



Monthly **GK** Mania



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Appointments at glance

In June 2019, K Natarajan got appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He succeeded Rajendra Singh. The 1984-batch flag officer held several key command and staff appointments, both afloat and ashore. He has also served as the Commanding Officer, ICGS Mandapam. Besides him, June 2019, also witnessed IAS officer K Shanmugham's appointment as the new Chief Secretary of the Tamil Nadu government. He took the place of Ms Girija Vaidyanathan. Currently, he is serving as the Additional Chief Secretary in-charge of the state Finance Department. Besides them, Senior IPS officer JK Tripathy has been appointed as the new Director General of Police. He will rope the state police force.

NTPC & PGCIL crack a deal

In June 2019, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and PowerGrid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Joint Venture (JV) - the National Electricity Distribution Company Limited (NEDCL). Both NTPC and PGCIL will own 50%-50% shared ownership in NEDCL. The proposed set-up is meant to distribute electricity in various states and Union Territories (UTs) and other related activities. Further, it will lead to the separation of content and carriage businesses in power distribution. As a result, the infrastructure builder for power supply and the supplier to consumers will be two separate entities.

The latest of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

In June 2019, the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri informed the media that 81,03,196 houses got approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. Currently, 47,57,987 houses are under construction and 26,07,913 houses have been made. Budgetary Resources and Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) granted central assistance of Rs. 51,113 crores for the scheme. The scheme is looking forward to build 20 million affordable houses by 31 March 2022. Apart from this, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) constituted a seven-member core group chaired by Additional Director General (training & research) M K Sharma to draft a roadmap for implementation of a five-year "vision document".

1 July came as GST Day

Nation celebrated the 2nd anniversary of implementation of historic tax reform of Goods & Services Tax on 1st July 2019. On this occasion, Finance Ministry introduced a new return system, "Sahaj & Sugam returns" for small taxpayers on a trial basis from 1 July 2019 and is planning to

make it mandatory from 1 October 2019. The Ministry introduced only 1 cash account book for tax, penalty, interest, fee among others. It has begun a Single Refund-Disbursing Mechanism for CGST, SGST or IGST and Cess. In addition to these, a Composition Scheme for small service providers up to an annual turnover of Rs.50 lakh with a tax rate of 6%, electronic invoicing system in a phase-wise manner for B2B (Business to Business) transactions have also been kickstarted. Threshold Limit of Rs 40 Lacs is offered for suppliers of goods as per the choice of States.

The 2019 UK-India Awards

30th June 2019 i.e. the occasion of the first ever 'India Day' celebration in Houses of Parliament complex in London, the third edition of UK-India Awards were conferred upon special talents and organisations that employed their worldwide influence to strengthen ties between UK-India. The names of awardees included Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully (Lifetime Achievement Award), Oyo, Indian hospitality start-up (Market Entrant of the Year category), British Telecom (BT) (Social Impact category), Kunal Nayyar for his role as Rajesh Koothrappali in the US sitcom The Big Bang Theory (Global Indian Icon of the Year), Indian-origin Cobra Beer founder Lord Karan Bilimoria (Special Significant Contribution to UK-India Relations Award) and Maanch, a new platform that matches up investors and receivers to accelerate global sustainable development (Start-up of the Year Award).

Updates from telecom sector

On 1st July 2019, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) CMD, P.K. Purwar got appointed as the CMD of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for a period of three months. The appointee is expected to boost the operational efficiency of BSNL and MTNL via competition. Earlier, in June 2019, Telecom Ministry Ravi Shankar Prasad constituted a committee headed by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan to make efforts for the revival plans for Telecom sector like reduction of levies and fees and many more. Prior to that, the highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecom (DoT), the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) had approved imposing of penalty worth ₹3,050 crore on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd. for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. when the latter had entered market in 2016.

IIT Kanpur conferred honorary doctorate upon Gopichand

In June 2019, IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation presented honorary doctorate to India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand. Former ISRO chairman and Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan did this honour. Besides him, Dr. Tessy Thomas, and Sudha Murty were also conferred honorary doctorates. With this honor, Gopichand has joined the row of former President APJ Abdul Kalam and former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who had welcomed this honor in the past.

Dr. Krishna Saksena's book 'Whispers of Time'

On July 1, 2019, Minister of Textiles and Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani released book 'Whispers of Time' penned by 91 year old Dr. Krishna Saksena at the India International Centre in New Delhi. Published by Prabhat Prakashan, this is the ninth book of Saksena, who was the first woman candidate from Uttar Pradesh to receive a Ph.D. degree in English Literature in year 1955.

Death of Dr. Jaya Arunachalam & Abburi Chaya Devi

June 2019 witnessed departure of 87 year old working women's Forum founder Dr. Jaya Arunachalam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The President of the National Union of Working Women, in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, was also the first South Asian woman member to get elected to the Governing Council of the Society for International Development, Rome. She was acknowledged with Padma Shri (1987), Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Shakti Award (2009) and many more for her remarkable services. Besides her, Abburi Chaya Devi, who was an eminent Telugu story writer also passed away at the age of 86. She was best known for her feminist views. She authored many stories about the issues faced by women in middle class families. 'Bonsai Bathuku', 'Prayanam Sukhantam', 'Akhariki Aidu Nakshatralu', and 'Wood Rose' were some of her famous stories.

Government decreased interest rates on small saving schemes

The Union Finance Ministry, Government of India decreased the interest rate on small savings schemes by 0.1 % (10 basis points) for the July-September quarter. The small saving schemes like Public provident fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will now have interest rate of 7.9%; Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will fetch 7.6% with a maturity of 113 months; Sukanya Samriddhi Account will bring 8.4% and Term deposits of 1- 3 years will provide an interest of 6.9 % that will be paid quarterly.

Some new appointments

On 2nd July 2019, the Managing Director of Arohan Financial Services, Manoj Kumar Nambiar became chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) which plays a key role in getting rural India into the folds of financial inclusion. MFIN is made up of 56 NBFC-MFIs and 40 associates including banks, small finance banks and NBFCs. On July 1, 2019, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) appointed MD & CEO of Dena Bank, Karnam Sekar as its new MD and CEO. He succeeded R Subramaniakumar. He had also served in State Bank of India as the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer. On June 30, 2019, the additional chief secretary in the Haryana government, Keshni Anand got appointed as the new Haryana Chief Secretary. She has taken the place of DS Dhesi. She has also worked in the Revenue and Disaster Management and Consolidation departments in the past.

RBI scripted news

In June 2019, the Reserve Bank of India, relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks to help them expand lending activities. It has reduced the LR to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks which will come into effect from October 1, 2019. Basel-III norms defined LR as Tier-I capital as a percentage of the bank's exposures. RBI made it to the headlines for imposing a penalty on four banks for violation of KYC norms. It has fined PNB, Allahabad Bank and UCO Bank ₹50 lakh each and ₹25 lakh on Corporation Bank.

The latest decisions of government

On July 3, 2019, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan informed that the government has decided to raise health services expenditure to 2.5 % of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025 due to the increment of expenditure over the last decade. Besides this, the government has raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Kharif crops for 2019-20 season. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved this in favor of the farmers' income. The move will result in an increased investment and production through assured remunerative prices to the farmers.

Banks at a glance

In July 2019, India's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) and India's sovereign wealth fund, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) inked a Memorandum of Understanding to offer financing solutions to the infrastructure sector. It will be helpful in equity investments, project funding, bond financing, and renewable energy support etc. Besides this, Karnataka Bank introduced web tool 'Vasool So-Ft' for NPA recovery process in Mangalore, Karnataka. The new tool will lead to easy and faster processing, provide access to real time information and immediate decision making in the recovery area.

UIDAI began its first Aadhaar Seva Kendra

On 2nd July 2019, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized its first "Aadhaar Seva Kendra" (ASKs) in Delhi and Vijayawada. UIDAI further plans to erect 114 such centres by the end of 2019 across 53 Indian cities. Rs 300-400 crore is the estimated expenditure of this project. These centers are being set up on lines of Passport Seva Kendras to facilitate enrolment, updation and other activities through online appointment management system that permits people to book a slot as per their convenience.

Demise of Doyen Indian industrialist BK Birla

Basant Kumar Birla, Chairman of the BK Birla Group of companies and grandfather of Kumar Mangalam Birla, died in Mumbai on 3rd July 2019. Kesoram Industries, Century Textiles and Jaya Shree Tea were his leading establishments. Among them, Kesoram Industries further branched in

cement and tyre sectors. The deceased had also tapped into opportunities in several sectors like cotton, viscose, polyester and nylon yarns, refractory, paper, shipping, tyre cord, transparent paper, spun pipe and MDF board. He had also set up notable institutions like BITS Pilani (Rajasthan); the BK Birla Centre of Education in Pune, and the Birla Institute of Management Technology in Delhi among others.

India-Russia Rs. 200 cr deal

In June 2019, the government of India inked Rs.200 cr deal with Russia for acquiring the 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missiles. The purchase will give an added capability to the Mi-35 attack choppers which are existing attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF). The deal has been signed under the emergency clause. Besides this, Indian Air Force had also procured 'Spice 2000' guided bombs worth Rs 300 crore from an Israeli defense firm under the emergency provisions in the past that were employed in the Balakot air strikes.

Union Budget 2019

For taxpayers with a taxable income of up to Rs 2 crore, there is no significant change (except for certain additional deductions now available, such as for buying an electric car). For such taxpayers, the tax rates remain largely unchanged.

The rich and super-rich will have to pay out quite a bit more, owing to a steep increase in surcharge. For those with taxable income of Rs 2-5 crore, the surcharge stands increased from 15% to 25%, which means an effective tax rate of 39% as opposed to 35.9%. An increase of close to 3 percentage points means a taxpayer with taxable income of Rs 2.50 crore will now have to pay tax of Rs 95.06 lakh as against a tax of Rs 87.45 lakh earlier. This means a higher outgo of Rs 7.60 lakh.

Contribution towards nation-building will be even higher for those with taxable income above Rs 5 crore. The increase in surcharge from 15% to 37% — a whopping 22 percentage points — translates into a 7% higher effective tax rate of 42.7%. To illustrate, with a taxable income of Rs 5.50 crore, a taxpayer will now pay Rs 2.32 crore as opposed to Rs 1.95 crore earlier. This means a higher outgo of Rs 37.32 lakh.

When buying luxury flats, the sale consideration typically included payments for amenities like car parking and club membership. For tax deduction purposes, the budget now specifies that 1% TDS will apply on the gross consideration, including such amenities, and not just the price of the flat. Failure to disclose the entire amount could invite penalties.

Those buying affordable housing can save some tax. Interest on a loan taken by a first-time buyer to purchase a house valued up to Rs 45 lakh will qualify for additional deduction of up to Rs 1.5 lakh, raising the total deduction available from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh, for a self-occupied house.

With an emphasis on "Make in India", customs duties have been increased across a wide spectrum. If you wish to beat the heat by installing an imported air-conditioner, a 2-tonne split AC will now cost about Rs 82,500 – a hike of Rs 7,500.

The gold coins will be more expensive. Cost of a 10gm Swiss-imported gold coin is likely to jump Rs 900, with a price tag of about Rs 37,300. Increase in duty on gold, silver and platinum bars will also make jewellery purchases costlier.

The new achievement of Rohit Sharma

6th July 2019 became a red letter day for Rohit Sharma, who has become the first and only batsman to score 5 centuries in a single World Cup edition during India Vs Sri Lanka match. Rohit Sharma was named the Man of the Match. With this, Rohit Sharma succeeded in equalising Yuvraj Singh's record of four Man of the Match awards in a single World Cup tournament. Rohit Sharma used this match to equalize Sachin Tendulkar's record of scoring six centuries across Cricket World Cup tournaments.

Approval of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

On July 7, 2019, The Union Cabinet gave nod to the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 for safeguarding transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education in the country. This bill has taken the place of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019. This Bill will step into the shoes of the Medical Council of India (MCI) for a period of 2 years from September 26, 2018 and will employ its powers in a government-appointed Board of Governors (BoG), which will have 12 members instead of 7.

A special tribute video for Kargil martyrs

On July 5, 2019, Indian Army released a special tribute video in context to Operation Vijay to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas that is commencing on 26th July 2019. 'Tujhe Bhulega Na Tera Hindustan' is the title of the song that has been written by well known Bollywood lyricist Sameer featuring Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Olympic bronze medallist boxer Mary Kom, actors Salman Khan, Vicky Kaushal, Anupam Kher, Kangana Ranaut, and Suniel Shetty.

Parliament approved Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill

On 8th July 2019, Parliament gave nod to the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill will amend Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016. The bill proposes a provision of giving a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme on attaining 18 years of age. In this regard the Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is of the opinion that the government will soon launch a Data Protection Bill in Parliament and will formulate a comprehensive law for the same.

Book 'Vivekadeepini' will soon appear in book stores

On 8th July 2019, Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled 'Vivekadeepini', a compilation of selected 36 verses drawn from 67 verses of Prashnottara Ratnamalika which are written in Question-Answer format by one of India's greatest spiritual and literary geniuses, Adi Shankaracharya. It is a concise book of maxims of universal truths and are the starting points for reflection. It presents glimpses of India's wisdom in most lucid language and it has been translated into English, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi Gujarati and Odia. S.S. Naganand has written lucid commentary in this book.

The new Immunocontraception Project

In July 2019, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has introduced an Immunocontraception Project for population management of 4 species of wild animals like Elephant, Wild boar, Monkeys and Blue Bull (Nilgai). As per a survey report around 2,398 people got killed due to elephant - attacks between 2014 and March 2019. Immunocontraception is a birth control method that employs the body's immune response to prevent pregnancy. The technology leads to the formation of a protein around female animal's eggs to prevent fertilization. The Wildlife Institute of India and the National Institute of Immunology are developing a protocol of this pilot project in Uttarakhand.

News from defence segment

In July 2019, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful test firing of an armour-piercing Nag missiles at Pokhran range which had been developed and designed at expenditure of Rs 524 crore. The missile is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile, with top attack capabilities. Besides this, the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology signed the MoU to develop a revamped application to maintain the centralised database for personnel, equipment and major stores. This will serve as a source of management-related information for Integrated headquarters of Ministry of Defence (Army) and other agencies.

The extended range prediction system

In July 2019, Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) researchers have developed an extended range prediction system for the real-time monitoring and prediction of forthcoming heat waves 2 to 3 weeks in advance. The prediction system has immense potential in providing an advance indication about the onset, duration, and demise of the heat wave spell with a small spatial & temporal error with 70% accuracy. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has been using this system since 2017 to predict heat waves.

India's first cow sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh

India's first cow sanctuary, 'Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya' is all ready to get privatised in July 2019. Established across 472 hectares in Agar Malwa, 190 km north west of Bhopal, at an expenditure of Rs. 32 crores by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board under the aegis of the previous BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government in September 2017, it accommodates around 4,000 cows. The poor management and lack of finance has led to regular death of cows in the sanctuary that fetched urgency of its privatisation. So far NGOs like Akshay Patra have shown an inclination towards the management of the sanctuary at no profit no loss basis. It also operates Jaipur Municipal Corporation's Hingonia cow shelter located on the outskirts of Jaipur.

Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly is in action

On July 9, 2019, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed 5 important bills unanimously via voice vote. They are 'Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta Amendment Bill 2019'; 'Arunachal Pradesh Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill 2019'; 'Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Bill, 2019'; 'Arunachal Pradesh State Higher Education Council Bill 2019' and 'Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Medical Service Personnel and Medical Service Institution (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss of Property) Bill 2019'. Congress MLA Wanglin Lowangdong, NPP member Mutchu Mithi and BJP legislators Jambey Tashi and Nyato Rigia comprised the panel of chairmen for the current session.

Plan Bee wins the Best Innovation Award

July 2019 fetched the Best Innovation Award to the Northeast Frontier Railway for its 'Plan Bee' that introduced a unique strategy to keep wild elephants away from the train tracks. The strategy led to designing of a device that generates amplified sound of buzz of a swarm of honey bees audible from about 700-800 metres to keep the elephants diverted from railway tracks. Indian Railways have installed their first such instrument at a level crossing west of Guwahati in Assam on a track adjoining Rani Reserve Forest that is an elephant habitat and saved around 1,014 elephants from 2014 to June 2019.

All labour laws are now in single code

In July 2019, Cabinet gave nod to a bill to merge 13 central labour laws into a single code that will be applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more workers. This code will be applicable to all business entities dealing in the port and mining sector as well even if they have only one employee. The bill is expected to benefit large sections of the 40-crore workforce. The proposed Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, will increase coverage of workers manifold.

The NMIC news bulletin

In July 2019, the Films Division introduced a fortnightly bulletin called the “NMIC Bulletin” of the National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. NMIC is not just about artefacts but is also about witnessing the journey that made cinema possible and has untold stories behind those cinemas. This bulletin is meant to provide the desired and relevant information to various educational institutions and students of media studies. India produces the largest number of films in the world. The bulletin will help in better marketing of Indian cinema.

The new privilege for the Padma Shri Awardees

In July 2019, the government of Odisha announced Rs. 10,000 monthly allowance for the padma shri awardees belonging to the economically weaker section. The government took this step in wake of Odisha’s mountain man and Padma Shri Daitari Nayak struggle of earning his livelihood. Daitari Naik was awarded the Padma Shri for single-handedly carving out a 3-km-long canal from a mountain stream with a hoe and a crowbar to irrigate agricultural land in his village. According to the State Culture Department there are 84 Padma Shri awardees in Odisha and around 45 of them have died.

The AIFF Awards

On July 9, 2019, the All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) awards were distributed. Indian men’s football team captain, Sunil Chhetri, was adjudged as the Men’s Footballer of the year 2019. He is also the second-highest active international scorer who scored 70 goals for India after Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo. In the women’s category, this award was given to footballer Ashalata Devi. The names of other awardees included Sahal Abdul Samad (Kerala, AIFF Emerging Men’s Footballer of the Year); Dangmei Grace (Manipur, AIFF Emerging Women’s Footballer of the Year); Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (Best grassroots development programme); Joseph Tony (Karnataka, AIFF Award for the Best Assistant Referee) and R Venkatesh (Tamil Nadu, AIFF Award for the Best Referee).

YES Bank purchased 9.47% stake in Eveready Industries

In July 2019, Mumbai based Private sector lender, YES Bank bought a 9.47 % stake in dry cell battery maker, Eveready Industries India by invoking shares guaranteed by the Indian tea company, McLeod Russel. McLeod Russel defaulted on repayment of credit facilities provided by the Yes bank. Currently, McLeod’s debt is about Rs.1,800 – 2,000 crore. The bank purchased 68,80,149 equity shares having a nominal value of Rs 5 per share constituting 9.47% of the post-issue paid-up share capital.

Airtel completed merger of Tata Tele's consumer mobile business

Bharti Airtel Limited and Bharti Hexacom Limited accomplished the merger of the consumer mobile businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited (TTML) with the two Bharti Group companies in July 2019. For this merger, Airtel had submitted a Rs 644 crore bank guarantee with the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for the Tata Tele merger in May 2019. The deal has brought TTSL's consumer mobile business operations in 19 telecom circles - 17 under TTSL and 2 under TTML (Maharashtra) in Airtel's grip. All the customers, assets, spectrum, and agreed liabilities of the TTSL and TTML are now merged with Airtel.

Overseas Deployment of INS Tarkash

In July 2019, Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tarkash, which is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, equipped with a versatile range of weapons, got deployed in Morocco in an ongoing Overseas Deployment. The deployment sought to strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Morocco. Commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev, it participated in numerous professional, social and sporting interactions planned with the Royal Moroccan Navy as well as a Passage Exercise at sea with ships of the Royal Moroccan Navy.

Some new appointments

July 2019 saw Anshula Kant of SBI getting appointed as the MD And CFO Of the World Bank. Having a rich work experience in challenges including risk, treasury, funding, regulatory compliance and operations, she will look into the financial and risk management of the World Bank Group. Besides her, Vikas Swarup got appointed as the Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs and will look into passport, visa and Overseas Indian affairs etc. in the External Affairs Ministry from 1st August 2019. The 1986-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, is presently serving in the capacity of India's High Commissioner in Ottawa.

Indian waterways linked Bhutan & Bangladesh

On 12th July 2019, Minister of State for Shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya digitally flagged off ship 'MV AAI' from Dhubri in Assam to transport cargo of 1000 metric tons (MT) of stones from Bhutan to Bangladesh via the Brahmaputra. This is the first-ever development where the Indian waterways is being used to transport cargo between two foreign nations. The Inland Waterways Authority of India's (IWAI)'s ship will reach Narayanganj in Bangladesh with the Bhutanese cargo using the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route. This route will cut short travel time by 8 to 10 days, and reduce transportation cost by 30%.

'Manav' for holistic understanding of human biology

In July 2019, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Persistent Systems, a biotechnology company launched a new human atlas initiative called 'Manav' for improvising knowledge on

human biology. It will lead to the creation of a database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body to understand the differential molecular factors which vary between diseased states versus a healthy state of an organ. In this initiative, DBT invested Rs. 13 crores, while the Persistent Systems Limited contributed Rs 7 crores.

The growing strength of IAF

In July 2019, the Indian Air Force (IAF) planned to adopt Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM), which is a new European visual range air to air missile, across its fighter fleet. IAF is looking forward to expand its Su-30 fleet with a proposal to construct 40 more jets under the license at HAL's Nashik facility. This adoption is a part of a £250 million IAF contract with MBDA, UK that was inked in July 2014. Besides this, IAF received two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters at the Mundra port, Gujarat. The CH-47F (I) Chinooks helicopters will provide IAF an unmatched strategic airlift. It will deliver heavy payloads to high altitudes and will be employed for operations in the high Himalayas.

The fourth anniversary of Skill India Mission

National Skill Development Mission or Skill India Mission observed its fourth anniversary on 15th July 2019. Several functions are being organised across the country to mark the occasion. The main function was held in New Delhi where Home Minister Amit Shah was the key orator. This Skill India Mission was launched on this day in 2015. Nearly One Crore youth are being presently imparted skills training annually under the mission. The mission aims at convergence, coordination and harmonization of the fragmented skilling efforts of several Ministries in Government of India and other important stakeholders via the instruments of Common norms, implementation of the National Skills Qualification Framework and data integrations through the Skill India Portal.

Meghalaya became the first state to ensure water conservation

On July 12, 2019, the State Cabinet of Meghalaya approved the 'State Water Policy' to recognize water resources as a common pool resource for providing safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic, sanitation & livelihood development to all residents of the state. With this, the state became the first ever in the country to ensure water conservation. For its implementation, Water Sanitation Village Council at the village level will be constituted which will look into the protection and conservation of the catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.

Navjot Singh Sidhu tabled his resignation

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned as Punjab Cabinet Minister from the Amarinder Singh cabinet in July 2019. He had submitted the resignation letter dated June 10, 2019 addressed to the then Congress President, Rahul Gandhi. Sidhu was entrusted key portfolios of the local

government, tourism and cultural affairs and power and new and renewable energy sources ministry which he did not assume. He was also left out of the consultative groups constituted by the Chief Minister.

BCC & BRICS cracked a deal

In July 2019, the Bharat Chamber of Commerce, (BCC, Kolkata, West Bengal) inked a Memorandum of Understanding with BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) for boosting trade and investments between BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the eastern part of India. The BCC President, Sitaram Sharma, and the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General, B B L Madhukar, were the signatories of this pact. It enables BCC and BRICS chamber to share trade-related information and exchange trade delegations among the BRICS member countries. It is worth knowing here that BRICS CCI is a parent organization founded in 2012 for promotion of commerce and industry in BRICS countries.

Kalraj Mishra: The new Governor of Himachal Pradesh

On July 15, 2019, Senior BJP leader Kalraj Mishra got appointed as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He succeeded Acharya Devvrat, who will be the Governor of Gujarat replacing O.P. Kohli on 22nd July 2019. Devvrat was appointed as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh in year 2015. The 78-year old Mishra was the minister for micro, small and medium enterprises in the Narendra Modi-led government and had resigned from his post in year 2017.

The first edition of Gandhi Mandela Peace Medal

July 2019 welcomed the first edition of the Gandhi-Mandela Peace Initiative that was hosted by Believe Foundation(India) and Dr. RamanBhai Patel Foundation (RBF, South Africa) in commemoration of the victory of 'Love over Hatred', 150 years of Gandhi and 100 years of Mandela's inspirational lives. The Buddhist teacher and peace activist, a 93 - year old, Thich Nhat Hanh, was felicitated with the Gandhi Mandela Peace Medal on this occasion. Besides him, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) was presented this medal in the 'Social Impact' category; Mahendra Modi, DGP, IPS, Uttar Pradesh was awarded in the 'Environment' category and Shabana Khan, Sneha, and Suman were awarded in the 'Young Social Change' category.

Rs. 750 crore project of Six Sigma Healthcare

In July 2019, Six Sigma healthcare, which is a company that operates hospitals in Kedarnath, Tungnath and Madmaheshwar proposed to establish High Altitude Institute of mountain medicine, training and research center worth Rs. 750 crore in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. The proposed center will excel research in Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda, Naturopathy and Yoga

regarding High Altitude Mountains and will educate professionals in mountain medicines. In addition to these, it will offer courses to train the local people, schools, colleges in high altitude rescue and disaster, help in checking migration and will generate employment for the locals.

Prasar Bharati & IIT Kanpur deal

In July 2019, Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi. The research collaboration will lead to mobile broadcasting, convergence of 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Incubation Centre and internship for students of IIT, Kanpur at Prasar Bharati. The MoU became effective from 13th July 2019 and will stay in force for the upcoming five years.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships

In July 2019, tabla maestro - Zakir Hussain, dancer - Sonal Mansingh, dancer and choreographer - Jatin Goswami and Bharatnatyam exponent - K.Kalyanasundaram Pillai have been selected for the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships in the field of performing arts. Besides them, forty-four artists including Mani Prasad for Hindustani Vocal, Tarun Bhattacharya for Hindustani Instrumental (Santoor), Radha Sridhar for Bharatanatyam, Akham Lakshmi Devi for Manipuri, Rajiv Naik for Playwriting and Malini Awasthi for Folk Music were chosen under the performing arts category for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018.

Odisha implemented the Centre's Witness Protection Scheme, 2018

In July 2019, to ensure proper investigation, prosecution, and trial of unprejudiced criminal offenses, the state Government of Odisha implemented the Centre's Witness Protection Scheme, 2018. The scheme is meant to protect witnesses and their family members from threats against their lives and reputation. The witnesses have been divided into 3 categories as per the threat perception. Among them, Category A involves the cases where the threat extends to the life of witness or his family members during an investigation, trial or thereafter; Category B involves cases where the threat perception extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members during the investigation or trial and Category C covers cases where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member's reputation or property.

Demise of Raja Dhale

In July 2019, co-founder of Dalit Panther, Raja Dhale

died at the age of 78. Dhale along with the others founded a youth-based organisation, 'Dalit Panther' in 1972 which was inspired by the Black Panther outfit of African Americans in the US to raise the voice of Dalits more aggressively in the state. Besides this, he penned several books

based on his thoughts and works. The Union Minister of state for Social Justice and RPI(A) chief Ramdas Athawale also expressed his grief saying, “Dhale brought me into this organisation (Dalit Panther) and mentored me. His death is a personal loss for me,”.

The wind and solar infrastructure projects of L&T Finance arm

In July 2019, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) granted \$100-million loan to L&T(Larsen & Toubro) Infrastructure Finance Company(LTIF) for wind and solar infrastructure projects. It is worth knowing that this was the first occasion when AIIB provided loan to a non-banking finance company(NBFC). The project will lead to installation of 175 Gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2022 which is expected to reduce the carbon intensity by 30-35 % by 2030.

The latest actions of state governments

In July 2019, the Haryana Government launched ‘Meri Fasal Mera Byora’ portal for farmers. Through <https://www.fasalhry.in/> farmers can directly avail crop related benefits of the state government schemes after self - reporting their land and crop-related details like the name of crop sown, area under cultivation, cropping month, bank account number and mobile number at the Common Service Centres (CSCs) or Atal Seva Kendras (ASK) or with the help of VLEs (Village Level Entrepreneurs) by the end of July. Each farmer, who will register on the portal will get a financial incentive of Rs 10 per acre or part thereof subject to a minimum of Rs 20 to maximum Rs 50. Apart from this, Andhra Pradesh government announced a Rs. 2,000 crore natural calamity fund to soothe the prevailing drought conditions and tackle drinking water scarcity in the state. The government also paid Rs.7 lakh compensation to the families of the farmers who committed suicides due to crop failure and debt.

Death of the Veteran Malayalam cinematographer M J Radhakrishnan

July 2019 witnessed the last breath of the 60 year old Malayalam cinematographer, M J Radhakrishnan, at Trivandrum (Thiruvananthapuram), Kerala. His films have been screened at numerous important film festivals worldwide including Cannes, Toronto, Chicago, Rhode Island and Rotterdam. His film Marana Simhasanam (English: Throne of Death; French: Le Trone de la mort) bagged Camera d’Or (Golden Camera Award) at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival. Besides this, he was well acknowledged with seven international prestigious awards as well as national awards.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill

In July 2019, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, introduced Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the Parliament to save lives of lakhs of people who get killed every year in road accidents. The bill addresses issues like regulation of taxi aggregators, third

party insurance and road safety. It seeks maximum accountability for a third party insurance in case of a vehicle accident at Rs 10 lakh in case of death and Rs. 5 Lakh in case of grievous injury. It lays norms for cabs that will be finalized by the central government. It promotes the digitalization of licenses or permits, application filing procedure, receipt of money (such as fines), and change of address. It authorizes state governments to ensure the electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety on national highways, state highways, and urban roads. Last but not the least, it modifies the compensation and insurance provisions in case of motor vehicle accidents.

Healthcare has gained prominence

In July 2019, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Centre for Dental Education and Research (CDER) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health decided to undertake the largest nationwide Oral Health Survey 2019 to collect data that will act as a baseline for planning preventive and treatment strategies. It will record particular, representative data on the most prevalent dental diseases like dental decay, gum diseases, dentofacial deformities, cancerous lesions, dental fluorosis and dental trauma among others. Besides this, Union Minister of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), Shripad Yesso Naik announced plans about establishment of 4,200 AYUSH wellness centres across the nation in FY 2019-20. Prior to this, the government provided financial assistance to erect integrated AYUSH hospitals in 85 districts across various states.

The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill

On 17th July 2019, the Lok Sabha gave a nod to the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill that is meant to enhance the jurisdiction of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India targeting Indians as well as Indian assets abroad. The latest amendment will enable the NIA to additionally investigate offences regarding human trafficking, counterfeit currency, manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, cyber-terrorism and offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. Moreover, it seeks constitution of special courts for the trial of scheduled offences for human trafficking and cyber terrorism.

New Governors of the states

On 20th July 2019, the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, appointed new Governors of six states. Lal Ji Tandon got appointed as the new Governor of Madhya Pradesh. He succeeded Anandi Ben Patel, who was appointed as the new Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Phagu Chauhan is the new Governor of Bihar. He replaced Lal Ji Tandon. Jagdeep Dhankhar has been appointed as the new Governor of West Bengal. He succeeded Keshari Nath Tripathi. Ramesh Bais is the new Governor of Tripura. He succeeded Kaptan Singh Solanki. R.N. Ravi got appointed as the new Governor of Nagaland. He replaced Padmanabha Acharya.

The former Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, died

The former three time Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, died on 20th July 2019 at the age of 81 years due to a cardiac arrest. She was born on 31st March 1938 in Kapurthala, Punjab. She served as the Chief Minister of Delhi for 15 years from 1998-2013. She also served as the Governor of Kerala. She became a Member of Parliament (MP) for the first time from Kannauj Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh in 1984. She was the recipient of 2010 Dara Shikoh award by Indo-Iran Society and Delhi Women of the Decade Achievers Award 2013 by the All Ladies League for Outstanding Public Service.

Finally Chandrayaan 2 is up above the world so high!!!

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) finally succeeded in launching its second moon mission, Chandrayaan-2 via the 640-tonne rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV-Mk III) from Andhra Pradesh's Satish Dhawan Space Centre on 22nd July 2019. The 3,850kg Chandrayaan-2, which has been projected into an Earth parking 170x40400 km (its the nearest as well as the farthest distance from the Earth) elliptical orbit is a Rs. 978 crore project. Chandrayaan-2 will haul lander Vikram and rover Pragyan in a high plain between two craters, Manzinus C and Simpelius N, at a latitude of about 70° south on the moon's surface to study lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, the lunar exosphere, and signatures of hydroxyl and water ice. NASA congratulated ISRO for GSLV-Mk III (Bahubali's) giant leap.

Two new districts of Tamil Nadu

In July 2019, two new districts viz. Tenkasi and Chengalpattu have been carved from Tirunelveli and Kancheepuram districts respectively. With this, the count of number of districts in the state has reached to 35. It has been done in response to the requests of Ministers, MLAs and the general public in the benefit of the administration. According to the Chief Minister each of the new districts will have an IAS officer as a special officer.

The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019

On July 19, 2019, Indian Parliament gave nod to the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2019, that will amend the Central Universities Act, 2009. It seeks setting up of two Central Universities in Andhra Pradesh viz. 'the Central University of Andhra Pradesh in Jantalu Village of Ananthapur' and 'Central Tribal University in Relli village in Vizianagaram District'. The proposed set up will be done at an estimated expenditure of Rs.1700 crore in four years in Andhra Pradesh. The establishment is expected to increase access and quality of higher education in the state.

The AIFF Golden Baby Leagues handbook

In July 2019, Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju, released the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20 on the sidelines of the Intercontinental Cup in Ahmedabad. It has

been done to highlight the changed name of 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with an emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to 12, both for girls and boys. The handbook is released for the purpose of helping the stakeholders to organise the Golden Baby League. The League envisages access to football in localities irrespective of gender, religion, economic background, or ethnic origin.

India all set to launch first-ever space war exercise 'IndSpaceEx'

On July 25, 2019, India will launch its first ever two day space war exercise 'IndSpaceEx' to evaluate its capacity in the cosmic war circumstances. The exercise will lead to better comprehension of Kinetic and Non-Kinetic Anti Satellite Weapon (A-Sat) that can defend the Indian sky. A-Sat has the capacity to destroy or disable any military or civilian space asset. Kinetic ASAT is about destroying a particular object physically while Non-Kinetic ASAT is about disabling a space object with lasers or by cyber attack. It is worth registering here that after "Mission Shakti", India had become the fourth country in the world after Russia, USA and China to possess the ASAT power.

RBI launched a medium-term strategy framework "Utkarsh 2022"

On 23rd July 2019, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), Shaktikanta Das, launched "Utkarsh 2022", the central bank's medium-term strategy framework (2019-22). The bank launched the framework to achieve excellence in the performance of statutory, strengthening the trust of citizens and other functions. It also enhanced relevance and significance in national and global roles, best-in-class and environment-friendly digital as well as physical infrastructure, and innovative, dynamic and skilled human resources. RBI will also periodically monitor the implementation and progress via its sub-committee.

Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane: The new Vice-Chief of the Army Staff

In July 2019, Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane, has been appointed as the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff. He will succeed Lt. Gen. Devraj Anbu who is retiring next month. Currently, Naravane is serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in the Eastern Army Command. Apart From this, Lt-Gen. P. Singh will take over as the General officer commanding-in-chief in the Western Army command. He succeeded Lt-Gen. Surinder Singh.

"Dracaena cambodiana": India's first dragon blood-oozing tree

In July 2019, a three-member research team under the leadership of Assam forest officer, Jatindra Sarma reported the existence of *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam. According to this publication of the Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, it is India's first dragon blood-oozing tree whose sap turns

bright red after coming in contact with air. This so called dragon's blood is said to be one of the renowned traditional medicines used as antifungal and antibacterial, wound healing, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, etc.

ICICI Bank launched its digital platform - InstaBIZ

In July 2019, India's largest private sector bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) started a new digital platform called 'InstaBIZ' for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed customers. It is the first digital platform that permits instant payment of GST (Goods and Service Tax) using the challan number in a single click payment. In addition to this, MSMEs can instantly apply for a Point-of-Sale (Pos) machine and a marine insurance policy. The platform offers more than 115 products and services online through mobile phone or internet banking platform.

B S Yediyurappa became CM of Karnataka

In July 2019, BJP state President BS Yediyurappa took oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka. He has changed the spelling of his name from 'Yeddyurappa' to 'Yediyurappa' on the advice of numerologists. He had played the role of CM earlier also and all his Chief Ministerial stints have been short-lived. He had won his first election in 1975 as a member of the Shikaripura Town Municipality till he became CM for the first time for just seven days in year 2007 (12 November to 17 November) in a coalition agreement with the JD(S). Then his next tenure as CM was for three years from May 2008 to July 2011, and the last one was just for 48 hours in 2018.

The newly released books

July 2019 witnessed release of 'Fire and Fury Corps— Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice' in Leh, J&K on the occasion of 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. It is a repository of exemplary valour of Fire and Fury Corps and their complete dedication to the nation. Fire and Fury Corps of the Army, guard Line of Control (LoC) between Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Line of Actual Control (LAC) that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory in the former princely state of J&K. Besides this, another title "Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics" authored by Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Ravi Dutt Bajpai was also released.

IIT Kharagpur presented CARE4U app

IIT Kharagpur developed an application "CARE4U" for helping elderly people. The app is equipped with features like fall detection algorithm that will inform the caregiver in case of fall of elderly for rendering requisite emergency services at the real time location; Mood Index to detect emotions of elderly; Cognitive Intelligent Chatbot to recommend a motivational quote or an old

song when the elderly person is sad and Medicine Reminder for taking medicines on time and keeping track of medical histories, allergies' account and an SOS (emergency) button. Best thing about it is that except for chatbot, all other machine learning models run on mobile itself where no cloud service is required.

Digitization of Archaeological Museum via “JATAN”

In July 2019, the Union Minister of State of Culture and Tourism, Prahlad Singh Patel announced the digitization of Archaeological Museum across the country via a special software ‘JATAN: Virtual Museum software’. Developed by the Human Centres Design and Computing Group, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, Maharashtra, the software will ride on <http://museumsofindia.gov.in/> to create the digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are employed in the background for managing National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums. Around 48 Archaeological Site Museums will be digitized under the Archaeological Survey of India(ASI) through JATAN.

UGC announced 23 self-styled and unrecognized universities

In July 2019, the University Grants Commission(UGC) released a list of 23 universities which are declared “self-styled” and “unrecognized“ as they contradict the UGC Act 1956. The UGC has warned the students against taking admission in the 8 such universities of Uttar Pradesh, 7 of Delhi, 1-1 university in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Puducherry and 2-2 fake universities in West Bengal and Odisha. Headquartered in New Delhi, the University Grants Commission coordinates, determines and maintains standards of higher education.

International universities taking interest in Indian education

In July 2019, an online higher education platform, upGrad with Liverpool John Moores University(LJMU), North England, UK offered India’s first online Master’s degree program in Machine Learning(ML)and AI(Artificial Intelligence). It will be an 18-month program that will be delivered by the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore IIIT-B as well as LJMU with a scholarship of ₹35,000. Apart from this, the British Council of India and the Universities UK International (UUKi) launched the UKIERI mobility program in India in which UK universities will send the UK universities’ undergraduate students by March 2021. Besides this, West Bengal’s technical education department cracked a deal with the British Council to improve the Spoken English skills of students studying in polytechnic colleges in the state.

Key appointments in different ministries

In July 2019, The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) appointed the 1984-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer, Ajay Kumar Bhalla as the Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2 years; Atanu Chakraborty (new Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs);

Anil Kumar Khachi (Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management); Subhash Chandra Garg (Secretary of Ministry of Power); Anshu Prakash (Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications); RS Shukla (Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs); Ravi Capoor (Secretary, Textiles); Atul Chaturvedi (Secretary to Animal Husbandry and Dairying department); P D Vaghela (Secretary in Department of Pharmaceuticals); Anuradha Mitra (Secretary, Department of Official Language); G V Venugopala Sarma (Member Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority); Guruprasad Mohapatra (Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) and many more.

News from the banking sector

In July 2019, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) stiffened the norms governing resolution professionals. Starting from January 1, 2020 the bankruptcy professional will not be able to undertake any assignment without holding an 'Authorisation for Assignment' issued by the concerned insolvency professional agency. Moreover, no insolvency professional will be able to appoint any of his relatives or related parties, for or in connection with any work relating to his assignment. An individual would be allowed to serve as an independent director on the governing board of an insolvency professional agency up to the age of 75 years. Apart from this, Bandhan Bank appointed former SBI CGM, Sanjeev Naryani as Head of Business for all divisions viz. branch banking, wholesale banking etc. Apart from this, RBI imposed a fine of Rs.7 crore on SBI and Rs.10-lakh on Union Bank for violating certain regulatory guidelines.

Discoveries at a glance

Indian scientists at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) in Nainital district of Uttarakhand have discovered 28 new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy. This was the first time when the variable stars have been found via photometric observations of globular cluster 'NGC 4147' using 3.6-meter powerful Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT). These stars showcase luminosity changes due to periodical swelling or shrinking or external factors like eclipses. Apart from this, researchers from the Indian Institute of Science(IISc), Bengaluru discovered Pro Ahaetulla antique, 26 million years old species of Vine snake in the southern Western Ghats. They are also called 'keeled vine snake' having slender bodies and vine-like appearances.

Major appointments in different fields

In July 2019, Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla appointed the Congress floor leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Apart from this, General Officer Commanding of the Army's Nagrota-based XVI Corps, Lt. Gen. Paramjit Singh has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations of the Indian Army. He succeeded Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan, who has been appointed the new General Officer

Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command. In the list of appointments, next is IPS officer VK Johri, who has been appointed as the next Director General of the Border Security Force. Apart from this, Badri Narain Sharma got re-appointed as the Chairperson of National Anti-profiteering Authority for the next 2 years.

29th July : Mohun Bagan Day

29th July 2019 was celebrated as the 'Mohun Bagan Day' to commemorate the Mariners' football club victory over a British club, East Yorkshire Regiment, and their lifting of the IFA Shield in 1911. On this occasion the two-time Olympic gold medallist, Keshav Dutt, and the former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee were conferred the 'Mohun Bagan Ratna'. This was the first time Mohun Bagan's executive committee conferred their highest honour to a non-footballer, the 94-year-old Dutt, who is one of the oldest surviving hockey Olympians of 1948 London Games, where India won the first gold post Independence. Mohun Bagan also honored pacer Mohammed Shami, India's hat-trick hero of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup and conferred Lifetime Achievement award upon Ashok Chatterjee.

AAI & Aireon cracked a deal

In July 2019, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with a global aircraft tracking body, Aireon for implementation of Space-Based Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast data (ADS-B) services for the oceanic regions of the Indian flight information regions (FIRs). The estimated expenditure for provisioning of these services is Rs.114 crores per year. Currently, surveillance technology covers only terrestrial airspace and has limited coverage over oceanic regions. This new agreement will enable surveillance of the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, representing 6 million sq. kms.

ICMR & the Population Council launched NDQF

In July 2019, the oldest medical research body, Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR)'s National Institute for Medical Statistics (ICMR-NIMS), in collaboration with an international non-profit NGO that conducts research in biomedicine and social science, Population Council introduced the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) in New Delhi for improving the quality of health and demographic data in India. This will integrate lessons from scientific and evidence-based initiatives and guide actions through periodic workshops and conferences.



June 30: International Asteroid Day 2019

June 30, 2019 was observed as the “International Asteroid Day” all around the world. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) instituted this day through adoption of the resolution A/RES/71/90 in December 2016, on the proposal made by the Association of Space Explorers. The purpose of this proposal was to mark the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation that happened on 30 June 1908. The observation is aimed at creating awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and informing people about the crisis communication actions to be taken in case of a possible near-earth object.

ITBP DIG Aparna Kumar: The first civil servant to summit Mount Denali

In June 2019, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Aparna Kumar became the first civil servant to scale Mount Denali, the highest peak in North America. With this, the 2002 batch IPS officer from UP cadre, who is presently posted as DIG, ITBP Northern Frontier in Dehradun, also became the first woman IPS DIG and ITBP officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition. This was her third attempt to conquer the coveted peak as well as her 7th summit in her '7 Summits' challenge.

Priya Serrao: Miss Universe Australia

27th June 2019 became a red day for Priya Serrao (born in India), because she won the “Miss Universe - Australia” title for 2019. She was chosen among 26 other contestants from across the country in Melbourne. The 26-year-old, whose family migrated to Australia from the Middle East will now represent Australia in the Miss Universe competition later this year. She is a law graduate who is presently working in Department of Jobs, Precincts and regions in Melbourne. Western Australia's Bella Kasimba and another Victorian Marijana Radmanovic grabbed the second and the third position respectively.

1st July 2019 : The third anniversary of Holey Artisan Bakery attack

On 1st July 2019, Bangladesh observed the third anniversary of the deadliest terror attack in its history at the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka that happened in 2016. The incident featured attackers who did abduct 40 people as hostages before brutally killing 20 of them. Among them, the number of foreigners were more including one from India. Two policemen were also killed in the operation against the terrorists. The incident involved a faction of a banned militant outfit Jama'atul

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in the planning and execution of the terrorist attack. The case is still under trial in the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal in Dhaka and is expected to reach its completion stages by the end of this year.

The deals of India & World Bank

India and World Bank inked a USD 400M loan agreement to suck Tuberculosis from the country. It is seen that around 5 lakh people from India die every year because of the disease of Tuberculosis. The World Bank support will cover nine states and boost the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025. Besides this, India also inked a \$250 million loan pact with the World Bank for rebuilding the Kerala initiative to enhance the state's resilience against the havoc of natural disasters and climate change. With this aid, Kerala will witness an improvised river basin and water infrastructure operations management, water supply and sanitation services, resilient and sustainable agriculture, upgraded agriculture risk insurance, improved resilience of the core road network, etc.

Demise of Momir Bulatovic

On 30th June 2019, former President of Montenegro, Momir Bulatovic died at the age of 62 in Rači, Montenegro. The deceased had served as the President of Montenegro amid the turbulent breakup of the former Yugoslavia from 1990 till 1998. He founded Montenegro's ruling Democratic Party of Socialists along with the country's long-serving leader, Milo Djukanovic. He had also served as the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia from 1998 till 2000. He lead Montenegro to independence in year 2006.

NASA is in action

Recently the United States space agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reported discovery of a new planet "L 98-59b" via Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). L 98-59b is around 80% the size of the Earth that revolves around L 98-59 star, which is about one-third the mass of the Sun that lies about 35 light-years away. Besides this, two other planets "L 98-59c" and "L 98-59d" were also discovered. Apart from this, NASA's "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere" (PUNCH) mission chose Indian Scientist Dipankar Banerjee as its co investigator for the probe. The Indian solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics will study the acceleration of the solar wind on the polar regions of the Sun. Prof. Banerjee is also the co-Chair of the India's Science Working Group that is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1 for studying the corona of the Sun.

BLA : The new global terrorist organization

On 2nd July 2019, the United States declared the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as a global terrorist organization. It is a separatist group that is fighting the Pakistani rule in the resource-rich

Balochistan province. USA did so in the wake of several terrorist attacks that were carried out by this group in the past year viz. suicide attack in August 2018 that targeted the Chinese engineers in Balochistan, the attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi in November 2018 and the latest attack on a luxury hotel in Gwadar in May 2019.

Demise of Former CEO of Chrysler, Lee Iacocca

On 3rd July, 2019, the celebrity businessman and former CEO of one of the biggest automobile manufacturers in the United States, Chrysler, Lee Iacocca died of Parkinson's disease. He resurrected Chrysler from a \$5 billion crisis. He made Chrysler introduce a minivan and later the suburban utility vehicle (SUV) in the market. In the 1960s, during his tenure at the Ford Motor Company, he developed the Ford Mustang and Pinto cars. Besides this, he penned his autobiography "Iacocca-An Autobiography" in 1984 and another book "Talking Straight" in 1984.

The Bangladesh- China deals

On 4th July 2019, Bangladesh and China cracked multiple deals for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the power sector. The latter has agreed to provide concessional and preferential Buyer's Credit loan to the former for expansion and Strengthening of Power System Network in the country. Around nine instruments- five agreements, three memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and a document- were signed after the bilateral dialogue between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People.

IAEA blew the whistle!

On 2nd July 2019, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) informed that Iran had exceeded a limit on its enriched uranium reserves that was decided in a 2015 nuclear deal. On July 14, 2015, Iran, France, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and the US and Germany had signed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or Iran Nuclear deal in Vienna, Austria. As per the deal, Iran agreed to stockpile low-enriched uranium having 3.67% concentration of isotope U-235 upto 300 kg and could fuel a power plant only until 2031.

USISPF honored Wipro Chairman & Mastercard CEO

On July 3, 2019, Indian multinational corporation Wipro's Chairman, Azim Premji and Global Financial services company Mastercard's CEO and President, Ajaypal Singh Banga got selected for 2019 Global Excellence Award of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) for their outstanding contribution in strengthening of economic ties between America and India. They will be felicitated by the United States President's Senior Adviser, Jared Kushner at the USISPF Second Annual Leadership Summit that has been scheduled on July 11, 2019.

Italy's Prosecco hills now in UNESCO World Heritage list

Italy's Prosecco hills in the northeast of Venice, got listed in the World Heritage list during a meeting of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Baku on 7th July 2019. In the Conegliano and Valdobbiadene hills, grapes for the prosecco sparkling wine are grown. Produced across nine provinces in Italy's northeast, Prosecco has become the most famous Italian wine abroad, with its exports seen rising by a record 21% in year 2019 in foreign markets. This is Italy's 55th World Heritage site.

IMF's Christine Lagarde: the first female ECB President

In July 2019, the first woman head of the Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde got nominated as European Central Bank (ECB) President during a meeting in Brussels, Belgium. With this, she has also become the first woman to lead the ECB. The 63 year old lady of France will succeed current ECB President Mario Draghi (Italy), whose term will end on October 31. Lagarde has served as head of the IMF since 2011.

World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute

In July 2019, the world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute "Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute" began operations in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Health and Family Welfare Minister of Bangladesh, Zahid Maleque, inaugurated the Out Patient Department (OPD) of the institute that has 500 beds, 50 Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and 12 operation theatres. It has been built at an expenditure of more than 500 crore taka. It is seen that around 6 lakh people suffer burn injuries in Bangladesh every year who will benefit from the institute.

CapitaLand Group cracks a deal

From July 2019, Asia's largest real estate company, CapitaLand Limited of Singapore began operations as a unified entity after acquisition of Temasek Holdings-owned Ascendas-Singbridge Pte. Ltd. in US\$8 billion (singapore\$11 billion). After this deal, it has become competent for four core markets viz. Singapore, China, India, and Vietnam at large scale. Now this unified entity is one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups with assets worth 123 billion Singapore dollars under management. The expansion has placed CapitaLand among the world's top 10 real estate investment managers, and has made it a manager of three largest Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

Sharjah's first Golden card visa for an expat Indian

In July 2019, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs of Sharjah issued the first golden card visa to an Indian expat businessman, Lalu Samuel, who is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kingston Holdings and Chairman of Sharjah Industry Business Group. After

achieving the 10-year visa, as part of the long-term permanent residency system, the privileged will contribute to the renaissance and development of the UAE. The country is further looking forward to attract capital, investments, and owners of leading companies, professionals, researchers and students for the same purpose.

Soyuz-2.1 carried 33 satellites

In July 2019, Russia launched one hydro meteorological satellite ‘Meteor-M No.2-2’ and 32 small satellites via Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket from the Vostochny spaceport in the Far Eastern Amur Region. The launched satellites will address issues of the weather research by providing images of clouds, the surface of the Earth, ice and snow covers as well as relevant data on the sea surface temperature, the state of the ozone layer and the level of humidity. This launch will reduce Russia’s dependence on Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Saudi Arabia cooperated in the Digital India initiative

In July 2019, Saudi Arabia adopted Digital India and ‘equality of women’ motto for the empowerment of Muslim women pilgrims as part of the Government of India’s initiative of Digital India. Around 2332 single women above the age of 45 years are travelling for Hajj in 2019 without a male guardian. Besides this, Saudi Arabia launched “Indian Hajj Information System” app for grievance redressal which is presently available in English, Hindi, and Urdu. In addition to this, it has also introduced e-MASIHA app (Medical Assistance System for Indian-Hajjis abroad) to store the pilgrim’s health information & medical history. It will also provide a Saudi Arabian SIM card that will be activated in the buildings of Makkah and Madinah.

The most expensive offices of the world

In July 2019, an American real estate consulting firm, CBRE released its annual report “Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey”. Hong Kong’s Central district retained the top spot for the second consecutive year with \$322 per sq.ft. per annum. It was followed by London’s West End, Hong Kong’s Kowloon, New York’s Midtown Manhattan and Beijing’s Finance Street that grabbed second, third, fourth and fifth places respectively. India’s New Delhi’s Connaught Place stood as the 9th most expensive office location in the world with a rent of nearly \$144 per sq ft. It was followed by Mumbai’s Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) (27th position) and Nariman Point - Central Business District (CBD) (40th position) respectively.

The launch of the Earth Alliance

Hollywood ‘Titanic’ fame actor and Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio, Steve Jobs’ widow Laurene Powell Jobs and billionaire investor Brian Sheth are launching a new alliance ‘Earth Alliance’ this July to deal with the climate change. Leonardo is the founding co-chair of the ‘Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation’ which is getting transformed into ‘Earth Alliance’. Sheth is a co-founder and President

of the private equity fund Vista Equity Partners, board chair of the Global Wildlife Conservation and founder of the Sheth Sangreal Foundation. Earth Alliance is meant to function at multiple levels from providing grants and educational opportunities to engaging native and local communities.

England won the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019

14th July 2019 became a historic day for the England team that lifted their maiden ICC World Cup cricket trophy in London. Opting to bat first, New Zealand posted 241 for eight. In reply, England scored the same leading to the one-over eliminator at the Lord's. In the Super Over, England batted first and the pair of Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler made 15, and New Zealand also ended at the same score, paving the way for an English victory on boundary count. England's Ben Stokes was adjudged as player of the match for a heroic knock of 84 not out off 92 balls, while New Zealand's skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged player of the tournament for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership.

100 highest-paid Forbes Celebrity list

American Singer Taylor Swift, with her 2019 estimated earnings of over USD 185 million, topped the 100 highest-paid Forbes Celebrity list. She replaced the TV star and makeup mogul Kylie Jenner who is now on the second spot with an estimated \$170 million earnings in the list. Forbes calls her as the history's youngest self-made billionaire. Rapper Kanye West grabbed the third spot with estimated income of \$1 billion via his Yeezy sneakers partnership with Adidas. Besides them, stars Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar da Silva Santos, music acts Ed Sheeran and, collectively, the band the Eagles; TV personality and psychologist Phil McGraw; and boxer Canelo Álvarez completed the top ten list.

The 2019 Wimbledon Championships

The 133rd edition of the Wimbledon Championships that started on 1st July 2019 concluded on 14th July 2019 at the 'All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club' in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom. The names of winners include Novak Djokovic (Serbia, Men's Singles), Simona Halep (Romania, Women's Singles), Juan Sebastián Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia) (Men's Doubles), Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic) (Women's Doubles) and Ivan Dodig (Croatia) and Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) (Mixed Doubles). Wimbledon's total prize money was increased for an 8th year in a row with £38,000,000 for 2019.

July 14 came as Bastille Day

France celebrated its national day on July 14, 2019 as Bastille Day, which is traditionally considered as the symbol of the French Revolution that eventually led France to Republic. It is the most important bank holiday in France widely known as Le 14 Juillet. The festivity of this day can

be enjoyed in Paris, more precisely on the Champs Elysees where military parades and public speeches are organized and cafes and restaurants get packed with warm gatherings. On 14th July, 1789, a massive crowd of Frenchmen rose up and invaded the prison, which became a symbol of the Ancient Regime and it indeed marked the end of Louis XVI's absolute and arbitrary power. This led France to the three ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Retirement of the former England striker Peter Crouch

In July 2019, the former England striker Peter Crouch announced his retirement from the game of football at the age of 38. He represented England in 2006 and 2010 World Cups. He played in the Premier League for Liverpool and Tottenham, most of the times. He scored 22 goals for England in 42 matches and also got his hands on the Football Association Challenge Cup (FA Cup), which is an annual knockout football competition in men's domestic English football. He also appeared for Aston Villa, Norwich City, and Southampton.

The “Bell entanglement” image

According to the Journal Science Advances' latest publication, a paper titled 'Imaging Bell-type nonlocal behavior' revealed the first-ever image of quantum entanglement “Bell entanglement”. A team of physicists from the University of Glasgow took a photo of a strong form of quantum entanglement called Bell entanglement that serves as a visual evidence of an elusive phenomenon which confused Albert Einstein, who called the phenomenon as a “spooky action at a distance”. The photo shows two photons interacting and sharing physical states for a brief instance. It is an event that occurs regardless of the actual distance between the particles.

Leyen: The first female President of European Commission

On 16th July 2019, German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen got elected as the European Commission's first female president. The 60-year-old German Minister's nomination was approved by 383 votes, a narrow margin of just 9 votes over the required 374, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. There were 327 votes against her and 22 abstentions. It is worth recalling here that Leyen was nominated to become the first woman in Brussels' top job in June 2019 by the leaders of the bloc's 28 member states.

Myanmar is in the news

On 16th July 2019, the US government prohibited visits of Myanmar's Army Chief and three other top officers on account of their role in the "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya minority. The move against Army Chief Min Aung Hlaing and the others has been taken after finding credible evidence of their involvement in the violence two years ago that led about 740,000 Rohingyas to flee across the border to Bangladesh. Apart from this, Myanmar's Rakhine State received 250 prefabricated houses from the Government of India for the use of Refugees, who returned from Bangladesh to

Myanmar's Rakhine State. India extended support worth US\$ 5 million under the Rakhine State Development Programme' (RSDP). More than 1.1 million Rohingyas have taken refuge in India & Bangladesh after rising violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

FRCS of Thailand went to P. Raghu Ram

In July 2019, doyen breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee P. Raghu Ram has been bestowed the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand at the 44th annual congress of the Royal College in Pattaya. This congress was organized on the "ASEAN collaboration in value-based surgery" theme. The recipient's bold vision accompanied by an intense body of work led to a significant improvement in the delivery of breast healthcare in India. In addition to this, he promoted the highest standards of surgical education in India via his association with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England.

Alan Turing will appear on a £50 pound note

In July 2019, the UK government announced the release of a new £50 pound polymer note by the end of 2021. It will feature the great codebreaker and visionary mathematician Alan Turing. The father of computer science and artificial intelligence, as well as a war hero had created code-breaking machines during World War II. History reveals that he was chemically castrated and died of cyanide poisoning in an apparent suicide for his homosexual orientation. However, in the year 2017, an "Alan Turing Law" was formulated that pardoned men who had been cautioned or convicted under historical legislation that outlawed homosexual acts in Britain.

'Palau', the 76th nation of International Solar Alliance

On 17th July 2019, Palau, which is a part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean with more than 500 islands, has inked an International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement. With this, Palau became the 76th country that joined the International Solar Alliance. Launched by India in November 2015, the International Solar Alliance looks into implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. Apart from this, Palau will also host the 2020 edition of the 'Our Oceans conference' which will address issues like climate change, sustainable fisheries and marine pollution.

Appointments of Ambassadors

On 19th July 2019, the 1998 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer, Upender Singh Rawat has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Panama. He succeeded Ravi Thapar. Apart from this, Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to the State of Israel. He is a 1997 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer. Currently, he is serving as the Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi since 2014. He replaced Pavan Kapoor.

Argentine architect Cesar Pelli passed away

Argentine architect, Cesar Pelli, passed away in July 2019 at the age of 92 years. He designed New York's World Financial Center and Kuala Lumpur's (Malaysia) Petronas Twin Towers (a 452m high structure that was the world's tallest building when it was completed in 1998). He was born on 12th October 1926 in the city of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina. His famous works include Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, London's Canary Wharf Tower, and a terminal at Washington's Reagan National Airport. Pelli's last project was the Salesforce Transit Center in San Francisco, which is the tallest skyscraper in the San Francisco skyline, with a roof height of 296 meters.

Standard Chartered reached GIFT IFSC

In July 2019, UK- based Standard Chartered became the first foreign bank to establish IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-city (GIFT city). The bank has received in-principle regulatory permission for the setup. According to Tapan Ray, MD & CEO of GIFT City the presence of Standard Chartered will make IFSC ecosystem formidable. It is worth recalling here that GIFT City was set up by the Gujarat government in joint partnership with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) and the recent budget's special emphasis on aircraft financing and leasing is on purpose of nurturing a hub for aircraft financing and leasing as well as other organizations in the future under GIFT City's domain.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index 2019

In July 2019, the founder of Amazon Inc, Jeff Bezos emerged as the richest person in the world with a net worth of \$124 billion wealth on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. French businessman & CEO of LVMH (a merger of renowned brands Louis Vuitton and Moët Hennessy), Bernard Arnault has surpassed Bill Gates as the world's second richest person with a net worth of \$108 billion wealth. Arnault is said to have increased 39 billion dollars to his fortune in 2019, and in year 2018 his LVMH was adjudged as the world's largest maker of luxury goods, that collected more than 53 billion dollars in revenue. Now, the co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates stands third with \$107 billion wealth.

The Ramanujan Machine

In July 2019, researchers from Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, have reported the development of an algorithm rather than a machine called Ramanujan Machine in honor of the prominent and path-breaking mathematicians of the 20th century. Ramanujan was known for his unique and novel way of presenting equations and identities. He independently accomplished compilation of almost 3,900 identities and equations. The newly developed machine automatically

generates conclusions in the form of mathematical formulas. Generally we provide the input and the algorithm finds the solution but the Ramanujan Machine reverses the process. So if a constant such as π is fed into the machine, it will generate a series whose value would lead towards π .

Conversion of Jute fibre into low-cost biodegradable cellulose sheets

In July 2019, the scientific adviser to the state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC), Mubarak Ahmad Khan and his team, developed a new method named 'Sonali' for converting Jute fibre into low-cost biodegradable cellulose sheets. It was found that the physical qualities of the invented jute fibre and plastic are quite similar as a result it can be used in garments and food packaging work which are not harmful for human health. The government of Bangladesh has approved 9 lakh dollars in April 2019 from its climate change fund to help with the large-scale production of these bags.

Indian origin Priti Patel got appointed as Britain's Home Secretary

On 24th July 2019, an Indian origin, Priti Patel has been appointed as the new Home Secretary of Britain. She succeeded Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid who got appointed as the Finance Minister of the country. Priti Patel, an ardent Brexiteer, was among the most vocal critics of Theresa May's Brexit strategy. She was first elected as a Conservative MP in 2010.

Boris Johnson : The next Prime Minister of Britain

In July 2019, the new leader of the Conservative party, Boris Johnson, won a decisive victory over the Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, and became the new Prime Minister of Britain. Johnson succeeded Theresa May and will enjoy a wafer-thin parliamentary majority like her with the support of the Democratic Unionists of Northern Ireland to govern. The new PM will meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace where he will be invited to form a new government and will announce the senior cabinet posts, including the chancellor of the exchequer and the home secretary.

Scaly-Foot Snail swam in endangered list

In July 2019, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) updated a rare snail species called 'Scaly-Foot Snail' in the Red List of Endangered Species. Found at only three hydrothermal vents on Indian Ocean floor near Madagascar, it became the first species to get officially declared as threatened on account of deep-sea mining. Scaly-foot snail (or *Chrysomallon squamiferum*) is also known as Sea Pangolin. A hydrothermal vent is a fissure on seafloor from where geothermally heated water oozes out and mixes with cold seawater and leads to deposition of minerals like copper and manganese on the ocean floor.

International Tiger Day

Like every year, 29th July was celebrated as Global Tiger Day across the globe to create awareness about tiger conservation and protection of natural habitat of tigers. On 29th July, 2010, an agreement to raise awareness about the decline of global tiger population was inked by countries at Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia. Through this agreement the signatories promised efforts in direction of doubling tiger-population in their respective countries by 2022. In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the results of the 4th cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) in New Delhi which is said to be the world's largest wildlife survey effort in terms of - coverage, quantum of camera trapping and intensity of sampling. The 2014 country level tiger assessment showcases 30% increase of tigers i.e. from 1706 in 2010 to 2226 in 2014.

CAREER FLITE



Max Verstappen became Austrian Grand Prix winner

In June 2019, Red Bull's Max Verstappen won Austrian Grand Prix for the second year in a row. The victory was the first for a Honda-powered car as it was Britain's Jenson Button, who won in Hungary in 2006 for the Japanese manufacturer's own team. It ended Mercedes's run of 10 wins in a row, and eight this season. Mercedes got defeated for the first time this season. Valtteri Bottas finished third for Mercedes. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second in this prix. The five-time world champion Hamilton is still in front in the standings, 31 clear of Finland's Bottas after nine of the 21 races.

Indian winners in international sports

On 1st July 2019, Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav clinched the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia title by defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand. Besides him, Veer defeated compatriot Yash Fadte by 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7 to win the Under-19 title at the Asian Junior Squash Championship in Macau, China. With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to lift the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar. India finished this Squash tournament with one gold, three silver and as many bronze medals.

Pakistan wins the IBSF Snooker World Cup

On 2nd July 2019, Pakistan got an edge over India by 3-1 at the IBSF Snooker World Cup. India had a bad start as Pakistan won the first two frames and looked on course for the final before the pair of Pankaj Advani and Laxman Rawat made a comeback to win the third frame and stay in the contest. Pakistan finally managed to win the fourth frame. Earlier, the Indian men's team comprising of Pankaj Advani, Laxman Rawat and Aditya Mehta entered the semifinals of the Asian Team Snooker Championship with a victory over Pakistan in Doha.

Hima coined gold in Poznan Athletics Grand Prix

On 2nd July 2019, Indian star sprinter Hima Das won the women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix at Poznan, Poland. The Under-20 quartermile champion, who has a personal best of 23.10s, clocked 23.65s this time to bag a gold medal in this event. Besides her, Hima's teammate V.K. Vismaya finished third with a personal best 23.75s. And the national record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor claimed a bronze in the men's shot put with a best effort of 19.62m in this Grand Prix. His national record while winning Asian Games gold in 2018 was 20.75m.

Hima Das bagged gold in Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland

Indian star sprinter Hima Das won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland on 7th July 2019. Hima clocked 23.97 seconds to win the gold, while VK Vismaya bagged the silver after clocking 24.06 seconds. This was Hima's second competitive 200m race of the year. Besides her, national record holder Muhammed Anas also won the gold in the men's 200m race with a time of 21.18 seconds.

Li Shi Feng won title clash of Canada Open Badminton

On 7th July 2019, Li Shi Feng of China defeated India's Badminton player Parupalli Kashyap to win the final of the men's singles of Canada Open Badminton. Prior to this, Kashyap had qualified for the final after defeating Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei in the semi-final, while Li had entered final after edging out Koki Watanabe of Japan in the other semi-final.

The Wrestling Grand Prix 2019 of Spain

On 7th July 2019, Russia, with a score of 165 points, emerged as the topper of Grand Prix of Spain Women's Wrestling for the year 2019 that was held in Madrid. It was followed by India in second place. India scored 130 points by virtue of the country's top wrestler and gold medallist of Jakarta Asian Games, Vinesh Phogat. She won a gold medal in the 53kg category by defeating her Dutch rival Jessica Blaszkas in the finals. Her compatriot, Asian Games bronze medallist, Divya Kakran, won a gold in the 68 kg category after defeating Poland's Agnieszka Wieszczyk - Kordus in the finals.

The U.S.A won the FIFA Women's World Cup

On 7th July 2019, the United States of America (USA) clinched the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 title after defeating Netherlands by 2-0 in the final match at Lyon, France. Megan Rapinoe and Rose Lavelle scored goals for the winning squad. Megan Rapinoe won the Golden Boot after finishing with 6 goals and 3 assists in the tournament. Besides this, she also became the Golden Ball awardee for being the best player of the tournament. USA claimed this World Cup title for the 4th time. Previously, it won this title in 1991, 1999 and 2015.

India started at a high note in the Commonwealth Weightlifting C'ship

On 10th July 2019, India won 13 medals on the inaugural day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship in Apia, Samoa. It bagged 8 Gold, 3 silver and 2 Bronze medals. The former world champion Mirabai Chanu won a gold in the senior women's 49 kg event after lifting a total of 191kgs (84kgs + 107 kgs) and her points will be counted for the final rankings of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Jhilli Dalabehra also grabbed the first place after lifting 154 kgs in the senior women's 45 kg event. Soroikhaibam Bindyarani Devi also won the gold in the senior women's 55 kg event. Besides them, Rishikanta Singh won a gold with a total lift of 235 kgs in the senior men's 55kg category event.

Rahul Dravid: The head of cricket at the NCA

On 8th July 2019, the former Indian captain Rahul Dravid got appointed as the Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) to oversee all cricket related activities viz. mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and support staff at the NCA. He will also work closely with the National Men's and Women's Head Coaches and Cricket Coaches for the Indian Developmental teams like India A, India Under 19, India Under 23 teams etc. The Committee of Administrators (CoA) asked Dravid to resign from his post of Vice-President of India Cements or be on leave until he completes his tenure.

Dutee Chand's 100m historic win

On 10th July 2019, India's ace sprinter, Dutee Chand won a gold medal in the 100m race by clocking 11.32 seconds at the World University Games in Naples, Italy. Chand edged out her opponent Ajla Del Ponte of Switzerland by just 0.1 second who earned silver medal after clocking at 11.33 seconds. This is India's first medal win at the event and prior to this, the athlete had qualified for the final with a time of 11.41 seconds in the semi finals, earlier on 9th July 2019.

Commonwealth Championships & India

In the ongoing Commonwealth Championships, the Indian weightlifter, Ajay Singh, claimed a gold in the 81 kg category at the Commonwealth Championships in Apia, a city of Samoa. The 22 year old also created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category by lifting more than double his body weight (190kgs). He also succeeded in smashing the national record in the same category. The other Indian who won a silver medal in the 81kg category is Papul Changmai, who lifted a weight of 135 kgs in snatch and 178 kgs in clean and jerk. P Anuradha lifted 221kgs and reserved the first place in the men's 87kg category, while the Commonwealth gold medallist, RV Rahul, grabbed the second spot by lifting 325kgs in the 89kg event. Besides them, Rakhi Halder and Davinder Kaur claimed a gold medal each in the senior women's section in Apia, Samoa.

Sathiyam-Amalraj won a double bronze at Australian Open

In July 2019, the Indian pair of G Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj marked an end to their World Tour Platinum Australian Open with a bronze medal in the men's doubles competition. They got defeated by the top-seeded Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu in semifinals by 12-14, 9-11, 8-11. This was the first ever medal for India in this Australian Open. The Indian duo had beaten the other Korean pair Jang Woojin and Lim Jonghoon, in the quarterfinals earlier by 5-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-8.

ISSF Junior World Cup & India

On 14th July 2019, India bagged six medals, including two gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Suhl, Germany. In the men's 50m

Pistol, Gaurav Rana scored 553 and Arjun Singh Cheema scored 551 to grab the first and the second positions respectively. Both of them joined Vijayveer Sidhu (547) to pick up the gold team in the event with a total of 1651. Vijayveer had claimed a gold medal in 25m Pistol team event on day one of this tournament. In the women's 50m Pistol, Priya Raghav coined a silver with a score of 535 while Vibhuti Bhatia settled for the bronze with an effort of 531. They joined Harshada Nithave (491) to claim the team silver. Besides these, India also bagged two Gold medals and one Silver medal in the Women's 10-meter Air Rifle event. In the Individual category, Elavenil Valarivan got the top honours with a total score of 251.6, while another Indian Mehuli Ghosh earned a Silver with 250.2 points. India also grabbed a Gold in the team section by creating a junior world record.

Sports world

In July 2019, Indian sports persons are making a name in the international sports. Among them is wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who won a gold in the 53kg category at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul. She defeated her Russian opponent, Ekaterina Poleshchuk, by 9-5 in the final match. Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched her 3rd international gold within a period of just two weeks at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic by completing women's 200m race with a time of 23.43 seconds. Another Indian Muhammed Anas Yahiya of Kerala also won a gold in the men's 400m after clocking 45.21 seconds at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019 in Czech Republic.

India topped the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship

In July 2019, the Indian 37-member weightlifting contingent topped the medal tally in both junior and senior age groups at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship held in Apia, Samoa. India clinched 35 medals (22 gold, 10 silver and 3 bronze medals) in the tournament. Besides this, India also succeeded in breaking a total of 22 records in all 3 age groups in the World, Asian, Commonwealth and National levels. Mirabai Chanu coined a gold in the women's 49 kg with a total lift of 191 kgs. Jeremy Lalrinnunga broke a youth world record with a lift of 136 kgs in snatch in the 67 kg male event. This same lift also set a new youth record at the Asian, Commonwealth and National levels, as well as set a new junior record at the Commonwealth and National levels. Jhilli Dalabehera also bagged a gold in women's 45kg event. She established 6 records with a clean and jerk lift of 94 kgs and total lift of 164 kgs at the Commonwealth (Senior and Junior) and Junior National levels.

The gold showers in India

In July 2019, Vijayveer Sidhu won his 3rd gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, combining with Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to win the men's 25m pistol

event. For Adarsh, it was his second gold of the competition. Besides this, in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic, the Indian sprinter, Hima Das, bagged her fourth gold medal in a period of a fortnight as she won the 200m race. She clocked 23.25 seconds, while in men's 400m, Muhammad Anas won in 45.40 seconds.

Demise of the Boxing legend Pernell Whitaker

In July 2019, the former Olympic boxing gold medallist and four-weight world champion, Pernell Whitaker passed away in a road accident in Virginia, United States. The 55 year old American boxer popular with the name of 'Sweet Pea' fought 46 times as a professional, where he won 40 times with 17 knockouts from 1984 to 2001. He bagged an Olympic gold at the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles. He won another gold at the 1983 Pan American Games as well as coined a silver at the 1982 World Championships and also booked world titles at lightweight, light welterweight, welterweight and light middleweight.

The World Tennis Ranking 2019

In July 2019, the latest rankings of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) were released. 32 year old, Djokovic, retained the top spots with 12,415 points ahead of Rafael Nadal (Spain), who ranked 2nd, with 7,945 points. This was his fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major grand slam title over Roger Federer, who grabbed the third spot in the tennis ranking with 7460 points. Besides him, French Open champion, Ashleigh Barty grabbed the top spot with 6605 points followed by Naomi Osaka of Japan with 6,257 points and Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic with 6,055 points.

The 30th Summer Universiade Games 2019

In July 2019, the 30th edition of Summer Universiade Games took place in Naples, Italy. Around 118 nations participated in 18 sports events in this largest multi-sport event. Japan topped the tournament with 82 Medals (33 Gold, 21 Silver & 28 Bronze). India grabbed the 29th place in the list with 4 medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver & 2 Bronze). The names of medal winners include Dutee Chand (Women's 100-metre sprint, Gold), Elavenil Valarivan (Women's 10m Air Rifle, Silver), Nina Chandel, Elavenil Valarivan and Aayushi Gupta (Women's team Air Rifle, Bronze) and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa (Men's skeet, Bronze).

Li Na inducted into the "Tennis Hall of Fame"

On 21st July 2019, the famous Tennis player of China, Li Na, was inducted into the "Tennis Hall of Fame" along with the French Tennis player, Mary Pierce and the Russian Tennis player, Yevgeny Kafelnikov. They all are two-time Grand Slam singles champions. Li Na was a champion at the French Open and the Australian Open. She is the first Asian to be inducted into the Tennis

Hall of Fame. Pierce won the singles title at the Australian Open, singles and doubles titles at Roland-Garros, and a mixed doubles title at Wimbledon. Kafelnikov is the winner of four major doubles titles.

India topped the table tennis medal tally at the 21st Commonwealth Championships

India completed a clean sweep, winning all the seven gold medals at the 21st Commonwealth Championships, that concluded on 21st July 2019 in Cuttack. The list of Indian gold medallists includes names of Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee, who won the men's and women's singles titles. Earlier, Anthony Amalraj and Manav Thakkar won the men's doubles gold by defeating top seeds Sathiyam and Sharath Kamal by 3-1. Pooja Sahasrabudhe and Krittwika Sinha Roy edged out compatriots Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul by 3-1 to win the women's doubles crown. In this championship, England coined 2 silver and 3 bronze medals, Singapore won 6 bronze medals, while Malaysia and Nigeria clinched 1 bronze medal each.

Sachin Tendulkar became the sixth Indian to enter the ICC Hall of Fame

July 2019 laid red carpet for the Indian batting legend, Sachin Tendulkar, in the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame after the expiry of the mandatory period of 5 years since his international retirement. With this induction, the god of cricket has joined the row of other Indians viz. Bishan Singh Bedi (2009), Sunil Gavaskar (2009), Kapil Dev (2009), Anil Kumble (2015) and Rahul Dravid (2018) in this most coveted Hall of fame. South African, Allan Donald and Australian, Cathryn Fitzpatrick are the other players who accompanied Tendulkar to the Hall of fame.

India in the Shooting Junior World Cup

In July 2019, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar grabbed a gold with a junior world record in the final of rifle 3-position event in Suhl, Germany. He secured 459.3 points. In the finals, he defeated Zalan Pekler of Hungary by 4.5 points. India topped the ISSF tournament with 10 gold, 9 silver and 5 bronze for a total of 24 medals.

The Bengal Open Squash Tournament 2019 concluded

The 6th Edition of the Bengal Open Squash Tournament was held at the Calcutta Racket Club, Kolkata, West Bengal. In this tournament, Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu, won the men's singles title by defeating Abhishek Pradhan of Maharashtra by 11-6, 11-6, 11-4 points. Tanvi Khanna of Delhi, won the women's singles title by defeating Aparajitha Balamurukan of Tamil Nadu by 11-7, 11-6, 5-11, 13-11 points. In the Under-19 category, Diwakar Singh of Uttar Pradesh, won the men's singles title and Aishwarya Khubchandani (Maharashtra), won the women's singles title.

Vivek Kohli : The New Commonwealth TT Federation Chairman

In July 2019, Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF) appointed India's Vivek Kohli as Chairman and M P Singh as its secretary-general. Vivek Kohli got edge over the incumbent Alan Ransome of England by 16 votes in the elections held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, while MP Singh's selection was unanimous. It is worth knowing that Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) chief Dushyant Chautala is already holding the CTTF President's post. In this way, it is the first time when all the three positions in CTTF are being held by Indians.

Winners' day

Georgian tennis player, Nikoloz Basilashvili, won the German Tennis Championship - "the Hamburg European Open" by defeating Andrey Rublev 7-5 4-6 6-3 for the second successive year. This was his 12th straight win in Hamburg. Apart from this, Max Verstappen won the German Grand Prix. With this, Verstappen now has the second title of the Formula One season. Russian Daniil Kvyat grabbed the third spot for Toro Rosso followed by Canadian Lance Stroll in fourth for Racing Point.

CAREER FLITE

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In June 2019, Aparna Kumar, the DIG of ITBP, became the first civil servant to scale _____.

(a) Mount Rainier (b) Mount Denali (c) Mount Whitney
(d) Mount Elbert (e) vMount Foraker
- What is the Leverage Ratio (LR) for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) from October 2019?

(a) 4% (b)3.5% (c) 5%
(d)3% (e) 5.5%
- In June 2019, which Indian Scientist has been selected for NASA's PUNCH mission?

(a) Mangala Narlikar (b)Abhay Bhushan (c) Bhargav Sri Prakash
(d) Chitra Mandal (e) Dipankar Banerjee
- In July 2019, which telescope of NASA discovered its Smallest Planet "L 98-59b"?

(a) Spitzer Space Telescope
(b) Kepler space Telescope
(c) James Webb Space Telescope
(d) Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite
(e) None of the above
- Who among the following won the "Sportsperson of the Year" award in the Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 awards?

(a) Pankaj Advani (b) Bajrang Punia (c) Saurabh Choudhary
(d) Both a) and b) (e) Both b) and c)
- Veteran industrialist Basant Kumar Birla, Chairman of the BK Birla Group, passed away in July 2019. He was born in which state?

(a) Odisha (b)West Bengal (c) Kerala
(d) Tamil Nadu (e) Goa

7. Who won the gold medal in women's 200 metres race in the Poznań Athletics Grand Prix 2019?
(a) V.K. Vismaya (b) Sonia Baishya (c) Hima Das
(d) Dutee Chand (e) Seema Punia
8. In July 2019, Christine Lagarde became the first woman President of which bank?
(a) European Central Bank (b) Caribbean Development Bank
(c) Asian Development Bank (d) World Bank
(e) International Monetary Fund
9. Who won the gold medal in the women's 53 kg category wrestling event at the Wrestling Grand Prix 2019?
(a) Divya Kakran (b) Manju Kumari (c) Seema
(d) Pooja Dhanda (e) Vinesh Phogat
10. In July 2019, Anshula Kant has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the _____.
(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) Asian Development Bank
(c) China Construction Bank Corporation
(d) World Bank
(e) HSBC Bank
11. Who won the "Man of the Series" title in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019?
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Joe Root (c) Kane Williamson
(d) Ben Stokes (e) David Warner
12. Fernando J. Corbato, the inventor of the computer password, passed away in July 2019. He was born in which country?
(a) France (b) Germany (c) China
(d) United States (e) South Korea
13. Who won the gold medal in the women's 200 meters race at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019?
(a) V.K. Vismaya (b) Hima Das (c) Dutee Chand
(d) Sonia Baishya (e) Seema Punia

14. In July 2019, Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the Governor of which state?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Goa (c) Sikkim
(d) Assam (e) Odisha
15. In July 2019, Anusuiya Uikey has been appointed as the new Governor of which state?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Gujarat
(d) Rajasthan (e) Jharkhand
16. In July 2019, which state government announced to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 to Padma award winners?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Odisha (c) Punjab
(d) Bihar (e) Gujarat
17. In July 2019, who has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament?
(a) Ska Keller (b) Sira Rego (c) David Maria Sassoli
(d) Jan Zahradil (e) None of the above
18. Who among the following was honored with the Arjuna Award 2019?
(a) Rohan Bopanna (b) Smriti Mandhana (c) Hima Das
(d) Both a) and b) (e) Both b) and c)
19. The United States celebrated the _____ anniversary of Apollo 11 on 16th July 2019.
(a) 49th (b) 50th (c) 51st
(d) 52nd; (e) 53rd
20. Who among the following was selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018 in the Akademi Ratna category?
(a) Zakir Hussain (b) Sonal Mansingh (c) Jatin Goswami
(d) K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai (e) All of the above

• ANSWERS •

- 1.(b) In June 2019, Aparna Kumar, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), became the first civil servant to scale **Mount Denali**. It is the highest peak in North America. She got her success in her third attempt. She is a 2002 batch IPS officer of UP cadre.
- 2.(a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the Leverage Ratio (LR) for banks in a bid to help them expand their lending activities. The leverage ratio (LR) reduced to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks with effective from October 1, 2019. The relaxation was done for financial stability with a view to moving further towards harmonization with Basel III standards.
- 3.(e) In June 2019, **Dipankar Banerjee**, a solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics, has been selected for NASA's PUNCH mission. PUNCH is an acronym for "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere". The objective of the mission is to understand the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.
- 4.(d) In July 2019, **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) discovered a new planet called L 98-59b. It is about 80% of the size of Earth. It orbits the L 98-59 star, which is about one-third the mass of the Sun and lies about 35 light-years away. Apart from this, two other exoplanets were also discovered orbiting the L 98-59 known as L 98-59c and L 98-59d.
- 5.(d) The famous Billiards and Snooker player, **Pankaj Advani** and the famous wrestler, **Bajrang Punia**, won the "Sportsperson of the Year" award in the Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 awards. Besides this, the renowned shooter, Saurabh Choudhary, won the "Emerging Talent of the Year" award and the Vidarbha cricket team won the "Team of the Year" award.
- 6.(b) Veteran industrialist Basant Kumar Birla, Chairman of the BK Birla Group, passed away in July 2019 at the age of 98 years. He was born on 12 January 1921 in Kolkata, **West Bengal**. He was the Chairman of the Krishnarpan Charity Trust, which runs the BK Birla Institute of Engineering and Technology in Pilani, Rajasthan. B.K. Birla wrote several books, including an autobiography titled "Swantah Sukhaya".

- 7.(c) Indian sprint runner, **Hima Das**, won the gold medal in women's 200 metres race in the Poznań Athletics Grand Prix 2019. She finished the race in 23.65 seconds. Another Indian V.K. Vismaya won a bronze medal in the women's 200 metres race with a timing of 23.75 seconds.
- 8.(a) In July 2019, Christine Lagarde, the first woman head of the International Monetary Fund(IMF), became the first woman President of the **European Central Bank (ECB)**. She will succeed Mario Draghi of Italy. Lagarde served 8 years as the head of the IMF since 2011
- 9.(e) The famous wrestler of India, **Vinesh Phogat**, won the gold medal in the women's 53 kg category wrestling event at the Wrestling Grand Prix 2019. In the finals, she defeated Jessica Blaszka. Besides this, Divya Kakran won the gold medal in the 68 kg category by defeating Agnieszka Wieszczyk-Kordus of Poland. In this tournament, India finished second with 130 points in team championship after Russia which stood at 165 points
- 10.(d) In July 2019, Anshula Kant, the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank Of India (SBI), has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the **World Bank**. She joined SBI in 1983 as a Probationary Officer and also served as the Deputy MD of Operations for the National Banking Group.
- 11.(c) The Captain of the New Zealand Cricket team, **Kane Williamson**, won the "Man of the Series" title in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. In this tournament, England won the World Cup for the first time. In the finals, they defeated New Zealand. England's Ben Stokes won the "Player of the Match" title
- 12.(d) Fernando J. Corbato, the inventor of the computer password, passed away in July 2019 at the age of 93 years. He was born on 1st July 1926 in California, **United States**. He was an emeritus professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was credited for devising the concept of password-protected user accounts to secure access to files on large computer systems. In 1990, he received the A. M. Turing Award.
- 13.(b) Indian sprinter, **Hima Das**, won the gold medal in the women's 200 meters race at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019. She finished the race in 23.43 seconds. This was her third international gold medal in two weeks. Besides this, the Indian sprinter, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, also won a gold medal in the men's 400 meters with a time record of 45.21 seconds at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet 2019.

- 14.(a)** In July 2019, BJP leader, Kalraj Mishra, has been appointed as the Governor of **Himachal Pradesh**. He succeeded Acharya Devvrat, who was appointed as the Governor of Gujarat.
- 15.(a)** In July 2019, Anusuiya Uikey, the member of the BJP, has been appointed as the new Governor of **Chhattisgarh**. She replaced the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Anandiben Patel. Apart from this, Biswa Bhusan Harichandan got appointed as the new Governor of Andhra Pradesh. He succeeded E.S.L. Narasimhan
- 16.(b)** In July 2019, the **Odisha** government decided to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 to Padma award winners of the state belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS). The move has come days after media reports highlighted the plight of several Padma Shri winners from the state and how they are forced to do odd jobs like grazing goats for survival. Total 84 persons from the state honoured with Padma Shri award out of them 45 passed away.
- 17.(c)** In July 2019, Italian socialist, **David Maria Sassoli**, has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament (EU) for a period of 2 years. He succeeds Antonio Tajani. Sassoli is a member of the Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. The President of the EU presides over the debates and activities of the European Parliament.
- 18.(d)** The famous Tennis player, **Rohan Bopanna** and Cricketer, **Smriti Mandhana**, were honored with the Arjuna Award 2019. Bopanna won the gold medal in tennis men's double category in Asian Games 2018 and Mandhana was ICC women's player of the year 2018.
- 19.(b)** The United States celebrated the **50th** anniversary of Apollo 11 on 16th July 2019. On 16th July 1969, the Apollo 11 crew lifted off in a Huntsville-designed Saturn V rocket for a historic visit to the moon. In order to mark this day, thousands of model rockets were launched in Huntsville, Alabama. The crew members of Apollo 11 mission were Neil A. Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin E. Aldrin
- 20.(e)** Eminent artists, **Zakhir Hussain, Sonal Mansingh, Jatin Goswami and K. Kalyanasundaram Pillai**, were selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018 in the Akademi Ratna category. Besides them, Diwan Singh Bajeli and Puru Dadhich were chosen for the Akademi Award 2018 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship in the Performing Arts