

Monthly GK Digest

May 2019



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Important Days

1. The 'International Labour Day' is being celebrated every year on **1st May**.
Note: The day marks the victory of the workers' movement for eight hours of work. It also aims to pay tribute to workers sacrifices in achieving economic and social rights all over the world. The theme of International Labour Day 2019 is "Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners". Labour Day is known as Kamgar Din (Hindi), Karmikara Dinacharane (Kannada), Kamgar Divas (Marathi), Uzhaipalar dhinam (Tamil), and Thozhilaali Dinam (Malayalam).
2. Two states **Gujarat & Maharashtra** has been celebrated 60th foundation day on 1st May 2019.
Note: In 1960, two western states Gujarat and Maharashtra were formed from erstwhile Bombay state on this day. Every year the Government of Maharashtra issues a notification declaring the 1st of May to be a public holiday to be celebrated as Maharashtra Day.
3. The '**World Press Freedom Day**' is being observed every year across the world on **3rd May**.
Note: The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2019 is 'Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation'. It discusses current challenges faced by media in elections, along with the media's potential in supporting peace and reconciliation processes. World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.
4. The **World Laughter Day** is being observed worldwide every year on the first **Sunday of May**.
Note: It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. The first time this day was celebrated on May 10, 1998, by Dr. Madan Kataria (founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement) in Mumbai.
5. The **World Asthma Day** is being celebrated every year on the **first Tuesday of May**.
Note: Asthma is a chronic disease of the lungs which causes breathing problems. Asthma usually appears through symptoms like coughing, tightness in the chest, breathlessness. The theme for this year World Asthma Day is 'Stop for Asthma'. In 1998, The first World Asthma Day was celebrated in more than 35 countries in conjunction with the first World Asthma Meeting held in Barcelona, Spain.
6. The 'World Red Cross Day' is observed annually on **8th May**.
Note: Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This day is dedicated to the people who suffer from food shortage, natural calamities, war as well as disease of the Epidemic. The theme for World Red Cross Day 2019 is "#love" or simply "love".
7. The 158th.birth anniversary of **Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore** is being celebrated all over West Bengal.
Note: Rabindra Nath Tagore reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian artwith Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The West Bengal Government has organised a special musical programme in Kolkata to pay tributes to Gurudev Tagore. Rabindranath Tagore was the Author of the "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse" of Gitanjali.
8. Fifth United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week is being held from **6 to 12 May 2019**.
Note: The theme for the weekly event in 2019 is "Leadership for road safety". The UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its' campaigns are coordinated by United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO).
9. The '**National Technology Day**' is observed **every year** in India on **11th May**.
Note: On May 11, 1998, India successfully test fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range (in Rajasthan) in an operation led by aerospace engineer and late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. India conducted five underground nuclear tests at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan, on 11th and 13th of May in 1998. The first nuclear test Pokhran with a codenamed as 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May 1974.
10. The **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** is being observed across the world on the **11th May (second weekend in May)**.
Note: The day raise awareness and highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. This year, WMBD is being observed on 11th May. It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.
11. The **International Nurses Day (IND)** is an international day celebrated around the world on **12th May**.
Note: Florence Nightingale (the foundational philosopher of the modern nursing) was born on 12th

- of May in 1820. The theme of 2019 is "Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All."
12. Mother's Day is celebrated on 12th May 2019 -- **second Sunday of May**.
Note: It is believed that the bond between a mother and her child is the strongest, and Mother's Day appreciates the same.
 13. The **International Day of Families** is observed every year on **15th May**.
Note: The day provide an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The theme of this year is "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13".
 14. The **Government of India (GoI)** has declared **National Dengue Day** to mark the toll from the **deadly disease 'Dengue'** -- **16th May**.
Note: The day has been taking in terms of lives and to reaffirm nationwide efforts to tackle the scourge by using both education and medical intervention. Dengue is a viral disease which includes symptoms such as high-grade fever 2 to 7 days and headache, vomiting, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash.
 15. The **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)** is observed every year on **17th May**.
Note: The 2019 theme of WTISD is "Bridging the standardization gap". The WTISD raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
 16. **Anti-Terrorism Day** being observed on **21st May**.
Note: On 21st May, the UAE is celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
 17. The **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed on **21st May**.
Note: The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development", is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this holiday due to UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity
- in November 2001. This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.
18. The International Day for Biological Diversity' (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues -- **22nd May**.
Note: The theme of 2019 is 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'. The International Day for Biological Diversity falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.
 19. Swatantryaveer Vinayak **Damodar Savarkar's** (popularly - Veer Savarkar) birth anniversary is being celebrated on -- **28th May 2019**.
Note: Savarkar was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government. On the occasion, a function to pay floral tributes to him held in the Central Hall of Parliament House and Prime Minister paid tributes to V D Savarkar. Savarkar was born on 28th May in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra.
 20. The 'International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers' is being observed on **29th May**.
Note: The theme for the 2019 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace." International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.
 21. Goa celebrates its Statehood Day -- **30th May**.
Note: On 30th May 1987, Goa became India's 25th state and Daman & Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory. Earlier, Goa was a union territory (namely, Goa, Daman, and Diu) for all administrative and governance considerations.
 22. The **World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD)** is observed **every year** across the world on -- **31st May**.
Note: This day highlights the health risks associated with consumption of all forms of tobacco and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health." In 1988, WHO's World Health Assembly had passed a resolution calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on 31st May.

New Appointments

1. Japan's new emperor **Naruhito** has formally ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne (replacing his father) Akihito.
Note: In a morning ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, today, Naruhito became the 126th Emperor of

Japan. A new imperial era called Reiwa, which means order and harmony, has now begun. The emperor in Japan holds no political power but serves as a national symbol.

2. **Benjamin Netanyahu** sworn-in as Israel's new Prime Minister.
Note: Netanyahu's 'Likud party' won 35 seats in the election, the same as his main opponent from the centrist Blue and White alliance, led by former military chief Benny Gantz. Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu was born in Tel Aviv in 1949.
3. Senior IAS officer **Dilip Kumar** has been appointed as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the office of Lokpal.
Note: It is perhaps the first official appointment of a bureaucrat in Lokpal. Currently, Mr Kumar is the joint secretary, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). President Ram Nath Kovind had administered the oath of office to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the Chairperson of Lokpal (on 23rd March).
4. **Secretary, Union Environment Ministry** will head the **Union Environment Ministries** committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
5. US Air Force General **Tod D. Wolters** has been sworn in as **the top military officer** of the 29-nation NATO military alliance.
Note: The former pilot Mr Wolters has served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He became Supreme Allied Commander Europe at a ceremony at NATO's military headquarters in Mons in southern Belgium. He will also be the commander of U.S. forces in Europe.
6. Justice **Shripathi Ravindra Bhat** was sworn in as **36th Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court**.
Note: Justice Bhat was administered the oath office by Governor Kalyan Singh at a special function in Raj Bhawan in Jaipur. He was appointed as an additional judge of the Delhi high court in 2004 and became a permanent judge on February 20, 2006.
7. Paytm President has quit the company -- **Bhushan Patil**.
Note: Patil's exit marks one of the most senior leaders (joined Paytm in March 2016) leaving the company in recent times. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of USD 2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma in Noida.
8. Pakistani economist **Dr Reza Baqir** has been appointed as the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).
Note: He will replace Tariq Bajwa, who was removed from his post. Currently, Dr Reza Baqir (Harvard and Berkeley University of California alumnus) is serving in the IMF as senior resident representative to Egypt. The government also appointed Ahmed Mujtaba Memon as the chairman of the FBR - the tax collection body.
9. **M Jayshree Vyas** has been appointed as the first independent woman director of **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**.
Note: She is a qualified chartered accountant. Jayshree Vyas was working as Managing Director (MD) of Shree Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad, since 1986. She played a pivotal role in the launching of the first financial literacy programme in Sewa Bank in 2001. The **Companies Act of 2013 mandates** a certain class of companies to have at least one woman director on board. SEBIs, in compliance with the Companies Act 2013, made it compulsory to have at least one woman on board from October 2014.
10. E-commerce platform '**Myntra**' has appointed celebrity couple as its first brand ambassadors -- **Virat Kohli & Anushka Sharma**.
Note: Myntra has launched '**Go Myntra-la-la**', a brand campaign that brings alive the joyful experience of shopping for fashion on the brand's platform. The campaign thought was inspired by Myntra's vision to offer an online shopping experience for fashion. Myntra (founded - 2007) is an Indian fashion e-commerce company headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
11. **Jagjit Pavadia** has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another five-year term.
Note: Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020. Jagjit Pavadia has held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years in the Government of India, including Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics.
12. Businessman & politician **Laurentino Cortizo** has won Panama's presidential election with 33.27% of the vote in support.
Note: As the presidential election in Panama does not have run-off criteria, so the candidate with the maximum number of votes wins the election even he does not have 50% of the vote.
13. **Stevo Pendarovski** has won the 2019 Macedonian presidential elections.
Note: The president must be a citizen of North Macedonia, be over 40 years of age and have lived in North Macedonia for at least ten of the previous fifteen years. The President of the **Republic of North Macedonia** is the head of state of North Macedonia.
14. India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a movie based on the life of **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.

Note: The movie will be directed by acclaimed India's filmmaker **Shyam Benegal**. Prasar Bharati has decided to carry Bangladesh TV on **DD Free Dish platform** without charging carriage fees. As a reciprocal gesture, Bangladesh Delegation announced that a Doordarshan channel will be adopted on the soon to be launched DTH platform of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Delegation assured full cooperation in ensuring smooth logistics for shooting the movie in Bangladesh.

15. The five-member Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice **Ranjan Gogoi** has recommended the names of Justices to the center for their elevation as apex court judges -- **Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant**.
Note: Currently, **Justice Gavai** is Judge of the Bombay High Court and Justice Kant is the incumbent Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The apex court is presently functioning with **27 judges** against the sanctioned strength of 31 judges.
16. **Justice P R Ramachandra Menon** was sworn in as the new chief justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
Note: Justice **Menon** was administered the oath by Chhattisgarh Governor Anandiben Patel at Raj Bhavan, Raipur Chhattisgarh. Currently, he is serving as a **Judge of the Kerala High Court**. The **Chhattisgarh High Court** was established on 1 November 2000 with the creation of the new state of Chhattisgarh upon the reorganisation of the state of Madhya Pradesh.
17. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has appointed as the **Country Director** in India -- **M Hari Menon**.
Note: Menon will replace Nachiket Mor, who held this position for the past three years and resigned last month. With an endowment of USD 50.7 billion, Gates Foundation is the world's largest private philanthropic organisation and has offices in Delhi and Patna.
18. BMC commissioner **Ajoy Mehta** will be Maharashtra's new chief secretary.
Note: Out-going chief secretary **UPS Madan** will be the **chairman of SICOM** and would be also an advisor to **chief minister**. Meanwhile, Additional chief secretary **Praveen Pardeshi** will be appointed as the new **BMC chairman**. Chief Secretaries are members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) who are the administrative head of state governments.
19. Nigerian Professor **Tijjani Mohammad Bande** has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Note: Bande is the permanent representative of Nigeria to the UN. He holds an M.A in Political Science from the Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA (in 1981) and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Canada (in 1987). He was the Vice-Chancellor of **Usman Danfodiyo University**, Sokoto, between 2004 and 2009.

20. Indian actress **Dia Mirza** has been named as one of the 17 advocates for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by United Nations.
Note: The new group of 'SDG Advocates' appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. It will be committed to raising awareness, inspiring greater ambition and pushing for faster action on the SDGs, which were adopted by world leaders on September 25, 2015. The SDG Advocates will be co-chaired by Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (President of Ghana) and Erna Solberg (Prime Minister of Norway).
21. **Shri Subhash Chand** has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India** to the northeast African country Eritrea.
Note: Currently, **Mr. Subhash Chand** is the Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Abuja. Eritrea shares borders with Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti. Ambassador an **important official** who works in a foreign country representing his or her own country there, and who is officially accepted in this position by that country.
22. ITC Ltd. has appointed Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the company -- **Sanjiv Puri**.
Note: Mr Puri joined the company in 1986 and rose through the ranks like his predecessor. He was appointed as Chief executive officer (CEO) in 2017 and as Managing Director (MD) in 2018.
23. Mr. Dinesh Pangtey has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **LIC Mutual Fund**.
Note: He started his career as a direct recruit officer with LIC of India in 1984 and has risen through the ranks to this senior position. LIC Mutual Fund was established on 20th April 1989 by LIC of India.
24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed (former Deputy Governor of RBI) as Additional Director on the board of private sector lender YES Bank -- **R Gandhi**.
Note: Gandhi was RBI Deputy Governor during April 2014 and April 2017. The RBI has the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 36AB of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to appoint additional directors on

the board of a bank if it feels it is in the interest of the banking company or its depositors.

- 25. Major General AK Dhingra** has been appointed as the **first head of India's first tri-services Special Operations Division**.
Note: The **Armed Forces Special Operations Division** has been set up by the government to undertake joint operations by three services. It will have elements from the Army's Parachute Regiments SF, Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Navy and the Garud Commandos of the Indian Air Force.
- 26. Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri** has been appointed Chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA).
Note: He succeeds Justice R.V. Raveendran who completes his term on **25th May 2019**. The NBSA is a self-regulatory body that implements the Code of Ethics & Broadcasting Standards and Guidelines for its member news broadcasters.
- 27. Justice Madan B Lokur** has been appointed to the **Supreme Court of Fiji** as a judge of its non-resident panel ____
Note: **Justice Madan B Lokur** (Retired Indian Judge) has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge of its non-resident panel. He will join the office from **August 15, 2019** and has been appointed for a term of 3 years. He retired as Supreme Court judge on 31 December 2018, after a term of more than 6 years.
- 28. Scott Morrison** has won the **2019 Australian** federal election.
Note: According to the ABC's Election Calculator, the governing Coalition is on track to win at least 76 seats in the Australian Parliament, while the opposing Labor Party is set to win 65. Scott Morrison is Australia's fifth prime minister in almost nine years, owing to rapid successions of party leaders during the period.
- 29. Joko Widodo** has been re-elected as Indonesia's president.
Note: Joko Widodo's challenger Subianto (67-years) has vowed to challenge any victory for Widodo, alleging widespread voter fraud, and warned that it could spark street protests across the country. The President of the Republic of Indonesia is the head of government of the Republic of Indonesia. The president leads the executive branch of the Indonesian government and is the commander-in-chief of the Indonesian National Armed Forces.

- 30. Pakistan** has appointed career diplomat as the **High Commissioner to India -- Mueenul Haq**.
Note: Earlier, Mr Haq has served as chief of protocol at the Foreign Office. The post of High Commissioner to India fell vacant after Sohail Mehmood was appointed Pakistan's new foreign secretary. Prime Minister Imran Khan approved appointments of over two dozen ambassadors in various countries including India, China and Japan.
- 31. Volodymyr Zelenskiy** (41-years) took oath as the country's new President -- **Ukraine**.
Note: Zelenskiy became Ukraine's youngest post-Soviet President after he scored a landslide election victory against incumbent Petro Poroshenko. Mr Zelenskiy a former television star, acted the part of the Ukrainian president in a popular comedy series. He scored a landslide victory in last month's presidential election.
- 32. Nitin Chugh** has been appointed as the next **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited.
Note: **Nitin Chugh** will join the bank by August 2019 as President and will work closely with Samit Ghosh, existing MD and CEO to ensure a smooth transition. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited is a bank licensed under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry out small finance bank business in India. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank received Scheduled Bank status from the Reserve Bank of India in August 2017.
- 33. South African lawmakers Cyril Ramaphosa** have re-elected as the president of the country.
Note: **Members of Parliament (MP)** from the **African National Congress** have chosen the **head of state** in the parliament's first post-election sitting. The party has won **230** out of **400 seats** in the election on May 8. The African National Congress party won the ballot with 57.5 per cent of the vote, its thinnest majority since the end of apartheid.
- 34. UN** has appointed a decorated **Indian Army officer Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar** as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
Note: He will succeed Lieutenant General Frank Kamanzi of Rwanda who completes his assignment on May 26. Tinaikar graduated from the Indian Military Academy in 1983 and is currently serving as the Commandant of the Infantry School since July 2018. The UN mission in South Sudan, a country born in July 2011, has 19,400 personnel deployed with it as of March 2019.

- 35. The Union Government** has cleared four names (recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium) for **elevation as judges** of the **apex court**.
Note: The four appointed judges are Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant. Supreme Court (SC) will reach its full sanctioned strength of 31 judges after the appointment of four new judges. As of now, the apex court is functioning with 27 judges including the Chief Justice.
- 36. Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Peter O'Neill** has resigned from his post after weeks of unrest in the government.
Note: O'Neill has handed over leadership to Sir Julius Chan, who will become prime minister for the third time. Earlier, one of Peter O'Neill's key coalition allies abandoned him and since then, the Opposition bloc has been saying it has 62 MPs in its camp, which would give it a majority in Parliament. The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea is Papua New Guinea's head of government, consequent on being the leader of the party or coalition with majority support in the National Parliament.
- 37. Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal** has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of **Meghalaya High Court**.
Note: Governor **Tathagata Roy** administered him the oath of office in a ceremony at Raj Bhavan, Shillong. The Meghalaya High Court established in March 2013, after making suitable amendments in the Constitution of India and North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act of 1971.
- 38. Muhammadu Buhari** has been sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president.
Note: **Muhammadu Buhari** has been sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president, following a campaign that focused on tackling security threats and rooting out corruption. Mr. Buhari won 56% of the votes to defeat his main challenger, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 2019 election
- 39. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh** (Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command) has taken over as the **24th Navy Chief**.
Note: Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba has retired on completion of his tenure. During his tenure as the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Lanba set the tone for several transitions in operational, training and organizational philosophy of the Indian Navy.
- 40. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Pema Khandu** sworn in as **Arunachal Pradesh CM**.
Note: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mr. B. D. Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Khandu and his cabinet colleagues at the Dorjee Khandu state convention hall in Itanagar. BJP won an impressive 41 seats [JD(U) - 7, (NPP- 5), (IND-2), (INC-4), (PPA-1)] in the 60-seat house in the Assembly elections.
- 41. Naveen Patnaik** sworn in as Odisha CM for the 5th term.
Note: The Biju Janata Dal secured 112 seats [BJP-23, INC-9, CPI(M)-1] in the 147-member Odisha Assembly in the recently concluded elections. Currently, Mr. Patnaik (MLA- Bijepur) is the third Indian chief Minister after Pawan Chamling (CM-Sikkim) and Jyoti Basu (CM-West Bengal) to win five consecutive terms as Chief Minister of an Indian state.
- 42. Narendra Modi. sworn-in as the Prime Minister of India for the second time.**
Note: During the ceremony, Apart from PM Modi, 57 ministers administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind. There are 24 cabinet ministers including Rajnath Singh, BJP President Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, D V Sadanand Gowda, an, Ram Vilas Paswan,, Narendra Singh Tomar, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Thanwar Chand Gehlot, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Arjun Munda, Smriti Irani, Harsh Vardhan, Prakash Javadekar, Piyush Goyal, Dharmendra Pradhan, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Prahlad Joshi, Mahendra Nath Pandey, Arvind Sawant, Giriraj Singh and Gajendra Shekhawat.
- Nine leaders took oath as minister of state with independent charge.
 - 24 leaders who took oath as the minister of state.

Important News – India

1. The Union Government has asked state transport departments to ensure that all battery-operated vehicles (both existing and new) have number **Green** plates.
Note: In August 2018, the road transport ministry had introduced the new number plate for all battery-operated or electric vehicles (EVs). An electric car is an automobile that is propelled by one or more electric motors, using energy stored in rechargeable batteries.
2. Kolkata-based defence shipyard signed an Rs. 6,311-crore contract with the Defence Ministry to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft for the Indian Navy -- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers**.

- Note:** The first vessel will be delivered within 42 months from the contract (by October 2022). The ASWSWCs are equipped with sophisticated sonar, with an algorithm that differentiates the signals reflected off the enemy submarine from those bouncing off the sea bed. These vessels will also have the ability to sprint fast for short bursts **order to maintain contact with a submarine.** After that, GRSE must deliver two more ASWSWCs annually, completing delivery by April 2026.
- According to the latest report from the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in the year 2018,

Note: The global military spending is 2.1% of the world GDP. India accounts for 3.7% of the global defence spending. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an international institute based in Sweden, dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
 - Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of **Sri Vedanta Desikan.**

Note: Mr Naidu, the textbooks must throw light on the lives of great saints and spiritual icons such as Sri Vedanta Desikan. Sri Vedanta Desikan was a Sri Vaishnava guru/philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period. He was a poet, devotee, philosopher and master-teacher (desikan).
 - Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has become the **first operator to start optical** fiber-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre',

Note: Under this unique revenue share model, this is the first such FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley. BSNL provides FTTH service with a monthly charge in the range of Rs 777-16,999 in over 160 telecom districts with a minimum speed of 2 megabit per second
 - Indian Navy's fourth stealth Scorpene **class Submarine Vela** of Project 75 has been launched in **Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

Note: The submarines are being built at **Mazagon Dock Limited**, with the main collaborator being M/s Naval group, France. The submarine has been named 'Vela' after an earlier submarine, which was the lead submarine, of the erstwhile Vela class, the second batch of the Foxtrot class submarines acquired from erstwhile USSR. INS Vela was first commissioned on 31st August 1973 in the Indian Naval service and continued to serve for 37 years.
 - The **Govt of India** has signed a MoU with IIT **Delhi** for setting up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Note: The partnership will provide an effective platform for stakeholders to bring together integrated approaches for effective recycling, reuse and resource recovery of waste.
 - Rajput class destroyer** was decommissioned at a solemn grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard at Visakhapatnam -- **INS Ranjit.**

Note: The Decommissioning Ceremony was graced by 16 officers and 10 sailors from the commissioning crew and 23 erstwhile Commanding Officers. The ship commissioned on 15 September 1983 by Captain Vishnu Bhagwat in erstwhile USSR has rendered yeoman service to the nation for 36 years.
 - The last captive white tiger at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Mumbai died at the age of 18 years -- **Bajirao.**

Note: He was suffering from chronic ankylosis on the left shoulder and chronic senile generalised arthritis for the last four years. The tiger's autopsy carried out by the pathology department of BVC indicated multiple organ failures along with old age as the probable cause of death.
 - IBM** signed agreement with **Vodafone Idea Limited** to deliver an enhanced customer experience to millions of connected consumers and businesses in India.

Note: This partnership will offer Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud-based digital platform to enable engagement with its 387 million subscribers. The new infrastructure platform would help remove constraints to the exponential growth of data usage driven by increasing consumption of video, streaming and digital commerce.
 - Pakistan's all-rounder & former captain **Shahid Afridi** released his controversial autobiography, titled -- **Game Changer.**

Note: The book is co-authored by Afridi & journalist **Wajahat S Khan** and published by **HarperCollins India imprint Harper Sport.** Afridi stated that he was born in 1975 and not 1980 as stated in the official records. Afridi played 27 Tests, 398 ODIs and 99 T20Is and retired from international cricket in 2017.
 - Drug firm Merck Ltd has been renamed as **Procter & Gamble Health Ltd.**

Note: The name has been changed following **P&G's global acquisition** of the consumer health business of Merck KGaA, Germany. The company has received approval from the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai, Maharashtra, for change of name from Merck Ltd to Procter & Gamble Health Ltd.
 - Engineers from the **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)** have developed a microprocessor called '**AJIT**'.

- Note:** The first to be conceptualized, designed, developed and manufactured in India. It can be used inside a set-top box, as a control panel for automation systems, in a traffic light controller or even robotic systems. The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay. Mumbai-based company '**Powai Labs** invested in the venture, and will own, market and support the product. In the first stage, AJIT has been manufactured in the government-owned Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh.
- 14. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** embarked on a four-day official visit to **Vietnam**.
Note: The visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian nation. The Vice President will participate in the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak at Tam Chuc pagoda in Vietnam's northern Ha Nam province. During his visit, Mr Naidu will also deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the event themed as "Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies."
- 15. Amul** will be the principal sponsor of the **Afghanistan cricket** team for the 2019 World Cup.
Note: The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event. The first time, Afghanistan Cricket team will play in the World Cup as a full member. Anand Milk Union Limited (Amul) is an Indian dairy company (formed in 1948), based at Anand in the state of Gujarat.
- 16. India and China** signed a protocol for the export of Indian -- **chilli meal**.
Note: This is the fourth protocol signed between the two nations over the past year allowing the export of farm commodities from India. India and China also agreed to resolve market access issues expeditiously in order to achieve the vision of the leaders of both countries by promoting a more balanced trade.
- 17. The first Apache Helicopter AH-64E (I)** formally handed over to Indian Air Force (IAF) at Boeing production facility in -- **Mesa, Arizona (USA)**.
Note: The first batch of the helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by July this year. The helicopter has been customized to suit IAF's future requirements and would have significant capability in mountainous terrain. It has the capability to carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile Airspace with threats from the ground.
- 18. Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd.** has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets.
Note: These trains will be used to operationalize railway link (34 kms) between Jayanagar (India) and Kurtha (Nepal). Each train set will comprise of one driving power car, three trailer cars with one air-conditioned, one driving trailer car with standard accessories. Jayanagar-Kurtha Railway Link has been built by IRCON with Government of India financial grant under India-Nepal Development Partnership programme. The train sets will be manufactured by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.
- 19. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** has developed the world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB_ABRO_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes.
Note: This comes after the successful launch of INDUSCHIP, a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses. Buffaloes contribute more than 50% to the total milk production in India which is the world's largest milk producer. The development of genome assembly will help in improving the genetics of the buffaloes and enhancing their productivity further.
- 20. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Interim Test Range in Odisha.
Note: The flight test was tracked by various RADARS and Electro Optic Systems and proved its performance in a fully autonomous waypoint navigation mode. The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and uses indigenously developed MEMS-based navigation system for its navigation and guidance. The performance of the system was as per simulations carried out and demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the mission requirement for a cost-effective High-speed Expendable Aerial Target.
- 21. The Young Scientist Programme** was inaugurated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan, through video mode in Bengaluru -- **Yuvika2019**.
Note: The two-week residential summer vacation programme spread over four ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Shillong are attended by 110 students. He touched upon how the applications of Space technology is helping in the day to day activities of common man besides ensuring the safety of life and property during disaster situations. The participants will be visiting the spaceport of India, Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Shri harikota during this programme.
- 22. India** has extended 1 billion- dollar Line of Credit to set up its first-ever grass-root refinery at Sainshand in Dornogobi Province -- **Mongolia**.
Note: The capacity of the refinery will be 1.5 Million Metric Tons Per Annum. It will be implemented with Exim Bank funding.

23. The world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story -- **Criczone**.
Note: It is a one-stop solution, exclusively dedicated to providing updates, articles, news, interviews, etc. from the world of women's cricket. Publisher of the magazine 'Criczone' is Yash Lahoti.
24. The Indian Navy's first full-fledged **Services Selection Board (SSB)** has been inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at **Diamond Harbour near Kolkata**.
Note: The SSB (Kolkata) spread over 27 acres located on the banks of Hooghly that was previously occupied by a Naval Coastal Battery. The SSB (Kolkata) has the capacity to screen 5,000 officer-candidates annually. This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and will cater for a selection of both permanent and short service commission (SSC) officers. The other boards are located at Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore.
25. The **11th Joint Consular Committee** meeting between India and Iran took place in **New Delhi**.
Note: Both sides discussed the early conclusion of Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on civil and commercial matters and extending the longer duration of e-Visa for each other nationals on reciprocity. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the status of ongoing cooperation in consular and visa related issues and to discuss ways and means to further expand people to people contacts and promote friendly exchanges between India and Iran.
26. **Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ)** has organized a one-day workshop on **Organ Bio Printing** at the Kalam Convention Center, AMTZ Campus in **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: The workshop aims to strengthen Indo-Australian Cooperation and achieve the development of the 3D printing industry in both countries. The workshop explored **3D printing**, an innovative technology that covers all medical disciplines and offers new opportunities in diagnostics and therapy.
27. The **military drill** was conducted to showcase **joint operations** capability of the armed forces -- **Exercise Bull strike**.
Note: During the exercise, the army personnel got the chance to display their prowess by undertaking company level airborne operation at Teressa island, Andaman Nicobar. 170 troops from three services carried out para drop operations in a Combat Free Fall and Static Line mode.
28. The **Union government** has planned to introduce **artificial intelligence** system in the **MCA 21 portal**.
Note: MCA 21 is the electronic backbone for the dissemination of information to all stakeholders, including the regulator, corporates and investors. All filings under the company's law are submitted to the ministry through this portal. MCA 21 allows electronic filings of various documents under the Companies Act, 2013 and has fully automated all processes related to enforcement and compliance monitoring under the Act.
29. The Navies of India and Singapore are participating in the **annual maritime bilateral exercise** in the South China Sea -- '**SIMBEX-19**'
Note: Naval ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti taking part in the bilateral naval exercise, along with long-range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I. The Singapore side is being represented by RSN ships Steadfast and Valiant, maritime patrol aircraft Fokker-50 and F-16 fighter aircraft.
30. **Indian Navy** has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its Anti-Air Warfare Capability with the maiden cooperative engagement firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).
Note: The Indian Navy achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its Anti-Air Warfare Capability with the maiden cooperative engagement firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM). The firing was undertaken on the Western Seaboard by Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Chennai. In test, the missiles of both ships were controlled by one ship to intercept different aerial targets at extended ranges.
31. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its earth observation satellite RISAT-2B from Satish Dhawan Space Centre **Sriharikota**.
Note: It will replace the RISAT-2, which was launched in 2009. The 615 kg satellite was released into the orbit 15 minutes after the lift-off. RISAT-2B meant for application in fields such as surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. RISAT-2B expanded Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) making it an advanced earth observation satellite, operating in spotlight mode, mode and mosaic mode.
32. The 8th edition of the **Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR)** is being held in **Andaman & Nicobar Command**.
Note: Under the program, **Myanmar ships UMS King TabinShweHtee (773)** and **UMS Inlay (OPV-54)** are participating in the coordinated patrol (CORPAT) along with Indian Naval Ship Saryu. The ships will patrol along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** between the two countries covering distance of roughly 725 kilometres in four days, augmented by patrol aircraft from both navies.
33. In the KidsRight Index, India's ranks out of 181 countries -- **117th position**.
Note: India has a score of 0.64 out of 1 in the overall category. KidsRight Index is an annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights. KidsRights Index is an initiative of

- Kids Right Foundation in cooperation with Erasmus University, Rotterdam.
34. According to tentative data released by the Election Commission (EC), in 2019 Lok Sabha elections clocked a record turnout of **67.11%**.
Note: This Lok Sabha elections beating the previous turnout of 65.95% notched up in 2014. The seven-phase 2019 elections began on 11th April 2019, and concluded on 19th May, 2019.
35. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully test-fired an indigenously developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.
Note: The test firing of the guided bomb came two days after the Indian Air Force successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
36. A government-appointed **advisory group** has suggested **issuance of Bonds** wherein people declaring undisclosed income -- **Elephant Bonds**.
Note: 'Elephant Bonds' wherein people declaring undisclosed income will have to mandatorily invest half of that amount in these securities. The high-level panel also recommended a host of other measures that include a road map for doubling India's exports of goods and services to over USD 1,000 billion by 2025. The panel was headed by economist Surjit Bhalla.
37. Indian **Air Force officer** has become the **first day-time** Indian woman fighter pilot -- **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth**.
Note: Flight Lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** adds another feather to her cap by completing day operational syllabus on MiG-21 Bison aircraft. She is the first women fighter pilot to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft. Bhawana joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew the first solo on MiG-21 Bison in 2018.
38. The **National Health Authority (NHA)** have signed an MoU under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to **National Cancer Grid (NCG)**.
Note: Now, The NHA and NCG will jointly review existing cancer treatment packages, pricing of services, and standard treatment workflows covered under the AB-PMJAY, and plug-in necessary gaps to ensure enhanced quality of cancer care. **Indu Bhushan** is a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and the National Health Authority.
39. Adani Ports and **Special Economic Zone** will set up its **first container terminal outside India in Myanmar**.
Note: The company signed an agreement to develop and operate a container terminal at Yangon Port in Myanmar. Construction for phase one of the project will commence next month and will be completed by June 2021.
40. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement to provide **USD 750 million** long-term financial loan to **electrify railway tracks** in India.
Note: It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by ADB to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to fund the railways track electrification project. IRFC will use the proceeds from the loan to install electric traction equipment along about 3,378 kilometres of existing railway lines to enable migration of passenger and freight traffic from diesel to electric traction.
41. The fifth **Smart Cities India 2019 expo** was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The expo was organized by **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** and Exhibitions India Group, the event builds upon Government of India's '**Smart Cities Mission**' through a display of a vast array of products and solutions relevant to building smart cities in India.
42. Air Chief Marshal **BS Dhanoa** led a four aircraft, MiG-21 'Missing Man' formation flypast at Air Force Station Bhisiana in **Bhatinda, Punjab**.
Note: The 'Missing Man' formation is an aerial salute accorded to honour the fallen comrades-in-arms. This is an Arrow Formation, with a gap between two aircraft in the formation depicting the Missing Man. Later, the Air Chief Marshal laid a wreath at the War Memorial in Bhatinda to honour the Air Force men who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.
23. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Professor Ashutosh Sharma has released four popular science books **in New Delhi**.
Note: science books published by Vigyan Prasar. The books released are 'Voyage to Antarctica' authored by Felix Bast, 'Story of Consciousness' by Govind Bhattacharjee, 'An Autobiography of Moon' written by Ramesh Shishu and 'Shambhu Nath De - The discovery of cholera toxins' by MS Murthy. According to Prof. Sharma, these books will inspire people to understand scientific temperament.

Important News - World

1. **European Union (EU)** has extended ban on selling arms to Myanmar.
Note: The Rohingya, described by the UN as the world's most persecuted people, have faced heightened fears of attack since dozens were killed in communal violence in 2012. In August 2017, almost 750,000 Rohingya refugees fled a military crackdown in northern Myanmar to cross into Bangladesh, where 300,000 members of the persecuted Muslim minority were already in camps.

2. **Netherlands** has emerged as the third **largest foreign direct investor** in India during 2017-18, with investments pegged at about USD 2.67 billion across sectors.
Note: The Netherlands was also the second largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth USD 12.8 billion in 2017. The objective of the dialogue was to strengthen the business partnership between India and the Netherlands in times of rapid technological changes.
3. The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise has begun at Goa coast -- **Varuna 19.1**.
Note: The exercise is being conducted in two phases. The harbour phase at Goa would include cross-visits, professional interactions and discussions and sports events. Varuna 19.2 (the second part of the exercise) is scheduled to be held in May end in Djibouti.
4. **UK** has become the **first national government** to declare an environmental and climate emergency.
Note: The decision marks a renewed sense of urgency in tackling climate change. Eleven days of protests by the Extinction Rebellion activist group caused major disruptions in central London in recent weeks. There is no single definition of emergency but many local areas say they want to be carbon-neutral by 2030.
5. A **Japanese aerospace startup** funded by a former internet maverick successfully launched a small unmanned rocket into space -- **'MOMO-3'**
Note: According to Japanese aerospace startup Interstellar Technology, its 10-meter (32-foot) craft reached an altitude of about 100 kilometres (60 miles) before splashing down into the Pacific Ocean. The successful flight lasted about 10 minutes and came after two failed launches by the same company in 2017 and 2018. It is the first commercially developed Japanese rocket to reach orbit.
6. According to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization), India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on between **9 and 16 July 2019**.
Note: Chandrayaan-2's lander will touch down near the Moon's south pole on 6th September. The National space agency said Chandrayaan-2 will have three modules in it, an orbiter, a lander named Vikram and a rover known as Pragyan. Chandrayaan-2 will be launched using India's most powerful rocket GSLV-Mark-3.
7. Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale -- **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**.
Note: Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh. These institutes will adopt gram panchayats and equip them with all citizen-centric services through CSCs. 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.
8. Microsoft has launched a software named to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting -- **ElectionGuard**.
Note: The tool "**ElectionGuard**" will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted. "ElectionGuard" provides each voter a tracker with a unique code that can be used to follow an encrypted version of the vote through the entire election process via a web portal provided by election authorities.
9. **United States Air Force (USAF)** has successfully conducted the test of a laser weapons system called the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD) in New Mexico.
Note: It successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles while in flight. The SHiELD is an Advanced Technology Demonstration (ATD) Program which is capable of shooting down multiple missiles in flight. It would be mounted on aircraft to demonstrate self-defence of aircraft and protect the fighter jets against surface-to-air (SAM) and air-to-air (AAM) missiles attack.
10. The country has passed laws to combat fake news to order the removal of content despite fierce criticism from tech giants, the media and rights groups -- **Singapore**.
Note: The new laws give government powers to order social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to put warnings next to posts that authorities deem to be false and in extreme cases get them taken down. If an action is judged to be malicious and damaging to Singapore's interests, companies could be hit with fines of up to 735,000 US dollars. Additionally, individuals could face jail terms of up to 10 years. The laws have sparked outrage from rights groups who fear they could stifle online discussion.
11. The **Australian flight carrier** has operated the **world's first zero-waste commercial flight** from Sydney to Adelaide -- **Qantas**.
Note: 'Qantas' disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle. The Australian airline Qantas has planned to eliminate 100 million single-use plastics by the end of 2020 and reduce 75% of airline's waste by the end of 2021.
12. 'NASA' revealed its plan to hit a small moonlet target in a double asteroid system with a spacecraft in **2022**.

- Note:** It is its first mission to demonstrate a planetary defence technique. The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) will get one chance to hit its target. The asteroid, called Didymoon or Didymos B, is a moon asteroid around 150 meters tall orbiting a larger body Didymos A.
- 13.** The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** ministerial meeting of developing countries held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Two-day meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward. Sixteen developing countries and six Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are participating in the meeting. The meeting is an effort to bring together the developing and the Least Developed Countries on one platform to share common concerns on various issues affecting the WTO and work together to address the issues.
- 14.** The U.S. **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has announced to approve the first vaccine for dengue -- **Dengvaxia**.
Note: FDA has also placed significant restrictions on its use because the vaccine has been shown to put some people at heightened risk. Dengvaxia is produced by the French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi Pasteur. The Philippines, which became the first country to approve it in 2016, was also the first to ban it in February this year over safety concerns.
- 15.** Developing countries have stressed on **working collectively** to strengthen the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** to promote development and inclusivity for the benefits of all members -- **Seventeen**.
Note: 13-point declaration was signed by these nations at the end of the two-day Ministerial meeting of developing countries in New Delhi. The countries include Egypt, Barbados, Jamaica, Malaysia, India, Indonesia and South Africa.
- 16.** India has been unanimously chosen as co-chair of the **Consultative Group (CG)** of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year **2020**.
Note: The decision was taken during the meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. It is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank, that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide.
- 17.** The Union Government has extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for another **five years**.
Note: LTTE was founded on 5th May 1976 by Velupillai Prabhakaran. Its aim was to secure an independent state of Tamil Eelam in the north and east in response to the state policies of successive Sri Lankan governments towards Tamils.
- 18.** The three-day **‘Taiwan Expo 2019’** held in **New Delhi**.
Note: There are 10 theme pavilions at the expo focusing on green products, health care, agriculture, tourism, biotechnology and electrical equipment. 150 exhibitors are showcasing their products in 230 stalls. Around 30 thousand people are expected to visit the expo this year and potential business is likely to touch 150 million dollars.
- 19.** US President Donald Trump has declared a national emergency to protect American computer networks from **foreign adversaries**.
Note: Mr. Trump signed an executive order which effectively bars US companies from using foreign telecoms believed to pose a security risk to the country. Several countries (including the US) have raised concerns that the company's products could be used by China for surveillance.
- 20.** The Chinese Ministry of Education organized the ‘Conference on Asian Civilizations Dialogue (CDAC)’ in collaboration with **UNESCO**.
Note: The theme of the event is Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Asian Civilizations and a Community with a Shared Future. The objective of the dialogue to bring together a number of internationally renowned experts to deliberate and discuss the major challenges facing the rapprochement and peaceful coexistence of Asian Civilizations in today's context.
- 21.** **China** has broadened its block of online encyclopedia Wikipedia to include all language editions.
Note: According to a report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI), China has started blocking all language editions of Wikipedia last month. China's online censorship apparatus 'Great Firewall' blocks large number of foreign sites in the country, such as Google, Facebook and The New York Times.
- 22.** **Taiwan** has become the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.
Note: Taiwan has approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the first place in Asia to pass gay marriage legislation. The successful bill includes limited adoption rights for same-sex couples.
- 23.** Israel proposes India to be the focus country in **Jerusalem Film Festival, 2020 at Cannes Film Festival**.
Note: Indian delegation met Ms Eti Cohen, Director of Film Department and Council, Israel who announced the recommendation. Israel also proposed the idea of making concept-based films in India, with a focus on regional and small budget films. India has been positioned prominently on the Pocket Guide of Marche Du Film, Cannes Film Market, which celebrates Indian cinema as the world's largest film industry.

24. External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: India was an observer at the **SCO since 2005** and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region. Along with **India, Pakistan** was also granted the **SCO membership** in 2017. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
25. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared as **malaria-free** countries -- **Algeria and Argentina**.
Note: No recorded cases of **indigenous transmission** of the disease since **2013** and **2010** respectively. Contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, malaria remains one of the world's leading killers. It accounted for an estimated **219 million cases** from **87 countries** and over 400,000 related deaths in 2017. Over **60 per cent** of fatalities were among children under five years, and caused 266,000 of all malaria deaths worldwide, according to WHO's World malaria report 2018.
26. According to a **Reuters report**, Facebook registered a **new company** in Geneva -- **Libra Networks**.
Note: This coincides with the slow roll-out of their internal cryptocurrency that will define the company's first foray into blockchain technology. According to a Reuters, **Facebook Global Holdings** is a stockholder in the new company, and it will, "provide financial and technology services and develop related hardware and software, plans submitted on the Swiss register reveal."
27. The second **Urban 20 (U20) Mayors Summit** was held in **Tokyo, Japan**.
Note: It had seen the participation of Mayors of 35 major cities from across the world. In this summit, mayors and city governors from 30 cities with 126 million people adopted 2019 Urban 20 Tokyo Mayors Summit Communique. The G20 Osaka Summit will be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 in Japan.
28. The first foreign leader to meet Japan's Emperor Naruhito -- **Donald Trump**.
Note: US President Donald Trump has become the first foreign leader to meet Japan's Emperor Naruhito. Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne on May 1, opening what is called the era of "Reiwa," or "beautiful harmony." The US President Mr Trump (four-day state visit to Japan) was treated to a welcome ceremony full of pomp and pageantry. Trump will go to the Japanese state guest house later for meetings and joint news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
29. **Pakistan successfully** test-fired surface-to-surface medium-range guided ballistic missile -- **Shaheen-II**.
Note: **Shaheen-II** is a two-stage rocket with a diameter of 1.4 m, length of 17.5 m, the weight of 25 tons and a range of 1500-2000 km. Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile that fully meets Pakistan's strategic needs towards the maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region. The Shaheen-II is designed and developed by the NESCOM and the National Defence Complex (NDC) of Pakistan.
30. India has invited the leaders of the **BIMSTEC Member States** for the swearing-in ceremony of **PM Narendra Modi**.
Note: According to **Minister of External Affairs (MEA)**, Invitations have also been sent to the **current Chair of the Shanghai** Cooperation Organization, Sooronbay Jeenbekov (President of Kyrgyzstan) and Pravind Jugnauth (Mauritius Prime Minister). The BIMSTEC, or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, member states are Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan including India.
31. Sri Lankan Government has signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of **Colombo port**.
Note: The **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** was signed in Colombo by Sri Lankan ports minister Sagala Ratnayake, Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** and a Japanese representative. As per the agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51% majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 percent. The joint project reflects the longstanding goodwill and cooperation among the three countries. The deal is significant as over 70% of India's transshipment business is handled at Colombo ports.

States News

1. **Gujarat** assembly has passed **state's Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019**.
Note: It allows the shops, commercial establishments and other businesses in the state to operate 24x7 (from 1st May, 2019). The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 which prevented shops and

other businesses from operating between 12 am. to 6 am. Employees will get twice the regular salary for working overtime, against the one-and-a-half-time as provided under the earlier act. Working hours for women employees can be only between 6 am and 9 pm (relaxed if considering safety issues).

2. **Chhattisgarh states police** for the first time has introduced **women commandos** in the **District Reserve Guard** in its frontline anti-Naxal force.
Note: These women commandos were part of the security forces' "short action teams" that eliminated three Naxal "commanders" in the past one month. The specially- raised squad, christened 'Danteshwari Ladake', or fighters of Goddess Danteshwari, was inducted in the state's Naxal-hit Dantewada district.
3. The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** (CBIC) organised a meeting of the **Regional Heads** of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in **Kochi**.
Note: India is hosting this meeting in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific region that it assumed on 1st July 2018 for a two-year period. The meeting take stock of the progress being made in carrying forward the programmes and initiatives of WCO. This meeting is being chaired by Mr Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, CBIC.
4. Supreme Court has refused to regularise the services of nearly four lakh contractual teachers of **Bihar**.
Note: Supreme Court also set aside the Patna High Court ruling that they were eligible to get equal pay for equal work. A bench of Justices **Abhay Manohar Sapre** and U U Lalit allowed the plea of the Bihar government challenging the October 31, 2017 high court order and declined to treat contractual teachers at par with regular educators.
5. US Chief of Naval Operations Admiral held discussions with Admiral **Sunil Lanba**, India's Chief of the Naval Staff -- **John Michael Richardson**.
Note: Mr. Richardson, who is on an official tour to India, intends to further consolidate bilateral naval relations between India and USA and also to explore new avenues for naval cooperation. Mr Richardson also interacted with Defence Secretary, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Chief of the Air Staff and the National Security Council Secretariat. Indian Navy and US Navy interact regularly at bilateral and multilateral forums.
6. The most spectacular **festival of Kerala** has begun at Thekkinkadu Maidan -- **Thrissur Pooram**.
7. **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **National Mission for Clean Ganga**, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of Plantation of Rudraksha Trees in ____ **Uttarakhand**
Note: The project aims at planting 10 thousand Rudraksha trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand in association with the local community and other stakeholders. It will also help in generating income for people residing in those areas. Namami Gange Mission aims at providing comprehensive and sustainable solutions for a cleaner ecosystem along the stretch of 97 towns and over 4 thousand 4 hundred villages on the Ganga stem.
8. On 16th May 1975, **Sikkim** became a part of Indian state after the 36th Constitutional Amendment.
Note: During the British rule in India, the kingdom of Sikkim enjoyed a sovereign status with British protectorate against the neighbouring countries Nepal and China. This 'subordinate alliance' with the British was carried on by the newly formed Indian government after 1947.
9. The state Govt. has unveiled **Healthcare Investment Policy-2019 -- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
Note: As per the new Health Care Investment Policy, the state Government will promote & encourage the private parties and entrepreneurs for setting up healthcare infrastructure in the state by providing subsidies and incentives. This follows the State Administrative Council decision taken in this regard on March 08, 2019. Accordingly, 30% subsidy on capital investment will be provided for setting up of multi-speciality Hospitals, Super Specialty Hospitals, Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges and Paramedical Colleges. The State Government (as per the policy) may declare a well-defined geographical area having potential and being conducive for development as Medical City to promote medical tourism in the State.
10. **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)** President has sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Sikkim -- Prem Singh Golay.
Note: Governor Ganga Prasad administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Golay and his 11 cabinet colleagues at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok. Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (founded in 2013) won a slender majority in the 32-member legislative assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF).
11. Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has launched the -- Aroma Mission.
Note: The Aroma mission has been launched for Rs 18 crore to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state.
12. Saudi Arabia lifted the export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala.
Note: Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year. Kerala has received a communication in this regard from the Saudi Arabian authorities that has led to the commencement of direct exports from the state. With the lifting of the embargo, Kozhikode airport was alone handling 20 tonnes of fruits and vegetables per day valued at \$50,000 to various destinations in Saudi.

Honor & Awards

- Dr Devi Prasad Shetty** has been honored with the **27th Lifetime PC Chandra Puraskaar 2019** at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

Note: Dr Shetty is India's most reputed cardiac surgeons and humanitarian. Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj, the General Secretary of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and gave away the award. The award is a tribute to the founding father of the P. C. Chandra Group, the late Shri Purna Chandra Chandra.
- Former ISRO Chairman **A S Kiran Kumar** awarded France's highest civilian honour.

Note: He was awarded for his contribution to India-France space cooperation. Kumar was the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 2015 to 2018. Currently, He holds the Chair of the ISRO Committee on Earth Observation Satellites.
- Former **Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara** has been appointed as the first non-**British president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.

Note: He will take up his one-year post 1st on October 2019. MCC was founded in 1787 and has been based at Lord's, which it owns, since 1814. It is the guardian of the Laws of the game.
- Thailand's King** has been crowned with a golden-tiered headpiece, the highlight of **an elaborate three-day** coronation ceremony two years after he ascended the throne **Maha Vajiralongkorn**.

Note: Vajiralongkorn was handed the 7.3kg Crown of Victory, which he placed on his head before issuing his first royal command. Vajiralongkorn became king in October 2016 when his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, died after ruling for 70 years. The monarchy of Thailand refers to the constitutional monarchy and monarch of the Kingdom of Thailand (formerly Siam).
- Nepali danced dances continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on "Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual" at a function in Kathmandu -- **Bandana Nepal**.

Note: Bandana Nepal broke the record set by India's Kalamandalam Hemlatha who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes (in 2011). Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli honoured the girl Bandana Nepal for achieving the feat.
- US President Donald Trump presents the Presidential 'Medal of Freedom' to Golfer -- **Tiger Woods**.

Note: Woods is only the fourth and the youngest golfer ever to have received the highest American civilian award. Mr Woods won the Masters tournament last month, his first major title since the 2008 US Open, capping a remarkable comeback from personal turmoil and physical injuries.
- Israel** honored **Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob**, with a plaque on the Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill.

Note: Lt. Gen. (retd) JFR Jacob negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh's liberation war. The Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill pays tributes to the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who fought in the defence of their countries they lived in "implementing values of bravery, loyalty, commitment and dedication to a mission, leadership, creativity, camaraderie and sanctity of life".
- International event from the world of cinema Cannes Film Festival (72nd edition) has begun in **France**.

Note: American film director Jim Jarmusch's ensemble zombie comedy film The Dead Don't Die will serve as the opening film of the festival. Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Inarritu will serve as jury President. Indian delegation is leading by Amit Khare (India's Information and Broadcasting Secretary) at Cannes.
- IPS officer **Chhaya Sharma** has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.

Note: Chhaya Sharma led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case. The award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity. The McCain Institute Award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.
- Bollywood Actor Anil Kapoor** will be felicitated by the **Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC)** in India and European Union delegation as part of the **Europe Day** celebrations in Mumbai.

Note: Europe Day is celebrated every year on 9th May to mark the formation of the European Union (EU). The actor will be honoured for his decade-long support to promoting the cause of children's rights and his collaboration with the EU and Plan India in their girls' rights endeavours.
- The second edition of the **United Nations Ocean Conference** will be held in June 2020 at **Lisbon, Portugal**.

Note: United Nations Ocean Conference will support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, The first edition was held in the United States in 2017. The theme of the 2020 conference will be- Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.

- 12. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk No Reduction to Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra**
Note The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva. A total grant of USD 50,000 is distributed among the winners which can be either organizations or individuals. The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was "Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies".
- 13. Oman author has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies -- Jokha Alharthi.**
Note: Celestial Bodies is the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world. Jokha Alharthi will split the 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar purse with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth. The Man Booker International Prize is the world's most prestigious English-language literary award launched in 1969 and presented by the Man Group. The award aims at promoting the finest literary work in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom (UK).
- 14. Former Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran conferred with Japan's second highest national award in its 2019 Spring Imperial Decorations.**
Note: Mr. Saran will be awarded 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan. Shyam Saran was India's Foreign Secretary during 2004-2006. 'The Order of the Rising Sun' is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji.
- 15. Indian peacekeeper Police Officer Jitender Kumar will be honored with a prestigious UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.**
Note: Mr. Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo. He will be honored posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal as the world organization observes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- 16. Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World book of Records London.**
Note: Kapil Sharma started his career as a stand-up comedian and performed on several comedy shows. But it was his separate show 'Comedy Nights With Kapil' which brought him immense fame. Kapil also tried his hand at acting with Bollywood films like Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon and Firangi.
- 17. South Korean director "Parasite" bagged the Palme d'Or at the closing ceremony of 72nd Cannes Film Festival in France -- Bong Joon Ho.**
Note: Belgium's Dardenne brothers won the best director award for their story of a radicalised Muslim youth "Young Ahmed". British actress Emily Beecham won the best actress award for psychological chiller "Little Joe". Antonio Banderas named the best actor for his role of a filmmaker in Pedro Almodovar's self-reflexive "Pain and Glory". The Jury Prize was shared by two films -- French-Malian Ladj Ly's "Les Misérables" and the Brazilian entry "Bacurau", directed by Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles.
- 18. Acharya Balkrishna received 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award'.**
Note: The United Nations had chosen Acharya Balkrishna, among the 10 most influential people in healthcare. Mr. Balakrishna has been invited to Geneva (UN Headquarters) to deliver a talk among other speakers from UNICEF and WHO. Acharya Balkrishna is the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Patanjali Ayurveda. Patanjali Ayurved Limited is an Indian consumer personal care products, among other consumer items.
- 19. Artist Nalini Malani has won the seventh edition of the Joan Miró Prize.**
Note: Miro international award is considered one of the most prestigious art awards in the world. The recipient gets prize money of 70,000-Euro (\$78,000) cash prize. Malani (born in Karachi in 1946) is a film, photography, installation, video art and performance artist.
- 20. Nobel laureate and American physicist Murray Gell-Mann passed away at his home.**
Note: Gell-Mann transformed physics by devising a method for sorting subatomic particles into simple groups of eight based on an electric charge, spin and other characteristics. He called his method the "eightfold way" after the Buddhist Eightfold Path to enlightenment. Mr. Mann received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1969 for his work on the theory of elementary particles.
- 21. The architectural heritage of Orchha town (Madhya Pradesh) has been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.**
Note: The heritage of Orchha town depict the peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty. Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa river, located around 80 km away from Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh. Orchha was built by king Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century. It was included



in the proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body on 15th April 2019.

22. Freelance Indian writer 'Annie Zaidi' has won the Nine Dots Prize 2019.

Note: It is a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world. The winner of the Nine Dots

Prize is supported to develop their response into a full-length book, which is published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) and given the opportunity to spend a term at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University.

Sports News

1. Indian golfer **Gaganjeet Bhullar** has won the 'Outstanding Achievement as a player' award at the fourth edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards at the Delhi Golf Club. **Note:** Bhullar won the 2018 Fiji International, a European Tour event, and became the youngest golfer on the Asian Tour to achieve nine career victories on tour. The **GIA awards** were held along with the 8th India Golf & Turf Expo (IGTE), South Asia's largest golf trade show.
2. Manchester City star has been named the 2019 footballer of the year award -- **Raheem Sterling**. **Note:** The winner is selected by a vote amongst the members of the Football Writers' Association (FWA), which comprises around 400 football journalists based throughout England. 'Parris' (Manchester City and England forward) took the women's award by just a single vote, beating Vivianne Miedema (Arsenal and Netherlands striker) 11 votes to 10.
3. Austrian tennis player **Dominic Thiem** has won the Barcelona Open 2019. **Note:** He became the fourth player (after Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori and Fernando Verdasco) in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona. The Barcelona Open 2019 took place at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain.
4. First overseas player from India to join Hampshire -- **Ajinkya Rahane**. **Note:** Rahane will replace South Africa batsman Aiden Markram. He will play in the County Championship throughout the months of May, June, and July (subject to visa clearance). Hampshire County Cricket Club (founded in 1863) is one of eighteen first-class county clubs within the domestic cricket structure of England and Wales.
5. Romania's player **Isac Doru** has been appointed as the new technical director for the Indian football team. **Note:** Isac will take over the role from interim technical director Savio Madeira. Doru was selected from a list of over 60 candidates who had applied for the post. Mr. Doru comes with a rich experience of almost 29 years in international football across several countries including France, Japan, USA, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Qatar amongst others.
6. Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner **Shreyas Gopal** had claimed the hat-trick in the Indian Premier League (IPL)- 2019. **Note:** He dismissed Bangalore's **Virat Kohli** (25), **AB de Villiers** (10) and **Marcus Stoinis** (0) to achieve the feat. Gopal's hat-trick is the 19th instance of a bowler registering a hat-trick in the IPL history. A hat-trick occurs in cricket when a bowler dismisses three batsmen with consecutive deliveries. Indian leg-spinner Amit Mishra holds the record for most hat-tricks in the IPL league, achieving the landmark on three occasions.
7. Pink city Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship from **21 to 30 August 2019**. **Note:** The previous edition in 2017 was held at Jakarta in Indonesia. The Asian Women's Youth Handball Championship is the official competition for youth women's national handball teams of Asia, organised under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation. It takes place every two years.
8. Barcelona legend **Xavi Hernandez** has announced his retirement from professional football at the end of the current season. **Note:** Xavi helped Spain win the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 2008 and 2012. He holds a Barcelona record with 767 appearances and helped the club win 25 titles, including four Champions Leagues and eight Spanish leagues.
9. **Bajrang Punia** has become the **first Indian** to win the gold medal in the **65 kg freestyle** at the Ali Aliev wrestling tournament -- **Kapiisk**. **Note:** He defeated Viktor Rassadin of Russia. Earlier, Bajrang Punia had won a gold medal last week at the Asian Championships in Xi'an, China. Bajrang (part of the JSW Sports Excellence Program) will fight at the historic Madison Square Garden arena. He will take on former cadet world champion and two-time NCAA champion Yianni Diakomihalis.
10. **Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)** has decided to bid for the 2024 edition (take part-32 teams) of the biennial World Team Championships. **Note:** The last big ITTF event that was staged in India was in 2012 when Hyderabad hosted the World Junior Championships. According to Federation secretary M P Singh, TTFI has recommended three names to the

- sports ministry for the Arjuna award and they are Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty and Madhurika Patkar.
11. Ace Indian squash players **Saurav Ghoshal and Joshna Chinappa** won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **Note:** Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming (Hong Kong) 11-9, 11-2, 11-8 to win the men's title. Joshna Chinappa retained her title as she beat top seed Annie Au (Hong Kong) 11-5, 6-11, 11-8, 11-6 in the women's final event. Ghoshal who had become the first Indian male player to reach top ten of the world rankings is the finalist of the previous edition.
 12. **Mumbai Indians (MI)** became IPL champions 2019 after defeating Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Hyderabad. **Note:** Chasing a victory target of 150 set by Mumbai, Chennai Super Kings were restricted to 148 for 7 in stipulated 20 overs. Earlier, Mumbai made 149 for 8 in stipulated 20 overs. Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by paceman Lasith Malinga registered a final win for Mumbai over Chennai.
 13. **Novak Djokovic** has won the 2019 Madrid Open title at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain. **Note:** He defeated Tsitsipas (Greece) 6-3, 6-4 in the final. Djokovic tied Nadal's record with 33 Masters 1000 singles titles. Dutch Kiki Bertens beat two-time Madrid Open champion Simona Halep (Romania) 6-4, 6-4 to take the women's title.
 14. Pakistan's off-spinner **Sana Mir** has become the highest wicket-taking spinner in women's One-day International (ODI) history. **Note:** She claimed her 147th ODI wicket in her 118th appearance. Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami (218).
 15. Indian racer **Jehan Daruvala** has won the inaugural round of the FIA Formula 3 Championship, one of the support events to Formula One in Barcelona. **Note:** The all-new FIA F3 Championship was created by merging the erstwhile GP3 Championship and FIA F3 European Championship, resulting in an ultra-competitive 30 car grid. Jehan is the only Indian to win a Grand Prix when he won the New Zealand Grand Prix and later went on to become the only Indian to win a race in the erstwhile FIA F3 European Championship, which used slower cars.
 16. **Manchester City** clinched their fourth Premier League title (football) after winning the 2018-19 season. **Note:** Manchester City registered a 4-1 victory against Brighton to accumulate 98 points, while Liverpool, who were also in the title race, finished second with 97 points. Dominant Manchester City has successfully retained their Premier League title on the final day of an exhilarating 2018-19 campaign.
 17. Indian captain **Virat Kohli** bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019. **Note:** Pacer Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year. Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was awarded for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20. Young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal was awarded Junior Cricketer of the Year, while chinaman Kuldeep Yadav took the home outstanding performance of the year award. Ashutosh Aman was awarded Domestic Cricketer of the Year. Legendary Mohinder Amarnath, who played a key role in India's 1983 World Cup triumph, was bestowed with the 'CCR International Lifetime Achievement Award'.
 18. **Yosuke Asaji** has won the **Asia-Pacific Diamond Golf Cup 2019** by one shot at the Sobu Country Club. **Note:** Rahil Gangjee (India) finished tied 39th and Viraj Madappa ended tied 53rd in the finals. Diamond Cup Golf (founded in 1973) is an annual golf tournament on the Japan Golf Tour.
 19. **G.S. Lakshmi (India)** has become the first woman to be appointed to **ICC's international panel** of match referees. **Note:** Now, she will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect. Earlier, Claire Polosak had become the first ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI, Lakshmi first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket in 2008-09. She has overseen three women's ODI matches and three women's T20 International matches.
 20. British racing driver **Lewis Hamilton** has won the Spanish Grand Prix for a third consecutive year. **Note:** He overtakes Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas at the first turn in Barcelona. Red Bull's Max Verstappen clinched the 3rd spot and was voted as the F1 driver of the day. Hamilton's win at the Spanish Grand Prix brings his tally to 76 F1 victories in all.
 21. **Croatian World Cupper** has been appointed Indian football team head coach for a two-year term -- **Igor Stimac**. **Note:** The appointment was made by the All India Football Federation's Executive Committee. The national team has been without a coach since the departure of Stephen Constantine in January, following the creditable show at the AFC Asian Cup. Stimac was part of Croatia's 1998 World Cup squad that finished third in France, has over 18 years of coaching experience.
 22. Veteran Nepali Sherpa **Kami Rita** scaled **Mount Everest** for the 23rd time. **Note:** He broke his own record of the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak. The Sherpa climber



first scaled the Mount Everest on 13th May 1994. He has already climbed most of the peaks above 8,000 m including K2, Cho-Oyu, Lhoste, and Annapurna among others.

23. South Korea has abandoned its bid to stage **Asian Cup Football** tournament 2023.

Note: The Korea Football Association (KFA) had pulled out to strategically focus on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year. The KFA announced the joint bid in March, but diplomatic contacts between Pyongyang and Seoul have since dwindled with North Korea-US nuclear talks deadlocked. The host will be designated on 4 June 2019, before the 69th FIFA Congress, in Paris, France.

24. Rafael Nadal has clinched the **Italian Open 2019 men's Tennis** title.

Note: This is Nadal's ninth Italian Open title and 81st title in his career. Nadal also broke a tie with Djokovic by claiming a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 crown. In Women's single, Czech's Karolina Pliskova registered two straight-set victories against Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to claim the Italian Open title.

25. The India Open International Boxing Tournament (2nd edition) was held in **Guwahati, Assam**.

Note: 200 players from 16 countries taken place in the event. India will field a strong contingent of 38 men and 37 women in the tournament including Mary Kom in 51-kilogram category.

26. The world body governing Badminton (BFA) has launched two new formats of the game -- '**AirBadminton**' and '**Triples**'.

Note: **Air Badminton** will be outdoor sports (Traditional badminton- indoor game). In Triples format, the match will be played between a team of three players each with the presence of at least one female. Infrastructure won't be a hindrance for people interested in Airbadminton as it can be played in different environments like grass in parks, on sands in beaches and the streets and bylanes.

27. Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion announced her retirement after struggling with health issues_ **Laura Dahlmeier**.

Note: She has won seven world championship gold medals, and in 2018 in Pyeongchang. She became the first female biathlete to win both the sprint and the pursuit at the same Olympics.

28. Apurvi Chand has won the gold medal in women's 10 m Air Rifle competition at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tourn.

Note: She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China. This was Apurvi's second ISSF world cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi (in Felndian Elavenil Valarivan

missed out on a bronze medal to Xu Hong of China by just 0.1 points and finished fourth. The 2019 ISSF World Cup is the annual edition of the ISSF World Cup in the Olympic shooting events, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.

29. China has won the **badminton world mixed-team championship**, Sudirman Cup 2019 (16th edition) in Nanning.

Note: They beat **Japan** in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for an 11th time. In the latest Men' singles match Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. Japan have never won the Sudirman Cup. The 2019 Sudirman Cup is the biennial international badminton championship contested by the mixed national

30. India's Mahesh Mangaonkar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in **Kriens, Switzerland**.

Note: Top-seeded Mahesh beat third seed Bernat Jaume (Spain) in four games 11-9, 3-11, 11-5, 11-5 to win his 8th PSA title. Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the world body which governs the sports.

31. Lewis Hamilton has won the **Monaco Grand Prix** 2019.

Note: **Hamilton** struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen. The **Monaco Grand Prix** (Run since 1929) is a Formula One motor race held each year on the Circuit de Monaco. It is widely considered to be one of the most important and prestigious automobile races in the world and, with the Indianapolis 500 and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, forms the Triple Crown of Motorsport.

32. Saurabh Chaudhary has won **10m Air Pistol Gold** beating his own World Record in ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich, Germany.

Note: Mr. Chaudhary scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that were set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February 2019. Chaudhury has already secured a berth for the Tokyo Olympics.

33. Anton Aditya Subowo was re-elected as the **President of Badminton Asia** for another four years.

Note: There were seven other people who were selected as the vice-presidents of Badminton Asia. The Badminton Association of India's president Himanta Biswa Sarma has also been elected as the vice-president. Badminton Asia also got in a new Secretary-General in Moosa Nashid from the Maldives. A total of 40 countries voted for the posts of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary-General.

34. ICC (International Cricket Council) has launched the **criiio campaign** on the eve of the men's World Cup.

Note: According to ICC, fans to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how

they play cricket across the world using the newly launched hashtag #criiio and visiting the site criiio.com. ICC Men's Cricket World Cup brings together the best ten teams and players in the world. Criiio is a celebration of all the brilliant and unique ways people play the game which can be played anywhere, by anyone and at any time.

35. Indian shooter **Manu Bhaker** secured India its seventh Olympic quota with a fourth-place finish in the

women's 10-meter air pistol event of the **ISSF World Cup** in Munich, Germany.

Note: This is India's first quota in women's 10-meter pistol. Bhaker shot 201 in the final to secure the quota for the Tokyo Games. Saurabh Chaudhary has won quota place in men's 10-meter air pistol at the World Cup in Delhi and Abhishek Verma grabbed the quota place in the same event at the World Cup in Beijing.

Complete list of Awards at PL 2019:

S. No	Award	Winner (Team)
1.	Man of the Match (Final)	Jasprit Bumrah (MI)
2.	Orange Cap (Most Runs)	David Warner (SH) 692 runs
3.	Purple Cap (Most Wickets)	Imran Tahir (CSK)- 26 wickets
4.	Emerging Player (future star of International Cricket)	Shubman Gill (KKR)
5.	Stylish Player	KL Rahul (KXIP)
6.	Perfect Catch	Kieron Pollard (MI)
7.	Super Striker	Andre Russell (KKR)
8.	Most Valuable Player (earning more points in the whole season)	Andre Russell (KKR)
9.	Fair play Award (best spirit of the game throughout the season)	Sunrisers Hyderabad
10.	Gamechanger of the Match	Rahul Chahar (Mumbai Indians)

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. **Income tax department** has signed an agreement with **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** to facilitate the exchange of data to nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation.

Note: The move will allow the I-T department to verify the information filed by businesses in income tax returns, compared to the annual GST returns. Both sides will decide on the modalities for "automatic", "spontaneous" and "request based" exchange of data. The I-T department will share key financial information, including the status of I-T return filings, turnover of the business, gross total income, and turnover ratio among others with GSTN.

2. **India Ratings & Research** (A Fitch Group Company) has lowered the **country's growth forecast** for the current fiscal to **7.3%**.

Note: The agency has listed three key reasons for lowering its projection. Prediction of lower-than-normal monsoon for 2019 and the continued agrarian distress.

The slow progress in cases referred to the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, for resolution of the non-performing assets of the banking sector becoming a long-drawn-out process.

3. Markets regulator **SEBI** directed **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** to pay more than Rs 625 crore in the case of misuse of its co-location facility.
Note: SEBI has been probing alleged lapses in high-frequency trading offered through NSE's co-location facility. According to the order, the exchange has also been prohibited from accessing the securities market directly or indirectly for six months.
4. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans.
Note: In March, SBI had announced that it will link its interest rate on savings account with a balance above Rs.

1 lakh and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate, effective 1 May 2019. The interest rates on large SBI savings account deposits and interest rate on some short-term loans will automatically change as and when RBI changes its repo rate. This will help in better transmission of RBI's policy rates into the banking system.

5. **LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL)** has launched '**Udyam**', a skilling centre in **Bengaluru** to empower youths of the country.

Note: It has been launched in association with **Lok Bharti Education Society**, the implementing partner. The Centres of Excellence will provide training to marginalised youth in the BFSI, retail, and IT/ITES sectors. Under UDYAM, Centres of Excellence (COE) has been started in Delhi and Bangalore and later on be expanded to other cities.

6. The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collection scaled an all-time high of over last month -- **1.13 lakh crore rupees**.

7. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed penalties on **prepaid payment instrument (PPI)** issuers for violation of regulatory norms **five**.

Note: RBI has imposed the penalty of Rs 29,66,959 and Rs 10,11,653 on Western Union Financial Services Inc, USA, and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, USA, respectively, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines. In another statement, the RBI said, a penalty of Rs 3.05 crore was imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology. Also, a penalty of Rs 5 lakh has been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions

8. The Chief Economic Advisor **Krishnamurthy Subramanian** has been included in the **Advisory Council** of the 15th Finance Commission as its member.

Note: Subramanian will be the twelfth member of the Council. The Advisory Council was set up in April 2018 to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the terms of reference (ToR) of the commission. It also helps on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution and improving the quality and reach and enforcement of its recommendations.

9. **Paytm** has launched a recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model.

Note: The move will allow the **subscription-based businesses** to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly. The **auto pay service** is targeted at people who use **Paytm for bill payments**, content subscription,

grocery purchases, membership fees, housing society payments etc.

10. **SBI Card** raised 700 crores rupees from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19.

Note: SBI Cards and Payment Services Pvt. Ltd (SBI Card) raised Rs. 100 crores from ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd, Rs. 250 crores from State Bank of India and Rs. 50 crore each from Canara Bank and Axis Bank by issuing non-convertible debentures (NCDs) at 9.15% coupon. The company also raised another Rs. 250 crores from Axis Bank through a coupon of 9.55%.

11. **Reliance Industries (Mukesh Ambani)** has acquired British toy retailer **Hamleys**, the energy-to-telecoms conglomerate from Hong Kong-listed C Banner International Holdings.

Note: Reliance Industries has been gradually transforming itself into a consumer-facing behemoth through its retail and telecoms ventures. Hamleys (founded in 1760) resonates with a sense of nostalgia for adults and children alike, with its flagship Regent Street store in Central London recognised around the world.

12. India's IT conglomerate **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has become most valued firm in India in terms of market capitalization (market-cap).

Note: TCS (market-cap of Rs 8.13 lakh crore) followed by RIL (Rs 7.95 lakh crore), HDFC Bank (Rs 6,24,362.11 crore), Hindustan Unilever (Rs 3,67,880.69 crore) and ITC (Rs 3,67,513.78 crore). The m-cap figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement. Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service and consulting company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

13. Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd will dedicate the 6th day of every calendar month as -- **Protection Day**.

Note: The day aims to increase awareness around the concept of financial protection. As a part of this initiative, a wide range of initiatives will be rolled out across Max Life's network. The Company will also drive a "Super Customer Week", where customers across the board will be educated about various aspects of financial protection.

14. **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** downgraded Yes Bank's long-term issuer rating to '**IND AA-**' from '**IND AA+**' with a negative outlook citing "quick credit migration in the bank's certain group exposures".

Note: It estimates that the private lender will need to raise equity of Rs 7,500-8,000 crore in the next two fiscal years. The negative outlook reflects the downside risks to the agency's estimates of profitability and capital buffers that could emanate from substantial delays in the resolution of certain stressed assets. Yes Bank had also reported its maiden loss of over Rs 1,506 crore in the March 2019 quarter, driven by a near 10-fold spike in provisions.

15. India's first Fintech start-up '**BharatPe**' has announced its foray into merchant services with a new app.

Note: 'BharatPe' enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes. The app allows merchants to record their cash/credit (Udhar) sales customer wise, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers, among other services. The BharatPe app also serves as a networking platform for merchants to connect with other BharatPe merchants near them.

16. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, Retail inflation rose marginally in April this year -- **2.92%**.

Note: The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.86% in the previous month and 4.58% in April last. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data the inflation in the food basket was 1.1% last month, up from 0.3 per cent in March this year.

17. **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo .

Note: The card also includes benefits of up to Rs20,000, including gift vouchers of Rs15,000 from Goibibo.

18. **NABARD** has announced Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups.

Note: **NABARD** has been contributing to other funds till now and this is the first time that the rural development bank has launched a fund of its own. The fund will have a high impact as it will provide a boost to investment ecosystem in the core areas of agriculture, food and improvement of rural livelihoods.

19. **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has released a vision document for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable **e-payment system**.

Note: The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in **India: Vision 2019 - 2021**', with its core theme of 'Empowering

Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages achieving "a highly digital and cash-lite society" through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs). The payment systems landscape will continue to change with further innovation and entry of more players which is expected to ensure the optimal cost to the customers and freer access to multiple payment system options. The document talks about creating customer awareness, setting up a **24X7 helpline** and self-regulatory organization for system operators and service providers, among others.

20. The **Bombay Stock Exchange** (BSE) has launched the app to enable more participation and help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster -- **BSE StAR MF**.
Note: BSE StAR MF is the exchange's mutual fund platform which helps distributors purchase and redeems mutual fund units on behalf of their clients. The launch of the app would further provide the comfort of doing business to our 24,000 members. The 'BSE StAR MF' app can be downloaded from the Google Play Store. Once the app is downloaded, the sign up can be done by providing the member identification number

21. **Reserve Bank of India** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 crore** on **Nainital Bank**.

Note: Nainital Bank fails to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard. The Nainital Bank Limited (a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda) is a scheduled commercial bank founded in 1922 by Govind Ballabh Pant.

22. The **public sector Indian Bank** has registered a loss in the last quarter **189.77 crore rupees**.

Note: Its Chairperson and Managing Director Padmaja Chundurur unveiled the bank's annual financial results today in Chennai. The net profit has turned negative due to two corporate loans turning into NPAs for which no provisioning has been made earlier. The development is a one-off event and expressed confidence that the net profit would turn positive during the next quarter.

23. Indian digital wallet company **Paytm** has tied up with **American card company Citibank** to launch a credit card called **Paytm First Card**.

Note: The card will offer minimum assured one per cent "universal unlimited cashback" on all transactions to customers along with no restrictions on earning categories. Paytm First Card will have an annual fee of Rs. 500, with the facility of a full waiver of annual fee on

spends exceeding Rs 50,000 per year. It is the first card of its kind card launched in India by Citi as well as the first white-label credit card to offer unlimited one per cent cash-back.

24. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has announced to launch the **Mosquito Disease Protection Policy**.

Note: This new policy will cover an individual against common mosquito-borne diseases like Dengue Fever, Malaria, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Kala-azar, Lymphatic Filariasis and Zika Virus. These diseases also lead to hospitalization adding burden on expense or affecting the No Claim Bonus of any standard Health Insurance.

25. Merchant service and UPI payments app has roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador **BharatPe**.

Note: Mr. Khan will be focused towards educating merchants and users about UPI payments along with driving adoption of BharatPe app for all their business needs. The company is on an aggressive growth spree and will be launching a brand advertising campaign with Khan shortly. The new brand campaign with Khan will be focused towards educating merchants and users about UPI payments along with driving adoption of BharatPe app for all their business needs.

26. HDFC Capital Advisors has launched a new initiative called 'HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Program (HeART) to mentor, partner and invest in real estate technology companies .

Note: The HeART will support businesses which are innovating and building technology solutions to enhance the supply of affordable housing. As part of the HeART initiative, it will provide a platform to real estate technology companies with innovative products aimed at creating efficiencies and lowering costs in each part of the development cycle of a real estate project.

27. Rating agency ICRA, downgraded the **long-term ratings of bank** after the lender posted weak results -- **IDFC First Bank**.

Note: The rating agency has downgraded the private sector lender's non-convertible debentures worth over ₹38,000 crore to AA stable from AA+ stable.

28. A private life insurer has been conferred with the **FICCI Claims Excellence Award -- Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.

Note: The recognition comes for its **customer-friendly claims services** in the life insurance sector. The insurer

improved its individual claim settlement ratio, the number of claims paid to the number of claims received, to 96.85 per cent in financial year 2017-18. The award is a recognition of our pledge to provide protection against the uncertainties of life and timely support to customers and their families in the hour of need. Vikas Seth is a current MD & CEO, Bharti AXA Life Insurance.

29. Axis Bank has approved the **reappointment of Executive Director** (wholesale banking) ___ **Rajiv Anand**.

30. IDBI Bank sold **insurance policies** worth in **March 2019** after a partnership with **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) -- Rs 160 crore**.

Note: LIC's corporate agents will be able to sell the products across their 1,800 branches. The bank sold 26,116 policies in the month of March 2019. LIC is the majority shareholder in IDBI Bank holding a 51 per cent stake in the banking entity. In January 2019, LIC completed the deal with IDBI Bank.

31. Axis Bank has approved the reappointment of **Executive Director** (corporate centre) -- **Rajesh Dahiya**.

Note: The board has also approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as Director and Whole-Time Director designated as Executive Director (retail banking) for a three-year period from August 1, 2019, to July 31, 2022.

32. The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a **strategic partnership** with the **FMCG arm** of The Art of Living -- **Sri Sri Tattva**.

Note: Under this partnership, **YONO users** can avail a discount of 15 per cent on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva such as food, personal care, healthcare, homecare, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products. Sri Sri Tattva will make YONO's online marketplace richer with product portfolio in the organic, wellness and Ayurvedic domains, giving SBI customers formidable shopping experience."

33. Karnataka Bank has launched a new savings bank product -- **KBL SB Salary**.

Note: It is a customized product for the salaried class with three variants. The bank has designed **three variants** – SB Salary Executive, SB Salary Prime, and SB Salary Classic – to cater the financial needs of the 'employer-employee ecosystem'. The three variants of KBL SB Salary come with a host of features and do not have the minimum balance criteria.

34. Tech Mahindra announced its biggest defence order worth over Rs 300 crore with the **Indian Navy**.

- Note:** As part of the 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card' (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based Access Control System across all naval bases and ships. The new **AFSAC Card** will replace the **existing paper-based Identity Card** for all Navy personnel including dependents and ex-servicemen. Using the CMMI (Capability Maturity Model Integration) level 5 processes, Tech Mahindra will develop a secure application to manage the access control devices, network devices and the AFSAC Card through a data centre.
- 35. Corporation Bank** has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a product for GST-registered MSMEs.
Note: The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector. P V Bharathi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank, launched the product in Mangaluru.
- 36. USA** has added India to its **monitoring list** for currency practices and **macroeconomic policies**, alleging undervaluation in its currency.
Note: The **semi-annual report** on the US' trade partners' macroeconomic and foreign exchange policies, monitors any unfair currency practices. The monitoring list comprises China, Japan, Korea, Germany and Switzerland. India is the latest addition in the report published last month.
- 37. According to the United Nations report, India's economy** is projected to grow in the fiscal year 2020 -- **7.1%**.
Note: The Indian economy expanded by **7.2%** in 2018. GDP growth is a downward revision from the 7.4% estimated in January this year. The **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019 Mid-year Update** noted that growth projections for 2019 have been revised downward in all major developed economies.
- 38. Standard Charter** has officially launched the Trade AI Engine, a joint solution developed in partnership with IBM.
Note: Trade AI Engine will enhance the client experience in trade document processing through increased operational efficiency and strengthened operational control. **Traditional documentary trade** requires millions of data elements in paper-based, unstructured documents that are often issued by various companies and needs to be reviewed through a largely manual process. With the implementation of the Trade AI Engine powered by IBM, this time-consuming and high-risk process is now significantly automated.
- 39. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced an **extension of timings** for customer transactions through **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** by one and half hours from 4:30 PM to **6:00 PM**.
Note: According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notification, the new timing will be effective from 1st June. The RTGS is an online fund transfer system, supported by the RBI, which enables money transaction on a real-time basis. The **minimum amount** for the transaction under this system is Rs 2 lakh. There is no upper limit on the value of funds that can be transferred via the RTGS system.
- 40. Corporation Bank** has launched a scheme to provide loans to the GST-registered MSMEs at affordable interest rates - '**SMESuvidha**'.
Note: The product is designed as a part of the lender's efforts to improve service and provide the best products to the MSME sector. This is a unique product for GST-registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The bank is actively participating in the government's flagship programmes including 'MUDRA' and 'Stand-up India' to provide the much-needed push to the MSME sector

Obituaries

- Prominent writer and academician **Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao** passed away at a hospital.
Note: Mr. Rao had worked as professor of political science and registrar of Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad. He was born at Jayaram village in Mahabubabad district in Telangana.
- Former West Indies batsman **Seymour Nurse** passed away following a prolonged illness.
Note: He played 29 Tests between 1960 and 1969 and scored 2523 runs at an average of 47.60. The middle-order batsman from Barbados made 9489 runs in 141 First-Class matches at 43.93.
- Former billiards player, coach and administrator **Derek Sippy** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: He served the BSAM in various capacities and was its secretary for several years. He was the Indian team's coach at recently concluded Asian Under-21

- Boys Snooker and Asian Women Snooker tournament in Chandigarh.
4. The **first chronicler of Partition** passed away in Chandigarh -- **Prof. Kirpal Singh**.
Note: Prof. Singh started building an archive in 1954. He began his journey in Partition's historiography in 1953 as a young lecturer at Khalsa College, Amritsar. The turning point came in 1962 when then chief minister Partap Singh Kairon offered to send him to the UK to collect papers related to Punjab.
 5. Father of Modern Legal Education has passed away -- **Prof N.R. Madhava Menon**.
Note: He is known for changing the face of Indian legal education by pioneering the establishment of National Law Schools. He is credited with the conceptualization of five-year integrated LLB course, in place of the earlier 3-year course. Menon was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 2003 for his outstanding contribution to public services. A book "Turning Point" published by Universal Law Publishers, Delhi (2010) is on the life and works of Prof. Menon.
 6. Noted novelist and **Sahitya Akademi awardee** passed away at his residence -- **Thoppil Mohamed Meeran**.
Note: Mohamed Meeran authored the novels Oru Kadalora Graamaththin Kathai, Thuraimugam, Koonan Thoppu, Saaivu Naarkkaali and Anju Vannam Theru between 1988 and 2011. He received 8 awards including the Sahitya Akademi Award (1997) and Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumantram Award (1992).
 7. **Renowned Economist** passed away due to old-age related problems --- **Baidyanath Mishra**.
Note: Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949. Baidyanath Mishra was vice-chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (from 1981 to 1985) and chairman of the State Planning Board (1985 to 1990). He was the chairman of the State Planning Board from 1985 to 1990.
 8. The Veteran film and TV actor of Bengali Cinema **Mrinal Mukherjee** passed away due to cancer and liver problems.
Note: Mukherjee had worked for over five decades in the Bengali film industry as well as Bengali TV serials and theatres.
 9. 'Pioneer of method acting' in India **Roshan Taneja** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: Roshan Taneja trained scores of Hindi film actors like Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Jaya Bachchan and Anil Kapoor. He had been training talent first at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune and later at his private school in Mumbai, the Roshan Taneja School of Acting.
 10. ITC's longest-serving **corporate chief YC Deveshwar** passed away at a private hospital in Gurugram.
Note: Deveshwar stepped down from executive role (on 4th February 2017) but remained as a chairman in a non-executive capacity, spearheaded the diversification of ITC to an FMCG company. In 2011, Deveshwar received India's third-highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan'. In June 2018, conglomerate ITC decided to extend the tenure of non-executive chairman YC Deveshwar by another two years from 2020 to 2022.
 11. The veteran Bhojpuri vocal artist **Hiralal Yadav** passed away in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
Note: He was a well-known Bhojpuri folk singer from the 'Birha' genre. In January 2019, He received the Padma Shri award. In 2015, he was felicitated with the Yash Bharti award for his contribution in the field of music.
 12. Renowned American actress and model **Peggy Lipton** passed away.
Note: She came to fame through her role as flower child Julie Barnes in the ABC counterculture television series. The Mod Squad (1968–1973) for which she won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Television Series Drama in 1970.
 13. The former **Ethiopian president Dr Negasso Gidada** passed away in Germany.
Note: He was the president of Ethiopia between 1995 and 2001. He was chairman of Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), now renamed Oromo Democratic Party.
 14. Noted **Kannada theatre** personality **TV actor Master Hirannaiah** passed away in Bengaluru.
Note: Narasimha Murthy hailing from Mysuru, making his debut on the stage as a child. He shot to fame after playing the lead role in the play Lanchavatara. Master Hirannaiah has won the Kannada State Award in 1984, Rajyotsava Prashasthi, Gubbi Veeranna Award in 1988, Drama Academy Award, Sandesha Arts Award in 2009 and Maha Advaithi Award in 2017 among others.

15. English American actor **Peter Mayhew** passed away at his North Texas home.

Note: Peter Mayhew best known for portraying Chewbacca in the Star Wars film series. He played the character in all his live-action appearances from the 1977 original to 2015's The Force Awakens before his retirement from the role. Mayhew was also an active philanthropist

16. Former Prime Minister of **Australia Bob Hawke** passed away.

Note: He was the longest-serving Prime Minister (Labor Party) served from 1983 to 1991. He is also accredited to create Australia's universal healthcare system 'Medicare'.

17. Former Swimming Champion **MB Balakrishnan** passed away in road accident in Chennai.

Note: He won the 100m and 200m backstroke events at the South Asian Games.

18. Veteran Telugu actor passed away in Hyderabad -- **Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao.**

Note: He had also worked as a staff artist in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Ralapalli acted in more than 800 films and was popular as a comedian and character artiste. He was a five-time winner of the prestigious Nandi award in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

19. Austrians former **Formula One driver Niki Lauda** passed away.

Note: Three-time world champion Niki Lauda was hugely admired, respected and liked within F1. He won two titles for Ferrari and one for McLaren.

20. American architecture who designed the Louvre's crystal pyramid passed away -- I M Pei.

Note: Pei's more than **50 projects** included the Musee d'Art Moderne in Luxembourg (2006) and the 72-story Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong (1989). He was honoured with the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal in 1979. The Grande Medaille d'Or from the Academie d'Architecture de France; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the USA.

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