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Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

India's biggest auction of CGD networks

On May 8, 2018, India launched the biggest auction of City Gas Distribution networks providing permits to companies for selling Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in 86 geographical areas. This is the 9th CGD licensing auction which is likely to attract investment worth Rs 70000 crore. The last day for bidding is July 10, 2018. Ahmednagar, Amethi, Alwar, Allahabad, Bhopal, Barmer, Burdwan, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Rai Bareilly and Salem are the name of the cities for which CGD licences are on offer. Companies with net worth of not less than Rs 150 crore can bid for cities with a population of 50 lakh and more, those worth Rs 100 crore net worth can bid for cities with 20 lakh to 50 lakh population and firms worth Rs 5 crore net worth can bid for cities that have less than 10 lakh population. The winning company will have 8 years of marketing exclusivity in the city, as against the current 5-year licence.

Artificial intelligence is on priority

In May 2018, SR Engineering College, Warangal of Telangana announced that it would be lending its infrastructure and faculty for 'AI and deep learning skilling and research' along with The Royal Academy of Engineering, UK under the Newton Bhabha Fund. Besides this, it has also invited zonal partnerships to expand this vision. It envisages making of a talent pool that will own the whole spectrum of applications significant for the industry leading to new innovations and ideas in the area of AI and deep learning. In this "Making Deep Learning and AI skills mainstream in India" initiative of the college, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK, NVIDIA, Amazon, University College London and Brunel University have joined hands to cater trilateral needs of Entrepreneurship, Industry-academia partnership, and application-inspired Engineering Research.

Nitin Bawankule will head Google Cloud India

On 8th of May, 2018, Tech giant Google appointed IIM Bangalore and VNIT Nagpur alumnus, Nitin Bawankule as the country head for Google Cloud India. Bawankule has been a part of Google's India operations for more than six years and will be reporting to Google Cloud Managing Director (Asia Pacific) Rick Harshman. He holds a rich experience of more than 20 years. Prior to this, he was serving as the Head of Sales for multiple verticals that included e-commerce, retail, classifieds and education in firms like Dell, Motorola Mobility, Whirlpool and Godrej GE Appliances.

11th May celebrated as National Technology Day

India celebrated 11th May 2018 as National Technology Day on "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future" theme. The day commemorated Pokhran II or Operation Shakti nuclear test anniversary that was accomplished in the year 1998. In this test, explosion of two fission bombs and one fusion bomb was conducted. In this context, it is worth recalling here that the first nuclear test Pokhran with a code named as 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May, 1974. The day highlights the significance of science in day to day life and motivates students to adopt science as a career option.

Cabinet secretary receives extension

On May 7th, 2018, Pradeep Kumar Sinha got one- year extension for post of Cabinet Secretary by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chairmanship. The 62 year old 1977-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre will continue to serve on this post till June 12, 2019. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued an order for the same. The man was employed for the task in May 2015 for a fixed two-year term. He had succeeded Ajit Seth, who served the post for four years. It is worth knowing here that the cabinet secretary is the administrative head of the secretariat as well

as the ex-officio chairman of the civil services board. His task involves contribution in decision-making in the government by ensuring inter-ministerial coordination and dissolving the existing differences among ministries or departments.

Arunachal Pradesh's biggest solar plant

In May 2018, CM of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu inaugurated 1 MWp Grid connected Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant at Energy Awareness Park, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. It is state's biggest solar plant under DeenDayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana that will get completed at an estimated cost of Rs 8.50 crore by the end of 2018. Further, Arunachal Pradesh Energy Development Agency will install solar plants in health centers and mini secretariats in the districts.

A book on military subject

In May 2018, Lt Gen Gyan Bhushan's book on 'Across the Bench - Insight into the Indian Military Judicial System' was released. The author is a former Army Commander and Member 'A', Armed Forces Tribunal of Lucknow Bench who penned issues regarding military judicial system within the military establishments. Besides this, the book also has descriptions about the military veterans, their families and dependents.

The KISS Humanitarian Award 2018

In May 2018, Nobel Peace laureate, renowned economist and the Father of Microfinance, Muhammad Yunus was awarded the KISS Humanitarian Award 2018. The awardee is a founder of Grameen Bank, who was acknowledged for imagining a system that creates wealth for everybody in the world. According to him, 99% of world's population owns only 1% of the wealth and monetary creation can be accessed by everybody through imagination.

Rajasthan's three welfare schemes

In May 2018, President Kovind launched 3 welfare schemes in Rajasthan. Sundar Singh Bhandari EBC Swarozgar Yojana is to provide loans of up to Rs 50000 to economically backward classes at 4% interest rate. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Antyodaya Swarozgar Yojana is about providing loans up to Rs 50000 at 4% interest rate to the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes for self-employment. Loan waiver scheme is about providing Rs 2 lakh worth interest-free loans to SC/ ST and other backward classes for skill development and employment generation.

Cabinet sees reshuffle

On May 14, 2018, PM Modi made important reshuffle in cabinet. He gave Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore the independent charge in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, replacing Smriti Irani who will continue to oversee Textile Ministry. Among other big changes, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has been given the additional charge of Finance Ministry and SS Ahluwalia was freed from Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry and assigned responsibility of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in place of Alphons Kannanthanam.

Beginning of Bharat Inclusive Initiative

On 14th May IIM-Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) has begun a Bharat Inclusion Initiative to propel knowledge, foster innovation and entrepreneurial activity across financial inclusion, livelihood, education and health sectors. CIIE which is dedicated to transforming ideas into viable businesses, has started this initiative with the help of Tata Trust and a \$12.5 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. In addition to this, CIIE will invest in seed and pre-Series-A start-ups via a dedicated Bharat Inclusion Seed Fund that announced its initial closing at \$7.5 million, and is expected to make a final closing at \$15 million by July, 2018.

Karnataka Assembly Elections 2018 results

The BJP emerged as the single largest party in Karnataka Elections 2018 winning 104 seats in the 224 seat assembly. Congress got 78 , Janta Dal (Secular) won 37 , BahujanSamaj Party won 1 , Karnataka PragnyanthaJanatha Party got 1 and Independent won 1 seat in the assembly. 8 more seats are required to accomplish its full majority in the state. This fractured mandate has bubbled hopes for Congress to form a government by joining hands with the third largest party in the state- JD(S).

KSEB & NTPC entered in a contract

In May 2018, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and Electric power distribution company, NTPC Ltd signed an agreement for setting up solar power plants at the NTPC's Kayamkulam plant at an estimated expenditure of Rs 200 crore. NTPC director (commercial) A K Gupta and KSEB CMD N S Pillai were signatories of the contract. In the first stage, a 15 MW power plant will be established which will be followed by setting up of other plants to generate 100 MW power.

Skill development centre in Hyderabad

In May 2018, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced establishment of a skill development centre at 'Bharosa,' an integrated support centre for women and children who are victims of violence in Hyderabad, Telangana in the coming 2-3 months. The training duration will differ on the basis of the kind of skill imparted. It is worth knowing that around 3,560 distressed people approached at Bharosa since its establishment in 2016 and more than 2,600 victims received help regarding domestic violence.

Prove majority tomorrow

On May 17, 2018 Karnataka BJP President, BS Yeddyurappa took oath as Karnataka's 23rd Chief Minister. He has become CM for the third time. The Supreme Court today ordered floor test in the Karnataka assembly at 4 pm on Saturday. Earlier Governor VajubhaiVala had invited the BJP to form the new government in the state and prove majority within 15 days which was overruled by the latest verdict of the court.

IIT Madras addresses diabetic wounds

In May 2018, IIT Madras developed an economic wound dressing material, novel reduced graphene oxide loaded nanocomposite frames for treating diabetic wounds. Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. T Ponrasu under guidance of Prof. Vignesh Muthuvijayan used a convex lens to focus sunlight on graphite material to obtain reduced graphene oxide and loaded its dispersions into a plant carbohydrate polymer (psyllium) solution to get wound dressing scaffolds. It enhanced wound healing efficacy, new blood vessels formation, collagen synthesis and deposition in treated wounds.

No pleading for virtual currencies

On May 17, 2018, the Supreme Court prohibited all the High courts from listening to any plea connected to an RBI circular that prohibited dealings in virtual currencies like Bitcoin. Besides this, the three-judge bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud directed the Centre to take immediate action to stop the sale and purchase of illegal virtual currency. The court also sought the assistance of Attorney General K K Venugopal in dissolving the matter.

Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'

On May 16, 2018, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani' during the conference on National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi. Mascot IP Nani is a tech-savvy grandmother who is shown assisting the government and enforcement agencies in fighting the Intellectual Property crimes with the help of her grandson 'Chhotu' or 'Aditya'. It is in line with the World Intellectual Property Organization's campaign for the World IP Day 2018 that was celebrated on 26th of April 2018.

Sudhakar new C J of Manipur High Court

On 18th May 2018, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar was sworn-in as new Chief Justice of Manipur High Court in presence of Chief Minister N Biren Singh and other dignitaries like Deputy chief minister, ministers, MLAs, leaders of opposition parties, high court officials, high ranking civil, police and military officials. Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi administered this oath at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal. The new Chief Justice has served in capacity of Acting Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court in past.

Central University of Andhra Pradesh

In May 2018, the Union Cabinet gave its in-principle approval for manifestation of a Central University in Janthaluru Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh. Cabinet has sanctioned Rs. 450 crore as the first phase expenditure for this "Central University of Andhra Pradesh." In addition to this, for giving it legal status and starting its academic activities from the Academic Year 2018-19, Cabinet approved the proposal for operationalization of the Central University in the transit campus, by making a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

UttamPacharne: Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi

On May 17, 2018, eminent artist and sculptor, UttamPacharne was appointed as Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi for a three year term. He has succeeded ML Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Union Ministry of Culture, who became Protem Chairman of the Akademi in March 2018. In 1954, the Union Government established this Akademi as National Akademi of Fine Arts in New Delhi for promotion and propagation of understanding of Indian art. The Akademi has its regional centres in Lucknow, Calcutta, Chennai and Bhubaneswar, and a small office in Mumbai

Jivya Soma Mashe passed away

In May 2018, renowned tribal artist, Jivya Soma Mashe died of prolonged illness at the age of 84 in Ganjad village in Mumbai. He was honored with Padma Shri in 2011 and with President's medal in 1976 for his contribution to popularize the Warli tribal art form across the globe. Warli is a tribe living predominantly in the mountainous and coastal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Yeddyurappa resigns from the post of CM

On 19th May, 2018, BS Yeddyurappa resigned as Karnataka chief minister. The resignation made way for formation of a government led by JD(S) state chief HD Kumaraswamy, who has got robust backing of the Congress. The newly formed alliance has claimed majority by support of 117 MLAs in the 224-member House with an effective strength of 221. Congress termed it as triumph of democracy.

Rajinder Singh: New President of Hockey India

On 19 May, 2018, Rajinder Singh has been appointed as the new President of Hockey India (HI). Prior to this, he was the senior Vice President of HI. Earlier, he was the Treasurer of HI and is presently serving as the Treasurer of Hockey Jammu & Kashmir. He succeeded Mariamma Koshy who was a former State-level centre forward player as well as the President of Hockey India in November 2016.

India's Longest Road Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir

On 19 May, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 'Zojila Tunnel' on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh. The 14.2 km long tunnel will be the longest road tunnel of India and longest bidirectional tunnel of Asia. It will provide all-weather connectivity to the Ladakh region and Kargil. Apart from this, Prime Minister also inaugurated the 330-MW Kishanganga hydroelectric project in Srinagar. There are 7 functional NHPC power projects in Jammu & Kashmir. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 5200 crore.

“AYUSH” made place in English Language

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology has included word “AYUSH” in Hindi and English both the languages for scientific and technical purposes. “AYUSH” has become famous as the acronym for five traditional and complementary systems of medicine, namely “Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy”. This decision will give a boost to India’s efforts to get a place for the Indian Systems of Healthcare in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) of the World Health Organization.

India’s first centre for energy regulation

On May 17, 2018, The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur erected first of its kind ‘Centre for Energy Regulation (CER)’ in the country with the help of UK to empower policy and regulatory limitations in energy and power sector. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) chairperson, PK Pujari unveiled the centre’s logo and its web portal at the launch ceremony in New Delhi. The centre would develop a regulatory database to engage the stakeholders in the power sector, especially the electricity regulatory commissions, electric utilities and the academia.

21st May: Anti-Terrorism Day

India began observing Anti-Terrorism Day on 21st May since 1991. The day was instituted by V.P. Singh government after the assassination of India's seventh Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu. Several activities like debates, discussions, symposia, seminars, lectures, etc. are organized in schools, colleges and universities by various NGOs, social and cultural organizations to create awareness among all sections of society, about the danger of terrorism and violence and its ill effect on the people, society and nation as a whole.

Nipah Virus Outbreak in Kerala

In May 2018, the State Health Department of Kerala noted the first incidence in which person died of Nipah Virus (NiV) infection in Kozhikode district of the state. It is a zoonotic disease that spreads through bats, pigs and other animals. Fruit bats or ‘flying foxes,’ of the genus Pteropus are natural reservoir hosts of the Nipah and Hendra viruses that live in its urine, faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids. Three to fourteen days of fever and headache, drowsiness, disorientation and mental confusion which could lead to coma within 24-48 hours are the symptoms of this disease.

'My MP Rojgar Portal'

Madhya Pradesh launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' as part of 'Ham ChhuLengeAsman' Mukhyamantri Career Counselling programme ‘Pahal’ in Model School of Bhopal. It will ensure jobs to youth in accordance to their educational qualification, skills and interest and will bridge the gap between candidates and employers as per the need of their business. Candidates will be able to submit online applications for jobs in the companies via self registration and job preference details.

The 'Honorary Colonel' Rank

On 22nd May, 2018, West Bengal Education and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Partha Chatterjee conferred 'Honorary Colonel' rank i.e. upon Vice Chancellors Prof Suranjan Das of Jadavpur University and Prof Shankar Kumar Ghosh of Kalyani University at the investiture ceremony at Fort William, the headquarters of the Army's Eastern Command. Chatterjee praised the professionalism and commitment of these Colonel Commandants towards promotion of NCC activities in their respective universities.

Sony bought EMI Music Publishing

On May 22, 2018 Sony acquired the second-largest music publishing company by revenue, EMI in USD 1.9 billion. EMI has the rights to 2.1 million pieces of music including classics. The deal added a catalogue of over 2 million songs to Sony's huge list, which already has 2.3 million copyrights, including the Beatles catalogue. Sony signed an agreement with Abu Dhabi-based investment firm Mubadala to purchase its 60% holding in EMI Music Publishing which will raise Sony's stake in EMI to 90%.

HD Kumaraswamy became Karnataka CM

On May 23, 2018, Janata Dal Secular leader, HD Kumaraswamy became 18th Karnataka Chief Minister at the state secretariat, VidhanaSoudha. His oath was administered by Governor VajubhaiVala. Besides him, Karnataka Congress leader G Parameshwara became the Deputy CM. Among Karnataka's 34 ministries, Congress will look into 22 and the remaining 12, including the post of the Chief Minister, will be under JD(S). The Speaker will be from the Congress and Deputy Speaker will be from the JD(S). Floor test will be conducted on 25th May 2018.

Firoz Bakht: Chancellor of Maulana Azad University

In May 2018, eminent social activist, educationist and columnist, Firoz Bakht Ahmed got nominated as new Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University for upcoming 3 years. He has succeeded Zafar Sareshwala. Grand nephew of the first education minister of India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and prolific writer, Firoz has penned several books in Urdu and Hindi on Children's literature. He has worked a lot for upliftment of Urdu medium schools and has also assisted in the judicial procedures by being part of various committees.

India's first national sports university

In May 2018, PM Narendra Modi approved an ordinance to establish India's first national sports university in Imphal, Manipur. The proposed university will be manifested over 325 acres at estimated expenditure of Rs 524 crore. The university will promote sports education in the sports sciences, sports technology, sports management, and sports coaching and will grant degrees, diplomas and certificates. It will play role of a national training centre for chosen sports disciplines. It may also set up campuses and study centres in other parts of the country as well.

NITI Aayog & ABB India entered in a contract

On May 23, 2018, NITI Aayog, and Engineering services company, ABB India signed a Statement of Intent to assist the Indian government in materializing its vision of 'Make in India' via advanced manufacturing technologies that incorporate the latest developments in robotics and artificial intelligence. Anna Roy, Adviser (Industry), NITI Aayog and Sanjeev Sharma, MD, ABB India signed the contract. The duo will work across various sectors of the economy like power and water utilities, food and heavy industry, transport including rail and metro and infrastructure for digitalisation, including the IoT and AI technologies.

Anil Kumar Jha: CMD Of Coal India

In May 2018, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Mahanadi Coalfields chief Anil Kumar Jha's appointment as Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India (CL). He has taken place of Coal Ministry's Additional Secretary Suresh Kumar. He will hold the post till his superannuation on January 31, 2020. CIL is a state-owned coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata.

Case studies of IIM Calcutta won awards

In May 2018, IIM Calcutta Case Research Centre won international awards for publication of its two case studies in the 2017 edition of the European Foundation of Management Development case competition. The awarded case studies included Professor Indranil Bose and student Gaurav Gupta's "SIMsePAY at YES BANK: Creating Value Through an UnSmart Innovation" about Digital India and Prof Ramendra Singh and student Menaka Rao's "SwitchonO'nergy: Social innovation challenges at the bottom of the pyramid" about use of solar technologies in the sustainable business models category.

National Convention on Rejuvenation of Krishna River

In May 2018, the Indian Water Council (IWC) conducted its first event in form of 'National Convention on Rejuvenation of the Krishna River' in Hyderabad, Telangana. Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao addressed the event which was attended by 300 delegates of government organisations from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana and several NGOs including Rajendra Singh, the 'Waterman of India'. Issues regarding stopping flow of pollutants into the rivers, generating awareness among farmers to avoid taking up paddy crops, extraction and encroachments were discussed at length.

CBSE Class 12th Result

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced Class 12 results. This year, the pass percentage has improved to 83.01% from 82.02 % of last year. Students can check their results on official website of the board - cbseresults.nic.in or cbse.nic.in.

Beginning of 'coding' curriculum in India

In May 2018 global integrated infrastructure conglomerate, Adani Foundation part of the Adani Group signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Cambridge University Press, to introduce cutting edge curriculum, 'coding' in Indian schools to change the teaching-learning experiences in the education system. Dr.Priti G. Adani, Chairperson, Adani Foundation and Mr. Peter Phillips, Chief Executive at Cambridge University Press were the signatories of the agreement. LOI includes initiatives like 'Coding Sandpit' for changing learning experiences and 'Cambridge Language Solution', a digital language lab for sharpening listening and speaking skills.

Odisha & Mizoram got new governors

In May 2018, KummanamRajasekharan has got appointed as governor of Mizoram and Ganeshi Lal has become governor of Odisha. Former Haryana BJP chief, Ganeshi Lal has succeeded veteran Naga leader S C Jamir. And Kerala BJP chief KummanamRajasekharan has taken place of Lt General (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma. It is worth remembering here that 65 year oldRajasekharan had given up his government job to become 'pracharak' of the RashtriyaSwayamsewak Sangh and became the state BJP chief in 2015.

Sangeeta Bahl: Oldest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest

In May 2018, Former model and entrepreneur from Jammu and Kashmir, Sangeeta Bahl, presently staying in Gurugram became the oldest Indian woman at the age of 53 to conquer world's highest mountain, the 8,848 meter Mount Everest located in Nepal. Her mission had a message for early detection of breast cancer in women, and funding for the same. Sangeeta Bahl has already climbed six out of the seven highest peaks of the world. She has broken the record of Premlata Agarwal, 48, who climbed Everest on May 20, 2011.

The second IT corridor of India

On May 27, 2018, India launched its second IT corridor "Digital Collaborative Opportunities Plaza (SIDCOP) platform" in China's Guiyang city. It will provide market access to Indian IT firms in the giant Chinese market. National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) signed six million

US Dollar agreement with China's Guiyang Municipal government for this establishment. Earlier also in December 2017, NASSCOM had established its first SIDCOP platform in the Chinese port city of Dalian, which became India's first IT hub in China.

Anubrata Biswas: MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank

In May 2018, Airtel Payments Bank has appointed Anubrata Biswas as its Managing Director and CEO. Anubrata will take care of Airtel Payments Bank's mission of taking convenient and innovative digital banking services to the doorstep of every Indian. The appointee has 17 years of rich experience in the banking sector. Before this, he has also served in capacities of the joint general manager and retail business head in South India for ICICI Bank and had managed the retail banking business across 550 branches of the bank.

CBSE Class 10 result 2018

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has declared the results for class 10 board exams 2018 today on the official website of the Board. The overall pass percentage is 86.70%. Four students Prakhar Mittal, Rimzhim Agarwal, Nandini Garg and Sreelakshmi G. scored 499 out of 500 and topped the CBSE Class 10 Board Exams this year. In terms of region, Thiruvananthapuram ranked first with 99.60 pass percentage followed by Chennai and Ajmer that stood at 2nd and 3rd rank with 97.37 and 91.86 pass percentage respectively. Students can check their results on results.nic.in, www.cbseresults.nic.in, and www.cbse.nic.in.

30th May: Statehood Day of Goa

Goa celebrated 31 years of its statehood on 30th May 2018. On 30th May 1987 Goa was separated from Daman and Diu to become the 25th state of India. Before that Goa was a union territory, namely, Goa, Daman and Diu for all administrative and governance purposes. Governor of Goa Mridula Sinha and Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar wished people on the eve of statehood day for making Goa a dynamic and progressive state with a high level of socioeconomic development, equipped with sufficient infrastructural development in numerous sectors.

Tamil Nadu closed Sterlite copper plant

In May 2018, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami ordered the shutting of Thuthukkudi Copper Smelter plant as well as disconnection of its power and water supply. The decision has been taken in wake of the growing environmental hazards from this plant. It is worth recalling here that the National Green Tribunal along with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board had invoked a permanent closure of the plant, watching its ill effects on health of public. The locals were protesting for this closure for 99 days.

NCDRC got a new President, Justice R K Agrawal

On 28th May 2018, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) appointed apex court's retired judge, Justice R.K. Agrawal as its new President. He has taken place of Justice D.K. Jain, who completed his term on May 31. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved this appointment and the Personnel Ministry issued orders for the same. The NCDRC is a quasi-judicial authority which was established in 1988 to address consumers' complaints regarding goods and services worth one crore rupees.

Gauhati University's 'Brahmaputra Study Centre'

In May 2018, Minister of State in the PM's Office and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh broke the news regarding establishment of 'Brahmaputra Study Centre' worth Rs 28 crore at Gauhati University. The proposed study centre will offer opportunities for research in different aspects of Brahmaputra viz. waterways, hydrology,

environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production, physics, etc. Moreover, it will be a “one stop destination” for all issues connected to the Brahmaputra River System.

NCERT made changes in textbooks

In May 2018, NCERT compared old and revised versions of textbooks of Classes 6 to 10, across five subjects viz. History, Geography, Political Science, Science and English. It has introduced total 1,334 changes that includes corrections and additions. Among them 573 changes have been made in Science alone, 316 in Social Science and 163 in Sanskrit textbooks. Icons like Sri Aurobindo, Swami Vivekananda, Jat king Suraj Mal, Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji, BajiraoBallal, Lala Lajpat Rai and Vallabhbhai Patel have either been introduced or have been given separate space in the new textbooks.

Internationalisation of India's digital payment

In May 2018, PM Modi launched RuPay card, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) and United Payment Interface (UPI) app of SBI at the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' in Singapore. It connected India's RuPay digital payments system with Singapore's Network for Electronic Transfers to encourage Singaporeans for online purchase using 2.8 million RuPay point of sale terminals in India. UPI app based on rupee remittance mode will enable speedy transactions worth Rs 100,000. BHIM will promote direct bank payments using UPI ID or scanning of QR with the BHIM app.

Village Community won National Biodiversity Award

In May 2018, Arunachal Pradesh's non-governmental organisation, SingchungBugun Village Community Reserve won the National Biodiversity Award 2018 for conservation of a bird species 'BugunLiocichla', which is considered as a rare wildlife resource found in the area. It won a citation, a memento and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh at Hyderabad. The awarded Reserve coupled with the Forest Department in 2016 to conserve the 17sq km area adjoining the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.

Gaj Yatra of Meghalaya

In May 2018, Meghalaya's Home Minister James PangsangKongkalSangma flagged off the Gaj Yatra in Garo Hills of Meghalaya in the presence of Bollywood actor Dia Mirza, the Brand Ambassador of Wildlife Trust of India and other eminent dignitaries at SMELC Building Dakopgre, Tura. The yatra focussed at generating awareness about the vanishing habitats of wild elephants in the country, particularly in the state. Meghalaya has 1754 elephants with density of 0.16 elephants per square kilometre.

Security of Aadhaar got confirmed

In May 2018, UIDAI Chairman, J Satyanarayana stated that world's largest ID database Aadhaar is protected by high-tech encryption, multi-layered authentication and best-in-class security at a panel discussion on “Future of Governance” in New Delhi. The 12 digit biometric identifier and demographic details, has robust end-to-end encryption. So far more than 121 crore residents have been enrolled for Aadhaar and It has been utilized for 19.6 billion authentications.

NITI Aayog employed Sushant Singh Rajput

In May 2018, Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput has been assigned the task of promotion of two major initiatives of the NITI Aayog. Rajput signed an agreement with Anna Roy, Adviser, NITI Aayog in the presence of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog for the same. It involves promotion of BHIM for encouraging digital payments across the nation and promotion of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform for creation of ecosystem for women entrepreneurs across India.

Solar power plant of Kerala may get UN recognition

In May 2018, Executive director of United Nations Environment Programme Erick Solheim ignited the hope of global recognition for the solar power plant of Kerala, “Cochin International Airport Ltd’s solar power plant”. According to him, the power plant may achieve the recognition of being the first fully solar energy-powered airport. He said, “ This is a big airport in the global scale which caters to around 10 million passengers. It was nice to see they are using the grounds in the solar plant to grow vegetables.”

The fourth anniversary of Telangana

Telangana celebrated its fourth formation day on 2nd June, 2018. It emerged as the 29th state of India in year 2014 following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana gained prominence as one of the fastest growing and surplus state economies in the nation. However, employment generation still remains a challenge for the state. On this occasion, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao took salute at a ceremonial parade on the Secunderabad Parade Grounds where he announced some welfare measures for different sections of society, especially for farmers and youth.

Book ‘Straight Talk’ got released

On 30th May 2018 Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “Straight Talk” authored by Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi. Former PM Manmohan Singh has written the foreword for this book which is a compilation of 63 articles categorised in seven chapters ranging from society, governance, terrorism and judiciary to media, nuclear trends, icons and heroes. Besides this, a panel discussion on “India at 71: Hits and Misses” was also carried out which was moderated by BarkhaDutt.

Kailash Satyarthi & Kiran Kumar received Humanitarian Award

On May 30, 2018, Nobel Peace laureate, Kailash Satyarthi and the Indian Space Research Organisation’s chairman, AS Kiran Kumar were presented Santokbaa Humanitarian Award in Surat, Gujarat. Satyarthi made efforts to protect the rights of more than 83000 children across 144 countries. He made International Labour Organization adopt a convention regarding the worst forms of child labour, which has now become a key guideline for governments worldwide. Kumar made outstanding contributions to the design and development of Electro-Optical Imaging Sensors of Low Earth Orbit and Geostationary Orbit satellites.

Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme 2018

In June 2018, to unearth black money and reduce tax evasion, Income Tax Department started ‘Benami Transactions Informants Reward Scheme 2018’. The scheme has a provision of rewarding money worth Rs 1 crore to people who provide information to the Joint or Additional Commissioners of Benami Prohibition Units (BPUs) about benami transactions and properties as well as income earned on such properties by hidden investors and beneficial owners. Besides this, Rs 5 crore will be given to those who give information about income and assets actionable under Black Money and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.

Financial Literacy Week of RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) began ‘Financial Literacy Week’ from June 4 which will continue till June 8, 2018 on ‘Customer Protection’ theme. The week is on purpose of generating awareness among bank customers regarding financial products and services, good financial practices and digitisation. The participants of the event are being briefed about the ‘Banking Ombudsman’ scheme of the RBI for customer complaint redressal as well as 'know your liability' for unauthorised electronic banking transaction and good practices for a safe digital banking experience.

Asia's First 13 'Blue Flag' Beaches

In June 2018, Project head of Environment ministry's Society for Integrated Coastal Management, Arvind Nautiyal announced Blue Flag Certification of 13 Indian beaches Chandrabhaga (Odisha), Chivla and Bhogave (Maharashtra) and other beaches from Puducherry, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These beaches will be the first to get the Blue Flag certification not only in India but also in Asia. In 1985, Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education determined the parameters for acknowledging environment-friendly and clean beaches equipped with facilities of international standards.

Apex Court permitted quota in SC/ST employees' promotion

On 5th June 2018, the Top Court allowed the Centre to provide reservation in promotion for SC/ST employee as per law until the Constitution bench offers its verdict. Along with this ruling, it has also introduced conditions like before giving promotions the Centre needs to verify backwardness and efficiency of employees categorized under the quota. The Centre reported the bench that it was suppose to give promotion to its employees, but it got obstructed due to orders of various high courts.

M K Jain, the new RBI deputy governor

On June 4, 2018, M K Jain got appointed as the fourth deputy governor of the RBI for upcoming three years. He is the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank who has succeeded SS Mundra. Jain will play in charge of banking supervision and will act as communication bridge between Governor Urjit Patel and bankers on the bankruptcy code and the stricter NPA recognition norms among other issues. The veteran banker is best known 'turnaround king' for his spectacular feat of fishing out Chennai's Indian Bank from its bad debt situation.

Osmania Library got renamed

In June 2018, the Osmania University administration requested the government to lay the norms or policy in compliance with the resolution of the Executive Council for renaming the Osmania University Main Library as 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Library'. The Library accommodates more than six lakh books that includes some rare manuscripts. Faculty, students and research scholars visit it most frequently.

The 49th Conference of Governors

The two day 49th Conference of Governors met conclusion on 5th June at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated and presided over it. Clean India mission, internal security, higher education and skill development were the agendas. The Vice Chairman and the CEO of NITI Aayog, the National Security Advisor, the Secretary of Higher Education, the Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Swachhata Internship as well as various Governors and Lt. Governors made presentations in this event.

RBI Raises Repo Rate after 4.5 years

On 6th June 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its second bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2018-19, raised Repo Rate by 25bps to 6.25%. This came as first hike after January 2014 when Repo Rate climbed to 8%. It happened on account of increasing oil prices as the global crude oil prices touched \$80 a barrel mark, high retail inflation that accelerated to 4.58% in April and higher than expected rise in GDP as in the January-March quarter, the economic growth accelerated to 7.7%.

'No Entry' in 82 medical colleges

In June 2018, Health Ministry stopped 82 medical colleges from giving admissions to students for new academic session 2018-19 because of the various inherent deficiencies in them. Medical Council of India (MCI) in its inspection found these barred medical colleges deficient in infrastructure, faculty and resources during its inspections of these colleges. Among these 82 medical colleges, 70 are private and 12 are government which in totality contained over 10,000 MBBS seats of the 64,000 total available seats. These seats will get blocked for this session.

Sanjay Mitra will see DRDO

Government of India has handed over additional charge of DRDO to defence secretary Sanjay Mitra for three months. He has succeeded DRDO chief S Christopher, who got retired in May 2018 after serving one-year extension period after a two-year tenure. In May 2015, the Modi government had bifurcated the post of scientific advisor (SA) to the defence minister and DRDO chief, which was held by one person till then. Dr Christopher was appointed as the DRDO chief while G Satheesh Reddy served as SA to defence minister.

Facebook tied up with NWC for Digital Literacy

Facebook and National Women Commission (NWC) launched digital literacy programme in collaboration with Ranchi (Jharkhand)-based civil society organisation, Cyber Peace Foundation. In this programme around 60000 women from universities of Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu will be imparted training over a one-year period. It will cover safe and responsible usage of the internet, social media and email.

Punjab launched Business First Portal

In June 2018, for ease of doing business, Industry Minister Sunder Sham Arora launched "Business First Portal" in Jalandhar. It will help the industrialists for Regulatory Clearances and Fiscal Approvals, real-time tracking of applications at common platform. The minister informed that self access facility for the applicants is being given in the portal for the traders at first time through which applicants would be able to examine their application and enclosed documents. The state government has made commitment for ensuring 100% VAT refund to industrialists by the end of 2018.

RBI will establish Public Credit Registry

On June 6, 2018, RBI announced creation of an information repository that has all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers, "Public Credit Registry" to control bad loans. It will be made in modular and phased manner to help banks differentiate between a bad and a good borrower and set interest rates in accordance with it. It will address information asymmetry, improve access to credit and empower the credit culture among consumers. This will improve nation's rankings in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index.

Dhiraj Ram Krishna received National Gopal Ratna award

In June 2018, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh presented the National Gopal Ratna award to Coimbatore's Dhiraj Ram Krishna in New Delhi. He is an engineering graduate who was rewarded for upkeep of the best dairy animals of indigenous breeds. The awardee started with 10 cattle and now has 50, including 10 Gir cows and bulls and 40 cross-bred varieties. The cows yield 250 litres milk per day. He got cash prize worth ₹ 5 lakh, which he will invest for expanding the business.

Sikkim's longest tunnel got inaugurated

In June 2018, Minister of State for Defence Subhash RamraoBhamre inaugurated 578-metre-long Theng tunnel, the longest in Sikkim. The double-lane tunnel built by the Border Roads Organisation, occupies the Gangtok-Chungthang State Highway. It bypasses a treacherous stretch of road between Gangtok and Chungthang, which frequently remains shut because of landslides and shooting stones. Besides shortening the distance and ensuring all weather connectivity, it will also improve operational mobility and will provide a great relief to tourists and citizens travelling to North Sikkim district.

Pineapple becomes the 'State Fruit' of Tripura

In June 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind declared queen variety of pineapple as the state fruit of Tripura. The fruit won this recognition on account of its key role in connecting the state with world trade. It is worth knowing here that earlier this month, Tripura exported its first consignment of one tonne pineapples to Dubai. The queen variety pineapple is likely to find good acceptance across the globe. Tripura holds a very vital position in developing trade with ASEAN countries including neighbouring Bangladesh.

Demise of Rasaraj Narayan Prasad Singh

In June 2018, eminent Odia lyricist Rasaraj Narayan Prasad Singh at the age of 86 years died of cardiac arrest in Bhubaneswar. He had created a number of milestone songs in 60s and 70s exploring almost all kinds of moods and situations. He made his debut by writing songs for Akashvani which fetched him recognition of 'Rasaraj' in Odia film industry. 'Jibanajamunarejuarauthere', 'jochhanaluchan dura nilagagane', 'udiudiudiudijaaregudi' and 'kainchikakudinalita pita' were some of his timeless songs.

The first Lithium-Ion battery of India

On June 10, 2018, the Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu under Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and RAASI Solar Power Pvt Ltd inked a Memorandum of Agreement for transfer of technology for India's first Lithium Ion Battery project. India is one of the largest importers of these batteries as in year 2017, it imported Li-Ion batteries worth USD 150 million. The production of these batteries will give impetus to many flagship programmes of PM viz. Clean Energy, National Electric Mobility Mission etc.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

8th May celebrated as World Red Cross Day

8th of May is celebrated annually as World Red Cross Day to mark the birthday anniversary of Henry Dunant, who was founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He was born in Geneva in the year 1828 and received the first Nobel Peace Prize. The day promoted principles of “International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement”. It is worth knowing here that the Red Cross was established for its contribution in peaceful activities after World War I. This day was celebrated for the first time in 1948 and in year 1984, it was officially recognized as the “World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day”.

NikolPashinyan: New PM of Armenia

In May 2018, Armenian parliament elected opposition leader NikolPashinyan as its new prime minister. It is worth knowing that just few weeks ago veteran leader Serzh Sargsyan, who had served a maximum of two terms as president, was appointed as the prime minister of this small nation situated between Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia. He faced a massive protest on account of corruption and cronyism and had to resign from the post. Then in 8th May 2018 elections, Armenian parliament brought former journalist and opposition politician NikolPashinyan to power by casting 55 votes in his favor in contrast to 49 that went against him. Pashinyan's victory implies a peaceful revolution in Armenia. The new PM has emphasised that Armenia will remain within the Russian orbit in the customs union and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Mahathir Mohamad: world's oldest Prime Minister

Age is just a number that has been proved by Mahathir Mohamad, who has become the seventh Prime Minister of Malaysia at the age of 92 on May 10th, 2018. The man came back to power after 15 years of his retirement. In the elections Mahathir's coalition, PakatanHarapan, won 121 out of 222 seats and threw out the governing BarisanNasional (BN) coalition. This coalition just received only 79 seats. It was led by Prime Minister NajibRazak and was in power for over 60 years. The reasons for his comeback at such an age are many as he had been Malaysia's Prime Minister for more than two decades from 1981 to 2003, and had made outstanding contribution in converting Malaysia's economy to one of Asia's leading economies. He steered the country's troubled economy during the Asian crisis of 1998 and got acknowledged as an ‘economic tiger’. He supported the policies that blossomed the economy and this gave him another recognition as “father of modern Malaysia.” The development of Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Twin Towers has been his contribution.

The 'APSTAR-6C' Satellite of China

China launched its Communication Satellite, 'APSTAR-6C' from the southwestern Xichang Satellite Launch Center via Long March-3B carrier rocket under the 273rd mission of the Long March rocket series in May 2018. The satellite is on a purpose of providing TV transmission, communication, Internet and multimedia services to users across the Asia-Pacific region. It has been built by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. Apart from this China has plans of launching two new satellites for Pakistan in June which will be the first international commercial launch for a Long March-2C rocket after it carried Motorola's Iridium satellites into orbit in year 1999. Besides that, China will also send China-France Oceanography Satellite into space in September 2018, to monitor the ocean's wind and waves.

French school opens doors for Indians

On 9th of May, 2018, the Ambassador of France to India, Alexandre Ziegler, announced that the French International School, “The Lycée Français International de Delhi” established in year 1960 in New Delhi is

all set to admit Indian students. The school follows the French Baccalaureate (FB) and will soon introduce International Baccalaureate (IB) in the coming years. It accommodates students from 47 nationalities. As per the information given by the Ambassador, there are around 316 students enrolled in the school and among them only half are French and around 123 belong to other nationalities.

China's Alibaba bought Pakistani firm Daraz

In May 2018 Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba acquired Pakistani online retailer Daraz. Founded in 2012, Daraz was purchased from European Rocket Internet, a Berlin-based incubator of online startups. Daraz deals in consumer electronics, household goods, beauty, fashion, sports equipment and groceries and has its main markets are in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Nepal. This acquisition will lead to further growth in its main markets.

Funds for NASA's CMS got cut

In May 2018, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) saw cut off in its funds at hands of Trump's administration. So far NASA used satellite and aircraft instruments to monitor carbon dioxide and methane levels remotely at cost of \$10m each year. According to Stephen Hagen, a senior scientist at Applied GeoSolutions in New Hampshire, this move will trigger a serious fight on climate change as reduction in funds will weaken the capability of tracking changes in carbon.

International Nurses' Day

To mark the birth anniversary of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale, 12th May is celebrated as International Nurses' Day. The theme for this year was "Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right" to applaud the nurse's contributions towards people's health. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first to declare this day. This day was celebrated for the first time in 1965.

Oscar winner Coates Passes Away

In May 2018 Oscar winner, British film editor for the epic film Lawrence of Arabia (1962) Anne V. Coates died at the age of 92. She received five Best Film Editing Oscar nominations for Becket (1963), The Elephant Man (1980), In the Line of Fire (1993) and Out of Sight (1998). Apart from this, in November 2016, she received the Lifetime Achievement Oscar.

Falcon 9 is on task for Bangladesh

In May 2018, America's California-based aerospace company, SpaceX launched its most powerful Falcon 9 rocket, 'Block 5' to place the first high-orbit communications satellite 'Bangabandhu Satellite-1' for Bangladesh around 22,000 miles above Earth. The satellite will ensure broadband connectivity to rural areas throughout the country. The rocket is meant to re-fly up to 10 times with minimal refurbishment and it will transport astronauts to the International Space Station via Dragon crew capsule later this year.

ICBC launches India-dedicated investment fund

On May 14, 2018, Chinese state-run bank Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) launched the country's first India-dedicated publicly offered investment fund, the 'ICBC Credit Suisse India Market Fund'. Indian market is one of the best-performing markets across the globe on account of its ongoing reforms, macroeconomic improvement and enhanced profitability. The fund will patron the information technology, financial industry, alternative consumption, energy, healthcare, medicine, essential consumption, raw materials and other industries. The fund will also benefit the large investors.

Margot Kidder passes away

In May 2018, Margot Kidder, the renowned actress who played Lois Lane in the “Superman” films (1978 to 1987), died at 69 in Montana, United States. She started her acting career with Canadian films and TV shows. She played memorable parts in “Quackser Fortune Has a Cousin in the Bronx”, “Sisters,” “The Great Waldo Pepper”, “The Amityville Horror,” “Smallville,” “Brothers & Sisters,” and “The L Word” and “The Vagina Monologues.” She received a Daytime Emmy Award in 2015 for her role in “R.L. Stine’s The Haunting Hour.”

International Day Of Families

Instituted by the UN in 1993, the International Day of Families on 15th May was celebrated this year with the theme ‘Families and inclusive societies’, to attain the goal of sustainable development. The goal is related to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. This day propagated awareness of issues connected to families and raised the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. It underlined different areas of interest and significance to families.

Global Exhibition on Services-2018

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 4th edition of Global Exhibition on services in Mumbai on 15th May 2018. During the inauguration, the president also released the logo for Services and launched the portal. The four day event is witnessing participation of 25 Indian states, 625 exhibitors and 500 overseas delegates from 100 countries across the globe. The event is scheduled to feature roundtables and seminars, state investment summits, B2B meetings, exhibition of important services sectors, cultural activities, country and international pavilions, among others.

Manohar continues to be ICC chairman

In May 2018, International Cricket Council unanimously re-elected former BCCI President Shashank Manohar as the independent chairman of International Cricket Council for a second two-year term. He became the first independent ICC Chairman in year 2016. It is worth knowing here that Manohar was the only nominee for the position, the independent Audit Committee Chairman, Edward Quinlan, who has been overseeing the election process, announced completion of the process.

'REPLACE' for removal of trans fats in food

In May 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a comprehensive plan 'REPLACE' action package for removal of industrially-produced artificial trans fats from the global food supply by 2023. It has found that industrially produced trans fats (toxic chemicals) such as hardened vegetable fats like margarine and ghee are often used in snack, baked and fried foods, are the reasons of prevailing cardiovascular diseases that lead to 5,00,000 deaths across the globe. Denmark was the first nation that banned industrially produced trans fats.

Gregory receives LMA Award

On 15th May, 2018, England's League Managers Association (LMA) honored Chennaiyin FC's head coach, John Gregory with a special achievement award during LMA's 26th Annual Awards function in London. With this, he has become the first Englishman to win the Indian Super League. It is worth recalling here that Chennaiyin FC defeated Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League final and won the trophy. With this victory, Chennaiyin FC booked a berth in the 2019 AFC Cup.

SusheelaJayapal: First elected South Asian in Oregon

In May 2018, Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's sister, Susheela Jayapal has been elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon. She became the first South Asian to get elected in the western US State. The 55 year old lawyer won 57% of the votes to occupy the District 2 seat. She will represent North and Northeast Portland commissioner's seat and her first priority will be dealing with issues related to housing and homelessness. Besides this, she will create an ombudsman's office.

HimantaBiswaSarma: Vice-President of BAC

On 17th May, 2018, President of Badminton Association of India (BAI), Himanta Biswa Sarma got elected as the Vice-President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC) during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the continental body in Bangkok, Thailand. He will contribute towards development of sport in the region and will establish better coordination among Asian countries. He will provide visionary leadership for growth of the sport.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

Instituted in 1973, May 17th is celebrated as World Telecommunication and Information Society Day every year to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention (ITC) and the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). 'Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All' was the theme for this year that focussed on the capability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Haspel became the first female director of CIA

On May 17, 2018, The US Senate elected Gina Haspel as the first female director of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with 54-45 vote. Her nomination and selection reignited an emotional debate over one of the darkest chapters of CIA's history of brutal interrogation techniques which were used for prisoners in Thailand in 2002 under the leadership of Haspel. She joined CIA in 1985 and served many undercover overseas positions.

Russia Reveals World's 1st Floating Nuclear Power Station

On 19 May, 2018, Russia has revealed the world's first floating nuclear power station in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before going to eastern Siberia. The power station was constructed by the state nuclear power company Rosatom in Saint Petersburg. The 144 by 30 metre ship holds two reactors with two 35 Megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships.

Japanese Director wins "The Palme d'Or" award

Hirokazu Kore-eda, the director of Japan has won the Cannes top award "The Palme d'Or" for the fifth time. He won the award for his drama 'Manbiki Kazoku' (Shoplifters). This is for the seventh time, a director from Asia has won the coveted trophy. Besides this, the Best Director award went to Poland's Pawel Pawlikowski for the wonderfully well-crafted black-and-white movie 'Cold War'. The Franco-Indian co-production 'Sir' won the Gan Foundation Award for Distribution. The section's top prize, the Grand Prix was won by the Brazilian comedy-drama Diamantino.

International Day for Biological Diversity

International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated on 22nd May, 2018. It marked the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which is the international legal instrument approved by 196 nations. The UN General Assembly instituted this day with the adoption of CBD on May

22, 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act that became effective in 1993. “Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity” was the theme of this year. Under UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, the day raised awareness about the conservation of biodiversity.

'Flights' won Man Booker Prize

In May 2018, English translation of Polish novel 'Flights' won the Man Booker International Prize. Penned by Polish author Olga Tokarczuk and translated by Jennifer Croft, the novel interweaves narratives of travel with explorations of the human body. Tokarczuk became the first Polish writer to win 67,000 US dollar prize. Her novel was chosen among Iraqi writer Ahmed Saadawi's horror story 'Frankenstein in Baghdad' and South Korean author Han Kang's meditative novel 'The White Book'. This prize recognizes the English translations of works of international literature.

The residency visa programme

In May 2018, the UAE decided to issue long term residency visas for 10 years to international investors and “exceptional talents” including professionals and students. In a high-level meeting, the Cabinet, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai decided to make the country, a global incubator for exceptional talents and a permanent destination for international investors through its open environment, tolerant values, infrastructure and flexible legislation.

North Koreans will attend the summit

On 23rd May, 2018, UN Security Council committee lifted a travel ban on North Korean officials heading to Singapore for the upcoming planned summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un next month. Singapore last week requested the sanctions committee to allow North Korean delegation participation in June 2018 summit. It is worth recalling here that UN had imposed a global travel ban and an asset freeze on 80 individuals and 75 entities from North Korea.

Nepal eliminated Trachoma

In May 2018, the World Health Organization declared Nepal free from Trachoma, the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. With this, Nepal has become the first country in Southeast Asia to weed out Trachoma. In 2002, Nepal augmented its efforts to eliminate the disease by launching the National Trachoma Programme. Trachoma is an eye disease caused by infection of bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis through contact with infective eye or nose discharges. Its transmission is associated with poor sanitation and hygiene. 15 million doses of Azithromycin were distributed to cure the disease.

US cancelled invitation for China On May 23, 2018, The United States withdrew its invitation for China regarding the world's largest international maritime warfare exercises due to China's continued militarisation of the South China Sea. Pentagon released an official statement that read, “China's behaviour is inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the RIMPAC exercise and so, it has disinvited the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy from the 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise.” Organized in every two years in Hawaii, the exercise sees participation of over 20 countries from across the globe.

USA cancels Singapore Summit

On May 24, 2018, Trump cancelled the upcoming Singapore Summit of June 12, 2018 with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He passed the cancellation orders after North Korea made a show of blowing up the tunnels at its nuclear test site. Besides this, the repeated criticism from the North Korean government about the American officials which included the recent slamming of the US Vice President Mike Pence as a "political dummy" by the North Korean Vice-Minister of Foreign affairs became collective reasons for cancellation of the summit.

Mission Innovation Ministerial

In May 2018, Mission Innovation Ministerial was organized at Malmo in Sweden. Mission Innovation is a global platform of 23 nations and European Union focussed at increasing clean energy innovations with enhanced government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation. India is the founding member of this platform which is presently facing innovation challenges on smart grids, off grids and sustainable bio-fuels. Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan led Indian delegation which took part in this event.

Demise of Veteran actor Hemu Adhikari

In May 2018, Eminent film and theatre actor Dr.Hemu Adhikari died of lung problem at age of 81 in Mumbai. The deceased was best known for his cameo in Rajkumar Hirani's 'Lage RahoMunna Bhai' (2006). Besides this, he played memorable role in Sai Paranjpe's 'Katha' and Marathi films like 'DhyaasParya' and 'Harishchandrachi Factory'. He was a wonderful actor, sharp audience, deep thinker, passionate reader and a fearless person.

Mia Mottley: The first woman PM of Barbados

In May 2018, the Caribbean country Barbados has elected Mia Mottley of Barbados Labour Party (BLP) as its first female PM since its independence from Britain in 1966. 52-year-old lawyer steered BLP to outshine the Democratic Labour Party amidst bombardment of personal and political attacks. BLP succeeded in occupying all 30 seats in the House of Assembly. The Barbadian economy is struggling with the effects of the global economic crisis of the late 2000s, despite the island's popularity with tourists from Western Europe, North America, China and Russia.

Astronaut Alan Bean passed away

On 26th May 2018 Astronaut Alan Bean died at the age of 86 in Houston, Texas. He was the 4th person to walk on the moon and the last surviving member of the Apollo 12 mission. Before coming in NASA, he was a test pilot in the US Navy. NASA chose him in October 1963 for training to make him a part of the third group of NASA astronauts. His first mission to space was in 1969 and he also led a crewed flight to the first US space station Skylab in 1973.

The 5800 year old Chinese civilization

On May 28, 2018, Guan Qiang, the Deputy Director of State Administration for Cultural Heritage at a State Council press conference proclaimed that the Chinese civilization was born 5800 years ago and got matured 3800 years ago. In the 15 years state-funded work, researchers from the Institute of Archaeology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Peking University along with leading archaeologists found that the first signs of civilisation were traced around the Yellow, Yangtze and Western Liao rivers.

The upcoming 2018 Global Wind Summit

Germany decided to host the first edition of the Global Wind Summit which will take place from September 25th to 28th, 2018 at Hamburg. This Summit will combine two conferences 'WindEnergy Hamburg' and 'WindEurope' and will stage the biggest meeting for business, networking and information for the entire wind industry including both onshore and offshore. Delegates from more than 100 countries will participate in this event. The summit will focus on dynamic markets, Cost efficiency and Smart energy via deployment of wind energy for all energy applications.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

On 29th May 2018 the 70th International Day of UN Peacekeepers was observed worldwide to acknowledge 3700 peacekeepers with the Dag Hammarskjold Medals who sacrificed their lives while serving the United

Nations since 1948. 'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice' was the theme for this year. UN General Assembly instituted the day through Resolution 57/129 on December 11, 2002. In last 70 years around 1 million men and women have served under the United Nations in 71 operations.

World No Tobacco Day on May 31st

World observed May 31, 2018 as World No Tobacco Day on 'Tobacco and heart disease' theme. The World Health Organisation marked the day by underlining the health and other hazards linked with tobacco use, and advocating effective policies to cut off tobacco consumption. Tobacco causes coronary heart disease, stroke and peripheral vascular disease. Every year tobacco consumption claims around 7 million lives globally. India is the second largest consumer of Tobacco as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) report. The WHO has begun Global Hearts and RESOLVE initiatives to decrease cardiovascular disease deaths.

Alicia Pucheta: Paraguay's First Woman President

On 30th May 2018, Vice President of Paraguay has been appointed as the first woman president of the nation. She has succeeded Horacio Cartes temporarily. Her fellow Conservative, Mario Abdo Benitez who won Presidential elections of April 2018, will begin his five-year term on August 15, 2018. Pucheta's role as interim President is a motivation for other women of the country in context to gender equality. Pucheta belongs to the right-wing Colorado Party, which has ruled Asuncion for decades.

Microsoft : The third most valuable global firm

On May 29, 2018, Microsoft reported a market cap of \$753 billion at the close of trading and with that it became the third most valuable firm globally after Apple and Amazon. Microsoft has surpassed Alphabet by \$14 billion in total value of its shares for the first time in three years. In its third quarter that ended on March 31, 2018, Microsoft posted revenue of \$26.8 billion and net income of \$7.4 billion by virtue of considerable growth in Office and Cloud solutions.

UAE bans imports from Kerala

In May 2018, United Arab Emirates (UAE) banned import of fresh fruits and vegetables from Kerala because of Nipah virus (NiV) outbreak in the state. NiV virus rides on secretions from the bat to the fruit that it feeds on or touches and damages brain leading to death of victim. Mangoes, dates and bananas are the bat's most preferred fruit. There have been cases reported in the southern state regarding transmission of the ailment among humans and between humans and animals as well.

Hidden mountain ranges of Antarctica

In May 2018, as per publication of journal Geophysical Research Letters under European Space Agency's Polar GAP project, researchers discovered mountain ranges and three huge deep subglacial valleys hidden beneath the Antarctica ice. Among them, the largest valley the Foundation trough is more than 350 km long and 35 km wide, the Patuxent trough is more than 300 km long and over 15 km wide and the Offset Rift Basin is 150 km long and 30 km wide. Research team of Northumbria University in the UK traced these valleys in West Antarctica for the first time.

Pakistan approved Hindu widow remarriage act

In May 2018, Pakistan's Sindh province assembly unanimously passed landmark bill permitting Hindu widows to remarry. According to the bill, Hindu widows can remarry if they want but only after elapse of six months after their husband's death. The bill also grants them the right to file a petition for dissolution of a marriage if they wish to terminate their marriage. The bill was introduced by Nand Kumar Goklani of the functional Pakistan Muslim League in the assembly.

Kendrick Lamar won 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Music

On May 30, 2018 President of Columbia University, Lee C. Bollinger presented Pulitzer Prize of year 2018 to Kendrick Lamar for music. With this he has become the first hip-hop actor to win a Pulitzer Prize in music for his acclaimed 2017 album DAMN. It is worth recalling here that Lamar notched four Grammys, including best rap album, this year for DAMN. Lee praised Lamar's hip-hop opus as, "virtuosic song collection unified by its vernacular authenticity that offers affecting vignettes capturing the complexity of modern African-American life."

No face veils in Denmark

On May 31, 2018, Denmark's Parliament banned the wearing of face veils (burqa and niqab) in public places. The Danish parliament took this decision via 75-30 votes. The ruling liberal-conservative coalition parties, the far-right People's Party and the opposition Social Democrats supported the ban stating that face veils are contrary to the Danish values. Niqab covers female's face except eyes, while a burqa covers the entire face and has a mesh over the eyes. The measure will be effective from August 1st, 2018.

4th June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was observed worldwide on 4th of June 2018. The aim of the day was to generate empathy towards children who became prey of physical, mental and emotional abuse across the globe. It marked the UN's commitment to protection of the rights of children. It is disheartening to learn that six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access.

Resignation of Jordanian PM Hani Mulki

On 4th June 2018, Jordanian Prime Minister Hani Mulki handed over his resignation to King Abdullah II. The current education minister, Omar al-Razza, will succeed him. Mulki was forced to resign in wake of mass protests over price hikes and adoption of a draft income tax reform bill based on recommendations of International Monetary Fund (IMF). His government had proposed raising the income tax on employees by at least 5% and on companies by 20 to 40%.

Pedro Sánchez : The new prime minister of Spain

On 2nd June, 2018, Socialist and atheist, Pedro Sanchez became the first Spanish prime minister to take oath without a bible in Madrid. He swore to fulfil his duties "with conscience and honour" in presence of King Felipe VI. King Felipe has relaxed the protocol on such swearing-in ceremonies for officials since coming to the power in 2014, which implies that Christian symbols are now an optional element. He has succeeded Conservative Mariano Rajoy for upcoming two years. Rajoy suffered no-confidence vote in parliament over a corruption scandal within his party.

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi became the new president of Egypt

On 2nd June, 2018, former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi became the president of Egypt for the second term. Sisi won more than 97% of votes in the March elections, which was condemned by international and Egyptian rights organisations as "farical" after five opposition candidates were barred from running. Moustafa Moussa was his only opponent. The man came to power in 2013 and tried his best to crush all forms of disputes, with his government targeting Islamists, critics, activists, human rights organisations and journalists.

RIMPAC will begin on June 27th

Pentagon of USA, announced beginning of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) military exercise from June 27 to August 2, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest

international maritime exercise will involve 47 surface ships, 5 submarines, 18 national land forces, over 200 aircrafts and 25,000 personnel from 26 nations across the globe. The theme this year is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." Four countries, Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam will be participating in RIMPAC for the first time.

An ethnic Indian became attorney general of Malaysia

Malaysian king Sultan Muhammad V has approved the appointment of an ethnic Indian lawyer, Tommy Thomas as the new Attorney General, amid protests from Islamic groups pleading appointment of a Muslim on the post, to keep the status of Islam as the official religion intact. With this appointment, Tommy Thomas has become the first minority to hold the post in 55 years and has replaced the dismissed Mohamed Apandi bin Haji Ali. The king is of opinion that every Malaysian should be treated fairly regardless of race and religion.

Ben Lecomte will traverse the Pacific

On 5th June, 2018, 51 year old French swimmer, Ben Lecomte has begun from Japan aiming to become the first person to swim across the Pacific Ocean. He will swim for eight hours a day for over six months to reach the US west coast. In the 9,000 km (5,500 miles) swim, he is likely to meet sharks, storms, swarms of jellyfish, and extremely low water temperatures. In 1998, he accomplished the first known solo trans-Atlantic swim covering 6,400km (4,000 miles) in 73 days.

Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés: President of UN General Assembly

On June 5, 2018, Ecuador's Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés got chosen as the President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. Espinosa won 128 votes and has succeeded Miroslav Lajčák. With this, she has become the fourth woman to preside over UN General Assembly in its 73 year history and the first since 2006. Before her, India's Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1953), Liberia's Angie Elisabeth Brooks (1969) and Bahrain's Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa (2006) served on this post.

International Conference on the TRIPS CBD Linkage

On 7th June 2018, two day International Conference on the TRIPS CBD Linkage began in Geneva. Indian Government, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the South Centre organized this event to revive WTO discussions on theft of traditional knowledge of Ayurveda and naturopathy. The event has brought together indigenous people and communities of developing and developed countries viz. Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, and the US ; internationally recognized academicians; Geneva-based negotiators and capital based experts.

Omar Razzaz, the new prime minister of Jordan

In June 2018, Jordan's king Abdullah appointed Omar Razzaz as the new prime minister of the country to suppress protests against economic reforms. Government's recent expenditure curbing policies provoked mass protests. Earlier this year, protesters were outraged at a tax hike as well as the abolition of bread subsidies prompted by the IMF to curb Jordan's rising public debt. Omar has succeeded Hani Mulki. He has been education minister of the outgoing government and had also served as a former World Bank economist.

World Oceans Day

The World Oceans' Day celebration was based on "Plastic Pollution" along with "Protect the ocean's paradise" themes. Approximately 8 million tonnes of plastic accumulates in the ocean annually claiming lives of 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and hampers wildlife, fisheries and tourism. For recognizing the important global contribution towards sustainable management of resources, the UN designated 8th June as the "World Oceans' Day". The concept of the day was proposed for the first time in 1992.

The 11th edition of Geo Intelligence Asia

On 5th June, the two day 11th edition of Geo Intelligence 2018 Asia got concluded at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. GeoSpatial Media and Communication along with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey organized this event. The theme of this annual event was ‘GeoSpatial: A Force Multiplier for Defence and Industrial Security’. It gathered military, security officials, government and industry to evaluate the latest technology solutions and discuss the critical role of geospatial technology for safety and security.

NASA extended mission Juno

On June 7, 2018, NASA announced extension of Juno’s science operations till July 2021. With this, the spacecraft will stay for 41 more months in orbit around Jupiter. The probe will complete its two-year anniversary of being in the orbit of Jupiter in July 2018. In this additional allotted time the spacecraft will further explore Jovian magnetosphere, the area of space dominated by Jupiter's magnetic field that includes the far magnetotail, the southern magnetosphere and the magnetospheric boundary region known as magnetopause.

Re-sanctification of 148-year-old Hindu temple in Singapore

In June 2018, the 148-year-old Sri Krishna temple was re-sanctified in a ceremony, “MahaSamprokshanam” after renovation for over four years at a cost of nearly SGD 4 million. It was built in 1870 in Waterloo Street. The dome and the statues were clad in gold-plated copper and the decorative works on the pillars needed two sculptors crafting them on site for more than three years. In the main hall, onyx sanctums were given place of 8 cement shrines. The stones, chosen for its durability were imported from India.

TV chef’s suicide

In June 2018, popular US TV chef, Anthony Bourdain was found dead in his room at the Le Chambard hotel in Kaysersberg-Vignoble, France. It is said that the 61 year old committed suicide by hanging himself via a bathrobe belt in his room at the hotel. His friends and colleagues reported his regular suicidal attempts after dissolution of his first marriage with Ottavia Busia Bourdain. His body will be brought back to US for the last rites.

India became Intercontinental Cup football winner

On June 10th, 2018, India won the Intercontinental Cup football title by defeating Kenya by 2-0 in Mumbai. Sunil Chhetri was the man who scored both the goals for the country. He scored the first one in the eighth minute and the second one in the 29th minute. With this, Sunil Chhetri has become the joint second highest international goal scorer among renowned players along with Argentine superstar Lionel Messi with his 64th strike for the country against Kenya.

Sports News

India won medals on the very first day!

Asian Cadet Judo Championships began on 11th of May 2018 in Lebanon and Indian judokas bagged 3 medals on the first day itself. Rohini S Mohite from Maharashtra won gold medal in the 40kg category. Tababi Devi Thanjam from Manipur also won gold medal in the 44kg category. And the third medal came in form of Bronze via Harish of Haryana in the 50 kg category. Indian squad comprises of a 40-member team that is participating in the 12th Asian Cadet Judo Championships and 19th Asian Junior Judo Championships.

India wins 5th Women's Asian Hockey

On 13th May India defeated Japan by 4-1 goals in Asian Champions Trophy in South Korea. Navneet Kaur scored a hat-trick and Anupa Barla scored another goal. Japan's Aki Yamada managed to score the only goal for Japan. The Indian squad will fight with China on Wednesday. Besides India, Japan, China and the host South Korea, Malaysia is the other team participating in the tournament.

India U-16 defeats Tajikistan

On May 13, 2018, India defeated Tajikistan by 4-2 in the four-nation Under-16 Tournament in Serbia. Indian contingent scored three goals against Tajikistan in the first 10 minutes of the match and the fourth goal in the 66th minute. Prior to this, the Indian squad drew 0-0 with the host, defeated Jordan 2-1 before beating Tajikistan in the final. India ended the campaign unbeaten in three matches, scoring seven points out of a maximum nine.

India defeated China by 3-1

On 16th May, 2018, women's hockey team of India defeated China by 3-1 in the Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae in South Korea. Vandana and Gurjit scored goals for India while Wen Dan netted China's only goal. With the win, India climbed to the top spot in the 5-nation table. India will lock sticks with Malaysia and host South Korea in coming days. And the top two teams at the end of the round-robin stage will confront in the Final on 20th May, 2018.

Neymar: France's player of the year

In May 2018, Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (R) got the Best Ligue 1 Player award from former Brazilian international player Ronaldo in the 27th edition of the UNFP (French National Professional Football players Union) trophy ceremony. He got entitled as France's player of the year. He is the world's most expensive player, who scored 19 goals in just 20 league games for PSG. His PSG teammates Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe along with Marseille's Florian Thauvin were the other nominees for this coveted title.

Messi again won European Golden Shoe

In May 2018, Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has won the European Golden Shoe for the fifth time. He scored 34 goals in La Liga this season, leading his club to a 25th league triumph. Before this, he won this prize in 2017, 2013, 2012 and 2010. His impressive tally came from 32 starts that made him top the chart. On the other hand, four-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo finished ninth in the rankings after scoring 26 goals for Real Madrid in La Liga.

South Korea conquers Asian Champions Trophy 2018

In May 2018, women's Hockey team of South Korea defeated India by 1-0 in the the fifth Asian Champions Trophy at Donghae City, South Korea. Youngsil Lee scored the winning goal for the Korean team. This was

the third time when South Korea has lifted the title, after having won it in 2010 and 2011. Indian striker Vandana Katariya was chosen as player of the tournament, while youngster Lalremsiami was adjudged as the upcoming player of the tournament.

Rafael Nadal won Italian Open

Rafael Nadal defeated Germany's Alexander Zverev by 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 to win Italian Open title for a record eighth time on 20th May 2018. The triumph made him world number one Tennis player. The win is Nadal's 78th ATP Tour title that takes him clear of John McEnroe into fourth spot in the list of most men's titles claimed in the Open era. Nadal has now booked three clay-court titles from four tournaments in the lead-up to his bid for an 11th Roland Garros title in Paris.

AB de Villiers takes retirement

On May 23, 2018, South Africa Star cricketer AB de Villiers decided to retire from all forms of the game. He has played a total of 114 Test matches, 228 ODIs and 78 T20 Internationals and scored 20,014 international runs viz. 8765 in Tests, 9577 in ODIs and 1672 in T20Is. He had batting average of over 50 in both Tests and ODIs. He holds record of making world's fastest ODI 50, 100 and 150, the fastest Test century by a South African and the fastest T20I 50 by a South African.

The IOS Sports contract

In May 2018, Commonwealth medallists Manika Batra and MirabaiChanu have signed multi-year agreements with sports management firm IOS. Manika Batra had won medals in four events, including an unprecedented gold in the women's singles and MirabaiChanu became the 1st Indian in decades to coin Gold at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championship. Hereafter, IOS will manage their brand profiling, endorsements, patents, appearances, licensing and digital rights, images, and visibility on social networking sites. With this, they have joined the row of MC Mary Kom on the IOS roster.

Chennai Super Kings won IPL 2018

On 27 May 2018, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) outshone Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) by 8 wickets and won 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) title at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. Sunil Naraine of Kolkata Knight Riders was adjudged as Man of the Series. SRH batted first and scored 178 runs. CSK achieved the target with nine balls to spare by virtue of Australian Shane Watson's 117 runs off 57 deliveries. With this victory, CSK has now won three IPL titles and has come on par with Mumbai Indians for title wins.

Real Madrid won Champions League

The Spanish giants of Real Madrid got edge over Liverpool by 3-1 at the NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Ukraine's capital, Kiev, on 26th May 2018 to lift the most prestigious trophy in European football. Karim Benzema, Isco and Gareth Bale scored goals for Real Madrid while Senegalese striker Sadio Mane scored the only goal for Liverpool. This was the third consecutive year that Real Madrid have won the tournament and the fourth such in five years, which took their total tally to a record 13 titles.

Daniel Ricciardo won Monaco Grand Prix

On 27th May 2018, Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo defeated Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel to win Monaco Grand Prix race title. This was the Australian's first Monaco victory, his second this season and the seventh of his career. Lewis Hamilton took third spot in this race via Mercedes. Hamilton's lead was cut from 17 to 14 points in the title race. Kimi Raikkonen finished fourth in the second Ferrari ahead of fellow Finn Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes and Frenchman Esteban Ocon grabbed the sixth spot for Force India.

CEAT Cricket Ratings awards

In May 2018, Indian skipper Virat Kohli was adjudged as the International Cricketer of the Year at the CEAT Cricket Ratings awards in Mumbai. Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan was bestowed the International Batsman of the Year Award. New Zealand pace sensation Trent Boult got entitled as International Bowler of the Year. Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan was named as T20 Bowler of the Year. Indian Woman cricketer, Harmanpreet Kaur was presented the Outstanding Innings of the Year Award. And Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon former India wicket-keeper Farokh Engineer.

Vikas Gowda retires from the world of Athletics

The Athletics Federation of India announced retirement of celebrated Indian athlete Vikas Gowda. Gowda became the first and only Indian male to win the Commonwealth Games (CWG) medals in discus throw. The outgoing athlete holds a national record of 66.28m. The four-time Olympian has coined gold medals in 2013 and 2015 Asian Championships. He also clinched a silver in the 2010 and a gold in the 2014 Glasgow CWG. In the Asian Games, he won a bronze in 2010 and a silver in 2014.

India won Women's T-20 Asia Cup Cricket

On 4th June 2018, India got edge over Thailand by 66 runs in Women's T-20 Asia Cup Cricket in Kuala Lumpur. Choosing to bat first India scored 132 runs at loss of 4 wickets in 20 overs. In reply, Thailand managed to make 66 runs at loss of 8 wickets. Now the Indian eves will play with Pakistan on 9th May 2018. The top two teams at the end of the round-robin stage will play in the Final on 10th May 2018.

India reached Intercontinental Cup Tournament

India succeeded in reaching the final of the Intercontinental Cup Football tournament after defeating Kenya by 3-0 in Mumbai on 4th June 2018. The credit went to Captain Sunil Chhetri's double strike that made India record this comprehensive victory. Chhetri earned a penalty and broke the deadlock while JejeLalpekhlua doubled the team's lead with his pile driver in the 71st minute of the game. Chhetri concluded the game by scoring the winning goal. In this match Chhetri wore the blue kit for a hundredth time.

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Afghanistan won the T20 International

On 7th June Afghanistan defeated Bangladesh in the third and final T20 International by 1 run and won the series with 3-0 in Dehradun. Afghanistan chose to bat first and posted 145 runs at loss of 6 wickets. They became winners when Afghanistan's trump card Rashid Khan single-handedly turned the game upside down by defending 9 runs off the final over. Before this match, Afghanistan had already taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, after having clinched the first two matches by clear margins.

Mithali Raj: The first Indian cricketer to score 2000 T20-I runs

On 7th June, 2018, Mithali Raj has become the first Indian cricketer to score 2000 runs in T20-I cricket. She achieved this feat during India's Women's T20 Asia Cup match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur. She has made 2015 runs in 74 T20Is with the help of 14 fifties. So far, she has posted a highest score of 76 not out at decent average of 38.0. With this feat, she has joined the row of Charlotte Edwards (2,605), Stafanie Taylor (2,582), Suzie Bates (2,515).

Asian Junior Athletics Championships

On 9th June 2018 India won 3 more medals on the third & penultimate day of Asian Junior Athletics Championships at Gifu in Japan. In this, middle distance runner Anu Kumar contributed a gold in the men's 800 metres, Arpandeeep Kaur Bajwa won a bronze in the women's discus throw and another bronze medal came via the Men's 4 x 100 relay. Japan bagged the gold in the event and Chinese Taipei coined the silver. With this, India's overall tally reached three gold, one silver and nine bronze medals.

CAREER FLITE

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. In May 2018, Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of which country?
(a) Greece (b) Hungary (c) Guyana
(d) Guinea (e) Georgia
2. In May 2018, who has been appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor of India?
(a) Vijay Keshav Gokhale (b) Navtej Sarna
(c) Dadiba Merwanji Dalal (d) Pankaj Saran (e) Ajay Bisaria
3. In May 2018, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched India's fourth data centre in which city?
(a) Mumbai (b) Bengaluru (c) Bhubaneswar
(d) Chennai (e) Kolkata
4. Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of which bank?
(a) State Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank
(c) Bank of India (d) Reserve Bank of India (e) Bank of Baroda
5. In May 2018, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised which airport as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport?
(a) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(b) Chennai International Airport
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
(d) Cochin International Airport
(e) Goa International Airport
6. Who is the first Indian to be awarded the Linnean Medal in Botany Science?
(a) Sharachandra Lele (b) R. Siddappa Setty
(c) Kamaljit S. Bawa (d) P.S. Mathur (e) None of these
7. In May 2018, which among the following state governments has constituted a state Animal Welfare Board?
(a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Jharkhand
(d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Uttar Pradesh
8. In May 2018, who has become the oldest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest?
(a) Arunima Sinha (b) Sangeeta Bahl
(c) Prem Lata Agarwal (d) Anshu Jamsenpa (e) None of these
9. The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed every year on _____.
(a) 25th of May (b) 26th of May
(c) 27th of May (d) 28th of May (e) 29th of May
10. In May 2018, India launched its second IT corridor in which country?
(a) China (b) Japan
(c) Malaysia (d) Nepal (e) Myanmar

11. Who among the following wrote the book 'Straight Talk'?
- (a) Shashi Tharoor (b) Manmohan Singh (c) Romesh Thapar
(d) Abhishek Manu Singhvi (e) Mark Tully
12. In May 2018, which among the following state governments has declared official symbols for the state?
- (a) Karnataka (b) Telangana (c) Kerala
(d) Tamil Nadu (e) Andhra Pradesh
13. Who has been honoured with the 'Santokba Humanitarian Award' 2018?
- (a) Kiran Bedi (b) Kailash Satyarthi
(c) Irom Sharmila (d) Verghese Kurien (e) S. Swaminathan
14. Giuseppe Conte sworn in as the Prime Minister of which country?
- (a) Italy (b) Iceland (c) Laos
(d) Libya (e) Namibia
15. Who has been honored with 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Music?
- (a) Justin Bieber (b) Bob Dylan (c) Lady Gaga
(d) Kendrick Lamar (e) Hank Williams
16. Amit Khare has been appointed as the _____ in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B).
- (a) Joint Secretary (b) Chief Secretary
(c) Secretary (d) Assistant Secretary (e) None of these
17. Pedro Sanchez has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?
- (a) Cuba (b) Estonia (c) Georgia
(d) Greece (e) Spain
18. In June 2018, which country has successfully launched new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6'?
- (a) China (b) Japan (c) United States
(d) Germany (e) India
19. Dr. Dinesh Gupta has been appointed as the new _____ of Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- (a) Director General (b) Director (c) Deputy Director
(d) Additional Director General (e) None of these
20. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was sworn in as the President of which country?
- (a) Albania (b) Egypt (c) Algeria
(d) Benin (e) Bulgaria

ANSWERS

- 1.(d) Ibrahima KassoryFofana has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Guinea. He succeeded MamadyYoula, who resigned along with his government.
- 2.(d) Pankaj Saran, the 1982-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer has been appointed as the new Deputy National Security Advisor of India for a period of two years. Presently, he is India's ambassador to Russia. He succeeded Former RAW chief Rajinder Khanna.
- 3.(c) National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched India's fourth data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. The data centre offers round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for various e-governance applications of Central and State Governments and also has the ability to support 35,000 virtual servers.
- 4.(d) NSDL executive Sudha Balakrishnan has been appointed as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the period of three years. She will be the 12th executive director of the RBI.
- 5.(d) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL)of Kerala as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. The airport has 15 MWp solar power plant near the cargo complex of the airport including 46,150 solar panels placed across 45 acres.
- 6.(c) Indian botanist, Dr.Kamaljit S. Bawa has been honoured with the prestigious Linnean Medal in Botany from the Linnean Society of London. He has been recognized for his pioneering research on the evolution of tropical plants, tropical deforestation, non-timber forest products and for decades of work on the biodiversity of forests in Central America. With this, he has become the first Indian to win the award since it was first constituted in 1888.
- 7.(b) The Haryana government has constituted the state Animal Welfare Board. The Board was constituted under the chairmanship of additional chief secretary, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The work of the board is to ensure proper implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and other Acts or Regulations for animal welfare applicable to Haryana.
- 8.(b) Sangeeta Bahl,a 53-year-old former model, became the oldest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest. She scaled the peak with the help of two Sherpas. She has already conquered six out of the seven highest peaks in the world. With this, she broke the record of Premlata Agarwal who scaled Mount Everest at the age of 48 years.
- 9.(e) The International Day of UN Peacekeepers is observed every year on 29th of May. The main aim to celebrate this day is to honour more than 3700 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while serving the United Nations since 1948. The theme for the year 2018 is 'UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice'.
- 10.(a) India launched its second IT corridor in China to take benefit from the country's growing software market. The main aim behind the move is to provide market access to Indian IT companies in the vast Chinese market.

- 11.(d)** The book 'Straight Talk' has been written by Abhishek Manu Singhvi, the Member of Rajya Sabha. The book was released by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book speaks about the automatic suspension of allowances for law makers per day or per hour lost due to disruptions.
- 12.(e)** The Andhra Pradesh government has declared official symbols for the state after division. The symbols are notified by the state government's Department of Environment, Forest, Science and Technology via a Government Order (GO). Rose-ringed parakeet and Black Buck (Krishna Jinka) have been declared as the state's bird and animal respectively. Similarly, Neem and Jasmine have been declared as the state's tree and flower respectively.
- 13.(b)** Child rights activist and Nobel Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi and space scientist A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have been honoured with the 'Santokba Humanitarian Award' 2018. The award comprises a trophy and a cash prize of Rs 1 crore.
- 14.(a)** Giuseppe Conte sworn in as the Prime Minister of Italy. He will head a government of ministers from the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the far-right League Party.
- 15.(d)** Kendrick Lamar, the famous rapper of America has been honored with 2018 Pulitzer Prize in music for his album "Damn." He is the first hip-hop artist in the history to win this award.
- 16.(c)** Amit Khare, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He replaced Narendra Kumar Sinha. Prior to this, Khare was Additional Chief Secretary in Jharkhand government.
- 17.(e)** Pedro Sanchez has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Spain. He succeeded Mariano Rajoy.
- 18.(a)** China has successfully launched new Earth observation satellite 'the Gaofen-6'. The satellite will mainly be used in agricultural resources research and disaster monitoring. The Satellite was launched on a Long March-2D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- 19.(a)** Dr. Dinesh Gupta, an officer of the 1983 UPSC batch, has been appointed as the 47th Director General (DG) of the Geological Survey of India (GSI). He replaced N. Kutumba Rao. Gupta is an expert in mineral exploration.
- 20.(b)** For the second four-year term, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was sworn in as the President of Egypt. He won 97 percent of valid votes.