

# Current Affairs

(English)

For

All Upcoming Competitive Exam - 2019



**Bank**  
**(SBI/IBPS/RRB),**  
**SSC, Railway, POST,**  
**Insurance, RBI**

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI)** ongoing excavation of 4,000-year-old **burial sites** in **Uttar Pradesh's Sanauli** has unearthed underground **sacred chamber**, decorated legged coffins as well as **rice** and **dal** in pots and animal bones buried with the bodies.
- ❖ The **Union Environment Ministry** has constituted a committee to implement the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by **20%-30%** in at least **102 cities** by **2024**.
  - ✓ The committee will be **chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry** and has members from **Ministry of Power, the Energy Resources Institute (TERI), and Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K)**.
- ❖ The **Home Ministry** has ordered for advance release of financial assistance of **1086 crore rupees** for **four states** to assist them in undertaking preventive and relief measures in response to cyclonic storm **FANI**.
  - ✓ Based on the decision of **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)**, the amount will be released to their **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**.
  - ✓ Around 200 crore rupees for Andhra Pradesh, over 340 crore for Odisha, 309 crore for Tamil Nadu and 235 crore rupees for West Bengal have been sanctioned.
    - The name of the cyclone fani (pronounced as Foni) was suggested by **Bangladesh**. It means 'snake' or 'hood of snake'.
- ❖ **Union Government** and **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi)** have signed Memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) to set up **Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies**. It was signed by Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (**PSA**) of Union and IIT Delhi to commemorate the **150<sup>th</sup>** birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**. It aims to bring best of science and technology to implement waste management.
  - ✓ It will implement sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management, through validation and deployment of available technologies for transformation of waste to wealth.
- ❖ Vice President **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** released **postage stamp** in **New Delhi** to commemorate **750<sup>th</sup>** birth anniversary of **Sri Vedanta Desikan** and his great philosopher's life and highly valued work.
- ❖ The **Central government** has instructed all **state transport departments** to mandate **green number plates** on all types of electric, whether brand new or used. The reason behind this move is to distinguish green vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones, and concessional toll.
- ❖ A **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, (Information Technology) **CSC (Common Services Centre)**, **e-Governance Services India Limited**, has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Kanpur** to upscale '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**'. '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** project' is being led by **Dr. Reeta Singh**, from IIT Kanpur.
  - ✓ '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**' is the programme of the **HRD (Human Resource Development)** Ministry which is working towards achieving solutions for increasing **sustainable growth in rural India**.
- ❖ **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**, under **Ministry of Finance** is organising a meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of **World Customs Organisation (WCO)** in **Kochi (Kerala)**.
  - ✓ **Kerala: Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **Chief minister:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** Palanisamy Sathasivam.
  - ✓ **WCO: Headquarter:** Brussels, Belgium,  
**Secretary General:** Kunio Mikuriya.
- ❖ **India** was organized a **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** Ministerial meeting of developing countries in **New Delhi**. The aim is to discuss various challenges being faced by **multilateral rules-based-trading system**.
  - ✓ The meeting was hosted by **Mr Suresh Prabhu**, Commerce and Industry Minister of India.
  - ✓ **WTO: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Founded:** 1 January 1995, **Director-General:** Roberto Azevedo.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has undertaken a project to create DNA Profiles of all **rhinos** present in India. The project which would formally be underway by end of 2019 is set to be completed by **2021** (project's deadline).
  - ✓ About: After the completion of project, Indian rhino could become **India's first wild animal species** to have all its members DNA-sequenced. The database so collected will be hosted in **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** headquarters in **Dehradun**.

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- ❖ **The Government of India** has now implemented Project '**SPARROW-CBIC**' for online writing of **Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR)** in SPARROW, for over 46,000 Group 'B' and Group 'C' Officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) working in its various formations all across India. The term SPARROW stands for '**Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window**'.
  - ✓ This Project leverages modern technology for enhancing the overall efficiency and morale of the huge workforce working in Central GST and Customs formations of CBIC. It is an important milestone in the journey towards digitisation and paper less working.
- ❖ **India** has recently joined a major global initiative called '**Christchurch call to action**' to combat extremism and **terrorism online** and make **internet a safe and secure place**. It was signed by a group of governments and major tech companies at a summit in **Paris**.
  - ✓ The declaration on Christchurch call to action said a free, open and secure internet is a powerful tool by which to promote connectivity, enhance social inclusiveness and foster economic growth.
- ❖ **The Union Government** has issued a **drought advisory** to six southern and western states and has asked them to use water judiciously. This was issued amid rising concern of water storage in dams of states which dropped to a **critical level**.
  - ✓ The drought advisory is issued to states when water level in reservoirs is about 20% less than the average of live water storage figures of past 10 years.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has laid out its plans to introduce **artificial intelligence (AI)** system in its **MCA 21 portal**. MCA 21 system was started in **2006**.
  - ✓ MCA 21 is the electronic backbone for dissemination of information to all stakeholders, including the regulator, corporates and investors. All filings under the companies law are submitted to the ministry through this portal.
    - The first phase of the e-governance initiative of the ministry was implemented by Tata Consultancy Services and the second phase is being implemented by Infosys for the period from January 2013-July 2021.
- ❖ A **High-Level Committee** constituted by **Centre** has submitted its recommendations to **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** on bringing down India's dependence on **crude oil imports**.
  - ✓ The High-Level Committee constituted by the Centre consisted of **Dr Anil Kakodkar**, an eminent Scientist and **Sidharth Pradhan**, an expert on **financial and tax issues**.
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**) has decided to merge the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** and the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** into **National Statistical Office (NSO)** in a major restructuring move.
  - ✓ **Objective:** of restructuring is to strengthen and streamline the present nodal functions of ministry and to bring in more synergy by integrating its administrative functions within ministry.
- ❖ **India** has been elected to the Executive Board of **first United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)** Assembly.
  - ✓ The India's election was made at the ongoing Plenary Session of Assembly which is being held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in **Nairobi, Kenya**.
  - ✓ UN Habitat:
    - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for **human settlements and sustainable urban development**.
    - It was established in **1978** as an outcome of the First UN Conference on Human Settlements and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat I) held in Vancouver, Canada in 1976.
- ❖ **India** has invited the leaders of **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** Member States for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
  - ✓ **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** leader **Narendra Modi** was sworn in as **15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister** for a second five-year term. He was administered oath of Office and Secrecy President **Ram Nath Kovind** at ceremony held at courtyard of **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
  - ✓ **BIMSTEC: Secretariat:** Dhaka,  
**Establishment:** 6 June 1997.
- ❖ **The 5<sup>th</sup> Smart Cities India 2019 expo**, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated by **Durga Shanker Mishra**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, at the **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
  - ✓ It was organised by **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** and **Exhibitions India Group**.

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## Preparation of All Upcoming SBI, Govt. Banks & Insurance Exam Under a **Single Admission**

2019માં Govt. Banksમાં જાહેર થનાર **45000**થી વધારે જગ્યાઓ

**Govt. Jobs**

**2035<sup>+</sup>**

**SBI/IBPS/  
RRB(PO-Clerk)  
Selections**

**New Demo Class  
Start From  
Every Monday**

**Admission  
Open for**

**2019/20**

**IBPS** PO  
CLERK

**IBPS - SO**

**SBI** PO  
CLERK

**SBI - SO**

**RRB** PO  
CLERK

**RRB - SO**

**INSURANCE**  
(LIC/NICL/UIIC/NIACL/OICL)

AAO  
ASSISTANT

**RBI** ASSISTANT  
GRADE-B

**: Class Time :**

8 to 10

10 to 12

4 to 6

6 to 8



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- ❖ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and National Physical Laboratory**, (CSIR-NPL) introduced redefined International System of Units for the country. The redefined systems are Kilogram, Kelvin, Mole and Ampere.
  - ✓ A resolution to redefine **four** of the **seven** base units was passed by representatives of 60 countries at the **General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM)** of the **International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)**, **Paris** on November 16 last year.
- ❖ The **National Green Tribunal**, NGT, has directed the government to **ban water purifiers** where **total dissolved solids (TDS)** in water are below 500 mg per litre.
  - ✓ A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice **Adarsh Kumar Goel** passed the order after perusing a report of a committee formed by it.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ Japan's new emperor, **Naruhito**, has formally ascended to the **Chrysanthemum Throne** (world's oldest surviving hereditary monarchy), replacing his father, **Akihito**, who had abdicated in 2019.
  - ✓ Naruhito became the **126<sup>th</sup> Emperor of Japan**. The abdication by **Akihito**, is the **first** in more than 200 years.
  - ✓ With the end of the reign of Akihito, the '**Heisei**' era has ended, and with the ascension the new '**Reiwa**' era has begun in Japan.
- ❖ The **1267** Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the **United Nations Security Council** on May 1, 2019 designated Pakistan's Jaish-e-Mohammad (**JeM**) chief **Masood Azhar** as a **Global Terrorist**.
- ❖ The UK (**United Kingdom**) **Parliament** becomes the **first** national government to pass an exemplary measure, that is, a national declaration of an **Environment and Climate Emergency**. This move marks a serious emergency in dealing with climate change.
- ❖ According to data from **Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics**, **Iraq** for the second year in row has become India's top **crude oil supplier**.
  - ✓ It accounted for than fifth of India's oil needs in 2018-19 fiscal year from India. **Saudi Arabia**: It was traditionally **India's top oil source**, but for the first time dethroned by Iraq in 2017-18 fiscal year. **Iran**: It was the **third largest crude oil supplier to India**. **UAE**: It was **fourth-largest** crude supplier. **Venezuela**: It was **fifth** largest supplier.
- ❖ Russia President **Vladimir Putin** signed into law **sovereign internet bill** which will allow Russian authorities to **isolate** or **firewall country's internet**. The new law is named as The **Digital Economy National Programme**. Its text was published recently and will come into effect from **November 2019**.
  - ✓ It is aimed at isolating or firewalling Russia's internet (**Runet**) from rest of the world to ensure it could remain available and secure in event of **cyber-attack** or **other incident**.
  - ✓ **Russia: Capital**: Moscow, **Currency**: Russian ruble.
- ❖ According to **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2019** report, **India** saw an "**overall deterioration of religious freedom conditions in 2018**". US Commission on International Religious Freedom is a bipartisan, independent federal government commission, created by **International Religious Freedom Act of 1998**.
- ❖ The **14<sup>th</sup>** edition of the annual **Sino-Indian border trade** opened at **Nathu La** in **Sikkim**, the frontier post at Sino-Indian border in Sikkim. To mark the commencement of border trade, officials and traders of both countries (**India and China**) were present at the border.
- ❖ **Asia Cooperation Dialogue's (ACD) 16<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting** was held in **Doha, Qatar**. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani** headed the **2019 dialogue**. The Indian delegation was led by Gen. (Dr) **V.K. Singh (Retd)**, Minister of State for External Affairs.
  - ✓ **Qatar: Capital**: Doha, **Currency**: Qatari Riyal.
- ❖ **India** has been re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum **Arctic Council**.
  - ✓ The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states, the region's indigenous communities and other inhabitants on common issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection. The **11<sup>th</sup> Arctic Council ministerial** meeting held at Rovaniemi in **Finland**.
    - Arctic Council: It was **established** in 1996 by **Ottawa Declaration**, **Headquarter**: Tromso, in Norway.
- ❖ The **5<sup>th</sup>** United Nations (**UN**) **Global Road Safety Week** is being held from **6 May to 12 May 2019**. The **theme** for weekly event in 2019 is "**Leadership for road safety**".
  - ✓ During the on-going global road safety week WHO released "**Global Status Report on Road Safety**".



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- ✓ **WHO: Formation:** 7 April 1948, **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director-General:** Tedros Adhanom.
- ❖ Vice President of India **M. Venkaiah Naidu** commenced his four-day official visit to **Vietnam**.
  - ✓ **Vietnam: Capital:** Hanoi, **Currency:** Dong.
- ❖ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has partnered with **International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA)** to achieve its target under '**REPLACE Strategy**' of eliminating **Trans-fat** from industrially produced global food supply by **2023**.
- ❖ **Republic of Ireland** has become only the **2<sup>nd</sup>** country in **world** to declare a **climate emergency**. Earlier on 1 May 2019, **Britain's parliament** became the **first** in world to declare a climate emergency.
  - ✓ **Ireland: Capital:** Dublin, **Currency:** Euro.
- ❖ Except the **United States**, about **180 governments**, agreed to the deal which essentially updates (or amended) the **1989 Basel Convention** on the **Control Of Hazardous Wastes**, to include **plastic waste** in a legally-binding framework, in a move to quickly reduce amount of **plastic** being washed into **world's oceans**.
- ❖ Chief of Naval Operations of **US Navy**, Admiral **John Michael Richardson** is on a three day official tour to **India**. The tour is scheduled from 12 to 14 May 2019 and during his visit he was meet Indian Navy's Chief of Naval Staff Admiral **Sunil Lanba** in New Delhi.
- ❖ **India** was unanimously chosen by member countries as next **co-chair of Consultative Group (CG)** of **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)** for fiscal year **2020**. This decision was taken during Consultative Group meeting of **GFDRR 2019** held from 13 May- 17 May in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- ❖ The **Global Drugs Survey**, a survey of **recreational drug-use** for the **first time** polled respondents from **India**. It found that more than any other nationalities, Indians are seeking help to reduce their alcohol intake which reflects awareness of abuse. GDS 2019 is the **8<sup>th</sup> annual report published** by the organisation.
  - ✓ **Global Drug Survey (GDS):** It is an independent research organisation based in London, United Kingdom (**UK**). It runs the largest global survey on recreational drug-use.
- ❖ The **joint meetings** of three conventions on chemicals and waste namely **Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions** was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
  - ✓ About: The **14<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (COP)** to **Basel Convention (COP 14)** was held along with the **9<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the COP to **Rotterdam Convention** and the **9<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the **COP to Stockholm Convention** in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
  - ✓ Theme of 2019 meetings was- "**Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste**".
- ❖ The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** launched '**Golden Card**' **Permanent Residency Scheme** in an attempt to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents from all over the world.
  - ✓ The "Golden Card" visa includes categories:
    - General investors who will be granted a 10 year permanent residency visas .
    - Real Estate Investors, who can get a visa for 5 year visa.
    - Entrepreneurs and Talented Professionals like doctors, researchers and innovators can get 10 years visa.
    - 'Outstanding students'. These will also be permitted 5 years permanent residency visas.
- ❖ The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** Council of **Foreign Ministers** was held in **Kyrgyzstan** capital **Bishkek**. It was attended by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**.
  - ✓ Objective: The SCO CFM meeting in Bishkek reviewed the preparations for forthcoming SCO Summit which is scheduled to be held in Bishkek on **13-14 June 2019**.
- ❖ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared **Algeria** and **Argentina** as '**Malaria-Free**' countries after no cases of indigenous transmission of disease were recorded.
  - ✓ **Algeria Capital:** Algiers, **Currency:** Dinar.
  - ✓ **Argentina Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** peso.
- ❖ According to a recent report released by **United Nation's (UN) International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Companies that improve **gender diversity** especially at top perform better and rake in higher profits.
- ❖ **India** stands in a lowly **117<sup>th</sup>** position out of **181 countries** in the **Kids Right Index**. It is an annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to **improve child rights**.
  - ✓ **Iceland** secured the **top** position in the index followed by **Portugal**.



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- ❖ The **11<sup>th</sup> Joint Consular Committee** meeting between **India** and **Iran** took place in **New Delhi**.
  - ✓ Both sides discussed the early conclusion of Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance on civil and commercial matters and extending the longer duration of e-Visa for each other nationals on reciprocity.
- ❖ **UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group** on Antimicrobial Resistance, if no action is taken, by 2050, **drug-resistant diseases** could cause 10 million deaths every year which would in turn cause damage to the economy much like the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. The title of the report is "**No Time to Wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections**".

## STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The architectural heritage of **Orchha town** which is one of the prime tourist draws in **Madhya Pradesh** has been included in tentative list of **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's** (UNESCO's) World Heritage Sites.
  - ✓ The Orcha town was included in tentative list of cultural heritage following a proposal sent by the **Archaeological Survey of India** (ASI) to the United Nations body on 15 April 2019. As per the rules, for any heritage or any historical site to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites (WHS) it has first to be included on tentative list.
  - ✓ **Madhya Pradesh: Capital:** Bhopal, **Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ The **Meghalaya Cabinet** approved the proposal for the creation of a new **Directorate of Dairy Development** to boost the **milk production**.
  - ✓ **Meghalaya: Capital:** Shillong, **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma, **Governor:** Tathagata Roy.
- ❖ **Geological Survey of India** (GSI) **North Eastern Region** (NER) has installed two geological display boards at important geological sites **Mawmluh cave** and **Therriaghat**, Sobhar in East Khasi Hill District, Meghalaya. The purpose of these boards with geo-scientific information is to **create awareness** among visiting **tourists and general public**.
- ❖ Mangaluru Police Commissioner **Sandeep Patil** flagged off the **all-women police patrol** unit named '**Rani Abbakka Force**' in the city to handle issues pertaining to **Women and Children**.
- ❖ The scientists from Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR)-**Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology** in **Hyderabad**, for the **first time** sequenced the entire genome of **Asiatic lion**.
  - ✓ The population of the endangered Asiatic lion is very low - only 523 animals are present in the Gir forests. The **genome sequencing** would enable scientists to develop specific markers to study population genetics and get newer insights into its population status and subsequent management.
- ❖ **Lecanorchis taiwaniana** (The parasitic bloom), a type of **orchid** was accidentally discovered in **Assam** by Assam's forest officer named **Jatindra Sarma**.
  - ✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ The **Geological Survey of India** (GSI) in its report revealed that about **35 %** of India's total **Graphite reserves** is found in **Arunachal Pradesh**. This is the highest found in country.
  - ✓ **GSI: Formed:** 1851, **Headquarter:** Kolkata.
  - ✓ **Arunachal Pradesh: Capital:** Itanagar, **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu, **Governor:** B.D. Mishra.
- ❖ The **Kerala Legislative Assembly** recently announced an initiative to **digitize** all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called **E-Vidhan** which enables state legislature to go fully **digital** and **completely paperless**.
  - ✓ **Kerala: Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **Chief Minister:** Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** P. Sathasivam.
- ❖ A **tripartite** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between **National Mission for Clean Ganga** (NMCG), The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (**INTACH**) and **HCL Foundation** for plantation of 10,000 **Rudraksh trees** in catchment area of river Ganga Basin in **Uttarakhand**.
- ❖ The **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha** (SKM) leader **Prem Singh Tamang**, better known as **PS Golay** was recently sworn in as Chief Minister of **Sikkim**.

## ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ The **Securities and Exchange Board of India** (SEBI) has **barred** the **National Stock Exchange** (NSE) from raising money from the securities market directly or indirectly for **six months**.
  - ✓ According to SEBI, NSE officials provided high frequency traders' unfair access through **co-location servers** placed at the site of exchange, which could speed up algorithmic trading leading to front-running.
  - ✓ **SEBI: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Ajay Tyagi.



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- ✓ **NSE: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD/CEO:** Vikram Limaye.
- ❖ **Bharti AXA General Insurance**, the **first company** in the domestic **non-life insurance** industry has collaborated with web aggregator, **Wishfin Insurance** to sell 2-wheeler policies via social media messaging platform, **WhatsApp**.
- ❖ India's **GDP growth** projection for 2019-20 lowered to **7.3 percent** by India Ratings and Research, a **Fitch Group** company, The earlier projected GDP growth was **7.5 percent**.
- ❖ **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has appointed chartered accountant **M Jaysree Vyas** as its **first** independent woman director to the board.
  - ✓ **BSE: Headquarter:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, **Chairman:** S. Ravi.
- ❖ As a part of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**, **LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL)** in association with **Lok Bharti Education Society** has unveiled a skilling centre named "**UDYAM**" in **Bangalore**, which will provide skill development training to marginalized youth in the sectors of **BFSI, Retail** and **IT/ITES**.
- ❖ The **Netherlands**, a country in **north-western Europe**, became the **3<sup>rd</sup>** largest source of **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in India during 2017-18, with an investment of **USD 2.67 billion** across all sectors. **Mauritius** and **Singapore** are the **top two** countries for FDI in India during 2017-18 with an investment of **USD 13.41 billion** and **USD 9.27 billion** respectively.
  - ✓ **Netherland: Capital:** Amsterdam, **Currency:** Euro, United States Dollar.
- ❖ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** launched **5\$ billion** Action Plan for **Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies** for the **Asia and Pacific region**. This will support ADB's developing member countries' efforts for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, inclusive of the **SDG 14: Life Below Water**.
  - ✓ Healthy Oceans Action Plan will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from year 2019 to 2024.
  - ✓ **ADB Headquarter:** Mandaluyong, Philippines, **President:** Takehiko Nakao, **Membership:** 68 countries.
- ❖ The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** has brought relaxation in the **income tax** rules related to residential properties' sale and carry-forward of losses, in order to facilitate fund raising by **start-ups**.
  - ✓ The relaxation laws are part of the '**Startup India Vision 2024**' that's been prepared by the DPIIT.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a **vision document** to ensure a more convenient, affordable, quick, safer and secure e-payment system. The RBI's vision document is titled '**Payment And Settlement Systems In India: Vision 2019 – 2021**'. Theme of Vision Document: **Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience**.
  - ✓ Objective: It envisages achieving "a highly digital and cash-lite society". To achieve its objective the goal posts of RBI involves 4Cs, namely convenience, confidence, competition and cost-effectiveness.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** appointed committee on '**suggestions on promoting digital payment**' has submitted its report to RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**. The committee was headed by **Nandan Nilekani**, also known as **Aadhaar Architect**.
- ❖ According to a **United Nations**' report titled **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Report 2019** Mid-year Update, India's economy is projected to grow at **7.1 %** in **fiscal year 2020** which will be backed by strong domestic **consumption and investment**.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a draft circular titled '**Liquidity Risk Management Framework for NBFCs and Core Investment Companies (CICs)**'. RBI after analysing recent developments in NBFC sector proposed a set of guidelines for large Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to help them deal with severe liquidity problems and to prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis.
- ❖ **PV Bharathi**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the **Corporation Bank** has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a product for GST-registered **MSMEs**.
  - ✓ The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the **MSME sector**.
- ❖ Multilateral funding agency **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement to provide **\$750 million** long-term financing to **electrify railway tracks** in India.
  - ✓ It is the largest single **non-sovereign loan** ever committed by ADB to **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** to fund the railways track electrification project.
- ❖ The **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB)** celebrated its **debut Masala Bond** listing on the **London Stock Exchange** with a special market open ceremony.
  - ✓ Kerala is the **first Indian state** to tap into the market for **masala bonds**.



## CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ DD-Kashir launched the Kashmiri version of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' at the Doordarshan Kendra's Srinagar Studios. The show is named, 'Kus Bani Koshur Karorpaet'.
- ❖ The **Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **WAPCOS Limited**, a mini-ratna PSU under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
  - ✓ The objective is to jointly recognize suitable future projects and carry out geo-technical investigation and engineering consultancy in the fields like water resources, power and infrastructure, port and harbour dredging.
- ❖ A report titled 'Cyber Insurance in India- Mitigating Risks amid Changing Regulations and Uncertainties' by Data Security Council of India (DSCI) stated that **cyber insurance market** is gradually gaining momentum in India as **cyber-theft has increased** substantially to become one of the most prominent threats to the **corporates' operations**.
- ❖ Life insurance company, **MetLife** has been named in **Forbes' inaugural Blockchain 50 List** for its Vitana experiment, world's first, **automated insurance solution** using blockchain technology was launched in August 2019 by **LumenLab, MetLife's Asia innovation center** in Singapore.
  - ✓ Forbe's blockchain list the first-ever ranking of the top 50 organizations that are leading the pack in regard to adapting decentralized ledgers to their business.
- ❖ **Wipro Consumer Care** announced that it is **acquiring** personal care company '**Splash**', which is based in the Philippines.
  - ✓ Splash, the largest personal care player in the Philippines, recorded revenues worth \$80 million in 2018.
- ❖ **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** and **Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)** have together signed an MoU (**Memorandum of Understanding**) for effective cooperation on different projects related to e-mobility and implement solutions for electric & trolley bus, EV (**Electric Vehicles**) chargers, battery and charger testing, etc.
- ❖ **India** and **Nepal** have inked a deal on procurement of **demu train** that operates on **diesel**. The contract agreement was signed between **India's Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd** and **Nepal's Department of Railways** to supply two 1600 HP **Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU)** train sets.
- ❖ **Facebook** has set up a new financial technology company '**Libra Networks**', in **Switzerland** focusing on **blockchain** and **payments** as well as data analytics and investing.
- ❖ IT industry body, **The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** has entered a strategic partnership with GE Healthcare. The objective is to bring **digital healthcare solutions** to the market. NASSCOM has announced this partnership through its **Centre of Excellence-Internet of Things (CoE-IoT)**.
  - ✓ **NASSCOM: Headquarter:** Noida, U.P, **Chairman:** Keshav R. Murugesh.

## DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ **India** was the world's **4<sup>th</sup>** biggest military spender in **2018** behind the **United States, China, and Saudi Arabia**, according to new data think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**. India was the **5<sup>th</sup>** largest military spender in 2017.
  - ✓ According to the SIPRI data, China was the **2<sup>nd</sup>**-largest military spender in 2018. India accounts for 3.7% of the global defence spending.
- ❖ The **Defence Ministry** has awarded a contract of worth **Rs 6,311 crore** to **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** to build **8** anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (**ASWSWC**) for the **Indian Navy**.
  - ✓ As per the agreement, the first ship is to be delivered within 42 months from the date of signing of the contract and subsequently, two ships are required to be delivered per year.
- ❖ The **2019 Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR)** is taking place from 20 May to 28 May 2019. This is the **8<sup>th</sup>** edition of **coordinated patrol (CORPAT)** at **Andaman and Nicobar Command** between **India** and **Myanmar**.
- ❖ **India** for the **first time** will host the '**Army scouts masters competition**'. The event is scheduled to be held between end of July to mid-August 2019, in Jaisalmer City, **Rajasthan**.
  - ✓ The **Army Scouts Masters Competition** is a part of International Army Games steered by **Russia**. This is the **5<sup>th</sup>** edition of International Army games. India will be a co-host of **Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019**.
- ❖ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** was formally handed over its first **AH-64E (I)-Apache Guardian helicopter** at the Boeing production facility in **Mesa, Arizona, USA**. The first batch of about four-six Apache helicopters will be delivered to India in July 2019.



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- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, an agency under **Ministry of Defence** conducted successful flight test of '**ABHYAS**', a **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)**. The test was conducted from **Interim Test Range (ITR)**, at **Balasore in Chandipur, Odisha**.
- ❖ **India** recently handed over two **Mi-24** attack helicopters to **Afghanistan**. The helicopters were formally handed over by Indian Ambassador to the acting Minister of **National Defence of Afghanistan** at **Kabul Air Force base**.
- ❖ After the completion of naval exercise **International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX-19)** recently, the Kolkata Class Destroyers Indian Naval ships namely **INS Kolkata** and **INS Shakti** are participating in **SIMBEX-2019**.
- ❖ **Pakistan** has successfully test-fired a land-based ballistic missile named '**Shaheen-II**'. The impact point of missile was in the **Arabian Sea**.
- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, under **Ministry of Defence** has successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb from **Su-30 MKI Aircraft** from **Pokhran test range in Rajasthan**.
- ❖ The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired **Akash-1S surface to air defence missile** system from **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in **Balasore** off the **Odisha** coast.
- ❖ Three women officers of the **Indian Air Force** made history as they became the country's **first 'All Women Crew'** to fly a **Medium Lift Helicopter**. They flew a **Mi-17 V5 helicopter** for a Battle Inoculation Training mission.
  - ✓ Flight Lt **Parul Bhardwaj** (Captain), Flying Officer **Aman Nidhi** (Co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant **Hina Jaiswal** (Flight Engineer).
- ❖ Scripting history, Flight Lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** became the **first woman pilot** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to qualify to undertake combat missions on a **fighter jet**.
- ❖ **Aarohi Pandit**, has become the **world's first female pilot** to fly solo across the **Atlantic Ocean** in a **Light Sport Aircraft (LSA)**.
- ❖ The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully fired aerial version of supersonic **BrahMos cruise missile** from a **Su-30 MKI** fighter aircraft.
  - ✓ The 2.5 tonne **air-to-surface** missile has a range of around 300 km, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ The **Directorate of Indian Defence University (IDU)** is organizing a two day workshop on "**Space Warfare and Technology**" for senior and middle level officers from the three Services at the **Purple Bay, India Gate Circle, New Delhi**.
  - ✓ The workshop intends to cover Weaponisation and Militarisation of Space, preparation for Absorption of High-End Technology for Self-Sustenance in Space Operations, Space Innovations and Technology Exploitation, Inertial Navigation Systems and Sensors, legal aspects of military use of space, Building Capacity - Training, Human Resource and Research & Development, Adversarial Capability in Space Domain & Way Forward for Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ China launched two **Tianhui II-01** satellites from **Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre**, also known as Base 25. The purpose of the satellite is to perform scientific experiments, land resource and geographic survey, and mapping.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced that India's **2<sup>nd</sup>** lunar mission **Chandrayaan-2** will be launched between **9 and 16 July 2019**. It will be launched using India's most powerful rocket **GSLV-Mark**.
  - ✓ **Chandrayaan-2** will be India's **2<sup>nd</sup>** mission to moon, and first to attempt soft landing. It is follow-up mission to **Chandrayaan-1**, which launched in October 2008 and helped provide first confirmation of water (in form of hydroxyl ions) on moon in 2009.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will launch its latest radar imaging satellite **RISAT 2BR1** by end of May 2019. It will be launched on board **PSLV-C46** from first launchpad of Sriharikota spaceport in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- ❖ A **Japanese aerospace start-up Interstellar Technology Inc.** has successfully launched a first privately developed rocket '**Momo-3**' into space. The unmanned rocket launched from its test site in **Taiki** on the northern Japanese island of **Hokkaido**.
  - ✓ **Japan: Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese Yen.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman **Dr K. Sivan** inaugurated ISRO's **Young Scientist Programme** called '**Yuvika 2019**' at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (**SDSC**) SHAR, Sriharikota in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced its planned **seven mega missions** which will be conducted over a period of next **10 year**. The ISRO has also prepared a roadmap for next 30 years.
  - ✓ The seven mega missions include:



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- Chandrayaan-2, XPOsat (to study cosmic radiation in 2020) and Aditya-L1(to the Sun in 2021).
- Undefined Missions – which include missions which are still in planning stage namely Mangalyaan-2 (or Mars Orbiter Mission-2 in 2022), Lunar Polar Exploration (or Chandrayaan-3 in 2024), Venus mission (in 2023), Exoworlds (exploration outside the solar system in 2028).
- ❖ The **Indian Space Research Organisation's** (ISRO) new commercial arm called **New Space India Limited** (NSIL) was officially inaugurated in **Bengaluru**.
  - ✓ NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.
  - ✓ It will be responsible for manufacturing the and production of **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle** (SSLV) and **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** (PSLV) through **technology transfer mechanisms**.
- ❖ **SpaceX** launched a rocket carrying the **first 60 satellites** of its 'Starlink' constellation, from **Cape Canaveral, Florida** in US. The SpaceX's new array of Starlink communication satellites is intended to provide **Internet from space**.

## SPORTS

- ❖ **Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019** was held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, a total of 28 countries took part. Indian para cyclists won a **silver** and **two bronze** medals.
  - ✓ **Divij Shah** has clinched his third consecutive **silver medal**.
  - ✓ **Gurlal Singh** and **Sudhakar Marathe**, has claimed **bronze**.
  - ✓ **Uzbekistan: Capital:** Tashkent, **Currency:** Uzbekistani som.
- ❖ The annual **ICC rankings** were announced on May 2, 2019 and **India** managed to retain **top spot** in **Test Cricket** while **England** remained on **top** in **ODI**.
  - ✓ **ICC:Headquarter:** Dubai, **CEO:** Dave Richardson, **Chairperson:** Shashank Manohar.
- ❖ **Manchester City** and **England** forward, **Raheem Sterling** of was named as the **2019 footballer of the year** by the **Football Writers' Association** (FWA).
  - ✓ Sterling topped the poll of the 400-strong FWA membership as a clear winner, with 62 percent of the votes.
- ❖ India's **Apurvi Chandel** won gold in women's 10m Air Rifle at **ISSF World Cup Rifle** held in **Munich, Germany**.
  - ✓ **ISSF: Headquarter:** Munich, Germany, **President:** Vladimir Lisin.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's former captain **Kumar Sangakkara** will become **first Non-British** president of **Marylebone Cricket Club** (MCC).
- ❖ The **8<sup>th</sup>** edition **Asian Youth Women Handball Championship 2019** will be held in **Jaipur** from August 21 to 30. This is the **first** time Jaipur will host this prestigious tournament. Earlier in **2015, Delhi** hosted the event and finished at **7<sup>th</sup>** place. This event will be organised by **Asian Handball Federation** (AHF).
- ❖ World number one **Bajrang Punia** won the **gold medal** in the **Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament** in **Kaspiisk, Russia**.
- ❖ The inaugural issue of **world's first** exclusive women's cricket magazine '**Criczone**' was released here with Indian team vice-captain **Smriti Mandhana** featuring as the **cover story**.
- ❖ **Lewis Hamilton** won the Formula One **Spanish Grand Prix** at Circuit de Catalunya, in Barcelona and the Mercedes sealed its **5<sup>th</sup>** consecutive one-two finish.
- ❖ The World number one **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia beats **Stefanos Tsitsipas** of Greece to win **men's singles title** in **Madrid Open tennis**.
- ❖ **Kiki Bertens** of Netherlands beats **Simona Halep** of Romania in finals to win **women's singles title** in **Madrid Open tennis**.
- ❖ **Mumbai Indians** won **Indian Premier League** title by defeating **Chennai Super Kings** (CSK) in final at Hyderabad by 1 run.
  - ✓ **IPL Awards 2019:**
    - **David Warner** of Sunrisers Hyderabad won **Orange Cap** for most runs. He scored 692 runs.
    - **Imran Tahir** of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) won **Purple Cap** for taking most wickets. He was the highest wicket-taker in tournament with 26 wickets. Tahir also became the oldest player to feature in an IPL final and is only **2<sup>nd</sup>** spinner after **Pragyan Ojha** to win **Purple Cap**.
    - **Andre Russell** of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) was named **Most Valuable Player**. He also won the title of **Super Striker of the Season** for a strike rate of 204.81
    - **Shubman Gill** of KKR was named **Emerging Player** of the IPL Tournament.
    - **Hardik Pandya** of Mumbai Indians (MI) won **Fastest Fifty of Season**.



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- **Kieron Pollard** of MI won **Perfect Catch of the Season**.
- **Rahul Chahar** of MI was named **Game Changer** of the Season.
- **KL Rahul** of Kings XI Punjab was named **Stylish Player** of the Season.
- ❖ For the **first time** in world cup history, each participating team at upcoming **ICC World Cup 2019** will have a dedicated **anti-corruption** officer attached with it. The move is to deliver a **corruption-free tournament**.
  - ✓ About: The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** will attach an **anti-corruption** official to all the 10 participating teams. The officer will be with each team starting from warm-up matches till the end of World cup tournament.
- ❖ The **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has launched two new formats of badminton game namely, **AirBadminton** and **Triples**. In contrast to traditional competitive badminton which is an **indoor game** the Airbadminton is an **outdoor game**.
- ❖ The Czech Republic's **Karolina Pliskova** beats **United Kingdom (UK's) Johanna Konta** in finals and won women's singles title at **Women's Tennis Association's (WTA) Italian Open 2019**, held in **Rome**.
- ❖ In squash, India's **Mahesh Mungaonkar** triumphed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in the **Sekisui Open** in **Kriens, Switzerland**.
  - ✓ Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the **Professional Squash Association (PSA)**, the world body which governs the sports.
- ❖ **China** won the badminton world mixed-team championship, **Sudirman Cup 2019** in **Nanning, China**.
- ❖ **India** bags a total of **57 medals** including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at **India Open International Boxing tournament** in **Guwahati**.
  - ✓ MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.
- ❖ **South Korea** has **abandoned** its bid to stage **Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023**, leaving the sole other bidders **China** with a free run to become **hosts**.

## **AWARDS & HONOURS**

- ❖ Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer **Gaganjeet Bhullar** won the outstanding achievement as a player award at the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual **India Golf Industry Association (GIA)** awards at the **Delhi Golf Club**.
  - ✓ The GIA awards were held along with the **8<sup>th</sup> India Golf & Turf Expo (IGTE)**, South Asia's largest golf trade show.
- ❖ Former **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** chairman **A S Kiran Kumar** was awarded France's highest civilian honour '**Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur**' (or National Order of the Legion of Honour) by France's Ambassador to **India Alexandre Ziegler** on behalf of French President.
- ❖ India's most reputed cardiac surgeon and humanitarian, **Dr Devi Prasad Shetty** was awarded **27<sup>th</sup> P.C. Chandra Puraskar**, He is also known as '**The Man with Divine Hands**'.
- ❖ A 49-year-old veteran Nepali Sherpa named **Kami Rita** scaled **Mount Everest** for **23<sup>rd</sup> time**, breaking his own world record.
- ❖ **PCT Humanity**, a charity run by an Indian named **Joginder Singh Salaria** in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), sets a new **Guinness World Records** for '**Longest Line of Hunger Relief Package**' in **Abu Dhabi**.
- ❖ The Malawian soldier **Chancy Chitete** will be honoured with the **United Nation's (UN) highest peacekeeping award**, dubbed as "**Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage**".
- ❖ The **United States President Donald Trump** awarded **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, country's highest civilian honour to golfer **Tiger Woods**.
- ❖ The **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** conferred '**Sasakawa Award 2019**' for **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** to **Pramod Kumar Mishra**, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.
  - ✓ The award was announced during the **6<sup>th</sup> Session of 'Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction' (GPDRR) 2019**, which is being held at **Geneva, Switzerland**. The theme of the Sasakawa Award 2019 was '**Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies**'. Other winners of 2019 Sasakawa Award:
    - **Sidnei Furtado**, Director of Department of Civil Defence, Campinas, Brazil
    - **Bijal Brahmabhatt**, Director of the Mahila Housing SEWA Trust of India
- ❖ Former Indian Foreign Secretary **Shyam Saran** is selected for Japan's Second Highest National Award called '**The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star**'.
- ❖ The '**UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award**' was received by **Acharya Balkrishna**, Managing Director (MD,) of **Patanjali Ayurved Limited** on behalf of India's Patanjali Group of Institutions in **Geneva, Switzerland**.



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- ❖ Sri Lankan writer **Guy Gunaratne** was announced as the winner of 2019's Swansea University **International Dylan Thomas Prize**. He won the award for his debut novel '**In Our Mad and Furious City**'.
- ❖ Professor **Balram Bhargava**, Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) jointly won the **2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize** for Public Health at the **72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly** in **Geneva**, Switzerland.  
✓ He won the award for his achievements as an innovator, clinician, researcher and trainer.
- ❖ Artist **Nalini Malani** has won the **7<sup>th</sup>** edition of the **Joan Miro Prize**.
- ❖ An author from **Oman** has won the prestigious **Man Booker International Prize** for "**Celestial Bodies**".  
✓ It is the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
- ❖ **Sunny Pawar** wins '**Best Child Actor**' award for '**Chippa**' at the **5<sup>th</sup> DFW South Asian Film Festival** in **Dallas** (US).

## PERSON APPOINTED / RESIGNED

- ❖ Air Marshal **Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria** has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of **Indian Air Force** (IAF). He succeeded Air Marshal **Anil Khosla**.
- ❖ Serbia's **Dragan Mihailovic** has been appointed as the new head coach of the **Indian Men's Volleyball team** by the **Volleyball Federation of India** (VFI).
- ❖ Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform **Myntra** has appointed **Virat Kohli** and **Anushka Sharma** as its first ever official **brand ambassadors**.
- ❖ Former **Croatia** international Igor Stimac appointed **Indian men's football team coach**. His name was recommended by **All India Football Federation's** technical committee, headed by **Shyam Thapa**.
- ❖ The **United Nations** (UN) Secretary-General, **Antonio Guterres** appointed **17 global** figures which includes **China's Alibaba chief Jack Ma** and **Indian actress Dia Mirza** as the new Sustainable Development Goals (**SDG**) advocates.
- ❖ India's **G.S. Lakshmi** ha becomes **first woman** to be appointed to **International Cricket Council's** (ICC) International Panel of **Match Referee**.
- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge, Justice **A K Sikri** is appointed as the chairperson of **News Broadcasting Standards Authority** (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association (**NBA**) .
- ❖ Indian Army's Lieutenant General **Shailesh Tinaikar** was as appointed the new force commander of **UN Mission in South Sudan** (UNMISS) by UN Secretary General, **Antonio Guterres**.
- ❖ Papua New Guinea Prime Minister **Peter O'Neill** resigned from his post after weeks of unrest in the government.  
✓ **Capital:** Port Moresby, **Currency:** Papua New Guinean kina.
- ❖ British Prime Minister, **Theresa May** announced that she is quitting as **UK Conservative leader** on June 7 in the best interests of the country.
- ❖ **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** took oath as **new President of Ukraine**, announcing snap parliamentary elections at the same ceremony.  
✓ **Ukraine:** Capital: Kyiv, **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia.
- ❖ **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited** has appointed **Nitin Chugh** as its next **Managing Director** and **Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) from **December 1, 2019**.
- ❖ Jet Airways Chief Executive Officer **Vinay Dube** resigned from the company.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ Ambassador **Navdeep Suri** presented UAE Minister of Tolerance **Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan** with the coffee Table book on Architecture & Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The book, titled **Work of Beauty : Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan**, has been published by Publications Division , Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.  
✓ It was commissioned by President's Secretariat and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (**IGNCA**), Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



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- ❖ A biography of Indian nationalist, diplomat, and politician **V K Krishna Menon**, titled "**Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon**" has been written by Former union minister and writer **Jairam Ramesh**. This book will be released in the first quarter of 2020. This book will be published by Penguin Random House India.
- ❖ The "**Politics of Jagaad: The Coalition Handbook**" has been authored by journalist **Saba Naqvi**. In it, the author examined the possibility of a coalition government after 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It traces the history of political alliances in the country taking into account their performance on economic and social policies, among others. The book also makes a study of the Congress' "**tryst with dynasty**" with **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra** taking a plunge into active politics for the party helmed by her brother **Rahul Gandhi**.
- ❖ **Shahid Afridi**, former captain of the '**Pakistan national cricket team**' has written his autobiography titled, '**Game Changer**' which will unveil answers to the much-contemplated questions about him.

## OBITUARY

- ❖ United States sixth Circuit Judge, **Damon Jerome Keith**, a grandson of slaves passed away.
- ❖ Oscar-nominated '**Boyz N the Hood**' director **John Singleton** passes away.
- ❖ Veteran Kannada cinema, theatre actor as well as political satirist, Master **Hirannaiah** died in **Bengaluru**.
- ❖ **Pungam Kannan**, the former Indian footballer, has passed away at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ Former chief justice of the Kerala and Madras High Courts **B Subhashan Reddy** passed away.
- ❖ Actor **Peter Mayhew**, was well known for portraying Chewbacca the Wookiee in the Star Wars films, passed away.
- ❖ CPM leader and former finance minister, **V Viswanatha Menon** Passed away.
- ❖ The well-known Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee **Thopil Mohammed Meeran** passed away.
- ❖ The Nobel-winning physicist **Murray Gell-Mann**, died at the age of 89 in **New Mexico**.
- ❖ The former Formula One driver and three-time world champion **Niki Lauda** passed away.

## Days|Week|Year

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019:- **International Labour Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement.
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:- **World Password Day**.
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:- **World Tuna Day**.
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019:- **World Press Freedom Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation.
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019:- **National Space Day**.
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Laughter day**.
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Thalassaemia Day**.
- ❖ 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Red Cross Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** "#Love".
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Migratory Bird Day**.
- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **National Technology Day**.
- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **International Nurses Day**.
- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **The International Day of Families**.
- ❖ 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **The International Day of Light**.
- ❖ 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** Bridging the Standardization Gap.
- ❖ 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Hypertension Day**.  
✓ **Theme:-** Know Your Numbers.
- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **The World Metrology Day**.
- ❖ 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **The World Bee Day**.
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019:- **Anti-Terrorism Day**.
- ❖ 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019:- **The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**.




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- ❖ 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:- **The International Day for Biological Diversity.**
  - ✓ Theme:- Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health.
- ❖ 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **International Commonwealth Day.**
- ❖ 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **World Thyroid Day.**
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **International Everest Day.**
- ❖ 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019:- **The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.**
  - ✓ Theme:- Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace.
- ❖ 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019:- **World No Tobacco Day.**
  - ✓ Theme:- Tobacco and Lung Health.

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