

June 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Indian Navy launches Operation Sankalp in Persian Gulf**

Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through area. This deployment is in the wake of following recent maritime incidents in region.

Operation Sankalp has been launched in wake of escalating tension in Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers, one Norwegian-owned and other Japanese-owned were attacked on 13 June 2019. This incident has led to heightened tensions between Iran and United States (US). Although, it remains unclear that who was responsible for attacks but US has put the blame on Iran, which, in turn, has denied all allegations.

### **Shefali Juneja appointed India's representative to ICAO's council**

Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as representative of India (JS Level) in council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.

### **For the First time, India opens water clinic for Elephants in Mathura**

India has opened its first specialized hydrotherapy treatment centre for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments. It is situated in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

### **India's data usage per smartphone is the highest in the world at 9.8GB per month**

As per the Ericsson Mobility Report of June 2019 edition, India's data usage per smartphone was the highest in the world at 9.8 Giga Byte (GB) per month up to December 31, 2018. It is set to double to 18 GB by 2024.

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

The United States (US) overtook China to become India's largest goods trading partner in 2018-19. Trade surplus of India with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion for 2017-18.

### **Scientists develop cancer cell detection 'dots' from coal in Assam**

In Assam, a team of Scientists from CSIR-NEIST( Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology) have developed a chemical process that turns 'dirty' coal into biomedical 'Carbon Quantum Dots (CQDs)' which helps in detection of cancer cells.



**International Day of Yoga 2019 observed on June 21**

The 5th annual International Day of Yoga (IDY) was observed on June 21, 2019. There are two themes for World Yoga Day 2019 , United Nation has declared theme as “Yoga for Climate Action” and Ministry of Ayush , India has declared theme for Yoga Day is ” Yoga for Heart“.

**World Music Day celebrated on June 21, 2019**

The world music day is being celebrated on June 21, 2019. It is also known as Fête de la Musique’ meaning “festival of music”.It aims to honor both amateur and professional musicians. The theme of world music day 2019 is “Music at the intersections”.



June 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Author Amish Tripathi appointed director of London's Nehru Centre**

Renowned Author Amish Tripathi has been named as the new director of London's Nehru Centre, under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

**Operation Bandar: IAF's code name for Balakot Airstrike**

The preemptive nonmilitary air strike conducted by Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on 26 February 2019 was code-named Operation Bandar (Monkey).

**India's Forest cover up by 1%- Environment Minister**

Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment informed the Lok Sabha that India's forest cover has increased by 1% in last one year period and over 24.39% of India's geographical area now constitutes of green cover.

**Yoga guru Baba Ramdev pens Autobiography**

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev recently made announcement about releasing his autobiography titled- 'My Life, My Mission'. The book is co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar.

**Bihar Government bans Tree-Felling**

The Bihar Government recently announced ban on felling of trees in different cities of Bihar, citing increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave in the state as reason for the ban.

**'Adarsh Station scheme' developed 1,103 railways stations**

On June 21, 2019, Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha stated that under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS), of the 1,253 stations which were identified for development, 1,103 railway stations were developed.

**First iron ore mine discovered in Bangladesh**

On June 19, 2019 Country's first iron ore mine was discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur of Bangladesh. The discovery was done by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB).

**Saudi Arabia became the first Arab country to get FATF membership**

Saudi Arabia became the first Arab country to get full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). With this, the number of permanent members in the group accounted to 39.



**About FATF:**

- ◆ Headquarters: Paris, France
- ◆ Founded: 1989
- ◆ President: Marshall Billingslea

**Skylark Drones get DGCA nod to fly**

On June 21, 2019, The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its approval to Skylark Drones (Bangalore) to launch its “Patang”, India’s first drone compliant with the NP-NT (No permission – No take-off) protocol under the Digital Sky regulatory framework for drones.

**Cricket Australia signs a multi-year partnership with HCL**

Indian multinational information technology service, HCL Technologies (Hindustan Computers Limited, HCL) has signed a multi-year deal with Cricket Australia (CA), the administrative body of Australian Cricket, which is India’s third largest sports deal.

**World’s Largest Multi-Stage, Multi-Purpose Scheme Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project Inaugurated In Telangana**

On June 21, 2019, The first phase of the world’s largest multi-stage, multi-purpose scheme Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) worth Rs 80,000 crore was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Telangana Chandrashekar Rao at Medigadda in Jayashankar-Bhupalpally district near the borders with Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

The project, built across Godavari river, has become the world’s biggest in terms of capacity with 3 Barrages, 1531 km of Gravity Canals, 203 km of Tunnels, 20 Lifts, 19 Pump houses and 20 Reservoirs with total capacity of 147 TMC water irrigating 37 lakh acres.



June 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **India women's Rugby team record 1st-ever International win**

Indian Women's Rugby team claimed their 1st ever international women's 15s victory after beating Singapore in the Asian Women Rugby Championship Division 1 in Manila, Philippines.

### **Mauritania holds election for 1st time in 60yrs**

Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa went to polls for the first time since the African nation gained independence from France nearly 60 years ago. Following the independence the country have mostly been ruled Non-elected military governments.

### **Key Highlights of Elections**

President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz (62), who seized power in a military coup in 2008, agreed to step down and abide by serving period of maximum two five-year elected terms.

### **Nepalese nationals must have visa to enter India via Pakistan, China.**

According to a notice issued by Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi, Nepalese nationals is required to have visa if they are entering India from Pakistan, China, Hong Kong and Macau. As per the Nepal foreign ministry, there are 4 million Nepalese working and studying in India.

### **Asian Snooker Championship: Pankaj Advani**

India's Pankaj Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon of Thailand with 6-3 in final to clinch the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship.

### **Unique Flood Hazard Atlas: Odisha**

Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas aided by satellite imagery, which is expected to help the coastal state manage floods more efficiently.

### **NTPC, PGCIL sign MoU to enter Power Distribution Business**

The Indian Public Sector Undertaking's (PSUs) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd) and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) have signed an agreement to set up National Electricity Distribution Company Limited (NEDCL).



**A young entrepreneur from Surat turns Udhana railway station into India's first Green Railway Station**

Viral Sudhirbhai Desai, a young entrepreneur from surat launched an initiative to change Udhana railway station in Gujarat into India's first green and clean railway station like Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus.

**Key points:**

i. Objective: In order to achieve the mission of 'Clean India-Green India', Desai installed oxygen bomber and over 1700 air purifying plants at the station and also painting has been made by him for environmental protection on the wall of the station.

**Five countries from Asia and Central America had no cases of Malaria in 2018: WHO**

According to the report by World Health Organization (WHO), Four countries from Asia includes China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste and one country from Central America, El Salvador had malaria-free cases in 2018 and the report confirms that world is on a track to reach malaria elimination by 2020.

**Mexico became the first country to ratify the trade deal to replace NAFTA**

On June 19, 2019, Mexico became the first country to ratify the trade deal to replace 25 year old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new trade deal is known as known as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

**Dr Gaurav Nigam, an educationist, pediatrician and author, honoured with 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019'**

A well-known educationist, pediatrician and author, Dr Gaurav Nigam was conferred with the 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' by Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, Minister for Labour and Human Resources of Bhutan at the Asian Leadership Summit held at Thimphu, Bhutan.

**DD India channel will be broadcasted in Bangladesh & South Korea**

On June 19, 2019, The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry, Government of India signed the agreement with Bangladesh and South Korea for DD (Doordarshan) India, an Indian English News and Current Affairs Channel which is to be telecasted in those countries.

**International Olympic Day is celebrated on 23rd June 2019**

Annually on June 23, International Olympic Day is celebrated all around the world. This day marks the birth of modern Olympic games on June 23, 1894, at Sorbonne in Paris.



**Justice V Ramasubramanian sworn in as the Chief Justice of the HP High Court**

Judge of Telangana High Court, Justice V Ramasubramanian sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. He succeeded Chief Justice Surya Kant.

**Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan sworn-in as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court**

Acting Chief Justice of Telangana High Court, Raghvendra Singh Chauhan sworn-in as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. He succeeded Chief Justice T.B. Radhakrishnan in April, 2019 and sworn in as acting Chief Justice.



June 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins FIH Series Finals**

India clinched the women's FIH Series Finals Hockey Tournament by beating hosts Japan 3-1 in summit clash at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium in Japan.

### **IOC formally opens new Headquarters in Switzerland**

On Olympic Games' 125th anniversary, International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. The inauguration of new headquarters comes exactly 125 years after Olympic Games were revived.

### **Japan gifts Manipur a Peace Museum built on WWII memories**

Japan gifted Manipur, one of India's north eastern state a Museum of Peace built on the memories of Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of 2nd World War (WWII). The inauguration of Imphal Peace Museum marked 75th anniversary of Battle of Imphal.

#### **What is Battle of Imphal 1944?**

Battle of Imphal took place in region around city of Imphal (Manipur's capital) from March to July 1944. Japanese armies with an attempt to destroy Allied forces at Imphal invaded India, but were driven back into Burma (today's Myanmar) with heavy losses.

The Battle of Imphal together with simultaneous Battle of Kohima (also known as Stalingrad of the East) on road by which encircled Allied forces at Imphal were relieved, was the main turning point of 2nd World War's Burma Campaign.

### **RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya quits before his term ends**

Viral Acharya Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has resigned from his position 6 months before the end of his term citing reason as unavoidable personal circumstances.

Acharya, who joined RBI on 23 January 2017 for a three-year term, was youngest deputy governor of RBI post economic liberalisation.

### **Vaishno Devi Shrine to have its own Disaster Response Force by 2020**

Mata Vaishno Devi shrine located in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September 2020.





**Qu Dongyu, the first Chinese national to head FAO**

On June 23, 2019, China's agricultural deputy minister, Qu Dongyu(55) elected as the new director general of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at Rome, Italy.

**India scraped \$500 mn arms deal with Israel**

India scraped \$500 million arms deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. This was done after Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed that it could deliver an alternative with a partnership with VEM technologies Ltd within two years.

**Lewis Hamilton won French Grand Prix**

On June 23, 2019, Five time Formula one (F1) world champion, Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the French Grand Prix held in Circuit Paul Ricard, Le Castellet, France with 187 points. Hailing from England, the United Kingdom, this was his eighth straight win in the year 2019 and the overall winning streak raised to 10. It was the sixth win of the season and 79th of his career.

**Vinit Goenka pens new book titled “Data Sovereignty – The Pursuit of Supremacy”**

The book, “Function of Data Sovereignty – The Pursuit of Supremacy” authored by Vinit Goenka, Author, Secretary, Centre for Knowledge Sovereignty (CKS) and Member Governing Council- CRIS (Centre for Railway Information Systems), Ministry of Railways, Government of India recently released in New Delhi.



June 25<sup>th</sup>

### **The Tribune's Journalist wins RedInk Award**

Rachna Khaira of The Tribune News Service has bagged prestigious RedInk Award for Excellence in Indian Journalism 'Journalist of the Year' 2019 for her expose during 2018 on functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache.

### **The Aadhar Expose**

Investigation: conducted by Rachna Khaira confirmed that personal data of millions of citizens was at risk of being hacked/traded for a price. The series of sting operations run by journalist helped to raise serious doubts over government claims that Aadhaar data stored on UIDAI servers was safe and secure.

Then later many of the leads provided by her became part of a public interest litigation (PIL), which finally led to troublesome and mandatory aspects of Aadhaar being watered down. She is currently working for The Huffington Post.

### **Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly: Anupam Kher's Autobiography**

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher is coming out with his autobiography titled-'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' that is set to release on 5 August 2019.

### **Coca-Cola and Chinese Dairy firm sign Olympic Sponsorship**

Coca-Cola and Chinese dairy firm Mengniu have signed a multi-year global Olympic deal to become joint sponsors (beverages and dairy) of Olympic Games starting from 2021 to 2032.

### **NASA's Mars Rover detects High Levels of Methane**

The **Curiosity Rover** of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an independent federal agency of United States has found the largest amount of methane ever measured during its mission on Red Planet (Mars).

PDF Compilation of these updates can be downloaded from [This Link](#)

### **Wilful Defaulters in Nationalised Banks up by 60% in 5 years: Govt**

As per a written reply given by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Lok Sabha, the number of wilful defaulters in nationalised banks has increased by more than 60% to 8,582 in five years to March 2019.



**LESA: ESA tests device to rescue injured astronauts**

European Space Agency (ESA) recently tested a device called Evacuation System Assembly (or LESA), which is designed to assist in astronaut rescue missions on the surface of Moon. As per ESA, it is world's 1st device aimed to help future incapacitated astronauts.

**Pakistan secures \$3 billion bailout from Qatar**

Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured a financial assistance in form of a bailout package of \$3 billion from oil-rich Qatar, a day after Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad concluded his visit to Pakistan.

Qatar's financial assistance to Pakistan was announced by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Foreign Minister of Qatar.

**Central Government move to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras to double farmers' income by 2022**

The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar announced that central Government has decided to use digital technology in rural India to double farmers' income by the year 2022. For this, the Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community.

**World Archery appointed Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra to sort AAI trouble**

On June 20, 2019, World Archery appointed Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra as an independent person to sort out the ongoing trouble in the Archery Association of India (AAI).

**'Bumble' became the first Astrobee robot to fly under its own power in space**

On June 14, 2019, National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Astrobee Robot "Bumble" became the first Astrobee robot to fly under its own power in space. It will help researchers in examining the new technologies in zero gravity and assist astronauts to perform routine work in the International Space Station (ISS).

**Wind and solar to deliver half the world's power by the year 2050: BNEF report**

According to a "New Energy Outlook (NEO) report 2019" released by Bloomberg NEF, Wind and solar power are the new power in two-thirds of countries around the world and they will make up almost half of the electricity system by 2050.



**Veteran freedom fighter Mohan Ranade dies at 90**

Veteran freedom fighter Mohan Ranade passed away in Pune, Maharashtra at the age of 90. He participated in the Goa Liberation Movement. He was born in 1929 at Sangli in Maharashtra.



June 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Government to launch Universal Smart Card Driving License**

Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences so as to follow a standardised format nationwide.

Implementation: The desired changes to Pan India Licence format will be implemented through MoRTH's flagship application called SARATHI (for Driving License).

### **100 Most Influential Women' in UK Power List**

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs was named in 100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women list. Besides Sitharaman, list included Penny Mordaunt, Britain's Secretary of State for Defence and Ruchi Ghanashyam, Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

**Other Prominent Names in List:** Priti Patel and Baroness Sandy Verma (Indian-origin parliamentarians in the UK), Gurinder Chadha (filmmaker), Zia Mody and Pallavi S Shroff (Indian law firm chiefs), Suneeta Reddy (Apollo Hospitals' managing director) and Debjani Ghosh (Nasscom President).

### **What is 'goAML' launched by UAE?**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become 1st country in Gulf to launch new anti-money laundering platform called 'goAML' (Anti-Money Laundering). It is a one-stop solution, launched by UAE to crack down on organised financial crimes.

### **Council of Europe restores Voting Rights of Russia**

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg (France) has voted in favour of restoring Russia's voting rights, 5 years after they were revoked over its illegal annexation of Crimean Peninsula.

### **Key Highlights**

Background: In 2014 following Russia's annexation of Crimea, Russia was stripped of its voting rights. Russia then responded by boycotting assembly and since 2017 the country also refused to pay its share of 33 million Euro to human rights watchdog.



Recently, Russia had also threatened the assembly of quitting the body altogether if it is not allowed to take part in election of a new secretary general to body.

**Vote:** The Parliamentary assembly voted with 118 in favour and 62 against, and 10 abstentions. The voting was undertaken despite strong opposition from Ukraine.

**Outcome:** This move now paves the way for Russia to participate in election of a new secretary general for pan-European rights body.

### About Council of Europe

It is European continent's leading human rights organisation whose stated aim is to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The organisation is separate from European Union (EU).

It was established in 1949 with Headquarters in Strasbourg, France. It includes 47 member states (including 28 members of European Union).

### 31.4% of Indian children will be stunted by 2022: UN report

The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that 31.4% of Indian children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

### Centre constituted panel for better coordination among ministers

On June 23, 2019, Central Government has formed a committee for coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas(MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC) and the state governments after a tug of war between the two ministries. The panel formation will help in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.

#### Key points:

i. Members: The newly formed committee will have P K Sinha, Cabinet Secretary as chairman and secretaries of home, petroleum and environment ministry, a representative from the NITI Aayog & and chief secretaries of petroleum-producing states as members.

### MHA released the rankings of Police Stations for 2018; Rajasthan tops the list

On June 25, 2019, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released the rankings of police stations for the year 2018. It covered 15,666 police stations. 20% weightage was assigned to the police



station's infrastructure and citizen feedback on the performance of the police personnel posted at the police station and they were evaluated on the basis of crimes against women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes & property related offences. The scores were calculated based on the number of FIRs (First Information Reports) chargesheeted within 60 days.

**Key Points:**

- i. The Kalu police station in Bikaner district of Rajasthan was ranked the best police station in the country.

**Malayalam film 'Veyilmarangal' won an award at Shanghai International film festival**

In the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, Director Bijukumar Damodaran has received the Outstanding Artistic Achievement Award for the film, Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun).

**Amitabh Kant, NITI Aayog CEO gets a 2-year extension**

On June 26, 2019, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India has extended the tenure of Amitabh Kant, CEO(Chief Executive Officer) of Government's think tank NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), by two years, up to June 30, 2021.



June 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Haryana CM announces Annual Health Assistance to Loktantra Senanis**

Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana has announced an annual financial health assistance of Rs.5 lakh to loktantra senanis or their spouse for treatment at private or government hospitals.

#### **Key Highlights**

**Loktantra Senanis:** are people who were jailed during 1975-1977 Emergency under preventive detention laws.

### **Samanat Goel appointed as RAW Chief**

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved appointment of senior IPS officer Samant Kumar Goel as Director of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), external intelligence of India. He has been appointed for a fixed tenure of two years. He will take charge from Anil K Dhasmana.

### **Arvind Kumar appointed as Director of Intelligence Bureau**

The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved appointment of senior IPS officer Arvind Kumar as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a fixed tenure of two years. He will succeed Rajiv Jain whose tenure comes to an end on 29 June 2019.

### **Around 2.22 crore villagers received Digital Education under PMGDISHA**

On June 27, 2019, Electronics and Information Technology Minister Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that around 2.22 crore villagers were given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA).

### **IOC suspends Olympic status from AIBA**

On June 26, 2019, International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the Olympic status from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and took over the responsibilities of the qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

### **Noted humanitarian activist Jharna Dhara Chowdhury passed away**

Jharna Dhara Chowdhury, eminent social activist and secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Trust in Jayag, Noakhali, Bangladesh passed away due to old age complications. She was 81.





**BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi pens her first novel 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'**

Meenakshi Lekhi, a women politician(MP of Bharatiya Janata Party and spokesperson) has written her debut novel titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'.

**Justice PK Saikia appointed as Chairperson of Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh**

On June 27, 2019, Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh.



June 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Sister City Partnership: LoI shared between Ahmedabad and Kobe**

A Letter of Intent (LoI) was exchanged between Ahmedabad and Japanese city of Kobe for a sister city partnership. The LoI was exchanged in presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who visited Kobe to address a large Indian diaspora event.

#### **What is a sister city?**

The sister cities or twin towns concept is a legal and social agreement between towns, cities, oblasts, counties, provinces, prefectures, states, regions between two different countries to promote cultural as well as commercial ties.

This plan was conceived after World War II ended so as to promote peaceful coexistence and to encourage trade and tourism.

### **Government to constitute working group for revision of Wholesale Price Index**

Central Government has constituted 18-member Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12). It will be chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog.

### **Virat Kohli: Fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs**

India captain Virat Kohli (30) became fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs, across formats. He achieved this milestone in only his 417th international innings ( comprising 131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs and 62 in T20Is.), surpassing previous record held by Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara. Both Tendulkar and Lara scored 20,000 international runs in 453 innings. With this, Kohli became overall 12th batsman and third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs.

### **All panchayats to have Broadband Connectivity by March 2020: Govt**

Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister Electronics and Information Technology in a written reply in Lok Sabha informed Parliament that all gram panchayats will be provided high speed broadband connections under **BharatNet** project by March 2020.

### **Cabinet approved bill to fine people with Rs 10,000 for blocking ambulances**

On June 24, 2019, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the bill to fine people with Rs 10,000 for blocking ambulances. The rule is the part of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill.



**Indian Crypto Exchange Koinex Shuts down its operation**

India's Largest cryptocurrency exchange, Koinex (Mumbai) terminating its digital asset trading services and other crypto-related operations citing regulatory uncertainty and disruption.

**Problem:** It was facing problems with its payment services and gateways, along with non-crypto related transactions like payment of salaries, rent, and purchase of equipment.

**India the Lowest Cost Producer of Solar Power; beats China, UK, US among others**

According to a report, "Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2018" by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), India leads in producing solar power at lowest cost globally and is far ahead of other nations in low average production costs.

**Narinder Batra, IOA and FIH chief, elected as the member of IOC**

On June 26, 2019, Narinder Batra, President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the IOC Session.

**Italy to host 2026 Winter Olympics**

On June 24, 2019, In the final round of voting at the 134th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, Italy's Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo won the right to host the 2026 Winter Olympics, defeating Sweden's capital Stockholm.

**Oldest Freedom fighter Mohammed Baji passed away at 103**

Noted freedom fighter, Mohammed Baji (Md Bazi) passed away Sunari Sahi in Nabarangpur district of Odisha. He was 103.



*June 29<sup>th</sup>***A Prime Minister to Remember: Book by Former Navy Chief released**

A book titled 'A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief', authored by former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar recently released highlights the key defence related decisions taken by former Prime Minister of India Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Admiral Kumar served as Navy Chief between 1998 and 2001 and also oversaw Kargil conflict in 1999.

**Saudi Arabia raises India's Hajj Quota by 30,000**

In a significant step, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia increased India's Haj quota by 30,000 thus lifting the figure to 200,000 per year (from 170,000).

**EQUIP: 5-year Vision Plan on Quality Education by HRD Ministry**

The Higher Education Department of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a 5-year Vision Plan titled as Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).

**Indian Railways conducting trials of Tri-Netra technology**

Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal during Question Hour informed Rajya Sabha members that Indian Railways is conducting TRI-NETRA (Terrain Imaging for Drivers Infrared, Enhanced, Optical & Radar Assisted) technology for detecting obstructions on tracks.

**Nagaland occupies the top position in the unemployment rate: NSSO Survey**

According to the survey, "The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2017-18" by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) huge variations among the states in terms of the unemployment rate. The overall unemployment rate pegs at 6.1%.

**Key points:**

- i. Top and Bottom: Nagaland has the highest unemployment rate among the states with 21.4% followed by Goa (13.9%) and Manipur (11.6%), while Meghalaya has the lowest rate at 1.5%. Chhattisgarh and Sikkim also have the lowest rates.
- ii. Rural and Urban: Urban areas witnessed higher unemployment (7.8%) than the rural areas (5.3%).
- iii. Male Vs Female: Females have the lowest unemployment rate (5.7%) in comparison to males (6.2%).



iv. Union territories: Nagaland still gets top in the list of union territories while Dadra and Nagar Haveli with a low rate of 0.6%.

v. Goa and Kerala are high in female unemployment at 26.0% and 23.3% respectively, but their respective male unemployment rates are three times lower at 8.1% and 6.2%.

### **Nitesh Kumar Jangir ,an Indian Engineer won innovation award in UK**

An Indian engineer, Nitesh Kumar Jangir, from Bangalore has won the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award 2019 in the "People" category in London, UK (United Kingdom) for the creation low-cost neonatal breathing device named "Saans" for saving the lives of newborn babies.



June 30<sup>th</sup>

### **India-assisted IT- Biotechnology Park inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire**

Mahatma Gandhi Information Technology and Biotechnology Park (MGIT-BP) built with India's assistance was recently inaugurated at Grand-Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire. It was jointly inaugurated by Sailas Thangal, Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire and country's Vice President Daniel Kablan Duccan.

### **Telecom Ministry forms committee to spell out revival plans for Telecom sector**

Acknowledging that country's telecom industry was under financial stress, Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had constituted a committee chaired by Telecom Secretary **Aruna Sundararajan** to spell out revival plans for Telecom sector.

### **NASA's Dragonfly to look for Origins, Signs of Life in Titan**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently announced its plan to launch Dragonfly drone helicopter to Saturn's largest moon Titan in search of building blocks of life.

### **NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR in social development**

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), an Odisha-based Navaratna Company has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development. NALCO was selected for its Aliali Jhia Scheme.

#### **About Aliali Jhia**

In 2015 NALCO started a scheme called Aliali Jhia. The scheme was on the line of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to adapt and promote the poor and talented girls for education.

#### **What is Corporate Social Responsibility?**

CSR is funding and grants process undertaken by corporate sector under which they provide financial and other support to Non-Profit Organisations (NGOs). Under Companies Act, 2013 it is a mandatory provision for companies to provide a contribution of 2% of average of their net profits.

### **Goa Govt. approves amendment to Factories Act to allow Women in Night Shifts**

The state government of Goa recently approved an amendment to Factories Act 1948 which will allow deployment of women in night shifts (from 7pm to 6 am) in industries. It is a welcome step taken by Goa government towards women empowerment.



**Aparna Kumar becomes 1st IPS Officer to complete 7 Summits Challenge**

Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and DIG Frontier in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Aparna Kumar recently scaled North America's Highest Peak Denali (20,310 feet) in Alaska, USA. With this she became 1st civil servant to climb the rare mountain. She scaled this summit in her 3rd attempt.

**The Seven Summit includes**

1. Carstensz Pyramid– 4884m; Location: Oceania (Australia – New Guinea)
2. Kilimanjaro– 5892m; Location: Africa
3. Elbrus– Height: Location: Russia
4. Aconcagua– Height: 6962m; Location: South America
5. Denali (or Mt McKinley)- Height: 6194m; Location: North America
6. Vinson Massif– Height- 4892m; Location: Antarctica
7. Mt. Everest– Height- 8848m; Location: Asia

**\$250-m loan pact signed by India and World Bank for Rebuild Kerala initiative**

On June 29, 2019, The Government of India, State Government of Kerala and World Bank signed a loan agreement of \$250 million (Rs 1,725 crore) for the Kerala Resilient Programme.

**PB Acharya sworn in as the Governor of Manipur**

On June 27, 2019, Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya was sworn in as the Governor of Manipur. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir of the High Court of Manipur administered the swearing in ceremony.

