



"A Leading Coaching Institute For
Bank PO/ Clerk, SSC, Railway, CAT, MAT, CLAT"

2nd Floor, Prahar Building, Opp. Mamtara Brothers, Danish Road, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001
Phone : 76700 26262, 98640 93327, **email**:- careerflite@gmail.com, **website**:- www.careerflite.com

Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

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. 'Jibana jamunare juara uthere', 'jochhana luchan dura nila gagane', 'udi udi udi udi jaare gudi' and 'kainchi kakudi nalita 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.

India's first national police museum

In June 2018, Union Government announced establishment of India's first national police museum in Lutyens' Delhi. The proposed museum is likely to get inaugurated on October 21 that will showcase the history, artefacts, uniforms and gear of central and state police forces which will be a sort of underground facility. This is for the first time, the nation will have a national-level permanent exhibition on policing subjects which will serve as a repository of knowledge for researchers on policing subjects.

Arvind Saxena : The new acting UPSC Chairman

Arvind Saxena will serve as the acting Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) from June 20, 2018 as per recent announcement of the government. The 1978-batch Indian Postal Service officer will succeed incumbent Vinay Mittal from June 20 till further orders or till completion of his tenure on August 7, 2020. He entered Delhi in 1982 as Officer on Special Duty, in-charge of arrangements for postal services for the IX Asian Games and the 7th Non-Aligned Summit Meet. He has served on prominent posts in Postal departments across the nation.

5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages

On June 11, 2018, Government launched 5000 Wi-Fi Choupals in villages under Common Service Centers (CSC) project of Wi-Fi choupals. The Choupals will ensure rural internet connectivity through BharatNet via 60,000 WiFi hotspots in 2.5 lakh gram panchayats. Besides this, the CSCs have signed agreement with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for unlimited train ticket bookings. The CSCs are vital part of the government's Digital India initiative that work as access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages including passport and Aadhaar enrollment.

'Rail Madad' & 'Menu on Rails' App

On June 11, 2018, Minister of Railways & Coal, Piyush Goyal launched two mobile apps, 'Rail Madad' and 'Menu on Rails' Apps. Built by the Northern Railways (Delhi Division), Rail Madad App will register and digitize grievances of railway passengers. Developed by IRCTC, 'Menu on Rails' app will generate awareness for the food items served to passengers during their journey. The app will show the prices and will curb the overcharging of available beverages, breakfast, meals and separate items which are not part of a set meal.

Gold Monetisation Scheme, 2015 amendment

In June 2018, the Reserve Bank of India amended Gold Monetisation Scheme, 2015 to encourage people to open hassle-free gold deposit account. There exist two gold deposit schemes viz. Short Term Bank Deposits of 1 or 3 years treated as bank's liability on balance sheet and Medium and Long Term Government Deposits which are bifurcated into Medium Term Government Deposit of 5 to 7 years with rate of interest 2.25% p.a. And Long Term Government Deposit of 12 to 15 years with rate of interest 2.50% p.a.

Ten new Swachh Iconic Places

On June 12, 2018, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, launched ten new iconic sites under the third phase of the flagship Swachh Iconic Places project for executing special sanitation work. Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Andhra Pradesh), Hazarduari Palace (West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Haryana), VidurKuti (UP), Mana village (Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (UP), ImaKeithal/market (Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand) will have structure restoration, improved sewage infrastructure and sanitation facilities, Water ATMs, Solid and Liquid Waste Management, drainage facilities, roads maintenance and so on.

SEBI's Expert Committee for direct listing of Indian firms abroad

Although companies incorporated in India can list their debt securities on international exchanges, yet they have to depend on the American Depositary Receipt or Global Depositary Receipt route for enlisting their equity share capital abroad. So to get rid of this dependency, SEBI constituted an Expert Committee to examine various legal and economic aspects and frame rules for direct listing of Indian firms abroad. Ranu Vohra (Avendus Capital Pvt. Ltd.), Cyril S Shroff (Amarchand Mangaldas), Kamal Yadav (Morgan Stanley's Technology), S. Ramesh (Kotak Investment Banking), Neeraj Bhargava (Zodius Capital Advisors), Deep Kalra (MakeMyTrip.com), Rajiv Gupta (Partner, Singapore's Latham & Watkins LLP), Jamil Khatri (Accounting Advisory Services, KPMG, LLP) and Sujit Prasad (SEBI) are members of this Committee.

Bindeshwar Pathak got Nikkei Asia Prize

On June 13, 2018, the largest media corporation of Japan, Nikkei Inc, honored renowned social reformer and Sulabh International founder, Bindeshwar Pathak with prestigious Nikkei Asia Prize at the 23rd Nikkei Asia Prize ceremony in Tokyo. He got the award under the 'Culture and Community' category for his key role in tackling poor hygiene and discrimination. The 75-year-old awardee invented a two-pit pour-flush ecological compost toilet, called Sulabh toilet, for household use as well as technology for producing biogas from human waste to be utilized for lamp fuel or cooking.

Deepika Rajawat became 'Woman Of The Year'

In June 2018, Lawyer Deepika Singh Rajawat was honored with the prestigious 'Woman Of The Year Award' at the Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ladies Wing award function in Mumbai. The Ladies Wing committee applauded Rajawat's incredible courage with which she fought for Kathua Rape

Victim. Despite getting frequent death and rape threats from right-wing political parties, the awardee fought for eight-year-old rape and murder victim who was gang raped for numerous days in Jammu and then was subjected to death by the perpetrators.

Launch of 'utsonmobile' app for cashless ticketing

In June 2018, The Centre for Railway Information System has developed a mobile-based application 'utsonmobile' to enable cashless ticketing. It will enable booking and cancellation of unreserved tickets, issue and renewal of season and platform tickets as well as checking and loading of Railway Wallet balance. Users can download the app from Google Play Store free of cost and register on the app after which Railway Wallet with zero balance will be generated that can be recharged either at any of the UTS counter or through recharge option available on the utsonmobile website.

NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index

On June 13, 2018, NITI Aayog announced the launch of the Composite Water Management Index to achieve the objective of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. The Index will serve as a useful tool to evaluate and rectify the performance in efficient management of water resources by encouraging optimal utilisation of water and recycling, with a sense of urgency across States and UTs. The think tank of the government, NITI Aayog did this in wake of limited availability of water resources and rising demand for water.

Bihar has come up with schemes worth Rs 875 crore

In June 2018, Chief Minister of Bihar inaugurated 122 schemes, worth Rs 875 crore, on the occasion of the 43rd establishment day of the Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd. The Minister expressed satisfaction over the corporation's performance over the last ten years. He further added, "It earned a net profit of Rs 50 crore in 2017-18. Its yearly turnover has shot up from less than Rs 60 crore to more than Rs 1600 crore. The Nigam has spent about Rs 70 crore towards corporate social responsibility."

CTET exam in all 20 languages

On 18th June 2018, Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced conduction of the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) examination in all 20 Indian languages viz. English, Hindi, Bangla, Assamese, Garo, Kannada, Gujarati, Khasi, Manipuri, Marathi, Mizo, Malayalam, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Tibetan and Urdu like before. It is worth recalling here that earlier CBSE was highly criticized for removing 17 languages including Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu and Kannada from the list of options for the CTET.

'Three Year Action Plan' for Agricultural Education

In June 2018, Cabinet approved continuation of 'Three Year Action Plan' of Agricultural Education Division & the Indian Council of Agricultural Research institute. The plan has outlay of Rs 2225.46 crore with an objective of developing and empowering higher agricultural education in India. The action plan with initiatives like attracting talented students, reducing academic inbreeding, addressing faculty shortage, mitigating faculty shortage, involving alumni, promoting innovations, inspiring teacher network, academia interface, technology-enabled learning, post-doctoral fellowships, agriculture education portal etc. is meant to generate quality human resources from the institutions of higher agricultural education.

Anukreethy Vas: Femina Miss India 2018

19-year-old Tamil Nadu college student, Anukreethy Vas outshone 30 contestants to become Femina Miss India 2018 in Mumbai at a ceremony hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar and actor Ayushmann Khurrana. She

will now represent India at Miss World 2018 pageant. Meenakshi Chaudhary from Haryana was adjudged as the first runner-up and Shreya Rao Kamavarapu from Andhra Pradesh emerged as the second runner-up. Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar, Irfan Pathan, KL Rahul, Malaika Arora, Bobby Deol and Kunal Kapoor comprised the jury.

JEE & NEET now twice a year!

After declaration of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced and NEET 2018 results in June 2018, the government broke news of re-conduction of JEE Mains & NEET in December this year. The newly formed National Testing Agency (NTA) which is responsible for conducting all entrance examinations on behalf of CBSE, creating question bank via subject experts, ideating and managing the online system will conduct these exams for the first time. IIT Kanpur established this agency as per Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's announcement last year.

Resignation of Mehbooba Mufti

On June 19, 2018, The People Democratic Party (PDP)'s Mehbooba Mufti resigned from post of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister. BJP pulled out its support from the PDP in Jammu and Kashmir on account of increasing terrorism, violence and radicalisation that have brought the fundamental rights of the citizens in danger in the Valley. In interest of India's security and integrity, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav invoked governor N N Vohra's rule in the state to bring the situation under control.

Arvind Subramanian will quit

On 20th June 2018, Union minister Arun Jaitley announced that Arvind Subramanian is planning to resign from the post of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) because of his personal commitments. He was appointed on the post on October 16, 2014 for three years, which was later extended. Now after having served for nearly four years, he wishes to go back to the United States. The CEA advises the finance minister on macro-economic matters and authors the mid-year analysis and the Economic Survey among other tasks.

Demise of legendary mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav

On 19th June, 2018, renowned mimicry artiste Nerella Venumadhav died of a brief illness at 85 years in Warangal, Telangana. The deceased had served as MLC in 1971 in undivided Andhra Pradesh. His fascinating performance at the United Nations fetched him international acclamation. He was acknowledged with several awards, including the Padma Shri in 2001. The seasoned mimicry artiste started mimicry as his passion at the age of 15. Besides this, he played an instrumental role in introduction of a course in mimicry in many institutions.

IIT BHU & Amazon entered into a contract

On June 20, 2018, The Indian Institute of Technology Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi inked a memorandum of understanding with Amazon Web Services Education program. Under this agreement, Amazon will provide IIT (BHU) all the requisite free services in cloud computing, data sets and new technologies to strengthen its students and faculty for better and focussed research. With this, BHU, which is now resorting to cutting edge technology in its research field, will be able to improve its ranking in India.

Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik wrote 'Vedvigyan Alok'

On 20th June 2018, the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu received a book titled "Vedvigyan Alok". Penned by Acharya Agnivarat Naishthik, the book has the scriptural verse in Vedas' prose. Extremely complicated Vedic Sanskrit has been used in the book which has four volumes. These texts were composed only by the Brahmin community therefore they have been addressed as "Brahmins". It is worth knowing here that the Brahman textbooks are placed second in order of preference of Vedic literature.

Shillong: The 100th Smart City

On 20th June, 2018, Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya got selected as 100th Smart City under the Smart Cities Mission. With this, the total proposed investment in the finally selected 100 cities under the Smart Cities mission has become Rs. 2,05,018 crores. Earlier 20 cities were selected in January 2016, 13 cities were chosen in May 2016, 27 cities were identified in September 2016, 30 cities were marked in June 2017 and 9 cities were added in January 2018.

Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Policy-2018 of Gujarat

On June 21, 2018, Gujarat began its wind-solar hybrid power policy-2018 for upcoming five years to encourage establishment of wind and solar power projects at one location. The policy is meant for optimum use of land and grid lines. The electricity generated from wind-solar hybrid projects will not be subjected to energy charges. The policy holds provision of 50% concession for cross-subsidy surcharge and additional surcharge when the generated energy is sold to a third party. The benefits of the policy will be applicable till existence of the project.

The Second edition of MSME Pulse report

In June 2018, the Small Industries Development Bank of India in joint venture with a Credit Information Company, 'TransUnion CIBIL' has released second edition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Pulse report. The report presents accurate data-driven insights to assist policy and business decisions for the policy makers, regulators and industry sector. As per report, the overall commercial credit exposure was of Rs. 54.2 lakh crores, which was the highest growth rate in the last five quarters; NPA rate got moderated and the MSME growth rate was 15%

MoUs regarding 'Adopt a Heritage' Scheme

On June 19, 2018, Raghvendra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture informed media about four Memorandums of Understanding that have been signed under 'Adopt a Heritage' scheme. Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India inked MoUs with various concerned organizations for developing basic tourism infrastructure in and around heritage monuments and tourist sites like Mount Stok Kangri Trek Route, Ladakh; Gangotri Temple Area & Trail to Gaumukh, Uttarakhand; Red Fort, Delhi and Gandikota Fort, Andhra Pradesh.

Chief Ministers Subgroup for agriculture and MGNREGS

On June 19, 2018, in the Fourth Governing Council Meeting of the NITI Aayog, union government of India decided to constitute Chief Ministers Subgroup for coordination of policy approaches for agriculture and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). CM of MP will be the Convener of the subgroup and CM of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim will be the members of the group along with the NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand. It has been done to realize PM's vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022.

25th June 2018: The 43rd anniversary of Emergency

Nation observed the 43rd anniversary of the Emergency of June 25, 1975 by the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. After getting defeated by Mrs Gandhi in the Rae Bareilly parliamentary constituency of UP, her rival, socialist leader Raj Narain had challenged her election on corruption charges. Her election was declared null and void and besides this, Allahabad High Court had also banned her from contesting in any election for next six years. Socialist Jayaprakash Narayan had organized campaign in Bihar to sack Indira Gandhi and her Congress party from office.

R Praggnanandhaa, The Second Youngest Grandmaster

On 23rd June 2018 Chennai's Praggnanandhaa became world's second youngest grandmaster at the age of 12 years, 10 months and 13 days after defeating Italian GM Luca Moroni Jr in the eighth round in Gredine Open in Ortisei, Italy. So far he has U-8 and U-10 world titles in his name. RB Ramesh was his coach. It is worth knowing here that Ukraine's Sergey Alexandrovich Karjakin scripted the title of the youngest ever Grandmaster at 12 years, 7 months in year 1990.

More NEET exam centres for 2019 exams

On June 23, 2018, Looking at the inconvenience caused to Tamil Nadu candidates because of change in NEET centres, Union Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced set up of more NEET exam centres for 2019 exams. Due to inadequate number of examination centres in Tamil Nadu, more than 2,000 candidates had to travel to Rajasthan, Kerala and Karnataka for this year's NEET exam which was conducted on May 6, 2018. And all this led to lots of confusion and chaos among students and parents.

UGC's anti-plagiarism drive gets HRD's approval

In June 2018, Human Resource Development ministry has approved the University Grants Commission (UGC) rules regarding plagiarism, which state that teachers and student researchers if found guilty of plagiarism will lose their jobs and registrations respectively. It has been done to promote academic integrity, prevent misconduct and improve the quality of education and research in universities and institutes of higher learning. Earlier also, the commission had supported the UGC Regulations, 2018 which emphasized on fresh research work and imposed penalties for cases where the degrees have already been granted.

Pallavi Durua became India's first 'Tribal Queen'

In June 2018, Odisha's Koraput district's Pallavi Durua won the 'Tribal Queen' title at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap, Bhubaneswar, India. Panchami Majhi of Titlagarh and Rashmirekha Hansdah of Mayurbhanj were adjudged as the first and the second runners-up respectively in the beauty pageant. 20 contestants were judged by panel of jury comprised of guests from national and state-level including Padma Shri Tulasi Munda, who was also the ambassador of the event. The three beauties will now work in a short movie.

The MoU for Healthcare courses

In June 2018 Health Ministry signed MoU with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to proliferate healthcare courses. According to Union Health Minister J P Nadda, the MoU will set up curriculum for 10 courses especially designed for the health sector to generate more than 14 lakh trained manpower by 2025. IGNOU will begin the proposed short term healthcare courses in a phased manner. Government has begun universal screening of common non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension and common cancers along with tuberculosis and leprosy which require trained manpower.

Higher Education Commission replaces UGC

On June 27, 2018, Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Human Resource Development has proposed a draft bill to repeal the University Grants Commission (UGC) and set up the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). The aim of this move is to reform higher education in India. The Act entitled 'Higher Education Commission of India Act, 2018 (Repeal of University Grants Commission Act)' revamps UGC Act, 1951 and its parent legislation completely. The HECI Act, 2018 is expected to be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming monsoon session.

Manufacturing of Oxytocin now only in Public Sector

On June 27, 2018, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confined the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only from 1st July 2018. No private manufacturer will be allowed to manufacture the drug for domestic use. The ministry has also banned the import of Oxytocin. Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL), a public sector company, would be manufacturing this drug for domestic use. Oxytocin is a naturally-occurring hormone which causes uterine contractions during labour and helps new mothers lactate.

S.Ramesh: New Chairman of CBIC

On 26th June 2018, Senior bureaucrat, S. Ramesh has been appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes, according to an official order. He will replace Vanaja N Sarna. Ramesh is a 1981 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service. Currently, he is the member in the board, mandated with the responsibility of implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Besides this, Senior IRS officer Raj Kumar Barthwal has been appointed as new member of the CBIC.

First Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme

On 29th June, 2018, NITI Aayog released the first Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme in New Delhi showcasing the incremental progress of the districts between 31st of March and 31st of May, 2018. Agriculture and Water Resources, Health and Nutrition, Education, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure were some of the grounds on which the districts were evaluated. The rankings are available on the Champions of Change Dashboard.

Exim Bank extended Financial aid to Seychelles

On 27th June 2018, the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) approved USD 10 million worth of line of credit (LOC) to Seychelles for healthcare and procurement of goods and projects. Earlier this week, the Republic of Suriname received two LOCs aggregating USD 31 million for upgradation of its transmission line network and maintenance of Chetak helicopters. Currently, Exim Bank has 233 LOCs encompassing 62 nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the CIS, with credit commitments of around USD 22.86 billion, available for financing exports from India.

Rupee had a fall of 69.09 against US dollar

On June 28, 2018, Rupee has hit the all-time low of 69.09 against the US dollar, falling past 69 mark for the first time ever as the earlier record low of rupee was 68.86 on November 24, 2016. And on 27th June 2018, it ended at 68.63, the worst ever closing since August 28, 2013, when it hit a record closing low of 68.82. The fall has been on account of the week-long rise in the crude prices amid higher inflation and current account deficit.

29th June came as National Statistics Day

Nation celebrated 125th birth anniversary of Late Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis on June 29, 2018. The legend was a great scientist and mathematician who established Indian Statistical Institute. He introduced the concept of pilot surveys and advocated the significance of sampling methods. Theme for this year's celebration was "Quality Assurance in Official Statistics" to highlight the vitality of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. Vice President released a commemorative coin of Rs 125 and circulation coin of Rs 5 denomination on this occasion.

New Technique for cervical cancer detection

In June 2018, researchers of Tamil Nadu began a new 'Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) technique' for cervical cancer detection. In this technique a soft brush is used to collect cells from cervix and the neck of the uterus and transferred into a bottle containing a preservative and sent for laboratory analysis. The cell contents are collected and easily processed on a slide which was not convenient in the conventional method. The technique is quite helpful in detecting cervical cancer during the pre-cancerous stages.

Dutee Chand made national record in women's 100m

On June 29, 2018, Odisha sprinter Dutee Chand accomplished a new national record in women's 100m race at the 58th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships-2018 at Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati. Dutee finished first in semi-final round of women's 100m sprint clocking 11.29 seconds. With this, she has broken her own record of 11.30 seconds which she made at the Indian Grand Prix, New Delhi in 2017. It is worth recalling here that Dutee has qualified for the Jakarta Asian Games in 100m and 200m events at the Inter State Championships.

Dharmashastra National Law University

On June 30, 2018, Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra laid foundation stone for Dharmashastra National Law University in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Besides this, Justice Misra also inaugurated a newly constructed district court complex in Jabalpur. This new building has more than 55 courtrooms which have been constructed at expenditure of 192 crores rupees. In his speech Justice Misra emphasized on need of infrastructure equipped with technology for increasing efficiency of courts and grooming of judicial system.

Madhya Pradesh won award

On 29th June 2018, Madhya Pradesh clinched award under Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign for reducing maternal mortality in New Delhi. The Campaign was on purpose of ensuring quality care of more than 3 crore pregnant women of the country before delivery. According to the report of the Registrar General of India for period between 2014 to 2016, MP has shown an unprecedented 48-digit decline in maternal deaths. The figures state that maternal mortality rate was 221 in the year 2011-13, which has now dropped further to 173.

Swadhaar FinServe became RBL Bank's asset

In June 2018, RBL Bank purchased Mumbai based Swadhaar FinServe Pvt. Ltd. It began its operations as a non-banking finance company in 2008 and later got converted into an NBFC-MFI. In 2014, it became a business correspondent for RBL Bank and transferred its microcredit portfolio to the bank. RBL raised its stake in this company from 60.48% to 100% to assist expansion in its financial inclusion initiatives. FinServe provides services to the underbanked segment in rural areas and has a network of 331 branches across 16 States and 2 UTs.

Rani Rampal: Captain of Indian women's hockey team

In June 2018, Hockey India announced the 18-member Indian women's hockey team for the upcoming world cup which will start from July 21 in London. Rani Rampal will lead the team and goalkeeper Savita has been appointed as her deputy. Besides them, Rajani Etimarpu, Sunita Lakra, Deep Grace Ekka, Deepika, Gurjit Kaur, Reena Khokhar, Namita Toppo, Lilima Minz, Monika, Neha Goyal, Navjot Kaur, Nikki Pradhan, Vandana Katariya, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami and Uditia comprise the team. India has been categorized in Pool B.

SoIs of NITI Aayog

In June 2018, NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurs Platform inked five Statements of Intent (SoIs) with financial institutions and social organisations viz. Shri Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank Limited, Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited, Sreemanta Sankar Mission and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). The SoIs are regarding provision of financial assistance to women entrepreneurs and addressing the finance related challenges; strengthening established and aspiring women entrepreneurs in North East India; mobilizing women entrepreneurs in rural areas and promoting them in Livelihood Entrepreneurship.

“Eleventh Hour” of Hussain Zaidi

In June 2018, Crime writer Hussain Zaidi penned a novel “Eleventh Hour”. Published by HarperCollins India, the book showcases the real-life events viz. a big stash of RDX that was undiscovered since the Mumbai serial blasts of 1993 and the agencies had no idea about it; the five men of Bhopal who escaped from jail etc. Besides this, Zaidi, has written many books like “Black Friday”, “Dongri to Dubai”, “Mafia Queens of Mumbai” and “Byculla to Bangkok” which have been adapted into movies like “Shootout at Wadala”, “Phantom” etc.

Panjab University Shooting Range will get a name

On July 7, 2018, Panjab University (PU) shooting range will be christened as Captain Vikram Batra, PVC, Shooting Range, in memory of martyr Captain Batra who sacrificed his life in 1999 Kargil War. The syndicate will ratify the recommendations of vice-chancellor Prof Arun Kumar Grover regarding this. Flashback reveals that in November 2017, the posthumous recipient of Param Vir Chakra, G L Batra, father of Capt Vikram Batra, wrote a letter to PU requesting to name any of its architecture after Batra. The Kargil War martyr was a student of DAV College, Chandigarh, who had stayed in hostel number 1 on PU campus.

The beginning of ‘happiness curriculum’

On July 2, 2018, the Delhi government began 'Happiness Curriculum' for school students up to class 8. Conceived by Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister and education department in-charge Manish Sisodia and designed and prepared by a team of 40 Delhi government teachers, educators and volunteers, the curriculum has meditation, value education and mental exercises. The 'Happiness' period of 45 minutes is expected to address the modern day issues like terrorism, corruption and pollution through human-centric education. The Dalai Lama and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal were present on this occasion.

Rajat Sharma became president of DDCA

India TV Chairman and Editor-in-Chief Rajat Sharma got elected as the president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) with 54.40 % votes. He defeated former cricketer Madan Lal by 517 votes. Besides him, the younger brother of former DDCA president Sneh Bansal, Rakesh Kumar Bansal has been chosen as the vice president with 48.87% votes. He managed to outshine BCCI acting president CK Khanna's wife Shashi. Her defeat is said to have blocked the road for Khanna in DDCA, who reigned for nearly 30 long years.

PMSMA 'IPledgefor9' Achievers & MMR Reduction Awards

On July 1, 2018, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda bestowed the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) 'IPledgefor9' Achievers and MMR Reduction Awards to individuals and teams of doctors from the private sector and States for their remarkable services. The awardees were found to have contributed well in obtaining objectives of safe motherhood to every Indian woman. Maternal Mortality Ratio has decreased by 22% since 2013 in India. PMSMA advocates free of cost comprehensive and quality antenatal care to all pregnant women.

UAE consulate will open in Hyderabad

On July 1, 2018, the proposal of setting up a consulate of United Arab Emirates in Hyderabad saw green signal after discussions between Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The consulate will improve cordial relations between the state government and the UAE. According to a press release in this context, the UAE Minister Nahyan has keen interest in more investments in Telangana as he was highly impressed by the progress made by the state in various spheres.

Gene that strengthens Immunity

In June 2018, researchers of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia have discovered a gene “C6 or f106” that strengthens the human immunity system. It plays a vital role in regulating the body's immune response to infection caused in diseases like cancer and diabetes. The discovery will lead to the development of new treatments for several inflammatory disorders viz. rheumatoid arthritis. The discovered gene had been existing for over 500 million years, preserved and transferred from simple organisms to humans.

IndiaFirst & Oxigen entered into a contract

Joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank and Legal and General (UK), “IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited”, inked agreement with one of the leading providers of money transfer and prepaid recharges, Oxigen Services India Pvt. Ltd. This partnership will create a unique selling model to provide insurance to the masses via more than 1 lakh outlets of Oxigen. In this IndiaFirst Life will provide PoS Insurance Khata, a unique product that will enable customers to increase their life cover and create savings as per their budget.

P.K. Shrivastava: New chief of Ordnance Factory Board

In July 2018, Mechanical Engineer P.K. Shrivastava has got appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) as well as chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). In 1982 he joined Indian Ordnance Factories' Service and has been an Additional DGOF. He was also in charge of Armoured Vehicles, headquartered in Avadi, Chennai. He has worked in many capacities in Ammunition Factory Khadki, Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, Ordnance Factory Varangaon, Ordnance Factory Khamaria etc.

Bhitarkanika national park has 101 crocodile nesting sites

Recently the Bhitarkanika national park of Odisha was found to have the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the nation with 101 record nesting sites. In 2017, this figure was just 80 and now the nesting list had registered 25% rise this year. A female crocodile lays around 50 to 60 eggs and the hatchlings usually get out of the nests after 70 to 80 days of incubation period. Last year there were around 1682 crocodiles which have now become 1698 including albino species along the water-bodies of Mahanadi delta region.

SAI got renamed as ‘Sports India’

On 4th July 2018, Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore broke the news of renaming of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) as ‘Sports India’. Besides this, in the 50th governing body meeting of this 34 year old organization, it has been decided that from now onwards coaches will be involved in decision making and the food expenses of athletes will also be increased. Further, reputed companies will be hired in the hospitality sector to manage the residential and food facilities under the SAI Residential Scheme.

The scope of HEFA will see an expansion

On July 4, 2018, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), gave nod to the proposal of expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by tasking it to mobilise Rs 1,00,000

crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022. Besides this, the proposal also foresees increase of the capital base of the HEFA to Rs 10,000 crore. The CCEA has approved five windows for financing under HEFA and the modalities of repaying the Principal portion of the fund

Palghar fisherman got NMSAR award

On 5th July, 2018 fisherman Milan Shankar Tare of Palghar Satapati village, Maharashtra received the prestigious National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) award, a Commendation certificate and a cash prize for saving lives of 12 fishermen from a sinking fishing boat named FB Shivneri on 9th May 2018. The National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB) has acknowledged the rescue efforts of the fisherman via this prize in its XVII NMSARB meeting chaired by Rajendra Singh, Director General, Indian Coast Guard at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

No plastic in UP from July 15

On July 6, 2018 Uttar Pradesh ordered ban on plastic from July 15. Consequently, use of plastic cup, glass and polythene will get prohibited. The orders are in conformation with Narendra Modi's plan to end the use of single-use plastic products by 2022. In 2015, the Allahabad High Court had instructed the state government to ban plastic. Following this, the government implemented the order in January 2016 but then Noida and Gautam Budh Nagar district failed to follow it. So again in 2017 the ban was implemented that met the same fate.

Kerala provided reservation for transgender students

On 4th July, 2018, the government of Kerala directed universities to reserve two seats for transgender students in undergraduate and postgraduate courses of Arts and Sciences if they fulfil the requisite eligibility. It is worth recalling here that Kerala was the first state to announce a transgender policy and now this has come as the next move in recognition of the third gender. The department of higher education says, "Due to social issues and pressure these students are often forced to discontinue their studies."

Infosys & Siemens tied up for IoT engineering solutions

On July 5th, 2018, global leader in consulting, technology and next-generation services, Infosys and Siemens PLM Software entered into contract for making advanced open cloud-based IoT Engineering Solutions for MindSphere. This partnership will sharp customers' competitiveness by grasping the power of data produced by their devices. Data analytics will upgrade the efficiencies via capabilities like predictive maintenance and end-to-end factory visibility. The monetization of new data-driven services will benefit customers. Customers in manufacturing, energy, utilities, healthcare, pharmaceutical, transportation and logistics industries will be on initial priority.

Launch of 'GST Verify' app

In July 2018, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has started an android app 'GST Verify' to protect interest of consumers. The app is on purpose of verifying eligibility of the person assigned with task of GST collection from the consumer. In addition to this, the app will also provide the details of GST amount as well as the information of the person/company collecting GST. Joint commissioner GST Hyderabad , B Raghu Kiran has developed this app.

Agartala airport got renamed

In July 2018, The Union Cabinet gave nod to the proposal of renaming Agartala Airport in Tripura as Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport, Agartala. It has been done on demand of people and government of Tripura that wished to pay tribute to Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore who donated land for the development of this airport in 1942. It is worth knowing here that this airport is the second busiest airport in North East providing key air connectivity to Tripura.

Samsung: Largest mobile factory opener

On 9th July 2018, South Korean multinational conglomerate Samsung has unveiled largest mobile factory at sector 81, Noida (Uttar Pradesh). PM Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in together conducted the inaugural ceremony. Samsung India Mobile business reported 27% growth in financial year 2016-2017. In this context it is worth recalling that in order to increase its manufacturing capacity Samsung invested Rs 4915 crore in Noida plant during June 2017. Samsung is being headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.

Satyarup Siddhanta conquered the highest volcano in the world

In July 2018, Indian mountaineer, Satyarup Siddhanta climbed the world's highest 6893 metres (22,615 ft) volcano, Mt Ojos del Salado in the Andes on the Argentina-Chile border. With this, he has become the second Indian mountaineer after Malli Mastan Babu to achieve this feat. The passionate mountaineer skied the last degree to South Pole and hoisted the Indian flag at -40 degree centigrade. And now he is all ready to become the first Indian to climb Mt Sidley, the highest volcano of Antarctica, after which his dream of scaling seven summits and seven volcanic summits will get completed.

Six institutions got IoEs status

In July 2018, the Union Government has conferred the Institutions of Eminence (IoEs) status upon six institutions on the recommendation of an Empowered Expert Committee. Among them, Jio Institute, Pune under Green Field Category; Birla Institute of Technology & Sciences, Pilani, Rajasthan and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka belong to private sector whereas Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, Karnataka; IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi belong to public sector. These institutes will enjoy full autonomy to make place in the world's top 500 in the next 10 years.

INS Sumitra : The first warship deployed in Indonesia

On 11th July 2018, Indian naval ship, INS Sumitra became the first-ever warship to get deployed at Sabang port in Indonesia to exercise control over the Malacca Strait. The move came in wake of Indian-Indonesian joint task force regarding infrastructure development in and around Sabang port of Malaysia. India is developing Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a tri-service command to watch over the eastern Indian Ocean, especially the Malacca Strait. It is the prime international shipping route for merchant and military vessels transit between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.

“Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly”

Abhirup Bhattacharya penned a book titled “Winning Like Sourav: Think & Succeed Like Ganguly”. The book showcased Ganguly's belief in inherent talent of players which drove players towards success despite of temporary trials and tribulations. The book also credited Ganguly for concept of ‘Team India’ and ‘Men in Blue’ as well as for nurturing players like Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Zaheer Khan, Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh. The book has statistics and anecdotes, drawing management lessons and inspiration from the exemplary life of skipper Ganguly.

Jews received religious minority status in Gujarat

In July 2018, Gujarat Government granted religious minority status to Jews of the state. Gujarat has small Jewish community with hardly 170 members and majority of them live in Ahmedabad. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment had earlier issued a GR which read “As religious minority members professing the faith of Judaism, they shall get the religious minority rights envisaged in the Constitution and various acts and rules of the state government. They shall get benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities within the jurisdiction of Gujarat.”

No thermocol cutlery in Himachal

In July 2018, the government of Himachal Pradesh issued a fresh notification banning the use of thermocol cutlery across the state. The development came after the Himachal Pradesh state government announced its “Plastic Hatao Himachal Bachao” campaign on 5th June 2018, International Environment Day. Anybody found guilty of violating the order will be fined. The move will reduce plastic waste and will help in environment conservation as well as promotion of eco-tourism in the state.

Sambalpur Railway Division scripted news

Sambalpur Railway Division of Bhubaneswar, East Coast Railway Zone became the first railway division to eliminate all unmanned level crossings in July 2018. It also made a record of building six limited height subways (LHS) in one go in four and half hours. In launch of the 6 LHS, seven unmanned Level Crossing gates got totally closed in Bhawanipatna-Lanjigarh Road Section of Kalahandi area of Odisha. This Sambalpur railway division was formed on November 5, 1951 and it is being headquartered at Sambalpur in Odisha.

Kota will have Country’s first UAV factory

In July 2018, a company of DCM Shriram Industries Group, Shriram Rayons, got a licence from the centre to make two defence products viz. 500 Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) and 3000 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles (LBPV) in 11 acres in Kota. UAVs are like larger drones which can fly to a height of 500 to 2000 km for surveillance, while LBPV equipped with off-road abilities, can operate in difficult terrains to protect defence and para-military forces against light automatic weapon fire, IED blasts and small grenade attack.

Demise of Spiritual leader Dada J P Vaswani

12th July spelled the end of 99 year old Spiritual leader Dada J P Vaswani in Pune. He was world acclaimed humanitarian, philosopher, educator, orator and non-sectarian spiritual leader who promoted vegetarianism worldwide. Born in Pakistan's Hyderabad city in a Sindhi family in 1918, he was about to complete 100 years of his life on August 2, 2018. Famous with name of Dada Vaswani, he headed Pune-based non-profit organisation, Sadhu Vaswani Mission, that runs educational institutions and hospitals as social work and charity in Pune.

Two Indian-Origin Self-Made Women on Forbes

On 12th July 2018, Indian-origin technology executives Jayshree Ullal and Neerja Sethi have been listed into the Forbes' list of America's 60 richest self-made women. Ullal is ranked 18th with a net worth of \$1.3 billion while Sethi is ranked 21st with a net worth of \$1 billion. 57 year old Ullal has been president and CEO of a computer networking firm, Arista Networks, since 2008. 63 year old Sethi, is the vice president of IT consulting and outsourcing company Syntel which she founded with her husband Bharat Desai in 1980 in their apartment in Troy, Michigan.

The most followed world leaders

In July 2018, Global communications agency, Burson Cohn & Wolfe (BCW) released report of a study titled ‘Twiplomacy’ in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerged as the third most followed leader on Twitter with 42 million followers while India’s external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj got highlighted as the most followed female world leader as well as the most followed foreign minister (more than 11 million followers) in the world. The study registered 951 Twitter accounts, 372 personal and 579 institutional accounts, of heads of state and government and foreign ministers of 187 nation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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 Kaisersberg-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.

World Day against Child Labour

Since 2002, globe is observing World Day against Child Labour (WDAKL) on 12th June with an aim to create awareness against child labour. The theme of this year was 'Generation Safe & Healthy'. A joint campaign was launched under WDAKL and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work (SafeDay) to ensure the safety and health of young workers and end child labour. Globally over 73 million children are involved in mines and fields, factories and homes, exposed to pesticides and other toxic substances that inflicts lifelong suffering to them.

India denied to support One Belt One Road initiative

On June 10, 2018 India refused to sign Chinese President Xi Jinping's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project as part of a joint declaration at the 18th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Qingdao. India censured the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as the USD 50 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. It is a development strategy of China seeking cooperation and connectivity among Eurasian nations. Except India, all other member nations of the SCO including Russia, Pakistan and Iran have signed the declaration.

Second highest Indian students in US

On 10th June 2018, the US consul general Craig Hall revealed that India is the second highest sender of foreign students to US after China. Approximately one lakh eighty six thousand Indian students are presently studying in various institutions and Universities in the United States. According to Open Doors Reports of 2017, Indians form approximately 17% of the total number of international students and in more than the past five years, there has been an 85% increase in the number of Indian students studying in the United States.

Umakhanov Memorial Tournament

On 12th June, 2018, Indian boxers won one Gold and two Silver medals at the Umakhanov Memorial Tournament in the Russian city of Kaspiysk. Saweety Boora defeated Anna Anfinogenova in the final and coined gold medal in 75 kg category. Male boxers, Brijesh Yadav and Virender Kumar lost the final bouts in 81 kg and 91 kg divisions respectively to win Silver medals for the country. Earlier, world youth champion Shashi Chopra (57kg), former CWG bronze-medallist Pinki Jangra (51kg) and Pavitra (60kg) had lost their respective semifinal to earn bronze.

Trump & Kim signed a historic document

On 12th June, 2018, the most awaited Trump-Kim Summit took place at the Capella Hotel of Sentosa Island in Singapore. In this historic meet, world's two most powerful leaders had delegation level talks. This bilateral summit was an effort for ironing the strains of seven decade long hostility and beginning of a denuclearization process in North Korea. The duo signed a historic document to avert the apprehensive nuclear war. This was the first time that a sitting US president met North Korean leader in the last 60 years.

First office of BEL in Vietnam

In June 2018, Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first office of leading defence Public Sector Undertaking, Bharat Electronics Limited in Hanoi, Vietnam as a symbol of India's deep military cooperation with the country. In the the fourth Vietnam-India defence industry meeting, the minister referred this as the most fertile time to step in the country with the technologies as India is looking forward to expand its footprint in defence production and she also encouraged her Vietnamese counterpart to explore ways to further deepen their military cooperation.

Linnean Medal Winner : Kamaljit Bawa

The Linnean Society of London honored Indian botanist and president of Bengaluru-based non-profit Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Kamaljit Bawa with Linnean Medal in Botany. He was acknowledged for his pioneering botanical research in the tropics. He established the open-access interdisciplinary journal Conservation and Society in 2003, the 'India Biodiversity Portal' and ATREE which is ranked 2nd in Asia and 18th globally among the world's environment think tanks. With this, he has become the first Indian to receive this award since its inception in 1888.

Egypt got 12 new ministers in cabinet

On 14th June, 2018, President Abdel Fatah el-Sisi administered oath to 12 new ministers in the Egyptian cabinet. Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli who took the throne on June 7th formed the new cabinet. Minister Mohamed Zaki has taken place of Sedqi Sobhi as the new defence minister while Interior Minister Mahmoud Tawfik Qandil succeeded Magdy Abdel Ghafar in the new government. Mohamed Maait, deputy minister of finance in the former cabinet got appointed as new minister of finance taking place of Amr el-Garhy.

No DU LLB exam in Hindi

After UPSC and certain central universities began holding the examination in Hindi, Delhi High Court received the same plea regarding conduction of entrance examination for LLB in Hindi from Delhi University on behalf of a 20 year old student Tiwari from Allahabad, who completed all his education via Hindi medium. In reply, the court dismissed the plea. Article 348 of the Constitution of India, states that the language to be used in the Supreme Court and High Courts as well as the acts and bills shall be in English.

Andria Zafirakou invited Indian Applications

On 13th June 2018, UK's Global Teacher prize winner of year 2018, Andria Zafirakou invited Indian teachers to apply as nominees for the 2019 award worth USD 1 million which will be presented in March 2019 in Dubai. If inspiring Indian teachers will apply, or will get nominated then they could potentially be among top 50 candidates shortlisted later in the year and their stories will be published to generate new inspirational role models in the profession. The Global Teacher Prize Academy will select winner from among 10 finalists.

Dhivya Suryadevara : The First woman CFO of General Motors

In June 2018, America's largest automaker, General Motors, appointed an Indian-American chartered financial analyst, Dhivya Suryadevara as its Chief Finance Officer. With this, the 39 year old vice president of Corporate Finance has become the first woman to get this post in the auto industry. She has succeeded Chuck Stevens and will now report to GM CEO Mary Barra, who has been head of the automaker since 2014. Suryadevara had served at UBS and PricewaterhouseCoopers before joining the Detroit-based GM in 2005.

European Union Film Festival has begun

On 18th June 2018, premiere of European Union Film Festival began in New Delhi at the Siri Fort Auditorium. 24 latest European films with unusual stories from 23 EU Member States are on the block this year. It is being organized by Government of India in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union and embassies of EU Member States in 11 Indian cities viz. New Delhi, Chennai, Port Blair, Pune, Puducherry, Kolkata, Jaipur, Visakhapatnam, Thrissur, Hyderabad and Goa. It will continue till 31st August.

NASA's Record-Breaking Spacewoman got Retired

NASA's record-breaking astronaut, Peggy Whitson got retired on 15th June, 2018. Popularly known as "Space Ninja", the lady has spent more time off the planet in her career than any other American. She is world's most experienced female spacewalker. Besides these, she is not only the first woman to lead the International Space Station, holding the position twice, but also the oldest woman ever to fly in space. In addition to these, she is also the only woman to have served as chief of NASA's male-dominated astronaut corps.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Globe observed 17th June 2018 as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on "Land has true value – invest in it" theme. It aimed at promoting public awareness of international efforts to fight desertification. It encouraged everyone to move away from unsustainable land use and create a difference by investing in the future of land by spending money on organic trade products to avoid land degradation; protecting and conserving the value of land and last but not least supporting a sustainable way of living, producing and consuming.

Brooks Koepka: the first back-to-back US Open champion

In June 2018, defending champion Brooks Koepka clinched the US Open golf championship at the Shinnecock Hills in New York. The 28-year-old Floridian began on Sunday in a four-way tie for the lead and carded 68 to defeat England's Tommy Fleetwood, who fired only the sixth round of 63 in US Open history. With this, he has become the first man to win back-to-back US Open titles for 29 years. The last of the six previous back-to-back US Open winners was Curtis Strange in 1988 and 1989.

America will form 'Space Force'

On June 18, 2018, President Donald Trump ordered the US Defense Department and the Pentagon to form an independent sixth branch of the armed forces called "Space Force" at a meeting of the National Space Council. The proposed military branch will be "separate but equal" to the Air Force and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joseph F. Dunford has been assigned the task of overseeing its creation. Besides this, Trump also inked a new space policy directive aimed at decreasing debris in Earth's orbit.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict observed

19th June 2018 was observed as the third annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict worldwide. The theme for this year was "The Plight and Rights of Children Born of War" to honor the rights of children conceived through rape. The objective was to curb conflict-related sexual violence that involves rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilisation, forced marriage and other forms of sexual violence as well as trafficking of people in these conflicts.

World's first Intl Centre for Humanitarian Forensics

On 20th June, 2018, World's first International Centre for Humanitarian Forensics was started at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) in the Gujarat government, MS Dagur inaugurated this centre which is a joint venture of Gujarat Forensic Science University and the Regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in India, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives. The inaugural ceremony led to an International Conference on Humanitarian Forensics in which Indian, Irish, German and Sri Lankan orators addressed issues regarding the area of humanitarian forensics.

“Summit”, world's most powerful supercomputer

In June 19, 2018, the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) made world's most powerful and smartest scientific supercomputer called “Summit” which has potential of completing more than 2,00,000 trillion calculations per second as well as 3 billion mixed precision calculations per second. It has IBM AC922 system and 10 petabytes of memory paired with fast, high-bandwidth pathways for data movement. It is eight times more powerful than supercomputer ‘Titan’ and is meant to assist research in energy, advanced materials and artificial intelligence (AI).

Wait of 151 long years for green cards!

Washington-based think-tank, Cato Institute issued a report on recently released data of number of applicants for green cards by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that says more than 4 lakh Indians with "advanced degrees" may have to wait 151 years for getting green cards. There were 2,16,684 primary Indian applicants under EB-2 category with 'advanced degrees' and 2,16,684 spouses and children thus making a total of 4,33,368. EB-2 is subject to the per-country limits and Indians are entitled for 7% of the green cards.

International Yoga Day

On 21st June, 2018, entire world celebrated the 4th International Yoga Day. In 2015, United Nations General Assembly unanimously chose 21st June for yoga and the resolution for the same was co-sponsored by 177 nations which was the highest ever number of co-sponsors for any UNGA resolution of such nature. In India PM Narendra Modi performed yoga asanas along with Governor K.K. Paul, Minister of state for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik, CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and thousands of people at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Pulitzer prize winner Charles Krauthammer passed away

On June 21, 2018, Charles Krauthammer, one of the leading conservative political commentators in the U.S. media died of cancer at 68. He coined the term “The Reagan Doctrine” for President Reagan's policy of aiding anti-Communist movements worldwide. He scripted columns for The Washington Post since 1984. He was presented a Pulitzer prize in 1987 for "his witty and insightful" commentary. The deceased was an influential voice among Republicans who appeared on Fox News Channel. He was well associated with Brit Hume's nightly newscast.

Indian scientists discovered a sub-Saturn like planet

In June 2018, an Indian team of scientists led by Professor Abhijit Chakraborty of Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-Neptune size planet around a Sun-like star. The planet is said to have mass of about 27 Earth Mass and size of 6 Earth Radii. It completes one revolution around its host star in about 19.5 days. And this host star is about 600 light years away from the Earth. Scientists used PARAS spectrograph integrated with 1.2m Telescope at PRL's Gurushikhar Observatory in Mount Abu, India.

AIIB Annual Meeting 2018

On June 22, 2018, The Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) jointly organized the third Annual Meeting of the AIIB in Mumbai, India. The theme of this event was 'Mobilising Finance for Infrastructure: Innovation and Collaboration'. Leaders from several organizations and levels of government shared ideas for creating a sustainable future through sound infrastructure investment. CII was the Professional Conference Organiser while Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries was the knowledge partner for this event.

World's smallest computer

In June 2018, Scientists of the University of Michigan, USA made the world's smallest computer that measured just 0.3 mm x 0.3 mm in size which is even smaller than grain of rice. This computer can sense and report temperatures in the smallest of areas, like a cluster of cells, within 0.1 degrees Celsius accuracy. Prior to this, the smallest computer of the University of Michigan was the 2x2x4 mm in dimension which could retain its programming and data even when it was not externally powered.

26th June: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Globe observed 26th June as International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to create awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs pose to society. The theme for 2018 was "Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe." On this occasion, in India, President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Fourth National Awards for remarkable services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse to the institutions and individuals in New Delhi.

Indian & Bangladesh instituted 'CORPAT'

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba inaugurated the first edition of naval exercise 'CORPAT', Coordinated Patrol of India and Bangladesh on June 24, 2018 which will be observed every year hereafter. Four maritime patrol aircraft, two from each nation along with four frigates, two from the Bangladesh Navy viz. BNS Abu Bakar and BNS Dhaleswari and two from the Indian navy, viz. INS Satpura and INS Kadmat, are participating in this exercise which will continue upto June 29, 2018. This will consolidate bilateral defence relations between the duo exploring new avenues for naval cooperation.

World Food Prize 2018 award

In June 2018, British economist and food policy researcher, Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro who addressed hunger and health matters with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations (UN) were honored with World Food Prize 2018 award for their individual but complementary global leadership in alleviating maternal and child undernutrition within food security. In 1986 Nobel laureate as well as Father of the Green Revolution, Norman Borlaug instituted the award to recognize accomplishments in establishing hunger satiety and global food security.

Kalki Koechlin received the French honour

In June 2018, the Ambassador of France to India, Alexandre Ziegler presented the French distinction of Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters to Kalki Koechlin for her contribution to Indo-French ties in cinema. Kalki who has French roots, has worked in films like Dev.D, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, Shanghai and Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani etc. The honour came to acknowledge her as actress who interpreted striking roles in the Indian film industry, experimented with several forms of films and showed an abiding commitment to key social issues.

India & Seychelles signed MoUs

In June 2018, India & Seychelles inked MoUs after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Seychelles President Danny Antoine Rollen Faure in Hyderabad House, New Delhi. The MoUs are about cooperation in Small Development Projects, Cyber Security, Cultural Exchange Programme, Shipping sector, Foreign Affairs and Establishment of friendship and cooperation between the Municipal Corporation of Panaji and the city of Victoria, Seychelles. Besides this, PM Modi announced a line of credit worth USD 100 million for Seychelles for buying defence hardware and gifted Dornier Aircraft to the President.

World's largest multilateral naval exercise "RIMPAC-2018" begins

The 26th edition of the world's largest multilateral naval exercise 'Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC-2018)' has started on 27th June in Hawaii in the Western Pacific Ocean. The two-month long biennial exercise is likely to be attended by Navies of 26 nations. Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri has reached the Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to participate in the exercise. INS Sahyadri, commanded by Captain Shantanu Jha, is a state-of-the-art indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate which is a part of the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command.

Yousaf Saleem: Pakistan's first blind judge

In June 2018, a visually impaired lawyer from Lahore in Punjab province took oath as Pakistan's first blind Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate. The appointee was among 21 of 300 candidates who passed the written test for the civil judge position. However, initially he was denied the position in interview on account of his blindness but then on intervention of Pakistan's Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, he was reconsidered and appointed on the post. Prior to this, he had worked as an assistant director (legal) in a department of the Punjab Government.

The Acquisition of H&D

HCL Technologies inked an agreement to purchase one of the largest IT service providers in the German automotive industry, H&D International Group on 27th June 2018. H&D is operational across more than 20 locations worldwide including Germany, the US, the Czech Republic and Poland and this landmark deal will help HCL in gaining significant in-country front office and delivery capabilities and will further upgrade the company's domain expertise in the global automotive sector. H&D has expertise in IT infrastructure and application services.

Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2018

Real Estate Consulting Services JLL India released the Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETI) for 100 nations in June 2018. United Kingdom, Australia, United States, France, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland and Sweden emerged as the top ten countries on this list. India stood at 36th position in the index in the last bi-annual survey which was conducted in 2016 and in year 2014 it held the 40th rank in the index. The countries were ranked on basis of quantitative market data and survey results of 186 individual measures.

India-Indonesia 'PASSEX' exercise

In June 2018 the navies of India and Indonesia participated in a Passage Exercise "PASSEX". INS Shakti and INS Kamorta were deployed for the purpose under the command of Rear Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet from Indian side and Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Madidihang (855) a Stingrays Class Fast Patrol Craft participated from Indonesian side. In context to this exercise it is worth recalling here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Indonesia last month where the two nations decided to increase their maritime cooperation.

North Korea became 'worst human trafficking country'

On June 28, 2018, the US State Department released its annual '2018 Trafficking in Persons Report' in which North Korea emerged as the "worst human trafficking country" for the 16th straight year. North Korea got named in the lowest ranked Tier 3 category with China, Russia and Iran whereas South Korea has been ranked at the highest category in the list of Tier 1 nations for the 16th consecutive year along with the France, US, UK and Canada.

India designed world's lightest Satellite

In June 2018, Four first-year engineering students of Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai developed the 4cm 'cube' satellite 'Jaihind-1S' with a 3D printed outer case of polylactic acid nylon material that weighs just 33.39 grams which is presently world's lightest Satellite. They designed it for the 'Cubes in Space' competition conducted by Colorado Space Grant consortium, NASA and idoodle-learning. NASA has decided to launch this satellite in August 2018. It will be flown on a scientific balloon up to a height of 70km.

International Day of Parliamentarism

World observed the first edition of International Day of Parliamentarism on 30th June 2018 to acknowledge the role of parliaments in national plans and strategies and in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at national and global levels. The day came as an opportunity for parliaments to take stock, identify challenges, and ways to address them effectively. It is worth learning that the parliamentary system of government has two categories viz. bicameral (with two chambered parliament) and unicameral (one chambered)

The top 25 richest families of the world

In June 2018, Bloomberg released list of top 25 richest families across the globe. Bloomberg ranked Walton of Walmart (\$ 151.5 BN); Koch of Koch Industries (\$ 98.7 BN); Mars of Mars company (\$ 89.7 BN); Vandamme, De Spoelberch, De Mevius of Anheuser-Buschinbev (\$ 54.1 BN); Dumas of Hermes (\$ 49.2 BN); Wertheimer of Chanel (\$ 45.6 BN); Ambani of Reliance Industries (\$ 43.4 BN); Quandt of BMW (\$ 42.7 BN); Cargill, Macmillian of Cargill (\$ 42.3 BN) and Boehringer, Von Baumbach of Boehringer Ingelheim (\$ 42.2 BN) as the top ten of this list.

Janardan Singh Gehlot:International Kabaddi Chief

In June 2018, International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) in its Annual General Congress (AGC) chose Janardan Singh Gehlot as the president for the next four years. 22 member countries of IKF participated in this AGC. Mohammed Sarwar of Pakistan had proposed the name of Janardan Singh Gehlot for this post of president. Among other developments, the England Kabaddi Association got disaffiliated due to some anti-Federation activities while its head Ashok Das, was sacked from the Europe Kabaddi Federation.

Asia's first patent arbitration centre in Tokyo

In June 2018, Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property will open in Tokyo in September 2018 to address disputes in the region. The International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) is ready to have around a dozen arbitrators from across the globe to dissolve the disputes within a period of one year. As per Japan's patent office, technological progress and diversification of applications have highlighted global patent infringement disputes which remained unsettled via dialogue. Besides this, the increasing number of disputes and legal complexities are impeding the resolution process.

Major General Vikram Dogra scripted history

On 1st July 2018 the Indian Army officer in Director General Resettlement, Vikram Dogra completed the Ironman Austria in 14 hours and 21 minutes in Klagenfurt, Austria. With this he has become the first serving Indian officer as well as the only General worldwide to have completed the gruelling international triathlon competition comprising 3.8 km of swimming, 180 km cycling and 42.2 km of running (a full marathon) in a single day. He got entitled as “Ironman” after completing this toughest one day sporting event in the world.

IUFoST 2018 will take place in India

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in collaboration with International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) will organize the 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology from October 23-27, 2018 in Navi Mumbai, India. The five-day event will witness researchers, academicians, professionals, policy makers and industry leaders from worldwide to display innovation, exchange breakthrough ideas and drive policy issues. The theme for the event will be ‘25 Billion Meals a Day by 2025 with Healthy, Nutritious, Safe and Diverse Foods’.

A New Addition in UNESCO’s World Heritage List

In July 2018, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) included Colombia’s Chiribiquete National Park in its World Heritage List during the 42nd session in the Bahrain capital Manama. It is Colombia’s largest natural park blessed with rich biodiversity measuring an area of 2.7 million hectares (6.7 million acres) covering five Amazonian municipalities in the southern Guaviare and Caqueta regions. It is the ninth world heritage listing in Colombia which is the second most biodiverse nation in the world after Brazil.

Global Mobility Summit 2018

India’s NITI Aayog along with several ministries and industry partners will organize India’s first Global Mobility Summit in New Delhi on 7th and 8th September 2018. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform the inaugural ceremony. The Summit is meant to assist government’s goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth to lead India towards a clean energy economy. The event will focus on 6 themes viz. ‘Asset Utilization and Services’, ‘Comprehensive Electrification’, ‘Alternative Energy’, ‘Reinventing Public Transit’, ‘Logistics and Goods Transport’ and ‘Data Analytics and Mobility’.

Bolivia will erect a museum under ‘sacred lake’

The Culture Minister of Bolivia, Marko Machicao announced construction of an underwater museum in sacred Lake Titicaca in collaboration with Belgian development agency, Enabel at an expenditure of \$10 million. It will be both a tourist complex as well as centre for archeological, geological and biological research. Mounting at more than 3,800 meters altitude between Bolivia and Peru border, the lake is world’s highest body of freshwater that encompasses an area of 8,500 sq. km. In past, numerous priceless artefacts were discovered at the bottom of the abyss.

UNESCO will erect Gaming University In India

On July 4, 2018, UNESCO tied up with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board for the establishment of a gaming digital learning hub. For this Andhra Pradesh’s chief minister, N Chandrababu Naidu will allocate a land area of around 100 acres at Visakhapatnam. The Edutech gaming hub will create around 50,000 jobs in 10 years and will be the best source of income in future as the IT multinationals like UBSoft, Samsung, Microsoft etc are all set to manifest their centres in Vizag.

Corruption charges dethroned Nawaz

On 6th July, 2018, Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif stepped down from post of Prime Minister after getting convicted in an Avenfield corruption case, which is related to the ownership of four flats in the posh Avenfield House in London. He and his daughter Maryam Sharif have been sentenced to jail for 10 and 7 years respectively. The accountability court in Pakistan had ordered the confiscation of the properties and imposed fine worth \$10 million and \$2.6 million for Nawaz Sharif and Maryam respectively.

Brexit Secretary David Davis signed off

In July 2018, Brexit Secretary David Davis has resigned from the UK government. The resignation came after British Prime Minister Theresa May planned of retaining robust economic ties with the European Union even after leaving the bloc. The resignee was of opinion that "the general direction of policy will leave Britain in at best a weak negotiating position, and possibly an inescapable one." Shortly after his resignation, his deputy Steve Baker, and another Brexit Minister Suella Braverman also resigned from the cabinet.

Jeremy Hunt : The new foreign secretary

On 10th July, 2018, UK health minister Jeremy Hunt got appointed as the new foreign secretary by British Prime Minister Theresa May. The appointee has succeeded Boris Johnson who resigned over Brexit row which blames May of pursuing a "semi-Brexit" with proposals for post-Brexit trade which would make Britain a "colony" of the European Union (EU). Besides this, culture, media and sport secretary Matt Hancock has been appointed on Hunt's post of health secretary. The departures from the UK cabinet are challenging May's leadership.

Novel 'The English Patient' won the Golden Man Booker Prize

In July 2018, Sri Lanka-born Canadian poet Philip Michael Ondaatje's novel 'The English Patient' won the Golden Man Booker Prize at a festival to mark the literary award's 50th anniversary. The novel has been translated into 38 languages and was adapted into a movie in 1996 that won nine academy awards. In this book, the author has revealed why he could never have been a writer if he'd stayed in Britain. Earlier, the novel shared the Booker Prize in the year 1992 with Barry Unsworth's Sacred Hunger.

China launched 'PRSS-1' & 'PakTes-1' for Pakistan

In July 2018, China launched two remote sensing satellites 'PRSS-1' and 'PakTes-1A' via Long March-2C rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre for Pakistan. This was the 279th mission for the Long March rocket series. PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite that it has sold to Pakistan. It is meant for land and resources surveying, agricultural research, urban construction and monitoring of natural disaster. And PakTES-1A is Pakistan's indigenously developed scientific experiment satellite made by engineers from its space agency, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO).

11 July came as World Population Day

July 11, 2018 was observed as World Population Day on 'Family Planning is a Human Right' theme. The 50th anniversary of the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights was celebrated this year under 'Teheran Proclamation' in which for the first time, family planning was globally affirmed as a human right. The day aimed at bringing attention on the urgency and significance of population issues. The current world's population is 7.6 billion which is expected to cross 8.6 billion figure by 2030.

Brett Kavanaugh got nominated as Supreme Court Judge

In July 2018, US President Donald Trump has nominated conservative Brett Kavanaugh as the Supreme Court Judge from the list of 25 highly qualified potential nominees to the Supreme Court. The 53 year old Kavanaugh has succeeded Justice Anthony Kennedy. The nominee is presently working as a judge in the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The nomination of Judge Kavanaugh has come after a selection process done on basis of historic degree of transparency.

Pact of IFFCO & South Korean firms

In July 2018, Fertiliser cooperative major, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) did strategic partnership with two leading South Korean firms viz. a South Korean agriculture equipment manufacturer, LS Mtron Ltd and South Korea's leading financial services provider, NH Capital co. Ltd. to explore business opportunities in agri-machinery and farm credit sectors. The agreement bound the two nations to look into supply, sales and distribution of agricultural machinery and finance to cater the need of Indian market. This move is IFFCO's effort of expanding its footprint beyond chemical fertiliser.

Air India renamed Taiwan as Chinese Taipei

In July 2018, National airline, Air India has changed the name of Taiwan to Chinese Taipei on its website as per instructions of government. Background reveals that China was worried over Taiwan being described as a separate region by various airlines across the globe. So Air India followed the procedure as directed by the Ministry of External Affairs in updating the airline's website with respect to changing name of Taiwan. Air India has now described Taiwan as 'Taipei, Taoyuan International Airport, TPE, Chinese Taipei' on its website.

World Economic League Table 2018

Centre for Economics and Business Research released World Economic League Table 2018 about the gross domestic product (GDP) of countries for 2017. USA topped the table with a GDP of USD 19,390,604 million, followed by China (\$12,237,700 million), Japan (\$ 4,872,136.95 million), Germany (\$ 3,677,439.13 million) and Britain (\$2,622,434 million) at the end of 2017. India surpassed France as 6th largest economy with \$ 2,597,491 million because of good performances in the manufacturing sector driven by increased consumer spending.

America withdrew its endorsement of G7 joint statement

In July 2018, Trump withdrew his endorsement of a joint statement about trade rules at the end of a G7 summit in Canada saying, "Based on Justin's false statements at his news conference, and the fact that Canada is charging massive Tariffs to our US farmers, workers and companies, I have instructed our US Reps not to endorse the Communique." He further explained that he imposed US tariffs on imports of Canadian steel and aluminium in response to similar measures imposed on American dairy products by Canada.

India, 69th shareholder of EBRD

On July 11, 2018, India became the 69th shareholder of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The move will ensure more joint investment with Indian companies across the bank's regions of operation including Central Asia, Egypt and Jordan. It will enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests; will support India in leveraging the technical assistance and sectoral knowledge of the bank for the benefit of the development of the private sector and last but not least will create big employment opportunities in the country.

First Colour X-Ray performed on a Human

On 13th July 2018 Researchers of New Zealand performed the first-ever 3-D, colour X-ray on a human, using particle-tracking technology which was developed by universities of Otago and Canterbury. The technology showed clearer and more accurate pictures of bone, muscle and cartilage as well as the position and size of cancerous tumours that helped doctors in more accurate diagnosis. New Zealand company MARS Bioimaging commercialized this technology which works like a camera detecting and counting individual sub-atomic particles as they collide with pixels while its shutter is open.

Trump demanded double defence expenditure

In July 2018, US President Donald Trump raised the demand of doubling their defence spending commitments in front of NATO allies at a summit in Brussels. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders informed that Mr Trump suggested the nations to fulfil their commitment of 2% of their GDP on defence spending as well as increase it to 4%. Over this, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev cleared that NATO is an alliance of sovereign countries united by strategic targets and common values and it is not a stock exchange where one can buy security.

CAREER FLITE

Sports News

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.

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.

News from women's hockey

On 12th June, 2018, Spain Women's Hockey team defeated Indian eves by 3-0 in the opening game of the five-match bilateral series in Madrid. For the host team, Carlota Petchame and Lola Riera scored the goals to give Spain 1-0 lead in the series. The second game will be played on 13th June at 11 pm. This tournament is a part of Rani Rampal-led Indian team's preparations for the World Cup which will be played in London from the 21st of July 2018.

Russia defeated Saudi Arabia

On 14th June 2018, Russia outshone Saudi Arabia by 5-0 in opening match of FIFA World Cup in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium. Yury Gazinsky, Denis Cheryshev, Artem Dzyuba and Aleksandr Sergeyevech Golovin scored goals for Russia. Russia got three points on the board and lead group A. Denis Cheryshev and Aleksandr Golovin scored an unparalleled 13 points apiece in the McDonald's FIFA World Cup Fantasy. Artem Dzyuba scored eight points. Igor Akinfeev, Mario Fernandes, Sergey Ignashevich, Ilya Kutepov and Roman Zobnin, each scored six points .

India defeated Afghanistan in one-off Test by innings

On 15th June 2018, India defeated Afghanistan in the one-off Test by an innings and 262 runs on the second day at Bengaluru. Indian bowlers commanded by Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bowled out Afghanistan for 109 and 103. Resuming their first innings on the overnight score of 347, India aggregated a sizeable 474 in the first session. Hardik Pandya scored 71. Umesh Yadav took his 100th Test wicket. With this, he became the 22nd Indian Test bowler and 8th Indian pace bowler to claim hundred wickets.

Indian hockey team suffered defeat

Indian women hockey team lost to Spain by 1-4 in the fourth game of the five-match series. It was Uditia from Indian squad who scored the only goal for the country in the 22nd minute of the game. With this, India now trails behind with 1-2 in the series. In the series, Spain defeated India by 3-0 in the opening match then the second game between them finished with a 1-1 draw. India won the third match by 3-2 before getting outplayed in the fourth game on 16th June.

News from Football World Cup

On 17th June, 2018, One-One draw happened between Switzerland and the five-time world champions Brazil in a Group E match at the Rostov Arena. Philippe Coutinho scored a stunning goal for Brazilian side.

While Steven Zuber scored the equalizing goal for Switzerland. Before this, Mexico outshone defending champion Germany by 1-0 in a group F match in Moscow. Hirving Lozano scored a brilliant goal giving Mexico a 1-0 lead. In another Group E match, Serbia defeated Costa Rica by 1-0 at Samara. Aleksandar Kolarov scored this goal for Serbia.

Roger Federer won 98th ATP

On 17th June 2018, the top-seeded Swiss, Roger Federer won his 98th ATP title and re-established his unrivalled superiority on grass by defeating his Canadian opponent Milos Raonic by 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) in the Stuttgart Cup final. It is worth knowing that the 36-year-old regained the top ATP ranking for a sixth time through his semi-final victory on 16th June over Australian Nick Kyrgios. He succeeded in resuming the honour back from Rafael Nadal for the second time this season.

FIFA updates : Croatia & France reached knockout stage

On 21st June, 2018, Croatia got into the last 16 with a 3-nil rout of Argentina in Group D at the Nizhny Novgorod Stadium in Russia. Ante Rebic, Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic were the strikers. In another match France made way in the pre-quarter-finals after defeating Peru by 1-0, in a group C match at the Ekaterinburg Arena stadium in Yekaterinburg, Russia. In this, Kylian Mbappe became France's youngest goal-scorer in World Cup history. In another Group C encounter Denmark and Australia ended in a draw with 1-1.

Archery World Cup: Deepika won gold medal for India

In the ongoing Archery World Cup 2018, Deepika Kumari defeated Michelle Kroppen of Germany by 7-3 and coined a gold medal in the women's recurve event at stage three of World Cup in Salt Lake City of US. With this she has booked a berth for the Archery World Cup Final which will take place in Samsun of Turkey later this year. Besides her, Abhishek Verma won an individual silver and a mixed team bronze medal in compound events. With this, India is at the fourth position after US, Colombia and China.

ISSF Junior World Cup: Saurabh Chaudhary won gold medal

Famous Indian shooter, Saurabh Chaudhary has won the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. Sixteen-year-old Saurabh shot a total score of 243.7. Besides this, Indian shooter Anmol finished fourth with a total score of 199.6. In the women's 25m pistol event, Manu Bhaker with 19 hits and Devanshi Rana with 5 hits were at the 5th and 8th positions respectively. With 8 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze medals, India continued to top the medal standings.

Summary of ISSF Junior World Cup 2018

In June 2018 the ISSF Junior World Cup 2 saw conclusion in Suhl, Germany. 761 junior shooters from 61 nations, piled up an impressive total of 1544 starts which is the highest number in the history of this Junior World Cup. Indian National Team with 26 total medals viz. 15 gold, 2 silver and 9 bronze topped the world cup. Manu Bhaker made world record via 242.5 points and won the gold medal in 10m air pistol event. China, Italy, Czech Republic and Russia held second, third, fourth and fifth places respectively.

Max Verstappen won Austrian F1 Grand Prix

Max Verstappen of Red Bull won the Austrian F1 Grand Prix on July 1, 2018 and with this Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes lost the world championship. This was the first time Red Bull has won at the Red Bull Ring. While Sebastian Vettel finished third in his Ferrari behind team-mate Kimi Raikkonen, that has placed Vettel into a one-point lead heading into next weekend's British Grand Prix. With this defeat, the two Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and his team mate Valtteri Bottas left Austria and headed to Silverstone to re-work on their strategies.

India defeated England in the third T20-I

On 8th July, 2018, India outshone England by 7 wickets in the third and final T20I at the County Ground in Bristol to clinch the series by 2-1. England batted first and posted 198 runs. Rohit Sharma made unbeaten 100 off 56-balls. His innings comprised 11 fours and five sixes. This was the right-handed player's third century in the game's shortest format, which made him the second player to make three tons. For India this match was the 8th 3-match series victory.

Anju Khosla scripted record

In July 2018, Anju Khosla completed the Ironman Triathlon that comprised 3.86 km swimming leg, 180.25 km bike leg followed by a marathon (42.2 km) in one go within time period of 15 hours, 54 minutes and 54 seconds. With this, the 52 year old became the oldest Indian woman to complete an Ironman Triathlon which was held in Carinthia, Austria. She belongs to a fitness oriented family of New Delhi which played key role in bringing her to this point of success.

Tbilisi Grand Prix 2018

In July 2018, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, Bajrang Punia, won gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix, after defeating Iranian wrestler Mehran Nasiri in the 65 kg category by 9-3 in Georgia. With this win, he has booked a berth in the upcoming Asian Games in Indonesia in the 65kg category. Besides him, Deepak Punia claimed a bronze medal in the 86 kg category, with a 5-3 win over Osman Gosen of Turkey. On the other hand, top Indian grappler, Sushil Kumar suffered his first defeat in four years in 74 kg category.

FIFA World Cup: Croatia will lock horns with France

On 11th July 2018, Croatia for the first time reached the World Cup Final after defeating England by 2-1 in the second semi-final at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. Eric Dier earned a corner for England. Ivan Perisic and Juventus striker Mario Mandzukic scored goals for the winning team. Croatia will now confront France in the summit clash in Moscow on 15th July 2018. And the third-place play-off match between England and Belgium is scheduled for 14th July at Saint Petersburg.

Hima Das won Under-20 World Athletics

On 12th July, 2018, the 18-year-old, Indian athlete Hima Das won gold medal in the final of the women's 400m at the IAAF World Under-20 Championships in Tampere, Finland. The sprinter clocked 51.46 seconds to claim the top position and became the first Indian athlete to win gold in a track event at U-20 Worlds. Andrea Miklos of Romania emerged as the first runner up with a timing of 52.07 seconds winning silver while USA's Taylor Manson claimed bronze after clocking 52.28 seconds becoming the second runner up.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In June 2018, which among the following districts has been ranked first in the NITI Aayog's Delta ranking of Aspirational Districts Program?

(a) Asifabad district in Telangana (b) West Sikkim district in Sikkim
(c) Dahod district of Gujarat (d) Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh
(e) None of these
- Which space agency will launch the world's lightest satellite designed by Chennai students?

(a) NASA (b) ISRO (c) CNSA
(d) JAXA (e) ESA
- In June 2018, which among the following countries has been placed on FATF's 'Grey List'?

(a) Iran (b) Algeria (c) Nigeria
(d) Pakistan (e) Bangladesh
- In June 2018, which state government has introduced a new technique "Liquid Based Cytology (LBC)" to detect cervical cancer?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Telangana
(d) Karnataka (e) Tamil Nadu
- In June 2018, who has broken the famous Sriram Singh's four-decade-old 800m National record at the 58th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships 2018?

(a) Mohammed Afsal (b) Sangram Singh (c) Arka Bhattacharya
(d) Jinson Johnson (e) None of these
- In June 2018, the Government of India has banned manufacturing which drug for domestic use in the private sector from 1st July 2018?

(a) Ketamine (b) Oxytocin (c) Phenacetin
(d) Prolactin (e) None of these
- Who among the following won the World Food Prize 2018?

(a) Lawrence Haddad and David Nabarro
(b) Lawrence Haddad and B. R. Barwale
(c) David Nabarro and Robert F. Chandler
(d) B. R. Barwale and Robert F. Chandler
(e) Lawrence Haddad and Robert F. Chandler
- Who has been crowned as the first "Tribal Queen" of India?

(a) Rashmirekha Hansdah (b) Panchami Majhi (c) Tulasi Munda
(d) Pallavi Durua (e) None of these
- Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been elected the President of which country?

(a) Liberia (b) Mali (c) Taiwan
(d) Uganda (e) Turkey
- Who has won gold medal in the women's recurve event at the Salt Lake World Cup 2018?

(a) Atanu Das (b) Laxmirani Majhi (c) Deepika Kumari
(d) Bombayla Devi Laishram (e) None of these

11. Which among the following countries has won the Hockey Champions Trophy 2018?
(a) Netherlands (b) India (c) Argentina
(d) Belgium (e) Australia
12. The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of _____ has been declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.
(a) Chennai (b) Kochi (c) New Delhi
(d) Mumbai (e) Bengaluru
13. Who among the following wrote the book “Eleventh Hour” ?
(a) Ravish Kumar (b) Arnab Goswami (c) Karan Thapar
(d) Madhu Trehan (e) Hussain Zaidi
14. Asia’s first International Arbitration Centre will open in which country?
(a) China (b) Singapore (c) Japan
(d) Malaysia (e) Myanmar
15. According to the US Department’s 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, which country has been tagged “worst human trafficking nation”?
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) Indonesia
(d) Myanmar (e) North Korea
16. Who has been honored with the National Kalidas Samman in visual arts by the Madhya Pradesh government?
(a) Satish Gujral (b) Anjolie Ela Menon (c) Manjit Bawa
(d) Puttaraj Gavai (e) None of these
17. Which famous journalist has been elected as the new President of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association?
(a) Rajat Sharma (b) Ravish Kumar (c) Arnab Goswami
(d) Karan Thapar (e) Vikram Chandra
18. Which National park has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country?
(a) Bandipur National Park (b) Pench National Park
(c) Panna National Park (d) Bhitarkanika National Park
(e) Madhav National Park
19. In June 2018, which Indian cricketer has been inducted into “ICC Hall of Fame”?
(a) VVS Laxman (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Rahul Dravid
(d) Virendra Sehwag (e) Sourav Ganguly
20. In July 2018, UNESCO has declared Chiribiquete National Park of _____ as a world heritage site.
(a) Cuba (b) France (c) Italy
(d) Malaysia (e) Colombia

ANSWERS

- 1.(c)** The NITI Aayog released the First Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts program. The Dahod district of Gujarat with 19.8 points ranked first in the Delta ranking, while West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points. The rank has been given on the basis of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure through 49 key performance indicators.
- 2.(a)** The four first-year engineering students from Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science near Chennai, Tamil Nadu have developed the world's lightest satellite. The satellite will be launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in August 2018. The students developed the 4cm 'cube' satellite 'Jaihind-1S' with a 3D printed outer casing from polylactic acid (PLA) nylon material, making it lighter than a medium sized egg, at just 33.39 grams.
- 3.(d)** Pakistan has been placed on the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for failing to restrict anti-terror financing despite its diplomatic efforts to avert the decision. With this, Pakistan's economy and its international standing will go down.
- 4.(e)** The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a new technique "Liquid Based Cytology (LBC)" to detect cervical cancer. The technique will help in detecting cervical cancer during the pre-cancerous stages. In the conventional method, the total number of cells collected may not get transferred onto the slide, while in LBC, whatever sample is taken gets transferred onto the slide.
- 5.(d)** Jinson Johnson from Kerala, has broken the famous Sriram Singh's four-decade-old 800m National record at the 58th National Inter State Senior Athletics Championships 2018. He clocked one minute and 45.65 seconds to clinch the gold medal in men's 800m title and to better the earlier record of one minute and 45.77seconds in the name of Sriram set during the 1976 Olympic Games.
- 6.(b)** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confined the manufacture of Oxytocin formulations for domestic use to public sector only from 1st July 2018. No private manufacturer will be allowed to manufacture the drug for domestic use. Only Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd (KAPL), a public sector company, would be manufacturing this drug for domestic use.
- 7.(a)** British economist and food policy researcher, Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro who addressed hunger and health matters with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations (UN) were honored with World Food Prize 2018 award for their individual but complementary global leadership in alleviating maternal and child undernutrition within food security.
- 8.(d)** Pallavi Durua of Odisha's Koraput district, has been crowned as the first "Tribal Queen" of India at the Adi Rani Kalinga Tribal Queen competition held at Utkal Mandap. In the contest, Panchami Majhi of Titlagarh and Rashmirekha Hansdah of Mayurbhanj are the first and second runner-up respectively.
- 9.(e)** For the second term, Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been elected the President of Turkey. With 99 percent of votes counted, Erdogan has won a 52.54% share of the national vote, while the opposition CHP party's candidate, Muharrem Ince, was on 30.68%.
- 10.(c)** Famous Archer of India, Deepika Kumari has won the gold medal in the women's recurve event at the Salt Lake World Cup 2018. In final, she defeated Michelle Kroppen of Germany by 7-3 points. In six appearances at the Archery World Cup, she had come back with silver medals in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015 but this time she finally got the Gold.

- 11.(e)** Australia's hockey team has won the Hockey Champions Trophy 2018. In the final match, it defeated India by 3-1 goals. It was Australia's 15th Champions Trophy title. India won their second consecutive silver medal and host, the Netherlands bagged the bronze medal.
- 12.(d)** The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai has been declared as a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). With this, Mumbai is the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be included on the World Heritage List.
- 13.(e)** The book "Eleventh Hour" is written by famous crime writer Hussain Zaidi to pay tribute to the men in uniform. The book is inspired by and derived from real-life events - a vast stash of RDX that has remained undiscovered since the Mumbai serial blasts of 1993; the jailbreak in Bhopal of five men; the hijacking of an Indian ship and a commercial vessel by Somali pirates.
- 14.(c)** Asia's first arbitration centre specialised in intellectual property will open in Tokyo, Japan in September 2018 to resolve the growing number of disputes in the region. The International Arbitration Centre in Tokyo (IACT) is set to have a dozen arbitrators from around the world, who would try to resolve disputes within a period of one year.
- 15.(e)** According to the US Department's 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, North Korea has been tagged "worst human trafficking nation" for the 16th straight year. The North Korean government does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.
- 16.(b)** Anjolie Ela Menon, the famous muralist, has been honored with the prestigious National Kalidas Samman by the Madhya Pradesh government for her great contribution in visual arts. She is India's most experienced artists and is the recipient of the Padma Shri. Beside her, artist A. Ramachandran was also awarded the Kalidas Award.
- 17.(a)** Rajat Sharma , Chairman and Chief Editor of INDIA TV, has been elected the new President of Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) for a period of 3 years. In the elections, he defeated former cricketer Madan Lal by 517 votes. Apart from this, Vinod Tihara has been elected as Secretary, Om Prakash Sharma is the new Treasurer and Rajan Manchanda is the Joint Secretary of DDCA.
- 18.(d)** The Bhitarkanika National Park of Odisha has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in the country. Altogether 101 nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles were found this time by enumerators. This year the nesting spots have registered 25% rise.
- 19.(c)** Former Indian captain Rahul Dravid and former Australian captain Ricky Ponting have been inducted into the "ICC Hall of Fame" for their outstanding achievements in international cricket. Besides this, retired England Women wicketkeeper-batter Claire Taylor were inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame 2018.
- 20.(e)** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared Chiribiquete National Park (CNP) of Colombia as a world heritage site. It is Colombia's largest natural park, which spread over an area of 2.7 million hectares. The national park was established in September 1989.