiy Honcharuk, a 35-year-old practicing lawyer, of the political party Servant of the People, as the 17th Prime Minister of Ukraine.

- ✦ His nomination was presented to the Ukrainian Parliament by its President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Mr Honcharuk, Ukraine's youngest ever head of government, succeeded Volodymyr Borysovyeh Groysman.

#### **9. SanjivRanjan concurrently becomes next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador**

- ✦ Shri SanjivRanjan, who is the present Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Ecuador, with residence in Bogota(high altitude capital of Columbia).
- ✦ Sanjiv who is a 1993 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, previously served as Deputy high commissioner of India to Mauritius from 2006 till 2009.

#### **10. Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar is the next newly appointed Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway**

- ✦ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of the Government of India, appointed Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway.
- ✦ He is the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1993 batch. He succeeds Mr. Krishan Kumar.

#### **11. Rajiv Kumar appointed as the new MD of Microsoft India**

- ✦ Rajiv Kumar appointed as the new managing director of Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd (MIRPL).
- ✦ He will replace Anil Bhansali.

#### **12. Nissan CEO Saikawa resigns**

- ✦ Nissan Motor CEO Hiroto Saikawa has resigned his position. His resignation after an internal investigation that revealed falsified documents that boosted his compensation in 2013.
- ✦ The change increased his compensation by about 96.5 million yen (roughly \$900,000 at that time), based on current foreign exchange rates.

#### **13. P K Sinha appointed principal advisor to PM**

- ✦ Former Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha has been appointed the principal advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sinha was last month appointed as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the PMO.
- ✦ P.K. Sinha has been appointed as Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with effect from September 11, 2019. Sinha is currently functioning as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Prime Minister's Office.

#### **14. PM of St.Vincent and Grenadines visits India**

- Prime Minister of St. Vincent and Grenadines Dr.Hon'ble Ralph Everard Gonsalves met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 5-day visit to India. PM Gonsalves also participated in the high-level United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) Symposium held at New Delhi.
- PM Gonsalves appreciated India's developmental cooperation with the region and for India's prompt assistance subsequent to natural calamities.St. Vincent and Grenadines is a non-permanent member of the UN security council (UNSC).



**15. Navdeep Singh Suri honoured with First Class Order of Zayed II**

- ✦ Navdeep Singh Suri, India's envoy to United Arab Emirates, has been honoured with the First Class Order of Zayed II award.
- ✦ He was awarded by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between India and UAE during his tenure.

**16. Google Doodle Celebrates 166th Birthday Of Hans Christian Gram**

- ✦ Google is celebrating the 166th birth anniversary of microbiologist Hans Christian Joachim Gram with a doodle.
- ✦ Gram was born on September 13, 1853, in Denmark's Copenhagen. Gram is best known for pioneering the method of the Gram stain to identify bacteria.
- ✦ The Danish microbiologist earned an M.D. from the University of Copenhagen in 1878. He then traveled through Europe between 1883 to 1885 studying pharmacology and bacteriology.

**17. Kapil Dev appointed as chancellor of Rai Sports University**

- ✦ The Haryana Government has appointed cricket legend Kapil Dev as the first Chancellor of Sports University, Rai (Sonepat).
- ✦ The Haryana Assembly recently established Haryana's first sports university at Rai.
- ✦ Kapil Dev was the captain of India's 1983 Cricket World Cup winning team.

## **Banking**

**1. EPFO to credit 8.65% interest in over 6 crore accounts for 2018-19**

- ✦ Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar notified that over 6 crore members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will get 8.65% interest on deposits, which will be credited to the accounts, for 2018-19 after the approval from the Ministry of Finance. The decision was made on February 21, 2019.

**2. Airtel Payments Bank launched 'Bharosa' savings account**

- ✦ Airtel Payments Bank, a public limited company with its headquarters in New Delhi has launched "Bharosa" savings account services with the aim of deepening the financial inclusion in India.

**3. Visa in partnership with BillDesk to launch interface for recurring payments , "Standing Instructions (SI) Hub"**

- ✦ Visa Inc, the world's leader in digital payments technology and BillDesk, an Indian online payment gateway company have partnered for the launch of SI(standing instructions )-Hub which is a smooth and secure way to make recurring payments using cards with a one-time enrollment.
- ✦ This comes after the introduction of guidelines for e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions by RBI(Reserve Bank of India).

**4. RBI allows all recurring bill payments through BBPS**

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has extended the use of the Bharat Bill Payment System(BBPS) for all recurring(repetitive) payments such as school fees, insurance premiums and municipal taxes, Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) on a voluntary basis except for prepaid recharges to extend the scope and coverage of BBPS.

**5. ECGC introduces 'NIRVIK' scheme to provide 90% insurance cover on the loan amount of exporters: Piyush Goyal**

- ✦ The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has released a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to ease the lending of loan to exporters so that they can get loans easily from banks.
- ✦ The details of the scheme were shared by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal during a press conference at New Delhi.

**6. Max Bupa and Indian Bank signed bancassurance corporate agency agreement**

- ✦ A state-owned financial services company, Indian Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with a standalone health insurance player, Max Bupa to provide Max bupa's suite of health insurance products to its customers. Max Bupa and Indian Bank signed
- ✦ The product portfolio comprises Max Bupa's both retail & group health insurance products besides Indemnity and Fixed Benefit products.
- ✦ In South India, Indian Bank has a strong presence. Through this partnership, Max Bupa will deepen the penetration of its wide range of product offers and enable more customers to access their risk solutions anytime, anywhere.

**7. ECL Finance Ltd and Central Bank of India entered into an agreement to co-lend to MSMEs**

- ✦ A leading Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) & a subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services, ECL Finance Limited and Central Bank of India (CBI) have entered into an agreement for priority sector lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- ✦ This is the first such partnership and was made following the announcement of a progressive co-origination policy issued by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) in September 2018.

**8. Paytm Money promotes Praveen Jadhav as its MD and CEO**

- ✦ Paytm Money has promoted Praveen Jadhav to its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Prior to this, Jadhav was in the position of full-time director.
- ✦ Praveen has made Paytm Money as the largest mutual fund investment platform in India. Prior to Paytm Money, he has worked with Rivify and Rediff.com.
- ✦ Paytm Money is a wholly-owned subsidiary of 197 Communications, the company operating Paytm.

**9. SabkaVishwas – Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme operationalised from 1st September 2019**

- ✦ SabkaVishwas, which is a legacy dispute resolution scheme for tax payers announced by finance minister Nirmla Sitharaman in the 2019-20 union budget, has started off with its operation from September 1, 2019 and will be operational till December 31, 2019.
- ✦ **Aim:** The scheme aims to free taxpayers in closing their pending disputes related to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases which are now included under Goods and Service Tax (GST).
- ✦ **Two components:** The two main components of the scheme are Dispute resolution and Amnesty (pardoning of cancelling offence).

**10. ESIC ties up with SBI for DBT facility**

- ✦ Employees State Insurance Corporation partnered with State Bank of India for direct transfer of benefits electronically into bank accounts of all stakeholders.
- ✦ The agreement signed between the two departments SBI Mill provide e-payment services directly to bank accounts of all ESIC beneficiaries and payees Without any manual intervention as an integrated and automated process. The bank would provide e-payment integration with the enterprise resource planning processes of ESIC through its cash management product e- payment technology platform.
- ✦ The e-payment integration would affect statutory benefit payments to ESIC beneficiaries The new system will benefit all stakeholders of ESIC.

**11. Standard Chartered Bank launches new “DigiSmart” credit card**

- ✦ The Standard Chartered Bank, a British multinational banking and financial services company has launched its “DigiSmart” credit card primarily focused on the ever-growing segment of millennials.
- ✦ The new credit card is available for a nominal monthly fee of only Rs 49. However, this fee will be waived off if the spends of the customer are Rs 5,000 or above in the previous month.
- ✦ Instant discounts and other benefits make this card special. key e-commerce portals, travel, entertainment, fashion, grocery and food delivery can be discounted on various categories of products.

**12 .CRISIL revises India's GDP growth to 6.3% in fiscal 2020**

- ✦ Rating agency CRISIL has revised India’s fiscal year 2020 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%. CRISIL has lowered the GDP growth forecast from 6.9% to 6.3%. The growth was revised as the first-quarter growth rate of India reduced to a 25-quarter low of 5%.
- ✦ It also acts as a platform to share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

**13. US Federal Trade Commission fines YouTube with \$170 million**

- ✦ The US's Federal Trade Commission has fined Google's YouTube with \$170 million. YouTube will have to pay \$170 million to settle allegations of collecting personal information about children.
- ✦ YouTube has been accused of tracking viewers of children's channels using cookies without parental consent. YouTube also used those cookies to deliver millions of dollars in targeted advertisements to those viewers.
- ✦ The penalty on YouTube is the largest since a law came into effect in 1998 which banned the collection of information about children aged below 13. The law was revised in 2013 to include “cookies,” which can be used to track a person's internet viewing habits.

**14. Wipro bags \$300-million deal from ICICI Bank**

- ✦ IT services major Wipro Limited has bagged a strategic contract valued at \$300 million from the ICICI Bank. Under the contract, Wipro will offer a comprehensive suite of services to ICICI Bank for the next seven years, starting September 2019.
- ✦ Currently, Mumbai-based IT services firm Vara infotech provides these services to the ICICI Bank. As part of this strategic engagement, Wipro will absorb about 3,800 employees of Vara infotech along with its existing contracts, facilities and assets.
- ✦ It also acts as a platform to share good practices to learn from experiences of various State police and Law Enforcement Agencies.

**15. RBI to launch a mobile app to aid the visually impaired**

- ✦ Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) is to implement the idea to develop a mobile application with an aim to help the visually impaired people to identify currency notes. For this, RBI has selected Daffodil Pvt Ltd.
- ✦ RBI declared that it would explore the feasibility to develop a suitable device or mechanism for aiding the visually impaired in the identification of Indian banknotes.
- ✦ In May 2019, the Central bank solicited bids from technology firms for developing the mobile application.

**16. SBI cuts lending rates 10 bps**

- ✦ SBI announced its fifth-rate cut on its marginal cost of funds based lending rate by 10 basis points (bps) across all tenors.
- ✦ The interest rate is now 8.15%. It will be effective from 10 September 2019.
- ✦ The reduction in the lending rate is expected to profit all the current SBI clients who have a home, auto and other category loans of MCLR.

**17. IPPB launched AePS services**

- ✦ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) rolled out Aadhaar enabled payment system (AePS) services.
- ✦ IPPB become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank.

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

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- ✦ Almost a month after a 12th century was Buddha statue stolen from the ASI Museum at Nalanda in 1961 was returned to the Indian High Commission by the London Met. Police, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over the statue.
- ✦ “The 12th Century AD Bronze image of Buddha seated in the Bhumipasara mudra was amongst the 19 bronze statues stolen from the Archaeological Survey of India’s (ASI) Nalanda site museum in August 1961. After a gap of nearly 57 years, in early 2018, the image was spotted by Art enthusiasts at an auction organised by a London based dealer.

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44th person in the world to have completed this triathlon. He is also the first Asian person to complete this triathlon in solo capacity.

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### **3. Justice P Lakshman Reddy sworn in as first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh**

- ✦ Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a retired judge of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court sworn-in as the first Lokayukta of the state after its bifurcation in 2014.
- ✦ Governor Biswabhusan Hairchandani administered the oath of office to Justice Reddy at a function in Vijayawada.
- ✦ Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, judges of the High Court and senior state government officials attended the event.

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- ✦ Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's Gangs Of Wasseypur has become the only Indian film to feature in "The Guardian" list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century. The film has bagged the 59th position.
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- ✦ Public Relations Minister of Madhya Pradesh government PC Sharma notified that Indian Bollywood actor Govinda, aged 55, is appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh to promote the state's traditions and tourist places.
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- ✦ Ukrainian parliament of the 9th convocation appointed Oleksiy Honcharuk, a 35-year-old practicing lawyer, of the political party Servant of the People, as the 17th Prime Minister of Ukraine.
- ✦ His nomination was presented to the Ukrainian Parliament by its President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Mr Honcharuk, Ukraine's youngest ever head of government, succeeded Volodymyr Borysovych Groysman.

### **7. Sanjiv Ranjan concurrently becomes next Indian ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador**

- ✦ Shri Sanjiv Ranjan, who is the present Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Ecuador, with residence in Bogota (high altitude capital of Columbia).
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- ✦ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of the Government of India, appointed Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway.
- ✦ He is the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of 1993 batch. He succeeds Mr. Krishan Kumar.

## Science Tech & Defence

### 1. Rajnath Singh, the first Defence Minister to fly indigenously-built fighter aircraft Tejas.

- ✦ Union minister Rajnath Singh became the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft —Tejas— from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
- ✦ He was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru. The minister flew a sortie in the twin-seater version of Tejas. Rajnath Singh was wearing a G-suite, a white helmet and an oxygen mask.
- ✦ Rajnath Singh would also be attending an exhibition of DRDO in Bengaluru.

### 2. First-ever 'arrested landing' of Naval Tejas successfully executed

- ✦ DRDO and the Aeronautical Development Agency successfully executed the first-ever arrested landing of Light Combat Aircraft(LCA) Tejas (Navy) at the shore-based test facility in Goa.
- ✦ This is a step towards the aircraft getting operational on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- ✦ This arrested landing heralds the arrival of true indigenous capability and displays the professional prowess of our scientific community Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) embedded with design plus build the capability of HAL(ARDC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✦ Static/Current Takeaways Important For RRB NTPC/IBPS RRB Mains:

### 3. First edition of SITMEX- Trilateral Maritime exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand of 2019 begins in Port Blair

- ✦ 5 day organised maiden trilateral exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand named SITMEX was commenced on September 16, 2019 at Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar islands to strengthen the maritime relationships of the three countries and to enhance security.
- ✦ The maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral exercise will conclude on September 20, 2019.

### 4. ISRO has signed MoU with DRDO to procure critical technologies for Human Space Mission

- ✦ ISRO has signed an agreement with DRDO to develop human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate India's human space flight capabilities. DRDO will be providing critical technologies to ISRO such as space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, space food and parachutes for the crew module's safe recovery.

### 5. DRDO successfully test flighted Astra

- ✦ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested Astra, the Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM). It was launched from Sukhoi Su-30 MKI platform off the coast of Chandipur, Odisha. Indian Air Force (IAF) has completed the user trial phase of the weapon system of Astra successfully.
- ✦ The state-of-the-art BVRAAM was built by DRDO along with IAF. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has modified the aircraft for weapon integration.
- ✦ Apart from this, more than 50 public and private industries have contributed to building the Astra weapon system.

**6. Chandrayaan-2 is 98% successful, Gaganyaan our next priority: Isro chief K Sivan**

- ✦ K Sivan said that while they were trying to establish contact with 'Vikram', the orbiter's life had increased to 7.5 years due to the optimal mission operation though its designed life was one year.
- ✦ Chandrayaan-2 has achieved 98 per cent of mission objectives and India's next space priority is the launch of crewed orbital spacecraft Gaganyaan by end of next year, chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan said.
- ✦ The ISRO chairman advised IIT students to take a risk and be innovative to achieve success in life. Innovation comes with a high level of risk and failure. It may sound crazy, but initial outcomes of innovation could be imperfect. In fact, most of the successful innovations of the world come from crazy ideas, he said.

**7. Manoj Mukund Naravane Takes Charge As VC Of Army Staff**

- ✦ Lieutenant General ManojMukundNaravane took over as the new Vice chief of Army staff (VCOAS) replacing Lieutenant General Devraj Anbu who was superannuated on August 31, 2019.
- ✦ Naravane, the senior-most army officer once Chief of Army Staff General BipinRawat retires by the end of December, is expected to succeed him.

**8. Iranian army introduces a new homegrown jet-propelled drone called "Kian"**

- ✦ Iranian Army has unveiled a high-precision jet-propelled drone called "Kian", which has the capacity of carrying long-time surveillance missions and attack the targets far from the country's borders.
- ✦ The unmanned military drone has been developed in two models & was fully developed by Iranian technicians of the Army within about a year.

**9. 'Samudrayaan'- deep ocean mining project to be undertaken by India**

- ✦ India's deep sea project "Samudrayaan" undertaken by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai (NIOT) is proposed to be launched in 2021-22. The proposed project announced by NIOT Director MA Atmanand, is a part of Ministry of Earth Sciences' pilot project, and plans to send three persons to depth in a submersible vehicle of 6000mtrs for underwater studies related to deep sea mining of rare minerals.
- ✦ The International Sea-Bed Authority has allocated 75,000sq.km to India in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) for exploring Polymetallic nodules which are rock concretions on the sea bottom formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core which are also called as manganese nodules weighing 380million tonnes.

**10. Army to commission 1st batch of women soldiers in 2021**

- ✦ The Indian Army has announced that the first batch of 100 women soldiers in the Army is likely to be commissioned by March 2021.
- ✦ The women soldiers will be commissioned into the Corps of Military Police of the Indian Army. In the Corps of Military Police, women soldiers will take up duties of policing cantonments and other Army establishments.
- ✦ They will also work in co-operation with civil police of various state governments as well as the Centre and will also investigate cases of crime. At present, women in the Army work only in engineering, medical, legal, signals and educational wings.

**11. Japanese woman gets worlds 1st stem cell corneal transplant**

- ✦ Japan woman becomes the first person in the world to receive a corneal transplant made from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS). The treatment was successfully carried out by a team of researchers led by ophthalmologist Kohji Nishida at Osaka University.
- ✦ Generally, the damaged or diseased corneas are treated using tissue from donors who have died. But in this case, the researchers created sheets of corneal cells from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. These IPS cells were made by reprogramming adult skin cells from a donor into an embryonic-like state from which they can transform into other cell types, such as corneal cells. After the transplant, the woman's cornea remained clear and her vision had improved.

**12. Indian army to participate in joint exercise "TSENTR 2019"**

- ✦ Indian army will participate in a multilateral exercise "TSENTR 2019" to be held in Russia. Armies of Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia will also participate in the exercise.
- ✦ This will be the first time that forces from India and Pakistan will participate in a multilateral exercise together since the Balakot airstrikes conducted by Indian forces.
- ✦ The exercise is a part of the annual series of large scale exercises that form part of the Russian Armed Forces' annual training cycle. The exercise rotates between the four main Russian operational strategic commands.

**13. 9th SLINEX 2019- Indo-Lanka maritime fleet exercise commenced**

- ✦ The 9th edition of weeklong joint maritime naval exercise between India and Srilanka(SL) named SLINEX for the year 2019 has commenced in the port of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Two Sri Lanka Navy Ships(SLNS) namely Sindurala and Suranimala that are offshore patrol vehicles left the Trincomalee port of Srilanka to participate in the exercise.
- ✦ The exercise will conclude on september 14, 2019.The first SLINEX was held in the year 2005 and the the previous/8th edition took place in Trincomalee, Srilanka.

**14. Chandrayaan 2: ISRO lost contact with Vikram lander before its landing**

- ✦ Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that it lost contact with the Moon lander "Vikram" which was scheduled to land on the moon between 1.30 a.m. and 2.30 a.m. (IST). Further the roll out of the rover "Pragyan" was scheduled between 5.30 a.m and 6.30 a.m. Lander "Vikram" started its descent at about 1.38 a.m. from an altitude of 30 km at a velocity of 1,680 metres per second, but lost its communication with the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter when it was at an altitude of 2.1 Km from Moon's surface.
- ✦ According to ISRO, the performance of the lander was as per the plan till it was 2.1 km from the moon surface. Although, the 2,379 kg Chandrayaan-2 orbiter continues to fly around the moon. Its mission life is of one year.
- ✦ ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-2 (on July 22, 2019) into the space from India's heavy lift rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV Mk III). The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft comprised three segments: the Orbiter, lander 'Vikram' and rover 'Pragyan'.



**15. Chandrayaan 2 Lander has been located in Moon**

- ✦ Chandrayaan-2's Lander module Vikram has been located on the lunar surface. The Lander was located by the image sent captured by the on-board camera of Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. The image also showed that rover Pragyan is housed inside it. The Indian space agency also said the data that was received is being analyzed.
- ✦ The camera of the orbiter has the highest resolution camera of 0.3m in any lunar mission so far. It is expected that it will provide high-resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community.
- ✦ The orbiter has 8 payloads to map the lunar surface and study the outer atmosphere of the Moon. The payloads of the Orbiter will conduct remote-sensing observations from a 100 km orbit.

**16. Vikram Lander is tilted and not broken**

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said that the Lander is tilted and not broken.
- ✦ ISRO is trying to establish contact with the Vikram lander. The lunar probe made a hard landing during its final descent to the moon on 7 September.
- ✦ ISRO also said that the Chandrayaan-2 mission has achieved 90-95% of its objectives. Also, the data thus generated would be useful for the global scientific community.

**17. INS Khanderi to be commissioned into the Indian Navy**

- ✦ India's 2nd Scorpene-class submarine, INS Khanderi will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ✦ The conventional diesel-electric submarine has been manufactured by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai.
- ✦ The first Scorpene-class submarine INS Kalvari was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 2017.

**18. Water found on a potentially life-friendly alien planet**

- ✦ Water has been found by scientists in the atmosphere of a potentially habitable super-Earth. The exoplanet, named K2-18b, is twice the size and eight times the mass of Earth. K2-18b is the first planet outside the solar system in the habitable zone of its star.
- ✦ The discovery was published in a paper in a scientific journal, Nature Astronomy by researchers from University College London (UCL).
- ✦ The paper revealed that scientists studied the atmosphere of K2-18b, a distant super-Earth and for the first time discovered water vapor in its atmosphere and temperature that could potentially support life.

**19. Army Exercise Maitree-2019 to further bolster India and Thailand Military ties**

- ✦ India and Thailand will conduct the Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 from 16-29 September 2019 at Foreign Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya. Over 50 soldiers from each Army will be participating in the exercise.
- ✦ Exercise Maitree-2019 from September 16 will be third consecutive military engagement between the two country's forces within a month demonstrating India's warm ties with Thailand.
- ✦ Indian Army is prepared to reach Thailand for Exercise Maitree 2019 next week with the Royal Thailand Army (RTA).

**20. DRDO successfully tests indigenous anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM)**

- ✦ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested an indigenously-developed low weight, fire and forget Man-Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in the ranges of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✦ This is the third series of successful testing of MPATGM. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.
- ✦ The test paves the way for the Army to have developed third-generation man-portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile indigenously.

**21. DRDO hands over second 'Netra' (AEWC) aircraft to IAF**

- ✦ The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has handed over the second airborne warning plane, Netra, to the Indian Air Force.
- ✦ The Netra, an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft, it is useful for surveillance, tracking, identification and classification of airborne and sea surface targets and is useful in detecting incoming ballistic missile threats.
- ✦ The Netra had played a stellar role during the Balakot airstrikes that had been carried out by the IAF in February this year. It provided surveillance and radar coverage to the five Mirage jets that bombed terror launch pads in Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.

**22. Sixteen members of CISF successfully summited Mt. Satopanth peak**

- ✦ A team of 16 members of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) successfully completed Mount Satopanth's peak climbing. The CISF members committed the expedition to Fit India Movement and Women Empowerment which were initiated by the Prime Minister of India.
- ✦ The aim of the expedition was to unfold the message of empowering girls through mountain climbing to stay spirit of journey alive in effect.
- ✦ The team pushed their limit and achieved their goal by exposing themselves to the very best order of mental and physical challenges, including exposure to low atmospheric pressure, thin air, sub-zero temperatures, incessant snow blizzards and lots of alternative harsh climatic conditions.

**23. Russia terminates robot Fedor after space odyssey**

- ✦ It's mission over for a robot called Fedor that Russia blasted to the International Space Station. The developers admitted that he could not replace astronauts on space walks. Fedor, or Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, was built to assist space station astronauts.
- ✦ The silvery anthropomorphic robot cannot fulfil its assigned task to replace human astronauts on long and risky space walks, Dudorov said.
- ✦ Fedor, or Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, was built to assist space station astronauts.

**24. ISRO, Israel's SpaceIL may exchange notes on each other's lander 'crashes' on moon**

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it is to exchange notes with Israel's private space center, SpaceIL, the two countries are planning to exchange notes and discuss the factors that led to the failure of the Lander's landing.
- ✦ ISRO is also seeking to find out how the sensors installed on the Vikram lander behaved during the powered descent towards the lunar surface.

### 25. India joins the Global AMR Research and Development Hub

- ✦ India become a member of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub. The announcement was made by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi
- ✦ The Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development hub now has 16 member nations. The hub also has the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations as members and four international organisations as observers.
- ✦ The partnership works to address challenges and improve coordination and collaboration in the global antimicrobial resistance research and development. The issue of antimicrobial resistance requires global action with active participation from all world regions and One Health sectors.

### 26. Govt plans to link social media accounts to the central database

- ✦ The govt besides the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) plans to connect to social media with records including immigration entry, banking, and phone numbers and all database information in one platform case.
- ✦ The National Intelligence Grid was first began in 2009 with a spending limit of Rs.2,800 crore. About 10 central agencies like Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) and others will approach the information in a secured manner.
- ✦ After Mr.Patnaik resignation, NATGRID is presently headed by IAS Ashish Gupta. NATGRID's information recover center in Bengaluru has been built its office complex in South Delhi is nearing fulfillment.

## Important days

### 1. World Alzheimers Day is observed on 21 September

- ✦ World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September every day.
- ✦ The month of September is dedicated to bringing awareness about Alzheimer's and other dementia conditions.
- ✦ Per 2018 World Alzheimer Report, over 50 million people worldwide suffer from the disease. The number that will almost double every 20 years, reaching 131.5 million in 2050. **Theme:** The theme for World Alzheimer's Month 2019 is Raising awareness and challenging stigma. The day focuses on stigma and how to break stereotypes and myths that surround the diagnosis of dementia.

### 2. International Day of Peace or World Peace Day observed on 21 September, 2019

- ✦ The International Day of Peace, also known as World Peace Day, is observed all over the world by the United Nations (UN) annually on 21st September.
- ✦ The day aims to strengthen the ideals of peace and recognises the efforts of those people who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. The theme of this Day for 2019 is 'Climate Action for Peace'.
- ✦ The theme focuses on the need of fighting climate change by protecting and promoting peace throughout the world.
- ✦ The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples.

**3. World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 is observed on 10 September**

- ✦ World Suicide Prevention Day 2019 is observed on 10 September every year. The day aims to raise awareness of the risks of suicide and to fund suicide prevention activities. It also aims to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.
- ✦ **Theme:** Working Together to Prevent Suicide.
- ✦ **Initiated by:** International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP)

**4. International Day for South - South Cooperation is observed on 12 September**

- ✦ South-South cooperation is a broad framework where the South Countries have collaborated in various domains including political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.
- ✦ The day celebrates the political, social and economical developments made by regions and countries in the south in recent years.
- ✦ South-South Cooperation works towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs). It aims to boost the progress towards implementing the SDGs. It raises the awareness of the efforts taken by the United Nation to work on technical cooperation among developing countries

**5. Hindi Diwas celebrated on 14 September**

- ✦ Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 14 September to mark the popularity of Hindi as an official language of India.
- ✦ On the occasion, International Hindi Conference was also organised by World Hindi Council in New Delhi.
- ✦ Hindi lovers from 6 countries including Mauritius, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka attended the International Hindi Conference.

**6. The International Day of Democracy is observed on 15 September**

- ✦ The day aims to provide an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world. The day urges all governments to respect their citizens' right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy.
- ✦ The day urges all governments to respect their citizens' right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy.
- ✦ Democracy is a process which will happen only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society, and individuals. Democracy is a two-way street that is built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class.

**7. International Day of Charity: 5 September**

- ✦ The United Nations observes 5 September every year as International Day of Charity with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.
- ✦ The date of 5 September was chosen to commemorate the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa.
- ✦ She also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace." Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres; Headquarters: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945.

### 8. World Literacy Day is celebrated on 8 September

- On 8th September every year, International Literacy Day is celebrated to make people to know the importance of Literacy for people, communities and societies.
- It aims to combat worldwide problems also to promote illiteracy. The theme for 2019 is Literacy and Multilingualism.
- On 26th October in 1966, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 8th September as International Literacy Day.

## Sports

### 1. Anurag Thakur announces cricket and sports academy for Leh

- Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur announced that a cricket and sports academy will be set up in Leh, Ladakh.
- This cricket and sports academy will ensure that talented athletes of the region get the required training to excel. He also joined Army personnel in Leh to carry out a cleanliness drive to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 69th birthday.

### 2. US Open 2019: Winners List

- ✦ Rafael Nadal clinched his 19th Grand Slam title by defeating Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in US Open 2019 final match. Now, Rafael Nadal closes the gap to just one on Roger Federer's 20 Grand Slam triumphs. Rafael Nadal won his 5th grand slam title since turning 30, surpassing Federer, Novak Djokovic, Rod Laver and Ken Rosewall, who all won four titles.
- ✦ On the other hand, in women's championship, Bianca Andreescu (19) captured the title, defeating 23-time major champion Serena Williams. Bianca defeated her with a rollercoaster 6-3, 7-5 win.
- ✦ Now, Bianca Andreescu has become the youngest Grand Slam winner since Maria Sharapova at the 2006 US Open.

### 3. Paralympic Committee of India de-recognised for Sports Code violation

- ✦ The Sports Ministry of India has de-recognised the Paralympic Committee of India. The ministry has de-recognised the committee for violation of the National Sports Code. The committee violated the code by removing its elected president Rao Inderjit Singh.
- ✦ The Committee has been penalised for misgovernance and has been directed to comply with the Sports Code and ensure good governance practices in its internal functioning.

### 4. For the 1st time, Arunachal Pradesh will host 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2019

- For the 1st time, The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship 2019 will be held in Pasighat, East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh (AP) from September 10 – 24, 2019. The tournament will be hosted by Arunachal Pradesh Football Association (APFA).
- 30 teams from across the country including AP, are expected to participate for the championship. Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu will be the chief guest of the event.
- India Women's Football Championship is the women's football tournament which is contested by states and government institutions in the country. It is organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

**5. SL cricketer Lasith Malinga becomes highest T20I wicket-taker surpassing Afridi**

- ✦ Srilankan paceman (fast bowler) Separamadu Lasith Malinga on August 31, 2019 became the highest T20I (Twenty-Twenty International) wicket taker surpassing Pakistan's all-rounder Shahid Afridi, during the tri-match series of T20I between Srilanka and New Zealand.
- ✦ Malinga took a total of 99 wickets from 74 matches surpassing Afridi's 98 wickets in 99 matches.

**6. India, US to carry out joint Military Exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2019"**

- ✦ Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training, Exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2019". This exercise is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, the USA from 05-18 September 2019.
- ✦ Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours between India and USA. This will be the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.
- ✦ The exercise is also an ideal platform to learn from each other's expertise and experiences of planning and execution of operations.

**7. Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo round the globe**

- ✦ Qatar unveiled the logo for the 2022 World Cup. It will be hosted by the Gulf emirate displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world.
- ✦ The design is a stylised Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning. It is displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolising infinity while creating a heart shape above the words FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022.
- ✦ The emblem was also displayed in Madrid, Buenos Aires and Beirut along with several other major cities.

**8. Mithali Raj retires from T20Is, says focussed on getting ready for 2021 ODI World Cup**

- ✦ Mithali Raj has announced retirement from T20 Internationals. She led India in 32 T20Is India including 3 Women's T20 World Cups in 2012 (Sri Lanka), 2014 (Bangladesh) and 2016 (India).
- ✦ Mithali Raj was captain when India played their first ever women's T20 International in Derby in 2006. In 89 T20 Internationals, Mithali scored 2364 runs including 17 fifties with a career-best 97 not out.
- ✦ Mithali Raj played her last T20I against England on March 9, 2019 and remained unbeaten on 30 off 32 balls.

**9. Rohit Sharma launches a campaign to save Rhinos in India**

- ✦ Indian Cricket team vice-captain Rohit Sharma is launching Rohit4Rhinos campaign, in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet.
- ✦ This campaign helps to build awareness for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino.

- ✦ The Indian rhinoceros faces several threats, including poaching, habitat loss and mass mortality from inbreeding and disease

### 10. Anupama Swain wins bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership

- ✦ Indian woman athlete Anupama Swain won a bronze medal in the recently concluded World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu 2019.
- ✦ The event was held in Chungju, South Korea. Now she qualified for 2022 Asian Games. she was the only Indian to participate in the championship.
- ✦ Jiu-Jitsu is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.

### 11. Rashid Khan breaks 15-Year-Old record to become youngest Test Captain

- ✦ Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan holds a new record when he dons the whites for Afghanistan as captain. He broke the 15-year-old record by becoming the youngest Test captain in the Test Cricket history.
- ✦ He is 20 years and 350 days old. Previously, the former Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu was holding this record who was 20 years and 358 days old.

### 12. Manu-Saurabh won gold medal in ISSF World Cup

- ✦ Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in mixed 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro. In the air pistol final, the pair of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary prevailed over Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Abhishek Verma 17-15.
- ✦ With this, India finished the ISSF World Cup at the top of the medals tally with 5 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze.

### 13. Deepak Punia reached first rank in Wrestling Ranking

- World Championship silver medallist wrestler Deepak Punia jumped to world number one position in 6kg. He lost the top rank in the 65kg category in the latest rankings issued by the international federation (UWW).
- He settled for a silver after an ankle injury forced him to pull out of the final against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani. The 20-year-old now has 82 points, four more than World Champion Yazdani.
- Deepak won a silver Yasar Dogu and bronze medals at Asian Championship and at Sassari tournaments. He has been rewarded for his consistent show. The 25-year-old now has 63 points while Russia's Gadzhimurad Rashidov, who won gold in Nur Sultan, is the new world number one in 65kg.
- Ravi Dahiya has entered the top-five bracket. He is ranked exactly five with 39 points while Rahul Aware's bronze medal has pushed him to world number two.

## Books & Authors

### 1. A book titled "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" released

- ✦ A book titled "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" is penned by Bengaluru-based historian Vikram Sampath and published by Penguin.

- ✦ This book describing the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar.
- ✦ This first volume of the two-volume series covers the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar), from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release to Ratnagiri in 1924.

## **2. Book titled “India’s Lost Frontier the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan” written by veteran civil servant Raghvendra Singh released**

- ✦ A book named “India’s Lost Frontier the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan” written by veteran civil servant Raghvendra Singh, who was the then Director General (DG) of the National Archives of India (NAI) has been released.
- ✦ It is published by Rupa Publications, New Delhi.
- ✦ It reveals how the Congress leadership in 1947 surrendered India’s claim on the “tactically important” province though there was resistance from Mahatma Gandhi and other political leaders.

## **3. A new book entitled First They Erased Our Name A Rohingya Speaks**

- ✦ A new book entitled First They Erased Our Name: A Rohingya Speaks book journalist Sophie Ansel (France) released by Penguin Random House on September 9, 2019.
- ✦ The book explains about the Rohingya community through the eyes of a Rohingya, Habiburrahman who was born and raised in a small village in western Burma in 1979 grew up stateless with his people when their own country’s military leader ordered that Rohingya were not one among the 135 recognized ethnic groups that formed the 8 national races.

## **4. A Coffee Table Book called ‘Glorious Diaspora- Pride of India’ on Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardees was released by Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi**

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a coffee table book entitled ‘Glorious Diaspora- Pride of India’ on Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardees in New Delhi.
- ✦ The book covers the complete profiles of overseas Indians (politicians, business leaders, scientists, economists )who received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) from the year 2003 – 2019 in various sectors. It has been brought out by Indian Diaspora Club.
- ✦ It was first launched in the year 2003. January 9 was chosen every year as the day to observe Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India’s freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians.

## **Awards**

### **1. Secunderabad station received the first green Platinum rating**

- ✦ Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) has awarded Secunderabad junction station of Indian Railways with a green Platinum rating. The biggest rail hub is the first Indian Railways to be awarded so.
- ✦ **Various initiatives:**
- ✦ Air-conditioned waiting halls equipped with CO2 sensors
- ✦ Installation of solar panels and LED lights



- ✦ Solid waste management system
- ✦ It has been awarded ISO 14001-2015 Certificate- Environmental Management system. It has also received the National Tourism Award 2016-2017.

## 2. Spy thriller 'Raazi' steals show at Bollywood's Oscars

- ✦ Spy thriller Raazi stole the night at Bollywood's answer to the Oscars, taking best film and best actress for its young star Alia Bhatt in Mumbai where the glitzy awards gala was held for the first time since being established two decades ago.
- ✦ Megastar Ranveer Singh won best actor for his role in the controversial Padmaavat, a historical action movie that enraged Hindu radicals but was an international success.
- ✦ The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards went on into the early hours of today and Indian-British star Bhatt said it had been worth the wait as she received her prize.

## 3. Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg wins 2019 Amnesty's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award in Washington D.C

- ✦ Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg (16 years) and the 'Fridays for Future youth movement' won the Amnesty International's 'Ambassadors of Conscience' award for the year 2019. The award ceremony which was held at the George Washington University, Washington D.C, America, is the highest human rights award constituted by the Amnesty International.

## 4. Indian documentary Moti Bagh has been nominated for the Oscars

- ✦ Moti Bagh, a documentary based on the life of an Uttarakhand farmer Vidya Dutt has been nominated for the Oscars.
- ✦ The documentary film has been directed by Nirmal Chander.
- ✦ The film shows how the 83-year-old struggles to keep his farm alive and till the uninhabited hilly lands.

## 5. Overview of 71st Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards for 2019

- ✦ The 71st annual Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards ceremony for 2019 was held over two nights on September 14- 15, 2019 at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, United States.
- ✦ They were presented in technical and acting categories. They were given away before 71st Emmy Awards (Primetime Emmy Awards) scheduled to be held on September 22, 2019.

## 6. Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was conferred 2019 Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award in Dhaka

- ✦ Bangladesh Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina was awarded Dr. Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award for the year 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✦ She was awarded by T.P. Sreenivasan, Chief Adviser of the Dr. Kalam Smriti International Advisory Council former ambassador, for her contribution in holding a healthy relation between India and Bangladesh, International peace and cooperation.
- ✦ With this award, Hasina has so far received 37 international accolades.

## 7. Music director Usha Khanna to get Lata Mangeshkar award

- ✦ Veteran music director Usha Khanna, who created magic by giving songs like "zindagi pyaar ka geet hai", "chhodo kal ki baatein", and "aap to aise na the", has been chosen for the Maharashtra government's coveted Lata Mangeshkar Award.

- ✦ She has composed music for over 150 films in the male-dominated field. The award, which carries a cash reward of Rs.500,000, a citation and a memento shall be awarded to the 78-year old Khanna.

### 8. Oscars of science awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team

- ✦ The Event Horizon Telescope Team consists of 347 scientists produced the world first image of a black hole. They were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. The prize is known as the Oscars of science with prize money \$3 million. The team published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy.
- ✦ Through this technique, they were able to achieve an unprecedented resolution and observe the black hole's silhouette for the first time in history, confirming theoretical predictions about these celestial objects.

### 9. Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke award

- ✦ Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for the highest Indian film honour- Dadasaheb Phalke award for the year 2019.
- ✦ The announcement was made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, through a tweet, in which he said that the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, who entertained and inspired for 2 generations, has been selected unanimously for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke award.
- ✦ Following the Union Minister's tweet, warm wishes and congratulatory messages poured in for the acting legend from all corners of the film fraternity including from the likes of Karan Johar, Anil Kapoor, Asha Bhosle and southern superstars Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna.

## Obituaries

### 1. Tamil actor, cinematographer and director Rajasekar passes away

- ✦ Tamil Film Director, Actor and Cinematographer Raja Sekar passed away. He was a part of the director duo Robert-Rajasekar.
- ✦ Along with Robert Ashirwatham, he had directed films such as Palaivanacholai, Chinnapoove Mella Pesu, Dhooram Adhigamillai, Manasukkul Mathappu and Paravaigal Palavidham.

### 2. Climate change campaigner of the South Pacific Akilisi Pohiva passes away

- ✦ Climate change campaigner of the South Pacific and Prime Minister of Tongan Akilisi Pohiva passed away.
- ✦ He was long-time pro-democracy campaigner and leader in the fight against climate change. He was awarded the Defender of Democracy Award in 2013 by the Parliamentarians for Global Action, the first Pacific Islander to receive the prize.

### 3. Former bureaucrat B.N. Yugandhar passes away

- ✦ Former bureaucrat and Secretary to the PMO, B.N. Yugandhar passed away. He served as Secretary to the PMO between May 1995 and March 1997 during former PM P.V.Narasimha Rao's term.
- ✦ He also served in the Ministry of Rural Development from March 1993 to May 1995

### 4. Aalayam Sriram, producer of 'Bombay' movie passed away

- ✦ Chennai (Tamilnadu) born film producer S Sriram, also known as ‘Aalayam’ Sriram, passed away in Chennai due to cardiac arrest. He headed the Alayam productions and mostly collaborated with Indian filmmaker Mani Ratnam, including the 1996
- ✦ National award winning film “Bombay”. His last production was tamil film ‘Samurai’ in 2002.

#### 5. Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe passes away

- ✦ Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe passed away. He was the country's first post-independence leader and also considered as Zimbabwe's founding father.
- ✦ He served the country as its leader for 37 years.
- ✦ He also served as the rotating chairman of the 54 nation African Union and the 15-nation Southern African Development Community.

#### 6. Bollywood actor and renowned Kathak dancer Veeru Krishnan passed away

- ✦ Bollywood actor and renowned Kathak dancer Veeru Krishnan has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✦ He worked in many films such as “Ishq”, “Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke” and “Raja Hindustani”. He mostly appeared in supporting roles in the films in the 1990s.
- ✦ Besides being an actor, he was also a famous kathak dancer. Many Bollywood celebrities like Katrina Kaif, Athiya Shetty, Karanvir Bohra, and others were trained in Kathak by him.

#### 7. Well known lawyer and former Union minister Ram Jethmalani passed away

- ✦ Ram Jethmalani, Senior lawyer, and a former union law minister has passed away at his home in Delhi after suffering from prolonged illness. He was 95.
- ✦ Jethmalani was born on 14 September 1923 in Shikarpur, Sindh in the Sindh division of the then Bombay Presidency, now part of Pakistan. The partition led him to move to Mumbai. He earned an LL.B.( Bachelor of Law) degree from Bombay University with a first-class first at the young age of 17.
- ✦ He has worked as union law minister and in the National Democratic Alliance government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

#### 8. Veteran Malayalam Actor Sathar Passes Away

- ✦ Veteran Kerala actor Sathar passed away.
- ✦ He made his acting debut in 1975 with Malayalam movie Bharyaye Aavashyamundu directed by M. Krishnan Nair & in 1976 with Vincent Master’s directorial Anavaranam.
- ✦ He was acted in more than 300 films, majority of them in Malayalam.

#### 9. Film editor Sanjib Kumar Datta passes away

- ✦ Film editor Sanjib Kumar Datta, who has movies like Iqbal, Ek Hasina Thi and Mardaani to his credit, passed away.
- ✦ He was an alumnus of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and worked as an assistant to late editor Renu Saluja. His first big project was the 1998 film Bada Din.

#### 10. Former Dutch football player Fernando Ricksen passes away

- ✚ The former Rangers and Netherlands football player Fernando Ricksen passed away at the age of 43.
- ✚ He earned 12 caps for the Netherlands between 2000 and 2003.
- ✚ In six years (2000-2006) with the club of Rangers (Glasgow, Scotland), he also won 2 Scottish Premier League titles, 2 Scottish Cups and 3 Scottish League Cups.

#### **11. Famous filmmaker Shyam Ramsay passes away**

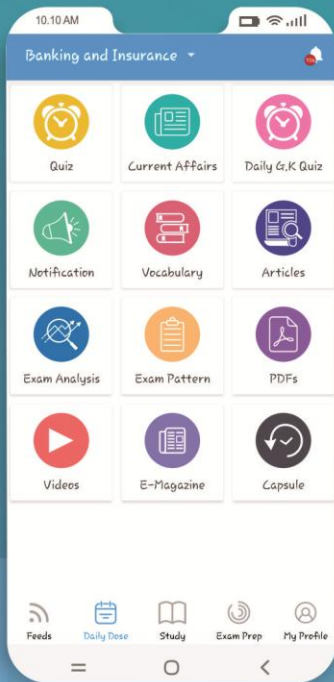
- ✚ Bollywood's famous horror film producer Shyam Ramsay passed away. He helmed horror movies like Andhera (1975), Saboot (1980), Purana Mandir (1984), Purani Haveli (1989), Dhund: The Fog (2003), Koi Hai (2017).
- ✚ He pioneered the horror genre on Indian television too, giving us the first horror series- The Zee Horror Show which ran from 1993 to 2001.

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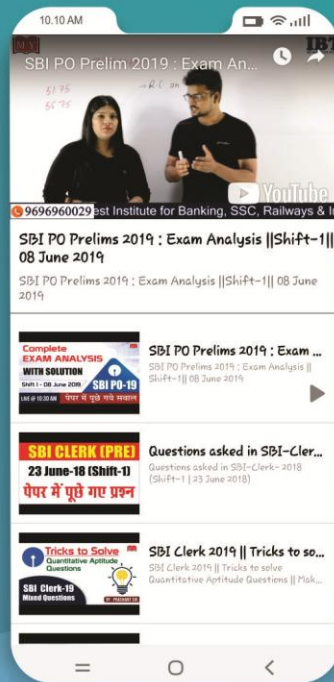
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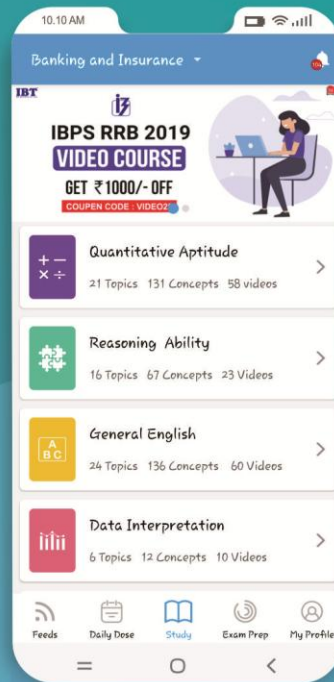
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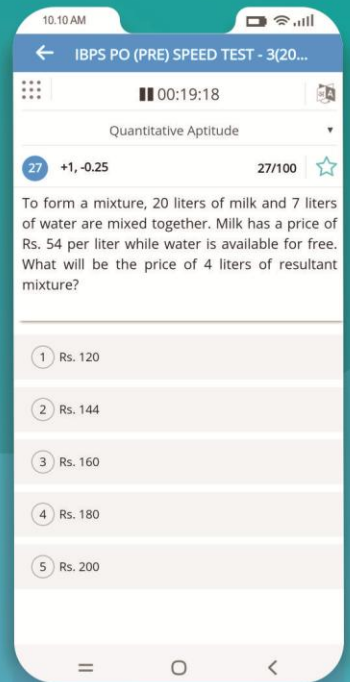
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