

Monthly GK Digest

June 2019



Monthly Digest June-2019

Important Days

1. **World Milk Day** is celebrated every year on **1st June**.
Note: The theme for World Milk Day 2019 in India is "**Drink Milk: Today & Everyday**". World Milk Day is a day established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognize the importance of milk as a global food.
2. The **Global Day of Parents** is observed every year on **1st June**.
Note: The Global Day provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 with resolution A/RES/66/292 and honors parents throughout the world.
3. **Telangana** celebrates its fifth formation day' on **2nd June 2019**.
Note: **Telangana** was formed on 2nd June in 2014 following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana Chief Minister **Chandrasekhar Rao** hoisted the tri colour at a ceremonial programme held on the lawns of Jubilee Hall at Public Gardens in Hyderabad. Telangana is bordered by the **states of Maharashtra** to the north and northwest, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka to the west and Andhra Pradesh to the east and south.
4. The **World Bicycle Day (WBD)** is observed by **United Nations (UN)** every year on **3rd June**.
Note: The WBD was approved on 12th April 2018 as an official United Nations day of awareness about the multiple societal benefits of using the bicycle for transport and leisure.
5. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will observe 'Financial Literacy Week' across the country from **3rd to 9th June**.
Note: Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness on key topics every year through a focused campaign. The theme this year is - 'Farmers and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system'.
6. The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is a United Nations (UN) observance every year on **4th June**.
Note: The day was established on 19th August 1982. Its purpose expanded to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse
7. **World Environment Day (WED)** observed every year across the world on **5th June** to **encourage awareness** and action for the protection of the environment.
Note: The theme for World Environment Day 2019 is "Beat Air Pollution". China is the global host nation for the 44th edition of this event. World Environment Day is a platform for encouraging awareness and propagating the need for protecting the environment.
8. **Maharana Pratap Jayanti** (479th birth) is being observed every year on **6th June**.
Note: Maharana Pratap was the **13th Rajput** king of Mewar, a province in modern-day Rajasthan. He became ruler of **Mewar in 1572**, after the death of Udai Singh. He was the eldest son of Maharana Udai Singh and Maharani Jaiwanta Bai. on **18 June 1576**, the famous Battle of Haldighati was fought between Maharana Pratap and Akbar's forces led by Man Singh I of Amer.
9. The **World Food Safety Day (WFSD)** observed every year across the world on **7th June**.
Note: The theme for World Food Safety Day (WFSD) 2019 is "**Food Safety, everyone's business**". Food safety is key to achieving several UN Sustainable Development Goals and is a shared responsibility between governments, producers and consumers.
10. The **World Oceans Day (WOD)** is being observed **every year on 8th June**.
Note: The theme of World Oceans Day- 2019 is "Gender and Oceans". The main action focus is to prevent plastic pollution and encourage solutions for a healthy ocean. The Ocean Project has promoted and coordinated World Oceans Day globally since 2002.
11. The World Day Against Child Labour held every year on **12th June**.
Note: This year, the World Day Against Child Labour and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and end child labour.
12. The **International Albinism Awareness Day** is being observed on **13th June**.
Note: The theme of the 2019 International Albinism Awareness Day is 'Still Standing Strong'. Albinism is a rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited difference present at birth, and it is still profoundly misunderstood, socially and medically.
13. The **World Blood Donor Day** is being observed across the globe every year on **14th June**.

- Note:** The day raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure the quality, safety and availability of blood and blood products for patients in need. This year the theme is 'Blood Donation and Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion', as a component of achieving universal health coverage. World Blood Donor Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
14. The **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is being observed **across the globe** every year on **15th June**.
Note: It represents the one day in the year when the **entire world voices** its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations. **Elder abuse** is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world. **Around 1 in 6 older people** experience some form of abuse, a figure higher than previously estimated and predicted to rise as populations age worldwide.
 15. The **International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)** is being celebrated every year on **16th June**.
Note: The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children. The day is a universally- recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/72/281).
 16. The **Father's Day** is celebrated every year on the **Third Sunday of June**.
Note: The day honour the **journey of fatherhood and** the role that father's play in the family structure and society. This year, it is be celebrated on 16th June in India. It complements similar celebrations honouring family members, such as Mother's Day, Siblings Day and Grandparents' Day.
 17. The World Day to **Combat Desertification and Drought** observed **across the** world every year on **17th June**.
Note: The World Day to Combat Desertification 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The theme of 2019 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is "Let's Grow the Future Together".
 18. The **World Sickle Cell Day** observed every year on **19th June**.
Note: It is observed each year to raise public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment methods. Sickle cell disease is an inherited form of Anaemia in which red blood cells are not able to carry adequate oxygen throughout the body. Government has organized several campaigns for the proper treatment and cure of those suffering from the disease.
 19. The **World Refugee Day** is observed every year on **20th June**.
Note: The World Refugee Day raise awareness about the conditions and problems that refugee faces in their lives. The **theme for World Refugee Day 2019** is '**Step with Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day**'. Millions of people are forced to move from their homes every year to keep safe from war, persecution or natural disaster.
 20. The **fifth International Yoga Day** is being celebrated on **21st June**.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness. This year, the **International Yoga Day's** theme is "Climate Action" and it will be celebrated at the UN on 20 June as "Yoga with Gurus," followed by a panel discussion on 21 June.
 21. The **World Music Day** is observed **every year** on **21st June**.
Note: On Music Day, the citizens of a city or country are allowed and urged to play music in their neighborhoods or in public spaces. World Music Day has its origins in France, but soon got adopted by over 120 nations across the world, including India. In France, it is known as 'Fête de la Musique' meaning "festival of music" to honour both amateur and professional musicians. The first World Music Day took place on June 21, 1982.
 22. The **World Hydrography Day (WHD)** is being observed annually on **21st June**.
Note: The theme of this year is "**Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge**". It was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization as an annual celebration to publicise the work of hydrographers and the importance of hydrography.
 23. The **International Olympic Day (IOD)** is observed every year on **23rd June**.
Note: The day promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. The three pillars of Olympic Day are 'move', 'learn' and 'discover'.
Move: Can refer to all sorts of physical activity for people of all ages and abilities.
Learn: Olympic Day is a wonderful opportunity to look at the contribution of sport to global social issues that can affect your community
Discover: All about inviting and encouraging people to try new sports and activities that they have never done before.

The 'Olympic Day' was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23rd June 1894 at the Sorbonne in Paris.

24. The **International Widows day (IWD)** is observed every year on **23rd June**.
Note: The day raise awareness of the issue of widowhood. The day addresses the poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries. International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation.
25. The **United Nations Public Service Day** is observed every year on **23rd June**.
Note: The day recognize the work of public servants and to encourage young people to pursue careers in the public sector. The day seeks to mark the invaluable contributions of public servants and administrators to build a better world for all.
26. The **Day of the Seafarer** is being observed by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** on **25th June**.
Note: The theme of the 2019 Day of the Seafarer is 'Get on board with gender equality'. The theme supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development goals, specifically SDG 5. The Day was proclaimed with an aim to recognize the unique contribution made by seafarers from all over the world to international seaborne trade and civil society as whole.
27. The **United Nations' (UN) International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** is being **observed every year on 26th June**.
Note: The day raise awareness about the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society. This year the theme is Health for Justice, Justice for Health, which highlights that justice and health are two sides of the same coin when it comes to addressing drug problems. It is an initiative to increase support for prevention of drug use that is based on science and is thus an effective investment in the well-being of children and youth, their families and their communities.
28. The **UN Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day** is observed every year on **27th June**.
Note: The day recognize the **importance of MSME in achieving sustainable development** goals and in promoting innovation, creativity and sustainable work for all. The **Government of India (GoI)** has also organized a **National Conclave (Udyam Sangam)** to encourage dialogue and partnership among various

stakeholders of the MSME ecosystem. International Trade Center, **United Nations (UN)** will launch its flagship report: "The SME Competitiveness Outlook 2019: Big money for small businesses".

29. The "**National Statistics Day**" is being **observed every year** in India on **29th June**.
Note: The day create **public awareness** about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. The theme of **Statistics Day, 2019** is "**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**". The theme has been chosen for intensive and focused discussions towards filling the data gaps and improvement of timelines/quality in SDGs.
30. The **World Social Media Day** is observed annually on **30th June**.
Note: The recognize the **important role** it plays in our society and to celebrate the way it has connected us. The Day was founded in 2010 by Mashable. With the **launch of Friendster** (in 2002) and **MySpace** (in 2003), social media became mainstream. Then 2004 brought the founding of the **king of social media**, Facebook.
31. The United Nation's (UN) **International Day of Parliamentarism** is held on **30th June**.
Note: The United Nation's (UN) International Day of Parliamentarism is held on 30th June to celebrate parliaments and the ways in which parliamentary systems of government improve the day-to-day lives of people the world over. The day celebrates parliaments, as the cornerstone of democracy and as institutions designed to improve the lives of the people they represent. The 2019 event is the second edition of the celebration.
32. The **International Asteroid Day** (known as Asteroid Day) is a **United Nations** proclaimed day observed on **30th June**.
Note: The **objective of the Asteroid Day** to raise awareness about **asteroids** and what can be done to protect the Earth, its families, communities, and future generations from a catastrophic event. The event marks the anniversary of the **Siberian Tunguska** event that took place on **30th June, 1908**. Asteroid Day was co-founded by **filmmaker Grigoriy Richters**, B612 Foundation COO Danica Remy, Apollo 9 astronaut **Rusty Schweickart** and **Brian May**, Queen guitarist and astrophysicist.

New Appointments

1. **Anita Bhatia** has been appointed as the **Deputy Executive Director** of the **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality** and the Empowerment of Women

(UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships__

Note: She was appointed by **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** in the global body's agency focused

- on women empowerment and gender equality. **Anita Bhatia** had a distinguished career at the World Bank Group, serving in various senior leadership and management positions, both at the headquarters and in the field.
2. **Admiral Karambir Singh** took over as the **Chief of Naval Staff**.
Note: He took over from **Admiral Sunil Lanba**, who retired on **31st May 2019** after four decades of service from the **Indian Navy**. Mr. Karambir Singh served as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff at the headquarters in New Delhi before moving to Vishakhapatnam last year as the Eastern Naval Commander.
 3. **Nayib Bukele** has been sworn-in as the **Central American country** El Salvador's President.
Note: Mr. Bukele was sworn-in by the **Speaker of the National Assembly** in downtown San Salvador. Delegations from 83 countries attended the ceremony.
 4. Former ISRO chief **Dr Kasturirangan** led Committee submitted the **draft National Educational Policy (NEP)** to HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**.
Note: The policy draft recommends incorporation of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum, constituting a National Education Commission and curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools. The expert panel also proposed massive transformation in Teacher Education by moving all teacher preparation and education programmes into large multidisciplinary universities or colleges. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.
 5. **Ajit Doval** has been reappointed as **National Security Advisor (NSA)** with Cabinet rank.
Note: PM Narendra Modi has reappointed IPS (Retd) officer **Ajit Doval** (74-years) as **National Security Advisor (NSA)** for another five-year term. The National Security Adviser (NSA) is the senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) of India, and the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security policy.
 6. **Deputy Speaker** of Puducherry Assembly **Sivakozhunthu** has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Puducherry Assembly.
Note: Congress member **MNR Balan** (Oulgret constituency) has been appointed as the Deputy Speaker. The Speaker's election was necessitated as speaker **V Vaithilingam** resigned and contested the April 18 Lok Sabha election and won it.
 7. **Goa BJP MLA Rajesh Patnekar** has been elected as the speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly.
Note: Mr Patnekar garnered **22 votes** over the **16 votes** received by Congress leader **Pratap Singh Rane** during the assembly session. Mr Patnekar represents the Bicholim assembly constituency of Goa. The post of the speaker felt vacant after **Pramod Sawant** became Goa Chief Minister in March this year following the demise of former CM Manohar Parrikar.
 8. **Comptroller and Auditor General of India Rajiv Mehrishi** has been elected as external auditor of the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for a term of four years.
Note: Mehrishi was elected at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2019. In March 2019, he was elected for the post of External Auditor of Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Mehrishi is currently also on the Board of Auditors of the United Nations and Vice-Chair of the UN Panel of External Auditors.
 9. **Mr. M N Sarma** has been elected as the new Secretary **General of the General Insurance Council (GIC)**.
Note: He will take over the charge in August 2019. Mr. Sarma is the former Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of United India Insurance.
 10. Renowned scientist & **cyclone warning specialist Mrutyunjay Mohapatra** has been appointed as the chief of **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** for a five-years.
Note: The IMD is responsible for weather and climate-related forecasts in the country. It is also mandated to issue warning to people about severe weather phenomenon like cyclones, dust storms, heavy rain and snow, cold and heat waves, among others. The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India, headquartered in Delhi.
 11. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the reconstitution of **NITI Aayog**.
Note: Mr Modi will be the Chairperson of the Aayog and Rajiv Kumar will be the Vice Chairman. An official release said V K Saraswat (former DRDO Chief), Ramesh Chand (Agriculture Expert) and Dr V K Paul (Public Health expert) will be the **full-time members** of the NITI Aayog. The '**NITI Aayog**' established (in 2015) with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of

India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach

12. **Rakesh Makhija** has been appointed as the **chairman of the Axis Bank** for a period of 3 years.

Note: He has held a number of top management positions within the SKF Group. The board of the bank in March had approved the appointment of Makhija as chairman subject to RBI clearance.

13. **Nigeria's Ambassador** to the United Nations has been elected as President of the **74th session** of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) -- **Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**.

Note: He succeeds **Ecuadorian María Fernanda Espinosa**, whose term ends in September 2019. **Tijjani Muhammad-Bande** had been nominated by Nigeria and endorsed by the African group, at the election by acclamation. In accordance with the rules, the President of the **74th session** of the **General Assembly** (193-member) should be elected from among the African States. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).

14. Justice **Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel** (59-years) was sworn in as **Chief Justice of Delhi High Court**.

Note: Lt Governor **Anil Bajjal** administered the oath of office to **Justice Patel** at a function held at Raj Niwas. Earlier, Justice Patel was posted at the Jharkhand High Court (from 24th May to 6th June, 2019). The High Court of Delhi was established on 31 October 1966.

15. IT Industry icon **Azim Premji** will retire as **Executive Chairman** of Wipro with effect from **30th July 2019**.

Note: He will continue to serve on the board as Non-Executive Director and founder Chairman. Azim Premji's son Rishad Premji (Chief Strategy Officer and a board member) will take over as the Executive Chairman of the company. The company was incorporated on 29th December 1945 in Amalner, Maharashtra by Mohamed Premji as "Western India Vegetable Products Limited" (now, Wipro).

16. Thailand's new parliament has elected military government chief as the country's prime minister **Prayuth Chan-ocha**.

Note: Prayuth received 500 votes to 244 for Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit of the Future Forward Party. Prayuth is a former Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Army (from October 2010 - October 2014). Prayuth's appointment becomes official when it is

endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The **Prime Minister of Thailand** is the head of government of Thailand.

17. **Dr Virendra Kumar** has been appointed **pro tem speaker** of 17th Lok Sabha.

Note: Seven-time MP **Virendra Kumar** (65 years) is set to be the **pro tem speaker** (temporary Speaker) of the 17th Lok Sabha. **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leader Virendra Kumar is likely to be administered the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th June 2019. The **Pro-tem Speaker** is a temporary speaker appointed for a limited period to conduct the works in Lok Sabha or in state legislatures.

18. **R K Chhibber** has been appointed as interim Chairman cum **Managing Director** (MD) of the J&K Bank.

Note: The **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** government has removed J&K Bank Chairman Parvez Ahmad. As on 5th March 2019, The bank has a network of 935 computerized bank branches, 1287 ATMs and 25 Cash deposition Machines (CDM) across the country.

19. **Prashant Kumar** has been appointed as the **acting Chief justice** of the Jharkhand High Court.

Note: Incumbent chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel has been appointed as the chief justice of the Delhi High Court. The Jharkhand High Court was established in 2000 (15th November) under the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000, after the state of Jharkhand was carved out of the state of Bihar.

20. The **UN Development Programme** (UNDP) and partners announced the winners of the **10th Equator Prize**.

Note: The winning organizations, which showcase innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling climate change, environment, and poverty challenges. Equator Prize winners will each receive US\$10,000 and the opportunity for two community representatives to join a week-long summit in New York during the 74th United Nations General Assembly. The women groups of the Deccan Development Society, Telangana also have bagged the prize.

21. BJP leader **Thawarchand Gehlot** has appointed as the leader of Rajya Sabha.

Note: He will replace senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley who opted out of the government citing health reasons. Mr Gehlot is a **Rajya Sabha** member representing Madhya Pradesh. The Leader of the House is a **Rajya Sabha** member who is either a cabinet minister or

- nominated minister. The Leader has a seat next to the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, in the front row.
- 22. China has appointed new envoy to India -- Sun Weidong.**
Note: He will succeed Luo Zhaohui, who has been appointed as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. Currently, Sun Weidong is the Director General of the Policy and Planning Department of the Foreign Ministry.
- 23. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** has taken oath of office as the new **president of Kazakhstan** during a ceremony at the Palace of Independence in the capital, Nur-Sultan.
Note: He was acting president following the surprise resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev (78-years) in March 2019. The transition comes amid rising dissent in Kazakhstan. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the head of state, commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- 24. Reckitt Benckiser** (British consumer goods giant) named its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) -- **Laxman Narasimhan.**
Note: Narasimhan was serving as PepsiCo's global Chief Commercial Officer. He will be joining the company as CEO and will be appointed to the board on July 16.
- 25. The Anti-corruption campaigner** was sworn in as **Slovakia's first female president -- Zuzana Caputova.**
Note: Caputova scored a convincing victory against Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic. Her allies from the Progressive Slovakia/Together party hope to use the momentum to unseat the ruling party in a 2020 general election. The President of the Slovak Republic is the head of state of Slovakia and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.
- 26. The head of Brazil's powerful state development bank quit, fueling a political crisis -- Joaquim Levy.**
Note: Levy's sudden departure follows a tumultuous week for a government less than six months into its term, in which Bolsonaro fired his third minister. BNDES is one of the **largest development banks** in the world (after the Chinese Development Bank, which boasts assets of around RMB 7.52 trillion, or around \$1.2 tn). The BNDES has **three integral subsidiaries:** FINAME, BNDESPAR and BNDES Limited. Together, the three companies comprise the BNDES System.
- 27. Om Birla** unanimously elected as **Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.**
Note: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Om Birla (56-years) was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha. He was declared elected and the Speaker by pro-tem Speaker **Virendra Kumar.Om Birla** succeeded **Sumitra Mahajan.**
- 28. Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan** sworn-in as **Chief Justice** of Telangana High Court.
Note: Governor **ESL Narasimhan** administered the oath of office to Justice Chauhan at Raj Bhavan. Justice Chauhan is the second Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court last year.
- 29. Mohamed Ould Ghazouani** elected as the president of **Mauritania.**
Note: Mohamed Ould Ghazouani (62-years) has won Mauritania's presidential election with an absolute majority (52%- votes). His nearest rival, anti-slavery campaigner Biram Dah Abeid, came second with 18.58%. It was the first time Mauritians voted to elect a successor to a democratically elected president in the West African state.
- 30. K Natarajan** has been appointed as the **Director General (DG) of Indian Coast Guard (ICG).**
Note: Currently, Mr. Natarajan is the Additional Director General of the ICG's Western Sea-Board, which looks after the security of the sensitive maritime boundary from Gujarat to Kerala. Mr Natarajan holds a master's degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University. The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (DG ICG) is the head of the Indian Coast Guard.
- 31. First female chief executive officer (CEO) of Warner Bros -- Ann Sarnoff.**
Note: Ann Sarnoff (former BBC executive) has become the first female CEO of Warner Bros. Sarnoff will replace Kevin Tsujihara, who was ousted earlier this year as a result of sexual misconduct allegations. Warner Bros. is an American entertainment company (founded in 1923) headquartered in Burbank, California and a subsidiary of AT&T's Warner Media.
- 32. India's representative in the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations body -- Shefali Juneja.**
Note: She will replace the senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar. Presently, Shefali Juneja is serving as the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- 33. Amitabh Kant** was given a **two-year extension** as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.**
Note: Mr Kant has been a key driver of the '**Make in India**', **Startup India** and '**Incredible India**' initiatives. **Kant** did his schooling from **Modern School, Delhi**, graduation in Economics (Honours) from **St Stephens,**

Delhi University and masters from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). The **NITI Aayog** is a policy think tank of the GoI, established (in 2015) with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. The Prime Minister is the Ex-officio chairman.

34. **Mr. P B Acharya** was sworn-in as **Governor of Manipur** at Raj Bhawan in **Imphal, Manipur**.
Note: Nagaland **Governor Acharya** sworn-in as Additional charge of **Manipur**. The senior most judge of the High Court of Manipur Justice Lanushungkum Jamir administered the oath of office. **Nagaland Governor Acharya** will serve as Governor of Manipur as an additional charge from today during the absence, on leave, of Dr Najma Heptulla (Governor of Manipur). **Dr Najma Heptulla** will be on leave for a month.
35. **Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia** (Retired) has been sworn in as **the Chairperson** of the Lokayukta in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: Governor Brig (Retd) Dr B D Mishra administered the oath of office to Justice Saikia at a function held in the Raj Bhavan in Itanagar. Retired IAS officer Mr. Yeshi Tsering was sworn in as Member of the Lokayukta.
36. **IPS Officer Samant Goel** has been appointed as the new **chief of Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW)**.
Note: **Samant Goel** succeed **Anil Dhasmana**. **Mr. Goel** played a key role in planning the February 2019

Balakovt airstrikes and the 2016 surgical strikes. The Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) is the foreign intelligence agency of India, established in 1968 following the intelligence failures of the Sino-Indian War. The agency's primary function is gathering foreign intelligence, engaging in counter-terrorism, promoting counter-proliferation, advising Indian policymakers, and advancing India's foreign strategic interests.

37. The new Director of **Intelligence Bureau (27th) -- Arvind Kumar**.
Note: Arvind Kumar Senior IPS Officer Arvind Kumar (1984 batch-Assam- Meghalaya Cadre) succeed Rajiv Jain. Previously Arvind Kumar was involved in tackling the Left-Wing Extremism at IB. The Intelligence Bureau (IB) is India's internal intelligence agency. It was renamed as the **Central Intelligence Bureau** in 1947 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
38. **Qu Dongyu** has been elected as the new **Director-General** of the United Nations **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
Note: The Qu will **officially take over** as new **FAO chief** from 1st August 2019. He is the **first Chinese national** to be elected as **FAO Director-General**. The **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. **FAO** acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy.

Important News – India

- 1. Elephanta festival** of art and culture held in **Mumbai**
Note: The gala event is organised on the Elephanta Island and promoted by the Maharashtra government. They are a collection of cave temples predominantly dedicated to Lord Shiv. The festival is held on Gharapuri island, which was christened Elephanta by the Portuguese after they found a statue of an elephant on the island.
- 2. AYUSH Ministry** has launched a **mobile application** to enable people to locate yoga events and centres providing training and instructors.
Note: '**Yoga locator**' is a map-based location app which will also enable yoga instructors to register themselves and reach out to a large number of people. The mobile app was launched ahead of **International Yoga Day (21st June)**. **Yoga locator app** will help people to locate yoga centres as well as **yoga instructors** within the preferred radius of their vicinity.
- 3. Food grains** production for the **agricultural year 2018-19** has been estimated at over **283 million tonnes**.
Note: It is higher by over 17 million tonnes than the previous five years average production of food grain. According to Agriculture Ministry, as per the third advance estimates the rice production is estimated at an all-time high of over 115 million tonnes during 2018-19, (previous 112 million tonnes- in 2017-18). Production of wheat is also estimated at a record of over 101 million tonnes, which is higher by 1.33 million tonnes as compared to the previous year. The total pulses production is estimated at over 23 million tonnes.
- 4. Union Minister Mr Thaawarchand Gehlot** has left for **Buenos Aires** in Argentina to participate in 2nd Global Disability Summit.
Note: Union Minister **Mr Gehlot** also attended '**1st Global Disability Summit**' held at London, UK. The objective of the **three-day summit** is to deliberate on issues across **the world concerning empowerment** and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and to work out a mechanism for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life. The **2nd Global**

- Disability Summit** is being held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from (6 June to 8 June 2019).
5. Preparations for **7th Economic Census** are underway in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Common Service Centres (CSCs) are being partnered in the census for the first time, providing quality training to the workforce of CSCs is the responsibility of the Ministry so that data collected by them is effective and of better quality. The Economic Census provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments of the country. The output of the census will be released in January 2020. **Economic Census is the complete count** of all economic establishment located within the geographical boundary of the country.
 6. **L&T Financial Services (LTFS)** was launched '**Digital Sakhi**' in **20 villages of Villupuram district** in Tamil Nadu.
Note: It is an educational programme aimed at digital financial inclusion of rural women. LTFS in association with Sri Aurobindo Society will train and develop a team of 100 rural women (Digital Sakhis) as digital enablers, who in turn, will train about 40,000 others in using digital modes of payments. The company has also identified 500 women from trades such as dairy, poultry and goat-rearing, to impart enterprise development training and upskilling.
 7. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** attended the **two-day meeting** of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in **Japan**.
Note: Besides Ms Sitharaman, RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** also attend the meeting at Fukuoka in Japan. The deliberations at the meeting would be followed by the G-20 Leaders' Summit scheduled on June 28-29 at Osaka. **G-20 include** India, the US, the UK, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, France and Australia among others. The G20 meetings provide a forum for key countries in the international financial system to discuss major international economic issues and to coordinate to achieve stable and sustainable growth of the global economy.
 8. The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has found a suitable window to launch **India's second spacecraft** to the moon -- **Chandrayaan-2**.
Note: **ISRO sources** have confirmed that GSLV Mark-III will launch Chandrayaan-2 from Sriharikota during the favored window time. All **three modules** of the moon mission, Orbiter, Lander-Vikram and Rover-Pragyan are ready. The modules underwent tests in the **ISRO satellite Integration** and test establishment campus in Bengaluru and are ready to be shifted to Sri harikota spaceport of ISRO. India is standing on a cusp of creating history by becoming the only country in the world to launch a rover in the lunar South Pole.
 9. **Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has **increased the third party (TP)** motor insurance premium for small and medium private cars in the range of 12-12.5% for 2019-20.
Note: The TP motor insurance premium for two-wheelers and heavy vehicles has also been hiked. The new rates will come into effect from June 16, 2019.
 10. **Ashis Ray** has come out with a new book titled "**Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge**".
Note: The book is based on the history of the tournament from an Indian perspective. The book covers all tournaments from 1975 to 2015, as well as every semi-final and final regardless of whether India featured in them or not. The book was formally unveiled by the Chief Executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, Tom Harrison.
 11. Union **Piyush Goyal** lead the Indian delegation for the two-day G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy at Tsukuba city in Japan.
Note: Mr Goyal will discuss developments in the global trade situation, WTO matters and digital trade. He will also hold dialogue with other participating Trade Ministers on current international trade and investments. The G-20 Trade Ministers deliberations will form part of the G-20 Summit Leaders agenda in the formal discussions and will also be a part of the Summit Declaration.
 12. The main event of **International Day of Yoga 2019** (21st June) celebrations held in **Ranchi (Jharkhand)**.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi lead the **main function**. Jharkhand government has planned to celebrate the day in a grand manner by organising a week-long programme starting June 15. About 35 thousand people will take part in Yoga Day event along with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ranchi, in the open air. This year International Yoga Day of 21st June of Ranchi would be eco-friendly and hence Khadi Yoga Mat would be used, in place of the usual rubber mat.
 13. The **Union government** has notified its **decision to extend** the benefit of **six thousand rupees per year** to eligible farmers under the **PM-KISAN scheme**.
Note: Now, the **revised scheme** is expected to cover two crores more farmers with an estimated expenditure of over 87 thousand crore rupees in the current financial year. The decision will benefit all **14.5 crore farmers**, irrespective of the size of their landholding, in the country. PM-KISAN scheme was announced in the interim budget, under which the government decided to provide 6,000 rupees per year to about 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers.

- 14. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** has flagged off the first batch of **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra -2019** in **New Delhi**.
Note: The duration of the Yatra is 24 days for each batch including three days in Delhi for preparatory work. The Yatra is organized by the External Affairs Ministry every year between June and September. There are two routes for Yatra-through Lipulekh pass (Uttarakhand) and through Nathu La pass (Sikkim). The route through Lipulekh Pass will be conducted in 18 batches of 60 pilgrims each. The route through Nathu La Pass, Sikkim is motorable and suitable for senior citizens unable to undertake arduous trekking.
- 15. International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** has released India's first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for -- **Bharat Stage - VI norms**
Note: The certificate was released and handed over by Dinesh Tyagi (Director ICAT) to top officials of the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers). From 1st April 2020, Bharat Stage (BS)- VI norms are the automotive emission norms to be implemented to curb the growing menace of air pollution through the vehicle's emission. International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is the premier testing and certification agency authorized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for providing testing and certification services to the vehicle and component manufacturers in India and abroad.
- 16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has accepted an invitation from **French President Emmanuel Macron** to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit as a special invitee in **Biarritz**.
Note: According to External affairs ministry Raveesh Kumar, the invitation is a reflection of the personal chemistry between the two leaders. The G7 summit (45th) will be held on 25-27 August 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.
- 17. The Union Government** has decided to raise the import limit on '**Tur Dal**' to four lakh tonnes for private traders till **October 2019**.
Note: The inter-ministerial committee chaired by Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan asked co-operative Nafed to offload two lakh tonnes of the lentil in the open market. The measure will help increase the availability of Tur Dal and check price rise, which has been created psychologically assuming production might fall on likely delay in monsoon rains. The Union government has a buffer stock of 39 lakh tonne of pulses, of which Tur Dal is about 7.5 lakh tonne.'
- 18. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has conducted a basic training programme at the **Deendayal Port Trust** in Kandla, Gujarat.
Note: The objective of the training programme is to increase the awareness and enhancing the preparedness of Seaport Emergency Handlers (SEHs) to respond to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) threats. 600 delegates from 42 countries are participating.
- 19. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)** has instituted the first edition of **Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS)**, from 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.
Note: A total of 33 awards will be conferred grouped into 3 categories namely Newspaper (11), Television (11) and Radio (11). The awards will be distributed in July 2019.
- 20. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda** has launched the "e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes".
Note: A power point presentation on these new e-governance initiatives was made on the occasion. Shri Munda applauded the teamwork efforts of the Ministry of Tribal affairs for these-governance initiatives for Scheduled Tribes Welfare schemes. As per the "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas and SabkaVishwas", these e-governance initiatives will serve their purpose of the betterment of tribal communities across the nation.
- 21. India** has successfully conducted the **maiden flight test** of its indigenously developed fired **Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)** off Odisha Coast.
Note: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out the trials from Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal. While it can be used to launch small satellites at a much lower cost, it will be used for launching long-range cruise missiles. It will help in the development of a hypersonic cruise missile system.
- 22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** attended the **fifth** Governing Council Meeting of **NITI Aayog** at **Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
Note: The meeting attended by Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Agriculture Minister, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister as ex-officio members. The agenda before the Meeting include rain-water harvesting, drought situation and relief measures, aspirational districts programme, transforming agriculture, and security-related issues with a specific focus on Left Wing Extremism districts. The first meeting was held on 8th February 2015, at which the Prime Minister laid down the key mandates of NITI Aayog such as fostering cooperative federalism and addressing national issues through active participation of the states.
- 23. As per 2019 Global Peace Index**, India's rank has slipped five places **among 163** countries -- **141st rank**.

- Note:** Iceland remains the most **peaceful country** (since 2008) and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation (replacing Syria) in the world. Global Peace Index reports published by the Australian think tank Institute of Economics and Peace. The 2019 report also includes new research on the possible effects of climate change on peace.
- 24. Directorate General of Training** (Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry) has joined hands with **Cisco** and **Accenture** to skill the **youth for the digital economy through** its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
Note: Nearly 15 lakh students across all the ITIs in India can access the digital learning module via the Bharat Skills portal. This programme will equip students enrolled in ITIs across India with skills for the digital economy over the next two years. The initial phase of the in-classroom training programme is being rolled out across 227 ITIs in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Bihar and Assam, targeting more than one lakh youth.
- 25. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has formally approved 120 crore rupee, Cancer Institute at **Government Medical College, Jammu**.
Note: With the setting up of the facility at **Government Medical College** (GMC) Jammu, the patients now need not move outside the State for specialized treatment facilities particularly the PET scan facility.
- 26. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** (MSME) will organize the **2nd edition of International SME Convention 2019** from 28-29 June 2019 in **New Delhi**.
Note: The International SME 2019 convention will give a platform for intensive business discussions & interactions on the Indian Market opportunity. International SME Convention is the foremost International platform for discussing & sharing best practices for enterprise development, facilitating business discussion and encouraging trade partnerships by and between innovative, progressive and sustainable small and medium enterprises, from all over the world.
- 27. According to the Fisheries Department, India** is the **second largest fish producing country** in the world.
Note: China is the largest producer of fish in the world. Around 30% of the Indian EEZ is spread across the Andaman, Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands, but only 1 per cent comprises the production of tuna fish. The 23rd session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), being held in Hyderabad, India from 17 to 21 June 2019.
- 28. According to a new study by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson**, India has the highest data usage per smartphone at the end of 2018 -- **9.8 GB per month**.
Note: The report, released on 19th June, also forecasts that this figure is likely to double to 18 GB per month per smartphone by 2024. The 'Ericsson Mobility Report' added that total smartphone subscriptions in the region are likely to reach 1.1 billion by 2024, growing at 11% CAGR. The total mobile broadband subscriptions in India are expected to grow from about 610 million in 2018 to 1.25 billion in 2024.
- 29. India** is estimated to generate over **2 million outbound luxury** and MICE tourists annually by **2020**.
Note: According to the organizers of the MICE India and Luxury Travel Congress, India's outbound MICE tourism market is expected to reach US\$ 9 Billion by 2025. In 2020, India is expected to generate more than 2 Million outbound MICE tourists. The MILT Congress will be held from July 17-18 in Delhi and from July 23-24 in Mumbai.
- 30. As per global property consultancy firm Knight Frank**, who has emerged as the fastest growing market in the country in warehousing leasing in Kolkata.
Note: According to the **India Warehousing Market 2019 report**, Kolkata witnessed the highest YoY surge, with 191 per cent in warehousing leasing volume of 4.7 million sq-ft in 2018. **Kolkata** was followed by Bengaluru and Hyderabad, growing at **147 per cent** and 96 per cent in 2018 over 2017. E-commerce and **third-party logistics** (3PL) providers were the biggest occupiers to have picked up warehousing space in Kolkata in 2018, the report said.
- 31. The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** chaired **35th GST** council meeting in **Delhi**.
Note: The **GST Council** extended the tenure of the anti-profiteering authority by **two years** (till **November 2021**). The **Council has decided** to use **Aadhaar** as the identity and **address proof required** for registration for GST. No other documents will be required, and authentication can be done using a one-time password.
- 32. The NTPC Ltd and PGCIL** have signed an agreement to set up **National Electricity Distribution Company Limited (NEDCL)**.
Note: As per the agreement **NEDCL**, it will be a joint venture of **NTPC** and **PGCIL** on **50:50 equity** basis. The **National Electricity Distribution Company Limited (NEDCL)** will undertake the business for distribution of electricity in distribution circles in various states/**Union Territories (UTs)** and other related activities. This would make the **power distribution sector** more competitive as separating content and carriage will bring more competition with more than one power supply.

- 33. RBI Deputy Governor** has resigned from his post -- **Viral V Acharya**.
Note: Mr. Acharya joined the Reserve Bank in January 2017 and was **RBI's youngest deputy governor**, post-economic liberalization. Acharya will be returning to **New York University** as CV Starr Professor of Economics. With Acharya's resignation, the RBI is now left with three Deputy Governors N.S. Vishwanathan, B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.
- 34. India signs USD 400M loan agreement** with World Bank to eliminate **Tuberculosis (TB)**.
Note: The **World Bank India** has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollars with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) from the country. The **World Bank supported program** will cover nine States and it will support the government's **National Strategic Plan** to end TB in India by 2025. The Program will provide financial incentives to private sector care providers for reporting cases of TB and ensuring that their patients complete the treatment regimen.
- 35. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri** (Minister of State (I/c) for Civil Aviation) has inaugurated the **Air Traffic Flow Management - Central Command Centre in New Delhi**.
Note: The **C-ATFM system** is primarily meant to address the balancing of capacity against the demand to achieve optimum utilization of the major resources viz., airport, airspace and aircraft at every Indian airport where there is a capacity constraint. The C-ATFM system integrates flight data from various subsystems like ATC Automation System, flight updates and flight update messages.
- 36. The Union Govt.** will set up **713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras** to double farmers' income by **2022**.
Note: The Union Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community. An inter-ministerial committee for the purpose has recommended the use of digital technology to transform and modernize agricultural activities.
- 37. IAF's code name** for Balakot airstrike **Operation Bandar**.
Note: On 26th February, 12 Mirages having taken off from multiple air bases crossed over into the Pakistani air space and carried out missile attacks on Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Balakot town of Khyber Pakhtunwa province. The attacks carried out by the Indian Air Force pilots had dropped five Spice 2000 bombs.
- 38. BJP MP & Supreme Court lawyer Meenakshi Lekhi has written** her debut novel title '**The New Delhi Conspiracy**'.
Note: The book has been co-authored by Krishna Kumar who works with her and is published by Harper Collins India, is slated for release on 8th July. Meenakshi Lekhi is a Lok Sabha member from South Delhi and is a Supreme Court lawyer.
- 39. Union Government plans** to provide **broadband connectivity** to all **gram panchayats** in the country under '**BharatNet Project**'.
Note: One lakh 28 thousand 870 Gram panchayats have been connected with optical fibre till date. Under BharatNet project, the last mile connectivity is to be provided at all the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country. BharatNet is a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on-demand, affordable broadband connectivity for all households in partnership with States and the private sector.
- 40. MoA signed** to set up **Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology** at **IIT Kharagpur**.
Note: Ministry of Shipping and IIT Kharagpur has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology. According to Shipping Minister Mr. Mandaviya, the MoA will further the dream of Make in India and reduce the recurring cost incurred in the import of technology. The Centre will focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing. Currently, only Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and Belgium have model testing facilities for ships.
- 41. The 32nd Congress** of the **International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)** held in **Hyderabad**.
Note: Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, **Kailash Choudhary** formally inaugurated the 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) in Hyderabad. Over 600 delegates including seed experts, officials, policy makers and representatives of national and international companies from nearly 70 countries like the UK, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada, Austria are taking part in the Congress. The Seed Congress is being held for the first time in South Asia.
- 42. India successfully test-fired indigenously** developed nuclear-capable missile **Prithvi-II**.
Note: It was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur. The surface-to-surface missile has a strike range of 350 km. The missile can carry 500 to 1000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid

propulsion twin engines. Prithvi-II was also successfully test-fired on 21st February, last year from the ITR at Chandipur.

43. The **Union Government** has constituted a **Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**.
Note: Prof. Ramesh Chand (Member, Niti Aayog) will be the **chairman** of the 18-member committee. he Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will be the nodal office for the Working Group. The current series of **Wholesale Price Index** with 2011-12 as the base year was introduced in May 2017. Since 2011-12, **significant structural changes** have taken place in the economy.
44. **ISRO** has formed a **public sector undertaking (PSU)** named as the **New Space India Limited (NSIL)**.
Note: It will commercially exploit the research and development work of the space agency, co-produce PSLV and launch satellites through SSLVs. The functions of NSIL will involve small satellite technology transfer to industry, manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The new company will also look after the production and marketing of space-based products and services, including launch an application, developed by ISRO Centres. Antrix Corporation Ltd is another PSU under the Department of Space that acts as a commercial arm of the ISRO.
45. As per **proposed draft, by the FSSAI**, **Packaged food companies** will be required to label high **fat, sugar and salt content levels** on the front side of the package with **Red-colour-coding**.
Note: The **idea behind the new labelling regulations** is to enable citizens to know more about the composition of food products. According to FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India), its new

labelling and display regulations is ready for draft notification. It has invited suggestions and objections from stakeholders within 30 days from the publication of the draft regulations.

46. Under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Scheme**, how many houses have been approved so far from the states and Union Territories -- **81 lakh 3 thousand 196 houses**.
Note: This was informed by Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** in the Lok Sabha. **47 lakh 57 thousand 987 houses** are at various stages of construction and 26 lakh 7 thousand 913 have been completed or occupied. The union Government assistance of **Rs. 51,113 crores** have so far been released under the PMAY(U). **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** was launched in June 2015 with an aim to provide affordable housing in urban poor.
47. As many as **58 railway stations** of **Railway zone** have been provided with **free Wi-Fi services** for the passenger -- **North East Frontier Railway**.
Note: **Free Wi-Fi services** to passengers are being provided under '**RailWire**' brand the retail Broadband initiative of RailTel. The **Northeast Frontier Railway** is one of the 18 railway zones in India, Headquartered in Maligaon, Guwahati. In May, the **total number of user logins** at the **Wi-Fi enabled stations** was 2.35 crore in 1600 stations across India. Inspired by the vision of Digital India, **Indian Railways** and RailTel created a plan to transform stations into digital inclusion platform by providing fast free public Wi-Fi at stations.

Important News – State

1. **Assam** government has hiked the parental income limit to waive admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level.
Note: Student's whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year can avail the benefits. All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.
2. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has resigned from assembly constituency -- **Bijepur**.
Note: Mr Patnaik had contested assembly elections from Hinjili and Bijepur constituencies and won both the seats. Odisha's Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patra has accepted his resignation.
3. **Assam Government** will provide a subsidy of **1.7 lakh rupees** for the admission in the **North East Skill Centre**.

Note: The total course fees of the first batch students (400) would be around 2.2 lakh rupees. The Centre has got the support from Singapore's IITEES. Students would get the best of the skill development courses and exposures so that they could meet up the demand of the industry.

4. The **Madhya Pradesh state Cabinet** has passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** from existing 14% to **27%**.
Note: The move will lead to a reservation in the state breaching the Supreme Court-mandated 50 per cent cap to reach 63 per cent. Now the resolution will be taken in the monsoon session of the state assembly. If implemented, Madhya Pradesh will become the only state in the country to have a 27% quota for OBCs.

5. The **Punjab and Haryana High Court** has accorded the status of “**legal person or entity**” to animals in **aryana**.
Note: It has granted them the “corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person”. The verdict comes nearly a year after Uttarakhand High Court passed a similar order “to protect and promote greater welfare of animals”.
6. **Telangana government** has announced to **increase the assistance** under its flagship ‘**Rythu Bandhu scheme**’ for 2019-20 from Rs 4000 to **Rs 5000**.
Note: The scheme is an Initial Investment support programme of the state government to provide income support for agriculture and horticulture crops to farmer in each season to be used to purchase inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour and other field operations. The amount Rs 5000 (per acre per farmer per season) would be paid through electronic transfer using the RBI payment platform, e-Kuber.
7. The **Rajasthan government** has increased the **annual financial assistance** under the ‘Aapki Beti’ scheme.
Note: ‘Aapki Beti’ scheme provides annual financial **assistance to the schoolgirl** (class 1 to 8) in the state living under Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died. As per the **revised scheme**, girls will get an amount of Rs 2,100 instead of Rs 1,100. **Similarly, for girls** (in class 9 to 12), financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500. The **State Government** has also increased the ex-gratia payment (from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh) to the next of kin of polling personnel who got killed on election duty.
8. Jharkhand Chief Minister **Raghubar Das** has inaugurated the 50 crore rupees Haj House in **Ranchi**.
Note: The five-storeyed air-conditioned Haj House can accommodate about 1,000 people for offering Namaaz. A total of 150 men and 80 women can stay at a time. The Chief Minister had laid the foundation stone for the building two years ago.
9. Culture Minister **Prahalad Singh Patel** has inaugurated the **exhibition titled** ‘Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art’ in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Exhibition is being jointly organized by the National Museum and Home of Folk Art, Gurugram in which more than 240 artefacts displayed. The aim of the exhibition is to highlight the Folk-art tradition of Himachal Pradesh. It will remain open for public till 31st of next month.
10. The annual ‘Mela Kheer Bhawani’ was celebrated with **religious fervour** and gaiety at Tulmulla area of **Kashmir**.
Note: ‘Mela Kheer Bhawani’ is the most important festival of Kashmiri Pandits, associated with Hindu Goddess ‘Ragnya Devi’. The annual festival is held on Jesht Ashtami (May-June) when Kashmiri pandits visit the place in large number to offer prayers to seek the blessings of the deity. Mela Kheer Bhawani is one of the biggest religious functions of the displaced community of Kashmiri Pandits, who migrated from Valley in 1990.
11. Cyclone over **East-Central Arabian sea** has intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm-- **VAYU**.
Note: According to the MeT department, the **Cyclone** is very likely to cross the Gujarat coast between Veraval and Diu. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has mobilized 35 teams in Gujarat and four in Diu in coordination with local administration. Arrangements have been made to warn people of the cyclone through announcements in media and bulk SMS.
12. The **Uttar Pradesh Govt.** has hiked old-age pension in the age group **60 to 79 years** by rupees 100 monthly.
Note: Now, the old-age pensioners would receive 500 rupees per month (existing 400 rupees). This was approved in a Cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Lucknow. The 100-rupees hike would be enforced from January 2019 and the government will have to bear an additional burden of 106.84 crore rupees from January 2019 to March 2019. The newly hiked pension will benefit around 44.21 lakh people in the state.
13. **Amitabh Bachchan** helped to clear **outstanding loans** of over two thousand farmers from Bihar.
Note: **Bachchan** called on some of the farmers to his **residence** and donated the amount at the hands of his children Shweta and Abhishek. The farmers from Bihar who had outstanding loans picked 2,100 of them and paid off their amount with an OTS with the bank. Earlier, Mr. Bachchan had supported 1,398 farmers from Uttar Pradesh and 350 from Maharashtra by paying off their loans.
14. **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019**.
Note: This will enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhar. After the amendment, no individual will be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament. For the convenience of the general public in the opening of bank accounts, the proposed amendments will allow the use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document.
15. The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved the extension of President’s rule for another six months in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: President's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct central government rule in a state. Jammu Kashmir has been under President's rule since 20th December 2018. According to Election commission, Assembly elections in J&K will be

held after Amarnath Yatra ends in August 2019. Under Article 356 of the Constitution of India, if a state government is unable to function according to constitutional provisions, the Central government can take direct control of the state machinery.

16. Amasebailu has become **Karnataka's first solar-powered** Gram Panchayat.

Note: Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. Over 1800 houses were provided solar lamps at a total cost of 2.13 crore rupees. The project was funded by Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30:20 and the rest was paid by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.

17. Prahlad Singh Patel (Minister of State (I/C) of Culture & Tourism) has inaugurated the exhibition titled "**Astitva: The Essence of Prabhakar Barwe**" in **New Delhi**.

Note: According to **Mr. Patel**, museums are required 'to look into our past thereby helping us to move forward in life by learning things from the past'. The Minister also added the museums act as a '**symbol of respect for our ancestors**'. The exhibition will be open to public until **28th July 2019**.

18. The Assam Government has permitted to set up **e-Foreigner Tribunal** (e-FT).

Note: It is a quasi-judicial authority which assesses the question of the authenticity of a person's citizenship. It should be set up by July 31, 2019, when the final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published. The proposed integrated e-FT IT system will be implemented across the state for effective monitoring and resolution of cases registered with Foreigner Tribunal.

19. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project worth **Rs 1,650 crore to develop infrastructure** in 7 districts of **Tripura**.

Note: The **ADB will provide Rs 1,650 crore**, out of which 80 per cent will be grant-in-aid and the state will have to repay 20% loan in due course of time. The project will be taken up in Khowai, Ambassa, Dharmnagar, Kailashahar, Udaipur, Bishramganj and Belonia. The **Urban Development Department** of the Tripura government will start preparing DPRs with the assistance of ADB for speedy execution of the said project.

20. The Himachal Pradesh Government make it mandatory for trekkers to carry a **GPS device** to tackle any exigency.

Note: It would be made mandatory for trekkers to have a GPS device so that they can be provided with all possible help in case of an emergency. Being a disaster-prone state, it is essential to pay special attention to disseminating weather advisories and installing early warning systems in Himachal Pradesh.

21. The Rajasthan government will give **unemployment allowance up to Rs 3,500** having graduation or equivalent degree.

Note: They will get the benefit of the Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana from February this year. The state government has implemented the scheme from February this year after rechristening the earlier Akshat Yojana. To be eligible for the scheme, applicants should be natives of Rajasthan. Under the scheme, male applicants will get Rs 3,000 per month whereas women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500 per month. The amount will be given for two years or until they get employed.

22. Maharashtra's extremely popular **footwear industry** for its handcrafted leather has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Kolhapuri chappal**.

Note: The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted the GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts of Maharashtra — Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara — along with four in Karnataka — Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur. The GI tag approvals imply that the artisans producing Kolhapuris in these districts will now be able to make and market their product in domestic and international markets.

23. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao dedicated one of the largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation schemes -- **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project**.

Note: The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) worth Rs 80,000 crore, touted as the world's largest multi-stage multi-purpose scheme. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project envisages irrigation over 37 lakh acres of new and existing ayacut in 21 districts of the State.

24. India has opened its first specialized **hydrotherapy treatment** for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments in -- **Mathura, UP**

Note: The new **hydrotherapy jumbo pool** is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high-pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation. The clinic runs in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS together helped to build and organize the hospital.

25. The Union Government has developed a **National Strategic Plan** with the goal of ending **Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025**.

Note: As per the last year's Global TB report, the estimated cases of TB in the country is 204 per lakh population for the year 2017. India accounts for 27.4 lakh estimated new TB cases annually, which is the highest in terms of absolute numbers. Over 5 lakh 62 thousand patients were cured of TB last year.

26. Maharashtra Government is all set to get **floating solar power generation plants** on four dams.

Note: The backwater of Wardha, Bebala, Khadakpurna and Pentakli dams has been selected for setting up the floating solar panels as per the Swiss Challenge method. The estimated investment per megawatt is 4.45 crore rupees, with a total installed capacity of 500 MW. The work to set up the plants is under progress as permitted under the Maharashtra Infrastructure Development Enabling Authority Act.

27. **World Bank** has signed **USD 147 Million Loan Agreement** with the **Government of India** and the **Government of Jharkhand** for Jharkhand Municipal Development Project.
Note: The project will provide basic urban services to the people of Jharkhand and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the State.
28. J&K Governor **Sayta Pal Malik** has inaugurated the **'Sighey khababs Sindhu Festivals'** on the bank of **Indus River**.

Note: The festival is celebrated every year to attract tourists to Ladakh by presenting the Indus River as a symbol of the cultural identity of India. The main attraction of the festival is local Folk songs and dances, exhibitions of handicrafts, and ethnic food items.

29. **West Bengal Government** has launched **free crop insurance scheme 'Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB)** for farmers.
Note: **State Government** has announced a crop insurance scheme **'Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB)'** in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) for the 2019 kharif season. The scheme 'BSB' is applicable for farmers in **15 districts** - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum, Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. The crops that will come under insurance are aman paddy, aus paddy, jute and maize.

Important News - World

1. UAE's **Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship** (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in **Abu Dhabi**.
Note: This is a part of the Investors Permanent Residence System aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria. According to Forbes magazine's 2019 list of billionaires, The Abu Dhabi-based Keralite tycoon (worth 4.7 billion dollars) has been ranked the richest expat in UAE. Indian billionaire M. A, Yousouf Ali was given the Golden card under the Scheme in UAE.
2. A volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali erupted -- **Mount Agung**.
Note: Mount Agung spewed a plume of ash and smoke more than 2,000 metres into the sky. The volcano is located about 70 kilometres from the tourist hub of Kuta. It has been erupting periodically since it came back to life in 2017. Indonesia is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the collision of tectonic plates causes frequent quakes and major volcanic activity.
3. Russia launches the first Arctic train service -- **Zarengold**.
Note: The first tourist train travelling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from St. Petersburg station (Russia) with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey. The tourists came from seven countries including the US, Germany, Norway and Russia. The train, named, Zarengold, complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through according to the organizers. The whole trip will take 11 days and allow passengers to discover areas difficult to access by other means.
4. The **Air Forces of India** and **France** will carry out a **two-week-long mega air exercise** in July 1, 2019 at an **air base** in France -- **Garuda VI**.
Note: "Garuda VI" will boost the military-to-military ties between the two countries. From the Indian side, a fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets will engage in dogfights with France's Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the exercise.
5. **Denmark's** Prime Minister conceded defeat after his party came second with **75 seats** in the Parliament as against the 91 seats of the Social Democrats -- **Lars Lokke Rasmussen**.
Note: In Denmark, **left-wing opposition bloc** has won the General Election of the country, leaving behind the ruling Liberal Party. With all votes counted, results showed the left-wing bloc, led by the **Social Democrats**, won a majority in the parliament, while the right-wing led by **Rasmussen took 75 seats** following a collapse for the anti-immigrant Danish People's Party.
6. **Chandrani Murmu** has become the youngest **Member of Parliament (MP)** to the **17th Lok Sabha**.
Note: Odisha's **Chandrani Murmu** (25 years and 11 months) was elected as Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate from the tribal-dominated Keonjhar seat. Indian National Lok Dal's **Dushyant Chautala** (26-years) from the Hisar Lok Sabha was the youngest MP in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014). She was just like any other girl who was searching for a job after completing her BTech from Bhubaneswar-based SOA University in 2017 and preparing for competitive exams.

7. **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has adopted the 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031' during its meeting at the **Presidential Palace** in Abu Dhabi.
Note: One of the **most important initiatives** is the development of the first 'National Wellbeing Observatory' to support the policymaking process. The strategy is based on a national framework of three main levels - individuals, society and the country. It includes 14 components and nine strategic objectives, which include enhancing people's wellbeing by promoting healthy and active lifestyles, promoting good mental health and adopting positive thinking.
8. The 16th **Asia Media Summit** held in Siem Reap **Cambodia**.
Note: Prime Minister of Cambodia, **Samdech Hun Sen** has inaugurated the 16th Asia Media Summit in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The **theme of the 3-day summit** is **Media Digitisation** with a focus on developing markets. 600 delegates from 42 countries are participating in the summit which is hosted by the Ministry of Information, Cambodia in partnership with Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD).
9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the meeting of Council of Heads of States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at **Bishkek**.
Note: Presidents, Prime Ministers (8 member countries) and 4 head of states as observers are participating in this multilateral international forum. The China-led SCO meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.
10. The **United Arab Emirates** has reaffirmed their joint commitment to **fight against terrorism** and violent extremism in all its forms with **Germany**.
Note: A Joint statement issued in Berlin at the end of the two-day visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Germany. The two sides agreed on rallying efforts on counter-terrorism issues, exchanging of expertise and information on combating terrorism and strengthening individual training and capacity-building in that regard.
11. **Japan Government** has decided to invest Rs 13,000 crore in several ongoing as well as new infrastructure projects in the northeast region.
Note: Some of the important projects in which Japan will collaborate include the Guwahati water supply project, Guwahati sewage project, the northeast road network connectivity improvement project spread over Assam and Meghalaya and northeast network connectivity improvement project in Meghalaya. This was disclosed after a meeting which the DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh had with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu.
12. Single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021 -- **Canada**.
Note: Prime Minister of Canada **Justin Trudeau** has declared, it a global challenge to phase out the plastic bags, straws and cutlery clogging the world's oceans. Single-use items **represent some 70% of** the plastic waste littering the marine environment. Each year a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals worldwide suffer injury or death by becoming entangled in plastic or ingesting it through the food chain.
13. According to ISRO Chairperson **Dr. K Sivan**, India's mission to the Moon '**Chandrayaan-2**' will take off on - **15th July**.
Note: India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 is an advanced version of the previous 'Chandrayaan-1' mission, which was launched about 10 years ago. Chandrayaan-2 will carry 13 scientific satellites (weighs about 3.8 tonnes), explore the southern part of the Moon. 'Chandrayaan-2' would make India the 4th country to soft-land on the Moon, a feat achieved only by the space agencies of the US, USSR, and China. It will have three modules — Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan).
14. India and France to hold mega air exercise in July this year -- **Varun**.
Note: The Indian and French air forces will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise in France (from 1st July). It will provide an opportunity to a sizeable number of IAF pilots to have a close look at the Rafale jets being operated by the French Air Force. A fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force will engage in dogfights with France's Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the 'Garuda' exercise.
15. A team of **Tribhuvan University** and **National Geographic Society scientists** & researchers have installed the **world's highest**, fully automated weather stations at **Mount Everest**.
Note: Total five weather stations, including one at a record height of 27,657 feet, were installed on the Earth's highest mountain above sea level. The weather station will record data on temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction.
16. For the **first time in Bangladesh**, **iron ore mine** has been discovered at Isabpur village in **Dinajpur**.
Note: According to the Geological Survey, a **400-foot thick iron layer** was found 1,750 feet beneath the surface stretched over an area of **6-10 square** kilo metres. The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicates the high quality of the ore. In most

other countries like Canada, China, Brazil Sweden and Australia the percentage is below 50.

17. India has extended USD 15 million assistance to -- **Niger**.

Note: The summit is scheduled to be held in Niamey from July 7-8. It will also be the first time that Niger is scheduled to host an AU summit. India is also establishing the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey under grant assistance. African Union (AU), international organization established in 2002 by the nations of the former Organization of African Unity (OAU).

18. WHO offers a **new tool** to contain rising antimicrobial resistance and make **antibiotic use safer** and more effective-- **AWaRe**.

Note: WHO has launched a global campaign that urges countries to adopt its new online tool called AWaRe. The campaign aims to achieve a 60 per cent increase in the use of antibiotics under the Access group cheap, 'narrow-spectrum' drugs (that target a specific microorganism rather than several) and also lower the risk of resistance. The tool, known as 'AWaRe', classifies antibiotics into three groups:

Access — antibiotics used to treat the most common and serious infections

Watch — antibiotics available at all times in the healthcare system

Reserve — antibiotics to be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort.

19. According to **Information & Broadcasting (I&B)** Ministry, India has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to make India Channel available to viewers -- **DD (Doordarshan) India**.

Note: The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry said that India has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to make **DD (Doordarshan) India** available to viewers in the two countries respectively. Under this agreement, Bangladesh's BTV World and South Korea's KBS World will also be made available on DD Free Dish, which has nearly 35 million subscribers across the country.

20. **Indian Navy** launches Operation Sankalp in the **Gulf of Oman**.

Note: Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region. INS Chennai and INS Sunayna have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations. In addition, aerial surveillance in the area is also being done by IN aircraft.

21. **NASA** has revealed it's first **cube shaped 'Astrobee'** robot, called -- **Bumble**.

Note: Astrobee is a free-flying robot system designed to help astronauts reduce time spent on routine duties. The system comprises two more robots 'Honey' and 'Queen', software and a docking station used for recharging. Astrobee robots can move in any direction and turn on any axis in space.

22. **Saudi Arabia** has become the **first Arab Nation** to get FATF Membership.

Note: Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). With the induction of Saudi Arabia as FATF member, the number of permanent members in the group is now 39.

23. **International Olympic Committee** opens new **headquarters in Switzerland**.

Note: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. It has been opened exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived. The Olympic House has been built on the site of the former headquarters, and 95% of the old materials were reused and recycled. Designed by architecture firm 3XN of Denmark, the energy-efficient building has won international awards for sustainability.

24. **UAE** launched **UN-developed** anti-money laundering platform.

Note: The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organized crimes. The UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit launched the new anti-money laundering platform 'goAML', which has been open for registration since May. More than **900 entities** including, banks, insurance companies and money exchange centres, are required to register on the platform and 50% of them have already registered. The platform will help the **FIU prevent money** laundering, financing of terrorism and other illicit financial activities.

25. G-20 summit 2019 (14th-meeting) held in **Osaka (Japan)**.

Note: The theme of the G-20 summit 2019 is '**Human centred future society**'. The **G20 is an international forum** for the governments and **central bank governors** from 19 countries and the European Union. The **members of G20** are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The **next G20 Summit** will be hosted by Saudi Arabia in November 2020.

Honor & Awards

- 1. Indian-origin Six students** has won the prestigious Scripps National Spelling Bee after defeating over 550 other contestants in an unprecedented competition in the US.

Note: It is the first time in the 94-year history of the competition that more than two co-champions have been named. Rishik Gandhasri, Saketh Sundar, Shruthika Padhy, Sohum Sukhatankar, Abhijay Kodali, Rohan Raja, Christopher Serrao and Erin Howard were named as co-champions. Each will receive the full winner's prize of 50,000 US Dollar in cash. The six boys and two girls combined to spell the final 47 words correctly over five consecutive perfect rounds. The National Bee is a high-profile, high-pressure endurance test as much as a nerd spelling match and spellers spend months preparing for it.
- 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved major changes in the **Prime Minister's scholarship scheme** under the -- **National Defence Fund**.

Note: Mr Modi has enhanced rates of scholarship from 2000 rupees per month to 2500 rupees per month for boys and from 2250 rupees per month to 3000 rupees per month for girls. The ambit of the Scholarship Scheme is also extended to the wards of State Police officials who are/were martyred during terror/naxal attacks. The quota of new scholarships forwards of state police officials will be 500 in a year. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal Ministry in this regard.
- 3. Former President of India Pratibha Patil** was conferred with the "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners.

Note: The award was accoladed by Mexico's Ambassador to India, Melba Pria, at a special ceremony held in the MCCIA Bhavan, Pune. She is the first Indian female and only the second Indian (first late President S Radhakrishna) to get the Mexico's civilian award. Pratibha Patil is the first Indian woman to have served as the President of India (2007-2012).
- 4. In the United States,** Google's CEO **Sundar Pichai** and Nasdaq president **Adena Friedman** have been chosen for the prestigious **Global Leadership Awards 2019**.

Note: They recognized for companies' contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms. The award by Washington-based US-India Business Council (USIBC) would be conferred Mr. Pichai and Mrs. Friedman during the next week's 'India Ideas Summit'. The Global Leadership Award given annually (since 2007).
- 5. Narendra Modi** was conferred with the Maldives' highest honour "Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen".

Note: The prestigious award was presented to PM Modi by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih during a ceremony in Male. The Most Honourable Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen" is the Maldives' highest honour accorded to foreign dignitaries.
- 6. India's Automobile major has won the Gold Award in South Africa -- Mahindra.**

Note: Mahindra has received the award from the country's **National Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA)** which tests dealers' satisfaction with the way a brand supports and communicates with them. The automobile giant, which has more than 60 dealers in South Africa (for the past 16 years), secured the top position out of the 29 vehicle brands surveyed for the awards.
- 7. Cabinet Secretary** has been given further **three months** extensions -- **Pradeep Kumar Sinha**.

Note: The appointments committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension beyond 12th of this month until further orders. In May 2015, Mr Sinha was appointed as cabinet secretary for a fixed two-year term. This is the third time that Mr Sinha's tenure has been extended. The Cabinet Secretary is the ex-officio head of the Civil Services Board, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), and all civil services under the rules of business of the government.
- 8. Noted English writer** Novelist has received the country's **highest literary honour Jnanpith Award 2018 -- Amitav Ghosh**.

Note: Ghosh is the recipient of the Padma Shri (2007) and Sahitya Akademi Award. His fiction is endowed with extraordinary depth and substance through his academic training as a historian and a social anthropologist. The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their 'outstanding contribution towards literature'. The award was given to the authors for their most outstanding work and consisted of a citation plaque, a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh and a bronze replica of 'Saraswati'.
- 9. The flag carrier of Sri Lanka** has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive year -- **Sri Lankan Airlines**

Note: It has been named for the second consecutive time with over 90% of its flights in May being "on time". In May, it achieved a punctuality rating of 90.75%. Global flight tracker, 'Flightstats' analysed data of 41 carriers from Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and South America, including most of the world's largest and most prestigious airlines before drawing its conclusions.

10. **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** will confer the distinguished alumni award to the two Union Ministers -- **Nirmala Sitharaman & Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**.
Note: Executive Council of the JNU University approved a proposal in this regard. The two ministers will be awarded during the third convocation of JNU to be held in August this year. Ms Sitharaman had completed her MA and M Phil degrees while Mr Jaishankar completed his M Phil and doctoral research from JNU. According to JNU, their highly distinguished career and achievements have made the university very proud and they are a great source of inspiration for JNU students and researchers.
11. **Suman Rao** has been crowned **fbf Colors 'Miss India 2019'** (56th edition) in a ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai.
Note: Chhattisgarh's Shivani Jadhav (23-years) was crowned Miss Grand India 2019. Shreya Shanker (21-years) from Bihar won 'Miss India United Continents 2019 title'.
 ➤ 'Miss India' is a national beauty pageant in India that annually selects representatives to compete in Miss World.
12. Bengaluru-based **NGO** has been awarded the **BBC World Service Global Champion Award** for the programme -- **Akshaya Patra**.
Note: NGO 'Akshaya Patra' runs one of the world's largest school meals project in India. The Award, presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol this week, recognises a person or project who is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.
13. As per **2019 QS World University Ranking**, who has emerged the **country's best university for the second consecutive year -- IIT Bombay**.
Note: **IIT Bombay** has emerged the country's best university for the second consecutive year in the 2019 QS World University Ranking. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** was named the world's best for a record eighth consecutive year. Twenty-three **Indian institutes** feature in the sixteenth edition of the **QS World University Ranking** in which IIT Bombay (152), IIT Delhi (182) and **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore** (184) are ranked in the global top 200. Four of the **23 Indian institutes** improved their position and seven dropped in rank, compared to last year. OP Jindal Global is the only new entrant from India this year.
14. Ministry of **Road Transport** and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to **___ Universal Smart Card Driving License**.
Note: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences. This Ministry, through its flagship application called SARATHI developed by NIC, has a common countrywide database of all driving license holders. The SARATHI application has the feature to identify duplicate records online in real time and access information about the challans if any.
15. Japan has gifted a war museum called '**Imphal Peace Museum**' to **Manipur**.
Note: The museum has been inaugurated to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal. The Battle of Imphal is regarded as one of the fiercest battles of World War II in which about 70,000 Japanese soldiers along with the Indian National Army, died in battles with the British-led Allied forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March to June 1944.
16. As **per Ranking of Police stations** for 2018 by the Home ministry, Rajasthan's 'Police Station' has been ranked the best Police Station in the country **___ Kalu**.
Note: The No-2 rank goes to 'Campbell Bay police station' in Nicobar district of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The No-3 rank goes to 'Farakka police station' in Murshidabad, West Bengal, which has facilities like air-conditioners, besides a gymnasium and playground that provide a comfortable environment for public-police interaction. The 2018 survey covered a set of police stations shortlisted from across the country. The stations were evaluated on the basis of crimes against women and SCs/STs, and property-related offences
17. Rachna Khaira has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' 2019.
Note: Rachna Khaira (former journalist - The Tribune) bags the award for her far-reaching expose in 2018 on the functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of Indian (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache. The RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism has been instituted by Mumbai Press Club to encourage good quality reporting and analysis, fair play and high ethical standards in Indian journalism.
18. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar has released the second edition of 'Healthy States, Progressive India' report in **___ New Delhi**.
Note: The report takes a comprehensive look at health in terms of health outcomes, governance and processes and impact of policy interventions.

Category	Large States	Smaller States	Union Territories
Overall performance	1.Kerala 2.Andhra Pradesh	Mizoram	Chandigarh

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	3.Maharashtra		
Incremental improvement	1.Haryana 2.Rajasthan 3. Jharkhand	1.Tripura 2.Manipur	Dadra and Nagar Haveli

Sports News

- Rani Rampal** will lead **Indian Women Hockey squad** for FIH Series Finals.
Note: Hockey India named an 18-member Indian team for the upcoming FIH Women's Series Finals starting in Hiroshima, Japan on the 15th of next month. Rani Rampal will captain the team and experienced goalkeeper Savita will share the responsibility of Vice-Captain.
- Pakistan** will host the **15th edition** of the **2020 Asia Cup cricket** tournament (in September 2020).
Note: The matches will be played as Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) in the quadrennial event. ACC also reaffirmed its stand to include cricket in the 2022 Asian Games scheduled in Hangzhou, China.
- Liverpool** breezed past **Tottenham** at Madrid to win the **Champions League Football** for the **6th time**.
Note: In the all-English showpiece, the Reds got the better of Spurs with a 2-nil win. Mohamed Salah put Liverpool in front after just two minutes when he converted a penalty following a handball by Moussa Sissoko. The European Cup is a trophy awarded annually by UEFA to the football club that wins the UEFA Champions League.
- Sunil Chhetri** has become the most capped India player by surpassing **Bhaichung Bhutia's** 107 international matches.
Note: In his milestone match of the King's Cup football tournament in Buriram, Thailand, he scored the lone goal for his side in the 31st minute from a spot kick for his 69th goal. The 82nd ranked Caribbean island nation has two players associated with English Premier League and some others in European leagues. Sunil Chhetri is an Indian professional footballer who plays as a striker or winger and captains both the Indian Super League side Bengaluru FC and the Indian national team
- China** will host the **2023 Asian Cup**.
Note: China will stage the 2023 Asian Cup football after South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia dropped their bids. It will mark the second time for China to host the quadrennial continental tournament. In the 2004 edition, China had finished runners-up to Japan. This year's Asian Cup in the UAE was expanded to 24 nations for the first time with Qatar winning the final 3-1 against Japan.
- The **Indian junior women's hockey team** clinched the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title in **Dublin, Ireland**.
Note: The win meant India ended the tournament with an unblemished record. With three goals in four games, Mumtaz Khan finished as the highest goal scorer of the tournament.
- The 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup (8th edition) started in **France**.
Note: The quadrennial **international football championship** contested by the twenty-four women's national teams. (from 6 confederations). The Championship will be held in **nine cities** across France. In March 2015, France won the right to host the event, the first time the country will host the tournament, and the third time a European nation will.
- Rafael Nadal** lifted his 12th French Open Men's Singles title.
Note: He defeated fourth seed Austrian Dominic Thiem 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 for the third straight year. With this, Nadal became the first player to win 12 Singles titles at the same Grand Slam and won 18 majors overall.
- Ashleigh Barty** has won the 2019 French Open women's singles crown.
Note: Australian Ashleigh Barty (23-years) has beaten Marketa Vondrousova in the French Open final to win her first Grand Slam singles title. Ashleigh Barty won 6-1 6-3 against Czech teenager Vondrousova on the Paris clay. Now she is the first Australian to win a singles titles at Roland Garros since Margaret Court in 1973.
- Lewis Hamilton** secured a **record-breaking seventh win** at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix.
Note: Sebastian Vettel was penalised for dangerous driving. During the race, both Vettel and Hamilton were engaged in a head-to-head battle when the former ran across the grass accidentally, in the process squeezing the British driver when he re-joined the track. The incident led to the stewards awarding a five-second race time penalty to the German driver. Ferrari will appeal against the decision over the five-second penalty given to Vettel which cost him the race.
- Indian cricketer **Yuvraj Singh** announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: Yuvraj will be pursuing a freelance career in ICC approved foreign Twenty20 leagues. First time in

Twenty20 cricket, Yuvraj hit 6 sixes in one over off Stuart Broad in a super-8 match against England at Durban. He was the vice-captain of the Indian ODI team between 2007–2008. The veteran cricketer has amassed over 11,000 international runs in the 304 ODIs, 40 Tests, and 58 T20Is that he has played.

- 12. Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI)** has announced the Indian team for the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships to be held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.

Note: The four men's team comprises Rakesh Kumar Patra, Yogeshwar Singh, Debang Dey and Arik Dey. Pranati Nayak, Shraddha Talekar, Pranati Das and Papiya Das are in the women's team.

- 13. Indian men's archery team** secured the Olympic quota for the **2020 Tokyo Games**.

Note: Indian team (Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin Jadhav) storming into the quarterfinals of the World Championships with a 5-3 win over Canada in the Netherlands. This is for the first time after 2012-London Olympics that Indian men could secure a team quota.

- 14. The Indian men's recurve team** bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in **The Netherlands**.

Note: Indian trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin lost to Chinese team of Ding Yiliang, Wei Shaoxuan and Feng Hao 6-2 in the summit clash. India ended their campaign with one silver and two bronze medals won in the women's compound team and individual events.

- 15. Asian champion PU Chitra** has won the **women's 1500m gold** at the Folksam Grand Prix in Sollentuna, Sweden.

Note: She produced the best time of her season so far by clocking 4 minutes 12.65 seconds (4:12.65s). She is a gold medal winner in Asian Championships held in Doha, Qatar in April 2019. Asian Games gold medallist India's Jinson Johnson won the silver in the men's 1500m clocking 3:39.69.

- 16. Archery's world body** has de-listed the **Archery Association of India (AAI)** as a member and given it a month's time to either get its house in order to **face suspension**.

Note: World Archery (WA) will wait till 31st of next month before deciding on AAI's suspension. The WA will wait for the Supreme Court's verdict on the controversial elections of the AAI. The decision to de-list AAI will not prevent Indian archers from taking part in international events under the national flag in competitions for which entries have already been made.

- 17. Abhinav Bindra** has been appointed as an **independent person** by the **World Archery** to sort

out the ongoing mess in the Archery Association of India (AAI).

Note: The development comes a day after the world body de-listed the AAI for violating the constitution by unanimously electing two parallel bodies in Chandigarh and New Delhi. The suspension would prevent Indian archers from participating at any world event, including the Asian Archery Championships, an Olympic qualifying event.

- 18. Pankaj Advani** has clinched the **35th men's Asian Snooker Championship** in Doha.

Note: Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship in Doha to complete a career grand slam in cue sports. He defeated **Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon** 6-3 in the final to become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats.

- 19. Indian women's Hockey team** wins FIH Series finals in **Japan**.

Note: India Hockey team clinched the women's FIH Series Finals Hockey Tournament by beating Japan 3-1 in the summit clash at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium in Japan. Women's FIH Series is the 2nd stage of 2018-19 editions of Hockey Series participation of 24 teams (from 5 confederations). The top two teams from each event qualified for 2019 FIH Olympic Qualifiers.

- 20. Defending World Drivers' Champion Lewis Hamilton** won the French Grand Prix 2019.

Note: The 2019 FIA Formula One World Championship is an ongoing motor racing championship for Formula One cars which marks the 70th running of the Formula One World Championship.

- 21. Spanish Tennis player Feliciano Lopez** has won the men's single Queen's Club Championships.

Note: He defeated Gilles Simon. In the men's double, Andy Murray and Feliciano Lopez defeated Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury 7-6 (8-6) 5-7 10-5 to win the men's double Queen's Club Championships.

- 22. India's junior women's team** adjudged best in **Black Forest Cup**

Note: In Boxing, India's junior women pugilists clinched seven medals (gold medal – 5), while the team was adjudged the best of the tournament in the Black Forest Cup in Villingen, Schwenningen, Germany. Haryana's Neha (54kg) and Karnataka's Anju Devi (50kg) claimed the honours of best boxer and promising player of the tournament. Ten countries including India, Ukraine, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mongolia, Greece, and Poland took part in this tournament.

- 23. Karnataka's Chess player Girish A. Koushik** has become **India's 63rd Grandmaster**.

Note: He is the only Indian chess player to have won **gold medals at the Asian U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-**

16 age-group categories. Girish had completed his second GM norm in Mallorca late in May, and the third in Budapest the following week. World popular Chess player Mr. Viswanathan Anand was the first Grandmaster in India. Grandmaster (GM) is a title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.

24. The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** stripped **Olympic status** from the troubled world boxing body -- **AIBA**.

Note: Now, IOC will organize qualifying and final tournaments for the **2020 Tokyo Games**. **IOC members** had voted to endorse the executive board's recommendation last month to suspend AIBA's Olympic status. It is cut off from future **income from Tokyo revenues**, and the **2019 world championships** for men and women in Russia are no longer Olympic qualifiers.

25. The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** withdrew its **controversial circular** to ban parents and personal **coaches of shooters** from the **Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range** in New Delhi.

Note: Recently, an order issued by the authorities at the shooting range restricted the movement of parents and coaches inside the range, leading to a controversy. As per international guidelines, they will, however, be not allowed on Field of Play.

26. **India captain Virat Kohli** has become the **fastest batsman** to reach **20,000 international runs**.

Note: **Virat Kohli** (131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs and 62T20I) broke Sachin Tendulkar (453 innings) and Brian Lara's (453 innings) record to become the fastest to 20,000 international runs. Now, **Virat Kohli** became

the **12th batsman** and **3rd Indian batsman** after Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs) and Rahul Dravid (24,208 runs) to reach 20,000 International runs. **Virat Kohli** has already become the fastest to score 11,000 ODI runs. Now, Virat Kohli has registered **11,124 runs** in ODIs (C-66 & HC-93) and has 6,613 Test runs and 2,263 in T20Is.

27. **South-East Asian countries** will jointly bid to host the **2034 Football World Cup**.

Note: Prime Minister of Thailand **Prayuth Chan-ocha** invited the people of ASEAN to support the football associations in their countries to host the tournament. The **FIFA World Cup** has held only once in the continent when Japan and South Korea were joint hosts in 2002. Qatar will bring it back to Asia in 2022. The **ASEAN countries** are Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei.

28. **Former England batsman Marcus Trescothick** announced **retirement** from professional cricket.

Note: Trescothick represented England in 76 Test matches and 123 One Day Internationals between 2000 to 2006. He scored 5,825 runs at an average of 43.79. **Trescothick** played first-class cricket for Somerset County Cricket Club.

29. **Milan-Cortina (Italy)** has been selected to host the Winter Olympics 2026.

Note: This will be the fourth Olympic Games hosted in Italy and the first Olympic Games hosted by Milan. The 2026 Winter Olympics scheduled to take place from 6 to 22 February 2026 in Italy.

S. No	Olympics	City/Country
1.	2020 Summer Olympics	Tokyo, Japan
2.	2022 Winter Olympics	Beijing, China
3.	2024 Summer Olympics	Paris, France
4.	2026 Winter Olympics	Milan-Cortina, Italy

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has launched CMS for filing online complaints against banks, NBFCs -- **cms.rbi.org.in**.

Note: The **Complaint Management System (CMS)** is a software application, aims to facilitate RBI's grievance redressal process. Application also improves transparency by keeping the complainants informed

through auto-generated acknowledgements and enabling them to track the status of their complaints and file appeals online against the decisions of the Ombudsmen, where applicable. RBI also plans to introduce a dedicated **Interactive Voice Response (IVR)** system for tracking the status of complaints.



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2. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** is planning to expand its market in Singapore by enhancing its relationship across -- **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**.
Note: The SBI has served the **Singapore retail and corporate sectors** as a qualified full bank since 2008. It has **six branches** and offering ATM services under the ATM5 network across the island state and two remittance centres. The SBI plans to offer its **YONO app**, an omnichannel service at the fingertip, to manage a wide range of financial services here.
3. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has advised **all banks to accept coins** of all denominations__
Note: **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has advised all banks to immediately direct all their branches to accept coins of all denominations. **RBI's advisory** came after it received complaints about non-acceptance of coins by branches of various banks. Reserve Bank advised **all banks to accept coins** of all denominations tendered at their counters for transactions or exchange and ensure strict compliance in the matter.
4. According to the **Reserve bank of India (RBI)**, All data **related to payments** must be stored in systems located only in **India**.
Note: In April 2018, The RBI had issued a directive on 'Storage of Payment System Data'. It had advised all system providers to ensure that within a period of six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India. In case the processing is done abroad, the data should be from the systems abroad and brought back to India not later than the one business day or 24 hours from payment processing, whichever is earlier.
5. **Health insurance** provider firm '**Max Bupa**' partners with **MobiKwik** for **Health insurance**.
Note: '**Max Bupa**' announced a partnership with the fintech platform '**MobiKwik**' to promote bite sized group health insurance products for MobiKwik's **107 million customers** across the country. **Bite-sized insurance** offerings are over the counter health insurance products, primarily targeted towards working professionals and millennials. The **Hospicash product** will be evaluated at a yearly premium as low as **Rs 135**, offering **Rs 500 every-day** hospital remittance for as long as 30 days in a year to the customers.
6. The Union Govt. **cuts interest rate** on small savings schemes by **0.1%**.
Note: The Union government has **reduced interest rate** on small savings schemes, including the National Savings Certificate and Public Provident Fund, by **0.1%** for the July-September quarter. **PPF and NSC** will fetch an annual interest rate of 7.9 per cent from the existing rate of 8 per cent, while Kisan Vikas Patra will yield 7.6 per cent with a maturity of 113 months. At present, the interest rate on **KVP is 7.7 per cent** and maturity is **112 months**. The girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi Account will fetch a lower return of 8.4% from 8.5%. The **interest rate for the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme** will now fetch a lower rate of interest at 8.6 per cent from 8.7 per cent.
7. The **country's median GDP** is forecast for FY20 at **7.1%**.
Note: According to industry body **FICCI's economic outlook survey**, the minimum and maximum growth estimate stood at 6.8 per cent and 7.3 per cent, for 2019-20. The survey was conducted in May 2019 among economists belonging to the industry, banking and financial services sectors. **Inflation is expected** to remain moderate and the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** based inflation rate is projected at 3.1 per cent in 2019-20, While, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation has a median forecast of 4 per cent for 2019-20.
8. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a **six-member committee** on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans -- **TN Manoharan committee**.
Note: The committee will make recommendations on required **policy/regulatory** interventions for facilitating the development of the secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.
9. India's economic growth rate slowed to a five-year low in January-March 2018-19 -- **5.8 %**.
Note: According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data, GDP growth during 2018-19 fiscal stood at 6.8%, lower than 7.2% in the previous financial year. The growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) was slowest since 2014-15. The previous low was 6.4 per cent in 2013-14.
10. As per **RBI press release**, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.994 billion to **419.992 billion USD (till 24th May 2019)**.
Note: The reserves had declined by 2.05 billion to end at 417.99 billion US Dollar. Gold reserves remained stable at 23.021 billion US Dollar. India's special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund went by 0.8 million to 1.445 billion US Dollar, while the

country's reserve position also increased by 2 million to 3.336 billion US Dollar.

- 11.** The GST revenue collection has crossed one lakh crore rupees in **May 2019**.

Note: The GST collected during last month was one lakh 289 crore rupees as compared to over 94 thousand crore rupees in the same period of last year. Total of 72.45 lakh GSTR-3B returns was filed in the month of May. An amount of 18,934 crore rupees has also been released to the states as GST compensation for the months of February-March 2019.

- 12.** The **World Bank has forecast** that **India's economy** is projected to grow in the next three years -- **7.5%**.

Note: India is estimated to have grown 7.2 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-19, which ended March 31 this year. A slowdown in government consumption was offset by solid investment, which benefitted from public infrastructure spending. With this, India will continue to retain the position of being the fastest growing emerging economy and by 2021, its growth rate is projected to be 1.5 per cent more than China's 6 per cent. Earlier, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed that India's economic growth slowed to a five-year low of 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2018-19.

- 13.** RBI **reduces repo rate** by **25 basis** points to -- **5.75 %**.

Note: The RBI reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 5.75 per cent from 6.0 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.50 per cent. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0 per cent.

- 14.** **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a report on "**Benchmarking India's Payment Systems**".

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will provide a comparative position of the payment system ecosystem in India relative to comparable payment systems and usage trends in other major countries. "Benchmarking India's Payments Systems is necessary to gauge India's progress vis-à-vis payment systems and instruments in major countries and give further impetus to the planned efforts for deepening the digitization of payments.

- 15.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a **six-member committee** to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees -- **VG Kannan**.

Note: Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association **VG Kannan** will chair the committee consisting of senior officers from National Payments Corporation of India, SBI, HDFC Bank, Confederation of ATM Industry and Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited. The committee will review existing patterns of costs, charges and interchange fees for ATM transactions. It

will submit its report within two months from the date of its first meeting.

- 16.** According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the services sector grew in 2018-19 -- **36.5% (USD 9.15 billion)**.

Note: The union government has taken several measures like fixing timeliness for approvals and streamlining procedures to improve ease of doing business in the country and attract foreign investments. The sector accounts for about 18% of the total FDI India received between April 2000 and March 2019. The overall FDI inflows declined for the first time in the last six years in 2018-19. A strong inflow of foreign investments helps improve the country's balance of payments situation and strengthens the value of rupee against global currencies, especially the United States (US) dollar.

- 17.** **Reserve bank of India (RBI)** has slapped a penalty of **Rs. 2 crores** on **Kotak Mahindra Bank** for the non-state lender's failure to adhere to the regulator's diktat on promoter shareholding.

Note: RBI has been engaged in a dispute with Kotak Mahindra since 2014 over its failure to meet the milestone for stake reduction by Uday Kotak, the billionaire promoter of the bank.

- 18.** **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued a new framework for resolution of bad loans, offering a 30-day gap for stress recognition.

Note: According to RBI, Lenders will have complete discretion with regard to the design and implementation of resolution plans, subject to the specified timeline and independent credit evaluation. Lenders may recognize incipient stress in loan accounts, immediately on default, by classifying such assets as special mention accounts (SMA). In case a borrower is reported to be in default, the lenders should undertake a prima facie review of the account within 30 days from the day of default.

- 19.** **GST Council** has decided to introduce a **new GST return system** to facilitate taxpayers.

Note: As per the plan, a prototype of the offline tool has already been shared on the common portal to give the look and feel of the tool to the users. There are three main components to the new return - one main return (FORM GST RET-1) and two annexures (FORM GST ANX-1 and FORM GST ANX-2). The new return system (ANX-1 & ANX-2 only) will be available for trial for taxpayers to make themselves familiar between July and September 2019.

- 20. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has waived off all transactions charges** to encourage digital transfer of funds -- **NEFT and RTGS**.
Note: RBI has advised banks to pass on the benefits to their customers with effect from 1st July 2019. The Reserve Bank levies minimum charges on banks for transactions routed through its RTGS and NEFT System. RTGS is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT System (one-to-one funds transfer) is used for fund transfers up to 2 lakh rupees.
- 21. The Union government has reduced the rate of the contribution made** by employees and employers under the **Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act** from 6.5% to **4%**.
Note: This includes a reduction of 1.5% in employers' contribution to 3.25% (from 4.75%) and 1% reduction in employees' contribution to 0.75% (from 1.75%). It will benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers. The ESI Act 1948, under the labour ministry, covers employees with salary up to Rs 21,000 (earlier-Rs.15000). It will facilitate further enrolment of workers under the ESI scheme and bring more and more workforce into the formal sector.
- 22. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will infuse Rs 12,500 crore** into the financial system through bond purchases under the -- **Open Market Operation (OMO)**.
Note: The RBI uses open market operations (OMO) for injecting liquidity into the system through the purchase of government bonds (G-Sec). Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have invested USD 1 billion in Indian debt markets so far in June. The **OMO will take place on June 20**, taking the total infusion so far in June to 27,500 crores, as against OMO purchases worth Rs 25,000 crore in May.
- 23. US retail giant has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google** to become the world's most valuable brand -- **Amazon**.
Note: According to Kantar's 2019, Top 100 BrandZ report, the brand value of Amazon surged by 52% to USD 315 billion. Amazon jumped from third to first place to eclipse Google - which slid from first to third place with Apple holding on to the second spot.
- 24. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an eight-member expert committee** to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** -- **UK Sinha Committee**.
Note: The **committee** will be headed by former chairman of SEBI **UK Sinha**. The **committee will examine** the factors affecting the **timely and adequate availability of finance** to the MSME sector. The **central bank** had announced setting up this expert committee at the **December 2018 monetary policy** announcement.
- 25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will infuse Rs 12,500 crore of liquidity** into the system through purchase of -- **Government bonds**.
Note: According to the RBI, it has decided to conduct the purchase of **five government securities** under OMOs for an aggregate amount of **Rs 12,500 crore** on June 20, 2019. On June 11, the RBI had infused Rs 15,000 crore into the system through OMO purchase of six government bonds.
- 26. Indian commercial real estate** has attracted inbound cross-border investments worth over the last 12 months to the first quarter of 2019 -- **USD 2.6 billion**.
Note: **Singapore**, with investment volumes of **\$0.7 billion**, was the biggest capital source country for the Indian commercial real estate between followed by Australia and Japan. With an investment of \$2.6 billion, India was ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries globally, while China was at the 6th position with an investment of \$14.30 billion. The US was the top capital importing country globally with an investment of \$80.89 billion.
- 27. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has promoted Rabi N. Mishra** as -- **Executive Director (ED)**.
Note: Earlier, he was holding the position of the **Principal Chief General Manager** at the central bank's Risk Management Department. **The post had been** lying vacant after the retirement of **Rosemary Sebastian**. He has also authored a book on banking, which is likely to be launched soon. The central bank currently has 12 executive directors, including the chief financial officers.
- 28. According to the survey conducted by the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019**, India's most attractive employer brand is -- **Amazon India**.
Note: **Microsoft India** emerged as the runner-up, followed by **Sony India**. According to the **REBR 2019 report**, Amazon scored high on financial health, utilization of the latest technologies and a strong reputation. **Google India** had been inducted into the **REBR's Hall of Fame category** last year for winning the coveted title of the most-attractive employer brand for three consecutive years.
- 29. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore** on **private sector lender** for **non-compliance** of **Know Your Customer (KYC)** norms

and **anti-money laundering** norms, and for failure to report frauds -- **HDFC Bank**.

Note: The penalty has been **imposed in exercise of powers** vested under the **provisions of Section 47A(1)(c)** read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.

30. IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL) merger will be effective from 4th July 2019.

Note: The **National Company Law Tribunal** on June 10, 2019, approved the Scheme of Arrangement among BFIL, IndusInd Bank and IndusInd Financial Inclusion and their respective shareholders and creditors. IndusInd Bank in October last year decided to acquire the country's leading micro-finance player BFIL, which was previously known as SKS Microfinance.

31. The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and

Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of **Nirmala Sitharaman**.

Note: The meeting reviewed the **current global** and domestic **economic situation** and financial stability issues including, inter-alia. **Sitharaman** will present the **first budget** of the new government on July 5. The **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was constituted in December 2010. The **FSDC** was set up to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.

32. DBS Bank has revised India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2020 downwards to **6.8 %**.

33. Canara Bank's customers can deposit cash for free only thrice a month.

Note: Cash deposits of up to **Rs. 50,000** are free for 3 transactions in a month, and then there will be a service charge of ₹1 per thousand, with a minimum of Rs 50 and a maximum of Rs. 5,000-plus GST. Cash deposits up to ₹50,000 are free for Canara Bank customers now.

34. HDFC Ltd. has signed a definitive agreement with **Apollo Munich Health Insurance** to buy out the entire Apollo Hospitals Group's stake of 50.8% for Rs.1,136 crore.

Note: Post the acquisition of shares by HDFC, **Apollo Munich** would be merged with the former's general insurance subsidiary HDFC ERGO. **ERGO is a subsidiary of Munich Re**, which has been a joint venture partner of HDFC ERGO since 2008. Munich Re will continue to hold 49% stake in HDFC ERGO post the merger.

35. Software and business re-engineering services firm Tech Mahindra announced the signing of a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.

Note: **Tech Mahindra** is aiming to grow its cabin engineering business over the next few years. The company is betting big on next-generation technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, robotics, automation, Blockchain and 5G, to solve real business problems of the customers by delivering innovative solutions and services.

36. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to review the **current framework of margins** in the futures and options segment.

Note: SEBI has set up a working group, headed by NSE Clearing Ltd., to look into the issue and submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.

Obituaries

1. Veteran industrialist globally known as the 'evergreen tea man of India' Brij Mohan Khaitan passed away.

Note: Williamson Magor Group deals in a dry-cell battery (Eveready Industries), tea (McLeod Russel), engineering services (McNally Bharat Engineering) and other unlisted firms.

2. World fame dancer Queen Harish passed away in a road accident near Kaparda village Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Note: Harish gave a new identity to Jaisalmer with his different dance style. Harish Kumar was popularly known as Queen Harish and his shows comprising of

various folk-dance forms like Ghoomar, Kalbelia, Chang, Bhawai, Chari among others were very popular.

3. Bengali singer-actress Ruma Guha Thakurta passed away.

Note: She was the founder of Calcutta Youth Choir (CYC) (in 1958), which played a key role in popularising 'gana sangeet' or mass songs in Bengal. Ruma Guha Thakurta made her acting debut with Amiya Chakravarty's Jwar Bhata (1944). She was married to Kishore Kumar in 1951 and had a son Amit Kumar by this marriage.

4. Finance Minister of **Uttarakhand Prakash Pant** passed away in the US.
Note: Prakash Pant was undergoing treatment for lung ailment in Texas, United States of America. The Uttarakhand government has declared three-day mourning, as a mark of respect to the departed leader. He was the first speaker of Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly.
5. **Godfather actor Carmine Caridi** passes away.
Note: Carmine Caridi known for roles in The Godfather franchise passed away. The veteran actor Caridi also appeared in the final part of "The Godfather" trilogy in a different role – Albert Volpe, an investor in Michael Corleone's casinos who is killed in an attack at a hotel in Atlantic City.
6. Former President of UEFA **Lennart Johansson** passed away following a short illness.
Note: Lennart Johansson was president of European football body UEFA from 1990 to 2007. Johansson's long reign at the head of UEFA coincided with a transformation in the finances of football as the game became big business and saw a huge increase in TV revenue. In 1998, he was defeated by Sepp Blatter in his bid to become head of football's global federation FIFA.
7. Noted actor, dramatist and Jnanpith awardee **Girish Karnad** passed away in Bengaluru.
Note: Coming to fame as Kannada playwright in the 1960s, he went on to become a critically acclaimed actor and filmmaker during the later years. Besides the Jnanpith award, Karnad was also conferred the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. Vamsha Vruksha, Ek Tha Tiger, Nagamandala and Malgudi Days are some of the movies and TV serials in which he played a role and Odakalu bimba, Taledanda and the fire and the rain are some of the plays written by him.
8. Popular **Tamil playwright** and theatre & **film comedian** passed away in Chennai's Kauvery Hospital -- **Crazy Mohan**.
Note: He tried his hand in writing, wrote over **100 short stories**, 30 plays, worked on over 40 films including Kamal Haasan-starrer "Avvai Shanmugi", "Vasool Raja MBBS", and "Michael Madhana Kamarajan", and others. Crazy Mohan was a recipient of Tamil Nadu State Government's Kalaimamani Award for his excellence in the fields of arts and literature.
9. Former Puducherry chief minister **R V Janakiraman** passed away in a private hospital in Puducherry.
Note: Mr. Janakiraman had served as Puducherry chief minister between 1996 and 2000. He had been elected from Nellithope constituency for five consecutive terms (1985, 1990, 1991, 1996 and 2001). He lost the polls to AIADMK candidate Om Sakthi Sekar in 2006.
10. Veteran **journalist** and former **Rajya Sabha MP** passed away after a brief illness in Lucknow -- **Rajanath Singh 'Surya'**.
Note: A staunch RSS leader Mr Surya had worked in various newspapers and he was a well-known columnist.
11. Malaysian badminton star **Lee Chong Wei** announced his retirement after Cancer battle.
Note: Lee Chong Wei (three-time Olympic silver medallist) was diagnosed with early-stage nose cancer last year but despite intensive treatment in Taiwan. Lee was ranked first as a singles player for 199 consecutive weeks from 2008 to 2012. He collected a swathe of honours but never won a world or Olympic title.
12. Poet and lyricist **Pazhavila Ramesan** passed away at a private hospital, Thiruvananthapuram.
Note: Pazhavila Ramesan was a recipient of Kerala Sahithya Akademi Award for overall contribution. He had also penned songs for films like Asamsakalode, Malooty, Uncle Bun, Vasudha and others. Ramesan had also served as the director of Kerala Bhasha Institute for a long time.
13. **DMK MLA** Rathamani passed away at **Jipmer hospital** in Puducherry.
Note: He was **suffering from cancer** and recently got admitted into the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education JIPMER, Puducherry. He represented the **Vikkiravandi** Assembly Constituency.
14. Former **Egyptian president Mohamed Morsy** passes away.
Note: He served as Egyptian President from 30th June 2012 – 3rd July 2013.
15. Pakistan's former **Foreign Minister** passed away-- **Abdul Sattar**.
Note: **Mr. Sattar** served as the **Foreign minister** under then-president **Pervez Musharraf government** (from 1999 to 2002). He was the **part of Mussarraf** delegation who visited India for the historic Agra Summit in 2001. Sattar also served as the foreign secretary from 1986-88. Sattar was also a writer and authored a book of the foreign policy of Pakistan.
16. Bharatiya Janata Party's **Rajasthan chief** and Rajya Sabha **Madan Lal Saini** passed away in New Delhi.
Note: **Mr. Saini** was suffering from a lung infection and was flown to Delhi for treatment in AIIMS. Saini, who hailed from Sikar district (Rajasthan), was appointed BJP state president last year.

17. Veteran **freedom fighter Mohan Ranade** passed away after a **prolonged illness**.

Note: Mohan Ranade entered Goa under disguise as a teacher in 1950 and founded an organisation called Azad Gomantak Dal to raise an armed revolt against the Portuguese rule. He was honoured with the Goa's highest civilian award as well as Padmashri by the Union government. Mohan Ranade had penned two books - 'Struggle Unfinished' in English and 'Satiche Vaan' in Marathi - based on his experience during the Goa liberation movement.

18. Renowned **spiritual guru Swami Satyamitranand Giri Maharaj** passed away after a **prolonged illness**.

Note: The famous seer was the founder and head of Bharat Mata Mandir, a famous temple in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. He was born as Ambika Prasad in Agra.

19. Eminent **Social Activist Jharna Dhara Chowdhury** passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Note: She was deeply influenced by the Gandhian principles of non-violence and communal harmony. In recognition of her work, Jharna Dhara Chowdhury was honoured with Padma Shri (in 2013) and Jamnalal Bajaj award (in 1998). She also received many other prestigious awards like Begum Rokeya Padak, Gandhi Seva Puraskar and Ekushey Padak.

20. Veteran **actor-filmmaker Vijaya Nirmala** passed away in **Hyderabad** due to a heart attack.

Note: Vijaya Nirmala (born in Tamil Nadu) worked as actress, producer, and director known for her works predominantly in Telugu cinema. She acted in more than 200 films in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. In 2008, she received the Raghupathi Venkaiah Award for her contributions to Telugu cinema.

21. Eminent **freedom fighter** passed away in Odisha -- **Mohammad Baji**.

Note: He was a close associate of **tribal civil rights activist** Laxman Nayak. He joined the **Indian National Congress** (in 1936) and **Quit India Movement** on 19th August 1942. Baji was injured in police firing during the **1942 movement** when 29 tribal killed while protesting before the Mathili police station in Malkangiri district.

22. Former **Bengal cricketer Shyam Sundar Mitra** passes away in Salt Lake, Kolkata.

Note: Former Bengal cricketer Shyam Sundar Mitra (82-years) passes away at a private hospital in Salt Lake, Kolkata. Mitra, who captained Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, was an elegant right-hand batsman and a part-time medium pacer. He was awarded the Karthick Bose Lifetime Achievement Award by Cricket Association of Bengal.

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