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# National

## Higher penalties for violating traffic rules come into force

- i. The amended provisions of the **Motor Vehicle Act**, which hike the penalty for traffic rules violation have come into force from **01st September 2019**. As many as **63 clauses** of the Act, which correspond to an increase in the fine for traffic rule violation came into force
- ii. The fine for jumping red-light has been revised from 1,000 rupees earlier to 5,000 rupees now. Driving without wearing the seat belt, which earlier invited a fine of 100 rupees will now attract a fine of 1,000 rupees.



## September month to be celebrated as 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah'

- i. The entire month of **September 2019** will be celebrated as the **Rashtriya Poshan Maah**. This year the theme is **Complementary Feeding**.
- ii. Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment- POSHAN Abhiyaan is a multi- ministerial convergence mission with the vision to address malnutrition with a targeted approach by **2022**.



## India's first garbage cafe to be opened in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh

- i. In a unique initiative, the **Ambikapur municipal corporation** of **Chhattisgarh** will open a first-of-its-kind '**Garbage Cafe**'.
- ii. This initiative is a step towards making the city plastic-free. In this unique Cafe' poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe.
- iii. The collected garbage will be sold at Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre. The collected plastic waste would further be turned into granules and will then be used in the construction of roads in the city. Ambikapur is Chhattisgarh's first dustbin-free city.



## "A Short History of Indian Railways" title book penned by Rajendra B Aklekar

- i. A new book named "**A Short History of Indian Railways**", has been penned by veteran journalist and author **Rajendra B Aklekar**.
- ii. This new book on the history of Indian Railways chronicles the journey of the national transporter from the 1830s to the new high-speed Train 18 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious bullet train project.

## 14th Conference of Parties UNCCD begins

- i. The **14th Conference of Parties** to the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification** begins in **Greater Noida**.
- ii. During the event, **India** also assumed the **presidency** of **COP** for two years and Union Minister for environment took up the role of President of COP.
- iii. The Convention started with an aim to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought to achieve sustainable development in the affected areas.

## Do You Know-

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Prakash Javadekar.

## A new book released on the history of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

- i. The book, "**India's Lost Frontier the Story of the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan**", has been penned by veteran civil servant **Raghvendra Singh**. He was the Director-General of the National Archives of India.
- ii. This book on the history of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, earlier known as the North-West Frontier

Province (NWFP).

iii. This book presents the chronicles of Congress leadership in 1947 surrendered India's claim on the "tactically important" province despite the resistance of Mahatma Gandhi and some influential political leaders of the region.

### **Rohit Sharma launches a campaign to save Rhinos in India**

i. Indian Cricket team vice-captain **Rohit Sharma** is launching **Rohit4Rhinos campaign**, in partnership with **WWF India** and **Animal Planet**. This campaign helps to build awareness for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino.

ii. The Indian rhinoceros faces several threats, including poaching, habitat loss and mass mortality from inbreeding and disease.



### **Nadubhagam Chundan Lifts 67th Nehru Trophy in Alappuzha**

i. **Nadubhagam Chundan**, the snake boat of Pallathuruthy Boat Club, lifted the 67th edition of the **Nehru Trophy** at the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha in Kerala. A total of 79 boats, including 23 snake boats, participated in the Nehru trophy.

ii. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the event in the presence of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, who was the chief guest of the event.



### **Delhi's IGI Airport Gets India's Tallest ATC Tower**

i. **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** gets India's tallest ATC tower to enhance the safety and boost the efficiency of air transport management services.

ii. The Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Delhi Air Traffic Service Complex, which is the tallest Air Traffic Control tower in India with a height of **102 metres**.



### **Delhi, Mumbai fall in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019**

i. Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2019, released with both **Delhi** and **Mumbai** sliding down ranks. New Delhi dropped 6 places to 118, from 112 last year and Mumbai also fell in this year's index, by two places to 119, from 117 last year.

ii. **Vienna** in Austria, **Melbourne** and **Sydney** in Australia make the top three cities. The survey ranks countries across indicators including stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, culture and environment.

### **Do You Know-**

- Headquarters of EIU's: London, UK; Founded: 1946.

### **India among top 10 nations in gold reserves**

i. **India** has surpassed the Netherlands to move into the list of **top10 countries** in terms of total **gold reserves**. According to the **World Gold Council**, India has gold reserves totalling **618.2 tonnes**, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.

ii. According to the World Gold Council, the **U.S.** leads the country list with total gold reserves of **8,133.5 tonnes** followed by **Germany** with **3,366.8 tonnes**. In terms of individual countries, India actually ranks 9th since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) occupies the third position after the U.S. and Germany.

### **Asia's first 5th Generation: VR based simulator centre launched at Chennai**

i. Asia's first 5th Generation – **Virtual Reality based Advanced Driver Training Simulator Centre** was launched at the **Automobile Association of Southern India Centre (AASI)**, Chennai. In the first 6 months, AASI will train 200 Ambulance drivers free of cost, under '**Safe Drivers Campaign**'. The simulator



was ideated, designed and developed by Chennai based Red Chariots Technologies Pvt Ltd.

### **HRD Ministry awarded Institute of Eminence status to 5 public institutions**

i. The **Human Resource Development Ministry** has awarded the **Institute of Eminence** status to **5 public institutions**. The status was awarded to the following institutions:

- IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur
- Delhi University
- Benares Hindu University
- University of Hyderabad

ii. Each of the above university has to sign an **MoU** with the HRD Ministry and will lay out its plan to achieve the **objective** of becoming a **world-class institution**. The public institutions on the list will then be **eligible** for a government **grant of Rs 1,000 crore**.

### **Telangana to celebrate 2020 as Year of AI**

i. The **Telangana government** has decided to declare **2020** as **Artificial Intelligence year** by organising various activities related to the emerging technology.

ii. A lot of hackathons and meetings will happen and the government agencies will give challenges and make available data sets on which you (companies) can run algorithms.



### **India moves up 6 places to 34th rank on world travel and tourism competitiveness index**

i. According to the **World Economic Forum (WEF) report**, India has jumped 6 places to claim **34th spot** on **world Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019**.

ii. The WEF report shows, over 1.5 crore international tourists arrived in India while the share of travel and tourism industry was 3.6 per cent and that of industry employment was 5.1 per cent.

iii. **Spain** tops the ranking index followed by France and Germany. Other countries in the top 10 include Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Switzerland.

### **ISRO loses contact with Moon lander “Vikram”**

i. **Indian Space Research Organisation** has announced that it **lost contact** with the Moon lander “**Vikram**” which was scheduled to land on the moon between **1.30 a.m. and 2.30 a.m. (IST)**.

ii. Further the roll out of the rover “**Pragyan**” was scheduled between 5.30 a.m and 6.30 a.m. Lander “**Vikram**” started its descent at about 1.38 a.m. from an altitude of 30 km at a velocity of 1,680 metres per second, but **lost its communication** with the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter when it was at an **altitude of 2.1 Km** from Moon’s surface.

iii. According to ISRO, the performance of the lander was as per the plan till it was 2.1 km from the moon surface. Although, the 2,379 kg Chandrayaan-2 orbiter continues to fly around the moon. Its mission life is of one year.

iv. ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-2 (on **July 22, 2019**) into the space from India’s heavy lift rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (**GSLV Mk III**). The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft comprised three segments: the **Orbiter**, lander ‘**Vikram**’ and rover ‘**Pragyan**’.



### **Visakhapatnam railway station sets up ‘fun zone’**

i. A **fun zone**, the first of its kind in India, has been set up by the Railways at the **Visakhapatnam Railway Station**, Andhra Pradesh.

ii. The Gaming zone was inaugurated at platform number 1. The children can enjoy





games during their waiting period for trains. The gaming zone has different interesting games for children & adults.

iii. The fun zone will have all the high-tech gaming activities at par with game parlours.

### 1st Helicopter summit 2019 held in Dehradun

i. The Ministry of Civil Aviation organised India's first-ever helicopter summit in Dehradun. The Indian Air Force was invited at the summit to talk on the "role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (Medical evacuation) at the national level. The conclave was attended by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, the Aviation Secretary, and the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.



### A book titled 'Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India To Glory' launched

i. 'Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India To Glory', book on India's spin quartet has been launched. The book on India's 4 spin legends: Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhra and S. Venkataraghavan has been written by Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj.

### 24th World Energy Congress commence in Abu Dhabi

i. The 24th World Energy Congress commence in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

ii. World Energy Congress aims to bring together international energy stakeholders, including governments, private and state corporations, academia and media.

iii. The theme of this World Energy Congress is "Energy for Prosperity".



### Book titled "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" released

i. A book titled "Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924" is penned by Bengaluru-based historian Vikram Sampath and published by Penguin.

ii. This book describing the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly known as Veer Savarkar.

iii. This first volume of the two-volume series covers the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar), from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release to Ratnagiri in 1924.

### Times Higher Education released "World University Rankings 2020"

i. World University Rankings 2020, published by the United Kingdom (UK) based Times Higher Education (THE), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and Indian Institute of Science (IISc)

Bangalore were ranked number 1 among the 56 Indian institutes on the list of the best universities of the world. The ranking includes almost 1,400 universities across 92 countries.

ii. As per the World University Rankings 2020, the University of Oxford is the number one university in the world for the fourth time in a row. The California Institute of Technology stands at the second place and the University of Cambridge fell to the third rank this year.

### Cryodrakon boreas is the largest flying animal of all time

i. Scientists have unveiled a newly discovered species of a pterosaur, the largest ever flying animal according to a study conducted by Queen Mary University in London.



- These species come from the Azhdarchid group of pterosaurs. The pterosaur's name **Cryodrakon boreas** roughly translates to 'frozen dragon of the north wind'.
- **Cryodrakon boreas** is the largest flying animal of all time, With a **wingspan of 10 m and weighing 250 kg**, researchers reported in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.

### **The book titled “The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas” released**

- i. The book titled “The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas” written by the journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni** was released. It is published by Penguin Random House.
- ii. The book depicts the political journey of Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray.

### **Mumbai at 45th spot and Delhi at 52nd in World Safe Cities Index 2019**

- i. According to a report of Economist Intelligence Unit, **Mumbai** has been ranked as the **45th** safest city on the **Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019**, while **Delhi** stood at the **52nd** position. **Tokyo** taking the top spot, While Singapore and Osaka came 2nd and 3rd in the list.
- ii. The Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents and measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety, with indicators categorised as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.



### **St. Vincent and Grenadines, 79th country to join India-led ISA**

- i. **Saint Vincent and Grenadines** became the **79th country** to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an initiative by India aimed at combating the threats of climate change and global warming.
- ii. The International Solar Alliance is a group of **121 solar resource-rich countries** with headquarters in **Gurugram, India**. The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

#### **Do You Know-**

- St Vincent and the Grenadines Capital: Kingstown; Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar.

### **Kerala to set up India’s first iWTC in Kozhikode**

- i. **Kerala** will set up **India’s first international women’s trade centre (iWTC)**, in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Kozhikode.
- ii. A key project of the state’s gender park under the department of social justice, it is envisaged as a safe space away from home for women to harness their entrepreneurial capabilities, set up or expand their businesses and get their products marketed globally.
- iii. The first phase of iWTC, being executed under the gender park’s “**Vision 2020**”, is scheduled to be completed by 2021.



### **Anurag Kashyap’s ‘Gangs Of Wasseyapur’ in the Guardian Best 100 list**

- i. Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap’s **Gangs Of Wasseyapur** has become the only Indian film to feature in “**The Guardian**” list of **100 Best Films of the 21st century**. The film has bagged the 59th position.
- ii. The two film **Gangs Of Wasseyapur** series was released in 2012 and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseyapur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.
- iii. Both films were loved by the masses for their drama and rawness and acclaimed by the classes for cinematic aesthetics.

### **UNESCO to publish anthology of Guru Nanak Dev’s writing in world languages**

- i. The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has decided to translate and publish an anthology of the writings of **Guru Nanak Dev** in world languages to mark his **550th birth anniversary**.
- ii. The Government of India is also holding a series of events and has initiated projects to mark 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

iii. These include the construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district in Punjab to the international border, the development of the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi as a heritage town on the smart city principle, the up-gradation of Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and release of commemorative coins and postage stamps.

### PM Modi to inaugurate India's second Multi-Modal Terminal in Jharkhand

i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will dedicate to the nation India's **second riverine Multi-Modal terminal (MMT)** built at **Sahibganj in Jharkhand**.

ii. The terminal at Sahibganj will open up industries of Jharkhand and Bihar to the global market and provide Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through waterways route.

iii. Coal, stone chips, fertilizers, cement and sugar are other commodities expected to be transported through the terminal.

iv. This is the second of the three Multi-Modal Terminals being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project



### Do You Know-

- First Multi-Modal Terminal was constructed at Varanasi.
- Chief Minister of Jharkhand: Raghubar Das; Governor: Draupadi Murmu.

### India's first central police university to come up in Greater Noida

i. The country's **first central police university** will be set up by the Union home ministry off the **Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida**. The Centre had given in-principle approval for the university and a 100-acre plot has been identified in Sector Techzone.

ii. The government wants to set up an institution to tackle modern-day policing challenges. The national university for policing will help in improving police personnel training, skills, research and also policymaking with regard to policing in India.

### Hyderabad-Karnataka Region Renamed 'Kalyana Karnataka'

i. Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa announced that the **Hyderabad-Karnataka** region has been renamed as '**Kalyana Karnataka**' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.

ii. Hyderabad Karnataka region comprising six north-eastern districts of the State — Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal and Ballari. **Static/Current**



### J&K becomes first state to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat scheme

i. Jammu and Kashmir has become the first state in the country to issue the highest number of **golden cards** under **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**. Over 11 lakh golden cards have been generated within the first 90 days of the launch of the scheme with 60% of families having at least one golden card which is highest in the country.

ii. Under the scheme, 155 Hospitals including 126 public and 29 private hospitals have been empanelled to provide free and cashless treatment to the entitled beneficiaries while as per Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 6.30 lakh poor and vulnerable families of J&K are entitled to it.

### India ranks 9th on "Global Happiness Survey" by Ipsos

i. According to a "**Global Happiness Survey**" by **Ipsos**, **Indian** has been ranked 9th on the happiness index among 28 global markets. For India, there has been a six per cent drop (from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019).

ii. **Australia** and **Canada** at the top spot (at 86 per cent) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world, While **Russia** (47 per cent) emerged at the bottom of the heap, among the 28 markets.



### India International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata

i. The 5th edition of **India International Science Festival (IISF)** will be held in Kolkata from November 5-8. IISF is the largest science festival in the world. The focus will be on youth to inspire and motivate them to learn real science in motion. The theme for this year's festival is '**RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation**'.

ii. The IISF will also host 28 different events such as Agriculture Scientists' Meet, Vigyan Samagam, Young Scientists Conference, Vigyanika-International Science Literature Festival, International Science Film Festival of India.

### Do You Know-

- Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences: Harsh Vardhan.

### PM Modi Inaugurates Gandhi Solar Park at UN Headquarters

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **50 kilowatt 'Gandhi Solar Park'** at the UN headquarters. PM Modi and other leaders also released a commemorative **postage stamp of Mahatma Gandhi**, at the programme "**Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World**" at the UN headquarters.

ii. The event was hosted to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which will underline the continuing relevance of Gandhian thoughts and values in today's world.

### Maharashtra, Haryana Assembly Elections held on 21st October

i. **Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) Election 2019** Date, Scheduled on **21st October**, while counting of votes will be held on October 24.

ii. Both Maharashtra and Haryana are the first states to go to polls after the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year. With the announcement, the Model Code of Conduct has come into effect in the two states. Maharashtra, which has a total of 288 assembly seats. Whereas, in Haryana has 90 assembly seats.



### Actor Govinda appointed as the brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh

i. **Madhya Pradesh** government will appoint filmstar **Govinda** as **brand ambassador** to promote the state's traditions and tourist places. It is Kamal Nath government's intention that the message about the state's traditions and tourist destinations should reach the masses.

ii. The government also has plans to set up a film city in the state and plans to promote Madhya Pradesh as a destination for film making.

### Ladakhi Shondol dance creates history by entering into Guinness book of records

i. **Shondol dance**, which is known as the royal dance of Ladakh, has created history by entering into the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the **largest Ladakhi dance**. Shondol is a famous dance, which artistes used to perform for the king of Ladakh.

ii. The event was held on the concluding day of the ongoing Buddhist carnival **Naropa festival** near the Hemis Monastery in Ladakh. As many as **408 women** attired in traditional dresses and beautiful headgears performed the dance, which broke the previous record of **299 artists dance** of Shondol in the 2018 festival.



### NTPC to build India's biggest solar park in Gujarat

i. India's **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** plans to set up a **5-gigawatt solar park** in the western state of Gujarat, which would be the **biggest in the country**. As the top electricity generator shifts toward cleaner energy, which is expected to cost as much as 250 billion rupees (\$3.5 billion) and begin operations by 2024.

ii. The plan is part of NTPC's aim to reduce the share of fossil fuels in the energy mix to 70% from around 96% by 2032.

### Do You Know-



- Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC: Gurdeep Singh.
- Headquarters of NTPC: New Delhi.

### **A new book titled “Being Gandhi” by Paro Anand to mark Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary**

i. A new book titled “**Being Gandhi**” written by award-winning author **Paro Anand** released. It marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The book, published by **Harper Collins** Children’s Books, explores the life events of Gandhiji.

### **Pranab Mukherjee launches the book titled ‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’**

i. Former president **Pranab Mukherjee** released a book named ‘**Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy**’. The book was written by **BJP MP Subramanian Swamy** that tracks the country’s economic development over the years and offers solutions for future growth. The book has been published by Rupa Publications India.

### **CM Kamal Nath announces Bhopal metro will be named Raja Bhoj**

i. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** announced that the metro rail in Bhopal will be named for **Raja Bhoj**. Raja Bhoj was an **11th-century ruler from the Parmar dynasty** which once ruled the area.  
 ii. CM Kamal Nath laid the foundation stone of the Bhopal Metro Rail Project to be built at a cost of about Rs 6,941.4 crore rupees.

### **India ranked 44th in world digital competitiveness rankings**

i. **India** was ranked **44th** in the **IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019** produced by the **IMD World Competitiveness Center**. The **US** was ranked as the **world’s most digitally competitive economy**, followed by Singapore in the second place.

ii. The center measured the capacity and readiness of **63 nations** to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society.

iii. To evaluate an economy, WDCR examines **3 factors**: Knowledge: the capacity to understand and learn the new technologies; technology: the competence to develop new digital innovations; and future readiness: the preparedness for the coming developments.



### **International Astronomical Union names asteroid after Pandit Jasraj**

i. The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has named an **asteroid** after Indian classical singer **Pandit Jasraj**. The asteroid formally known as a **minor planet**, is located between **Mars and Jupiter**. It was discovered on November 11, 2006, by the Catalina Sky Survey. The privilege of naming a planet is first given to discoverers, who have 10 years to propose a name.

ii. Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj is an exponent of Indian classical vocal music. Jasraj is the recipient of numerous awards, honours, and titles, including the prestigious Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.



# International

## Indonesia to move the capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan

- i. **Indonesia's** president announced that the country's capital will move from overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta to a site in sparsely populated **East Kalimantan** province on **Borneo island**.
- ii. The new capital city, which has not yet been named, will be in the middle of the vast archipelago nation and already has relatively complete infrastructure because it is near the cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda.

### Do You Know-

- Indonesian President: Joko Widodo; Currency: Indonesian rupiah.



## Russia to train Indian astronauts for Gaganyaan mission

- i. **Russia** will train **four Indian astronauts** for India's ambitious manned mission to space, **Gaganyaan**.
- ii. Indian astronauts will be trained at Russian facilities. A special ISRO unit will be established in the embassy in Moscow to facilitate increased cooperation between India and Russia in view of the Gaganyaan mission.
- iii. Under the Gaganyaan Mission, Indian Space Research Organisation has outlined a road map to put a three-man crew in a low earth orbit for 5-7 days by December 2021.



### Do You Know-

- Chairman of ISRO: K. Sivan; Headquarters: Bengaluru; Established: 1969.

## Indian diaspora largest in the world at 17.5 million: UN Report

- i. The **International Migrant Stock 2019** was released by the Population Division of the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)**. The report provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.
  - ii. As per the report, **India** was the **leading country of origin** of international migrants in 2019 with a **17.5 million strong** diaspora.
- Some important findings of the report:

- The top 10 countries of origin account for one-third of all international migrants. India is the leading country of origin of international migrants with 17.5 million persons living abroad. Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million).
- Europe hosted the largest number of international migrants (82 million), followed by Northern America (59 million) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (49 million). India hosted 5.1 million international migrants in 2019.
- In India, the highest number of international migrants came from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.

## Sri Lanka flags off Pulathisi Express, a 'Make In India' train

- i. The tie-up between **India** and **Sri Lanka** received a boost when a newly 'Make In India' train "**Pulathisi Express**" rake was flagged off from Colombo Fort Railway station.
- ii. The rake of the train was manufactured in the **Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai**. The train which has been inducted under an Indian Line of Credit has an



on-board entertainment system, modular interiors and fully-rotating seats in Air Conditioned Chair cars for passenger comfort.

#### **Do You Know-**

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte; Currency: Sri Lankan rupee.
- Prime minister: Ranil Wickremesinghe; President: Maithripala Sirisena.

#### **Water found on potentially habitable super Earth K2-18b**

i. Astronomers have found water for the first time in atmosphere of habitable exoplanet **K2-18b** which orbits in its star's "**habitable zone**".

ii. K2-18b, which is 8 times the mass of Earth, is now the only planet orbiting a star outside the Solar System, or 'exoplanet', known to have both water and temperatures that could be potentially habitable, according to the study published in the journal Nature Astronomy and the lead scientist of the research is **Prof Giovanna Tinetti** of University College London (UCL), United Kingdom.



#### **Typhoon Faxai hits Tokyo, Japan**

i. **Typhoon Faxai** has hit Tokyo, Japan. There were winds of up to **210km/h (130mph)**. Faxai is one of the strongest typhoons to hit the Japanese capital in a decade. The Authorities have issued non-compulsory evacuation warnings to more than 390,000 people.

#### **Do You Know-**

- President of Japan: Shinzo Abe; Capital of Japan: Tokyo.
- Currency of Japan: Japanese Yen

#### **Royal Society honour for Dr Yusuf Hamied**

i. **Dr Yusuf Hamied**, chairman of Cipla, a pharmaceutical company has been inducted as an **honorary fellow** of the **Royal Society**. He was elected as an honorary fellow of the Royal Society for his service to the **cause of science**.

ii. A total of 51 new Fellows and 10 foreign members were elected to the Royal Society in 2019. Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth which is dedicated to promoting excellence in science.



#### **PM Modi and Nepalese PM to inaugurate Motihari-Amlekhgunj oil pipeline**

i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Nepal's Prime Minister **K.P.Sharma Oli** will jointly inaugurate **Motihari-Amlekhgunj cross border petroleum products pipeline**.

ii. The 69 km long pipeline from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal has been constructed by India. This is the first transnational petroleum pipeline from India and **first South Asian oil pipeline corridor**.

iii. The pipeline will ensure smooth, cost-effective and environment-friendly supply of petroleum products to Nepal. The pipeline will save billions of rupees every year on transportation, leakage and expected to make a significant contribution to the prosperity of Nepal and its people.



#### **4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 held in Male**

i. **4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019** was recently held in **Male, Maldives**. Indian External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** was one of the speakers at the Indian Ocean Conference 2019 event.

ii. The **theme** for 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was: '**Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges**'. This edition of the conference will provide yet another opportunity for stakeholders of the Indian



Ocean Region to deliberate on building an institutional framework for managing the threats to regional peace and human security.

### **Thailand 1st in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging**

**i. Thailand** became the **first Asian nation** to unveil **plain cigarette packaging** to reduce the appeal of smoking and complied with the **World Health Organisation's (WHO)** guidelines.

**ii.** In 2012, Australia became the first country to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos.



### **Vietnam opens Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm**

**i.** Vietnam has inaugurated **Southeast Asia's largest solar power** farm which has the capacity to produce **688 million kWh** of electricity annually.

**ii.** The **Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex**, a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B.Grimm Power Public Company, occupies 540 hectares in Tay Ninh province, Vietnam.

**iii.** The complex was constructed on the **Dau Tieng Reservoir** the largest artificial lake in Vietnam and is expected to generate 10 per cent of the country's solar energy to guarantee supply to 320,000 homes.



### **Do You Know-**

- President of Vietnam: Nguyen Phu Trong; Vietnam Capital: Hanoi.
- Currency: Vietnamese dong.

### **Sri Lanka unveils South Asia's tallest tower**

**i.** Sri Lanka unveiled **South Asia's tallest tower**, costing over **\$100 million**, 80% of which has been funded by China under the controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

**ii.** The **350-metre-tall 17-storey Lotus Tower**, located in the heart of Colombo city.

**iii.** The tower spread over an area of 30,600 sq. metres. The project which began in 2012 under the then-president Mahinda Rajapakse.



### **Japan Launches "World's Biggest Transport Space Ship" For Space Station**

**i.** Japan launched an unmanned **H-2B rocket** towards the International Space Station. The **H-2B rocket** lifted off with cargo vessel **Kounotori8**, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

**ii.** The launch took place from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan. This Rocket is considered as the world's biggest transport spaceship. It intends to deliver about 5.3 tonnes of supplies to astronauts at the ISS.



### **Facebook bags digital content rights for ICC matches in South Asia**

**i.** The **International Cricket Council** has inked an agreement with **Facebook**, under which the social media platform will get **exclusive digital content rights** for select cricket matches in the Indian subcontinent including the Women's T20 World Cup 2020-22, Men's T20 World Cup 2020-21 and the Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

**ii.** The social media platform also bagged the rights for match recaps for rest of the world for the next 4 years.

### **Do You Know-**

- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Manu Sawhney.



# Defence

## Army to commission 1st batch of women soldiers in 2021

- i. The **Indian Army** has announced that the **first batch of 100 women soldiers** in the Army is likely to be commissioned by **March 2021**.
- ii. The women soldiers will be commissioned into the Corps of Military Police of the Indian Army. In the Corps of Military Police, women soldiers will take up duties of policing cantonments and other Army establishments.
- iii. At present, women in the Army work only in engineering, medical, legal, signals and educational wings.



## India, US to carry out joint Military Exercise “Yudh Abhyas 2019”

- i. **Indo-US** defence cooperation, a joint military training, Exercise “Yudh Abhyas 2019”. This exercise is being conducted at Joint **Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, the USA** from 05-18 September 2019.
- ii. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours between India and USA. This will be the **15th edition** of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.



## Do You Know-

Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army: Mark A Milley.

## IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters

- i. The **Indian Air Force** has inducted **8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters** at the Pathankot Air Force station to enhance its combat capabilities. The AH-64E Apache is one of the world’s most advanced **multi-role combat helicopters**.
- ii. India has received the attack helicopters as per the deal signed by Indian Air Force with the US Government and Boeing Ltd, in September 2015. The Indian Air Force will operate a fleet of 22 Apaches by 2020.



## Indian army to participate in joint exercise “TSENTR 2019”

- i. **Indian army** will participate in a multilateral exercise “TSENTR 2019” to be held in Russia. Armies of Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia will also participate in the exercise.
- ii. This will be the first time that forces from India and Pakistan will participate in a multilateral exercise together since the Balakot airstrikes conducted by Indian forces.



## SLINEX 2019: Indo-Lanka maritime fleet exercise

- i. ‘**SLINEX 2019**’, the bilateral maritime exercise between **India and Sri Lanka** commenced on 7 September 2019 at **Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)**. Sri Lankan Navy has sent two offshore patrol vessels **SLNS Sindurala** and **SLNS Suranimala** to India to participate in seventh annual Joint Indo-Lanka Maritime Fleet Exercise- SLINEX 2019.
- ii. The exercise signifies the desire of both countries to enhance co-operation and to further strengthen mutual trust and interoperability between the two navies.



## IAF resurrects 17 Squadron ‘Golden Arrows’ for Rafale

- i. The Indian Air Force (IAF) resurrected the Air Force Station (AFS) Ambala-based **17 Squadron ‘Golden Arrows’**, which will operate the **first squadron of Rafale fighter jets**.
- ii. Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa presented a memento to Station



Commander Group Captain Harkirat Singh to commemorate the occasion.

iii. Under the command of then Wing Commander BS Dhanoa, Golden Arrows participated actively in Operation Safed Sagar in 1999. On December 31, 2011, the squadron was 'number plated' after the Russian Mig-21 jets that it flew was decommissioned as part of the IAF's long-term plan to phase the decades-old aircraft out of service and was since awaiting newer inductions.

### **INS Khanderi to be commissioned into the Indian Navy**

i. India's 2nd Scorpene-class submarine, **INS Khanderi** will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

ii. The conventional diesel-electric submarine has been manufactured by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai.

iii. The first Scorpene-class submarine INS Kalvari was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 2017.



### **Rajnath Singh becomes 1st Defence Minister to fly in LCA Tejas.**

i. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** becomes the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built **light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas**. He flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.

Defence Minister was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) in Bengaluru.

### **India successfully flight-tested indigenous air-to-air missile Astra**

i. Indian Air Force has successfully flight-tested air-to-air **missile Astra** off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from a **Sukhoi Su-30 MKI combat aircraft**.

ii. The missile was tracked using radars, electro-optical tracking sensors and struck its target successfully. The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the premier research and development organisation of the armed forces.



### **Do You Know-**

- Chairman of DRDO: Dr G. Satheesh Reddy; Headquarters: New Delhi; Founded: 1958.
- Motto of DRDO: "Strength's Origin is in Science."

### **First-ever 'arrested landing' of Naval Tejas successfully executed**

i. **DRDO** and the **Aeronautical Development Agency** successfully executed the first-ever arrested landing of **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas (Navy)** at the shore-based test facility in Goa. This is a step towards the aircraft getting operational on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

ii. This arrested landing heralds the arrival of true indigenous capability and displays the professional prowess of our scientific community Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) embedded with design plus build the capability of HAL (ARDC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). \



### **DRDO hands over second 'Netra' (AEWC) aircraft to IAF**

i. The **Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO)** has handed over the second airborne warning plane, **Netra**, to the Indian Air Force.

ii. The Netra, an **Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft**, it is useful for surveillance, tracking, identification and classification of airborne and sea surface targets and is useful in detecting incoming ballistic missile threats.

iii. The Netra had played a stellar role during the Balakot airstrikes that had been carried out by the IAF in February this year. It provided surveillance and radar coverage to the five Mirage jets that bombed terror launch pads in Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.



### Indo-Thailand joint military exercise Maitree 2019

i. India and Thailand are all set to organize **Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019** at **Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya)** from 16-29 Sep 2019. Both the countries have already conducted two such military exercises in past one month.

ii. About 100 Indian and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) soldiers will participate in the joint military exercise with an aim to share experience gained during a various counter-terrorism operation in their respective countries. The exercise 'MAITREE' is an annual training event which is being conducted alternatively in India and Thailand since 2006.



### 23rd edition of "Malabar 2019" naval joint exercise of India, US and Japan

i. The 23rd edition of the trilateral maritime exercise of India, Japan and the United States(US) named "**Malabar 2019**" exercise begun at Sasebo, Japan. India fields 6,100-tonne stealth frigate Indian Navy Ship(INS) Sahyadri, anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kiltan along with the first-time deployment of Poseidon-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft.

ii. The United States fields Arleigh Burke-class destroyer United States Ship (USS) McCampbell, amphibious warship USS Green Bay and a Los Angeles class nuclear fast attack submarine, while Japan fields 27,000-tonne Izumo-class helicopter carrier JS Kaga, destroyer Samidare and cruiser Chokai.



### India-US Tri-Services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" to be held in November

i. **India and the United States** are set to hold their first tri-services exercise code-named "**Tiger Triumph**" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh in November this year. The plan for this exercise was discussed during the Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) concluded at Headquarters Eastern Naval Command.

ii. For the first time, the US and India will be holding the tri-service military exercise. India earlier conducted such tri-service exercise with Russia. The announcement for the 'Tiger Triumph' was made by US President Donald Trump during the 'Howdy Modi!' event in America.

### Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat to be new Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

i. Army chief Gen **Bipin Rawat** will take over as the new Chairman of the **Chiefs of Staff Committee**. He succeeding Indian Air Force (IAF) chief, Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, who retires from service by end of this month.

ii. The Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) comprises chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and the senior-most member is appointed its chairperson.

iii. The Chairman of COSC is tasked with ensuring synergy among the three services and evolve a common strategy to deal with external security challenges facing the country.



### INDO-KAZAKHSTAN Joint Military Exercise KAZIND 2019

i. Joint Military Exercise **KAZIND-2019** between **India and Kazakhstan** will be conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

ii. Exercise KAZIND-2019 is the **4th edition** of an annual event which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India.

iii. The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with an emphasis on counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

### Do You Know-

- Kazakhstan PM: Askar Mamin, Capital: Nur-Sultan, Currency: Kazakhstani Tenge.



# Appointments or Resign/Retired

## New Governors Appointed in 5 Indian States

- i. A total of **five governors** have been appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind, including the transfer and appointment of Kalraj Mishra. **Kalraj Mishra**, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, was transferred and appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan. He will replace Kalyan Singh.
- ii. Taking over Mishra's role as Himachal governor is former Union minister **Bandaru Dattatreya**.
- iii. Tamil Nadu BJP president **Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan** has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana, replacing ESL Narasimhan.
- iv. **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** has been appointed as the new Governor of Maharashtra. Koshiyari will replace Vidyasagar Rao.
- v. **Arif Mohammed Khan** has been appointed as the Kerala governor in place of P Sathasivam.



## Lt. Gen. Mukund Naravane took charge as Vice Chief of Army Staff

- i. Lieutenant General **Manoj Mukund Naravane** has assumed charge as **Vice Chief of the Indian Army**. He succeeded Lieutenant General D. Anbu.
- ii. Before assuming charge as Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Naravane was heading the Eastern Command of the Indian Army which takes care of India's border with China.

## IPS Vivek Kumar Johri takes charge as BSF DG

- i. IPS officer **Vivek Kumar Johri** took charge as the Director General (DG) of the country's largest border guarding force, BSF. He will replace Rajni Kant Mishra.
- ii. VK Johri has been serving as the Special Secretary in the external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), under the Cabinet Secretariat. He will retire in September next year and is the 25th chief of the force.



## CEC Sunil Arora assumes charge as Chairman of AWEB

- i. Chief election commissioner **Sunil Arora** took charge as chairman of **Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB)**. The CEC will serve a two-year term till 2021.
- ii. AWEB is a multilateral platform for election management bodies with 115 EMBs from 109 countries as its members, and 20 international organisations as Associate Members across the world to share best electoral practices.



## ADB president Takehiko Nakao resigns

- i. Asian Development Bank (ADB) President **Takehiko Nakao** has announced his resignation. He became the president of ADB on **April 28, 2013**. He expanded the operations of the funding agency from USD 14 billion in 2013 to USD 22 billion in 2018. He also ushered in the merger of Ordinary Capital Resources and concessional lending operation of the Asian Development Fund (ADF) and steered the launch of 'Strategy 2030'.
- ii. The new president will be elected in accordance with an open, transparent and merit-based procedure.



## GoI Appoints Four Supreme Court Judges

- i. The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the **Supreme Court Collegium** for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are



- Himachal Pradesh High Court: Chief Justice **V. Ramasubramanian**



- Punjab and Haryana High Court: Chief Justice **Krishna Murari**
- Rajasthan High Court: Chief Justice **S. Ravindra Bhat**
- Kerala High Court: Chief Justice **Hrishikesh Roy**

The Supreme Court vacancies had increased its judicial strength from 31 to 34 following the enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill of 2019.

### **Robert O'Brien becomes National Security Adviser of US**

**i. Robert O'Brien** has been appointed as the **National Security Adviser** of **United States of America**.

Robert O'Brien will **replace John Bolton** as the NSA of US.

**ii. Robert O'Brien** has had a long career in foreign policy working for both main US parties and currently heading the hostage negotiations at the State Department.

### **RKS Bhaduria is new IAF Chief**

**i. The central Government** has appointed Vice **Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF)** Air Marshal **RKS Bhaduria** as the next Chief of Air Staff (CAS). He will take over on 30th September. He will have a **two-year tenure**. Mr. Bhaduria had played a key role in the negotiations for the deal with France for 36 Rafale jets.

**ii. Present IAF Chief and Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa** is set to retire on September 30.

**iii. Mr. Bhaduria** also served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command and, prior to the present appointment, he was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Training Command. **Important**



### **Justice P Lakshmana Reddy appointed as first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh**

**i. Former judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court P. Lakshmana Reddy**, who has been appointed as **State's Lokayukta**. He is known for his campaign against corruption. His oath to the office was administered by Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan at a function held in Vijayawada.

**ii. Justice P Lakshmana Reddy** would serve in the office of Lokayukta for **5 years**. He is the **first Lokayukta** to be assuming charge since the state bifurcated in 2014.

### **Wing Commander Anjali Singh becomes India's first female military diplomat**

**i. Wing Commander Anjali Singh** has joined the **Indian Embassy in Russia** as India's first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad. She has joined her new assignment as the **Deputy Air Attache**. She has served the Indian Air Force for 17 years and is trained on MiG-29 aircraft.

**ii. An air attache** is an Air Force officer who is part of a diplomatic mission this post is normally filled by a high-ranking officer.

### **Kapil Dev appointed as chancellor of Rai Sports University**

**i. The Haryana Government** has appointed cricket legend **Kapil Dev** as the first **Chancellor of Sports University, Rai (Sonapat)**. The Haryana Assembly recently established Haryana's first sports university at Rai.

### **Do You Know-**

- **Kapil Dev** was the **captain of India's 1983 Cricket World Cup** winning team.
- Chief Minister of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor: Satyadev Narayan Arya.

### **PK Mishra appointed as the Principal Secretary to PM**

**i. Pramod Kumar Mishra** will be the new **Principal Secretary** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He will replace Nripendra Mishra. He is a 1972 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Gujarat cadre. He joined PM Modi in 2014 as the Additional Principal Secretary.

ii. He has varied experience in the management of programmes relating to agriculture, disaster management, power sector, infrastructure financing and regulatory issues.

### **P K Sinha appointed as the Principal Advisor to PM**

i. Former Cabinet Secretary **Pradeep Kumar Sinha** has been appointed the **Principal Advisor** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of PK Sinha.

### **Vijay Kumar Chopra, Vineet Jain elected PTI chairman & vice-chairman**

i. **Vijay Kumar Chopra**, who is the Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers and **Vineet Jain**, Managing Director (MD) of Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited (BCCL), the publisher of Times of India, is unanimously elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) the country's premier news agency.

ii. Vijay Kumar Chopra was succeeding N Ravi, publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of the Hindu and Vineet Jain earlier served as the chairman of PTI in 2010.



### **Do You Know-**

- Headquarters of PTI: New Delhi; Established: 27 August 1947.

### **Rajiv Kumar appointed as the new MD of Microsoft India (R&D)**

i. Microsoft has appointed **Rajiv Kumar** as the new managing director of **Microsoft India Research and Development Pvt Ltd (MIRPL)**. He is currently served as a Corporate Vice-President of Microsoft's Experiences and Devices (E+D) Group. He will replace **Anil Bhansali**, who held this role for six years.



### **Do You Know-**

- CEO of Microsoft: Satya Nadella.

### **Justice Vikram Nath appointed as Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court**

i. Justice **Vikram Nath** has been appointed as the **chief justice of the Gujarat High Court**. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the name of Justice Nath for the top post in the Gujarat High Court. He is at present posted as a judge in the Allahabad High Court.

### **IMF elects Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva as its new chief**

i. **Bulgarian** economist **Kristalina Georgieva** has been selected as the new **Managing Director** of the International Monetary Fund. She will succeed **Christine Lagarde**. Kristalina Georgieva had previously served as the chief executive of the World Bank. She will also become the first person from an emerging economy to lead the IMF.

### **Adille Sumariwalla re-elected as member of IAAF Council**

i. **Adille Sumariwalla** has been elected as the member of the **International Association of Athletics Federations** council. He was elected for a 2nd 4 year term during the 52nd Congress of the sport's world governing body. He is presently serving as the **president** of the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**.

ii. Britain's **Sebastian Coe** was also re-elected unopposed as **president** of the **IAAF** for a 2nd term.

### **Visa appoints PV Sindhu as brand ambassador**

i. Payment technology company **Visa** announced that it has signed up world badminton champion **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu)** as its brand ambassador for two years.

ii. Besides promoting the brand through advertising campaigns, Sindhu has also



become an athlete member of Team Visa for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

### **EC appoints Madhuri Dixit as goodwill ambassador for Maharashtra Assembly polls**

- i. Actor **Madhuri Dixit** has been chosen as “**goodwill ambassador**” by the Chief Electoral Office in Maharashtra to create awareness among people about the importance of voting.
- ii. She will be seen in a video titled ‘Let’s Vote’ speaking about the democratic process and role of voters in the development of the country.

### **Kotak AMC MD Nilesh Shah appointed as new AMFI chairman**

- i. **Nilesh Shah**, Managing Director of **Kotak Asset Management Company (AMC)**, has been appointed as the new chairman of the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**.
- ii. He will replace the Managing Director, and CEO of ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company, Nimesh Shah. The AMFI also elected **Saurabh Nanavati**, Chief Executive Officer, Invesco Mutual Fund as the **vice-chairman** of AMFI, for a period of one year. AMFI was incorporated on August 22, 1995, as a non-profit organisation. As of now, all the 44 asset management companies that are registered with Sebi, are its members.

### **Kim Ji-Hyun steps down as National Women’s badminton coach**

- i. **National women’s badminton coach Kim Ji-Hyun** has stepped down from her post of National women’s coach of India. She has played a vital role in helping P.V. Sindhu win the 2019 badminton World Championship gold.
- ii. As a result she is unlikely to be with the Indian team ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as per her

### **CBDT sets up NeAC & appoints KM Prasad as first Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax of NeAC**

- i. Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT) has newly set up **National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC)** in Delhi. The initiative is a part of government efforts to reduce human discretion in assessments and scrutiny, which in turn will eliminate possibilities of corruption, by leveraging new technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, video conferencing, telecommunication application software and mobile applications.
- ii. CBDT has also appointed 1984 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Krishna Mohan Prasad** as the first **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax** of NeAC. The Centre will have 16 officials and will be headed by a Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax (PCCIT) as its chief.

### **Do You Know-**

- CBDT Established: 1944; Chairman: Pramod Chandra Mody.

### **Air Marshal HS Arora appointed new IAF Vice Chief**

- i. **Air Marshal HS Arora** has been appointed as the **Vice Chief of Indian Air Force**. He will succeed Air Marshal RKS Bhaduria who will take over as the Chief of Air Staff. Air Marshal Arora is currently heading the Gandhinagar headquartered South Western Air Command of the Air Force. He was also deputed as Defence Attache at the Embassy of India, Bangkok, Thailand from 2006 to 2009.
- ii. In another re-shuffle, **Air Marshal B Suresh** has been appointed as **Western Air Commander of the Air Force**, in New Delhi. Suresh will succeed Kargil war hero Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar.

## Honours/ Awards

### **Vaishno Devi Shrine tops the list of 'Swachh Iconic Places'**

- i. **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine** in Jammu and Kashmir has been adjudged as the “**Best Swachh Iconic place**” in the country in the ‘**Swachh Iconic Places**’. The Shrine has been adjudged on the basis of the overall improvement in sanitation.
- ii. This list released by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**. President Ram Nath Kovind will confer the award to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) during the ‘Swachh Mahotsav’ to be organised by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on 6 September 2019.



### **PM Narendra Modi to be honoured with Global Goalkeeper Award**

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be honoured with the prestigious ‘**Global Goalkeeper Award**’. He will be felicitated by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his leadership and commitment to the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan**.
- ii. The award is a “special recognition” that celebrates the commitment of a political leader towards the Global Goals, demonstrated through impactful work in their country and/or globally.

### **Muhammad Yunus conferred 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' Award**

- i. Nobel Laureate Professor **Muhammad Yunus** from **Bangladesh** was conferred the ‘**Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis**’ award by the **Vatican**.
- ii. He has been awarded for his contribution towards establishing peace and harmony. The award is a recognition for distinguished work by an individual for promoting peace and dialogue among people.



### **“Oscars of science” awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team**

- i. The **Event Horizon Telescope Team** consisting of 347 scientists who produced the world’s **first image of a black hole** were felicitated with breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.
- ii. The prize is known as the “**Oscars of science**”, with prize money **\$3 million**. The team had published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the **Messier 87 (M87) galaxy** on April 10, 2019.



### **Documentary film based on life of Uttarakhand farmer nominated for Oscars**

- i. **Moti Bagh**, a documentary film based on the struggle of a farmer in a remote Uttarakhand village, has been nominated for the Oscars.
- ii. The film, based on the life of **Vidyadutt Sharma**, a farmer living in Pauri Garhwal region, also won the 1st prize at the International short film festival in Kerala. This documentary film was directed by **Nirmal Chandra Dandriyal**.



### **Odisha won the IT Excellence Award, 2019 in disaster management**

- i. **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** has won the **IT Excellence Award, 2019** for its innovative conception by using information technology in the field of disaster management.
- ii. The “**SATARK**” (**System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge**) application has been chosen for the award.



### **Pawan Munjal to be honoured with Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame**

i. Managing Director and Chairman of Hero MotoCorp, **Pawan Munjal** will be inducted into the **2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame**.

ii. He will be inducted for his **support to “Golf”** in India and around the world. The induction ceremony will be held at the 2019 Asian Golf Awards Gala Banquet.

iii. With the honour, he will join the legendary players such as Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and other leading personalities such as David Chu who were bestowed with the highest honour in the Asia Pacific golf industry.



### **Bangladesh PM receives Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award**

i. Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** received the **Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019** in Dhaka.

ii. The award citation lauded Prime Minister Hasina for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, free of tension, conflicts and terrorism.

iii. The award has been instituted in the memory of former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The award is given every year to honour statesmen or leaders who have shown excellence in respective fields to achieve the best for their countries.



### **Neena Gupta wins two awards at Boston Film Festival**

i. Bollywood actor **Neena Gupta** has won **2 awards** at **Indian International Film Festival of Boston**. The actress won the **Best Actress award** for ‘**Badhaai Ho**’ and her film ‘**The Last Color**’ emerged victorious in **Best Feature Film category**.

ii. ‘The Last Color’ was directed by chef **Vikas Khanna**. The film deals with taboo surrounding widows in Vrindavan and Varanasi in India.



### **V K Yadav, Chairman of Railway Board awarded with Eminent Engineers Award**

i. The Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, **Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey**, awarded **Vinod Kumar Yadav**, Chairman of Railway Board with **Eminent Engineers Award**.

ii. The award was presented at the special event to mark the **52nd Engineers’ Day** organised by the Institution of Engineers in New Delhi. The award was for his outstanding contributions in the field of engineering. The theme of 52nd Engineers’ Day was “**Engineering for change**”.

### **Anand Kumar felicitated with Education Excellence Award 2019**

i. Super 30 founder and noted mathematician **Anand Kumar** has been felicitated in the US with a prestigious **Education Excellence Award 2019**. The **Foundation For Excellence (FFE)** awarded him on the occasion of the organisation’s 25th anniversary.

ii. Anand has been running a highly innovative Super 30 programme for the last 18 years. He mentors 30 students free off cost through a year-long residential coaching for India’s premiere IIT-JEE.

### **England greats Boycott & Strauss honoured with knighthoods**

i. England cricket greats **Geoffrey Boycott** and **Andrew Strauss** have been honoured with “**Knighthoods**” by Theresa May in her resignation honours list.

ii. Both the former cricketers have received the honour for their services to sport after outstanding careers for England.

iii. Geoffrey Boycott played 108 tests between 1964 and 1982 for England and scored 8,114 Test runs at an average of 47.72.

iv. Andrew Strauss played 100 tests for England from 2004-12, scoring more than 7,000 runs at an average of 40.91, and captained the team to two Ashes series wins. He also served as England’s director of cricket between 2015 and 2018.



### PM Narendra Modi receives Global Goalkeeper Award

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received the **2019 Global Goalkeeper Award**. He received the award for Swachh Bharat Mission from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

ii. **Swachh Bharat Mission** was launched on **October 2, 2014**, aims to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage in the country.

iii. Global Goalkeeper Award is a “special recognition” by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The award celebrates a political leader who has “demonstrated their commitment to the Global Goals through impactful work in their country.”



### Adam Harper to get SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019

i. The **SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019** will be awarded to **Adam Harper**. Mathematician Adam Harper is an Assistant Professor with the University of Warwick, England.

ii. The prize is conferred annually on mathematicians from across the world who are less than 32 years of age and working in an area influenced by the genius **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. The prize carries a citation and an award of \$10,000.

iii. The award was instituted in 2005 and awarded by SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu.



### Amitabh Bachchan to be honoured with Dada Saheb Phalke award

i. The country's highest film honour, the **Dadasaheb Phalke award**, will be presented this year to **Amitabh Bachchan**. This award is given for his outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

ii. The Dadasaheb Phalke award comprises a **Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)**, a **shawl** and a **cash prize of ₹1,000,000**. The award very appropriately comes in the year that marks Mr Bachchan's golden jubilee in cinema. He made his debut in 1969 with Khwaja Ahmad Abbas' **Saat Hindustani**.

iii. Mr Bachchan has been honoured with the Padma Shri in 1984, the Padma Bhushan in 2001 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2015. Dadasaheb Phalke award was introduced by the government in **1969** to commemorate the “**father of Indian cinema**” who directed **Raja Harischandra (1913)**, India's first feature film, and it was awarded for the first time to **Devika Rani**, “**the first lady of Indian cinema**”.



### 71st Emmy Awards 2019 declared

The **71st annual primetime Emmy Awards** honours handed out at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Here is the complete list of Winners of EMMY AWARDS 2019:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	<b>OUTSTANDING DRAMA SERIES</b>	Game of Thrones (HBO)
2.	<b>OUTSTANDING COMEDY SERIES</b>	Fleabag (Amazon)
3.	<b>LEAD ACTOR, DRAMA</b>	Billy Porter, Pose

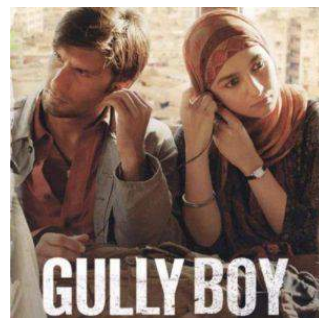
### Zoya Akhtar's 'Gully Boy' India's official entry to Oscars 2020

i. The Film Federation of India (FFI) has chosen '**Gully Boy**' as India's official entry to the **Oscars**. "Gully Boy", produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar and directed by **Zoya Akhtar**, featured Ranveer as an up-and-coming rapper who sets out to achieve his dream by rhyming about his life on the Mumbai streets.

ii. Assamese film "**Village Rockstars**", directed by Rima Das, was India's official submission to the Oscars last year.

#### Do You Know-

- President of Film Federation of India: Firdausul Hasan



### 20th Edition of IIFA Awards 2019

The 20th Edition of NEXA International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA Awards) for 2019 was held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra.



#### Here's the complete list of winners:

S. No.	Category	Winners
1.	Best Film	Raazi
2.	Best Actor in a leading role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Raazi)
3.	Best Actor in a leading role (Male)	Ranveer Singh (Padmaavat)
4.	Best Actor In Supporting Role (Female)	Aditi Rao Hydari (Padmaavat)
5.	Best Actor In Supporting Role (Male)	Vicky Kaushal (Sanju)
6.	Best Director	Sriram Raghavan (Andhadhun)
7.	Lifetime Achievement Award	Legendary actor and comedian Jagdeep Jaffery
8.	Best Debut Award (Female)	Sara Ali Khan (Kedarnath)
9.	Best Debut Award (Male)	Ishaan Khatter (Dhadak)

### Navdeep Singh Suri honoured with First Class Order of Zayed II

i. Navdeep Singh Suri, India's envoy to **United Arab Emirates**, has been honoured with the **First Class Order of Zayed II** award.

ii. He was awarded by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between India and UAE during his tenure.

### Kerala Tourism receives three PATA Gold Awards

- i. Kerala Tourism has won three prestigious **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)** Gold awards in Nur-Sultan (Astana), Kazakhstan.
- ii. The awards are given for an ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom (Kerala) under its Responsible Tourism (RT) mission, the second one for Kerala tourism campaign advertisement 'Come Out and Play' and the third one was for its website [www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org). This year (2019), Kerala Tourism won the highest number of PATA awards in the South Asia region.



### Payal Jangid becomes the first Indian to receive the Changemaker Award 2019

- i. Rajasthan's **Payal Jangid**, aged 17, became the first Indian to receive the **Changemaker Award 2019** at the **Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019**. The Award was presented by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** at a ceremony held in New York, United States. She is the President of her village's Children's Parliament (Bal Panchayat).
- ii. She was awarded for her work towards the abolition of child marriage in her village and other neighbouring areas.



### Cochin International Airport wins award for passenger satisfaction

- i. **Airport Council International** has recognised **Cochin International Airport Limited** as the **best airport** in terms of **services offered to passengers**. As per the annual **Airport Service Quality** survey conducted by the ACI, CIAL was ranked amongst the best airports in the **5-15 million category** in the Asia Pacific region for the year 2018.
- ii. The award was presented to the authorities of Cochin International Airport at the second Annual ACI Customer Experience **Global Summit** held at Bali, Indonesia.

### Infosys Bags UN Global Climate Action Award for 'Carbon Neutral Now' Category

- i. IT major **Infosys** has received the **United Nations Global Climate Action Award in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category**. Infosys is the only corporate from India to earn the recognition for its efforts to combat climate change.
- ii. The announcement of the winners was made after the UN Climate Summit in New York convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- iii. The award will be presented to Infosys at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Santiago, Chile (December 2019).

### Do You Know-

- Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys: Salil Parekh.

### Kallie Puri awarded with "India's Most Powerful Women in Media"

- i. India's **Kallie Puri** has been awarded with **"India's Most Powerful Women in Media"** award at the famed **Confluence Excellence Awards**.
- ii. She received the prestigious award at the British Parliament. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the India Today Group.



### Documentary on Real Kashmir FC nominated for BAFTA Awards

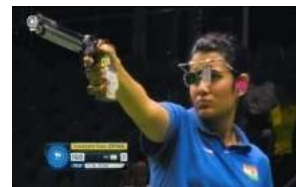
- i. A documentary on Srinagar-based football club **Real Kashmir FC** has nominated in the prestigious **British Academy Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards**.
- ii. The documentary, aired by BBC Scotland earlier this year on the journey of former Rangers ace **David Robertson** at the helm of Real Kashmir FC, has been nominated in two categories.
- iii. Its director Greg Clark has picked up a nod for the **'Director Factual' category**, while the show will battle it out in the **'Single Documentary' category**.



# Sports

## Yashaswini Deswal wins gold at ISSF World Cup

i. Indian shooter **Yashaswini Singh Deswal** won gold in the **women's 10meter Air Pistol event** at the ISSF World Cup at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. she has also secured an Olympic quota for India. This is India's 9th quota in shooting for 2020 Tokyo Games.



## Jasprit Bumrah becomes 3rd Indian to register a hat trick in Test cricket

- i. Indian pace bowler **Jasprit Bumrah** has become the **third Indian** to register a **hat-trick** in **Test cricket**. He took 3 wickets in 3 successive balls in the 2nd test **against West Indies**, held in Kingston, Jamaica.
- ii. He dismissed Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase to claim the hat trick.
- iii. This was the third test hat-trick by an Indian bowler after Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan.



## Ferrari's Charles Leclerc wins Belgian Grand Prix

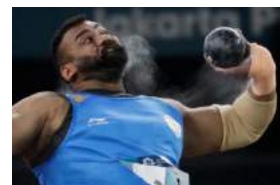
i. **Charles Leclerc** won the **Belgian Grand Prix** after defeating Lewis Hamilton by less than a second. The tournament was held at the Spa-Francorchamps track. This was his first victory of his Formula One career. It was also Ferrari's first win this year.

## Mithali Raj retires from T20 International Cricket

i. Senior India batswoman **Mithali Raj** has announced retirement from **International T-20 Cricket**. In 89 T20 Internationals matches, she scored 2364 runs including 17 fifties with a career-best 97 not out. Mithali is also the first Indian cricketer to reach the landmark of 2000 T20I runs.

## Shot putter Tejinderpal Singh Toor clinches silver in Czech Republic

- i. Shot putter **Tejinderpal Singh Toor** won a silver medal during an athletic meet at Decin in the Czech Republic.
- ii. The Asian Games gold medallist came up with the best throw of 20.09m in his last attempt at the event. Tajinder has been awarded the Arjuna Award this year.



## Qatar unveils 2022 FIFA World Cup logo

- i. **Qatar** unveiled the logo for the **FIFA 2022 World Cup** which will be hosted by the Gulf emirate, displaying it in public spaces in Doha and cities around the world.
- ii. The design is a stylised **Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning**, which is displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolising infinity while creating a heart shape above the words "FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022".

## Do You Know-

- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Headquarters of FIFA: Zurich, Switzerland.

## Pakistan names Misbah-ul-Haq as head coach and chief selector

- i. Former captain **Misbah-ul-Haq** has been appointed as **head coach** and **chief selector** of **Pakistan's** cricket team. He has been appointed for three years. **Waqar Younis** will join him as the team's new bowling coach.
- ii. Misbah-ul-Haq has scored over 10,300 international runs in 75 Tests and 162 one-dayers for Pakistan and was also the most successful and longest-serving Test captain for Pakistan.



### Andrew Strauss becomes chairman of ECB's cricket committee

i. Former England captain **Andrew Strauss** has been appointed as the **chairman** of the England and Wales Cricket Board's **cricket committee**. As a chairman, Strauss will monitor all levels of cricket in England and Wales to ensure a "thriving professional game at the heart of the sport".



### Rashid Khan breaks 15-Year-Old record to become youngest Test Captain

- i. Afghanistan leg spinner **Rashid Khan** holds a new record when he dons the whites for Afghanistan as captain. He broke the 15-year-old record by becoming the youngest Test captain in the Test Cricket history.
- ii. He is 20 years and 350 days old. Previously, the former Zimbabwe wicketkeeper **Tatenda Taibu** was holding this record who was 20 years and 358 days old.

### Manu-Saurabh won gold medal in ISSF World Cup

- i. **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary** won the **gold medal** in **mixed 10m air pistol** at the **ISSF World Cup** in Rio de Janeiro. In the air pistol final, the pair of Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary prevailed over Yashaswini Singh Deswal and Abhishek Verma 17-15.
- ii. With this, India finished the ISSF World Cup at the top of the medals tally with 5 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze.



### World's highest marathon "Ladakh Marathon" held in Leh

- i. The **8th edition** of **Ladakh Marathon** was held in **Leh**. It is the **highest marathon** in the **world** as it is held at over **11,000 feet** above the mean sea level.
- ii. The Marathon was held in the categories of 42 Km Full Marathon, 21 Km half marathon and 7 km long Run for Fun. Over 6000 runners from 25 countries participated in the four categories of Ladakh Marathon.
- iii. The 9th Edition to be held in 2020 will be a qualifying race for the Abbot World Marathon Majors.



### India Red beat India Green to clinch Duleep Trophy title

- i. **India Red** beat **India Green** by an innings and 38 runs to clinch the **Duleep Trophy title** on the fourth day at Bengaluru. India Red had scored 388 in their first innings.
- ii. On the other hand, India Green compiled 231 runs in their first innings and 119 in their second innings. Abhimanyu Easwaran, who made a brilliant 153 for India Red, was named player of the match.

### Charles Leclerc wins the Italian Grand Prix

i. Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** has won the **Italian Grand Prix**. The event was held at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza track, Italy. Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes finished the race at 2nd and 3rd position respectively.

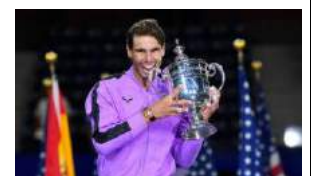
### US Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

- i. The **2019 US Open** was the **139th edition** of tennis' **US Open**. Since 1987, the US Open has been chronologically the fourth and final Grand Slam tournament of the year.
- ii. The United States Open Tennis Championships is a hard court tennis tournament. The tournament is the modern version of one of the oldest tennis championships in the world, the U.S. National Championship, for which men's singles and men's doubles were first played in **1881**.



### Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev to win US Open men's final

i. **Rafael Nadal** captured his **19th career Grand Slam title** by winning the **US Open final**, outlasting Russia's **Daniil Medvedev** to seize his fourth crown in New York.



ii. The 33-year-old Spanish left-hander moved one shy of Roger Federer's all-time men's record 20 Grand Slam triumphs.

iii. Nadal, who was in his fifth US Open championship match and 27th Grand Slam final, is the first man to claim five major titles after turning 30.

### **Bianca Andreescu Clinch US Open Women's Singles Title**

i. Canadian teenager **Bianca Andreescu** stunned Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 to grab the US Open 2019 women's singles title.

ii. The 19-year-old Andreescu becomes the **first Canadian** singles player to win a Grand Slam event.

iii. With the victory, Andreescu also jumps into the top 10 in the WTA rankings. The 19-year-old teen is also the first woman to win the trophy at Flushing Meadows in her tournament debut in the Open era.

iv. Meanwhile, Serena Williams has lost each of her last four Grand Slam finals, all with a chance to tie Margaret Court's record of **24 Grand Slam singles titles**.



### **Brigid Kosgei runs fastest-ever women's half-marathon**

i. Kenya's **Brigid Kosgei** completed the **fastest half-marathon** ever ran by a woman. She won the Great North Run in a time of **1 hour, 44 minutes and 28 seconds**. She took **23 seconds** less than the world record set in 2017 by fellow Kenyan **Joyciline Jepkosgei**.



### **Lasith Malinga becomes first T20I bowler to claim 100 wickets**

i. Sri Lanka's **Lasith Malinga** has become the **first T20I bowler** to take **100 wickets** during the 3rd T20I against New Zealand at Pallekele. He also took a **hat-trick**, dismissing 4 batsmen in 4 consecutive deliveries and became the first-ever bowler to pick up 2 hat-tricks in T20I cricket.

ii. Lasith Malinga also **surpassed Wasim Akram** and set a record for the **most number of hat-tricks** in international cricket. Till now he has claimed 5 hat-tricks in his international career.



### **Australian fast bowler Megan Schutt scripted history by becoming the first woman to claim two hat-tricks in white-ball cricket.**

i. The right-arm medium-pacer claimed an ODI hat-trick to become the first Australian woman to achieve the feat.

ii. She became the first Australian women to claim a hat-trick in ODIs. Schutt had claimed her **first hat-trick** in a **T20 game against India**.



### **Pankaj Advani wins IBSF World Billiards Championship**

i. **Pankaj Advani** defeated Nay Thway Oo to win the 150-up format at the **IBSF World Billiards Championship** held in Mandalay, **Myanmar**.

ii. This was his **4th straight victory** in the final of the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship. With this win, he has increased his tally of world titles to 22.



### **Sourabh Verma clinches Vietnam Open Super 100 title**

i. **Sourabh Verma** has won the **Vietnam Open Super 100 title** held at the Ho Chi Minh City, **Vietnam**.

ii. He defeated China's **Sun Fei Xiang** in the thrilling Men's Singles summit clash of Vietnam Open Super 100 title. He won the match with a score of 21-12, 17-2, 21-14.



### **US swimmer Sarah Thomas criss-crosses English Channel in 54-hour**

i. American breast cancer survivor **Sarah Thomas** became the first person to swim



across the English Channel four times non-stop in a **54-hour feat of endurance**.

ii. She diagnosed with cancer a year ago. She said the hardest part of the swim was dealing with the saltwater, which left her throat and mouth sore.

### **Lakshya Sen wins Belgian International Badminton title**

i. Indian Badminton star, **Lakshya Sen** has won the **Belgian International** badminton title. He defeated Victor Svendsen of Denmark in the summit clash with a score of 21-14, 21-15. The tournament was held in Leuven, Belgium. Lakshya Sen belongs to Almora, Uttarakhand.

### **Spain beats Argentina to win Basketball World Cup**

i. **Spain** defeated Argentina by 95-75 to win the **Basketball World Cup** held in Beijing, **China**.

ii. This was its second title win after 13 years. The next world cup will held in 2023 in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

iii. Spain had won the title last time in 2006 with a 70-47 win over Greece. Argentina had not triumphed since it hosted the inaugural World Cup in 1950. With 32 teams, this was the biggest Basketball World Cup ever.



### **Vinesh Phogat wins bronze medal in Wrestling World Championships**

i. **Vinesh Phogat** won the **bronze medal** at the **Wrestling World Championships** held in Nur-Sultan, **Kazakhstan**.

ii. She defeated **Maria Prevolarakis** of Greece in the 53 kg freestyle event.

iii. Vinesh Phogat has also won India an Olympic quota in the 53 kg freestyle event of Tokyo Olympics.



### **Beijing 2022: Paralympic and Olympic mascots unveiled**

i. A smiling panda and a walking Chinese lantern will be the mascots for the 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing, China. The mascots were revealed at a ceremony at the Shougang Ice Hockey Arena in the Chinese capital.

ii. The mascot, named **Bing Dwen Dwen**, is a chubby giant panda wearing a suit of ice was revealed as the official mascot for **Beijing Winter Olympics 2022**.

iii. Chinese lantern **Shuey Rhon Rhon** was declared as the official mascot for Winter Paralympics 2022.



### **Advani-Mehta pair wins "IBSF World Snooker" title**

i. The Indian team of **Pankaj Advani** and **Aditya Mehta** to win the **"IBSF World Snooker"** title. India defeated Thailand in the team event to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event held in Mandalay, Myanmar.

### **P.T. Usha honoured with IAAF Veteran Pin**

i. Indian track and field legend **P. T. Usha** was presented the **Veteran Pin** by the world athletics governing body, in recognition of her contribution to the growth of the sport. International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) chief Sebastian Coe presented her the Veteran Pin during the 52nd IAAF Congress.

ii. P. T. Usha won five gold medals 100m, 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and the 4x400m relay besides a bronze at the 1985 Asian Games in Jakarta. Her most memorable performance came in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where she became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles but lost the bronze by one-hundredth of a second.





### Indian chess player Koneru Hampi wins the Skolkova Fides Grand Prix title 2019

i. Indian chess grandmaster, **Koneru Hampi** of Gudivada ( Andhra Pradesh) has clinched Fide World Grand Prix 2019 title with 8 points from 11 rounds in Skolkovo, Russia.

ii. In the final round, Hampi just needs to play a draw for the title. The advantage she has in the final round is that have to play white pieces against the defending world champion Wenjun Xu of China. While other Indian, D Harika secured the sixth place with 5 points.



### Manipur wins Senior Women's National Football Championship

i. **Manipur** defeated Railways by 1-0 to win the **Senior Women's National Football Championship** held in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh. This was Manipur's **20th National title**.

ii. **Bala Devi** emerged as the **highest scorer** of the tournament, with **21 goals** from 6 matches, while **Panthoi Chanu** was named the **best goalkeeper**. Both players represented Manipur in the championship.



### Rahul Aware wins bronze in 61 kg free-style category at World C'ship

i. Indian wrestler **Rahul Aware** has won a **bronze medal** in men's **61-kilogram freestyle category** at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

ii. He beat 17th seeded American Tyler Lee Graff 11-4 to ensure he finished on the podium. It was India's fifth medal at this edition of the World Championships with a total haul of 1 silver and 4 bronzes.



### Amit Panghal settles with historic silver in World Championships

i. **Amit Panghal** settled for the **silver medal** at World Boxing Championships after he lost to Uzbekistan's **Shakhobidin Zoirov** 3-2 in the 52kg category final.

ii. He became the first Indian male pugilist to win a silver in World Championships at Ekaterinburg in Russia.

### Bajrang Punia won bronze medal at World Wrestling Championships

i. **Bajrang Punia** won a bronze medal at the **2019 World Wrestling Championships** in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

ii. He defeated Mongolia's **Tulga Tumur Ochir** 8-7 to clinch the medal in the **65 kg weight category**.

iii. This is Bajrang's second consecutive World Championship medal after his silver at Budapest 2018. This is also his third medal at the senior World's with his first coming in 2013.



### Rupa Gurunath appointed as first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association

i. **Rupa Gurunath** was appointed as the **first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA)** at the 87th Annual General Meeting of TNCA in Chennai, TamilNadu. ii. With this appointment, she also became the first woman to head a state-level cricket body in the country.



### Sumit Nagal wins title at ATP Challenger Tournament

i. Indian tennis player **Sumit Nagal** has won the men's singles title at the **ATP Challenger Tournament** held in Buenos Aires, **Argentina**.

ii. He defeated Argentina's Facundo Bognis by 6-4, 6-2 to win the title. It was Sumit's second Challenger title of his career, following the triumph in the Bengaluru Challenger event in 2017.

# Obituaries

## Emmy Award-winning actress Valerie Harper passes away

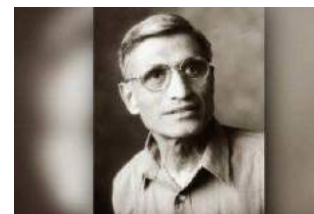
i. The 4 Times Emmy Award-winning actress **Valerie Harper** passed away. She also has Golden Globe award for playing the brash New Yorker on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”. She began her career as a dancer on Broadway, making her debut in the musical “Take Me Along” in 1959.



## Former bureaucrat B.N. Yugandhar passes away

i. Former bureaucrat and Secretary to the PMO, **B.N. Yugandhar** passed away. He served as **Secretary to the PMO** between May 1995 and March 1997 during former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao’s term. He also served in the Ministry of Rural Development from March 1993 to May 1995.

ii. B.N. Yugandhar was the father of Microsoft’s present Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella.



## Ram Jethmalani Passes Away at 95

i. **Ram Jethmalani**, one of India’s finest lawyers and a former union minister has passed away. He was 95.

ii. He was a **six-time Rajya Sabha member**, served as a Union Minister in the United Front and NDA governments.

iii. He joined the BJP-led NDA ministry in 1998 and then again in October 1999.

iv. Mr. Jethmalani had also served as the **chairman** of the Bar Council of India.



## Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe passes away

i. **Zimbabwe’s** former President **Robert Mugabe** passed away. He was the country’s first post-independence leader and also considered as Zimbabwe’s founding father. He served the country as its leader for 37 years.

ii. He also served as the rotating chairman of the 54 nation African Union and the 15-nation Southern African Development Community.



## Do You Know-

- Capital of Zimbabwe: Harare; President: Emmerson Mnangagwa.

## Pakistan’s master leg-spinner Abdul Qadir passes away

i. Pakistan’s master leg-spinner **Abdul Qadir** passed Away. Qadir, who played in 67 Tests and 104 ODIs had a total 368 wickets in his international career. He was worked as chief selector in 2009 and it was the squad that was selected by him that went on to win the ICC World T20 in England.

## Veteran Congress leader Sukhdev Singh Libra passes away

i. Veteran Congress leader and former MP **Sukhdev Singh Libra** passed away. He was the member of the **14th and 15th Lok Sabhas**.

ii. In 1985, he became MLA(Member of the Legislative Assembly) from Khanna in Ludhiana. He was a member of **Rajya Sabha from 1998-2004**. He contested from Fatehgarh Sahib and Ropar parliamentary constituencies.



## Actor, Kathak Dancer Veeru Krishnan Passes Away

i. Actor and Kathak dancer **Veeru Krishnan** passed away. He was best known for his work in films like Raja Hindustani, Dulhe Raja, Akele Hum Akele Tum among others. He was trained several actresses in dance over the years.

### Freedom fighter Heeralal Sharma passes away

i. Rajasthan born freedom fighter of India **Heeralal Sharma** has passed away at the age of 95. He took an active part in the freedom struggle and was jailed for two years.

### Former A.P. Assembly Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao passes away

i. Former speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly **Kodela Siva Prasada Rao** passed away. He was a **6-time MLA** elected to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. He served as the **Speaker** of Andhra Pradesh Assembly from **2014 to 2019**. He also served as a minister in the NT Rama Rao and Chandrababu Naidu governments of Andhra Pradesh.

### Veteran American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Robert S Boyd passes away

i. Noted American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner **Robert Skinner Boyd** passed away.

ii. He shared a **1973 Pulitzer Prize** with colleague Clark Hoyt for coverage of Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton's exit from the campaign due to mental health issues.

iii. He worked as the Washington bureau chief of Knight Ridder for 20 years, once the nation's 2nd -largest newspaper chain with properties like **The Philadelphia Inquirer** and **Miami Herald**.



### Famous filmmaker Shyam Ramsay passes away

i. Bollywood's famous horror film producer **Shyam Ramsay** passed away. He helmed horror movies like Andhera (1975), Saboot (1980), Purana Mandir (1984), Purani Haveli (1989), Dhund: The Fog (2003), Koi Hai (2017). He pioneered the horror genre on Indian television too, giving us the first horror series- The Zee Horror Show which ran from 1993 to 2001.



### 4-time Emmy Award winner J. Michael Mendel passes away

i. American television producer & a four-time Emmy Award winner **J. Michael Mendel** passed away.

ii. He won three Emmys in 1995, 1997, and 1998 for "Lisa's Wedding", "Homer's Phobia", and "Trash of the Titans".

iii. He joined Rick and Morty in 2013, where he won his 4th Emmy Award for the episode "Pickle Rick" in 2018.



### Former French President Jacques Chirac passes away

i. Former French President **Jacques Chirac** passed away. He was two-term French president (1995-2007) who was the first leader to acknowledge France's role in the Holocaust and defiantly opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. He also served as the Prime Minister of France.

### The Owner of Britannia & Co Boman Rashid Kohinoor passes away

i. **Boman Rashid Kohinoor**, senior partner at the iconic Britannia & Co restaurant (Mumbai) passed away. Boman Kohinoor's father Rashid Kohinoor, a Zoroastrian immigrant from Iran started this restaurant on the south Mumbai, in the year 1923.

### Veteran actor Viju Khote best known as Kalia from Sholay passes away

i. Veteran Bollywood actor **Viju Khote** passed away. The actor best is remembered for his role as Kalia in the cult classic **Sholay**. He worked in over 300 Hindi and Marathi films. He has been working in film since 1964. Apart from Sholay, he was remembered for his roles in films like Andaz Apna Apna, in which he starred as Robert.





# Important Days with theme

## International Day of Charity: 5 September

i. The **United Nations** observes **5 September** every year as **International Day of Charity** with the objective of sensitizing and mobilizing people, NGOs, and stakeholders all around the world to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.

ii. The date of 5 September was chosen to commemorate the **anniversary** of the passing away of **Mother Teresa**. She also received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 “for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitute a threat to peace.”



## International Literacy Day: 08th September

i. **International Literacy Day** celebrated annually on **8 September**. It is an opportunity for Governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ii. The Theme of International Literacy Day 2019 is **Literacy and Multilingualism**.



## Hindi Diwas celebrated on 14 September

i. **Hindi Diwas** is observed every year on **14 September** to mark the **popularity of Hindi** as an official language of India. On the occasion, **International Hindi Conference** was also organised by World Hindi Council in **New Delhi**.

ii. Hindi lovers from 6 countries including Mauritius, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka attended the International Hindi Conference.

## International Day of Democracy: 15 September

i. The **United Nations** observes **15 September** every year as **International Day of Democracy**. It is an opportunity to urge all governments to respect their citizens' right to active, substantive and meaningful participation in democracy and to recall that democracy is about people.

ii. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights.



## Do You Know-

- **Theme** of International Day of Democracy 2019: **Participation**.
- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945.
- Secretary General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.

## International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

i. The **United Nations** observes **16 September** every year as **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**. The ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun and thus help in preserving life on the planet.

ii. The theme for this year celebrates over **three decades** of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the **Montreal Protocol**.

iii. The Montreal Protocol has led to the phase-out of 99 per cent of ozone-depleting





chemicals in refrigerators, air-conditioners and many other products.

### **Do You Know-**

- **Theme of the day for 2019: 32 Years and Healing.**

### **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: 26 September**

- i. The **United Nations** observes **26 September** every year as the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**.
- ii. The day provides an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a priority.
- iii. It provides an opportunity to educate the public – and their leaders – about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.



### **World Maritime Day: 26 September**

- i. The **United Nations** observes **26 September** every year as the **World Maritime Day**. This year the **theme** for the day is: **Empowering women in the maritime community**.
- ii. The theme for this year's World Maritime Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and to highlight the important yet under-utilized contribution of women within the maritime sector.



### **International Day of Peace 21 September**

- i. Each year the **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on **21 September**. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.
- ii. The theme for International Day of Peace 2019 is **"Climate Action for Peace"**. The theme draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.



### **World Tourism Day: 27 September**

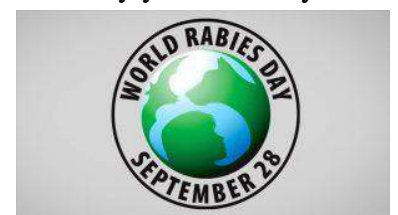
- i. The **United Nations** observes **27 September** every year as **World Tourism Day**. The **UN World Tourism Organization** expects that tourism will continue to grow at an average of **3%** annually until **2030**.
- ii. The sector also represents an estimated **10%** of the world's GDP and **1 in 10 jobs** globally.
- iii. **UN World Tourism Organization** organizes the special event every year on the occasion of World Tourism Day, and this year it will be held in **New Delhi, India**.



- **Theme for 2019: Tourism and Jobs: A Better Future For All.**

### **World Rabies Day: 28 September**

- i. The **World Health Organization** observes **World Rabies Day** on **28 September** every year. The day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
- ii. The day also marks the **anniversary** of **Louis Pasteur's** death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.



## Do You Know-

- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.

### World Heart Day 2019 observed on September 29

**i. World Heart Day (WHD)** was observed annually on **29 September** across the world. The day which is celebrated annually creates awareness of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) including heart disease & stroke and highlights the preventive and control measures.

**ii.** It was launched in 2000 by the World Heart Federation as an annual event. The theme for the World Heart Day 2019 is **“My Heart, Your Heart”**.

