

July 1<sup>st</sup>

### **UP launches Dastak Campaign to eradicate AES & JE**

Uttar Pradesh government has launched a massive campaign called 'Dastak' to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.

### **Donald Trump becomes 1st sitting US president to enter North Korea**

United States President Donald Trump became 1st sitting US president to set foot in Democratic People's Republic of Korea (or North Korea) when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between North Korea and South Korea.

### **Fact Box: Jaya Arunachalam**

Jaya Arunachalam, Indian social worker and founder of Working Women's Forum (WWF) died at age of 87 in Chennai. She was also a pioneer of the women's Self Help group (SHG) movement in the country.

### **ISALEX19: ISAs joint security exercise begins**

Abu Dhabi, capital of United Area Emirates (UAE) is hosting International Security Alliance (ISAs) first joint security exercise named ISALEX19.

### **India sign Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka**

India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF). This deal comes in wake of an IAF's attempt to keep itself battle-ready in situations like post-Balakot aerial strikes.

### **1 July: GST Day**

1st July 2019 is being celebrated as GST (Goods & Services Tax) Day. This year marks the 2nd anniversary of implementation of historic tax reform of Goods & Services Tax.

### **Background**

First GST Day was celebrated on 1 July 2018, as to mark the first anniversary of new indirect tax regime i.e. Goods and Services Tax (GST). GST was rolled out in intervening night of 30 June and July 1 2017 in a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament.



**Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by the Parliament**

The Parliament passed The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which became the first legislation to be passed by the newly constituted 17th Lok Sabha. It will replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, which was promulgated in March 2019 and amends Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act 2005.

**Key Points:**

- i. The new bill amends the definition of “person” under Section 2(v) of the SEZ Act 2005 to include ‘trusts’. SEZs Act, 2005, did not permit ‘trusts’ to set up units in SEZs.
- ii. According to the law, an individual, a Hindu divided family, a company, co-operative society or a firm fall in the definition of a “person”.
- iii. As on March 31, 2019, the investment in SEZs was over Rs 5 lakh crore and the employment was over 20 lakh in SEZs. Exports from SEZs was more than Rs 7 lakh crore.

**About SEZs:**

SEZs are specially demarcated areas in the country that have different regulations to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Such areas are considered outside the customs territory. They are entitled to various tax incentives to boost manufacturing, promote exports as well as generate employment.

**‘One Nation One Ration Card’ scheme will be available across India from July 1,2020**

The central government’s ambitious project of ‘One Nation One Ration Card’, under which beneficiaries can buy subsidized foodgrains from any ration shop in the country will begin on 1 July 2020.

**Max Verstappen won 2019 Austrian Grand Prix**

Red Bull’s Max Verstappen (Belgium) beat Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc and won the 2019 Austrian Grand Prix.

**G20 Summit 2019, Osaka, Japan**

The G20 (Group of 20) Summit 2019 was held at the International Exhibition Center, Osaka, Japan on June 28-29, 2019. It was the 14th meeting of the G20. The 2018 G20 Summit was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina and the 2020 G20 Summit will be held in the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**PM Modi in Japan**

On June 27, 2019, PM Narendra Modi arrived at Kansai International Airport in Osaka to attend the G20 Summit 2019. It was his sixth G20 Summit.

**Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meet in Japan**

Prime Minister's sherpa for the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meeting at Osaka in Japan to prepare for Prime Minister's Summit with G-20 leaders.



July 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Kaziranga National Park: Special Rhino Protection Force deployed**

An 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force which is trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was recently deployed in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).

### **New Zealand bans Single-Use Plastic shopping bags**

New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags with effect from 1 July 2019. It has also introduced hefty fines for businesses that continue to provide them. As per United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) more than 80 countries have already introduced similar bans.

### **High Powered Committee for 'Transformation of Agriculture' constituted**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted a High-powered Committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'.

HPC was set up subsequent to the deliberations of Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog and in keeping with promise of Centre government for Agriculture reforms, rural development, water conservation and its proper.

**Objective:** It will suggest policy measures, attract investments and raise growth in food processing.

**Composition:** The 9 member committee is headed by Devendra Fadnavis Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

### **Garuda-VI: Indo-French Joint Air Exercise begins**

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

The last edition of joint exercise between IAF-FAF was held in June 2014 at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan. This year is the 6th edition of exercise which is taking place from 1 July to 12 July 2019.

### **Nagaland declared 'Disturbed Area' under AFSPA for 6 more months**

Centre has declared entire State of Nagaland a 'disturbed area' for a period of 6 more months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) with effect from 30 June 2019. The central government opinion was notified by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



**Background:** AFSPA has been in force in Nagaland for several decades. On August 3, 2015 a framework agreement was signed by Naga insurgent group NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and central government in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi AFSPA but still even after it AFSPA was not withdrawn. This framework agreement came after over 80 rounds of negotiations in past 18 years.

**Current Scenario:** Central government declared whole of Nagaland to be a 'disturbed area' for a period of six months in exercise of its powers conferred by Section 3 of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (No. 28 of 1958).

Government justified that area comprising entire State of Nagaland is in such a disturbed and dangerous condition that use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.

### **Jal Shakti Abhiyan for Water Conservation launched**

Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan- a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.

#### **About Jal Shakti Abhiyan**

It is a collaborative effort of various Union Ministries and State Governments, being coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).

### **Japan resumes commercial whaling**

Japan has resumed commercial whaling after a period of 31 years, but will stay within country's exclusive economic waters. Since 1988 Japan had switched to so-called research whaling. Though this move is slammed by anti-whaling activists but is welcomed by Japanese whaling communities.

#### **Key Highlights**

On 1 July 2019 Whaling boats embarked their first commercial hunts since 1988. This comes after Japan's 6 month notice to withdraw from International Whaling Commission (IWC) took effect on 30 June 2019.

Japanese boats will not be allowed to venture more than 200 miles (321km) off Japan's Pacific coast.

### **Tamil yeoman: now Tamil Nadu's State Butterfly**



Butterfly species Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. The southern State formally notified this by an order on lines of the State Tree (Palm), Bird (Emerald Dove), Flower (Gloriosa) and Animal (Nilgiri Tahr).

### **NASA's PUNCH mission has selected Indian Scientist Dipankar Banerjee as its co-investigator**

Dipankar Banerjee, a solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics has been selected by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) for its PUNCH mission. Prof. Banerjee is also the co-Chair of India's Science Working Group, as India is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1, a mission to study the Sun's corona.

#### **About PUNCH:**

- i. PUNCH is an acronym for "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere", which will image the Sun.
- ii. The objective of the mission is to understand the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.
- iii. Corona is the atmosphere of the Sun connecting with the interplanetary medium.
- iv. The mission is expected to be launched in 2022.

### **Dr. Krishna Saksena's book 'Whispers of Time' launched by Smriti Irani in New Delhi**

On July 1, 2019, Minister of Textiles and Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani launched new book 'Whispers of Time' written by Dr. Krishna Saksena (91) at India International Centre in New Delhi.



July 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **India pledges \$5 Million aid to UN Palestine Refugee Agency in 2019**

India has pledged to contribute \$5 Million in 2019 to United Nation Palestine refugee agency. This move comes amid India voiced its concern over agency's financial situation and called for ensuring sustained financial support for its work.

### **India and UNRWA**

During UN General Assembly (UNGA) Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Voluntary Contributions to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in June 2019, India notified that it has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to UNRWA core budget from \$1.25 Million in 2016 to \$5 million in 2018 in solidarity with Palestine refugees.

### **US Senate passes law to give India NATO ally-like status**

The United States Senate (Upper Chamber of US Congress) has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) allies and countries like South Korea, Australia, Japan and Israel for increasing defence cooperation.

This development to bring India at last with NATO ally comes amid a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump during G20 in Osaka, Japan and visit by US Secretary of State (SoS) Mike Pompeo to New Delhi.

### **IAEA confirms Iran breached enriched Uranium Stockpile limit**

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations' atomic watchdog has confirmed that Iran has exceeded limit on amount of enriched uranium in its stockpile set out in 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

This marks the 1st major departure by Iran from unraveling agreement a year after U.S. unilaterally withdrew from Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) accord.

### **Key Highlights**

The initial announcement about Iran had broken limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 2015 nuclear deal were made by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.



Limit Breached: Later IAEA inspectors verified and confirmed that the country has exceeded 300-kilogramme limit on its enriched uranium reserves.

Threat: Iran has threatened that country is planning to increase its enrichment of uranium closer to weapons-grade levels by July 7 and to suspend its other commitments under JCPOA deal in 10 days unless European powers took steps to implement their new mechanism called INSTEX for facilitating trade.

Iran also announced that it is planning to suspend other commitments also.

### **What is INSTEX?**

INSTEX stands for Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges.

It is a special-purpose vehicle established in January 2019 by E3 i.e. France, Germany and United Kingdom to facilitate non-dollar trade with Iran amid US unilateral withdrawal from JCPOA.

### **Union Cabinet gives nod to grant OGAS status to paramilitary forces**

On July 3, 2019, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal for grant of Organised Group "A" Service (OGAS) status to Group "A" executive cadre officers of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) & extended the benefit of Non-Functional Financial Upgradation (NFFU) and Non-Functional Selection Grade (NFSG) at an enhanced rate of 30%.

### **Key points:**

i. Beneficiaries: It will benefit around 1,200 officers and availed by the group "A" officers of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

### **As per ILO, India could lose 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming**

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its report 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work', stated that India is projected to lose 5.8% of working hours in 2030 equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs due to global warming. It will mainly impact the agriculture and construction sectors.

### **Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 Awards**





The annual general meeting of Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) 2019 was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It honors the sports-persons for their contribution to sport and for record-breaking reign in the National and international scene.

Here's a look at the full list of awards and winners:

Awards	Winners
<b>SJFI Medal (SJFI's Highest Honour)</b>	Prakash Padukone (Badminton)
<b>Sportsperson of the Year 2019</b>	Pankaj Advani (Billiards and Snooker) and Bajrang Punia (Wrestling).
Emerging Talent of the Year 2019	Saurabh Choudhary (shooting)
Team of the Year 2019	Vidarbha cricket team

### **Vaibhav Yadav, Indian pro boxer won World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight title 2019**

Vaibhav Yadav, Indian pro boxer won the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight championship 2019 that held in Pattaya, Thailand.

### **Ambati Rayudu, announced retirement from all forms of cricket**

Indian Cricket team's, middle-order batsman Ambati Rayudu (33) announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He hails from Andhra Pradesh.

### **Carlin Dunne, motorcycle racer passed away at Colorado race**

Carlin Dunne, motorcycle racer aged 36 passed away during the 97th Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. He hailed from Santa Barbara, California, USA. He was the fastest racer of the Hill Climb.

### **Uttarakhand launches One-time settlement scheme for recovering NPAs of cooperative banks**



On July 1, 2019, The State Government of Uttarakhand implemented a one-time settlement' scheme for debt trapped state cooperative banks which had the NPA (Non Performing Assets) of Rs 391.50 crore which have piled up over the last 25 years.



July 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Germany's Ursula von der Leyen appointed new President of EU Commission**

Germany's Ursula von der Leyen was appointed by European Union (EU) leaders as bloc's next Chief Executive i.e. European Commission president. She will be replacing Jean-Claude Juncker.

#### **About Ursula von der Leyen**

The 60 year old, is the only minister who has been in Merkel's government since German leader took office in 2005.

#### **About European Commission**

It is an institution of European Union (EU) that was founded on 1 January 1958.

**Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium

### **Illegal Coal Mining in Meghalaya: SC directs State Govt to deposit fine**

Supreme Court of India has directed Meghalaya state government to deposit Rs.100 crore fine imposed on it by National Green Tribunal (NGT) for failing to curb illegal coal mining with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

#### **Key Highlights of Judgement**

A SC bench of Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice K M Joseph has directed state administration to hand over illegally extracted coal to Coal India Limited (CIL) which will auction it and deposit the funds with state government.

#### **Background**

On 13 December 2018, total of 15 miners were trapped in an illegal coal mine in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya, about 3.7 km deep inside a forest, when water from nearby Lytein river gushed into it. So far only two bodies have been recovered from mine.

### **Delhi Police signs pact to implement Rooftop Solar Energy Systems**

Delhi Police signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to set up Rooftop Solar Energy Systems in more than 200 of its buildings across the city.



**RBI forms Working group under Tapan Ray to review the regulatory guidelines on core investment companies**

On July 3, 2019, The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has constituted a six-member working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CIC).

**Karnataka Bank launches web tool for NPA recovery process named 'Vasool So-Ft'**

Karnataka Bank Ltd's Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mahabaleshwara MS launched the web tool named 'Vasool So-Ft' (Vasool So-Fast) for digitising the Non-Performing Asset (NPA) recovery process of the bank in Mangalore, Karnataka.

**Economist David Lipton appointed as IMF interim leader**

On July 3,2019 International Monetary Fund's (IMF) appointed American economist David Lipton as its interim leader. He replaces Christine Lagarde who was nominated to head the European Central Bank.

**Poznań Athletics Grand Prix 2019 held in Gołecin Stadium,Poznań, Poland**

Indian sprint runner Hima Das, nicknamed 'Dhing Express' won gold medal in women's 200m with a timing of 23.65 seconds in Poznań Athletics Grand Prix 2019 held in Gołecin Stadium,Poznań, Poland.

**Santosh Rana, one of the foremost leaders of the Communist Party of India passed away**

Santosh Rana, one of the foremost leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) passed away in Kolkata at the age of 76.He was born in Gopiballavpur, West Bengal, India.

**Glorious Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019 begins in Puri, Odisha**

On July 4, 2019, The world famous Jagannath Rath Yatra 2019(also known as Chariot Festival) began at Puri in Odisha. The religious procession commemorates a journey by Hindu god Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, in specially-made chariots as they travel to Gundicha temple.



July 5<sup>th</sup>

### **State of the Education Report for India 2019 launched**

The State of the Education Report for India 2019: Children with Disabilities, was recently launched at an event organized by UNESCO in New Delhi. The event was attended by more than 200 representatives from government, civil society, academia, partners and youth.

To be published annually, the 2019 edition of report is 1st of its kind published by UNESCO New Delhi. It highlights accomplishments and challenges with regards to Right to Education (RTE) of children with disabilities (CWDs).

### **Working on a Warmer Planet: ILO Report**

According to a recent report by International Labour Organization (ILO) titled- Working on a Warmer Planet – The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work, India will be the most affected country due to global warming. The major impact would be on agriculture and construction sectors of the country.

#### **Key Highlights of Report**

India will be the most affected country primarily because of its large population. Also, the costs may be higher without mitigating climate change.

### **1st-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair to be held in India**

The First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It scheduled from 11th till 13th October 2019. It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to global trade arena.

### **SCR commissions Longest Electrified Railway Tunnel in India**

South Central Railway (SCR), one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel in Indian Railways.

### **IMF Chief Christine Lagarde to now head European Central Bank**

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde has been confirmed as new head of European Central bank (ECB). Her appointment would make her 1st woman to lead powerful institution of ECB.



**Key Highlights**

Following Lagarde's nomination as President of ECB she announced to temporarily relinquish her responsibilities as head of IMF. She will now step down 2 years before end of her second five-year term as IMF Chief.

She would be succeeding Mario Draghi, whose term ends on 31 October 2019.

**About Christine Lagarde**

The 63 years old French, was the 1st woman to head International Monetary Fund (IMF) when she took the job in 2011.

**India's longest electrified railway tunnel commissioned**

South Central Railways (SCR) of Indian Railways commissioned the longest electrified tunnel in India. It is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh which are a part of 113 km railway line between Obulavaripalli – Venkatachalam – Krishnapatnam Port. It is constructed in the shape of a Horse Shoe.

**'Fashionova', India's first Design Development Centre launched in Surat, Gujarat**

On July 4, 2019 'Fashionova', India's first Design Development Center was launched in the Textile city Surat, Gujarat to promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector. Anupam Goyal was the founder of Fashionova Design Development.

**India ranks 86th in Most Powerful Passport index 2019, Japan and Singapore holding the top spot**

As per the recently released Henley Passport Index 2019, which ranks 199 countries in the world based on their Visa-Free Scores showed that Indian passport ranked at 86th position with a mobility score of 58. Japan and Singapore secured the joint top spot as the most powerful passports in the world with a score of 189.

**US lists Balochistan Liberation Army and Husain Ali Hazzima as SDGTs**

On July 2, 2019, The United States listed the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Hezbollah operative Husain Ali Hazzima as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs).



**Reliance Jio partners with Facebook to launch literacy drive “Digital Udaan” for first-time internet users in India**

Indian mobile network operator, Reliance Jio has partnered with Facebook to launch a digital literacy initiative named “Digital Udaan” to empower first-time internet users with digital literacy and understanding of the Internet in real time.

**Tata Steel Kalinganagar included in WEF’s Global Lighthouse Network**

On July 3, 2019 Tata Steel Kalinganagar becomes the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant has been included in prestigious Lighthouse Network of the World Economic Forum, a community of manufacturers that are frontrunners in applying 4th Industrial Revolution technologies to draw a competitive advantage from either innovating their production system or by innovating their entire value chains and offering new products and services.

**ISRO signed a contract with Russian company Glavkosmos to train Indian astronauts for ‘Gaganyaan’**

On June 27, 2019, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a contract with a Russian company, Glavkosmos, a subsidiary of the state corporation Roscosmos, for selection support, medical examination and space training of Indian astronauts ‘Gaganyaan’ mission.



July 6<sup>th</sup>

**Hong Kong Govt donates over \$9 million to cyclone” Fani”-hit Odisha**

On July 6, 2019, The Government of Hong Kong approved to grant about \$9,02,278 (7.032 million Hong Kong dollars) from Hong Kong’s Disaster Relief Fund for cyclone Fani victims in Odisha.

**RBI gets the power to regulate housing finance companies instead of NHB**

On July 5, 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India’s central bank, Reserve Bank of India(RBI)will now given power to takes over as the regulator of Housing Finance Firms(HFFs) instead of NHB(National Housing Bank).

**The sanitation coverage in rural areas jumped to 99% from 38% : Jal Shakti ministry**

On July 4, 2019, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Rattan Lal Kataria stated that under the Government’s ambitious scheme, “Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)” 9 crores 62 lakh individual household toilets have been constructed since 2014.

**India to get the first e-Vehicle Charging Highway by March 2020**

The highways of Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra are India’s first highway corridors will get charging stations for electric vehicles by March 2020.





July 7<sup>th</sup>

**Iraq's Babylon listed as UNESCO's World Heritage Site**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee has voted to list sprawling Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon as a World Heritage Site (WHS) after 30 years of lobbying efforts by Iraq.

**Pink City Jaipur declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO**

At the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which is underway from June 30 to July 10, 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added the 'Pink City' Jaipur/Walled City of Jaipur of Rajasthan, known for its iconic architectural legacy, into the list of the World Heritage Sites.

**10-year old Karate Girl, Arinjeeta Dey wins silver medal for India in World Youth Cup 2019**

A 10-year old Karate girl, Arinjeeta Dey (Barasat, West Bengal) has won a silver medal in the under 12 age category in the World Youth Cup 2019 which was held in Umag, Croatia (from July 1 to July 5, 2019).



July 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Copa America: Brazil beat Peru with 3-1**

Brazil have defeated Peru with 3-1 to win this year's Copa America football trophy. This is Brazil's 9th Copa America title after a gap of 12 years since 2007.

### **Australia's Budj Bim Cultural Landscape included in UNESCO's WHS**

Australian Aboriginal site 'Budj Bim Cultural Landscape' in south-west Victoria has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. It was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List at a meeting in Baku, in Azerbaijan following a decades-long campaign by traditional owners.

### **Grand Prix of Spain Women's Wrestling: Vinesh, Divya win gold**

At the Grand Prix of Spain Women's Wrestling India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her 1st gold medal after shifting to 53kg category and Divya Kakran claimed top honours in 68kg category in Madrid, Spain. India finished 2nd with 130 points in team championship behind Russia with 165 points.

### **FIFA Women's World Cup: U.S.A beats Netherlands**

The United States of America (USA) won FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 title after beating Netherlands in final at **Lyon, France**. US won with 2-0 goals scored by from Megan Rapinoe penalty and Rose Lavelle.

### **1st model village built with Indian assistance inaugurated in Sri Lanka**

The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka. It is a part of housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers.

### **Vice President releases book titled Vivekadeepini**

Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releases a book titled 'Vivekadeepini', a concise book of aphorisms (a memorable expression of a general truth or principle) initially written by Adi Shankaracharya, one of India's greatest spiritual and literary geniuses.

### **Operation Sudarshan: launched by BSF to fortify border with Pakistan**

Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu. The operation was launched on 1 July and is expected to be finished within a fortnight.



**World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh**

On July 4, 2019, The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute started its functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Damanganga-Pinjal project to meet water needs of Mumbai till 2060**

On June 28, 2019, The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis announced that Damanganga-Pinjal project will meet the water needs of Mumbai till 2060. It will solve the crisis of drought facing a large section of the state and also enhance water resources for fast-growing urban areas.



July 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Operation Milap: 333 missing children rescued in 7 months**

Under Operation Milap of Delhi Police, Delhi Police Crime Branch has rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families in different parts of country. These children were missing since January 2019 from various parts of country and were found in Delhi.

### **Mexico beats US to lift 8th CONCACAF Gold Cup**

Mexico's men's soccer team won 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup by defeating United States men with 1-0 in the final. This is Mexico's record 8th Gold Cup title.

### **Gully Boy' wins NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at BIFAN**

Indian movie 'Gully Boy' was honoured with NETPAC (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award for Best Asian Film at 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.

### **Italy's Prosecco hills enters UNESCO World Heritage list**

Italy's hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, which is home to world-famous sparkling wine Prosecco, were added by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to World Heritage list.

### **Utkarsh 2022: finalized by RBI board**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has finalised Three Year Roadmap to improve supervision and regulation, among other functions of central bank. This medium term strategy is named as Utkarsh 2022.

Worldwide, all central banks strengthen regulatory and supervisory mechanism and everybody is formulating a medium-term plan and a long-term plan. So, RBI also decided to formulate a programme to outline what is to be achieved in the next three years.

### **Parliament adopts resolution levying 200% duty on all Pakistani goods**

The Parliament of India has adopted a statutory resolution for levying 200% duty on all goods exported from or originating in Pakistan.



**Parliament passed Aadhaar Amendment Bill which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity**

On July 8, 2019, Parliament passed Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for users to open bank accounts and get a mobile phone connection.

**Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be first train operated by private players**

Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express, one of the most-awaited trains on the route announced in 2016, is set to be the first train to be operated by private players. At present, it is parked at the Anandnagar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh. It will be handed over to private players after an open bidding process for operationalization.

**Kyriakos Mitsotakis sworn in as the new prime minister of Greece**

On July 8, 2019, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, aged 51, of New Democratic Party was sworn-in as the new Prime Minister of Greece.

**Rahul Dravid, former Indian cricketer, appointed as Head of Cricket at NCA by BCCI**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed the former Indian captain Rahul Dravid as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will look after all cricket related activities at NCA. He will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and support staff at the NCA.

**LinkedIn chooses Ashutosh Gupta as country manager for India**

American business and employment-oriented service, LinkedIn appointed Ashutosh Gupta as its new country manager for India effective September 2, 2019. He will replace Mahesh Narayanan, who was the country manager for India from January to June 2019.

**"War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960" authored by Devika Sethi released**

The book titled "War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960" authored by Devika Sethi who teaches modern Indian history at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Mandi was released.



July 10<sup>th</sup>

### **France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020**

The French government is set to impose tax of up to €18 on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France. It is aimed to fund less-polluting transportation projects.

### **India hands over 250 pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar's Rakhine State**

India handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses for use of displaced Muslim minorities, who are currently residing in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The houses delivered to Myanmar for displaced Rohingya returnees in Rakhine State are under India's 'Rakhine State Development Programme' (RSDP) for \$25 Million for a period of 5 years.

### **Northeast Frontier Railway's Plan Bee wins Best Innovation Award**

A unique strategy adopted by Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) called 'Plan Bee' to keep wild elephants away from train tracks has won the 'Best Innovation Award' in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal.

### **India's first cow sanctuary Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya in MP to be privatised**

India's first cow sanctuary Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya in Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh (MP), set up in September 2017, will be privatised due to financial crises. Non Government Organisation (NGO) Akshaypatra has showed interest to look into the issues of poor management & regular deaths of cow in the sanctuary and manage it at no profit no loss basis.

### **India's first elephant rehabilitation centre will be set up at Kerala's Kottoor**

India's first elephant rehabilitation centre will be set up by the Kerala State Government in its ecotourism village of Kottoor. Rs.105 crore has been allotted to this project which was launched by Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan.

### **New Delhi's Connaught Place is the 9th most expensive office location in the world**

According to the report titled, "Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey" (annual report) by CBRE, an American real estate consulting firm, New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) was the 9th most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly \$144 per sq ft. 6 of the world's 10 most expensive office markets were from Asia.

First Rank: For the second year, Hong Kong's Central district retained the top spot as the world's most expensive market for prime office rents. The prime occupancy costs was valued at \$322 per sq.ft. per annum.



**Overall Homicide Rate declined by 10% in India: UN Report**

On July 8, 2019, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released a report titled Global Study on Homicide 2019. It stated that the overall Homicide Rate declined by 10% in India over the period 2009- 2015, from 3.8 to 3.4 per 100,000 population and it was increased 'Noticeably' in some Northern States.

**Aditya Birla World Academy became the only Indian School to feature in 'The Commonwealth At 70: From Westminster to the World' Book**

In 'The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World' book published by the popular London publishers St James House and the History of Parliament Trust, Aditya Birla World Academy, India's leading International school situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra, became the only Indian school to be featured in it.

**Lucrezia Terzi, a researcher provides a new way of predicting monsoon to help farmers**

A researcher at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCKCEN), Lucrezia Terzi provides a new way of predicting the monsoon two months in advance, by measuring how much Beryllium-7 (Be-7, an isotope of Beryllium) is present in the air.

July 11<sup>th</sup>

**11 July: World Population Day observed**

World Population Day is observed every year across the world on 11 July. Its observance is aimed to shift focus towards urgency and significance of issues related to population.

**Dutee Chand wins 100m gold in World Universiade in Italy**

Dutee Chand, the Indian sprinter won gold medal in women's 100m in World Universiade, 30th Summer University Games held in Naples, Italy. With this win she became 1st Indian woman to do so.

**Key Highlights**

The 23-year-old Indian athlete clocked 11.32 seconds to win gold as she led the race from start to finish.

She became 1st Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in World Universiade after winning this 100m dash event held in Napoli, Italy.



**Government approved Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana along Indo-Nepal Border areas with financial outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore**

On July 8, 2019, The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin J Gadkari in a written reply in Rajya Sabha mentioned that the Phase-I of **Bharatmala Pariyojana** received the approval with the financial outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore to develop 24,800 km Highways along with 10,000 km residual National Highways Development Project (NHDP) stretches over a period of 5 years.

**Rare footage of 1948 film Vande Mataram is now part of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) collection**

Pune based National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has acquired a rare footage of the 1948 Marathi film 'Vande Mataram', in which legendary writer and playwright P.L. Deshpande played the major role along with his wife Sunita Deshpande.

**Sri Lanka declared 'measles-free' nation by WHO**

On July 9, 2019, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that measles disease has been eradicated in Sri Lanka. The last case of measles caused by an indigenous virus was reported in May 2016.

**Key Points:**

- i. With this, it became the 4th country after Bhutan, Maldives, and Timor-Leste to eliminate measles and control rubella in the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- ii. In 2018, Sri Lanka along with Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Timor-Leste had achieved rubella control.

**Total deposits in Jan Dhan accounts crosses Rs.1 lakh crore**

According to the Finance ministry, total deposits in over 36.06 crore bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was at **Rs 1,00,495.94** crore.

**Samsung join hands with Paisabazaar.com to offer financial products**

South Korean multinational conglomerate, Samsung partners with Paisabazaar.com, India's largest online marketplace to offer financial products.

**Mandla Maseko, first black African in space passed away in a motorbike crash**



On July 6, 2019, Mandla Maseko, aged 30, the first black African in space passed away in a motorbike crash in Pretoria. He was a part-time DJ and candidate officer with the South African Air Force and was nicknamed “Afronaut” and “Spaceboy”.

**Former Goa Minister and leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) passed away**

Former Goa Minister and senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Dr. Wilfred Mesquita passed away after a brief illness. He was 70.



July 12<sup>th</sup>

### **US House passes Bill to remove 7% cap on issuing Green Card**

United States' House of Representatives has passed a Bill titled Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019, or HR 1044, by an overwhelming 365-65 votes in a 435-member House to remove 7% country-cap on green card applicants. The development could end agonising wait of tens of thousands of skilled professionals from countries like India who have sought permanent residency in USA.

#### **Features of the Bill**

The HR 1044 Bill, when signed into law would increase the per-country cap on Family-Based Immigrant Visas from 7% of total number of such visas available that year to 15%, and will also eliminate 75 cap for Employment-Based Immigrant Visas.

### **Gafa Tax: France to levy 3% tax on Internet giants**

The French parliament approved a law dubbed as Gafa Tax (an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon), the legislation will impose a 3% levy on sales generated in the country by non-tax paying online giants.

#### **Key Highlights**

Levying this 3% tax on total annual revenues of largest technology firms providing services to French consumers would make France 1st major economy to impose a tax on internet heavyweights.

### **Japan's Hayabusa2 Probe makes 2nd touchdown on asteroid Ryugu**

Japan's Hayabusa2 probe has made a perfect touchdown on a distant asteroid named Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres from Earth. It collected samples from beneath surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on origins of solar system.

### **WCD implements a Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances called "Swadhar Greh"**

The Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD), Government of India implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for the rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity.

### **RPF launches "Operation Thirst" to curb unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water**



The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched an all India drive 'Operation Thirst' (on 8-9 July 2019) in New Delhi to crackdown the selling of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW) in the premises of railway stations.

### **Tamil Nadu to be the first state to manufacture electric cars**

M C Sampath, minister for industries stated that South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer Hyundai plans to launch its electric car for India and the global market from Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.

### **India successfully lifted 271 million out of poverty in ten years: UN Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019**

According to the "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019" by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) between 2006 and 2016, India registered a fastest reduction of poverty rate from 55.1% to 27.9% and lifted 271 million (from 640 million to around 369 million) out of poverty.

### **Ukraine inaugurates gigantic dome worth \$1.7 billion over destroyed Chernobyl reactor**

On July 10, 2019, Ukraine and its European partners have inaugurated the world's largest new metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Chernobyl plant was the site of the world's worst nuclear civilian accident on April 26, 1986, when Reactor 4 exploded, killing at least 30 people. 350,000 people were evacuated from within a 30-kilometer radius around the plant.

### **Isha Kanth, Delhi girl, bags ICJ internship programme**

Delhi girl Isha Kanth, aged 20, is selected for the internship programme with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based in the Hague, Netherlands. She completed her higher secondary in humanities from Sanskriti School, Delhi and is pursuing her graduation in law at Queen Mary University, London, United Kingdom.

### **Indian Scientists from TIFR develop 'Black Gold'**

Indian Scientists from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai have developed a new material called 'black gold'. They rearranged size and gaps of gold nanoparticles to develop the new material, It can absorb light and carbon dioxide. It can be used for applications that range from harvesting solar energy to desalinating seawater.





July 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Nagarkirtan: wins Best Feature Film award at SAARC film festival**

Director Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali outing Nagarkirtan, has won big at prestigious 2019's SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) film festival, bagging 4 awards in total, including Best Feature Film.

### **Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems bags \$100 million missile kit order**

Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems Ltd (KRAS) has secured \$100-million order from Israel's Rafael for manufacturing 1,000 Barak-8 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) Missile kits for Indian Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

### **SBI Managing Director Anshula Kant appointed World Bank's MD and CFO**

Anshula Kant, Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of World Bank. She will be the 1st woman CFO of World Bank. Her appointment was announced by David Malpass, World Bank's President.

Since September 2018 she has been a Managing Director and member of the World Bank Board.

### **Sex ratio at birth shows improvement at the national level: WCD**

Ministry Of Women And Child Development(WCD) stated that at National level, Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has increased to 931 from 923 for the time period between FY(financial year) 2015-16 and 2018-19.

### **India to host COP-14 of UNCCD from September 2- 13, 2019**

On July 9, 2019, The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar in the presence of Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of UNCCD and the UN Under-Secretary-General informed that India will host the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2- 13, 2019 at India Expo Mart Limited in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh with the focus on 3 crucial issues- desertification, land degradation and drought.

### **First Global Conference for Media Freedom held in London**

The First Global Conference for Media Freedom 2019, hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) and Canada, was held on July 10-11, 2019 in London, UK. It was co-hosted by Chrystia Freeland, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Jeremy Hunt, the UK Foreign Secretary. The conference was structured around 4 themes: protection and prosecution, including impunity, national



frameworks and legislation, building trust in media and countering disinformation and media sustainability.

**TVS Motor launches India's first Ethanol based motorcycle 'TVS Apache RTR 200 Fi E100'**

Multinational motorcycle company headquartered at Chennai, TVS Motor company launched India's first ethanol-based motorcycle TVS Apache RTR 200 Fi E100 to help reduce crude imports and reduce air pollution.



July 14<sup>th</sup>

**Meghalaya is the first state in India to ensure water conservation**

On July 12, 2019, Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure water conservation with its State Water Policy. The draft water policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

**AIIB provides \$100 million to L&T Finance arm for wind and solar infrastructure projects**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide \$100-million loan to L&T(Larsen & Toubro) Infrastructure Finance Company(LTIF) for wind and solar infrastructure projects. This is the first time AIIB is extending loan to a non-banking finance company(NBFC).

**Russia Successfully Launched Spektr-RG, a powerful X-Ray Observatory, into Space**

On July 13, 2019 The Russian space agency has successfully launched Proton-M rocket carrying the Spektr-RG(Spectrum Roentgen Gamma) space telescope from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.



July 15<sup>th</sup>**Defence Minister lights Victory Flame to Mark 20 Years of Kargil War**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lighted Victory Flame at National War Memorial in New Delhi on 14 July 2019 to begin celebrations of 20th Anniversary of victory in Operation Vijay (Kargil War 1999) at Kargil (in Kargil district of Ladakh region), in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Key Highlights**

The year 2019 marks 20th anniversary of successful culmination of Operation Vijay wherein brave soldiers of Indian Army overcame seemingly insurmountable odds, hostile terrain, weather, and determined enemy (Pakistan) occupying dominating heights, to win Kargil war.

Theme of 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas- Remember, Rejoice and Renew which stands for- The country all together 'remember' our martyrs by revisiting their sacrifices, 'rejoice' by celebrating victory in Kargil and 'renew' our resolve to safeguard honour of Tricolour.

**IFFI's Golden Jubilee Edition to be held in Goa**

The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from 20-28 November 2019 in Panaji, Goa. The announcement regarding IFFI 2019 was made by Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting following the steering committee meeting of IFFI 2019 in Panaji.

**Simona Halep beats Serena for Maiden Wimbledon Title**

Simona Halep of Romania beats Serena Williams of United States with 6-2, 6-2 in final to win Women's Singles Wimbledon Title 2019. She dispatched 7-time Wimbledon Champion Serena Williams in just 56 minutes to clinch her 1st Wimbledon and 2nd Major title.

**Baba Guru Nanak International University: Foundation stone laid in Pakistan**

Foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak University (BGNU) was laid at Nankana Sahib, in Pakistan's Punjab province. University's foundation stone was laid by Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. This comes ahead of beginning of International Nagar Kirtan by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee on July 25.

**The city of Fuzhou (China) will host the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020**

On July 9, 2019, In the event of 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan( June 30 to July 10, 2019), the UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific





and Cultural Organization) announced that the Chinese city of Fuzhou will host the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.

### **India's ambitious moon mission, Chandrayaan-2 called off due to technical glitch**

India's ambitious moon mission, Chandrayaan-2 has been called off due to a technical snag in just 56 minutes and 24 seconds before its scheduled launch. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed that the launch had been cancelled after a technical snag was detected in one of the launch systems of the GSLVMkIII-M1 (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III).

### **Hima Das bagged her 3rd international gold within two weeks at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic**

Star Indian sprinter Hima Das(24) from Assam clinched her 3rd international gold within two weeks in women's 200m race with a time of 23.43 seconds and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (Kerala) also won gold in the men's 400m with the time of 45.21 seconds at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic.

### **Fernando Corbato, the inventor of computer password passed away at 93**

Prominent American computer scientist, credited with inventing the computer password, Fernando J. Corbato passed away at Newburyport in Massachusetts, U.S as a result of complications caused by diabetes. He was 93.

### **Wimbledon 2019 results: Novak Djokovic tops Roger Federer in thrilling five-set final to defend his title**

For the fifth time, Novak Djokovic is the Wimbledon champion after winning a breathtaking five-set final over Roger Federer, 7-6 (7-6), 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 13-12 (7-3) in a match that featured the first fifth-set tiebreak in Wimbledon singles history. It was a back-and-forth, roller-coaster match that was the longest Wimbledon final ever at 4 hours and 57 minutes.



July 16<sup>th</sup>

**International arbitration court imposes \$5.8 billion penalty Pakistan**

International Arbitration Court has imposed over \$5 billion penalty on Pakistan for unlawful denial of a mining lease to a company called Tethyan Copper Company for Reko Diq project in 2011. This penalty on cash-strapped Pakistan is one of the biggest in its history.

**Kartarpur Sahib: Pakistan agrees to Visa-free, year-long travel for Indians**

Pakistan has agreed in principle to allow year-long visa-free access for Indian pilgrims to holy Gurdwara of Kartarpur Sahib. The agreement was reached at 2nd bilateral formal meeting held at Wagah for finalising the modalities for Kartarpur Sahib corridor, a gateway for pilgrims to visit Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

**Alan Turing: WW-II Code-breaker to appear on U.K.'s new £50 bank note**

Alan Turing, the code-breaker during World War II has been chosen by Bank of England to feature on Britain's new £50 note. The £50 note will be the last of Bank of England collection to switch from paper to polymer and is due to enter circulation by end of 2021. It shows a photo of Alan Turing taken in 1951.

This prestigious announcement comes decades after his tragic death following a conviction for homosexuality.

He is also referred as Father of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for his far ranging and path-breaking contributions in field.

**Justice AK Sikri appointed as the Judge of SICC**

The President of the Republic of Singapore Halimah Yacob appointed Justice AK Sikri, the former judge of the Supreme Court, as an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) with effect from August 1, 2019. His term will expire on January 4, 2021. At present, SICC has 16 international judges.

**Kiran More appointed as USA cricket team's interim coach**

Kiran Shankar More (56), Indian former cricketer & wicket-keeper has been appointed as the interim coach of the USA (United States of America) cricket team.

**India to host ISSF World Cup from March 15 to 26, 2020 in New Delhi**



On July 15, 2019, International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages. ISSF World Cup in rifle/pistol/shotgun events to be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020.

**Boxing legend 'Sweet Pea' Pernell Whitaker passed away in Virginia, US**

On July 14, 2019, Pernell Whitaker, former Olympic boxing gold medallist, and four-weight world champion, passed away after he was hit by a vehicle in Virginia, United States. He was 55 years old. The American professional boxer who competed from 1984 to 2001 was nicknamed as 'Sweet Pea'.



July 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Palau becomes 76th nation to join International Solar Alliance**

Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The agreement was opened for signature during COP22 (22nd Conference of the Parties) at Marrakech, Morocco on 15 November 2016.

Countries which have signed agreement until now include India, United Kingdom (UK), Japan, France, Australia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), amongst others.

### **About International Solar Alliance**

ISA is a group of 121 solar resource-rich nations. It was jointly launched by India and France on November 2015 on side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference held at Paris.

It is headquartered at campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.

### **Newly Appointed Governors of Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh**

President Ram Nath Kovind has confirmed appointment of Rajya Sabha member Anusuiya Uikey as Governor of Chhattisgarh and Senior Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leader Biswa Bhusan Harichandan as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

### **MP gets its 1st international flight with Air India's Indore-Dubai service**

Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh recently made it to international aviation map with national carrier Air India launching its flight service to Dubai from MP Airport

### **Co-founder of Dalit Panther, Raja Dhale passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

On July 16, 2019, An Indian writer, artist & activist, Raja Dhale passed away at the age of 78 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was one of the founding members of the Dalit Panther started in April 1972, alongside Namdeo Dhasal and Arun Krushnaji Kamble.

### **International Justice Day observed on 17th July 2019**

World Day for International Justice is also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day is observed annually on 17th July to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice.



July 18<sup>th</sup>

### **US slaps sanctions against Myanmar's military chief for killing of Rohingya Muslims**

The United States of America has slapped sanctions against Myanmar's Military Chief Min Aung Hlaing and three other top officers for gross human rights violations, including killing of Rohingya Muslims. The announcement in this regard was made by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Following the US sanctions, Myanmar's Army Chief and others namely Deputy Commander-in-Chief Soe Win, Brigadier General Aung Aung and Brigadier General Than Oo along with their immediate family members have been banned from entering US.

### **US not to sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey for buying Russian S-400**

Donald Trump, President of United States of America has announced that US would not sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey, a major NATO ally after Ankara purchased S-400 missile defence system from sanctions-hit Russia.

**CAATSA:** Under current US laws, any country purchasing major defence equipment from Russia (against whom US has put sanctions) could be subjected to American sanctions. US has imposed a series of sanctions on Russian individuals/companies/government agencies over Russia's military intervention in Ukraine.

### **Relevance to India**

On October 2018 India inked an agreement with Russia in to procure a batch of S-400 missile systems at a cost of Rs.40,000 crore. Later in June 2019, S Jaishankar Union Minister of External Affairs conveyed his US counterpart Mike Pompeo that India will go by its national interest on S-400 missile defence deal with sanctions-hit Russia.

This decision by Trump Administration against Turkey could be an indication for India as New Delhi has also signed up with Russia to buy S-400 missile defence system against the advice of US.

### **Cabinet approves setting up of National Medical Commission replacing MCI**

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 which provides for setting up of a National Medical Commission in place of Medical Council of India (MCI) so as to usher comprehensive reforms in the medical education sector. The Bill also seeks to repeal Indian Medical Council Act 1956.

### **Cabinet approves extension of term of 15th Finance Commission**



Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved extension of term of 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC) up to 30 November 2019. This will enable FC to examine various comparable estimates for financial projections in view of reforms as well as new realities to finalise its recommendations for period 2020-2025. The government has also broadened ambit of FC's recommendation to include funds for defence and internal security.

### **About Finance Commission**

FC is constituted by President under Article 280 of Constitution of India. It is constituted to give recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between Union and the States and amongst States themselves.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission:**

It was constituted by Presidential Order on November 2017 under the Chairmanship of N. K. Singh.

It will decide formula for devolution of revenue/funds between Centre and States, for a 5 year period– April 2020 to March 2025.

### **Kulbhushan Jadhav Case: ICJ asks Pakistan to review conviction order**

In a 15-1 decision, International Court of Justice (ICJ) has directed Pakistan to review conviction order of Kulbhushan Jadhav and, until then, put his death sentence on hold. ICJ also asked Islamabad to allow New Delhi consular access at earliest. This is a major diplomatic and legal victory for India in Kulbhushan Jadhav.

**Pak Violated Vienna Convention:** ICJ upheld that Islamabad had violated Article 36 of Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963, by not informing India about Jadhav's arrest immediately after Pakistan Army had taken him into custody.

### **Demand for digitally skilled manpower will increase at 35% CAGR: NASSCOM**

On July 17, 2019, As per the Indian Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing industry, NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies), the demand for digitally skilled talent projected to grow significantly at 35% Compounded Annual Growth Rate(CAGR) till 2023. In 2023, the demand for digitally skilled professionals will rise to 2.3-2.7 million.

### **French Tycoon Bernard Arnault Overtakes Bill Gates To Become 2nd Richest Person In The World: Bloomberg**



According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2019, French businessman & CEO of LVMH (a merger of renowned brands Louis Vuitton and Moët Hennessy), Bernard Arnault (70) has overtaken Bill Gates as the world's 2nd richest person.

### **Author Rachna Bisht Rawat's new book titled "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" released**

On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War a new book titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat released in New Delhi.

### **MD of IMF Christine Lagarde resigns**

Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde, aged 63, has resigned from her post. She will formally step down on September 12, 2019. MD of IMF Christine Lagarde resigns

- Key Points:
- i. She is awaiting the confirmation to take over as the new President of European Central Bank (ECB) where she will succeed Mario Draghi.
  - ii. She was the former French Finance Minister ahead of her appointment to IMF in 2011.
  - iii. She is known as the "rock star" of international finance.

#### **About IMF:**

- ◆ Headquarters: Washington DC, US
- ◆ Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath
- ◆ Membership: 189 countries



July 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Israel inks \$50m deal with India to supply MRSAM to Navy**

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has signed a \$50 million deal with India to supply complementary Naval MRSAM systems to Indian Navy and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. IAI is a state-owned company of Israel.

The deal is a follow-up agreement between IAI and India, as per which former will provide complementary Naval MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-To-Air Missile) systems to Indian Navy.

### **Incredible India Campaign Wins Pata Gold Award 2019**

Union Tourism Ministry's Incredible India 'Find the Incredible You' campaign has won PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019. It won the award in 'Marketing – Primary Government Destination' category. The 2019 edition of award attracted 198 entries from 78 organisations and individuals worldwide.

### **Tamil Nadu Govt announces the creation of two new Districts**

On July 18, 2019, The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu(T.N), Edappadi K. Palaniswami stated that two new districts Tenkasi and Chengalpattu will be created for administrative convenience by bifurcating Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram districts respectively. With this, the total number of districts in the state will go up to 35.

### **WHO declares Congo Ebola outbreak a Health emergency of International Concern**

On July 18, 2019, The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)" in the emergency committee meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland. This is for the 5th time WHO has invoked an emergency provision.

### **SAARC Film Festival 2019 held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

The 9th Edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Film Festival for the year 2019 was held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 2-7, 2019. It was conducted by the SAARC Cultural Centre. It screened 34 films which consisted of 15 feature films, 13 short films and 6 master films from the SAARC Member states of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.





**“Tata” becomes India’s most valuable brand for 2019: Brand Finance India 100 2019 report**

According to the London-based consultancy Brand Finance annual report , “Brand Finance India 100 2019”, “Tata” has become India’s most valuable brand for the second straight year in 2019 with the brand value of \$19.6 billion followed by LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) (2nd )with \$7.3 billion and Infosys (3rd )\$6.5 billion.

**Sachin Tendulkar became the 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame**

Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was inducted into International Cricket Council’s (ICC) Hall of Fame along with South African pace legend Allan Donald and Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick. With this, Tendulkar became the 6th Indian cricketer to be inducted into ICC’s Hall of Fame after Bishen Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Anil Kumble, and Rahul Dravid.

**Hima Das bags her 4th gold at in the Tabor Athletics Meet 2019**

Star Indian sprinter Hima Das (24) from Assam clinched her 4th international gold in women’s 200m race with a time of 23.25 seconds and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (Kerala) also won gold in the men’s 400m with the time of 45.40s at the Tabor Athletics Meet 2019 in the Czech Republic.

**Arjun Bhati of India won Junior World Golf Championship 2019**

Arjun Bhati of India won Future Champions Golf (FCG) Callaway Junior World Golf Championship 2019 by defeating Taiwan’s Jeremy Chen with 199 strokes in Palm Desert, California. He finished at 17-under-par for three rounds and made the best score among 13-18 age category.

**Zimbabwe Cricket suspended by ICC with immediate effect**

On July 19, 2019, Zimbabwe cricket has been suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC) with immediate effect after it breached the ICC Constitution by failing to provide free and democratic elections and ensuring that there is no government interference in its administration.



July 20<sup>th</sup>

### **IFS officer Vivek Kumar appointed Private Secretary to PM Modi**

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Vivek Kumar has been appointed as private secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This new assignment for Vivek Kumar was cleared by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister and order was issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

### **Telangana Government and WEF to launch Drone Delivery Project**

The State Government of Telangana and World Economic Forum's (WEF) Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Network announced the launch of drone-delivery project called 'Medicine from the Sky'. The Telangana government, World Economic Forum and Health Net Global signed an agreement for project to be supervised and managed by leaders in field of medicine, technology and research.

### **Ambikapur of Surguja district, Chhattisgarh gets India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers**

The municipal officials of Chhattisgarh have launched a unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers. The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.

### **India's first space tech park to come up in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

The Kerala government will set up India's first space tech park at Thiruvananthapuram's Knowledge City with the entire investment made by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) which is a major space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It will make the city a manufacturing hub for space-related technology which will have a startup incubator, accelerators including Airbus Bizlab, skill training systems and production units.

### **World Bank decides not to fund for Andhra's ambitious Amaravati capital city project**

On July 19, 2019, After the central government dropped support, The World Bank had withdrawn \$300 million of fund for Amaravati Capital City project in Andhra Pradesh, the ambitious project of former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Key points:



- i. Co-finance: The project was to be co-financed by another multilateral funding agency Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which had committed \$200 million.
- ii. Reason: The move was taken after the Environmental activists, farmers, and civil society organizations opposed this project for building the city on Krishna river floodplains.

### **Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline to start commercial operation from August 2019**

The Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) successfully concluded the 'testing transfer' of Rs 325 crore Motihari in Bihar to Amelkhgunj in Nepal pipeline project and it is set to start commercial operation from August 2019. The 69-km long petroleum pipeline was constructed by India which was first proposed in 1996.

### **Six states including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal get new Governors**

S.No	State Name	New Governors	Predecessors
1	Madhya Pradesh	Lal Ji Tandon	Anandi Ben Patel
2	Uttar Pradesh	Anandi Ben Patel	Ram Naik
3	Bihar	Phagu Chauhan	Lal Ji Tandon
4	West Bengal	Jagdeep Dhankhar	Keshari Nath Tripathi.
5	Tripura	Ramesh Bais	Kaptan Singh Solanki
6	Nagaland	RN Ravi	Padmanabha Acharya

### **Argentine architect & creator of Petronas Twin Towers passed away**

Argentine architect Cesar Pelli, who designed New York's World Financial Center and Kuala Lumpur's (Malaysia) Petronas Twin Towers (a 452m high structure that was the world's tallest building when it was completed in 1998) has passed away at the age of 92.

### **Former 3 time Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit passed away in New Delhi**

On July 20, 2019, Former 3 time chief minister of Delhi from Congress Sheila Dikshit passed away at Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Okhla in New Delhi due to cardiac arrest. She was 81 years old.



July 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Lok Sabha passed Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019**

Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 introduced in Lok Sabha by Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah has been passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill amends Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 that provides for National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC) and Human Rights Courts.

**Composition of NHRC:** Under Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, chairperson of NHRC is a person who has been Chief Justice of Supreme Court but Bill amends this provision to person who has been Chief Justice of Supreme Court, or Judge of Supreme Court will be chairperson of NHRC. This means Supreme Court judge besides CJI can also be appointed Chairperson of NHRC.

### **Number of members of NHRC increased from two to three**

Act provides for 2 persons having knowledge of human rights to be appointed as members of NHRC but Bill amends this provision to allow 3 members to be appointed as members of NHRC. Also, At least one of 3 members of NHRC should be a woman.

### **11th DefExpo India- 2020 to be held in Lucknow**

The 11th edition of DefExpo India- 2020 is scheduled to be held for 1st time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The biennial Expo will be a 4-day event, beginning from 5 to 8 February 2020. It offers an excellent opportunity for Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential.

### **Health Ministry bans Colistin in Animal Food Industry**

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of antibiotic, Colistin as well as its formulations for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. The ban is announced in a bid to preserve drug's efficacy in humans.

### **Bhabha Kavach: India's 1st Lightest, Indigenous Bullet Proof Jacket gets MHA nod**

Indigenously produced lightweight bullet proof jacket Bhabha Kavach was launched at International Police Expo 2019 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The jacket which is a major breakthrough for Paramilitary Forces and Indian armed forces got nod from Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

### **UDAN Scheme: 8 more air routes added**



Civil Aviation Ministry announced addition of 8 more air routes under **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik)**, the regional air connectivity scheme. These air routes have become functional and started operations.

### **E-postal ballot registered 60.14% turnout in 2019 Lok Sabha elections**

Using the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), out of the 18,02,646 service electors, 10,84,266 e-postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout in Lok Sabha elections 2019. Only 4% was registered in 2014.

#### **Key Points:**

- i. Persons working in paramilitary forces, the military and government officials deployed in diplomatic missions outside India are classified as Service Voters.
- ii. Out of the total number of Service Electors in 2019 polls, 10,16,245 were from the Ministry of Defence; 7,82,595 were from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Central Armed Police Forces); 3539 from the Ministry of External Affairs and 267 from the State Police.

#### **About ETPBS:**

It was introduced by the Election Commission of India for Lok Sabha elections 2019 with the motto “no voter to be left behind”.

### **Amit Shah will head ministerial panel on Air India sale**

On July 18, 2019, Union Government reconstituted the Group of Ministers (GoM) called the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) on Air India disinvestment. The group is headed by Home minister Amit Shah and comprises of 3 other ministers namely finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, commerce, and railway minister Piyush Goyal and civil aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

### **Silicon Valley of India, Bengaluru tops “most digitised cities” list: Razorpay report 2019**

According to the 2nd edition of payments solution company Razorpay Software Pvt Ltd’s digital transactions quarterly report, ‘The Era of Rising Fintech’, Bengaluru got the top position in the list of “most digitised cities” in the April-June 2019 quarter accounting for highest card payments.



**National award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar's 'Indu Sarkar' is now a part of National Film Archives**

National Award-winning Indian filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar's political thriller film 'Indu Sarkar' has been included into NFAI(National Film Archives of India).

**Benjamin Netanyahu makes history as becomes longest-serving Israeli PM**

Benjamin Netanyahu(69), who has spent 4,876 days (more than 13 years) in office has become Israel's longest-serving prime minister, surpassing the record of David Ben-Gurion, country's founding father, and first leader.

**Kosovo PM resigns after Hague war court summons**

On July 19, 2019, Ramush Haradinaj, prime minister (PM) of Kosovo, Serbia's southern province has stepped down from his post after he was summoned for questioning as a suspect by the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague, investigating crimes against ethnic Serbs during the country's 1998-99 war.



July 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **India's First Smart School Campus in Pune to be launched by Singapore's GIIS**

The Singapore based Global Indian International School (GIIS) will launch the concept of SMART Campus at Hadapsar and Balewadi campuses in Pune, Maharashtra. It will be India's first Smart campus which is a part of Singapore's Rs 420 crore investments in education in India over the coming years.

### **India will be the first recipient of AIIB local currency funding**

India will be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). The objective of the local currency financing is to provide more options to borrowers. AIIB Key Points:

- i. India is the second largest shareholder of AIIB with a 7.5% stake. It has received about \$2-billion funding for various projects so far.
- ii. China holds 20.06% and Russia holds 5.92%.

### **Standard Chartered to be the first foreign bank to launch operations at GIFT IFSC**

UK- based Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC).

#### **GIFT City**

- i. Gift city was one of the dream projects of Shri. Narendra Modi when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- ii. It has been set up by the Gujarat government in joint partnership with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS).

### **Ursula von der Leyen was elected as the first female President of European Commission**

European Parliament elected Ursula von der Leyen as the President of the next European Commission. She will succeed Jean-Claude Juncker.

### **Amazon launched 'JEE Ready' app**

Amazon, an e-commerce and tech giant, launched an Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) preparation app called JEE Ready. It is Amazon's first product in the edtech sector in India.



### **Hima Das & Muhammad Anas win gold in the 400m race held in Prague, Czech Republic**

On July 20, 2019, Hima Das won her fifth gold of the month after she won the 400m race in Prague, Czech Republic. She completed the race in 52.09 seconds and it was the season's best timing. Her personal best timing is of 50.79 seconds which she had recorded at the Asian Games, 2018. Hima Dasi. In Men's category, Muhammad Anas won the gold medal by completing the 400 m race in 45.40 seconds.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano passed away**

On 22nd July 2019, 5th Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano aged 72 passed away. He was born in Yugawara, Japan. Yukiya Amano. He was serving the International Atomic Energy Agency from 2009 to till date.

### **Author Sunil Mishra's book 'Who Stole My Job' enters second print Run**

India's leading publishing house Srishti publishers and distributors announced the second print of 'Who Stole My Job' by nationally acclaimed author Sunil Mishra.

### **Chandrayaan-2 Launched Successfully From SDSC, Sriharikota, AP**

On July 22, 2019, India's heaviest rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-III, nicknamed 'Bahubali' carried the Chandrayaan-2 mission successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, off the coast of Andhra Pradesh. It is a Rs 978-crore project. The target is to find more evidence of water, clues about the moon's evolution and work the natural satellite as a test bed for more space missions concerning the solar system. It will be the first operational flight of GSLV-Mk-3 which is a 640-tonne rocket. Chandrayaan-2

**Background:** Originally, it was planned to be lifted off on July 15, 2019. But the plan was aborted by the Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) due to a technical glitch.

**Mission:** The Chandrayaan 2 mission is set to explore the south polar region of the Moon, which is also known as Dark Side of the Moon due to the absence of sunlight in and around the craters of the Lunar Polar surface. It will explore the uncharted lunar south pole, 11 years after Isro's successful first lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1, which made more than 3,400 orbits around the moon and was operational for 312 days till August 29, 2009.

**Components:** It carried 3 components namely the Orbiter, The Lander 'Vikram', and the Rover 'Pragyaan'. The Lander has been named after the father of the Indian Space Programme, Dr Vikram A Sarabhai. The life span of Vikram is one lunar day which is equivalent to 14 Earth days. It has the capability to communicate with The Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Byalalu near Bangalore and can also communicate with the Rover and the Orbiter too.





Schedule: Chandrayaan-2 will take 54 days to accomplish the task of landing on the Moon through meticulously planned orbital phases.

Credit: It is world's first mission to Moon's South Pole. If successful, India will become the fourth nation to soft land on the Moon after the United States, Russia and China.

About ISRO:

- ◆ Headquarters: Bengaluru
- ◆ Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- ◆ Director: K Sivan



July 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2019: Keshav Dutt, Prasun Banerjee**

Two-time Olympic gold medal winning Hockey Player Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee are selected for Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2019. Awards will be given away on annual celebration of Mohun Bagan Day (29 July).

This is for the 1st time Mohun Bagan's executive committee has decided to confer their highest honour to a non-footballer i.e. a sportsperson from other discipline.

### **JATAN: special software for Digitization of Archaeological Museum**

The Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel informed Lok Sabha about JATAN: Virtual Museum software. JATAN has been developed by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune, Maharashtra.

#### **JATAN**

JATAN is used for creating digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.

### **Sangita Kalanidhi Award: Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya wins**

Noted Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya won the 2019 Sangita Kalanidhi award of Music Academy. She will preside over 93rd annual conference of Academy to be held between 12 December 2019 and 1 January 2020. She along with other awardees will be conferred with the awards during the Sadas of Madras Music Academy on 1 January 2020.

### **Maharashtra tops in ATM frauds: RBI**

According to the data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), accessed by the Times of India (TOI), Maharashtra registered the highest number of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) frauds in India for the FY 2018-19. It was followed by Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

### **Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India to reserve 75% private jobs for locals**

Andhra Pradesh Assembly under the Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019, which reserves 75% private job to locals across factories, industrial units, joint ventures and private projects taken under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.



**LIC offers Rs 1.25 trillion by 2024 to fund highway projects: Nitin Gadkari**

On July 21, 2019, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways stated that Mumbai headquartered Indian state-owned insurance group, LIC (Life Insurance Corporation) has agreed to offer Rs 1.25 trillion (Rs 1.25 lakh crore) line of credit by 2024, to fund highway projects for timely execution of the Rs 8.41 trillion ambitious Bharatmala project.

**Boris Johnson won the contest to be next British Prime Minister**

British politician & a Leader of the Conservative Party Boris de Pfeffel Johnson (55), who has promised to lead Britain out of the European Union (28-nation bloc) with or without a deal by the end of October 2019 won the contest to be the British prime minister (PM) succeeds Theresa May, who stepped down over her failure to get parliament to ratify her Brexit deal.

**CRPF unveils country's first body protector jointly developed by DRDO for women personnel in combat**

On July 19, 2019, India's largest Central Armed Police Force, CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) unveiled the country's first prototype of a body protector for women personnel.

**Govt Panel Headed By SC Garg Recommends Banning All Private Cryptocurrencies & Jail Time Of Up To 10 Years**

On July 22, 2019, An Inter-Ministerial committee set up by the Government on virtual currency headed by finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg submitted its report to the Finance Ministry.

**Key Highlights:**

- i. It recommended that private cryptocurrencies be banned completely in India except for the one's issue by the state.
- ii. It also drafted law, the 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019' & recommended a fine of up to 250 million rupees (\$3.63 million) and imprisonment for up to 10 years for anyone who mines, generates, holds, sells, transfers or issues cryptocurrency.



July 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Book on Fire and Fury Corps of Army released**

Coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps– Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice,' a repository of exemplary valour of Fire and Fury Corps and their utmost dedication to nation was released. The book was released in Leh, in J&K by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh on the occasion of nation celebrating 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

### **Bangladesh develops plastic alternative from jute**

Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost Bio-Degradable cellulose sheets dubbed as Sonali. It has been developed by the team of scientist working for state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).

### **PENCIL Portal**

Union Minister for Labour & Employment informed Lok Sabha that 361 Complaints of Child Labour have been resolved via PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) Portal ([pencil.gov.in](http://pencil.gov.in)).

#### **About PENCIL Portal**

It is a separate online portal Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) launched on 26 September 2017 to ensure effective enforcement of provisions of Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

### **State wise target to install solar rooftop Systems by 2022**

The central government has urged all the states for rooftop solar systems installation by 2022 in order to achieve its 40,000 MW (40GW) target. In-charge for this grid connected solar program will be The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), The state distribution companies (discom) and the state nodal agencies.

### **Chetak helicopters by HAL delivered to the Indian Navy ahead of schedule.**

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) delivered one Chetak helicopter to the Indian Navy ahead of its scheduled month of August. The HAL entered into a contract with the Indian Navy in the year 2017 to supply 8 Chetak helicopters by August 2020, with the first two by August 2019.

### **Former Chinese premier Li Peng, known as the "Butcher of Beijing" passed away**



Former Chinese Premier Li Peng, best known for announcing martial law during the 1989 Tiananmen protests, has died of an illness. He was 90. He was referred as “Butcher of Beijing” for his role in the Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989.



July 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Priti Patel: Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary**

Newly elected British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Indian origin Priti Patel as the Home Secretary of Britain. With this she has become Britain's first Home Secretary of Indian origin. She has her roots in Tarapur in Gujarat.

Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid would take over from Philip Hammond as Finance Secretary (or Chancellor).

### **Scaly-Foot Snail: 1st ever Species Endangered due to Deep Sea Mining**

A rare snail species called 'Scaly-Foot Snail' found at only three spots on Indian Ocean floor near Madagascar has become the 1st species to be officially declared threatened due to deep-sea mining. It was added by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to its updated Red List of Endangered Species on 18 July 2019.

### **RIL becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list**

Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) becomes highest-ranked Indian company on Fortune Global 500 list. It has jumped 42 places and was ranked 106 this year.

### **Key Highlights**

In this year's list, RIL replaced Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) which ranked 117 as top-ranked Indian company. State-owned IOC had been top-ranked Indian company on list for years and was 1st on Fortune India 500 list which started in 2010. In 2018's Global 500 list, RIL was ranked 148th and IOC was at 137th place.

### **POCSO (Amendment) Bill, 2019 with provision of death penalty passed by Rajya Sabha**

On July 24, 2019, Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which provides for death penalty to the culprits in the cases of sexual assault and stringent punishments for other crimes against children.

### **Amit Shah to chair panel on sexual harassment at workplace**

On July 24, 2019, The Union Government has reconstituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace with Home Minister Amit Shah, replacing his predecessor Rajnath Singh, as its head.

### **Tesla Co-founder and CTO, JB Straubel to resign**



The Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer (CFO) of Tesla, JB Straubel will step down as an executive of the concern after 16 years of service. He will take on an advisory role of the company. Tesla Motors Opens New "Supercharger" Station In Fremont, California. The vice president of technology, Drew Baglino will succeed JB Straubel.

### **"Dracaena cambodiana", India's first dragon blood-oozing tree discovered in Assam**

A three-member research team led by Assam forest officer Jatindra Sarma has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam.

This is the first time that a dragon tree species, whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air has been reported from India.

### **Boxing Legend Manny Pacquiao Wins WBA Super Welterweight title 2019**

Filipino professional boxer, Manny Pacquiao (40) claimed the WBA (World Boxing Association) welterweight championship 2019 by defeating Keith Thurman of US at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, United States.

### **"Indo-Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama and Balakot" book by Dr. U V Singh released**

The book titled "Indo-Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama and Balakot" authored by Dr. U V Singh was released during the "Book Launch & Discussion" event in New Delhi. It deals with the fundamental causes of the Indo-Pak conflict.



July 26<sup>th</sup>**Jordan: Underwater Museum Of Military Vehicles unveiled**

Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba. As part new underwater military museum the kingdom submerged several military vehicles, including tanks, troop carriers and even a decommissioned Jordanian Armed Forces' AH-1 Cobra helicopter into the waters of the Red Sea. Before the vehicles were submerged, all hazardous materials were removed from them.

**India conducted 1st ever simulated space war exercise," IndSpaceEx"**

The three armed forces of India (Army, Navy, and Air Force) conducted 1st ever simulated space warfare exercise called "IndSpaceEx" on July 25, 26, 2019. The 2-day exercise aims to assess requisite space and counter-space capabilities that are needed by India. It will also help India to better grasp strategic challenges in space that need to be handled.

**BS Yediyurappa sworn-in as Chief Minister of Karnataka**

On 26th July 2019, Karnataka's Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) state President BS Yediyurappa sworn in as the 19th Chief Minister of Karnataka.He succeeded H. D. Kumaraswamy of Janata Dal (Secular) party.

- i. He has the record of taking the oath of office as Chief Minister of Karnataka for the fourth time.
- ii. Previously he served as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for 3 times viz, 12th to 19th November 2007, 30th May 2008 to 31st July 2011 & 17th to 19th May 2018.
- iii. He is popularly known as "Raithara Bandhu" for his pro-farmer policies, initiatives like separate agriculture budget in Karnataka Government during his chief ministership.
- iv. In 2014, he merged his party with the BJP and was subsequently elected to the 16th Lok Sabha from the Shimoga constituency.

**China's Tiangong-2 spacecraft destroyed upon its controlled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean**

According to the China Space Agency, China's experimental space lab "Tiangong-2" was destroyed upon its controlled re-entry into Earth's atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean. The space state was retired from service after it had completed its experiments in space.

**Tiangong-2:**



- i. It is an improved version of Tiangong-1, China's first space station, which crashed into the southern Pacific Ocean on April 2018.
- ii. It was China's second experimental space station module launched in September 2016 part as part of China's space station program (Project 921-2 ) aimed at placing Chinese large modular space station in Low Earth orbit (LEO) by 2022.
- iii. It has docked with the Shenzhou-11 manned spaceship and Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft.

### **Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated on July 26, 2019**

On July 26, 2019, the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated throughout India to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War. This day marks the victory of Indian armed forces in Operation Vijay in 1999 & honors the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for India in the Kargil War. The theme for Kargil Vijay Diwas 2019 was "Remember, Rejoice and Renew".



July 27<sup>th</sup>

**TIFF 2019: Meryl Streep wins Tribute Actor award**

Veteran actor Meryl Streep will be honoured with Tribute Actor award at 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). She will receive award in person on 9 September 2019 during TIFF's Tribute Gala, a festival fundraiser. She will be 1st-ever recipient of TIFF Tribute Actor Award.

**26 July: 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated**

Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated across India on 26 July every year to remember victory of Indian Armed Forces in Operation Vijay in 1999 against infiltrating Pakistani troops. The year 2019, marks 20th anniversary of victory in Operation VIJAY popularly known as Kargil War, and is being celebrated with theme- Remember, Rejoice and Renew.

**Kiren Rijju Committee: Strategise Preparations for 2020, 2024 Olympics**

High-Level Committee has been constituted under chairmanship Union Minister of Sports Kiren Rijju to coordinate and strategise preparation for 2020 and 2024 Olympics. Main focus of HLC would be to ensure maximum participation and medals from Indian athletes in Tokyo Olympics 2020.

**23 self-styled and unrecognized universities announced by the University Grants Commission**

The University Grants Commission(UGC) which coordinates, determines and maintains standards of higher education, has released a list of 23 universities which are declared "self-styled" and "unrecognized". These universities contradicts the UGC Act 1956.unrecognized universitiesStates with fake universities

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of unrecognized universities – 8

It is followed by Delhi having 7 fake Universities.

Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Puducherry have 1 fake university each while West Bengal and Odisha have two fake universities each

The UGC has warned the students against taking admission in these institutions.

**Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury appointed as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee**



On July 26, 2019, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla appointed Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Congress floor leader in Lok Sabha as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

**About PAC:** It comprises of total 22 members which include 15 members from Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Parliament, and 7 members from Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Parliament headed by a member from the opposition since 1967. The functions of the committee include an examination of accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for the expenditure of the government, the annual financial accounts of the government.

**Chinese startup Glory Space Technology launched first private rocket capable of carrying satellites**

On July 25, 2019, Beijing-based startup Interstellar Glory Space Technology, which is also known as iSpace, successfully launched the first commercial rocket of China named Hyperbola-1. It is capable of carrying satellites into orbit. It launched two satellites into orbit from Jiuquan, a state launch facility in the Gobi desert.



July 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Khelo India Youth Games 2020 to be held in Guwahati**

Union Minister of Sports Kiren Rijiju announced that 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati, Assam between 18-30 January 2020. Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018, while Pune hosted 2nd edition in 2019.

### **Mary Kom wins gold in President's Cup**

Six times World Champion MC Mary Kom (36) claimed gold medal at 23rd President's Cup held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. She defeated April Franks of Australia with 5-0 without breaking a sweat. With this win the Olympic bronze medallist Boxer has asserted her supremacy in a lopsided 51kg bout final.



July 29<sup>th</sup>

### **World Hindu Economic Forum launches its Nepal Chapter in Kathmandu**

World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister of State for Health and Population Dr. Surendra Kumar Yadav in Nepal's Capital of Kathmandu. The event was attended by large number of industrialists, business persons, traders, thinkers and other eminent personalities from Nepali society.

#### **About World Hindu Economic Forum**

It has been founded by Swami Vigyananand.

### **IIT Hyderabad develops eco-friendly solar cells using Kumkum Dye**

A team from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has developed a Dye-Sensitised Solar Cell (DSSC) which is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes. The research was published in Solar Energy journal.

Currently, most familiar solar cells today are made up of Silicon (Si) and can be seen in various overhead panels and other places. However, this technology is limited by huge fabrication costs as Si processing is very expensive and involves very high temperature methods that leave a large carbon footprint. Therefore to get around limitations of using Si, IIT Hyderabad team started working on solar cells based on organic materials for photovoltaic technology, which were supposedly inexpensive and easy to fabricate.

### **IPS officer V. K. Johri appointed as New BSF Director General**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed IPS officer VK Johri as new Director General (DG) of, Border Security Force (BSF), country's largest border guarding force.

### **Sudarsan Pattnaik wins People's Choice Award in U.S.**

Renowned Indian sand artist and Padma Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik has won People's Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in United States (US). He was among top 15 sand artists selected from all over world to participate in 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival in Boston.

### **29 July: International Tiger Day (Global Tiger Day)**

Every year 29 July is celebrated across the world as Global Tiger Day to create awareness about tiger conservation and protection of natural habitat of tigers.



**“Pink coaches” introduced for women by the Northeast Frontier Railway zone**

As a new initiative that would enhance the security of women, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NRF) zone has introduced pink colored SLRcoach (second Class -cum- Luggage-cum Guard's Coach) for women. NRF Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO)PranavJyoti announced that these pink coaches will help women passengers to identify their coach during rush hours.

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

Social entrepreneur philanthropist and eminent fashionista Priya Priyadarshini Jain was conferred with the prestigious “Indian Women of Influence” award at the House of Lords, The United Kingdom Parliament, London.

**Former International tennis player VidishaBalyan from Uttar Pradesh wins Miss Deaf World 2019 title**

21 year old VidishaBaliyan from Muzaffarnagar,Uttar Pradesh became the firstIndian, crowned Miss Deaf World 2019 which was held in Mbombela, South Africa. She is a former International tennis player who represented India in the Deaflympics.

**Fagu Chauhan, a six-time member of the UP Assembly, sworn as new Governor of Bihar**

On July 29, 2019, Fagu Chauhan, a six-time member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Bihar replacing Lal Ji Tandon who has taken charge as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Oath taking ceremony was administered by Chief Justice of the Patna High Court Amreshwar Pratap Shahi at the Raj Bhavan in Patna in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and other leaders.

**Anandiben Patel sworn-in as Uttar Pradesh governor**

On July 29,2019, Anandiben Patel took oath as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh(UP). Govind Mathur, the Chief Justice of the UP High Court administered her the oath of Office and Secrecy at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow, UP. Outgoing Governor Ram Naik also attended the swearing-in ceremony.

**IAF receives 1st batch of 4 AH-64E Apache Guardian Attack helicopters from the US**

On July 27, 2019, Indian Air Force (IAF) has received 1st batch of 4 of total 22 AH-64E Apache Guardian Attack helicopters from US (United States)aerospace major Boeing at Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh(UP).

**Pakistan will send its first man to space in 2022**

On July 25, 201, Pakistan informed that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using China's satellite launching facilities. The selection process of the astronaut for the space mission will commence from February 2020.

### **2020 Tokyo Olympics will feature Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event**

For the first time in the Olympic Games' history, Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event added in a new Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games. Manika Batra to pair with Sharath Kamal for mixed doubles spot in Tokyo Olympics.



July 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Infosys launches Cyber Defence Center in Bucharest, Romania**

Infosys launched its state-of-the-art Cyber Defence Center in Bucharest, Romania. This Defence Center is an expansion of services delivered via Infosys Digital Innovation Center which opened in Bucharest in early 2019.

### **India signs deal to acquire R-27 Air-to-Air Missiles from Russia**

India has signed Rs.1,500 crore deal to acquire R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia for equipping Su-30MKI combat aircraft fleet of the Indian Air Force and for boosting its capabilities in beyond visual range warfare.

### **'Odisha Rasagola' gets GI Tag**

After years of controversy around sweet, Rasagola, a popular dessert of Odisha, has received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in GI Registry from Registrar of Geographical Indication. Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting origin of rasagola and West Bengal had got GI for 'Banglar Rasogolla' in 2017.

As per Historical records submitted Odisha Rasagola has an age-old tradition and is associated with world famous Puri Jagannath Temple as it is offered to Lord Jagannath as part of bhog since centuries.

### **All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 released**

As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014. The Tiger census made public on occasion of Global Tiger Day (29 July) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Top 5 Performing States: Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).

States that saw Decline in Tiger Population: Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. While all other States saw a Positive increase.

### **Singapore tops Asia in Dell Global Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019, Bengaluru top Indian city**

According to the latest "Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019", sponsored by Dell and conducted by London-based global information provider, IHS Markit, Singapore tops in Asian city





ranked at 21st position, while Indian cities Bengaluru(Karnataka) and Delhi were ranked 43rd (7th in Asia) and 50th (10th in Asia) respectively.

San Francisco Bay Area has topped the list with 63.7 points followed by New York(62.9 points) and London(3rd ).

### **Pakistan opens historic 1,000-year-old Hindu temple in Punjab for worship after 72 years**

On the demand of the local Hindu community, Pakistan opened Shawala Teja Singh Temple in eastern city Sialkot for worship for the first time since partition. According to the book 'History of Sialkot' by the late Rashid Niaz, the temple is 1,000-year-old.

### **India's renewable energy cost is lowest in Asia Pacific region -Wood Mackenzie**

UK consultancy from Wood Mackenzie stated that renewable energy cost of India is the lowest in the Asia Pacific region, due to the fact that Levelized Cost Of Electricity (LCOE) using solar photovoltaic of India has Fallen to \$38 per Megawatt hour in 2019. This fall in LCOE is cheaper than the coal-fired power generation of 14% which is traditionally the cheapest source of power generation.

### **Lalji Tandon sworn in as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh**

On July 29, 2019, Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Lalji Tandon was sworn in as the 28th Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

### **Jagdeep Dhankar sworn in as the governor of West Bengal**

On July 30, 2019, Jagdeep Dhankhar, a former Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan and a noted Supreme Court lawyer, was sworn in as the 28th governor of West Bengal at the Raj Bhavan, Kolkata.

### **Ramesh Bais sworn-In as the Governor of Tripura**

On July 29, 2019, A seven-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Chhattisgarh's Raipur and former Union minister, Ramesh Bais, aged 71, was sworn in as the 18th Governor of Tripura.

### **Israel and the US successfully tested Arrow-3 Anti-Ballistic Missile System**

On July 28, 2019, Israel's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Benjamin Netanyahu informed that Israel and the United States (US) successfully conducted tests of the advanced anti-ballistic



missile system “Arrow-3”. The test was carried out with U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) at Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska (PSCA) in Kodiak, Alaska, US.

### **ICC officially launches WTC**

On July 29, 2019, International Cricket Council (ICC) officially launched the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC). It will begin from August 1, 2019 where Australia and England will face each other in the Ashes. It will bring relevance and context to bilateral Test cricket over the next 2 years (2021). WTC will comprise of the top 9 Test teams of the world.

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

On July 29, 2019, India's first and only Sports Gaming self-regulatory industry body, Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) has appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge, Justice A. K. Sikri, as its ombudsman and Ethics Officer.

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

On July 26, 2019, Veteran actor Russi Taylor, who voiced Disney's Minnie Mouse for more than 30 years, passed away in Glendale, California, US.



July 31<sup>st</sup>

### **Parliament passes Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019**

Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019 or Triple Talaq Bill after it was approved by Rajya Sabha. It replaces Ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019. It aims to declares practice of instant triple talaq void and illegal by making it cognizable penal offence.

### **IAF's Tarun Chaudhri became 1st pilot to do Wingsuit Skydive Jump**

Wing commander Tarun Chaudhri became 1st pilot of Indian Armed Forces (IAF) to do a Wing Suit Skydive Jump. The jump was accomplished from an altitude of 8500 feet (2590.8 meters) from a Mi-17 helicopter.

### **Highlights: President Ram Nath Kovind Visit to Benin**

President Ram Nath Kovind arrived in Benin at Cardinal Bernadine de Cotonou International Airport in Cotonou, the largest city in the West African country. This visit is part of first leg of his 3 nations' tour to West African region which includes Gambia and Guinea from July 28 to August 3. This is first visit by either a head of state or head of government to three West African countries.

### **London named as World's Best Student City in QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019**

In the QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019 compiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a global education consultancy, London, the capital of United Kingdom (UK), was named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year. Tokyo and Melbourne were ranked second and third positions respectively.

### **Noted economist and former RBI deputy Governor Subir Gokarn passed away**

Former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Vithal Gokarn passed away due to a brief illness at the age of 60. He was appointed as Executive Director on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2015 by Narendra Modi government. He hailed from Mumbai, Maharashtra.



