

## Monthly Current Affairs PDF - June 2019

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### NATIONAL NEWS

#### **INDIA OPENS WATER CLINIC FOR ELEPHANTS IN MATHURA**

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

It is a collaboration of Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), Wildlife SOS. The jumbo hydrotherapy centre: It is near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which has over 20 rescued elephants.

#### **20TH MEETING OF THE FSDC CHAIRED BY NIRMALA SITHARAMAN HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi. This was chaired under the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, and Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg among others. Current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including those concerning Banking and Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) were reviewed in the meeting.

#### **35TH GST COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The 35th Goods and Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting was held in New Delhi. It was chaired by the Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and it was her first meeting after assuming the office.

- Introduction of Aadhaar-enabled GST Registration
- NAA tenure extended by two years
- 10% penalty to apply for any delay in depositing profiteered amount
- E-invoicing to start from January 2020
- E-ticketing made mandatory for multiplexes
- Rate cut decision on electric vehicles, chargers & leasing
- Solar power generating systems and wind turbines
- Rate cut for lottery put on hold
- GSTAT to be GST Appellate Tribunal
- For non-filing of GST returns, E-way bills to be blocked

#### **WORLD'S LARGEST MULTI-STAGE, MULTI-PURPOSE SCHEME KALESHWARAM LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT INAUGURATED IN TELANGANA**

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

It is constructed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL). The project, built across Godavari river, has become the world's biggest in terms of capacity

#### **BALAKOT AIRSTRIKES CODE NAMED AS 'OPERATION BANDAR' BY IAF**

The Indian Air Force mission to bomb a terrorist hideout in Pakistan's Balakot was codenamed 'Operation Bandar' (Monkey), while Indian Army had taken up massive defensive measures in case Pakistan retaliated which was codenamed as "Operation Zafraan".

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### **‘ADARSH STATION SCHEME’ DEVELOPED 1,103 RAILWAYS STATIONS**

Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha stated that under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS), of the 1,253 stations which were identified for development, 1,103 railway stations were developed. Modernisation and upgradation of railway stations in Indian Railways are undertaken from time to time under various modernisation schemes such as Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Adarsh Station Scheme.

### **CENTRAL COMMAND CENTRE FOR AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT WAS INAUGURATED BY MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI IN NEW DELHI**

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi to ensure higher standards of safety.

It was inaugurated in the presence of the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI) Guruprasad Mohapatra, Board Members and senior AAI officials. India became the seventh nation to implement C-ATFM after the US, Europe, Australia, South Africa, Japan, Brazil.

### **AN ENTREPRENEUR VIRAL SUDHIRBHAI DESAI CHANGED UDHANA RAILWAY STATION INTO INDIA'S FIRST GREEN RAILWAY STATION**

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

### **RUSSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YURY TRUTNEV'S VISIT TO INDIA**

**Mr. Yury Trutnev**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District along with his delegation visited India from 15-19 June 2019. The delegation included senior officials from the Russian Ministry for Far East Development, Far East Investment and Export Agency, representatives of Russian regions, industry representatives and academia.

### **A HIGH-LEVEL EXPERT GROUP PRESENTED THEIR SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY TARGET: NITI AAYOG**

The group stressed the Government on improving the functioning of the public sector banks and accelerating the pace of exports and employment generation.

The group gave their views on the opening of doors for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the bank and insurance sector, accelerating the disinvestment process and better management of water resources.

Before the first full Budget of the Modi 2.0 government, all the participants and economists participating in this meeting gave their suggestions to achieve growth.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the first full budget of the new government on July 5, 2019, in the Lok Sabha. N Chandrasekaran (Chairman, Tata Sons), T V Narendran (Global CEO and MD, Tata Steel), Anil Agarwal (Chairman, Vedanta Resources), Sanjiv Puri (Chairman and MD, ITC), and Vijay Shekhar Sharma (CEO, Paytm) are present along with other industrialists.

Bimal Jalan (former RBI Governor), Shankar Acharya (former Chief Economic Adviser), Surjit Bhalla (former PMEAC member), Vikram Limay (CEO, NSE), Sonal Varma (Chief Economist, Nomura), Shekhar Shah (DG, NCAER), and Bibek Debroy (Chairman, EAC-PM) were also present in the meeting.

### **UNION GOVT DEVELOPED A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO END TB BY 2025**

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Health, and Family Welfare Minister stated that the Government has developed an ambitious National Strategic Plan to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.

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### ODISHA CM RELEASES FLOOD HAZARD ATLAS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD

The State Government of Odisha released a Flood Hazard Atlas for efficient management of flood in the state. It was released by the Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Naveen Patnaik. This is jointly prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) and Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDAMA) analyzing data relating to flood from 2001 to 2018.

### CPWD CONSTITUTED A 7 MEMBER CORE GROUP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VISION DOCUMENT

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), constituted a seven-member core group chaired by Additional Director General (training & research) M K Sharma to prepare a roadmap for implementation of a five-year “vision document” (STVD) as directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The other members of the group are C K Verma, Indu Gural Chaudhary, Harish Kumar, Naimuddin, Manish Kumar and Rajesh Kumar.

### THE SECOND EDITION OF “HEALTHY STATES, PROGRESSIVE INDIA” REPORT RELEASED BY NITI AAYOG

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released the Second Edition of “Healthy States, Progressive India” Report. It ranked States and Union territories (UTs) innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes and their overall performance.

It was developed by NITI Aayog with technical assistance from the World Bank in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MOVE TO SET UP KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS TO DOUBLE FARMERS’ INCOME BY 2022

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

### JAPAN GIFTS IMPHAL PEACE MUSEUM TO MANIPUR, BUILT ON WWII MEMORIES

Japan gifted Imphal Peace Museum to Manipur to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War, at Maibam Lokpa Ching popularly known as Red Hill (about 20 km southwest of Imphal). The inauguration was attended by Manipur Revenue minister Karam Shyam, Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu, High Commissioner of United Kingdom Dominic Asquith and TNF Chairman Yohei Sasakawa among others.

### GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TO INTRODUCE SELF DEFENCE TRAINING FOR GIRLS UNDER SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Integrated Scheme for School Education ‘Samagra Shiksha’ was launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy which comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, effective from the academic year 2018-19. The activity of Self Defence training for girls comes under Samagra Shiksha.

### SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE IN JAMMU TO HAVE ITS OWN DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE BY SEPTEMBER 2020

The Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, a religious pilgrimage atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September 2020. The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to impart

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advanced disaster management training to the shrine board staff in batches to prepare a dedicated disaster response force for the shrine.

### **31.4% OF INDIAN CHILDREN WILL BE STUNTED BY 2022: UN REPORT**

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

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED PANEL FOR BETTER COORDINATION AMONG MINISTERS**

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

### **KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA BONG-KIL SHIN SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH BMVSS AND LAUNCHED 'JAIPUR FOOT KOREA'**

South Korean Ambassador to India Bong-kil Shin launched a collaborative initiative between South Korea and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) named 'Jaipur Foot Korea'. An agreement was also signed by the Korean Ambassador with BMVSS to provide assistance in prosthetic limbs sector.

### **MHA RELEASED THE RANKINGS OF POLICE STATIONS FOR 2018; RAJASTHAN TOPS THE LIST**

The Kalu police station in Bikaner district of Rajasthan was ranked the best police station in the country. It was awarded the first rank for its performance in crime prevention, investigation and disposal of cases, crime detection, community policing and maintenance of law and order, women help desk facility, drinking water facility and WiFi.

### **AROUND 2.22 CRORE VILLAGERS RECEIVED DIGITAL EDUCATION UNDER PMGDISHA**

Electronics and Information Technology Minister Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that around 2.22 crore villagers were given Digital Education under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA). The government has enrolled 636 training partners.

### **UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI AWAS YOJANA SCHEME, 81,03,196 HOUSES WERE APPROVED**

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri announced that 81,03,196 houses were approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. 47,57,987 houses are at stages of construction and 26,07,913 houses were completed or occupied.

### **STANDING GROUP OF SECRETARIES CONSTITUTED ON RESOLVING E-COMMERCE ISSUES: PIYUSH GOYAL**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated that a Standing Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been constituted for ensuring inter-ministerial coordination on resolving issues related to e-commerce.

### **7TH INDIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The 7th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Brunei Darussalam was held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Vijay Thakur Singh, Secretary(East) and Brunei side was led by Hajah Siti Norishan Haji Abdul Ghafor, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brunei Government.



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### **23RD EDITION OF 4-DAY SINDHU DARSHAN FESTIVAL HELD AT SINDHU GHAT SHEY IN LEH**

A four-day event of 23rd Sindhu Darshan Festival 2019 celebrated at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Jammu and Kashmir's Leh from 24 to 27 June 2019.

### **CABINET APPROVED BILL TO FINE PEOPLE WITH RS 10,000 FOR BLOCKING AMBULANCES**

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

The Bill was approved as several cases were reported where ambulances were stuck for hours either due to agitation on roads, traffic or due to a minister's visit, which sometimes caused patients to lose their lives.

### **GOVERNMENT FORMS 18-MEMBER WORKING GROUP HEADED BY RAMESH CHAND, NITI AAYOG MEMBER, TO REVISE CURRENT SERIES OF WPI**

Government formed a 18-member working group headed by Ramesh Chand, member of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, to revise current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with base year 2011-12 and come up with a new Producer Price Index (PPI).

### **MOA SIGNED BETWEEN MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND IIT KHARAGPUR TO SET UP CICMT**

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between Ministry of Shipping and IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Kharagpur to set up Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology (CICMT) at IIT Kharagpur. CICMT is the first of its kind centre in India with the focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building, and testing.

### **GO TRIBAL CAMPAIGN BY TRIBES INDIA LAUNCHED IN NEW DELHI**

"Go Tribal Campaign" by Tribes India was launched by Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh in the presence of Shri R.C. Meena, Chairman, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Shri Deepak Khandekar, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED in New Delhi.

### **THE 32ND EDITION OF ISTA CONGRESS TAKES PLACE IN HYDERABAD**

An eight-day event of the 32nd edition of International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress has started in Hyderabad, Telangana. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and the Telangana government have jointly hosted the event which is being held for the first time in South Asia.

### **MHRD UNVEILED A FIVE-YEAR VISION PLAN EQUIP TO TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP) to transform higher education with the help of more than 50 initiatives.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED PILOT SCHEME ON FORTIFICATION OF RICE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION THROUGH PDS**

Union Minister Smriti Irani of Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry stated that based on the information received from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Department of Food and Public Distribution, central Government approved the centrally sponsored pilot scheme on fortification of rice and its distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS).

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### **RS 450 CRORE NATIONAL MISSION ON NATURAL LANGUAGE TRANSLATION TO BE TABLED BEFORE UNION CABINET**

The Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology (Meity) Will Put Forward The Proposal Of National Mission On Natural Language Translation With An Outlay Rs 450 Crore For Next 3 Years Before The Union Cabinet. It Is One Of The Key Missions Identified By The Prime Minister's Science, Technology And Innovation Advisory Council (Pm-Stiac).

### **FLOW OF RAW SEWAGE INTO RIVER GANGA WILL BE STOPPED BY 2022**

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a national conference, exhibition and awards ceremony 'Innovative Water Solutions' in New Delhi announced that the flow of raw sewage into the Ganga river will be fully stopped by 2022.

### **MEETING OF EXPERT WORKING GROUP OF PARIS PACT INITIATIVE OF UNODC HELD IN NEW DELHI**

2-day Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan was organised in New Delhi from June 27-28, 2019. It was hosted by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC). It was inaugurated by the Additional Secretary, Revenue Mr. Anil Kumar Jha.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A 3-MEMBER PANEL TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOLAR AND WIND POWER PLAYERS**

Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (Independent Charge) R K Singh approved the formation of a three-member dispute resolution committee with members M F Farooqui, former Heavy Industry Secretary, Anil Swarup, former Coal Secretary and A K Dubey, former Sports Secretary to resolve disputes between private solar & wind power developers and public sector Solar Energy Corporation of India and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) beyond contractual agreement.

### **INDIA & CHINA VOW TO SEEK MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO BOUNDARY ISSUE**

The two sides of India and China have agreed to come to mutually acceptable, reasonable and fair solutions to their thorny boundary issues.

Now special representatives appointed by both China and India (From India, NSA(National Security Adviser) Ajit Doval and from China State Councilor Wang-Yi)in order to rework the framework for the settlement of boundary.

### **ALL GRAM PANCHAYATS BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY UNDER BHARATNET BY MARCH 2020**

Electronics and IT Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that all gram panchayats(GPs) in the country will be connected with the high-speed broadband under BharatNet project by March 2020.

### **HIGH-LEVEL GROUP HEADED BY DR. SURJIT S. BHALLA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRADE AND POLICY**

The Union ministry of commerce had constituted a high-level advisory group headed by economist Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council on Foreign trade policy for ways to boost India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade.

### **FSSAI PLANS RED COLOR-CODING LABEL FOR SUGARY AND SALTY FOODS**

As per the draft regulation issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority(FSSAI) (Labelling and Display regulation) of India Packaged food companies will be required to label high fat, sugar and salt content levels on the front side of the package with "red-color-coding".

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### **INFANT MORTALITY RATE (IMR) IN INDIA FALLS BUT THE PACE OF CHANGE SLOWS**

According to the sample Registration system (SRS), India's infant mortality rate declined by 9 positions from 42 in 2012 to 33 in 2017. Madhya Pradesh and Assam had the worst IMR of 47 and 44 respectively while Kerala and Tamil Nadu recorded the lowest IMR of 10 and 16 respectively.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN INDIA AT 6.1% IN 2017-18**

According to a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) between July 2017 and June 2018 covering 4.3 lakh people revealed that the unemployment rate was about 6.1% in 2017-18, highest in 45 year since 1972-73. The unemployment rate in rural areas was about 5.3% while in urban areas it was about 7.8%.

### **INDIA HAS 20 HEALTH WORKERS PER 10,000 PEOPLE: NSSO STUDY**

A recent study based on the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) data, India has 20.6 health workers per 10,000 people. This is less than the World health Organization's (WHO) minimum overreach of 22.8 per 10,000 people. Rural areas with 71% of India's population have only 36% of health workers.

### **KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE SUBMITTED THE DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY TO THE NEW UNION HRD MINISTER RAMESH POKHARIYAL**

The K. Kasturirangan Committee has submitted the 484-pages draft report of National Education Policy to the new Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal. The report on the National Education Policy has been put on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)'s website for suggestions from the public till June 30.

### **CABINET APPROVED A NEW INITIATIVE TO CONTROL FMD AND BRUCELLOSIS TO SUPPORT LIVESTOCK REARING FARMERS**

The Cabinet, first since the outcome of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, approved a new initiative to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support livestock rearing farmers. The FMD and Brucellosis is a common threat among livestock like cow-bulls, buffaloes, sheeps, goats, pigs etc. The Cabinet sanctioned Rs 13,343 crores for the implantation of the initiative.

### **CABINET APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF PM-KISAN YOJANA TO ALL ELIGIBLE FARMERS**

The newly formed Union Cabinet has given its consent for the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana ((PM-KISAN) to all eligible farmer families, irrespective of the size of their landholding. Earlier, it was applicable to farmers having two hectares of land. The extension will include additional of 2.5 crore farmers which will led to rise its coverage to 14.5 crore farmers. The outlay of the revised scheme will be Rs 87,217.50 crore for 2019-20.

### **CABINET APPROVED RS 3,000 PENSION FOR SMALL TRADERS**

Cabinet meeting chaired by PM Modi has approved to give monthly pension of Rs 3,000 to small traders, businessmen, and shopkeepers after they attain the age of 60 years and turnover below Rs 1.5 crore. The aim is to provide universal social security to all shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons a monthly pension under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana (PM-KPY).



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### **ELEPHANTA FESTIVAL KICKED OFF IN MUMBAI**

Elephanta festival, a two day festival of art and culture organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) held on Elephanta-Gharapuri (island), Mumbai to promote tourism and culture in Maharashtra. The festival was inaugurated by tourism minister Jaykumar Rawal on Gateway of India. The theme for this year is 'Swarang'.

### **TWO-DAY YOGA MAHOTSAVA CELEBRATED IN NEW DELHI**

As a Curtain Raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2019 which is celebrated on June 21, a two-day Yoga Mahotsava was inaugurated by Shri Rajeev Kumar, Vice-Chairman of Niti Ayog at New Delhi. The Yoga Mahotsav-2019 was organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). The theme of IDY 2019 in India is "Yoga for Heart".

### **SC/ST CANDIDATES JOINING VOCATIONAL TRAINING WAIVED OFF**

The ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India announced that fee for SC/ST candidates who join vocational training under Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) have been waived off. This decision was taken by the Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey at the senior officials meet.

### **6TH ROUND OF INDIA-CHINA BILATERAL DIALOGUE ON DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION HELD IN NEW DELHI**

6th India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Indra Mani Pandey, Additional Secretary (Disarmament & International Security Affairs) and the Chinese delegation was led by Ambassador Fu Cong, Director General, Department of Arms Control of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **MOHFW ORGANIZED NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR POPULATION RESEARCH CENTERS**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) organized a two-day National Workshop for Population Research Centers (PRC) in New Delhi. It focused on the various features of the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry for simultaneous supervision.

### **DRAFT NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2019 SUBMITTED BY DR. KASTURIRANGAN COMMITTEE**

A committee headed by Dr. Kasturirangan submitted draft national education policy 2019 to Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Minister of State for HRD, Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre in New Delhi to rename Minister of Human Resource Development to Minister of education.

### **HARYANA HIGH COURT DECLARES OF ENTIRE ANIMAL KINGDOM AS 'LEGAL ENTITIES'**

The Haryana High court (HC) declared the entire animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic, as a legal entity having rights of a living person. The verdict of Punjab and Haryana HC comes a year after Uttarakhand HC passed similar order to protect and promote greater welfare of animals.

### **AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND MARSHALL ISLANDS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION NOTIFIED**

The Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Exchange of Information with respect to taxes was signed on 18th March, 2016 at Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Indian-Marshall Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) was notified to the gazette of India.

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### **HEALTH MINISTRY CHAIRED THE MEETING TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF THE REVISED NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM (RNTCP) HELD IN DELHI**

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan held a high level meeting to review the status of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) in New Delhi. At the meeting, the ministry directed all the officials to take a necessary step as "Mission Mode" to eliminate TB (Tuberculosis). The slogan for TB-Free India is "TB Harega Desh Jitega".

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RECONSTITUTES EIGHT KEY CABINET COMMITTEES**

Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Central Government has reconstituted eight key Cabinet Committees. These include -Appointments Committee, Committees on Accommodation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.

### **DR HARSH VARDHAN REVIEWED THE STATUS OF NIPAH VIRUS DISEASE IN KERALA**

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), reviewed the status of Nipah Virus Disease (NVD) in Kerala along with Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) and the Ministry officials. As of now, 15 people are under observation in the state. Since June 4, 2019, Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC) at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has been activated and it is coordinating activities for Nipah containment.

3rd advance estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19 released by the Government The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare released the 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2018-19. Food grains production stood at 283.37 million tonnes, which was higher by 17.62 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of food grain.

### **PM NARENDRA MODI RECONSTITUTED NITI AAYOG**

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of government's policy think tank, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. It is scheduled to meet on June 15 for the first time after Modi government won a second term. It will be chaired by the prime minister.

### **DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH FORMED COMMITTEE TO WORK ON MODALITIES OF REVISING PENSION UNDER OROP**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed a committee to work on modalities and methodology on the implementation of the next revision of pension to over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme. The newly constituted committee is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Sanjiv Mittal.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A COMMITTEE HEADED BY KIRIT PARIKH, AN ECONOMIST, TO REVIEW LPG MARKETING**

To review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, the Central Government constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh. The other members of the panel include the former petroleum secretary GC Chaturvedi, former Indian Oil chairman MA Pathan, IIM Ahmedabad director Errol D'souza, and a joint secretary in the petroleum ministry.

### **NITI AAYOG HAS PROPOSED TO SELL ONLY E-VEHICLES AFTER 2030**

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030. This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers

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### **NGT FORMED PANEL TO DISCUSS PLEA SEEKING BAN ON PLASTIC PACKAGING**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a panel to look into the needs for further norms to restrict the use of plastic packaging of food products. This was formed after a plea to seek a ban on the plastic packaging of food products. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel formed the panel.

### **ICG INAUGURATED ITS 4TH SUBORDINATE OFFICERS CONCLAVE 2019 IN NEW DELHI**

A two-day 4th Subordinate Officers Conclave 2019 organized by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was inaugurated by Rajendra Singh, Director General (DG) of ICG at ICG Headquarters in New Delhi. DG Rajendra Singh conferred 'Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak' to Navik Vinod. Also a Coast Guard Benevolent Association App was launched. Through this app, the Coast Guard Personnel can log on the site and apply for the required financial assistance online.

### **GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020 LEAGUE**

Union housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 League (SS 2020) in New Delhi. It will be a cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India on a quarterly basis. It will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted between January - February 2020. It will be conducted under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U).

### **INDIA'S FIRST DINOSAUR MUSEUM INAUGURATED IN GUJARAT**

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the new Dinosaur Museum-cum-Park at Raiyoli village in Balasinor town of Mahisagar district. This is the first such park in the country and also the world's third park which exhibits remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records. The Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd created the whole infrastructure of the museum.

### **15TH FINANCE COMMISSION HELD A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ADCS OF MEGHALAYA**

15th Finance Commission headed by the Chairman Shri N.K. Singh held meeting with the representatives of Autonomous Development Councils (ADCs) of Meghalaya as part of its visit to the State. There are 3 ADCs in Meghalaya namely the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council

### **I&B MINISTRY INSTITUTED AYDMS TO BE GIVEN TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**

To recognise the contributions made by media in spreading awareness about Yoga and for promotion and commemoration of International Yoga Day which is held every year on June 21, The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) headed by the Minister Prakash Javadekar instituted a new award called Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from year 2019.

### **MHA ALLOWS ALL STATES TO SETUP FOREIGNERS TRIBUNALS**

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up Foreigners Tribunals (FTs). In this regard, it has amended the Foreigners Tribunals Order, 1964 by the Foreigners Tribunal Order, 2019. It is to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

### **ASI DECLARED CHAUKHANDI STUPA AS MONUMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE**

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared Chaukhandi Stupa as a protected area "Monument of national importance". The ancient Buddhist site situated in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh. It is said that Chaukhandi stupa was a terraced temple constructed between 4th to 6th century of the Gupta period.

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### INDIA & PORTUGAL TO SET UP NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE MUSEUM IN LOTHAL

Government of India announced that it will join hands with Portugal to set up maritime museum near ancient Harappans civilization at Lothal in Gujarat. It will be a similar model of the museum which is at Lisbon, Portugal administered by the Portuguese Navy. It will be built in a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

### ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF KHEER BHAWANI MELA CELEBRATED IN J&K

Annual festival of Kheer Bhawani Mela on Zeasht Ashtami was celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit devotees assembled and prayed at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district in J&K. It is one of the biggest religious functions of the Kashmiri Pandits. The day marks the commencement of annual pilgrimage.

### AMASEBAILU BECOMES KARNATAKA'S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED GRAM PANCHAYAT

Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has been named as the Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat. The allocation of fund between the Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30: 20, and the rest is given by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.

### BANCHA BECAME THE FIRST SOLAR KITCHEN ONLY VILLAGE IN INDIA

Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh became the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves. There was no use for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders as all 75 houses relied on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs. The solar-powered stoves were developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai.

### KAZAKH-INDIAN INVESTMENT FORUM HELD IN AHMEDABAD

Kazakh-Indian Investment Forum was held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on June 7, 2019, to attract investments. It was organized by the Embassy of Kazakhstan in India with the support of the Honorary Consulate of Kazakhstan in the state of Gujarat Dilip Chandan, the National Company-Kazakh Invest and Jain International Trade Organization.

### IRSDC SIGNED A TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH SNCF AND AFD

Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) and French Development Agency (AFD). Under this agreement, a grant up to 7 lakh euros will be provided to boost capacity building for railway station development program in India.

### CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO ALL BY 2024: CENTRE

The minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that central Government committed to provide clean drinking water to all citizens by 2024, which is one of the poll promises given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Drinking water coverage: This is less than 5 percent in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, while Sikkim has 99 percent.

### JAPAN WILL INVEST RS 13,000 CRORE IN NORTH-EAST IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, nearly Rs 13,000 crore in several ongoing as well as new infrastructure projects in the North-East Region. This was announced after a meeting of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) Minister Dr Jitendra Singh with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu.



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### **CENTRAL INDIA GOT ITS FIRST SIKH MUSEUM IN RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH**

Central India got its First Sikh Museum in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The museum Shri Guru Teg Bahadur Sikh Museum is located at Gurudwara Gurusingh Sabha in Guru Nanak Nagar. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Bagel on the 'Shahidi Divas' of the fifth Sikh Guru, Arjun Dev.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT APPROVED TO SET UP DSRA**

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved to set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA), a new agency which will develop sophisticated weapon systems and technologies. It will enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space. It will provide research and development support to Defence Space Agency (DSA), that will be set up in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### **GOVERNMENT REDUCED THE ESI CONTRIBUTION RATE TO 4% FROM 6.5%**

Government reduced the Employees State Insurance (ESI) contribution rate to 4% from 6.5%. This will benefit 36 million workers and 1.28 million employers and will lead to an estimated annual saving of around Rs 5,000 crore for firms. The reduced rates will be effective from July 1, 2019. The Central government through the Ministry of Labour & Employment decides the rate of contribution under the Employees' State Insurance Act 1948 (the ESI Act).

### **FARMERS CONTRIBUTION TO BE RS 100 PER MONTH TO PM-KISAN PENSION YOJANA**

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare announced that farmers in the country are expected to contribute Rs 100 per month under the Pradhan Mantri (PM) Kisan Pension Yojana. It seeks to provide a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 on the attainment of 60 years of age. The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund. Pension Fund will be managed by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). It will be responsible for the pension payout.

### **DGT PARTNERED WITH CISCO & ACCENTURE FOR SKILLING PROGRAMME**

Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) joined hands with Cisco and Accenture, private sector companies, to skill the youth for digital economy through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). The implementation partner is Quest Alliance.

### **MARITIME INFORMATION SHARING WORKSHOP 2019 HELD IN GURUGRAM**

The two-day event of Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019 (MISW 2019) hosted by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) held in Gurugram, Haryana on June 12, 2019. The workshop was inaugurated by Vice Admiral MS Pawar, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff.

### **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GRANTED THE APPROVAL TO SET UP OF E-FOREIGNER TRIBUNAL (E-FT) IN ASSAM**

Central Government has permitted to set up e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam. 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 people left out in the final NRC can challenge their exclusion through these tribunals. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of e-FT Mission is Anand Prakash Tiwari.

### **NITI AAYOG HAS PROPOSED TO SELL ONLY E-VEHICLES AFTER 2030**

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) should be sold after 2030. This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers.



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### **INDIAN COAST GUARD (ICG) CO-HOSTED THE 12TH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosted the 12th Capacity Building workshop in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in New Delhi.

### **FOR THE FIRST TIME, INDIA TO HOST COP-14 OF UNCCD IN SEPTEMBER 2019**

To address the issues of land degradation and desertification, for the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019. It will be held between September 2 and 13, 2019 at the India Expo Center and Mart, New Delhi.

### **SECOND EDITION OF WORLD FOOD INDIA TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI FROM 1-4 NOVEMBER, 2019**

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal announced that World Food India (WFI) 2019, a biennial event, will be held at Vigyan Bhawan and Rajpath Lawns in New Delhi. The tagline of the event will be “Forging Partnerships for Growth”.

### **10TH EDITION OF REGIONAL GRIHA SUMMIT 2019 WAS HELD IN NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA**

The 10th edition of Regional Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) summit, 2019 was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Union Minister, Nitin Gadkari addressed this meeting. The theme of 2019 summit was “Transformation Strategies for Built Environment”. This theme was adopted to focus on the impact of incorporating sustainability initiatives into functioning public buildings.

### **LUCKNOW BUILDS ITS FIRST ROAD FROM PLASTIC WASTE**

Lucknow constructed its first plastic waste road. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has started using plastic waste to construct roads as a pilot project. This environment-friendly road is being constructed as a trial from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow.

### **3RD EDITION OF NAMASTE THAILAND FESTIVAL 2019 CONCLUDES IN NEW DELHI**

A two-day event of Namaste Thailand Film Festival 2019 concluded its third edition at Select Citywalk in New Delhi. It was organized by Royal Thai Embassy with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand. The festival was inaugurated by the Ambassador of Thailand to India, H.E Chutintorn Gongsakdi.

### **CENTRE CONSTITUTED A COMMITTEE HEADED BY KIRIT PARIKH, AN ECONOMIST, TO REVIEW LPG MARKETING**

To review the existing marketing structure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, the Central Government constituted a five-member committee headed by economist Kirit Parikh.

### **INDIA HOSTING INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF KIMBERLEY PROCESS 2019**

India is hosting the Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) from 17th to 21st June 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Besides the meetings of different Working Groups and Committees of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), two special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes will also be held.

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### **2ND MEETING OF INDIA-ITALY JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM WAS HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The 2nd Meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs and Mr Diego Brasioli, Principal Director for Security, Disarmament and non-Proliferation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

### **BSF AND BGB AGREED TO INCREASE COORDINATED PATROLS**

Border Security Force (BSF) of India and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) signed a Joint Record of Discussion at the 48th Director General (DG)-level talks which concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was signed between DG, BSF, Rajni Kant Mishra and DG, BGB, Major General Md Shafeenul Islam. Both sides agreed to undertake joint efforts to bring down the killing incidents to zero.

### **FIFTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF NITI AAYOG HELD IN NEW DELHI**

The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.

This was the first governing council meeting under the new Modi government. The guiding principle of Union Government is “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwaas”.

### **DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH FORMED COMMITTEE TO WORK ON MODALITIES OF REVISING PENSION UNDER OROP**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formed a committee to work on modalities and methodology on the implementation of the next revision of pension to over 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme

The newly constituted committee is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Sanjiv Mittal and consists of representatives from the three services.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **INDIA RANKED 20TH AMONG THE TOP CAPITAL IMPORTING COUNTRIES BY KNIGHT FRANK**

Knight Frank in its “Active Capital” 2019 Report, assigned India with the 20th rank among the top capital importing countries, globally. In terms of outbound cross-border investments, it was ranked 30th.

Globally, The United States (US) was the top capital importing country with an investment of \$80.89 billion. It also topped the list of capital exporting countries with an investment of \$59.62 billion, followed by Canada with \$50.41 billion and Germany with \$24.50 billion.

### **INDIA'S DATA USAGE PER SMARTPHONE IS THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AT 9.8GB PER MONTH**

As per the Ericsson Mobility Report of June 2019 edition, India's data usage per smartphone was the highest in the world at 9.8 Giga Byte (GB) per month up to December 31, 2018. It is set to double to 18 GB by 2024. Indian smartphone users are willing to pay more than 66% premium for futuristic 5G services.

North East Asia stood at the second place with 7.1 GB per month and North America at third with 7 GB. West Asia and Africa region had the lowest data consumption at 3 GB per month.

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### **INDIAN NAVY EXECUTES OPERATION SANKALP IN THE GULF OF OMAN TO UNDERTAKE MARITIME SECURITY**

India Navy launched “Operation Sankalp” in the Gulf of Oman. It is to recheck Indian flagged vessels operating through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime incidents in the region. Indian Navy has deployed (Indian Navy Ship) INS Chennai and INS Sunayna in the region to undertake maritime security operations.

### **3RD INDO-FRENCH CYBER DIALOGUE 2019 WAS HELD IN PARIS**

The third Indo-French cyber dialogue 2019 was held in Paris, France. The meeting was co-chaired by Henri Verdier, French Ambassador for Digital Affairs, and Upender Singh Rawat, Joint Secretary in charge of e-Governance, Information Technology and Cyber Diplomacy at the Ministry of External Affairs.

### **BANGLADESH’S FIRST IRON ORE MINE DISCOVERED IN DINAJPUR**

Country’s first iron ore mine was discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur of Bangladesh. The discovery was done by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB).

### **SAUDI ARABIA BECAME THE FIRST ARAB COUNTRY TO GET FATF MEMBERSHIP**

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

The membership was admitted into the global money laundering watchdog after the group’s Annual General Meeting in Orlando, Florida where FATF celebrated the 30th anniversary of its first meeting which was held in Paris in 1989.

### **FIVE COUNTRIES FROM ASIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA HAD NO CASES OF MALARIA IN 2018: WHO**

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

### **MEXICO BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RATIFY THE TRADE DEAL TO REPLACE NAFTA**

Mexico became the first country which approves to replace 25 year old trade deal North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new trade deal is named as United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The USMCA (NAFTA 2.0) has been modified to include changes for automakers, stricter labor and environmental standards, intellectual property protections, and digital trade provisions.

### **UAE’S FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT LAUNCHES UN-DEVELOPED ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PLATFORM ‘GOAML’**

The United Arab Emirates’ Central Bank in Abu Dhabi announced that it’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) launched a new reporting platform ‘goAML’ (global operations Anti-Money Laundering). It is developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to curb organised financial crimes.

### **NEPALESE NATIONALS MUST HAVE A VISA TO ENTER INDIA VIA PAKISTAN, CHINA, HONG KONG AND MACAU**

The Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi issued a notice stating that Nepalese nationals must have a visa if they are entering India from Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, and Macau. This was done to increase security in the country.

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### **INDIA'S CANDIDATURE FOR NON-PERMANENT SEAT OF UNSC RECEIVED ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP'S UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT**

The Group of Asia-Pacific at the United Nations unanimously endorsed India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This will be for a two-year term 2021-2022. This was informed by India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin. Every year, 5 non-permanent members are elected for a 2-year term.

### **RUSSIA EXTENDS BAN ON EU FOOD IMPORTS TILL DECEMBER 31, 2020**

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree to extend the ban on food imports like meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetables from the European Union (EU) till December 31, 2020.

### **SAUDI ARABIA INCREASED INDIA'S HAJ QUOTA BY 30,000**

Saudi Arabia increased India's Haj quota by 30,000 which was the third hike in 3 years. It was increased from 1,70,000 to 200,000. With this, more Indians will get a chance to visit annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, a city in Hejazi region of Saudi Arabia.

The issue discussed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman in the ongoing G20 Summit in Osaka Japan.

### **AS PER MERCER'S SURVEY FOR 2019, MUMBAI AMONG THE TOP 20 MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES IN ASIA FOR EXPATRIATES**

As per Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey which was conducted in March 2019, Mumbai was considered as India's most expensive city. It was included in the list of top 20 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates as its residential housing prices were the highest in the world. 8 out of the top 10 of the most expensive cities in the world for expatriates were Asian cities. 209 cities were ranked in the list.

### **INS TARKASH REACHES ALEXANDRIA AS PART OF THE OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAMME**

As a part of the Western Fleet Overseas Deployment programme, Indian Navy Ship(INS), Tarkash reached Alexandria in Egypt for three days visit.

This visit to Egypt will seek to strengthen the ties between the two countries & increase the footprint and operational reach of the Indian navy.

### **INDIA, US, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA FOR ASEAN-LED ARCHITECTURE MECHANISM**

India, US, Japan, and Australia came together to support ASEAN-led architecture mechanism for a rule-based order to promote free, open, prosperous and inclusive indo-pacific region in a meeting held at Bangkok, Thailand. This move is to counter China's military expansion into the Indo-pacific region.

### **PUERTO WILLIAMS NAMED AS THE WORLD'S SOUTHERNMOST CITY**

Puerto Williams in Chile has become the southernmost city in the world after getting its status upgraded to city category. Previously, the southernmost city was Ushuaia in Argentina.

### **INDIANS RANKED 2ND AMONG BLEISURE TRAVELERS GLOBALLY AS PER THE STUDY OF BOOKING.COM**

Indians were ranked 2nd among Bleisure Travelers across 31 countries as per the study of



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Booking.com. In 2018, 72% Indian travelers extended their business trips. Bleisure is a new trend which means business and leisure trips.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES TO BE INCLUDED IN U.S VISA APPLICATION**

According to a new immigration rule in US, the visa applicants are now required to provide social media details dated back to five years from the application date, to enhance the screening process of the applicants and ensure national security. This affects nearly 15 million people per year. The data required under the new rule include social media profiles links, phone numbers, email IDs for the past five years.

### **QUAD (QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE) HELD AT BANGKOK**

The fourth Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) meeting was recently held in Bangkok, Thailand. It is an informal strategic dialogue between the group of four countries - the United States, India, Japan, and Australia. It was attended by senior officials of QUAD member countries.

### **14TH OIC SUMMIT HELD IN MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA**

14th Islamic Summit organized by Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit was held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It was hosted by Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The summit titled as “Mecca Summit: Together for the Future”, aimed at developing a unified stance on events in the Islamic world.

### **INDIA RANKED 95TH IN 129 COUNTRIES IN NEW GENDER EQUALITY INDEX**

India was ranked 95th among 129 countries in new SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Gender Equality Index with 56.2 scores. The gender gap index of the World Economic Forum had ranked India with 108

### **MUMBAI RANKED MOST CONGESTED CITY IN THE WORLD, DELHI RANKED 4TH: TRAFFIC INDEX 2018**

The recent study “Traffic Index 2018”, analysis of the current status of traffic mobility was conducted. According to the findings, Mumbai is the most traffic-congested city among 403 cities in 56 countries with a congestion level of 65 percent, while New Delhi ranked fourth with congestion of 58 percent.

### **INDIA RANKED 113 OUT OF 176 COUNTRIES IN END OF CHILDHOOD INDEX**

According to the 3rd End of Childhood Index, a part of Changing Lives in Our Lifetime – Global Childhood Report 2019, India was ranked 113 in 176 countries on the wellbeing of children with 769 score out of 1000. The Index was released on May 28, 2019 by ‘Save the Children’, a United Kingdom (UK) based non-profit organisation which works for child rights

### **PM MODI TO ATTEND THE G7 SUMMIT IN FRANCE AS A SPECIAL INVITEE**

French President, Emmanuel Macron has invited Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to attend the 45th session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz in France as a special invitee. The summit of the G7 group of countries scheduled to take place from August 24 to August 26.

### **INDIA DESIGNATED AS GUEST COUNTRY AT GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR IN MEXICO**

India has been designated as the guest country in the 33rd Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Guadalajara International Book Fair), in Mexico. The nodal agency, under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, claimed it to be the largest book fair in the Spanish speaking world.



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### **EL SALVADOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DECLARES “FORESTS AS LIVING ENTITIES”**

The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador has recognized forests as living entities on the World Environment Day (5th June 2019). Its citizens will now be required to preserve forests and respect them as more than just property. A coalition in El Salvador named “Yes for the Rights of Nature” (Sí por los Derechos de la Naturaleza), has environmentalists and social leaders called for recognizing forests as living entities.

### **INDIA RANKED 141 IN GLOBAL PEACE INDEX, ICELAND REMAINS PEACEFUL**

Institute for Economics and Peace released the report, ‘Global peace index 2019’ stated that India ranked 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index. Iceland topped the in the list while Afghanistan is the least peaceful country in the world.

### **16TH ASIA MEDIA SUMMIT HELD IN SIEM REAP PROVINCE, CAMBODIA**

The 16th Edition of Asia Media Summit (AMS) 2019 was held in Siem Reap province, Cambodia from June 12 to June 14, 2019. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen. AMS was held under the topic “Media Digitalization Focusing on Developing Markets” and it gave a call to fight against fake news and cyber-crimes. It was organized by Cambodian Ministry of Information in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)

### **INDIA CONSTITUTES 12% OF GLOBAL INTERNET USERS**

According to the report on internet trends released by the venture capitalist, Mary Meeker stated that India ranks second by witnessing 12% world internet users (close to 455 million). China leads the chart with 21% of global internet users while the U.S (United States) placed third with 8%. Now the total internet users (3.88 billion) is more than half the world’s population

### **AS PER UNICEF, 1 IN EVERY 5 BOYS MARRIED OFF BEFORE THEY TURN 15**

After the first-ever in-depth analysis of child grooms, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) study revealed that an estimated 115 million boys and men around the world were married as children. Of which 1 in 5 children (23 million) was married off before the age of 15.

### **G20 MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN JAPAN**

The G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy was held on June 8 and 9, 2019 in Tsukuba city, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. It is one of the eight Ministerial Meetings. The Indian delegation for G20 Ministerial Meeting was led by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal.

### **Overview of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visit to Bhutan**

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Bhutan from 7th to 8th June, 2019. This was his first two-day trip after assuming charge of the Ministry of External Affairs. He holds talks on issues of mutual interest on the development partnership, the upcoming high-level exchanges, economic development, and hydro-power cooperation.

### **GLOBAL FOOD PRODUCTION AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE: STUDY**

According to recently released research in the journal “PLOS ONE”, stated that Climate change is adversely affecting the global production of crops such as wheat and rice. The research was based on study conducted by scientists from the University of Oxford in the UK and the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. They used weather and databases of the crop to evaluate the impact of climate change.

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### **PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT TO MALDIVES AND SRI LANKA**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the Republic of Maldives on June 8-9, 2019 at the invitation of Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives to strengthen the bilateral ties, reflecting the importance India attached to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy. It was the first overseas visit of the Prime Minister after his re-election. He was conferred with the Maldives' highest honour "Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen" by the President of Maldives.

### **2ND GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT HELD AT BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

The 2nd Global Disability Summit was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from June 6 to June 8, 2019. The objectives of the summit were to deliberate on issues across the world concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life. Indian delegation was headed by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawar chand Gehlot.

### **GANDHI PEACE RALLY HELD IN SAUDI ARABIA**

To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy organized the 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace', in Saudi Arabia. The rally was organized in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation. The rally was flagged off by the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed.

### **G20 FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS MEET HELD IN FUKUOKA, JAPAN**

As a part of setting the stage for 2019 G20 Summit, to be held in Osaka, Japan, from 28-29 June 2019, a G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet was held in Fukuoka, Japan on 8-9 June. It was one of the 8 ministerial meetings taking place in Japan before 2019 G20 summit. The Indian side was led by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman

### **WORLD'S MOST PUNCTUAL AIRLINE TAG WON BY SRILANKAN AIRLINES**

Sri Lanka's state-run Srilankan Airlines has been named the world's most punctual airline by flight data analysis company Flightstats.com. An extraordinary 90.5 percent of SriLankan Airlines' flights were on time according to an analysis by Flightstats. LATAM Airlines was in second place with 38,202 flights. All Nippon Airways was in third place with 29,536 flights.

### **ESTONIA, NIGER, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, TUNISIA, VIETNAM ELECTED TO UNSC AS NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS**

Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam are elected to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as Non-permanent Members for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2020

### **FIRST ARCTIC TRAIN SERVICE LAUNCHED BY RUSSIA**

Russia has launched its first tourist train service passing through Russia's Arctic region. It begins a journey from Saint Petersburg station to Norway with 91 passengers aboard. The train has been named as Zarengold ("The Tsar's gold" in German). It has two restaurant cars and the trip will be expected to take 11 days. The train is expected to run twice in 2020 and four times in 2021.

### **AFRICAN UNION SUSPENDS SUDAN, DEMANDS CIVIL ADMINISTRATION**

The African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council has announced that it has suspended Sudan's participation in all AU activities until the productive establishment of Civilian Government in the country. The decision was taken at the Peace and

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Security Council meeting held in Addis Ababa. The suspension comes after Sudan's military launched a brutal attack on protesters in the capital, Khartoum.

### **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR WELLBEING 2031' ADOPTED BY THE CABINET OF UAE**

The Cabinet of United Arab Emirates (UAE) adopted a 12-year strategy 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031' during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi. It will be chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

### **VENEZUELA TO ROLL OUT THREE NEW BANKNOTES DUE TO HYPERINFLATION**

The Venezuelan government announced that it will issue new banknotes due to racking hyperinflation which eroded the currency's value. The central bank of Venezuela will release new Banknotes of 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 bolivar denominations.

### **OVERVIEW OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT TO KYRGYZSTAN**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit 2019. India And Kyrgyzstan signed 15 Agreements. Also, India granted 200 million dollar line of credit to Kyrgyzstan.

### **BIFAN 2019 TO BE HELD IN BUCHEON, SOUTH KOREA**

2019 Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) will be held in Bucheon City, South Korea from June 27 to July 7, 2019. This is the 23rd edition of the film festival. This film festival is known as a Mecca of the film culture. 4 Indian movies Gully Boy directed Zoya Akhtar, Andhadhun directed by Sriram Raghavan, Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi directed by Radha Krishna Jagarlamudi (Krish) & Kangana Ranaut and a Tamil movie, Super Deluxe directed by Thiagarajan Kumararaja, will be screened at the festival.

### **INDIA WILL OVERTAKE CHINA AS WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY: UN REPORT**

According to the 26th edition of the UN (United Nations) population estimates and projection report, 'The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights' published by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs states that India is going to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027. India currently ranks second in the index (out of 230 countries), with over 17 percent of the world population.

### **5TH CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA (CICA) SUMMIT HELD IN DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN**

The 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit 2019 was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 14-15 June 2019. The theme of the 5th Summit was "Shared Vision for a Secure and More Prosperous CICA Region". India is a member of CICA since 1999. Late Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had participated in the first CICA Summit held in 2002 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

### **FACEBOOK CONFIRMED THE LAUNCH OF CRYPTOCURRENCY 'LIBRA' IN 2020**

Facebook confirmed that it will launch a blockchain-powered stable-coin 'Libra' in 2020 through the release of white paper. It will be a form of digital money backed by a reserve of assets. It will be governed by the independent Libra Association, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The head of the project is David Marcus. He has served as the president of PayPal and head of Facebook Messenger.

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### **INDIA EXTENDED \$15 MILLION GRANT TO NIGER TO ORGANIZE THE AU SUMMIT**

India extended \$15 million grant to Niger to organize the African Union (AU) Summit scheduled from 7-8 July, 2019 in Niamey, Niger. It was symbolically handed over to Mrs. Lamido Ousseini Bala Goga Salamatou, Deputy Foreign Minister, Government of Niger. Niger will be hosting the AU Summit for the first time and it is expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

### **IIT-BOMBAY SECURED TOP POSITION AMONG INDIAN INSTITUTIONS IN QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING 2020**

In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2020, The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay) emerged as India's best institution. For the past three years, it has been securing the top position among Indian institutes. It was followed by IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore. These are the only three universities in India that made it to the top 200 universities in the world.

### **WHO LAUNCHED A NEW TOOL TO HANDLE AMR NAMED "AWARE"**

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign "AdoptAWaRe, Handle antibiotics with care" urging governments to adopt a tool named "AWaRe" (Access, Watch, and Reserve), to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs. It is developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List.

### **INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER RIVA GANGULY DAS VISITED INDO-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE 1**

Riva Ganguly Das, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh visited the construction of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge 1 (Feni Bridge/ Maitree Setu) and land port in Ramgarh Upazila of Khagrachhari, Bangladesh. The cost of construction of the bridge is more than Rs.82 crores. It is being constructed by National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) of Union Ministry of Road and Transport highways (MoRTH).

### **12TH SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO CONVENTION TO RIGHTS OF PWDS 2019 HELD IN NEW YORK**

The 12th session of Conference of States Parties to the Convention to Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2019 held at the UN (United Nations) headquarters, New York. Mrs Shakuntala Doley Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment participated in the conference.

### **IRELAND PLANS TO BAN SALE OF PETROL AND DIESEL CARS FROM 2030**

In order to combat greenhouse gas emissions, Ireland Government decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 as part of a major strategy to protect the environment. This is one of 180 measures the Irish government published in the 'Climate Action Plan'. The "Climate Action Plan" also includes the elimination of non-recyclable plastic and higher fees on the production of materials that are difficult to recycle.

### **WORLDWIDE DISPLACEMENT TOPS 70.8 MILLION AT THE END OF 2018: UNHCR REPORT**

According to the recently released UNHCR's (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) annual Global Trends report, almost 70.8 million people are forcibly displaced in 2018, the most since World War II and doubled the number of 20 years ago. The report states that the number of people fleeing persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations rose by 2.3 million in 2018.



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### **G20 MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ENERGY TRANSITIONS AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH HELD IN KARUIZAWA, JAPAN**

G20 (Group of 20) Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth for the year 2019 was held at Karuizawa Prince Hotel (Karuizawa Town, Nagano), Japan on June 15-16, 2019. The G20 Ministers met together to discuss energy transitions and global environment towards sustainable growth. The Ministerial Meeting was co-chaired by Yoshiaki Harada, Minister of the Environment, Japan and Hiroshige Seko Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan

### **INDIAN NAVY EXECUTES OPERATION SANKALP IN THE GULF OF OMAN TO UNDERTAKE MARITIME SECURITY**

India Navy launched "Operation Sankalp" in the Gulf of Oman. It is to recheck Indian flagged vessels operating through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime incidents in the region. Indian Navy has deployed (Indian Navy Ship) INS Chennai and INS Sunayna in the region to undertake maritime security operations.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **MAX LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHED 'MAX LIFE SMART TERM PLAN'**

Max Life Insurance Company Limited, one of the country's leading life insurance companies, launched customizable 'Max Life Smart Term Plan'. It will offer customers the flexibility to customize their own protection solution through the selection from a wide range of benefits and features.

It will provide options of choosing from multiple premium payment term- Single payment, payment for limited term of 5, 10, 12 and 15 years in addition to the 'pay till 60' and regular pay options.

### **IDBI BANK AND TATA AIG SIGNED BANCASSURANCE CORPORATE AGENCY AGREEMENT**

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has signed a bancassurance agreement with Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd to provide Tata AIG's suite of P&C (Property and Casualty (insurance) products to its customers.

Tata AIG's products will now be available in IDBI bank's 20 million customer base spread across its 1,850-plus branches.

### **FLIPKART REVAMPS MSME SELLER FINANCING PROGRAMME 'GROWTH CAPITAL'**

E-commerce firm Flipkart has revamped its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) seller financing programme 'Growth Capital' in order to empower MSMEs across the country. The program enables financial inclusion and independence for MSMEs who operate online.

The changes will allow more than one lakh sellers to avail credit at competitive interest rates from 10 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and banks with an approval time of one day and disbursement into the sellers bank accounts within 48 hours.

### **NHB ISSUED STRICTER NORMS ON HFCs' CAPITAL ADEQUACY RATIOS**

The National Housing Bank (NHB) has tightened the norms on leverage and capital adequacy ratio for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). It mandated the HFCs to reduce their total borrowings in a phased manner to not more than 12 times (at present 16 times) of their Net-Owned Funds (NOF) as on March 31, 2022. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Housing Finance is the only HFC to have the highest leverage ratio of 14 times of NOF.



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### CANARA BANK UPDATED THE RULES FOR CASH DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS

Canara Bank has issued new rules for its customers regarding cash deposits and withdrawals effective from July 1, 2019. The customers of the bank can deposit cash in Savings bank account up to Rs 50,000 for free only thrice a month and the fourth transaction will be charged.

This is done to encourage digital transactions and it coincides with transaction charges on National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) being waived off complying with Reserve Bank of India's guidelines from July 1, 2019.

### FEDERAL BANK RAISES RS 300 CRORE THROUGH A PRIVATE PLACEMENT OF BASEL III COMPLIANT TIER II BONDS

Kochi based Federal Bank announced that it has raised Rs 300 crore through Basel-III compliant bonds for improving their risk management techniques and to address the growing risks.

### PAYMENTS RELATED DATA TO BE STORED ONLY IN INDIA: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its frequently asked questions (FAQ) section stated that the data related to payment transactions must be stored in systems of the country and if any information is processed abroad, it should be deleted from their systems and brought back to India not later than one business day or 24 hours from the payment processing, whichever is earlier. The clarification was sought by the Payment System Operators (PSOs) on the issue of data localization.

### GOVERNMENT LOWERS INTEREST RATES ON SMALL SAVING SCHEMES BY 0.1% FOR SEPTEMBER QUARTER

- The schemes include Public provident fund (PPF), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS).
- PPF&NSC: For the July-September quarter, PPF and National Savings Certificate will fetch an annual interest rate of 7.9% as compared to 8% earlier.
- KVP: Kisan Vikas Patra will yield 7.6 percent with a maturity of 113 months. At present, the interest rate on KVP is 7.7 percent and maturity is 112 months.
- The girl child savings scheme: Sukanya Samriddhi Account will offer 8.4 percent from 8.5 percent.
- SCSS: Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will offer 8.6 percent from 8.7 percent.
- Term deposits of 1- 3 years will offer an interest rate of 6.9 percent will be paid quarterly, while the five-year quarterly pegged at 7.7 percent and for recurring 7.2 percent from the existing rate of 7.3 percent.

### RBI RELAXED THE LEVERAGE RATIO (LR) FOR BANKS TO HELP BANKS EXPAND LENDING

The RBI (Reserve Bank of India) relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks in a bid to help them expand their lending activities. The leverage ratio (LR) reduced to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks with effective from October 1, 2019.

### \$250-M LOAN PACT SIGNED BY INDIA AND WORLD BANK FOR REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE

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

### INDIA SIGNS \$250 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN TO DEVELOP RAJASTHAN'S ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The Government of India, Government of Rajasthan and the World Bank signed a \$ 250 Million Loan Agreement for Phase II of Rajasthan State Highways Development Project.

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### **FOREX RESERVES OF INDIA INCREASED TO A RECORD HIGH OF \$426.42 BILLION**

As per the data from the apex bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Foreign Exchange Reserves (Forex/ FX Reserves) of India reached a lifetime high of \$426.42 billion after it was increased by \$4.215 billion in the week to June 21, 2019. The reason for the hike in reserve was due to an increase in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA). Till date, the highest Forex reserves were recorded in the week to April 13, 2018, accounting to \$426.028 billion.

### **INDIA AND WORLD BANK SIGN USD 400M LOAN AGREEMENT TO ELIMINATE TB**

The World Bank and the Government of India signed a loan agreement of \$400 Million for the Program Towards Elimination of Tuberculosis(TB), which kills approximately half a million people in India every year. The program will cover nine States of India.

It will also support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.

### **INDIA INKS LOAN PACT WORTH OF \$328M WITH WORLD BANK FOR ANDHRA PRADESH**

The World Bank, Government of India and State Government of Andhra Pradesh signed a loan agreement worth of \$328 million with the World Bank (WB) for improving health services of Andhra Pradesh.

### **RBI SETS AVERAGE BASE RATE AT 9.18% FOR NBFC-MFI BORROWERS FOR THE QUARTER BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019**

The Reserve Bank of India set an average base rate of 9.18% for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to be charged from their customers. It will be charged for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019.

### **INDIAN CRYPTO EXCHANGE KOINEX SHUTS DOWN ITS OPERATION**

India's Largest Cryptocurrency Exchange, Koinex (Mumbai) Terminating Its Digital Asset Trading Services And Other Crypto-Related Operations Citing Regulatory Uncertainty And Disruption.

### **RBI ISSUED GUIDELINES FOR SETTING UP OF AN FBAS FOR ADMINISTERING "SIGNIFICANT BENCHMARKS"**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a regulatory framework for setting up of financial benchmark administrator (FBA) for administering 'significant benchmarks' in the markets for financial instruments.

It means any benchmark notified by the central bank taking into consideration its use, efficiency, and relevance in domestic financial markets and the benchmarks administered outside India do not fall under the norms

### **RBI RECOMMENDS COMMERCIAL BANKS TO ADOPT EDUCATION LOAN SCHEME**

India's central banking institution, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme which is formulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

- . Loan up to Rs 10 lakh for study in India and upto Rs 20 lakh for study abroad.
- Collateral free loans upto Rs 7.5 Lakh under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL).
- No Margin for a loan up to Rs 7.50 Lakh.
- Repayment period of 15 years.

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### **MOBIKWIK PARTNERED WITH MAX BUPA TO LAUNCH 'SHAMPOO-SACHET' HEALTH PLAN**

MobiKwik, a mobile payments service provider, partnered with health insurer Max Bupa to launch "shampoo-sachet" concept in the insurance sector. It will offer mini medical insurance products with premiums as low as Rs 20. The partnership enables financial inclusion by making pocket size health insurance solutions available through the Mobikwik platform.

### **ORACLE LAUNCHES CRIME MITIGATION SOLUTION FOR SMALLER BANKS**

A multinational software firm based in the United States, Oracle has introduced a new tool that will help small & mid-sized banks to tackle fraud.

The Oracle Financial Services "Anti Money Laundering Express Edition(AMLXE)" is designed to detect, investigate, and report suspected money laundering and terrorist financing activity.

### **RBI PANEL LED BY U.K. SINHA SUGGESTS RS.5,000 CRORE STRESSED ASSET FUND FOR MSMES**

The Reserve Bank released the report of the expert committee under former SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) chairman U K Sinha on measures for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).

### **WILFUL DEFAULTERS IN STATE-RUN BANKS INCREASED BY 60% IN 5 YEARS**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the number of wilful defaulters in nationalized banks has risen 60% in five years to March 2019.

The figure stood at 8,582 at the end of FY19(fiscal year) against 5,349 at the end of FY15. The silver lining is about Rs.7,600 crore has been recovered from those defaulters.

### **WORLD BANK COMMITS \$31.58 MN LOAN FOR UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING PROJECT**

The Government of India, the State Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank signed a tripartite Loan Agreement of \$31.58 million (about Rs 221 crore) for Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project. This will help improve the State's ability to manage its Financial Systems and lead to Better Utilization of Development Resources.

### **RBI LAUNCHES NEW COMPLAINTS PORTAL FOR FILING ONLINE COMPLAINTS AGAINST BANKS, NBFCs**

The Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has launched a Complaint Management System (CMS) for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) on its website. The online portal aims at improving customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.

### **GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND TO GET \$147 MILLION LOAN FROM WORLD BANK**

To provide basic urban services to the people and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in Jharkhand, the World Bank approved a \$147 million loan agreement to the state.

### **MARUTI SUZUKI INKS PARTNERSHIP WITH BOB FOR DEALER FINANCING**

Automobile manufacturer in India, Maruti Suzuki signed 'Preferred Financier' MoU(Memorandum of understanding) with public sector Bank, Bank of Baroda (BOB) to improve credit for dealership inventory financing.

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### **TWO-WHEELER LOAN NAMED 'SABSE KHAAS LOAN' LAUNCHED BY L&T FINANCE**

Indian multinational conglomerate, L&T Finance, a subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings, launched 'Sabse Khaas Loan' for two-wheeler customers. Borrowers can choose 3 different EMI periods— 6, 12 and 18 months with the interest rates between 7.99 percent and 8.99 percent.

### **ADB APPROVED \$350 MILLION LOAN FOR CHHATTISGARH ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved \$350 million loan to rehabilitate and upgrade two state highways and 23 major district roads totaling about 850 kilometers in Chhattisgarh. It will improve the connectivity and access to basic services and livelihood opportunities in the state. The total cost of the project is \$521.69 million

### **FITCH CERTIFIED LONG-TERM RATINGS TO SIX BANKS AT 'BBB-' WITH STABLE OUTLOOK**

International rating agency Fitch Ratings certified long-term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) to six banks namely State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of Baroda (BOB), Canara Bank and Bank of India (BOI) with 'BBB-' a stable outlook. The rating of IDBI Bank's long-term IDR was certified at 'BB+'.

### **PRICES OF SGBS FOR 2019-20 FIXED AT RS 3,196 PER GRAM**

The Government has fixed the price of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs)-Series I for 2019-20 at Rs 3,196 per gram with settlement date June 11, 2019. They will be opened for subscription from June 03 to June 07, 2019. In consultation with RBI, the Government has decided to allow a discount of Rs 50 per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made through digital mode.

### **BANK FRAUDS REACHED UNPRECEDENTED RS 71,500 CRORE IN 2018-19**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that bank frauds have been reached to Rs 71,500 crore in 2018-19 with over 6,800 cases. In 2017-18, 5,916 cases were reported by banks which involved Rs 41,167.03 crore. RBI's data reported that in last 11 fiscal years, 53,334 cases of fraud were reported by banks involving the amount of Rs 2.05 lakh crore.

### **ICICI BANK LAUNCHES CENTER IN BENGALURU EXCLUSIVE FOR MSME**

Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) launched a dedicated center in Bengaluru to provide hassle free services to small business owners and startups. The center provides various services which include working capital loans of up to Rs. 20 crore, business loans (based on GST returns) of up to Rs. 1 crore, instant overdraft facility of up to Rs. 15 lakh, extensive trade solutions and cash management services, and others.

### **AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME "DIGITAL SAKHI" LAUNCHED BY L&T FINANCIAL SERVICES IN TAMILNADU**

A non-banking financial institution L&T Finance Services Ltd. (Larsen & Toubro Financial Services) recently launched "Digital Sakhi", an educational program aimed at financial inclusion of rural women in Villupuram District, Tamilnadu.

### **RBI FORMED PANEL LED BY NANDAN NILEKANI RECOMMENDED TO ROPE IN LOCAL RETAILERS TO ACT AS CASH POINTS**

The Reserve bank of India (RBI) formed panel led by Nandan Nilekani has recommended to rope in local retailers and business correspondents to act as cash points in semi-urban centers. These will act as the primary source of cash in semi-urban centers and will replace ATMs (Automated Teller Machines).



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### **TAMIL NADU GETS \$287 MN LOAN FROM WORLD BANK FOR THE STATE'S HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM PROGRAMME**

The Government of India, Tamil Nadu, and the World Bank signed a \$287 million loan agreement for the state's Health System Reform Programme in New Delhi. It is aimed to improve the quality of health care, reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services.

### **RBI AMENDED ITS NORMS ON BANKS' EXPOSURE TO LARGE BORROWERS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) amended its norms on banks' exposure to large borrowers with a view to reduce the concentration of risk and align them with the global norms. It will help in lending to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) in an effective way and invite scrutiny on the structure of these entities.

### **NILEKANI-LED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED 24x7 RTGS & NEFT, ELIMINATION OF ALL CHARGES**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed 5-member panel led by Nandan Nilekani recommended measures like 24x7 Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) facility, duty-free import of Point-of-sales (POS) machines and elimination of all charges in order to promote digital payments in India

### **ASHOK LEYLAND PARTNERED WITH SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK FOR VEHICLE LOANS**

Ashok Leyland, Hinduja Group flagship firm, partnered with Suryoday Small Finance Bank to provide vehicle loans to the customers of Ashok Leyland. The financing partnership agreement was signed for 3 years.

### **RBI REMOVED CHARGES FOR RTGS AND NEFT TRANSACTIONS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed the charges levied on Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) transactions to boost digital payments. At present, the banks levy minimum charges for transactions done through RTGS system for large-value (Rs 2 lakh and above) instantaneous fund transfers and NEFT System for other fund transfers (below Rs 2 lakh).

### **RBI RAISED THE RETAIL INFLATION FORECAST FOR APRIL-SEPTEMBER FY20 TO 3-3.1%**

RBI raised the Retail Inflation Forecast marginally to 3-3.1% for the first half of the current fiscal due to a rise in food prices mainly vegetables. It forecasted risks to inflation trajectory from monsoon uncertainties, an unseasonal spike in vegetable prices, crude oil prices, financial market volatility, and fiscal scenario.

### **RBI RELEASES REPORT ON BENCHMARKING INDIA'S PAYMENT SYSTEMS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report on "Benchmarking India's Payment Systems". It provides a comparative position of the payment ecosystem in India. RBI had undertaken an exercise of benchmarking India's Payment's system compared to the payment systems of advanced economies, Asian economies and the BRICS nations

### **SECOND BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY OF RBI 2019-20**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its second Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2019-20 in Mumbai on June 6, 2019. The three-day policy review meeting by the six members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das with the members Dr Chetan Ghate, Dr Pami Dua, Dr Ravindra H. Dholakia, Dr Michael Debabrata Patra, Dr Viral V Acharya. In a rare 6-0 majority, Repo rate was reduced by 25 bps under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to 5.75 percent for third time in a row.



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### **E-MONEY SHARE IN INDIA'S PAYMENT SYSTEMS REACHES 21.5%: RBI**

According to a new report "Benchmarking India's Payment Systems", released by Reserve Bank of India(RBI) stated that the share of e-Money in India's payment systems raise to 21.5 percent in 2017 from 0.8 percent in 2012. India was next to Japan and the US in 2017 with respect to e-Money transactions of Rs 3,459 million.

### **TATA MUTUAL FUND LAUNCHED INDIA'S FIRST MUTUAL FUND SIDE POCKET**

Tata Mutual Fund launched the side-pocketing (segregated portfolio) option to set aside its troubled investment in Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL). They were created for 3 schemes namely Tata Corporate Bond Fund, Tata Medium Term Fund, and Tata Treasury Advantage Fund. This is India's first formal use of the side pocketing provisions which was introduced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in December 2018.

### **RBI TO CREATE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING PLATFORM FOR RETAIL PARTICIPANTS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced to set up a foreign exchange trading platform for retail participants. This is to create a market infrastructure that ensures fair and transparent pricing for users of foreign exchange like Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) exporters & importers and individuals. The trading platforms are developed by the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) and are tested by the users

### **YES BANK CONDUCTS E-AUCTION FOR FOREST PRODUCE**

Yes Bank has conducted the first e-auction of forest produce in Dhanora Mahasangh in Maharashtra under its Tech for Change initiative where the bank work with the government and corporate to create technology-based solutions which have a social impact. It is a joint effort of Yes Bank with its fintech partner, Sparsh Technologies.

### **FINCARE SFB, KOOKMIN BANK ADDED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE OF RBI ACT**

Fincare Small Finance Bank and Kookmin Bank have been included in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Both banks can now broad-base its lines of funding and liquidity facilities. They can issue certificates of deposits and get access to interbank borrowings at competitive interest rates.

### **BAJAJ FINSERV & MOTHERHOOD HOSPITALS INK PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE LIFE CARE FINANCE FACILITY**

Indian financial services company Bajaj Finserv inked partnership with Motherhood hospitals, a national network of women & child hospital to provide Lifecare finance facility. Through this partnership, patients at all motherhood hospitals can avail Life Care Finance (LCF) from Bajaj Finserv that converts their medical bills into an EMI loan without interest.

### **RBI ISSUED FRESH PRUDENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLUTION OF STRESSED ASSETS**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new NPA guidelines "Prudential framework for resolution of stressed assets" to deal with bad loans, as the previous circular that was issued by RBI on Feb 12, 2019 rejected by Supreme Court. The new framework will replace all the previous models. The directions have been issued in terms of the provisions of Section 35AA of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, for initiation of insolvency proceedings against specific borrowers under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)

### **FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES OF INDIA INCREASED BY \$1.8 BILLION TO \$421.8 BILLION**

As per the data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Foreign Exchange (Forex) Reserves of India increased by \$1.875 billion to \$421.867 billion in the week ending May 31, 2019. In the previous week, the forex reserves rose by \$1.99 billion to \$ 419.99 billion. The foreign currency assets rose by \$1.946 billion to \$394.134 billion.

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### STATE BANK OF INDIA TO INTRODUCE REPO-LINKED HOME LOAN PRODUCT FROM JULY 1

State Bank of India (SBI) announced to introduce repo-linked home loan product from July 1, 2019. It has become the first bank to offer this facility. It means any changes in the key interest rate by the central bank would be passed on directly to the customers. The home loans up to Rs 75 lakh will be priced at 2.65% over the repo rate of 5.75% resulting in the interest rate of 8.40%.

### PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK AHEAD OF MAJOR BANKS IN DIGITAL TRANSACTION TARGET WITH 501.16 CRORE DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS

Paytm Payments Bank with 501.16 crore digital transactions for the financial year 2019-20 is ahead of major banks including HDFC Bank, Industrial Credit, and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank and Punjab National Bank (PNB) in digital transaction target set by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

### KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK WAS PENALIZED WITH RS 2 CRORE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA FOR NOT MEETING OWNERSHIP RULES

Reserve Bank of India has penalized Kotak Mahindra Bank with Rs. 2 crores for not furnishing details about the shareholding of its promoter and its plans for complying with stake dilution norms. RBI has mandated the bank to reduce its promoter shareholding to 20 percent by December 31, 2018, and to 15 percent by March 2022.

### MAX LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY LAUNCHED 'MY PROTECTION QUOTIENT' TOOL

Max Life Insurance Company launched a unique proprietary tool named 'My Protection Quotient' (MyPQ) to ensure financial protection in the country. It had earlier launched 'India Protection Quotient' survey in association with Kantar IMRB to understand where India stands with regards to life and term insurance ownership. It also has dedicated 6th of every month as 'Protection day' and MyPQ was launched on Second protection day.

### RBI EASED REGULATIONS FOR BSBD ACCOUNTS

Nation's apex bank Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed the regulations for Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Accounts aka "no-frills" accounts as a part of the financial inclusion drive. BSBD holders will get certain minimum facilities, free of charge.

### SASHAKT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS RBI'S CHANGES IN INTER-CREDITOR AGREEMENT (ICA) FRAMEWORK

Sashakt Committee headed by Punjab National Bank non-executive Chairman Sunil Mehta has stated that the new guidelines of RBI regarding the mandation of Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) framework is a right move to resolve non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans). In the first week of June 2019, RBI has issued revised guidelines for resolution of stressed assets named "Prudential framework for resolution of stressed assets", which has mandated the lenders to review the accounts within 30 days of default and initiate a resolution plan or Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process before the default, among others.

### CENTRE HAS EXTENDED THE RS 1.6 BILLION AID TO NEPAL FOR REBUILDING EARTHQUAKE-HIT HOUSES

The Indian government has extended the financial aid of 1.6 billion Nepalese rupees to Nepal for the rebuilding of houses in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts, which were damaged in the devastating earthquake in 2015. The cheque for the same was handed over by India's ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri to Finance Secretary of Nepal Rajan Khanal.

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### NPAS PLUNGED TO 9.30% IN FY'19, BELOW RBI ESTIMATE

As per the Crisil report, the overall non-performing assets (NPAs) stock has declined at a great pace to 9.3% in March 2019 in comparison to the 11.5% in March 2018. This decline is more than the RBI's (Reserve Bank of India) estimate. This shows a positive sign of recovery from the Non-performing asset load as the NPA ratio of both public and private sector banks showed a half-yearly decline, for the first time since March 2015.

### RBI FORMED A COMMITTEE HEADED BY VG KANNAN, IBA CHIEF TO REVIEW ATM PRICING

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted 6-member committee headed by VG Kannan, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to review ATM pricing. It will review the existing interchange fee and pricing structures to reduce prices for customers on Automated Teller Machines (ATM) transactions with a broader objective to improve rural penetration of teller machines

### A PENALTY OF RS.11.25 LAKH IMPOSED ON ZIPCASH, YES BANK BY RBI

The Reserve Bank of India slapped a monetary penalty Rs. 11.25 lakh each on Private sector lender 'Yes Bank' and Online Wallet Service, 'ZipCash Card Services' for violating PPI (prepaid payment instrument) norms pertaining to issuance and operation of PPIs.

### IDBI BANK AND MAX BUPA SIGN BANCASSURANCE CORPORATE AGENCY AGREEMENT

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Bank and Max Bupa, a Standalone Health Insurer (SAHI) signed a Bancassurance corporate agency agreement. For the first time, IDBI Bank became an on-boarded corporate agent for Max Bupa under open architecture. It will also install 'Infinity', a proprietary digital platform. Through this, the customers of IDBI Bank can purchase the product of their choice instantly and access their policy documents at the bank branch

### EXIM BANK SIGNED \$245 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT WITH GHANA & MOZAMBIQUE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RAILWAY PROJECTS

The central bank of the country, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified that Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide Line of Credit (LoC) worth \$245 million to Ghana and Mozambique for agricultural and railway projects. The agreement is effective from June 3, 2019. Under the LoC, the terminal utilisation period is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project.

### ZESTMONEY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DIGIT INSURANCE TO OFFER EMI INSURANCE

ZestMoney, a Bengaluru based digital lending startup, in partnership with Digit Insurance announced to offer EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) insurance to the company's five million customers. The aim of the partnership is to relieve its customers of debt in case of unforeseen circumstances.

### EDELWEISS AND BANK OF BARODA TIED UP FOR MSME LOANS

Bank of Baroda (BoB) and ECL Finance, the flagship non-banking financial company of Edelweiss Group, signed an agreement to form a strategic partnership to explore co-lending opportunities. They will provide timely delivery of credit to customers at a significantly lower cost.

### FUNDZBAZAR LAUNCHED 'SELFIEWALA KYC' FEATURE FOR FIRST-TIME MUTUAL FUND INVESTORS

FundzBazar, an online mutual fund investment platform launched by Prudent, has initiated 'Selfiewala KYC' feature for the first-time mutual fund investors. This feature allows the investors to carry out the IPV (In-Person Verification) by uploading a video and a selfie which in turn speeds up the KYC process and saves time.

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### **IRDAI HIKED THIRD PARTY INSURANCE PREMIUM FOR SMALL-MEDIUM CARS FROM JUNE 16, 2019**

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) hiked the Third Party (TP) motor insurance premium for small and medium private cars by 12-12.5% for 2019-20. The rates are applicable from June 16, 2019. TP premium for two-wheelers and heavy vehicles was also increased. These powers which are provided to IRDAI are mentioned under Section 14 (2) (i) of the IRDA Act, 1999.

### **RBI ASKED BANKS TO GROUT ATMS TO A WALL, PILLAR, OR FLOOR IN ORDER TO INCREASE SECURITY**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked the banks to grout Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) to a wall, pillar, or floor by September 30, 2019 in order to mitigate risks in ATM operations and increase security. Exceptions were given to the ATMs installed in high secured premises. The measure was adopted by the RBI after the recommendations made by the Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) under the chairmanship of DK Mohanty which was formed in 2016.

### **AS PER RBI, BANK FRAUDS WORTH RS. 2.05 LAKH CRORE REPORTED IN THE LAST 11 YEARS**

The central bank of the country, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) data revealed that 53,334 fraud cases worth Rs. 2.05 lakh crore hit the banks in India in the last 11 fiscal years i.e, between 2008-09 and 2018-19.

### **SEBI TIGHTENED RATING GUIDELINES TO ENHANCE STANDARDS**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued stricter norms for rating agencies to enhance standards. This move comes after a series of defaults at Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL & FS) in 2018. It introduced disclosure of rating sensitivities in its press releases. It will help the end-users to understand the factors that would have the potential to impact the creditworthiness of the entity.

### **ADB SANCTIONS RS 1,650CR INFRA PROJECTS IN TRIPURA**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project submitted by the Urban Development Department (UDD) of Tripura amounting to Rs. 1650 crore for overall infrastructure development of seven districts headquarter towns of Tripura. The ADB will give 80 percent of 1650 crore as grant-in-aid and the State Government of Tripura will have to repay back only 20 percent loan in due course of time.

### **AS PER RBI, DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS WILL RISE FOUR TIMES BY 2021**

The Reserve Bank of India in its report "Payment and Settlement: The Plumbing in the Architecture of India's Financial System", stated that the digital transactions till March 2019 witnessed tremendous growth and they will rise by four times from Rs 2,069 crore in December 2018 to Rs 8,707 crore in December 2021. In 2018-19, total digital transactions in volume terms recorded a growth rate of 58.8%.

### **JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK BROUGHT UNDER RTI, CVC GUIDELINES**

The Board of Directors (BoD) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank under the chairmanship of the bank's Interim Chairman and Managing Director (MD) R.S. Chhibber decided to bring the bank under Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines with effect from June 17, 2019. The decision was taken after receiving directions from the State Government, which owns 59% of the bank's shares.



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### **NHA AND ICICI FOUNDATION SIGNED A MOU TO TRAIN 15,000 PERSONNEL UNDER AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME**

The National Health Authority (NHA) and ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train 15,000 state and district personnel and Pradhan Mantri Arogya Mitras to provide the delivery of health services under Ayushman Bharat Scheme over a period of one year. It is aimed at capacity building of health personnel at state.

### **RBI PANEL ON MSMEs HEADED BY U K SINHA RECOMMENDED TO DOUBLE COLLATERAL-FREE LOANS LIMIT TO RS 20 LAKH**

The 8 member panel on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2019, headed by the former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman U K Sinha submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das suggested doubling collateral-free loans for MSMEs to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh. The panel was formed to suggest long-term measures for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.

### **NHB ISSUED STRICTER NORMS ON HFCs' CAPITAL ADEQUACY RATIOS**

The National Housing Bank (NHB) has tightened the norms on leverage and capital adequacy ratio for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs). It mandated the HFCs to reduce their total borrowings in a phased manner to not more than 12 times( at present 16 times) of their Net-Owned Funds (NOF) as on March 31, 2022. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) Housing Finance is the only HFC to have the highest leverage ratio of 14 times of NOF.

### **FLIPKART REVAMPS MSME SELLER FINANCING PROGRAMME 'GROWTH CAPITAL'**

E-commerce firm Flipkart has revamped its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) seller financing programme 'Growth Capital' in order to empower MSMEs across the country. The program enables financial inclusion and independence for MSMEs who operate online.

### **MAX LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHED 'MAX LIFE SMART TERM PLAN'**

Max Life Insurance Company Limited, one of the country's leading life insurance companies, launched customizable 'Max Life Smart Term Plan'. It will offer customers the flexibility to customize their own protection solution through the selection from a wide range of benefits and features. It offers seven types of death benefits to customers to choose for their protection needs.

### **FEDERAL BANK RAISES RS 300 CRORE THROUGH A PRIVATE PLACEMENT OF BASEL III COMPLIANT TIER II BONDS**

Kochi based Federal Bank announced that it has raised Rs 300 crore through Basel-III compliant bonds for improving their risk management techniques and to address the growing risks. The bonds have the tenure of ten years with the coupon rate of 9.75 percent per annum.

## **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

### **THE US OVERTOOK CHINA AS INDIA'S LARGEST GOODS TRADING PARTNER IN 2018-19**

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

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### **DBS BANK REVISED INDIA'S GDP FORECAST FOR FY20 TO 6.8% FROM 7%**

DBS Bank in its report on the Indian economy revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for the fiscal year 2020 to 6.8% year-on-year (YoY) from 7% due to headwinds for exports amidst challenging trade outlook.

Inflation rate was estimated at 3.8% for FY20 against 3.4% of FY19.

### **SEBI SETS UP A WORKING GROUP HEADED BY NSE CLEARING LTD TO REVIEW MARGINS ON DERIVATIVES**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) framed a working group headed by NSE Clearing Ltd to review the current framework of margins in the futures and options segment.

It will submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.

### **SKYLARK DRONES AND THROTTLE AEROSPACE SYSTEMS GET DGCA NOD TO FLY**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave its approval to Skylark Drones and Throttle Aerospace Systems (TAS) of Bengaluru to launch its drones as they are compliant with the NP-NT (No permission – No take-off) protocol under the "Digital Sky" regulatory framework for drones, which came into effect on December 1, 2018.

### **NABCB GETS APAC CERTIFICATE FOR PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION BODIES IN SINGAPORE**

The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), has got its international recognition for its accreditation programme for personnel certification bodies. It was held in Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Annual Meetings 2019 in Singapore.

### **NITI AAYOG PLANS TO CONVERT THREE-WHEELERS TO EVS BY 2023 AND 2-WHEELERS BELOW 150CC BY 2025**

National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog organized the first meeting with manufacturers and start-up Electric Vehicle (EV) makers, during which NITI Aayog planned for the transition of three-wheelers by 2023 and two-wheelers with an engine capacity less than 150 cc (Cubic Centimeter) by 2025 to full Electric Vehicles (EVs). It asked the conventional two and three-wheeler makers to suggest concrete steps towards transition to electric mobility keeping in mind 2025 deadline, within two weeks.

### **IRSDC SIGNED 2 MOAS TO RENOVATE 22 RAILWAY STATIONS**

Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) signed 2 Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) on 'Railway Station Redevelopment' for the renovation of 22 railway stations.

### **NATIONAL FREIGHT INDEX (NFI) LAUNCHED BY RIVIGO LOGISTICS**

In order to bring transparency in the road-freight marketplace, an Indian technology company based in Gurgaon, Rivigo which owns 3,000 trucks 5,000 drivers launched the National Freight Index (NFI) which will provide unrestricted access of live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country. Logistics account for nearly 14% of India's GDP.

### **NTPC AND PGCIL SIGN MOU TO FORM A JOINT VENTURE TO ENTER POWER DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS**

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and PowerGrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to set up a Joint Venture (JV) the National Electricity Distribution Company Limited (NEDCL). It will undertake the business for distribution of electricity in distribution circles in various states and Union Territories (UTs) and other related activities.

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### **TECH MAHINDRA SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH AIRBUS FOR CABIN AND CARGO DESIGN ENGINEERING**

Tech Mahindra, an information technology firm, entered into a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering. The contract is aimed to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.

### **ACCORDING TO FIEO, IMPROVEMENT IN LOGISTICS, INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BOOST EXPORTS TO \$1 TRILLION IN NEXT 3 YEARS**

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has estimated that the focus of the government to improve logistics, ease of doing business and modern trade infrastructure will boost exports of the country from current \$535 billion to \$1 trillion in the next 3 years.

### **INDIA THE LOWEST COST PRODUCER OF SOLAR POWER; BEATS CHINA, UK, US AMONG OTHERS**

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

### **NAGALAND OCCUPIES THE TOP POSITION IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: NSSO SURVEY**

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

### **CAD INCREASED TO 2.1% OF GDP**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY19 as against 1.8% of 2018 which stood at \$48.7 billion. It was the highest in 6 years on due to higher trade deficit caused by high crude oil imports.

### **SUNDARAM FINANCE TO ACQUIRE STAKES OF ITS PARTNER BNP PARIBAS HELD IN TWO JVS**

India's leading Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Sundaram Finance Ltd (SFL) has announced that it set to acquire the stakes held by BNP Paribas in their two joint venture (JV) companies for a total of around Rs 1,000 Cr.

### **INDIAN ECONOMY LOST ITS SPOT AS WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY TO CHINA**

Indian economy lost its spot as the world's fastest-growing economy to China. As per Reuters survey, it registered 6.3% annual growth in the January-March quarter, its slowest pace in six quarters. China recorded a growth of 6.4% in the March Quarter. Indicators like automobile sales, rail freight, petroleum product consumption, domestic air traffic and imports registered a slowdown in domestic consumption.

### **GOVERNMENT MET THE FISCAL DEFICIT TARGET OF 3.4% FOR FY 2018-19**

Government has met the fiscal deficit target of 3.4% for the Financial Year 2018-19. The fiscal deficit stood at 3.39% against the estimated rate of 3.4%. The data was released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). It was met through a reduction in government spending, which also contributed to GDP growth slowing to 5.8% in the fourth quarter of FY19

### **HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION REGISTERED AN UPWARD GROWTH AT 314.87 MILLION TONNE IN 2018-19**

Horticulture production registered a rise to 314.87 million tonne in 2018-19 which was 1.01% higher than horticulture production in 2017-18. In the previous year, the output was 311.71 million tonnes. The crop year in India is from July-June. The

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data was released by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Second Advanced Estimate (2018-19) of area and production of various horticulture crops on May 31, 2019.

### **CSO-GDP GROWTH SLIPS TO 5.8% IN Q4 IN 2018-19**

As per the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the rate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the January-March quarter of 2018-19 decreased to 5.8% as compared to the forecast of 6.5%. The economic growth rate for the full 2018-19 financial year stood at a 5-year low of 6.8% in comparison to 7.1%.

### **ONGC OVERTAKES IOC TO BECOME A MOST PROFITABLE PSU**

India's top oil and gas producer, ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) has become India's most profitable Public sector undertaking after surpassing Indian Oil Corp (IOC) while Reliance has been India's most profitable company for the fourth year in a row with its net profit of Rs 39,588 crore in FY19.

### **AS PER THE GFI STUDY, INDIA LOST \$13 BILLION IN REVENUE COLLECTIONS DUE TO TRADE MISINVOICING**

According to a study by think-tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI), India lost \$13 billion in revenue collections due to trade misinvoicing in 2016. It amounted to 5.5% of total revenue collections. The study estimated that the value of the trade gap for misinvoiced goods equaled to \$74 billion or 12% of the country's total trade of \$617 billion in 2016.

### **FDI IN SERVICES SECTOR ROSE BY 36.5% IN 2018-19**

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) grew at 36.5% amounting to \$9.15 billion in 2018-19. Services sector comprises of finance, banking, insurance, outsourcing, R&D, courier, tech testing and analysis. In 2017-18, FDI of the service sector was \$6.7 billion.

### **WORLD BANK CUTS GLOBAL GROWTH FORECAST FOR 2019 TO 2.6% AND IT RETAINS INDIA'S FY19 GROWTH FORECAST AT 7.5%**

World Bank in its semiannual report "Global Economic Prospect (GEP)" slashed global forecast for 2019 to 2.6% as compared to 2.9% in January this year. World Bank in its report "Global Economic Prospects report" retained India's growth forecast at 7.5% for the next two Fiscal years, FY2019 and FY20 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020) as it also cuts the global economic expansion by 0.3%.

### **AAI (AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA) SIGNS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACT WITH BOEING**

The National Airports body Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed technical assistance agreement with American multinational corporate, Boeing to jointly develop a 10-year roadmap which will improve flexible use of airspace, enhance communication, surveillance and help to maintain efficient aircraft operations.

### **IOCL, BPCL AND HPCL TO FORM A JOINT VENTURE FOR KANDLA-GORAKHPUR LPG PIPELINE PROJECT**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) signed an agreement to form a Joint Venture (JV) in New Delhi for laying the world's longest Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline ie 2757 Km from Kandla, Gujarat to Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. IOCL BPCL and HPCL will hold 50%, 25% and 25% equity holding in the JV Company respectively.



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### **USA TERMINATED GSP BENEFITS FROM INDIA**

US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to withdraw Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme on \$5.6 billion exports from India, effective from June 5, 2019.

### **GST COLLECTIONS CROSSED RS 1 LAKH CRORE MARK FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE MONTH**

The Goods And Services tax collection for May 2019 is Rs 1,00,289 crore, however, this is lesser than Rs 1,13,865 crore collected in April, an all-time high since the rollout of GST in July 2017. This is the third consecutive time for GST to cross Rs 1 Lakh. The revenue in May 2019 is 2.21% greater than the monthly average of GST revenue in fiscal 2018-19.

### **DELHI METRO IS INDIA'S FIRST PROJECT TO RECEIVE POWER FROM WASTE-TO-ENERGY**

Delhi Metro became India's the first ever project to receive power from a waste-to-energy plant. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.

### **CII UNVEILED NEW INDEX TO MEASURE FISCAL PERFORMANCE**

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a new Index to measure fiscal performance titled 'Fiscal Performance Index' (FPI). It uses multiple indicators to assess the quality of budgets presented by the Centre and state governments. FPI has been constructed using the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index methodology. It comprises of 6 components. Read full details here:

### **INDIA SIGNED RS 300-CRORE DEAL WITH ISRAEL TO BUY MORE 100 SPICE BOMBS**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) inked Rs 300-crore deal with the Israeli government to buy more than 100 SPICE bombs (Balakot bombs). The bombs were used to attack the Madrasa of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, 2019. They will be delivered in the next 3 months as the deal has been signed under emergency powers.

### **MOU SIGNED BETWEEN MCA AND SEBI FOR DATA EXCHANGE**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for automatic data exchange in order to tackle the rising instances of fraud. Along with this, SEBI and MCA will share any information available in their respective databases on request for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, investigation, inspection, and prosecution.

### **INDIA'S GDP GROWTH MAY EXPAND TO 7.2 PERCENT IN 2019-20: GOLDMAN SACHS**

According to American multinational banking firm, Goldman Sachs, India's economic growth is estimated to rise to 7.2 percent in 2019-20. It will be driven by lower oil prices, political stability, and removal of infrastructure bottlenecks. The report came a day after the policy review by RBI, in which policy rates were cut by 0.25 percent to increase growth.

### **BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX DROPS 9.1% IN Q4 OF 2018-19: NCAER**

According to a recent survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Business confidence index (BCI) of India Inc slipped 9.1 percent in the fourth quarter Q4 of the financial year 2018-19. Meanwhile, the Political Confidence Index (PCI) of businesses has increased by 12.1% on a quarterly basis in Q4.

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### FACEBOOK LAUNCHED ITS FIRST INTERACTIVE GAME SHOW “CONFETTI” IN INDIA

Facebook launched its first interactive Game Show “Confetti” in India. It was first launched in the United States. It will challenge participants to answer pop culture trivia questions for a chance to win Rs 3 lakh as cash prize every day. The interactive game is exclusive to Facebook Watch. The announcement on the launch of the interactive game was made on side-lines of Facebook’s Social Entertainment Summit held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### CERTIFICATION FOR BS-VI NORMS RELEASED FOR TWO-WHEELERS; HERO MOTOCORP BECOMES THE FIRST TWO-WHEELER MANUFACTURER TO RECEIVE IT

India’s first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage – VI (BS-VI) norms for the two-wheeler segment has been released by International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT). BS – VI norms are the latest emission norms notified by the Government of India, which have to be followed by the automotive manufacturers to sell their vehicles in India. Recently, Hero MotoCorp becomes the first two-wheeler manufacturer to receive BS6 Certification for its Hero Splendor iSmart.

### IMPORTS FROM PAKISTAN TO INDIA DECLINED BY 92% IN MARCH 2019 TO \$2.84 MILLION

Imports from Pakistan to India declined by 92% in March 2019 to \$2.84 million due to the imposition of 200% customs duties on all products after Pulwama terror attack. India had hiked the customs duty to 200% on all goods imported from Pakistan including cotton, fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products and mineral ore on February 16, 2019. It had also revoked the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status which was given to Pakistan in 1996.

### SEBI RELEASED A DISCUSSION PAPER FOR INFORMANT MECHANISM RELATED TO INSIDER TRADING

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released a discussion paper for informant mechanism related to insider trading. The proposed amendments to the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 will provide absolute confidentiality with appropriate safeguards. Capital market regulator announced that genuine whistleblowers could get monetary reward up to Rs 1 crore as well as amnesty from regulatory action.

### DCC APPROVED TO IMPOSE PENALTY ON AIRTEL, VODAFONE IDEA

The highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecom (DoT), Digital Communications Commission (DCC) approved to levy penalties on Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd when it had entered the market in 2016. Reliance Jio had complained that its subscribers were unable to call other networks as its rivals did not release sufficient number of Points of Interconnect (PoI).

### FITCH REDUCES INDIA GROWTH FORECAST FOR FY20 FROM 6.8% TO 6.6%

Fitch reduced India’s growth forecast for the current fiscal year (FY20) from 6.8% to 6.6% due to the slow down of manufacturing and agriculture sectors over the past years.

### INDIAN RAILWAYS AND REL SIGNED MOU FOR MODERNISATION OF SIGNALLING SYSTEM ON FOUR SECTIONS

Indian Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RailTel Enterprises Limited (REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary company of RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, to upgrade its signalling system on 4 busiest sections. It includes Automatic Train Protection System with Long Term Evolution (LTE) based Mobile Train Radio Communication System (MTRC) along with the provision of Electronic Interlocking (indoor) wherever required.

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### **INDIA CONSTITUTES 6.3 PERCENT OF THE GLOBAL FISH PRODUCTION: FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**

According to the report released by the Fisheries Department, India is the second largest fish producing country in the world after China as it accounts for 6.3 percent of the global fish production. It also states that the fisheries sector registers a 7 percent growth rate, sustaining 14.5 million fishermen.

### **BANGLADESH EMERGED AS THE FASTEST ECONOMY IN ASIA-PACIFIC: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) stated that Bangladesh emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Higher public sector investment, stronger consumption demand, revival in exports, improved power supply and higher growth in private sector credit were the key factors of the high growth performance of Bangladesh.

### **ICANN, NASSCOM TO COLLABORATE ON INTERNET INNOVATION RESEARCH**

Global internet body, The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a joint collaboration on research and engagement activities that will foster innovation in Internet identifier technologies. This will help both bodies to jointly identify research projects, predominantly in new technologies related to the Internet's system of unique identifiers.

### **SEBI PERMITS STOCK EXCHANGES TO INTRODUCE FUTURES ON COMMODITY INDICES**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed the stock exchanges with Commodity Derivative Segment (CDS) to introduce futures on commodity indices. This will facilitate mutual fund and institutional participation in commodity exchanges. The stock exchanges are required take prior approval from SEBI to launch such contracts

### **SEBI SETS UP A WORKING GROUP HEADED BY NSE CLEARING LTD TO REVIEW MARGINS ON DERIVATIVES**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) framed a working group headed by NSE Clearing Ltd to review the current framework of margins in the futures and options segment. It will submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.

### **DBS BANK REVISED INDIA'S GDP FORECAST FOR FY20 TO 6.8% FROM 7%**

DBS Bank in its report on the Indian economy revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for the fiscal year 2020 to 6.8% year-on-year (YoY) from 7% due to headwinds for exports amidst challenging trade outlook. Inflation rate was estimated at 3.8% for FY20 against 3.4% of FY19.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

### **KOLHAPURI CHAPPAL GETS GI (GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS) TAG**

World famous handcrafted footwear, Kolhapuri chappal gets a Geographic Indication (GI) tag from The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Mark. The tag was given to the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka, covering four districts each.

### **NITESH KUMAR JANGIR, AN INDIAN ENGINEER WON INNOVATION AWARD IN UK**

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

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### **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, UNION FINANCE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS MINISTER, AMONG '100 MOST INFLUENTIAL IN UK-INDIA RELATIONS: CELEBRATING WOMEN' LIST.**

To mark 'India Day' in the Houses of Parliament in London, United Kingdom (UK), Sajid Javid, Home Secretary of UK, released the '100 most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list. Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, was one among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward.

### **MALAYALAM FILM 'VEYILMARANGAL' WON AN AWARD AT SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

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

### **RACHNA KHAIRA OF THE TRIBUNE WON REDINK AWARD FOR 'JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR 2019' FOR AADHAAR EXPOSE**

Rachna Khaira of The Tribune News Service won RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year 2019'. The award was bestowed for her expose on the functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache in 2018.

### **DR GAURAV NIGAM, AN EDUCATIONIST, PEDIATRICIAN AND AUTHOR, HONOURED WITH 'INNOVATIVE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD 2019'**

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

### **DD INDIA CHANNEL WILL BE BROADCASTED IN BANGLADESH & SOUTH KOREA**

Prakash Javadekar, Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry, Government of India signed the agreement with Bangladesh and South Korea for DD (Doordarshan) India, an Indian English News and Current Affairs Channel which is to be telecasted in those countries. This exchange is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Act East policy.

### **RAJASTHAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFERRED WITH WHO'S AWARD FOR TOBACCO CONTROL**

The Medical and Health Department of Rajasthan was conferred with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Tobacco Control Award for 2019 in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control. It was presented on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) celebrated on May 31, 2019 in an event held in New Delhi. It was the only government body in country to receive the award for its tobacco-free initiatives.

### **FLIGHT LIEUTENANT MOHANA SINGH BECAME THE FIRST IAF WOMAN PILOT TO FLY HAWK JETS**

Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became the first IAF woman pilot to become completely operational by day on Hawk advanced jet aircraft. She landed the grueling 4 aircraft combat sortie at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal. In June 2016, she along with two other women pilots Bhawana Kanth and Avani Chaturvadi had joined the fighter stream.

### **EX-PRESIDENT PRATIBHA PATIL AWARDED MEXICO'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD**

Former president of India, Pratibha Patil was honored with the highest civilian award of Mexico termed "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle). She becomes the second Indian after the late President S. Radhakrishnan granted this honour. The award was presented by Ambassador of Mexico to India, Melba Pria.



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### **VETERAN ACTRESS SHEELA CONFERRED WITH J C DANIEL AWARD**

Veteran actress Sheela was conferred with Kerala's highest J C Daniel award for her contribution to Malayalam cinema at the Kerala state film award function at Nisagandhi auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram. The award consists of 5 lakh cash prize, a citation, and a plaque.

### **JAY-Z IS THE WORLD'S 1ST BILLIONAIRE RAPPER AS PER FORBES MAGAZINE**

As per Forbes Magazine, Jay-Z, whose real name is Sean Carter, was named as World's 1st Billionaire Rapper. The 49 years older rapper, husband of the singer Beyonce, has a wealth of \$1bn (£800m).

### **GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, JAL SHAKTI MINISTER, PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE WINNERS OF GANGA QUEST 2019**

In an event organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to celebrate World Environment Day 2019, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, presented the awards to the winners of Ganga Quest 2019, a month-long online quiz organized for awareness and knowledge dissemination about river Ganga.

### **TAYARI JONES NOVEL AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE WINS WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION**

US Novelist Tayari Jones received Women's Prize for Fiction worth \$40,000 for her novel An American Marriage. The novel was praised by Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey. This is her fourth novel based on a middle-class black couple torn apart by injustice. She also received Aspen Words Literary Prize for the same novel.

### **RIHANNA NAMED AS WORLD'S RICHEST FEMALE MUSICIAN WITH \$600 MILLION WEALTH**

Singer Rihanna of age 31 is named as the world's richest female according to the Forbes magazine with an estimated fortune of \$600 million. She overtook Madonna and Beyonce who topped the list previously. She is from Barbados.

### **SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN INITIATIVE REDUCED GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION**

According to the study on "Environmental impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission on Water, Soil, and Food" by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation shows Swachh Bharat has reduced groundwater contamination.

### **EQUATOR PRIZE 2019 ANNOUNCED BY UNDP**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners announced the winners of the 10th Equator Prize 2019. It recognized 22 local and indigenous communities from across the world. From India, Telangana-based NGO, the women sangams (groups) of the Deccan Development Society (DDS), won UN's Equator Prize 2019.

### **RAIL WHEEL FACTORY WAS AWARDED BEST PERFORMING PRODUCTION UNIT IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT**

The report on achievements of environment management of Indian Railways, "Environmental Sustainability Annual Report 2018-19", stated that best-performing Production Unit in the field of the environment was awarded to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Karnataka. Ministry of Railway observed World Environment Day on June 6.

### **SUNDER PICHAI, ADENA FRIEDMAN TO RECEIVE 2019 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

American multinational technology company, Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai (46) and NASDAQ's (National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations) President Adena Friedman (50) were chosen for the prestigious Global

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Leadership Awards 2019. They were chosen by business advocacy group US-India Business Council (USIBC) for “catalyzing growth in the US-India commercial corridor”.

### **FORMER U.S PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO BE HONOURED WITH H. W. BUSH AWARD FOR STATESMANSHIP**

Ex-President of United States of America (USA), Jimmy Carter (94) has won the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award. He was awarded in recognition of his contributions to relations between the U.S. and China. He will receive the award at a private award ceremony which is scheduled on June 12 at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

### **A 16-YEAR-OLD CLIMATE ACTIVIST GRETA THUNBERG WINS AMNESTY HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD**

Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg (16), has won the Amnesty International’s, “Ambassador of Conscience award” for fighting against the peril of global warming. She is known for initiating a movement, "Fridays for Future", a climate movement that formed in November 2018.

### **MAHINDRA WINS GOLD AWARD IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The automobile Giant Mahindra Group won the Gold Award in South Africa. It clinches the top spot among 29 vehicle brands for the award.

### **AMAZON BEATS APPLE AND GOOGLE TO BECOME THE WORLD’S MOST VALUABLE BRAND: SURVEY**

According to the report, “BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brand ranking 2019”, compiled by WPP research agency Kantar states that American multinational technology company, Amazon has overtaken Apple and Google to become the world’s most valuable brand at \$315.5 billion. The brand value of Amazon grew 52% between 2018 and 2019.

### **SEVEN INDIAN-ORIGIN AUSTRALIANS HONOURED**

Seven Indian-origin Australians have been honoured for their outstanding contributions in the field of medicine, music, education and finance in Australia. The winners included three women and four men. In the field of Medicine, Jayashri Kulkarni, The Director of the Monash Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre and Winita Hardikar received Member of the Order of Australia (OAM).

### **MANIPUR YOUTH INDUCTED INTO FACEBOOK ‘HALL OF FAME’ FOR DISCOVERING WHATSAPP BUG**

A 22-year-old civil engineer, Zonel Sougaijam from Imphal east of Manipur was recognized by the social media giant “Facebook” for discovering and reporting a WhatsApp bug that violated the privacy of a user. Zonel Sougaijam was rewarded \$5000 and also inducted into the Facebook ‘Hall of Fame’ 2019.

### **RENOWNED ENGLISH WRITER AMITAV GHOSH HONOURED WITH 54TH JNANPITH AWARD, 2018**

Noted English Fiction writer Amitav Ghosh (63) received the country’s highest literary honour 54th Jnanpith Award in New Delhi. The decision taken by the Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by Jnanpith laureate Pratibha Ray. Former West Bengal Governor, Gopalakrishna Gandhi, who was the chief guest of the event presented the award.

### **RIL, HDFC AMONG 57 INDIAN COMPANIES GET PLACE IN FORBES ‘GLOBAL 2000’**

In a list of the ‘world’s 2,000 largest public companies’, compiled by Forbes magazine, Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries leads the list of 57 Indian companies (71st rank globally). The overall chart has been topped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for the 7th year in a row.

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### **PRIYANKA CHOPRA AWARDED DANNY KAYE HUMANITARIAN AWARD BY UNICEF**

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra was selected for “Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award” by United Nations International Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) American chapter for her contribution to social causes and for being a voice for children’s education. She will be presented with this award at UNICEF American chapter’s Snowflake Ball which is to be held in December 2019 in New York.

### **DELL TOPS THE LIST OF MOST TRUSTED BRAND IN INDIA, WHILE AMAZON IS MOST TRUSTED INTERNET BRAND: TRA RESEARCH 2019**

According to the report “Brand Trust Report, 2019”, by Trust Research Advisory (TRA), Dell tops the list as the most trusted brand for 2019 in India. It is followed by automobile brand Jeep, and LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India). While largest E-commerce player Amazon has emerged as a most trusted internet Brand ranked as 4th in the list followed by Apple iPhone at 5th position.

### **CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING AWARDED KYRGYZSTAN’S HIGHEST HONOUR**

Chinese President Xi Jinping was conferred with Kyrgyzstan’s Highest National Award, “Manas Order of the First Degree” in Kyrgyzstan for developing the Kyrgyzstan-China comprehensive strategic partnership. Xi Jinping was on a state visit to Kyrgyzstan and to took part in two-day 19th SCO summit.

### **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY INSTALLED WORLD’S HIGHEST OPERATING WEATHER STATIONS ON MOUNT EVEREST**

National Geographic Society scientists and researchers announced that they installed the world’s highest operating automated weather stations on Mount Everest, including five other automated stations on other parts of the mountain. The other five weather stations that are located in the Mount Everest are in Balcony area (8,430 m), South Col (7,945m) Phortse (3,810 m), Everest Base Camp (5,315 m) and Camp II (6,464 m).

### **AN 8-YEAR OLD INDIAN GIRL HONOURED IN UAE'S WASTE RECYCLING CAMPAIGN**

Nia Tony, an eight-year-old Indian girl was honoured during the 22nd edition of the Emirates Recycling Awards in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) for her role in keeping the environment clean by collecting paper wastes.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVIST MAKARAND TILLOO CONFERRED WITH ‘SAVE WATER HERO AWARD’**

Social activist Makarand Tiloo was conferred with ‘Save Water Hero Award’. He received this award for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city. The award ceremony was held in Pune, Maharashtra. He was honoured by the HridayMitra Foundation

### **BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR & YUVA PURASKAR 2019 ANNOUNCED BY SAHITYA AKADEMI**

Sahitya Akademi, which is announced annually, has selected 22 writers for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019. The approval for the selection of awardees was given by the Executive Board of the Akademi under the Chairmanship of its President, Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar in Agartala, Tripura. The Award in the form of a casket will contain an engraved copper-plaque and a cheque of Rs.50,000.

### **SUMAN RAO CROWNED AS MISS INDIA 2019**

A 20-year-old model, Suman Rao, a resident of Rajsamand, Rajasthan was crowned Miss India 2019. The ceremony was held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was crowned by Miss India 2018 Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu.

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### **AKSHAY PATRA'S SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM WINS BBC AWARD**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF), a Non-governmental organizations (NGO) based on Bangalore that runs school lunch programme across India has been awarded the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) “World Service Global Champion Award” for the mid-day meal project. The award was presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol in London, UK.

### **44TH MATRI SHREE MEDIA AWARDS 2019 CONFERRED UPON 29 JOURNALISTS**

Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were honoured with 44th Matri Shree Media Awards for the year 2019 for their contribution towards journalism. The award ceremony was held in New Delhi. The winners received the Matri Shree Bharat Mata shield and a pen. Badhai Ho' got the prize for best film.

### **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN AND S JAISHANKAR TO BE HONOURED WITH 'DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD'**

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) will honour Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar with 'Distinguished Alumni Award'. This was decided by the Executive Council of JNU. They will be awarded on the third convocation ceremony of the university, which will be held in August 2019. They will be the first recipient of this award.

### **MAHARASHTRA TOPPED THE USGBC LIST OF TOP 10 STATES FOR LEED IN INDIA**

In the Second Edition of the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) list of India's top 10 states which have the maximum number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified green buildings, Maharashtra bagged the top slot with 334 LEED-certified green buildings. It was followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with 232 and 157 buildings respectively

### **MICROSOFT'S GITHUB TAKES OVER PULL PANDA FOR CODE-REVIEW COLLABORATION**

Microsoft owned GitHub announced that it has acquired US (United States)-based start-up Pull Panda, a firm that creates code review tools for the platform for an undisclosed sum. Pull Panda previously offered its products include Pull Reminders, Pull Analytics, and Pull Assigner as a subscription model. With this acquisition, all these products are now available for free at GitHub Marketplace. Microsoft acquired GitHub in June 2018 for \$7.5 billion, one of its largest acquisitions till date.

### **CCI PERMITTED FOR THE MERGER OF INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE AND LAKSHMI VILAS BANK**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed merger of the Indiabulls Housing Finance with Lakshmi Vilas Bank. In April 2018, the board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank had announced its merger with Indiabulls Housing Finance in a share-swap deal. The bank will get 14 shares of Indiabulls Housing Finance for every 100 shares they hold.



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### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNS

NAME	ROLE AND DESIGNATION
<b>SHEFALI JUNEJA</b>	OF REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA IN THE COUNCIL OF ICAO
<b>GENERAL MOHAMED OULD GHAZOUANI</b>	PRESIDENT OF MAURITANIA
<b>MAURITANIA</b>	HEAD FAO
<b>VIRAL ACHARYA</b>	RESIGNS AS RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR
<b>PANKAJ RAZDAN</b>	CEO OF ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE INSURANCE QUILTS
<b>ABHINAV BINDRA</b>	TO SORT AAI TROUBLE
<b>AMITABH KANT</b>	NITI AAYOG CEO GETS A 2-YEAR EXTENSION
<b>AMIT AGARWAL</b>	CHAIRMAN OF INTERNET AND MOBILE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
<b>SAMANT KUMAR GOEL</b>	CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WING(RAW)
<b>ARVIND KUMAR</b>	THE CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE BUREAU
<b>AMISH TRIPATHI</b>	THE DIRECTOR OF NEHRU CENTRE IN LONDON
<b>SHARAD KUMAR SARAF</b>	NEW PRESIDENT OF FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations)
<b>SARADA KUMAR HOTA</b>	NATIONAL HOUSING BANK (NHB) MANAGING DIRECTOR
<b>AJAY SINGH</b>	CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA)
<b>SHAH RUKH KHAN</b>	BRAND AMBASSADOR OF "V-NOURISH"
<b>SACHIN BANSAL</b>	UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANKS INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR
<b>ARUN KUMAR</b>	DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) OF DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (DGCA)
<b>SANJAY MITRA</b>	DEFENCE SECRETARY-3YEAR EXTENSION
<b>ANTON ADITYA SUBOWO</b>	PRESIDENT OF BADMINTON ASIA
<b>AJIT DOVAL</b>	NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER-CABINET RANK
<b>RAKESH MAKHIJA</b>	CHAIRMAN OF AXIS BANK
<b>NAYIB BUKELE</b>	PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR
<b>MRUTYUNJAY MOHAPATRA</b>	DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) OF INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD)
<b>PJS PANNU</b>	DEPUTY CHIEF OF INTEGRATED DEFENCE

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	STAFF (OPERATION)
ARUN KUMAR SAHU	HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
RAJIV MEHRISHI	EXTERNAL AUDITOR OF WHO
GIANNI INFANTINO	RE-ELECTED AS FIFA PRESIDENT
TIJJANI MUHAMMAD-BANDE	UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) PRESIDENT
S S CHAHAR	BSF ACADEMY HEAD
P JAYADEVAN	IOCL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR TAMIL NADU AND PUDUCHERRY
TAPAN RAY	MD OF GIFT CITY
V.S. KAUMUDI	DIRECTOR GENERAL (ADG LEVEL) OF BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (BPR&D)
VIRENDRA KUMAR	THE PRO-TEM SPEAKER OF 17TH LOK SABHA
THAWARCHAND GEHLOT	LEADER OF RAJYA SABHA
KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV	KAZAKHSTAN'S PRESIDENT
SHARAD KUMAR	CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER
DINESH K TRIPATHI	COMMANDANT OF INDIAN NAVAL ACADEMY
R K CHIBBER	INTERIM CHIEF OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK
MANPREET VOHRA	AS INDIA'S NEXT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BELIZE
ROMILA THAPAR	MEMBER OF AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
N GOPALASWAMI	BCCI'S ELECTORAL OFFICER FOR AGM
PRAYUTH CHAN-OGHA	PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND
ABHISHEK SINGH	CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER-BHARAT PE
PADMAJA	INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TUVALU
RABI MISHRA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RBI
RAVINDER SINGH DHILLON	DIRECTOR (PROJECTS) IN POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD
DEBENDRANATH SARANGI	PRESIDENT OF SQUASH RACKETS FEDERATION OF INDIA
ZUZANA CAPUTOVA	FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF SLOVAKIA
INGER ANDERSEN	UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME'S (UNEP) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
YERRY FERNANDO MINA GONZÁLEZ	HERO MOTOCORP LTD AMBASSADOR

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### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

#### **SCIENTISTS DEVELOP CANCER CELL DETECTION 'DOTS' FROM COAL IN ASSAM**

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

For producing CQDs, cheap, low-quality and high-sulfur coals used by the team led by Binoy Kumar Saikia and Tonkeswar Das for a patent of their chemical method. The details have been published in the Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology.

#### **RESEARCHERS FROM JAPAN DEVELOPED A NEW TYPE OF COOLING VEST FOR SPORTS ATHLETES**

Japanese researchers from Hiroshima University have developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes which helps them to compete safely in sweltering summer conditions. The aim of the vest is to cool the athletes' upper-body skin which can decrease heart rate and temperature of their neck and skin.

#### **HERBAL DRUG TO TREAT LEUCODERMA DEVELOPED BY DRDO SCIENTIST HEMANT PANDEY**

Hemant Pandey, a senior scientist from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), developed 'Lukoskin', an herbal drug to treat leucoderma (also called 'vitiligo'), a condition in which white patches develop on the skin.

#### **NASA'S CURIOSITY ROVER DETECTS HIGH AMOUNTS OF METHANE ON MARS**

The US (United States) space agency, NASA's ( National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Curiosity rover has discovered the high amounts of methane gas on Mars that indicates life on the red planet.

#### **SPACEX LAUNCHED HEFTY ROCKET WITH 24 RESEARCH SATELLITES**

Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX) launched a hefty rocket with 24 payload military and scientific research satellites with a deep space atomic clock, solar sail, clean and green rocket fuel, and even human ashes, including an astronaut.

#### **'BUMBLE' BECAME THE FIRST ASTROBEE ROBOT TO FLY UNDER ITS OWN POWER IN SPACE**

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

#### **INDIA SCRAPED \$500 MN ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL**

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

#### **ESA AND NASA TEST LUNAR EVACUATION SYSTEM TO SAVE THE LIVES OF ASTRONAUTS**

American Space Agency, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronauts tested a prototype Lunar Evacuation System Assembly (LESA) designed by European Space Agency (ESA).It was tested as part of NASA's NEEMO 23 (Extreme Environment Mission Operations) mission to assist in astronaut rescue missions on the surface of Moon.

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### **INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED NUCLEAR-CAPABLE MISSILE PRITHVI-II**

India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II, a surface-to-surface missile, from a test range off the Odisha coast. Prithvi is the first missile developed by the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

### **BYPL, A POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, LAUNCHED ENERGY SAVING APP 'SUSTHOME'**

BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), a power distribution company, launched energy-saving behavioral app 'Susthome'. It is developed by BYPL and TERI-The Energy and Resources Institute, to bring about a behavioural change in how consumers use electricity and it will track energy consumption patterns.

### **AYUSH MINISTRY LAUNCHES AN APP TO HELP PEOPLE LOCATE YOGA CENTERS, INSTRUCTORS**

Ahead of International yoga day celebrated on June 21, the ministry of AYUSH has launched yoga locator - an app to locate yoga events and centers providing training and instructor within the users range. This app is a map-based application which allows the instructor to register themselves and reach out to users.

### **IIT-MADRAS UNVEILED DATA PLATFORM TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched a data platform of 'integrated database on infrastructure projects' (idip) to improve the efficiency of government Infrastructure Development. The development partner for the project is Akara Research and Technologies. It was launched on May 29, 2019 at the 15th World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR) held at IIT Bombay in a special session on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Indian Transport Sector.

### **ISS SPACEWALK SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT FOR 217TH TIME**

International Space Station (ISS) have successfully carried out 217th spacewalk by two Russian space agency Roscosmos' cosmonauts for support, maintenance and upgrade. The spacewalk was done by Expedition 59 Commander Oleg Kononenko and Flight Engineer Alexey Ovchinin.

### **ARMY COMMISSIONED AIR QUALITY MONITOR AT FORT WILLIAM AS A PART OF 'GO GREEN' INITIATIVE**

Army commissioned "Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS)", an air quality monitor, at Fort William Military Station, Kolkata, as a part of 'Go Green' initiative. It monitors air pollution on a real-time basis. CAAQMS displays wind speed, direction, ambient temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, barometric pressure, and rain gauge.

### **INDIAN NAVY DEPLOYED ANTI-PIRACY PATROL**

Indian Navy has deployed its P-8 India (P-8I) long-range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden and other piracy prone areas. This is an expansion of its Mission Based Deployments (MBD) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to keep them safe.

### **SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE BRAHMOS TEST-FIRED AT CHANDIPUR IN ODISHA**

The anti-ship version of Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was test-fired from Complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha. BrahMos, with a strike range of around 290 km, can be fired from land, sea, and air.



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### **MOUNT SINABUNG ERUPTS IN WESTERN INDONESIA**

Mount Sinabung volcano has been erupted spreading a column of ash at 7 km high in the island of Sumatra in western Indonesia. It erupted in 2010 for the first time and 2013 in a second time. Mt. Sinabung is among 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

### **SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED NEW SPECIES OF 'PADDY FROG' FROM NORTHEAST INDIA**

Scientists from Delhi University and the Wildlife Institute of India along with researchers from Indonesia and the US found a new species of 'paddy frog' from Northeast India, primarily Cachar district of Assam. The study was published in PeerJ, a peer-reviewed journal. The new species of 'paddy frog' has been named 'aishani' or aisani, means Northeast in Sanskrit. Its scientific name is Micryletta aishani.

### **TWO NEW SPECIES OF 'TWEezer-BEAKED HOPPING RATS' DISCOVERED IN PHILIPPINES**

Researchers from the University of Utah or Utah Natural History Museum, the University of Kansas, the University of the Philippines, and Louisiana State University have discovered two new species of the tweezer-beaked hopping rats or 'shrew-rats on mountains in the Philippines' island of Luzon. The study was published in the Journal of Mammalogy. The new species are named Rhynchomys labo (Labo shrew-rat) and Rhynchomys mingan (Mingan shrew-rat ).

### **596 NEW SPECIES INCLUDE 224 OF PLANTS AND 372 OF ANIMALS DISCOVERED FROM INDIA IN 2018**

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have published the details about documented 596 new species of flora and fauna from India in Plant Discoveries 2018 and Animal Discoveries 2018. It comprised of 372 new species of fauna and 224 new species of flora. Kerala recorded the highest number of discoveries with 59 species.

### **GOOGLE MAP LAUNCHED NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT FEATURES IN INDIA**

A web mapping service, Google map launched three India-First features targeted at Public transport users to access public transport easily. Google map users now can see the bus travel times from live traffic data across 10 cities, get to know the real-time train status on the platform as well as get commute suggestions that combine public transport and auto-rickshaws.

### **FOR THE FIRST TIME, CHINA LAUNCHED "LONG MARCH 11 ROCKET ", A ROCKET TO SPACE FROM A SHIP AT SEA**

For the first time, China's National Space Administration (CNSA) successfully launched "Long March 11 rocket", a rocket to space from a ship at sea. It was launched from a platform on a large semi-submersible barge in the Yellow Sea. China joined the U.S. and Russia as the 3 global powers with proven ability to launch rockets into space from the sea.

### **ARMY LAUNCHED RODRA WEBSITE TO ADDRESS VETERANS' ISSUES**

Army launched an online platform, Retired Officers Digital Records Archive (RODRA) with an aim to have a better connection with armed forces veteran officers and family pensioners. It will act as an interface between the custodian of officers' records, AG/MP 5&6 and veteran officers, next of kin (NOK).

### **EBOLA DRUG 'REMDESIVIR' TO PROTECT AGAINST NIPAH VIRUS**

An experimental Ebola drug 'remdesivir' is found to cure Nipah virus also according to the new study published in Science Translational Medicine from National Institutes of Health scientists and colleagues. The drug was developed by Gilead Sciences, Inc. in collaboration with scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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### **INDIA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED NEW TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR MISSILE IN ODISHA**

India successfully launched new Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off the coast of Odisha. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had carried out the trials from Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal. HSTDV will help DRDO to develop technologies for futuristic missions. It is developed by DRDO with help from Israel and the UK. With this launch, India has joined the US, Russia, and China that possess this technology.

### **FOR FIRST TIME, SCIENTISTS CREATED GROUNDWATER MAPS MEETING OCEAN**

For the first time, Researchers at Ohio State University have created high-resolution maps of points around the globe where groundwater meets the oceans. It gives important data points to communities and conservationists to help protect drinking water and the seas. The study was published in the Journal "Geophysical Research Letters".

### **US EMBASSY LAUNCHES 'EDUCATION USA' APP FOR INDIAN STUDENTS**

On the event of Student Visa Day (June 12, 2019), an event that celebrates higher education ties between India and the United States, the American Embassy has launched an app named "Education USA" to help Indian students who wish to study in the US (United States) Universities. The app was launched in collaboration with the United States India Educational Foundation.

### **ISRO TO LAUNCH ITS OWN SPACE STATION BY 2030: ISRO CHIEF**

The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan announced that India will have its own Space station by 2030. A space station is like a habitable artificial satellite that is designed to remain in space and is capable of being inhabited by crew members for an extended period of time. The Project is an extension of Gaganyaan mission.

### **NASA TO SHUT DOWN SPITZER SPACE TELESCOPE AFTER 16 YRS IN 2020**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Spitzer Space Telescope will be shut down on January 30, 2020, after 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light. This was announced by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). It was launched in January 1983 as Infrared Astronomical Satellite to conduct the first infrared survey of the sky. It was jointly developed by the United States, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

### **SRI LANKA LAUNCHED ITS FIRST SATELLITE 'RAVANA-1' INTO ORBIT**

Sri Lanka successfully launched its first satellite 'Ravana-1' into orbit from the International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal. It was deployed to the 400-km of orbit at an inclination of 51.6 degrees using the JAXA (Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency) owned Kibo experiment module. The satellite was designed and developed by 2 Sri Lankan engineers - Tharindu Dayaratne and Dulani Chamika.

### **SCIENTISTS DEVELOP CANCER CELL DETECTION 'DOTS' FROM COAL IN ASSAM**

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

### **RESEARCHERS FROM JAPAN DEVELOPED A NEW TYPE OF COOLING VEST FOR SPORTS ATHLETES**

Japanese researchers from Hiroshima University have developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes which helps them to compete safely in sweltering summer conditions. The aim of the vest is to cool the athletes' upper-body skin which can decrease heart rate and temperature of their neck and skin. This will help the athletes of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics that will be held in the hot and humid Japanese summer where the ambient temperature is expected to be above 33 degrees Celsius.

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### **SPORTS NEWS**

#### **IOC LIFTS SANCTIONS AGAINST INDIA TO HOST INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS**

A non-governmental sports organization based in Lausanne, Switzerland, IOC (International Olympic Committee) lifted its sanctions imposed on Indian Olympic Association (IOA) hosting international sports events.

The decision was taken after finally receiving a letter of guarantee from the Government that it will allow all eligible athletes, sportspersons, and officials in events held in the country.

#### **INDIAN GYMNAST, PRANATI NAYAK WON BRONZE AT 2019 ASIAN ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA**

Indian Gymnast, Pranati Nayak aged 23 won bronze medal in vault event at the 8th edition of Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Buyant Ukhaa Sport Palace, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She hails from West Bengal, India.

#### **CRICKET AUSTRALIA SIGNS A MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH HCL**

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

#### **CENTRAL RAILWAY AND UNION BANK OF INDIA EMERGED AS CHAMPIONS OF YOUTH HOCKEY 2019**

In the finals of the St Peters Youth Centre Open Hockey Tournament for 2019 held in Mumbai, teams of Central Railway (Women) and Union Bank of India (Men) emerged as champions.

#### **INDIA'S JUNIOR BOXING WOMEN'S TEAM ADJUDGED BEST IN BLACK FOREST CUP**

India's junior Boxing women's team was won best team trophy in 5th Black Forest Cup held in Villingen, Schwenningen, Germany. The team won 7 medals, including 5 gold.

#### **ITALY TO HOST 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS**

In the final round of voting at the 134th session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, Italy's Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo won the right to host the 2026 Winter Olympics, defeating Sweden's capital Stockholm. Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo received 47 votes from the IOC members and Stockholm secured 34 votes.

#### **MARCUS TRESCOTHICK OF ENGLAND ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM PROFESSIONAL CRICKET**

The former England opening batsman, Marcus Trescothick, aged 43, announced retirement from professional cricket. He will retire after the current county season ends which is Trescothick's 27th season.

#### **IOC SUSPENDS OLYMPIC STATUS FROM AIBA**

International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the Olympic status from the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and took over the responsibilities of the qualifying and final tournaments for the 2020 Tokyo Games. In May 2019, IOC members had voted to support the executive board's recommendation to suspend AIBA's Olympic status.

#### **CHRIS GAYLE OF WEST INDIES TO RETIRE FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET**

West Indies batsman Chris Gayle, aged 39, will retire from international cricket after the home Test series against India in August-September 2019. He was the captain of the team in the past and has won 2 T20 World Cup titles with the Windies.

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### **GIRISH KOUSHIK OF KARNATAKA BECAME INDIA'S 63RD GRANDMASTER**

22-year-old Girish A. Koushik of Mysore, Karnataka became India's 63rd Grandmaster (GM) at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.

### **SOFIA KENIN WON THE MALLORCA OPEN TITLE 2019**

Sofia Kenin (20) of the United States won the Mallorca Open Title 2019 against Belinda Bencic of Switzerland with 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 6-4 points in the finals. The 4th edition of the tournament was held at Santa Ponsa Tennis Club in Mallorca, Spain

### **SPAIN'S FERNANDO TORRES RETIRED FROM FOOTBALL**

Fernando Torres, former Liverpool, Chelsea & Spain striker aged 35 retired from football. He hails from Fuenlabrada, Spain.

### **INDIA'S ACE CUEIST PANKAJ ADVANI CLINCHED THE 35TH MEN'S ASIAN SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP IN DOHA**

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani won the 35th men's Asian snooker championship in Doha, Qatar. He defeated Thai's Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon.

### **INDIAN WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM SCRIPTED HISTORY IN MANILA**

The 26-member squad of Indian women's Rugby team created a historic first international 15s rugby match win at Southern Plains Sports Field in Manila, Philippines. The victory came against Singapore to finish third in the Asia Rugby Women's Division 1 Rugby XVs Championship 2019 as India won 21-19 scores.

### **IOC INAUGURATED ITS \$145 MILLION NEW HEADQUARTERS IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) inaugurated its 145 million Swiss francs (\$145 million) new headquarters named Olympic House in a ceremony held at the lakeside grounds of Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland. It was inaugurated on the 125th anniversary of the Olympic Games.

### **LEWIS HAMILTON WON FRENCH GRAND PRIX 2019**

Five-time Formula one (F1) world champion, Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the French Grand Prix 2019 held in Circuit Paul Ricard, Le Castellet, France with 187 points. Hailing from England, the United Kingdom, this was his sixth win from eight Grand Prix of the season 2019 and 79th of his career.

### **INDIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WON FIH SERIES 2019 BY BEATING JAPAN**

Indian Women's Hockey team won the FIH (Fédération Internationale de Hockey) Women's Series Finals Hiroshima 2019 after defeating the host Japan by 3-1 in the finals held at the Hiroshima Hockey Stadium, Japan.

### **SWISS TENNIS STAR ROGER FEDERER DEFEATS DAVID GOFFIN TO WIN 10TH HALLE OPEN 2019 TITLE**

The 20-time Grand Slam champion, Roger Federer (37) of Switzerland defeated David Goffin (Belgium) to win the 27th edition of the Halle Open 2019 (also known as Noventi Open 2019) at the Gerry Weber Stadion in Halle, Germany

### **CHELSEA CRUNCHES ARSENAL TO WIN EUROPA LEAGUE TITLE**

Chelsea produced their best to win the UEFA Europa League 2019 by beating Arsenal 4-1 at the Baku Olympic Stadium, Azerbaijan. It is their fifth major UEFA European competition final.



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### **UNDER-20 EURASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIAN JUNIORS BAGGED 5 GOLD, 3 SILVER MEDALS**

At the Under-20 Eurasian Athletics Championships held at Almaty, Kazakhstan, Indian juniors bagged 5 gold and 3 silver medals. The national teams from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, India and Tajikistan participated in a 2-day event held on May 29-30, 2019.

### **LIVERPOOL SMASHES TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR TO WIN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TROPHY**

Liverpool football team has beaten Tottenham Hotspur by 2-0 to claim 2018–19 UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Champions League for the sixth time in Madrid, Spain. It was the 64th season of the tournament organized by UEFA. Now, Liverpool will play against Chelsea, the winners of the 2018–19 UEFA Europa League, in the 2019 UEFA Super Cup that will be held in August 2019 in Istanbul.

### **SIDHARTH RAWAT WON MAIDEN ITF MEN'S FUTURES SINGLES TITLE**

Delhi based tennis player Sidharth Rawat defeated Japan's Rio Noguchi with 7-5, 6-0 scores to secure his maiden title in \$25,000 International Tennis Federation(ITF) men's Futures Tennis Tournament held in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

### **ANDRES PONCE RUIZ JR. BECOMES THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION**

Mexican-American professional boxer Andres Ponce Ruiz Jr. becomes heavyweight champion after beating his opponent British professional boxer, Anthony Joshua at Madison Square Garden, New York. The win made Andres Ruiz the first Mexican heavyweight champion of the world.

### **INDIAN JUNIOR WOMEN HOCKEY TEAM CLINCHED CANTOR FITZGERALD U21 BY BEATING IRELAND**

Indian Junior Women Hockey team clinched Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title by beating Ireland 1-0 in the final. The match was held at Dublin, Ireland.

### **LEWIS HAMILTON WON 2019 CANADIAN GRAND PRIX**

Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) of United Kingdom won 2019 Canadian Grand Prix officially named as the Formula 1 Pirelli Grand Prix du Canada 2019. It was held in Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

### **INDIA'S ALL-ROUNDER YUVRAJ SINGH, ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET**

Indian cricket team all-rounder, Yuvraj Singh has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 40 test matches, 304 ODI's and 58 T20I's. He hails from Chandigarh. He is an awardee of 2012 Arjuna Award and 2014 Padma Shri Award.

### **TRACK BODY IAAF TO REBRAND AS WORLD ATHLETICS**

The international governing body for the sport of athletics, International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is to change its name as World Athletics. The identity of the brand will be introduced in October 2019 after one last edition of the world championships in Doha, Qatar under IAAF. The decision was taken at IAAF council meeting in Monaco.

### **SOURAV KOTHARI WINS 2019 PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Indian billiards player Sourav Kothari won the 2019 Pacific International Snooker Championship, held in the Reventon Classic, in Melbourne, Australia. He defeated Tyson Crinis of Australia to win the title.

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### **JEMIMAH RODRIGUES BECOMES THIRD PLAYER FROM INDIA TO FEATURE IN KIA SUPER LEAGUE**

Young cricketer of India, Jemimah Rodrigues has become the third Indian woman cricket player to feature in Kia Super League (KSL) after Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur. She will play in the fourth and final edition of the KSL. She plays for Yorkshire Diamonds in Women's Super League.

### **MALAYSIAN BADMINTON LEGEND, LEE CHONG WEI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Former World No 1, Malaysia's badminton player, Lee Chong Wei aged 36 announced retirement after 19 years of a successful career. He made his decision after doctor's advice to ease off in order to avoid a relapse of the nose cancer. He hails from Bagan Serai, Perak, Malaysia.

### **INDIA REMAINED AT 101ST: FIFA RANKING**

As per the latest list released by FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) World Rankings, Indian football team remains at a 101st position and Belgium continued to top in the list. The top countries in the list are Belgium(1), France (2), Brazil (3), England(4) Portugal (5) Croatia (6) Spain(7)Uruguay (8), Switzerland (9) and Denmark(10).

### **AUSTRALIA AND QATAR TO PARTICIPATE IN COPA AMERICA 2020**

The South American Football Federation, CONMEBOL has invited Australia and Qatar to take part in 2020 COPA America. The 2020 Copa America will be held jointly by Colombia and Argentina. Qatar and Australia will join 10 South American nations in the 2020 tournament. Qatar and Japan are the guest teams at Copa 2019 scheduled to be held in Brazil.

### **SUNIL CHHETRI BECOMES MOST CAPPED INDIAN FOOTBALLER**

Indian professional footballer Sunil Chhetri has been named most capped football player. He surpassed the former Indian captain Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches as he has played 108 matches for India. He currently plays club football for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League.

### **CHINA TO HOST 2023 ASIAN CUP CONFIRMED BY ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION (AFC)**

Asian Football Confederation (AFC), confirmed that China will host the 2023 Asia Cup. This will be the second time China is hosting the quadrennial continental tournament, after the 2004 edition. China ranked 74th in the FIFA's rankings and is qualified for the World Cup in 2002.

### **2019 ITTF WORLD TOUR HONG KONG OPEN**

The 24th edition of ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) World Tour Hong Kong Open was held from 6th to 9th June 2019 at Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Hong Kong. The prize money of the tournament was USD 175000. It comprises Men's single & doubles and Women's singles & doubles.

Men's Singles-Lin Gaoyuan (China)

Women's Singles-Wang Yidi(China)

### **FRENCH OPEN**

The 123rd Edition of French Open 2019, a Grand Slam Tennis Tournament was held from May 26-June 9, 2019, at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France. The prize money of the tournament was €42,661,000 and comprised singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.

Men's Singles- Rafael Nadal (Spain)

Women's Singles-Ashleigh Barty (Australia)

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### **PETER GILCHRIST LIFTED PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE**

Peter Gilchrist of Singapore defeated India's Sourav Kothari (Kolkata) to win the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia. Kothari entered into the final of Pacific International Billiards after getting the thumping win over Dhvaj Haria in Semi-Finals.

### **JOSHNA CLAIMS HER 17TH NATIONAL TITLE AT THE 76TH SENIOR NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP, 2019.**

Indian professional squash player, Joshna Chinappa won the national squash title for the record 17th time at the 76th Senior National Squash Championship, 2019 held in Pune, Maharashtra. Chinappa overcame her Tamilnadu rival, Sunayna Kuruvilla. She has surpassed the record of 16 titles, which stood for 27 years held by Bhuvneshwari Kumari of Rajasthan who won the national titles from 1977 to 1992. Meanwhile, in the men's category, Mahesh Mangaonkar of Mumbai claimed the national crown against Abhishek Pradhan with 12-10, 11-7, 11-9 win.

### **INDIA BEATS SOUTH AFRICA TO WIN FIH SERIES FINALS 2019**

In the FIH (Federation Internationale de Hockey) Men's Series Finals hockey tournament 2019, India thrashed South Africa with 5-1 in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The goals were scored in the 2nd, 11th, 25th, 36th and 50th minutes. Manpreet Singh won the Best Player of the Tournament Award, while Vivek Sagar wins the Best Junior Player Award.

### **NIHAL SARIN WINS BLITZ EVENT AT 2019 ASIAN CONTINENTAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN XINGTAI, CHINA**

Nihal Sarin, a 14-year-old Indian Chess Grandmaster has secured a win at the 2019 Asian Continental Chess Championship in Xingtai, China in the blitz event. He scored eight points from nine rounds of the event which meant that he ended the tournament with a lead of a full point.

### **PUNJAB POLICE (MEN) AND EASTERN RAILWAY (WOMEN) WON 2019 FEDERATION CUP TROPHIES IN GREATER NOIDA**

The 33rd Federation Cup Basketball Championship for Men and Women for the year 2019 was held at the Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The Punjab Police (Men) and Eastern Railway (Women) won the prestigious gold medals in the tournament. The tournament was held from June 12-16, 2019 and was organised by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and the Uttar Pradesh Basketball Association (UPBA).

### **GARY WOODLAND WINS 119TH US OPEN 2019 BY BEATING BROOKS KOEPKA**

American professional golfer Gary Woodland (35) has won the 119th United States (US) open 2019 held at the Pebble Beach Golf Links, California. He secured his first major career title after defeating two-time defending champion Brooks Koepka(US).

### **NOVAK DJOKOVIC, NAOMI OSAKA REMAIN AS WORLD NO. 1 IN THE TENNIS RANKINGS**

According to recently released "Women's Tennis Association (WTA)" and "Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP)" rankings, Naomi Osaka (Japan) and Novak Djokovic( Serbia) continued as world number ones. Novak Djokovic tops the chart in men's ATP rankings ahead of Rafael Nadal of Spain, and Naomi Osaka is just 252 points ahead of world number two Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the top 20 WTA rankings.

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### PU CHITRA AND SREESHANKAR STRIKES GOLD & JOHNSON WINS SILVER AT FOLKSAM GRAND PRIX 2019

Asian champion PU Chitra (Palakkeezhil Unnikrishnan Chithra) of India won a gold medal in women's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden. She ran her season best by clocking 4 minutes 12.65 seconds (4:12.65s). While in men's 1500m, Jinson Johnson from India won a silver medal.

### OBITUARIES

NAME	ROLE AND DESIGNATION
THANJAVOOR RAMAMOORTHY	VETERAN MRIDANGAM EXPONENT
MOHAMMED BAJI	FREEDOM FIGHTER
SHYAM SUNDAR MITRA	BENGAL CRICKETER
G VIJAYA NIRMALA	VETERAN TELUGU ACTOR-FILM MAKER
JHARNA DHARA CHOWDHURY	HUMANITARIAN ACTIVIST, SOCIAL ACTIVIST
SWAMI SATYAMITRANAND GIRI MAHARAJ	RENOWNED SEER
MOHAN RANADE	FREEDOM FIGHTER
BRIJ MOHAN KHAITAN	VETERAN INDUSTRIALIST
RUMA GUHA THAKURTA	BENGALI SINGER-ACTRESS
DINYAR CONTRACTOR	ACTOR AND PADMA SHRI AWARDEE
LENNART JOHANSSON	FOOTBALL ARCHITECT
JOSÉ ANTONIO REYES	SOCCER PLAYER SPAIN
JASPAL INDER SINGH KALRA	'CZAR OF INDIAN CUISINE'
DR. PATRICIA BATH	OPHTHALMOLOGIST
MALCOLM JOHN REBENNACK	GRAMMY-WINNING MUSICIAN
E GOPINATH	VETERAN JOURNALIST
RAJANATH SINGH	VETERAN JOURNALIST POLITICIAN
AHMED ESSOP	NOTED AUTHOR AND FORMER EDUCATIONIST
SLYVIA MILES	AMERICAN ACTRESS
LALDINGLIANA SAILO	FORMER DOORDARSHAN AND ALL INDIA RADIO (AIR) NEWS EDITOR
GIRISH KARNAD	VETERAN ACTOR AND PLAYWRIGHT
LEE HEE-HO	SOUTH KOREAN FEMINIST & DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST
FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI	LEGENDARY 'ROMEO AND JULIET' DIRECTOR
N LINGAPPA	VETERAN ATHLETICS COACH
MOHAMED MORSI	FORMER PRESIDENT OF EGYPT



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### **STATE NEWS**

#### **NPCI TIE-UP WITH TELANGANA TO OFFER MEESEVA SERVICE PORTAL**

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) of Mumbai signed an agreement with the state Government of Telangana to offer a mode of payment options like UPI (Unified Payments Interface ) Collect Request, RuPay Debit and Credit Cards to the users of the 'MeeSeva' portal of the Telangana Government.

The portal offers 150 government services and in 2018, it crosses 100 million transactions.

#### **RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE TO UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES UP TO RS 3,500 PER MONTH**

Rajasthan government will provide unemployment allowance up to Rs 3,500 per month to the unemployed youths having graduation or equivalent degree in the state. They will get the benefit of the Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana.

Male applicants will receive Rs 3,000 per month. Women and differently-abled applicants will receive Rs 3,500 per month.

#### **MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SCHEME FOR SMOKELESS KITCHENS 'CHULLAH-FREE AND SMOKE-FREE MAHARASHTRA'**

The project named "Chullah (wood-fired stove)-free and smoke-free Maharashtra" will be launched by the Government of Maharashtra.

A pilot project is aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women.

#### **TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT APPOINTS K SHANMUGHAM AS NEW CS AND JK TRIPATHY AS DGP**

Tamil Nadu Government appointed K Shanmugam as Chief Secretary (CS) of Tamil Nadu succeeding Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan.

JK Tripathy was appointed as the Director General of Police (DGP) succeeding TK Rajendran.

#### **HARYANA LAUNCHES KRISHI KIOSK FOR FARMERS**

Om Prakash Dhankar, Haryana agriculture, and farmers' welfare minister launched 'Krishi kiosk' for farmers at Panchkula, Haryana.

#### **WEST BENGAL INTRODUCES FREE CROP INSURANCE SCHEME BANGLA SHASHYA BIMA FOR FARMERS**

West Bengal Government launched a crop insurance scheme, Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) for the 2019 'Kharif' season to protect farmers from losses due to natural disasters and provide a steady income in case of unstable market prices.

#### **JUSTICE PK SAIKIA APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF LOKAYUKTA IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh. The oath was administered by Governor Dr. B D Mishra at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhawan in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in the presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, other ministers, and officials. He became the first Lokayukta of the state.

#### **RAJASTHAN'S BJP CHIEF MADAN LAL SAINI PASSED AWAY AT AIIMS, DELHI**

President of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Rajasthan unit Madan Lal Saini, aged 75, passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was diagnosed with infection in lungs.

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### **JUSTICE V RAMASUBRAMANIAN SWORN IN AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE HIMACHAL PRADESH HIGH COURT**

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

### **JUSTICE RAGHVENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN SWORN-IN AS THE SECOND CHIEF JUSTICE OF TELANGANA HIGH COURT**

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

### **PUNJAB TO BAN ONLINE FOOD DELIVERY WITHOUT HYGIENE RATING**

Punjab has announced that it is going to ban online food delivery without hygiene ratings. This was announced by the health minister Brahm Mohindra under Tandarust Punjab mission. A timeline of 3 months has been provided for compliance after which no online food will be delivered without hygiene ratings. The hygiene ratings will be provided as per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.

### **TELANGANA STATE FORMATION DAY OBSERVED ON JUNE 2**

Telangana Formation Day is observed annually on June 2 to mark the official formation of the state after its bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh in 2014. It is the youngest state of India. This year marks the fifth Telangana State Formation Day.

### **ASSAM GOVT HIKES PARENTAL INCOME LIMIT UNDER FEE WAVIER TO RS 2 LAKHS**

Assam govt has increased the parent's annual income limit of students eligible for fee waiver scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh. This was announced by Assam education minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya.

### **RS 384 CRORE SANCTIONED BY BIHAR CABINET FOR OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME**

Bihar cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar sanctioned Rs 384 crore for old age pension scheme under the Chief Minister Old Age Pension Scheme for financial year 2019-20. Under this scheme, people in the age group of 60-79 will get Rs 400 per month and people aged above 80 will get Rs 500 per month as pension with the total beneficiaries being 36.50 lakh.

### **IMD ISSUED 'RED-COLOUR' WARNING FOR DELHI DUE TO RISE IN TEMPERATURE**

India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued 'Red-colour' warning for Delhi-NCR with as the temperature had reached 46.8 degree Celsius, the highest since May 2013. It forecasted that the heat waves in central and northwest central India including Rajasthan will continue to hit maximum temperatures and they are expected to reach 50 degree Celsius.

### **FREE RIDES SCHEME FOR WOMEN'S IN DELHI**

Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has announced free rides in Delhi metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) for women to ensure safety and make transport with higher fare affordable. This project will cost Rs 700 crores to the Delhi government.

### **SATISH CHANDRA VERMA APPOINTED AS ADVOCATE GENERAL OF CHHATTISGARH**

The government of Chhattisgarh has appointment Sathish Chandra Verma as it's new Advocate General (AG) with immediate effect succeeding Kanak Tiwari. He has been appointed by the Governor of Chhattisgarh after exercising the powers conferred by Clause (1) of Article 165 of the constitution of India.

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### **V.P SIVAKOLUNDHU ELECTED AS PUDUCHERRY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER**

Deputy Speaker of Puducherry Assembly V.P Sivakolundhu has been unanimously elected as speaker of Puducherry assembly after congress's V Vaithilingam stepped down from the post. Congress member MNR Balan (Oulgret Constituency) has been appointed as Deputy Speaker.

### **AJEYA KALLAM APPOINTED AS PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO ANDHRA PRADESH CM YS JAGANMOHAN REDDY**

Ajeaya Kalama, Retired IAS officer and Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary, was appointed as Principal Advisor to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Initially, the term of appointment will be 3 years with a fixed remuneration of Rs 2.5 lakh per month.

### **PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AMARINDER SINGH REQUESTED PRIME MINISTER TO DECLARE 550TH PARKASH PARB AS NATIONAL TOLERANCE DAY**

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare the 550th Guru Nanak Prakash Purab as National Tolerance Day cited the Sikhism founder's message of love and compassion. Parkash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev (also known as Guru Nanak Jayanti), celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru and Sindhi Community Guru Nanak.

### **JUSTICE PRASHANT KUMAR APPOINTED AS ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE JHARKHAND HIGH COURT**

Justice Prashant Kumar, judge of Jharkhand High Court, is appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court following the appointment of the present Acting Chief Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court. The appointment has been made by Article 223 of the Constitution of India.

### **MADHYA PRADESH CABINET PASSED A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE RESERVATION FOR OBCS TO 27%**

The Cabinet of Madhya Pradesh (MP) State Government passed the resolution to increase the reservation quota for OBC (Other Backward Class) from the current 14 percent to 27 Percent. The resolution will be taken in the monsoon session of the state assembly.

### **HARYANA CABINET APPROVED CHANGES IN STATE JOB RECRUITMENT RULES**

The Haryana government Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, relaxed the state job recruitment rules in Group B posts such as teachers and educational supervisors and Group C, D posts. The cabinet decided to grant five extra marks for the first time candidates taking police exam and also decided to give 10 percent extra marks to widows, orphans and people from denotified tribes, besides those who do not have an immediate family member in any government job.

### **UTTARAKHAND'S MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND FINANCE PRAKASH PANT PASSED AWAY**

Uttarakhand minister Prakash Pant passed away at the age of 58 in the US where he was taking treatment for cancer. He is from Pithoragarh. Pant handed over his portfolios to Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat, before leaving to the United States.

### **HARYANA GOVT WITHDRAWS EPBG QUOTA FOR ACCOMMODATING EWS RESERVATIONS**

Haryana government has issued an order to withdraw Economically Backward Persons in General Caste Category (EBPG) reservation since Economically Weaker Sections reservation (EWS) came into effect. EWS comes under Constitution 124th Amendment Bill, 2019 passed by the parliament to allow 10% reservation for economically backward sections in the general category in government jobs and academic institutions in January 2019

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### **KERALA SAHITHYA AKADEMI AWARDEE, POET AND LYRICIST PAZHAVILA RAMESAN PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 83 IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA**

Pazhavila Ramesan, Poet and lyricist passed away at the age of 83 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He hailed from Perinadu in Kollam district of Kerala. He worked as the Director at the Kerala Bhasha Institute (State Institute of Languages). He won Kerala Sahithya Akademi award in 2017.

### **GREEN MIZORAM DAY CELEBRATED ON JUNE 11, 2019**

In Mizoram, Green Mizoram Day was celebrated throughout the state on June 11, 2019. Chief Minister of the state Zoramthanga planted saplings at the premises of the Assam Rifles headquarters in Aizawl. This day has been observed since June 11, 1999.

### **BIHAR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI VRIDDHA PENSION YOJNA**

The State Government of Bihar launched Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above 60 years of age which is effective from April 1, 2019. This was launched by the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Under the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna, Poor people above the age of 60 years will get Rs 400 per month and those people above the age of 80 years will get Rs. 500 per month.

### **ANDHRA PRADESH CM APPOINTS 5 DEPUTY CMS IN CABINET**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister(CM) Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed 5 Deputy CMs in a full 25-member Cabinet, one each from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Classes (BC), Minority and Kapu communities. The 5 Deputy CMs are Pamula Pushpa Sreevani, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, L Narayana Swamy and Amzath Basha.

### **JUSTICE DHIRUBHAI NARANBHAI PATEL SWORN IN AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF DELHI HIGH COURT**

Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel, sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. His oath of ceremony is administered by lieutenant governor of Delhi, Anil Baijal. He succeeded Justice Rajendra Menon, who retired after 2 decades of service.

### **FORMER PUDUCHERRY CHIEF MINISTER AND DMK LEADER R.V. JANAKIRAMAN PASSED AWAY**

RV Janakiraman, a former Chief Minister of the union territory of Puducherry and leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) passed away in Puducherry at the age of 79. He was from Alathur in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu.

### **VETERAN TAMIL PLAYWRIGHT AND ACTOR 'CRAZY' MOHAN, AGED 67, PASSED AWAY IN CHENNAI**

Renowned Tamil playwright and comedy actor Mohan Rangachari, popularly known as 'Crazy' Mohan, passed away at Kauvery Hospital in Chennai, Tamil Nadu after he suffered a major heart attack. He was 67. He was born on October 16, 1952, in Tamil Nadu.

### **GOA CABINET APPROVES 10% QUOTA FOR ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD SECTIONS**

The Goa cabinet chaired by the Chief minister Pramod Sawant approved the amendment of 10 percent reservation for economically weaker sections of a general category in education and employment. The state cabinet also assured the reservation for Muslims and Christians, who are not covered under the quota.

### **MEKATHOTI SUCHARITHA APPOINTED AS THE HOME MINISTER OF ANDHRA PRADESH**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) YS Jaganmohan Reddy appointed Mekathoti Sucharitha, aged 45, a representative from Prathipadu (SC) reserved constituency in Guntur district, as the Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh. She became the first Dalit woman home minister of Andhra Pradesh after the formation of Telangana.



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### **FIRST MEETING OF ANDHRA PRADESH CABINET APPROVES SEVERAL KEY DECISIONS**

The new cabinet meeting chaired by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has approved some key decisions including hike of old age pension from 2,000 to Rs 2,250 and approves salaries of Aasha workers (health workers in rural areas) from Rs.3,000 to Rs.10,000 per month and also increased the salary of community health workers under the Tribal Welfare Department from current Rs 400 to Rs 4,000 a month.

### **KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES “PINK SARATHI VEHICLES”**

The state government of Karnataka launched “Pink Sarathi vehicles” for women safety. This was launched by the Chief Minister of Karnataka, H.D.Kumaraswamy. The vehicles were procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) under the ‘Nirbhaya’ scheme. BMTC has received Rs.56.07 crore from the central Government.

### **ASSAM TRANSPORT MINISTER CHANDRA MOHAN PATOWARY LAUNCHED STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION'S CHALO APP**

Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched the Assam State Transport Corporation's (ASTC) Chalo app for Guwahati. It will help the travellers to know about the live arrival time of their bus. The Chalo app is developed by the Zophop Technologies Pvt Ltd, a technology-driven transport solutions company. Assam became the first state in India to have a state-wide smart transport solution and common mobility card for its commuters.

### **BIHAR CABINET APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO PUNISH CHILDREN WHO ABANDON THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS; ALSO SANCTIONED DPR FOR DAGMARA HYDEL POWER PROJECT**

Bihar Cabinet led by the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar approved the proposal seeking provisions to punish children who abandon their elderly parents. They could face jail time over charges of abandonment. The state cabinet also sanctioned Rs 11.68 crore for preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for construction of a multi-purpose 130-MW Dagmara hydel power project in Supaul district.

### **IN BIHAR, 160 CHILDREN LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO ENCEPHALITIS AND HEAT-WAVE**

In Bihar, 160 children have lost their lives due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and heat wave. The total toll due to AES and heat wave has been pegged at 104 and 56 respectively. The toxic substance in lychee causes Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), locally known as Chamki Bukhar, which is a form of brain fever that happens due to the inflammation of the brain.

### **UTTAR PRADESH STATE CABINET GIVES APPROVAL TO 6 PROPOSALS**

The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approved six Proposals including the one to convene the state Assembly's Monsoon Session from July 18, 2019. Among others, The cabinet has also gave its assent to a proposal regarding the formation of Gorakhpur Zoological Park with the cost of Rs 181.82 crore. It would be called as Ashfaqullah Zoological Park.

### **HP GOVERNMENT MAKES GPS TRACKING DEVICES MANDATORY FOR TREKKERS**

The Himachal Pradesh Government made it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency. A decision in this regard was taken at a review meeting on preparedness for the monsoon chaired by Shrikant Baldi, Additional Chief Secretary in Shimla. The trekking and other yatras will be restricted during adverse weather.

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### **PUNJAB GOVERNMENT SET TO LAUNCH A UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FROM JULY 2019**

Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu announced that the State Government is set to launch its flagship universal health insurance scheme named “Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana (SSBY)” with effect from July 1, 2019. This Health scheme will be the first of its kind in the state and provide annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family to 43.18 lakh families of Punjab.

### **BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

#### **YOGA GURU BABA RAMDEV TO RELEASE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY TITLED ‘MY LIFE, MY MISSION’**

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev has penned an Autobiography titled ‘My Life, My Mission’, which will be released in August 2019. He will unveil the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of his life and provide insights into his childhood in his autobiography. It is being published by Penguin Random House.

#### **VINIT GOENKA PENS NEW BOOK TITLED “DATA SOVEREIGNTY – THE PURSUIT OF SUPREMACY”**

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

#### **VETERAN ACTOR ANUPAM KHER PENS AN AUTO-BIOGRAPHY “LESSONS LIFE TAUGHT ME, UNKNOWNLY”**

Veteran Actor Anupam Kher, aged 64, has penned an Auto-Biography titled “Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknownly”. It will be launched on August 5, 2019. It will look into the life and times of the actor.

#### **BJP MP MEENAKSHI LEKHI PENS HER FIRST NOVEL ‘THE NEW DELHI CONSPIRACY’**

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

#### **FORMER NAVY CHIEF ADMIRAL SUSHIL KUMAR AUTHORED A BOOK TITLED “A PRIME MINISTER TO REMEMBER,” RELEASED**

Former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar authored a book named as “A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief” released. The book is published by Konark Publishers Pvt Ltd, New Delhi