



Monthly **GK** Mania



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Justice AK Mittal : Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC

In May 2019, Justice A K Mittal took oath as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice Mittal at the Raj Bhavan. He has succeeded Chief Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir. Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, his cabinet colleagues and senior government officers were present on the occasion. Justice Mittal is the senior most judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Navy celebrates new appointments

In May 2019, Admiral Karambir Singh became the Chief of Naval Staff. In his 37 year long career, he has worked in capacity of Vice Chief of Naval Staff at the headquarters in New Delhi before moving to Vishakhapatnam in 2018 as the Eastern Naval Commander. Besides him, Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain has been made the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command (ENC). He has succeeded Vice-Admiral Karambir Singh. The alumnus of Sainik School Rewa, National Defence Academy (Pune), the Defence Services Staff College (Wellington), the College of Naval Warfare (Mumbai) and the National Defence College (Pretoria, South Africa) had joined Indian Navy in July 1982.

Rapid and Cheap Diagnostic test for Haemophilia A

In May 2019, Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Institute of Immunohaematology (in Mumbai) has developed the world's first cost-effective Point-of-Care (POC) test for specific diagnosis of any common bleeding disorder like Haemophilia A (also called factor VIII (FVIII)) and Von Willebrand Disease (VWD). With its help, diagnosis of undiagnosed patients, post-partum haemorrhage (PPH), menorrhagia cases, recovery of factors in the transfused Haemophilia A patients, gynaecological complications with bleeding history, and also for differential diagnosis of both diseases can be done in less than ₹50 within time duration of 30 minutes of blood sample collection.

Infosys in action

In May 2019, an Indian multinational corporation, Infosys Limited acquired Dutch bank subsidiary, ABN AMRO's mortgage services arm with majority stake of 75% stake at cost of for 127.5 mn euros in Netherlands. Infosys has established strategic tie-up with the Stater N.V. subsidiary of the Netherlands-based ABN AMRO Bank to drive Stater's digital transformation roadmap with accelerators like dynamic workflow, Application Programming Interface (API) layers, Robotics Process Automation (RPA) and analytics under its management team.

The air of appointments

May 2019 saw appointments of former head of Flipkart's consumer and commercial lending vertical, Sandeep Patil as MD of Truecaller, IAS Officer of 1985 batch, Praveen Pardesh as the Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Flipkart co founder Sachin Bansal on board of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. Sandeep Patil will look into Stockholm-headquartered caller ID and spam blocking app Truecaller's function in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Praveen Pardesh, who has succeeded Ajoy Mehta in BMC, has served several departments of Maharashtra Government like Revenue Department, Urban Department and Forest Department in the past. Sachin Bansal's appointment will carry forward Ujjivan's upgradation to a state-of-the-art mass market bank.

June 2 : Statehood Day of Telangana

Telangana celebrated its 5th State Formation Day on June 2, 2019. It emerged as India's youngest state in 2014 after its bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh. The 29th State of India was formed after the approval of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief K Chandrashekar Rao was the first Chief Minister of the state, following elections in which the party secured a majority. On this occasion Hyderabad city was decorated with lights and flowers and main function was organized at the Public Garden which saw participation of Chief Minister Rao.

Death of Veteran industrialist BM Khaitan

Veteran industrialist and patriarch of the Williamson Magor Group, BM Khaitan died at the age of 92 in Kolkata. The deceased was popular as "Evergreen tea man of India" as he had made the tea industry "Indian-owned" in the twilight era of independence. He held the credential of building the Williamson Magor Group from scratch and had been the Chairman of Eveready Industries that is one of the Group's flagships and the country's largest dry cell battery maker in recent past. In December 2013, Khaitan was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Monthly Pension Scheme for Traders

In June 2019, the new cabinet approved Rs.3000 monthly pension scheme for small retail traders and shopkeepers at the age of 60 years. The scheme will benefit more than 3 crore small traders that includes small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders in age group of 18-40 years with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs.1.5 crore. The enrollment process will be based on self-declaration and will be carried around 3,25,000 Common Service Centres (CSC) across India. Only bank account and Aadhaar Card details will be required for this. The Central Government will also make matching contribution i.e. equal amount as subsidy into subscriber's pension account every month.

Ajay Singh joined IATA board

On 2nd June 2019, Low cost carrier SpiceJet's Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh got elected to the board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) within three months after the airline joined the global grouping. In March 2019, SpiceJet had become the first Indian low cost carrier to get membership of the most coveted IATA, a grouping of around 290 airlines. The new board of the global airlines' grouping IATA will be chaired by Lufthansa Group Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr.

MP increased OBC quota

On 3rd June 2019, Madhya Pradesh Cabinet passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from current 14% to 27%. It also increased 3% dearness allowance for employees and pensioners. This resolution is likely to benefit approximately seven lakh employees across the state. This will cost the state exchequer Rs 1,647 crore.

Rajesh Patnekar: Speaker of the Goa Assembly

On 4th June 2019, BJP MLA Rajesh Patnekar was elected as the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly. He succeeded Pramod Sawant, who became Goa Chief Minister in March 2019 after death of former CM Manohar Parrikar. Patnekar represents the Bicholim assembly constituency and has garnered 22 votes in election in comparison to 16 votes of Congress leader Pratapsingh Rane during the assembly session. The 22 votes for Patnekar include 16 from BJP MLAs, and 3 each from Goa Forward Party legislators and independents.

AAI entered into contract with Boeing

On 4th June 2019, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and aerospace major Boeing inked a technical assistance agreement to develop an air traffic management roadmap to improve airspace utilisation and maintain efficient aircraft operations. It is a comprehensive 10-year communication, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) modernisation roadmap spread over 18 months undertaken with a grant from the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). Boeing will evaluate the existing technologies and processes to identify efficiency improvements while maintaining a practical and safe airspace system.

Change in draft national education policy

On 3rd June 2019, the Kasturirangan committee has revised the draft national education policy and introduced some changes in the three-language formula. It has recommended flexibility for the students regarding choice of language under the three-language model in the schools which is now been kept under the state boards' domain. The revised draft is now open for public feedback for next 30 days. All stakeholders, general public and state governments will solicit their opinions for the same.

Rakesh Makhija : Chairman of Axis Bank

On 3rd June 2019, RBI approved Axis bank's decision of appointing Rakesh Makhija as the new chairman of the bank. He will serve in capacity of independent director as the non-executive (part-time) chairman of the bank, for upcoming 3 years and his appointment will be effective from July 18, 2019, up to July 17, 2022 (both days inclusive). The appointee has 40 years long experience in the industrial and technology sectors, both in India and abroad.

Pinaki Misra : The new BJD Parliamentary party leader

In June 2019, Four-time MP Pinaki Misra got appointed as the BJD's Parliamentary Party Leader. He has won from his Puri parliamentary constituency after defeating BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra by a margin of 11,700 votes in Lok Sabha Elections 2019. This is the third consecutive victory for Pinaki Misra from Puri, as he had earlier won the seat in 2009 and 2014 elections and before these he had also won the seat in 1996 elections. This is Misra's fourth term as Member of Parliament from Puri. Besides him, Kandhamal MP Dr. Achyuta Samanta has been made Chief Whip and Kendrapara MP Anubhav Mohanty got appointed as Deputy Chief Whip.

Demise of Veteran actor Dinyar Contractor

On 5th June 2019, Veteran actor and theatre legend Dinyar Contractor, who worked in films like Baadshah and Khiladi died at the age of 79. The deceased was best known for his comic roles in films and was acknowledged with a Padma Shri, earlier this year for his performance in theatre, television and films. He had made his place across all mediums. He had lit up the screen and lives of people with his wit and charm. He will be badly missed in the industry.

IIT Madras brought integrated database

Recently the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has introduced a Data Platform of 'Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects' (IDIP) for enhancing the efficiency of infrastructure development in India and implementing effective decision-making among different stakeholders engaged in the infrastructure sector. India's this infrastructure network is among the largest in the world that has been launched during the 15th World Conference on Transport Research (WCTR) held at IIT Bombay in a special session on Public-Private Partnership in Indian Transport Sector.

Suggestions of Nilekani panel

In June 2019, the RBI appointed Nandan Nilekani committee has tabled its suggestions over the promotion of digital payments in India. It advocated the 24x7 facility of RTGS and NEFT and duty-free import of point of sales machines. Among other suggestions, it also recommended the use of machine-driven, online dispute resolution systems for tackling complaints. It requested that

customers should be permitted to initiate and accept a reasonable number of digital payment transactions with no charges and the government should implement an appropriate mechanism to monitor the digital payment systems and make aggregated information based on blocks, and PIN code, available to all players on a monthly basis for requisite adjustments.

V P Sivakolunthu: The new Speaker of Puducherry legislative assembly

In June 2019, Deputy Speaker of the legislative assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry, V P Sivakolunthu got unanimously elected as the Speaker. He was the only candidate, who filed nomination paper for the post on behalf of the Congress-DMK alliance. He succeeded V Vaithilingam, who resigned from the Speaker's post to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls on Congress ticket. In the elections, Vaithilingam has defeated his rival, All India NR Congress (AINRC) candidate and AINRC founder-leader N Rangasamy's nephew P Nedunzejian by 1.97 lakh votes.

ICICI Bank inaugurated centre for MSMEs in Bengaluru

On 4th June 2019, ICICI Bank began a centre in Bengaluru to provide business solutions exclusively to start-ups and MSME sector, all under a single roof. Sandeep Batra, Executive Director (Designate), ICICI Bank along with Viral Rupani, Retail Business Head – South, ICICI Bank did the inaugural ceremony of the centre. The centre will offer working capital loans upto ₹20 crore, business loans (based on GST returns) upto ₹1 crore, instant overdraft facility of ₹15 lakh, extensive trade solutions and cash management services. The centre is equipped with legal and valuation desk to help customers in meeting challenges pertaining to collaterals offered for various loans.

Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel : The new Chief Justice of Delhi HC

On 7th June 2019, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended, Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. Lt Governor Anil Bajjal administered the oath of office to Justice Patel at a function at Raj Niwas. Prior to this, Justice Patel was serving the Jharkhand High Court. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and cabinet colleagues, senior members of the judiciary, officers of the Delhi government and other officials graced the occasion with their presence. The Delhi High Court that can accommodate strength of 60, still has capacity for around 24 more judges.

RBI reduced repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 %

On 6th June 2019, the Reserve Bank of India in its bi-monthly monetary policy review reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 % from 6.0% with immediate effect. As a result, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 5.50% while the marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to

6.0%. Besides this, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has changed the stance of monetary policy from neutral to accommodative. RBI has lowered the GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 to 7% from 7.2% because of weak global demand due to the escalation in trade wars and weakened private consumption in rural areas.

Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

In June 2019, Narendra Modi in the beginning of his second innings transformed the National Institution for Transforming India. The newly constituted NITI Aayog has Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Chairperson), Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Vice-Chairperson), V.K. Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand and Dr. V.K. Paul has been chosen as Full-Time Members while Ex-officio Members included Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister), Amit Shah (Home Affairs Minister), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance Minister and Corporate Affairs Minister), Narendra Singh Tomar (Rural Development Minister, Panchayati Raj Minister and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister). Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport and Highways Minister and MSME Minister), Piyush Goyal (Railways Minister and Commerce & Industry Minister), Thaawar Chand Gehlot (Social Justice and Empowerment Minister) and Rao Inderjit Singh (Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State (I/C) of Ministry of Planning) got counted in as Special Invitees to NITI Aayog.

India's first mutual fund side pocket

In June 2019, Tata Mutual Fund announced beginning of India's first formal use of the Segregated portfolios (side pockets) provisions that were introduced by SEBI in December 2018. The proposed side pockets will be covered in three schemes hit by the DHFL debt crisis viz. Tata Corporate Bond Fund, Tata Medium Term Fund and Tata Treasury Advantage Fund. Side pocketing will permit AMCs to separate out a section of their portfolio corresponding to the bad debt held by them. As of 30th April, 2019, Tata Corporate Bond Fund showed 28.21% exposure to DHFL, Tata Medium Term Fund displayed 14.60% exposure and Tata Treasury Advantage Fund marked 3.77% exposure. The three schemes saw overnight fall of 29.69%, 12.31% and 4.06% on 4th June 2019.

Andhra Pradesh got 5 Deputy CMs in Cabinet

On June 8, 2019, during a meeting of the Yuvajana Sramika Raithu (YSR) Congress Legislature Party at Amaravati, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Jagan Mohan Reddy appointed 5 Deputy CMs Pamula Pushpa Sreevani, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, L Narayana Swamy, and Amzath Basha in a full 25-member Cabinet. They belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Classes (BC), Minority and Kapu communities and will be deployed in five different regions of Andhra Pradesh viz. Rayalaseema, Prakasham, Krishna Delta, Godavari, and Visakhapatnam.

Some important appointments

In June 2019, former Chief Election Commissioner, Gopalaswami got selected as BCCI's electoral officer for BCCI's AGM. The long-awaited elections of the BCCI will be held on 22nd October 2019. Besides this, Ajeya Kallam has become principal advisor to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The 1983 batch IAS officer, Kallam holds a postgraduate degree in agriculture and an MBA from Australia. He will allot the subjects between the Secretaries of the Chief Minister, and all advisors of the government will be accountable to him. This appointment is for three years for a fixed monthly remuneration of ₹2.50 lakh.

Irreparable loss for film industry

June 2019 witnessed the demise of noted playwright, actor and filmmaker, Girish Karnad (81) and Actress-Singer Ruma Guha Thakurta (84), the first wife of legend Kishore Kumar. Girish Karnad mainly worked in South Indian cinema and Bollywood. He started his acting as well as screenwriting with a 1970 Kannada movie 'Samskara' that fetched him Golden Lotus Award. 'Nishaant', 'Manthan', 'Swami', 'Pukar', 'Iqbal', 'Dor', '8 x 10 Tasveer', 'Aashayein' and 'Ek Tha Tiger' were his popular Hindi movies. Karnad was a playwright who marked the coming of age of modern Indian playwriting in Kannada. Many of his works saw translation into various Indian languages. He was a proud recipient of the 1998 Jnanpith Award, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, and many accolades for direction in Kannada cinema. Late Ruma Guha Thakurta worked in Bengali movies like 'Ganashatru', 'Abhijaan', 'Ganga', 'Palatak' and many others. She was the founder of a song and dance troupe, Calcutta Youth Choir.

Yuvraj Singh's retirement from international cricket

On June 10, 2019, the 2011 World Cup hero Yuvraj Singh announced retirement from international cricket. His illustrious cricketing career began with his ODI debut in the ICC Knockout Trophy in Kenya, where in his very first match, he succeeded in scoring a match-winning 84 against Australia. He has been a key player of Indian squad in many of India's big cricketing wins including the 2007 World T20 and the 2011 Cricket World Cup. He was named player of the tournament in both events. He played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is. He had played his last Test in 2012 and ODI and T20 in 2017.

Death of Uttarakhand finance minister Prakash Pant

In June 2019, the Finance Minister of Uttarakhand, Prakash Pant died at the age of 59 years in the US due to a lung ailment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the late minister's organisational skills that helped in strengthening the BJP and his administrative skills that contributed to Uttarakhand's progress. Governor Baby Rani Maurya, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat and Speaker Premchand Aggarwal also lamented over his demise. The state government observed a three-day mourning for the departed leader.

Gujarat unveiled India's first Dinosaur Museum

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated the new Dinosaur Museum-cum-Park at Raiyoli village in Balasinor town of Mahisagar district on June 8, 2019. This is the first of its kind park in the country and also the world's third park that showcases remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records. Raiyoli is popular as the third largest fossil site and the second largest dinosaur hatchery. It accommodates several dinosaur fossils that existed 65 million years ago, from origin to extinction. Constructed by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd, the museum with 10 galleries is well equipped with facilities like 3D projection, 360 degree virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks, gaming consoles etc.

Rise in FDI for services sector

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), service sector including finance, banking, insurance, outsourcing, R&D, courier, tech testing and analysis showed 36.5% rise in FDI from \$6.7 billion of 2017-18 to \$9.15 billion in 2018-19. This increase in FDI inflows in services sector is significant and desirable as it contributes more than 60 % to the gross domestic product. Other sectors that showed healthy growth in FDI inflows include computer software and hardware, trading, automobile industry, and chemicals. The government made tremendous efforts for fixing timeliness for approvals and streamlining procedures to improve ease of doing business in the country and attract foreign investments.

Amitav Ghosh : The 54th Jnanpith awardee

In June 2019, Renowned English writer Amitav Ghosh was felicitated with this year's Jnanpith Award for "outstanding contribution towards literature". Bharatiya Jnanpith credited the path-breaking novelist for his treading via historical settings to the modern era and weaving a space where the past connects with the present in relevant ways. 'Shadow Lines', 'The Glass Palace', 'The Hungry Tide', Ibis Trilogy - 'Sea of Poppies', 'River of Smoke', and 'Flood of Fire' - chronicling the Opium trade between India and China run by the East India Company are some of his popular novels.

Festivity of Mela Kheer Bhawani in J&K

Jammu and Kashmir celebrated annual Mela Kheer Bhawani festival on Zeasht Ashtami i.e. 10th June 2019 at famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district. More than 60,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits from several parts of India and abroad visited five famous temples of Tulmulla (in Ganderbal district), Tikker (in Kupwara), Laktipora Aishmuqam (in Anantnag) and Mata Tripursundri Devsar and Mata Kheerbhawani Manzgam (in Kulgam district) in Kashmir valley during Mela Kheerbhawani to pay their reverence to the deity. The colour of water in spring that flows below temple is said to be indicative of valley's fate for the next 12 months. This time it was clean and milky white colour.

Bancha : the first solar kitchen village in India

In June 2019, Bancha in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh became the first village in India to have no wooden stoves. All 75 houses of this village employed solar-powered stoves for cooking. The solar-powered stoves are credentials of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai. The project of installing plates, solar-powered batteries and stoves in all the houses was undertaken in September 2017 and was completed by December 2018. Besides this, Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has been named as the Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat.

Cabinet approved Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019

In June 2019, Union Cabinet gave nod to the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2019 which will replace Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2019. With this, no individual will be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament. In the opening of bank accounts, the Aadhaar number could be used for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document. Besides this, Cabinet also approved Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill 2019 which will allow direct recruitment in Teachers' cadre for filling up of more than 7,000 existing vacancies as well as implementation of provision of 10% reservation to Economically weaker section.

Appointments at glance

In June 2019 Thawarchand Gehlot got appointed as leader of Rajya Sabha, IPS V.S. Kaumudi has been appointed as Director General of BPR&D and former Corporate Affairs Secretary, Tapan Ray became MD of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City). Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Gehlot took place of senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley. IPS officer V.S. Kaumudi has succeeded IPS officer of 1984 batch, Sudeep Lakhtakia in Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D). It is worth knowing that the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet made this appointment by temporarily downgrading the DG post to level of Additional Director General (Level-15 of Pay Matrix). 1982-batch IAS officer of Gujarat Cadre, Tapan Roy has taken place of Ajay Pandey in India's first international financial services centre.

Government reduced ESI contribution rate to 4%

On 13th June 2019, the government of India decreased the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5% to 4% . The new rate will come into effect from the 1st of next month. Around 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh, employers will be beneficiaries of this new provision. The move will lead to greater enrollment of workers under the ESI scheme and will fetch more and more workforce into the formal sector. In addition to this, it will reduce the financial liability of the set ups leading to their improved viability. It will also lead to enhanced Ease of Doing Business.

Discovery of new species of frog and dung beetle

According to the latest published study in a peer-reviewed journal, PeerJ, a team of scientists from Delhi University (DU) and Wildlife Institute of India under Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change along with researchers from the United States and Indonesia, have discovered a new species 'Micryletta aishani' of 'Paddy Frog' from Northeast India, Assam. This new species is reddish-brown in colour. It has dark streaks and ash-grey mottling on lateral sides, prominent shape of snout (nose and mouth) is unique with no web on its feet. Apart from this, according to the latest publication of an international peer-reviewed journal Oriental Insects, researchers of the Zoological Survey of India discovered a new species of a dung beetle, 'Enoplotrupes tawangensis' in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is shining dark blue in colour that measures up to 27 mm with strong sexual dimorphism i.e. the fronto-clypeal horn shorter in females than males. Dung beetles have ability to bury dung deep in the soil and are indicators of the ecological health of an ecosystem.

Paytm Payments Bank saw 501.16 crore digital transactions

In June 2019, Paytm Payments Bank recorded 501.16 crore digital transactions for the financial year 2019-20 leaving behind major banks like HDFC Bank, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank and Punjab National Bank in digital transaction target that was set by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology . Paytm payments bank has a market share of 19% and 32% respectively in terms of mobile banking and Unified Payments Interface transactions. In terms of deposits, it has over Rs 500 crore deposits in savings accounts as of April 2019 which is the largest among the payments bank in India.

Appointments in IBBI

In June 2019, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued appointment of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian and former Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank), B. Sriram as part-time members of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). IBBI has statutory powers to oversee insolvency proceedings in India and to regulate entities registered under it. The Board has 10 members. Among them are representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of corporate affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India.

Chaukhandi Stupa rose to prominence

On June 10, 2019, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared the ancient Buddhist site, Chaukhandi Stupa of Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh as the protected area "Monument of national importance". Built between the 4th and 6th century of the Gupta dynasty, the Stupa is the site where

Lord Buddha and his first disciples met while travelling from Bodh Gaya to Sarnath. Govardhan, the son of Raja Todarmal modified the Stupa to its present shape. The site revealed some images of Buddha and other statues during excavations.

Suman Rao : Miss India 2019

On June 15, 2019, 20-year-old model, Suman Rao of Rajasthan got crowned as Miss India 2019 at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra. Miss India 2018 Anukreethy Vas from Tamil Nadu crowned her. Born on November 23, 1999, Suman is pursuing a Chartered Accountancy course from New Delhi along with B. Com. She will represent the nation in the coveted Miss World 2019 which is going to take place in Pattaya, Bangkok in December 2019. Besides her, Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh won Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker from Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title.

RBI is in session

In June 2019, RBI constituted a six-member committee to review ATM pricing. It has senior officers from National Payments Corporation of India, SBI, HDFC Bank, Confederation of ATM Industry and Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited along with Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association VG Kannan as its chairperson, who will review existing patterns of costs, charges and interchange fees for ATM transactions. Besides this, RBI eased regulations for Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) Accounts as a part of the financial inclusion drive. Now BSBD holders will get a cheque book and certain minimum facilities, free of charge by bank and there will be no requirement of maintaining minimum balance in lieu of the new regulation. The move also permits four withdrawals from ATMs per month, deposit of cash at bank branch, and ATM Card or ATM-cum-Debit Card as well as no limit on the number and value of deposits that can be made per month in BSBD.

RBI slapped Rs.11.25 lakh penalty on ZipCash & Yes Bank

In June 2019, the Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty worth ₹11.25 lakh each on Private sector lender 'Yes Bank' and Online Wallet Service, 'ZipCash Card Services' for violating PPI norms regarding issuance and operation of PPIs. It did so on account of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.

Uttar Pradesh raised old-age pension

In June 2019, State Government of Uttar Pradesh hiked old-age pension in the age group 60 to 79 years by rupees 100 monthly. With this, now the old-age pensioners will receive 500 rupees per month from current 400 rupees. Cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave

nod to this hike. According to State Government Spokesman Srikant Sharma's statement, currently, the people who are above 80 years are already getting 500 rupees per month pension which is fully sponsored by the Union Government. The 100-rupee hike would be applicable from January 2019. The move will benefit around 44.21 lakh people in the state.

Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi: Commandant of Indian Naval Academy

On June 12, 2019, Vice Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM (Ati Vishisht Seva Medal) became the 7th Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA). He has taken the place of Vice Admiral RB Pandit, AVSM. The alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Defence Services Staff College Wellington and US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island has commanded IN Ships Vinash, Kirch and Trishul. Tripathi, the specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare had also commanded the Eastern Fleet from January 15, 2018, to March 30, 2019. Besides these, he has worked as the Additional Director General of Project Seabird and has held several other important Staff appointments.

The New income tax rules

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has implemented the revised guidelines of Income Tax on 17th June 2019 to make strict actions against tax invaders and those who have made serious offences under black money and benami laws. As per the new laws, a full tax rebate applies for individual taxpayers with a net annual income up to Rs 5 lakh. It implies that the income limit eligible to avail tax rebate under Section 87A of the Income Tax Act has been increased from the earlier limit of Rs 3.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Any offence connected to undisclosed foreign bank account or assets in any manner will not be compounded any further.

Rabi Mishra has become the new Executive Director

On June 16, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Odisha-born Rabi N Mishra as the executive director (ED) in place of Rosemary Sebastian. He will look into the newly-created specialized supervisory and regulatory cadre within the RBI and will also supervise cooperative banks and the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). Prior to this, Rabi N Mishra was the principal chief general manager of the bank's risk management department. He is a Ph.D holder in Monetary Economics. Now there are 12 executive directors including the chief financial officers in RBI.

Yashovardhan Birla: The new 'wilful defaulter'

On June 16, 2019, Director of Birla Surya and chairman of the Yash Birla Group, Yashovardhan Birla has been named as 'wilful defaulter' by Kolkata-based UCO Bank. Birla Surya defaulted on loans of Rs 67.65 crore. Birla Surya was given a credit limit of Rs. 1 billion to manufacture multi-

crystalline solar photovoltaic cells from the bank's flagship corporate branch at Nariman Point, Mumbai. Due to non-repayment of dues to the bank, the account was declared non-performing asset (NPA) on 3 June 2013.

D Sarangi has again become SRFI president

In June 2019, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of the 1977 batch, Debendranath Sarangi has been re-elected as president of Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI). Besides him, Dronacharya awardee and national coach Cyrus Poncha has been appointed as secretary general. The duo will work in their respective capacities for a period of four years from 2019 to 2023. The Director of coaching, Dhiraj Singh and former SRFI president N Ramachandran will serve as the Patron of SRFI.

Padmaja : India's High Commissioner to Tuvalu

In June 2019, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, appointed Ms. Padmaja as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Tuvalu with the residence in Suva. Presently, the appointee is working as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji as well as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru. She has succeeded Vishvas Vidu Sapkal.

Akshay Patra's school meals won BBC award

In June 2019, Non-governmental organizations (NGO) based in Bangalore, Akshaya Patra Foundation was felicitated with British Broadcasting Corporation's "World Service Global Champion Award" for the mid-day meal project at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol in London, UK. The NGO is providing mid-day meal for last 20 years and by now it has fed 1.75 million children across the nation. Madhu Pandit Dasa had founded this NGO in year 2000. It persistently aims at providing food to children to remove the hurdle of hunger in way of their education.

Havoc of Encephalitis and heat-wave

As per the official details till 17th June 2019, Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and heat wave claimed lives of 160 children in Bihar. Government of Bihar announced an ex-gratia package of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of victims. The task of setting up first line treatment facilities and 100 bedded ICU for pediatrics unit is already in process. The centre has deployed a high-level team to be sent to Bihar immediately for undertaking the necessary groundwork for setting up a state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary research centre at Muzaffarpur.

Om Birla: Speaker of Lok Sabha

NDA nominee Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha on 19th June 2019. All major political parties viz. Congress, DMK, TMC, BJD, YSR Congress, JD(U) and

Shiv Sena agreed to this move of Prime Minister. The appointee is an agriculturalist and social worker, who has hailed from Kota. He was elected as MLA for three consecutive terms for Rajasthan Assembly in 2003, 2008 and 2013 and succeeded in winning his first Lok Sabha election in 2014. This year also he got elected from Rajasthan's Kota Lok Sabha seat after defeating Congress' Ramnarayan Meena with a margin of over 2.5 lakh votes.

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the Oldest Naval Air Squadron

17th June 2019 spelled Diamond Jubilee celebration for Indian Navy's first Naval Air Squadron 550 that completed 60 glorious years of yeoman service to the nation. In this span, the squadron has flown 14 different types of aircraft from the Sea land Aircraft to the Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft. The squadron has participated in many operations from the 1971 Indo-Pak war to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations for Tsunami (December 2004), Cyclone Okhi (2017) and Kerala floods (2018).

The new environment-friendly initiative of Lucknow

In June 2019, Lucknow constructed its first road from plastic waste under an environment-friendly initiative. This plastic waste road has been constructed as a trial from Gomti Nagar Police Station to Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Lucknow. The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has followed all the road-making guidelines set by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) for the construction for this pilot project. It is said that the mixed plastic waste increases the durability of roads by 40 to 50%. 8 to 10% of plastic waste is mixed in coal tar for longer durability of roads.

The new products of Max Life Insurance

In June 2019, Max Life Insurance Company launched 'My Protection Quotient' Tool as well as 'Max Life Smart Term Plan'. 'My Protection Quotient' is a unique proprietary tool to ensure financial protection and promote awareness and importance of term plans in protecting the financial future of families. 'Max Life Smart Term Plan' offers customers the flexibility to customize their own protection solution via selection from a wide range of benefits and features. It provides options of choosing from multiple premium payment terms viz. Single payment, payment for limited term of 5, 10, 12 and 15 years in addition to the 'pay till 60' and regular pay options. It covers a total of 40 critical illnesses.

India's first water clinic for Elephants

In June 2019, India has opened its first specialized hydrotherapy treatment centre for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot diseases in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The centre is well equipped with wireless digital X-ray, laser treatment, dental X-ray, thermal imaging and ultrasonography to treat injured, sick and aging elephants. The centre has 11 feet deep jumbo pool with 21 high-pressure jet sprays that helps in massaging the elephants' feet and body to increase their blood circulation.

Rise in Collateral-Free Loans Limit

In June 2019, The 8 member RBI panel on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) recommended doubling of Collateral-Free Loans Limit to Rs 20 Lakh from Rs 10 lakh. This is also applicable to Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (Mudra) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Presently, MSMEs can obtain collateral-free loans under two mechanisms viz. RBI's 2010 circular (July 1, 2010) and on Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF). RBI's 2010 circular allows a limit of Rs 10 lakh and CGF provides collateral-free loans up to Rs 2 crore. If the recommendation wins approval then the loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) will also get doubled.

Abhinav Bindra joined World Archery

On 20th June 2019, World Archery appointed the celebrated Indian shooter, Abhinav Bindra to look into the ongoing mess in Archery Association of India (AAI). The world body has recently de-listed the Archery Association of India for violating the constitution by unanimously electing two parallel bodies in Chandigarh and New Delhi. Besides this, India's only individual Olympic gold medallist, Bindra will also be a part of the selection panel consisting of IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta and a representative of Sport Ministry to select the national teams till a new AAI body takes charge.

Development of cancer cell detection 'dots'

In June 2019, a team of Scientists from Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST) in Assam have developed a chemical process that turns 'dirty' coal into biomedical 'Carbon Quantum Dots (CQDs)' that proved helpful in detection of cancer cells. Team used cheap, low-quality and high-sulfur coal with the size of less than 10 nanometer as efficient diagnostic tool for bio-imaging, especially in detecting cancer cells, for chemical sensing and in optoelectronics. These CQDs possess high stability, good-conductivity, low-toxicity and environmental friendly good optical properties.

World's largest Multi-Stage, Multi-Purpose Scheme "KLIP" inaugurated in Telangana.

In June 2019, the first phase of the world's largest multi-stage, multi-purpose scheme Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Telangana, Mr. Chandrashekar Rao, in Medigadda Barrage. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 80,000 crores. It is constructed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL). The project is built on Godavari river and has become the world's biggest in terms of capacity with 3 Barrages, 1531 km of Gravity Canals, 203 km of Tunnels, 20 Lifts, 19 Pump houses and 20 Reservoirs with total capacity of 147 TMC water irrigating 37 lakh acres. It will provide irrigation facility for two crops in a year to 45 lakh acres.

Dr. Gaurav Nigam honoured with ‘Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019’

On 22nd June 2019, a renowned educationist, pediatrician and author, Dr. Gaurav Nigam, has been honored with the ‘Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019’ by Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, the Minister for Labour and Human Resources in Bhutan. He received this award for excellence in school education on the basis of his excellent performance, splendid achievement and outstanding contribution towards the innovative development and research activities in the field of school education in the South Asian Region. He is the founder of iCare. He also wrote the book “Devil Inside My Mind”.

‘My Life, My Mission’: an Autobiography of Yoga guru Baba Ramdev

The globally famous Yoga guru, Baba Ramdev, will write his autobiography titled ‘My Life, My Mission’. In this book, he will unveil the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of his life and provide insights into his childhood. It is being published by Penguin Random House and expected to release in August 2019. The book will be co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar. The book will describe the journey of the Yoga guru from a small Haryana village to international stage, about his passion for yoga and good health, and the Swadeshi Campaign.

Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan: New Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

On 23rd June 2019, Acting Chief Justice of Telangana High Court, Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, has been appointed as the second Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. He replaced Chief Justice T. B. Radhakrishnan in April 2019 and swore in as an acting Chief Justice. Justice Chauhan’s oath taking ceremony was administered by the Governor - E.S.L. Narasimhan. The Chief Secretary S.K. Joshi, initiated the swearing-in ceremony while the Registrar General of Telangana High Court, A. Venkateswar Reddy, read out the warrant issued by the President Ramnath Kovind.

Quota for Maratha students in PG medical courses

In June 2019, the Maharashtra State Assembly approved an amendment in the ‘Socially Economically Backward Class (SEBC) Act 2018’, providing 16% quota to Maratha students in PG medical courses. Flashback reveals that the state government had earlier announced an ordinance for extending quota benefit to the Maratha students. The move was opposed by students from the open category and a petition was filed in the Bombay High Court to scrape the allotted reservation and over this, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court had ruled that the 16 % reservation for the Maratha community under the SEBC category would not be applicable for the postgraduate medical courses. The matter was forwarded to the Supreme Court, which upheld the High Court order. In May 2019, the state government had received permission from the Election Commission (EC) to promote an ordinance for giving quota to the Maratha community in the PG medical courses.

The new books in the stores

June 2019, witnessed release of “Data Sovereignty – The Pursuit of Supremacy”, which is authored by the BJP politician, Vinit Goenka. The proven expert in information technology, transportation & infrastructure, and agriculture has penned about the data generation and consumption that rules the world and has encouraged policymakers on data localization and created awareness among the people of the country on the potential of data and implications of data being exposed to outsiders. He has emphasized on strong regulatory mechanisms and rules on data protection. Besides this, another book authored by noted integrated yoga therapist Bijoylaxmi Hota, titled “Yoga and Diet for Weight Loss” also came on bookshelves to break slimming and weight loss myths prescribing certain postures of yoga, along with the diet to achieve better and faster results. How fast one's body utilises food is the main point of the book.

Operation Sankalp of Indian Navy

In June 2019, the Indian Navy originated ‘Operation Sankalp’ in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to ensure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area. Indian Naval Ships, INS Chennai (Kolkata-class stealth guided missile destroyers) and INS Sunayna (Saryu-class patrol vessel) along with IN aircraft (for aerial surveillance) are actively participating in this operation. ‘Operation Sankalp’ has been launched in the wake of increasing tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers, one Norwegian-owned and other Japanese-owned were attacked on 13 June 2019. This incident triggered tensions between Iran and the United States. World’s major oil exporters and importers have a joint interest in security of Gulf of Oman, that offers the only entrance from Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean into Persian Gulf.

Shefali Juneja will represent India in ICAO’s council

In June 2019, Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja got appointed as the Representative of India (JS Level) for upcoming three years in council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada. She succeeded the senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar who was selected for this post in October 2015. The 1992 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre) is presently working as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA).

Death of Freedom fighter Mohan Ranade

June 2019 witnessed departure of freedom fighter Mohan Ranade, who participated in Goa’s liberation movement in Pune at the age of 90. Ranade was active in attacking police stations at Betim, Banastarim and other outposts during Goa’s liberation movement. Portuguese police had

imprisoned him in 1955 and was released in January 1969. His efforts were well acknowledged with Goa Puraskar in 1986, Padma Shri in 2001 and Sangli Bhushan in 2006. He penned books on the Goa liberation movement.

The key contracts of the month

In June 2019, an IT firm Tech Mahindra has inked a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in the growing cabin engineering business. This move will help the airline in delivering integrated comfortable and memorable, digital travel experiences through path breaking ‘cabin innovations.’ Apart from this, IDBI Bank and Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd. inked Bancassurance Corporate Agency Agreement to provide Tata AIG’s suite of P&C (Property and Casualty) insurance products. The product list includes Tata AIG’s flagship health (Medicare), motor, personal accident, home content, critical illnesses, Locker, SME (Small and medium-sized enterprises) and travel insurances.

SEBI in action

In June 2019, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted a working group headed by NSE Clearing Ltd to review the present framework of margins in the futures and options segment. It is seen that the existing derivatives segment is increasing the costs of trading but it is not managing the risk in an efficient manner. The panel will look into this matter and will submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee. Besides this, SEBI has also released a discussion paper for informant mechanism related to insider trading. It proposes amendments to the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, which is likely to provide absolute confidentiality with appropriate safeguards. The discussion paper announces monetary reward up to Rs 1 crore as well as amnesty from regulatory action for genuine whistleblowers.

News from Defence system

In June 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh constituted a committee to work on modalities of revising pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme. Around 25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows will get benefited by this move. The newly constituted committee has Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Sanjiv Mittal (head) along with representatives from the three services. Besides this, the government of India cancelled a \$500-million deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems after a native developer Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed that it could deliver an alternative within two years with a partnership with VEM technologies Ltd.

The 2018 Police Station rankings

In June 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released the rankings of police stations for the year 2018. Around 15,666 police stations were evaluated on parameters of the police station's infrastructure and citizen feedback on the role of police personnel in context to crimes against women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes & property related offences, number of FIRs chargesheeted within 60 days. The Kalu police station (Bikaner, Rajasthan), Campbell Bay police station (Nicobar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Farakka police station (Murshidabad, West Bengal) emerged as the top three police stations of the country.

Rachna Khaira becomes a RedInk awardee

In June 2019, the Tribune's Journalist Rachna Khaira won the RedInk Award for excellence in Indian journalism. She was honored with the title - 'Journalist of the Year' 2019. The lady exposed the functioning of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and its Aadhaar data cache in which personal data of millions of citizens was at risk of being hacked/traded for a price. She ran a series of sting operations to raise serious doubts over government claims that Aadhaar data stored on UIDAI servers was safe and secure.

Success of Indian missiles

In June 2019, India successfully test-fired native nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. This is the surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 350 km and capacity of carrying 500 to 1000 kg of warheads. It is well equipped with liquid propulsion twin engines. Besides this, India successfully launched new Technology Demonstrator Missile named Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) in Odisha to help DRDO with the development of technologies for futuristic missions. It is a dual-use technology Project with civilian applications and has a flight duration of 20 seconds at an altitude of 31 kms.

Arunachal Pradesh is making news

In June 2019, Arunachal Pradesh revealed 'Manouria impressa' (Impressed Tortoises) new species of tortoise species that possess 'impressive' orange-brown to dark brown patches on its carapace. The discovery was done by a team of herpetologists from the Forest Department and two NGOs viz. Help Earth & Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) in Yazali area of the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. Besides this, the state also witnessed Justice PK Saikia's appointment as Chairperson of Lokayukta. He has become the first Lokayukta of the state. Besides him, Yeshi Tsering, a retired IAS officer became Member of the Lokayukta.

RBI tabled Education Loan Scheme

In June 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recommended Indian Banks' Association (IBA)'s Education Loan Scheme for all Scheduled Commercial Banks. The scheme is for the purpose of providing financial support to meritorious students for pursuing higher education in India and abroad. It features loans up to Rs 10 lakh for studies in India and up to Rs 20 lakh for studying abroad. It has provision of Collateral free loans upto Rs 7.5 Lakh under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL) and spells no margin for a loan up to Rs 7.50 Lakh. It has prescribed repayment period of 15 years.

CAREER FLITE



Demise of 'Godfather' Actor Carmine Caridi

May 2019 witnessed death of Carmine Caridi at the age of 85 due to coma at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles. He was the actor best-known for portraying Carmine Rosato in “The Godfather: Part II”. With a career of more than 60 years, the actor entertained film and television audience with his talent, wit, warmth and charm. In “The Godfather: Part II,” he staged a vital role in the territorial feud with Frank Pentangeli, played by Michael V. Gazzo. Studio executive Robert Evans has mentioned in his 1994 memoir “The Kid Stays in the Picture” that Caridi was director Francis Ford Coppola’s first choice for the role of Sonny Corleone in “The Godfather.”

Legendary stand-up comic Sammy Shore passed away

In May 2019, Legendary stand-up comic Sammy Shore died at the age of 92 in Las Vegas, USA. The deceased was the father of actor and comedian Pauly Shore and the duo had spent 20 years together as a father-son comedy team. He began his career in a partnership with Shecky Greene in Catskills and was the Co-Founder of the world-famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles with screenwriter and actor Rudy De Luca in year 1972. He did films like “The Bellboy” and “Life Stinks and History of the World: Part 1”. He also made an appearance in “Ed Sullivan Show”. He had recorded several albums titled “Brother Sam, Come Heal With Me” and “70 Sucks, but 80 is Worse”. He also penned books like “The Man Who Made Elvis Laugh” and “The Warm-Up”, while “Last Comic Sitting (Confessions of a Pissed-Off Comic)” was his unfinished book.

Indian-origin students captured US National Spelling Bee

In May 2019, six Indian-origin students Rishik Gandhasri, Saketh Sundar, Shruthika Padhy, Sohun Sukhatankar, Abhijay Kodali, Rohan Raja, Christopher Serrao and Erin Howard belonging 7 to 14 years of age group scripted history in US Scripps National Spelling Bee competition. These six students were named as co-champions and each of them won the full winner's prize worth 50,000 US Dollar in cash. This was the first time in the 94-year history of this competition that more than two co-champions have been named.

The 217th ISS spacewalk

For maintenance and upgradation of International Space Station, two Russian space agency Roscosmos' cosmonauts carried out the 217th spacewalk in May 2019. Under expedition 59,

Commander Oleg Kononenko and Flight Engineer Alexey Ovchinin did the feat in time span of six hours and one minute. This was Commander Kononenko's fifth spacewalk, while it was the first-ever space walk for Ovchinin. The cosmonauts retrieved science experiments, installed handrails on the Russian segment of the complex, and conducted maintenance on the orbiting laboratory.

Re-evolution of extinct bird

As per publication of Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society of London in May 2019, the white-throated rail which was extinct for over 136,000 years reappeared on Indian Ocean Island that has been termed as 'iterative evolution'. The lost bird originally belongs to Madagascar, an island country lying off the southeastern coast of Africa. University of Portsmouth and Natural History Museum in its study has presented 100,000 years old fossil evidence of the bird.

Pratibha Patil received Mexican honor

On 1st June 2019, Former president Pratibha Patil was honored with Mexico's highest civilian honour "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle). She received the honor from the Ambassador of Mexico to India, Melba Pria. She had created history by becoming as India's first woman President from 2007 to 2012. Now she has become the second Indian head of state to get the award after the late President S. Radhakrishnan for outstanding services to the Mexican nation or humanity, significant contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations between Mexico and India.

World Bicycle Day 2019

3rd June 2019 was celebrated as World Bicycle Day to realize the uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of the bicycle and highlight health benefits of cycling that can even avert serious heart diseases as well as cancer. Besides this, cycle does not lead to carbon emission which is the top need climate control measures. Currently, capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam leads in the number of cyclists it supports, around 40% of all commuters use bicycle to go to work. In India, in the year 2018, Bengaluru appointed its first ever 'Bicycle Mayor', Satya Shankaran which was the first of its kind initiative in India.

1st June : Global Day of Parents

Globe celebrated 1st June 2019 as Global Day of Parents. In year 2012, the UN General Assembly instituted this day via approving resolution A/RES/66/292 to honor parents worldwide for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship. Since the 1980s, the General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions, and instituted the International Year of the Family and the International Day of Families as well. Families are the centre of social life ensuring the well-being of their members, educating and socializing children and youth and caring for young and old.

Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh scripted history

On 31st May 2019, Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became the first woman fighter pilot to fly an advanced jet aircraft 'Hawk jet'. The woman officer recorded a total of over 500 hours of incident-free flying of which 380 hours were on the Hawk Mk 132 jet. She did the feat at Kalaikunda Air Force station in West Bengal. The lady is well trained for both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions. Besides her, another Flight Lt Bhawana Kanth was also recorded for becoming the first daytime woman fighter pilot to fly a MiG-21 Bison in May last week.

Single-window registration of land titles

In May 2019, government of Maharashtra has proposed to introduce the Maharashtra Land Titling Act about using a single-window mechanism for authenticating land titles. This initiative will begin in Mumbai with linking of various departments and digitising records. A special Maharashtra Land Titling Authority will be established to oversee the implementation. The same act will lead to the establishment of one or more tribunals for land titling and one or more appellate tribunal as well as the appointment of the title registration officer.

Jay-Z : the world's first billionaire rapper

In June 2019, Forbes Magazine named Jay-Z of America as World's 1st Billionaire Rapper. He built an empire based on music, property, fashion and investments worth \$1bn i.e. approximately 69.2825 billion rupees. The 49-year-old's real name is Shawn Carter and he is one of just a handful of billionaire entertainers and the first hip-hop artist to claim such a fortune via \$310m ownership of Armand de Brignac champagne, a \$100m stake in D'Ussé cognac, \$100m Tidal streaming service, \$50m in real estate and a \$70m investment in Uber and music catalogue worth \$75m.

World's longest LPG pipeline in India

In June 2019, Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL signed a joint venture for Kandla (Gujarat) - Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) LPG pipeline project which will establish World's longest 2,757-km LPG pipeline worth ₹ 10,000 crore. In this venture IndianOil will have 50% shareholding while BPCL and HPCL will have 25% share each. According to an official statement, "The pipeline will source LPG from three import terminals on the west coast and two refineries (at Koyali and Bina) and supply LPG to 22 bottling plants of the three OMCs connected en route –three in Gujarat, six in Madhya Pradesh and 13 in Uttar Pradesh,".

Left-wing opposition bloc occupied Denmark Parliament

On 5th June 2019, the left-wing bloc under the Social Democrats, won a majority in the parliament with 91 seats. Democrats claimed victory in parliamentary elections by sweeping 25.9% of the votes. The centre-left party finished clear of the centre-right Liberals of outgoing prime minister

Lars Løkke Rasmussen, who improved on their 2015 election score to reach 23.4% with 75 seats and the populist, far-right Danish People's Party (DPP), received 8.7% which is less than half its tally in the last election.

Russia started the first Arctic train service

On 5th June 2019, Russia's first tourist train, 'Zarengold ' has come on track through Russia's Arctic region. It was green flagged from St. Petersburg station to reach Norway with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey. The tourists from seven nations including the US, Germany, Norway and Russia are onboard for the 11 day trip to discover areas difficult to access by other means. The train is well equipped with two restaurant cars.

Peru Prez has won confidence vote

After winning the confidence vote on 5th June 2019, President of Peru, Vizcarra sparked a debate regarding his flagging effort to pass anti-corruption measures. He had succeeded the disgraced ex-president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski a year ago by winning 77 votes to 44 with three abstentions. Vizcarra had threatened earlier to dissolve parliament and conduct new elections unless lawmakers backed his anti-graft proposals. The ex-president Kuczynski was charged with bribe-taking as part of the continent-wide Odebrecht corruption scandal.

America wants Britain to go for no-deal Brexit

In June 2019, US President Donald Trump asked Britain to go ahead for a no-deal Brexit with the EU and refuse to pay the agreed 39 billion pounds (45 billion euros, USD 50 billion) divorce bill. He wants Britain to follow his guideline in negotiating the Brexit issue. He also suggested former foreign minister Boris Johnson's name for the post of Prime Minister after the resignation of Theresa May. He is looking forward to meet Queen Elizabeth II and have talks with Ms May.

Prayuth Chan-ocha : Prime Minister of Thailand

In June 2019, National Assembly of Thailand chose the 2014 coup leader Prayuth Chan-ocha as Prime Minister for a second term. Military-backed Palang Pracharath party's Chan-ocha won the elections by a margin of 500 to 244 votes against his opponent Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit of Future Forward party. In 500-member House of Representatives, Palang Pracharath party won 115 seats which is the second highest number of seats against its rival, Pheu Thai party that claimed 136 seats and is associated with self-exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The formation of new government by Chan-Ocha will establish civilian rule in the nation.

Pramila Jayapal : The First South Asian-American Woman in US House of Representatives

In June 2019, Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal became the first South Asian American woman to preside over the US House of Representatives as Speaker (temporarily). It is worth knowing in this context that although Nancy Pelosi has been serving as the Speaker of the

House of Representatives since January 2019, members of the majority party in the House are periodically given privilege of temporarily presiding over the chamber. The current 116th Congress accomplished records with women and lawmakers crossing racial and religious barriers. There exist a record number of 17 Asian Americans serving in Congress, with 14 in the House and 3 in the Senate.

7 June : World Food Safety Day

On 7th June 2019, globe's first-ever World Food Safety Day was celebrated on "Food Safety, everyone's business" theme. The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution for the same in December 2018. WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) facilitated Member States efforts for celebrations of this day. The day was meant to provide people access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for sustaining life and promoting good health worldwide.

Tayari Jones became Women's Prize winner for Fiction

In June 2019, American novelist Tayari Jones was acknowledged with this year's Women's Prize for Fiction for her fourth novel "An American Marriage". The reviews identified it as one of the biggest international celebrations of women's creativity. It is a powerful story about love and family, injustice and strength. It portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage. She received £30,000 and 'Bessie', which is a limited edition bronze figurine as her prize.

Kassym Jomart-Tokayev: The new leader of Kazakhstan

Career diplomat Kassym Jomart-Tokayev has been chosen as the new President of Kazakhstan. The 66 year old Tokayev has swept 70% of the votes against his nearest opposition rival Amirzhan Kosanov, who got just 15% as proclaimed by the government-approved "Public Opinion" pollster. He is said to be the hand-picked successor of former President Nursultan Nazarbayev who reigned the Central Asian nation for the last 30 years after it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

Romila Thapar : Member of American Philosophical Society

Eminent historian and writer Romila Thapar has been elected as an international member of American Philosophical Society (APS) at its Annual Spring Meeting. Romila Thapar is Professor Emerita of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and is best known for her careful scholarship on emperor Ashoka, epigraphy of Mauryan period, and ground-breaking studies and multiple historiographies covering Hindu and Muslim history of Somnath. She conducted contemporary philosophical debates, producing a model of open-minded and inclusive history and ensured smooth sail of both theory and practice of Indian historiography.

Manpreet Vohra: India's next high commissioner to Belize

The 1988-batch IFS officer, current Additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Ambassador to Mexico, Manpreet Vohra has been concurrently authorized as the next High Commissioner of India to Central American nation Belize. Earlier, he has worked as India's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Peru and Bolivia as well as Deputy high commissioner of India in Islamabad and Nairobi. He earned a post-graduate diploma in international alternate and a certificate in diplomatic research from Oxford.

An accolade for former U.S President Jimmy Carter

On June 12, 2019, 94 year old ex-President of the USA, Jimmy Carter (94) will be presented the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship at the Carter Center in Atlanta for his contributions to relations between the U.S. and China. George H. W. Bush Foundation has instituted this award in the name of George H. W. Bush, who was the 41st president of the US from year 1989 to 1993. It is meant to acknowledge people who made great contributions to the development of constructive and mutually beneficial relations between the U.S and China.

Demise of Grammy-winning musician Dr John

In June 2019, Grammy-winning American singer Dr John died of a heart attack at the age of 77. Hailing from New Orleans, he began his career in the late 1950s that highlighted him as a prominent pianist and singer on the New Orleans music scene. He had created a unique blend of music that pictured his hometown, New Orleans, at its heart. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame singer produced excellent combinations of the genres of blues, pop, jazz, boogie woogie and rock and roll. He had also been a part of the famed "Wrecking Crew", a group of LA backing musicians who played on hits by Aretha Franklin, Van Morrison, Cher Frank Zappa and countless others.

12th June : International Day Against Child Labour

Globe observed International Day Against Child Labour on 12th June 2019 on 'Children should not work in fields but on dreams' theme. The International Labour Organization instituted this day in year 2002 to highlight the pain of child labourers and devise measures to help them. The day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society and millions of people to take action to weed out practice of child labour.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev: President of Kazakhstan

In June 2019, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev won snap Presidential elections of Kazakhstan with 71% votes. His nearest rival Amirzhan Kosanov of United National Patriotic Movement ('Ult Tagdyry') got 16% of votes. Tokayev has been the chosen successor of veteran ruler and former leader Nursultan Nazarbayev. In these snap elections seven candidates contested for Presidency of

Kazakhstan that included Daniya Yespayeva, who became the first woman candidate to contest for the post. This is for the first time in almost thirty years, the Kazakh presidential elections held in 2019 brought a new candidate to power. Tokayev's predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev was serving on the post since the independence of country in 1992 until his resignation in March 2019.

Tony Awards 2019

The 73rd edition of Tony Awards of June 9, 2019 recognized achievements in Broadway productions during the 2018–19 season at Radio City Music Hall, New York City. James Corden was the host. The winners in different categories include Jez Butterworth's "The Ferryman" (Best play); Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" (Best revival of a musical); "Hadestown" (Best musical); Mart Crowley's "The Boys in the Band" (Best revival of a play); Santino Fontana, "Tootsie" (Best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical); Stephanie J. Block, "The Cher Show" (Best performance by an actress in a leading role in a musical); Bryan Cranston, "Network" (Best performance by an actor in a leading role in a play); Elaine May, "The Waverly Gallery" (Best performance by an actress in a leading role in a play); "Tootsie," Robert Horn (Best book of a musical); "Hadestown," Anaïs Mitchell (Best original score (music and/or lyrics) written for the theater); Rachel Chavkin, "Hadestown" (Best direction of a musical) and many more.

IAAF will be rebranded as World Athletics

In October 2019, the name of the International governing body for the sport of athletics, 'International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)' will get changed as 'World Athletics'. IAAF council meeting in Monaco took this decision to render a modern, more creative and positive face for the sport after one last edition of the world championships slated in Doha, Qatar under IAAF. According to IAAF president Sebastian Coe the new brand name 'World Athletics' has been chosen after the organization's restructuring and governance reform agenda of the past four years. History reveals that in 1912 IAAF was founded as the International Amateur Athletic Federation and its last re-nomenclature as International Association of Athletics Federations happened in year 2001.

The second Global Disability Summit

June 2019 witnessed the second Global Disability Summit at Buenos Aires, Argentina. The summit was on purpose of focussing attention on worldwide issues concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and working out a mechanism for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life. The Indian delegation that participated in this summit was headed by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Shankutala Gamlin, Joint Secretary, DEPwD, Dr. Prabodh Seth and Shri Neeraj Semwal, Private Secretary to Union Minister were the other members.

Forbes 2019 list of world's highest-paid athletes

Forbes has put out a list of the world's highest-paid athletes for year 2019 which includes Lionel Messi (sport:Football, country:Argentina- total earning: \$127m);Cristiano Ronaldo (Football, Portugal -\$109m); Neymar (Football, Brazil- \$105m); Canelo Alvarez (Boxing, Mexico- \$94m); Roger Federer (Tennis, Switzerland - \$93.4m); Russell Wilson (American Football, United States-\$89.5m); Aaron Rodgers (American Football, United States -\$89.3m); LeBron James (Basketball, United States - \$89m); Stephen Curry (Basketball, United States -\$79.8m) and Kevin Durant (Basketball, United States -\$65.4m) emerged as top ten athletes. Virat Kohli, the only Indian got ranked last on this year's Forbes list at the 100th spot.

Sun Weidong: China's new envoy to India

In June 2019, China appointed veteran diplomat Director General of the Policy and Planning Department of the Foreign Ministry, Sun Weidong as its new envoy to India. The appointee has also served as ambassador to Pakistan in past. He has succeeded Luo Zhaohui, who has been appointed as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs now. Indian Ambassador to China, Vikram Misri congratulated Weidong for this appointment through a tweet. The former Chinese Ambassador, Luo Zhaohui is said to have played a key role in dissolving tensions between India and China during Doklam standoff and was widely appreciated for his expertise in India and its foreign policy. He had a good rapport with the political leaders of the country.

The 2019 End Of Childhood Index

In June 2019, a United Kingdom based non-profit organisation which works for child rights, 'Save the Children' has put out the third edition of End of Childhood Index that is a part of Changing Lives in Our Lifetime – Global Childhood Report 2019 for 176 nations. Child mortality, malnutrition, lack of education, child labour, early marriage, adolescent birth, displacement by conflict and child homicide were the parameters of this evaluation. In this index Singapore, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Slovenia emerged as the top 5 nations, while South Sudan (172), Mali (173), Chad (174), Niger (175) and Central African Republic (176) emerged as the bottom 5 nations. India grabbed 113th rank in this index.

Priyanka Chopra: UNICEF's Humanitarian Awardee

In June 2019, The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) decided to confer its Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award upon Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra at the UNICEF Snowflake Ball on 3rd December 2019 in New York. The global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights expressed her gratitude on Twitter for the same. Priyanka has been with UNICEF since 2006 and was appointed the national and global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights in 2010 and 2016, respectively. She has worked hard to promote the environment, health and education, and women's rights and is specifically vocal about gender equality and feminism.

UAE and Germany joined hands to fight terrorism

In June 2019, the United Arab Emirates and Germany have reaffirmed their joint commitment to combat terrorism and violent extremism, in all its forms, at both regional and international levels. They issued a joint statement in Berlin, expressing their shared view that terrorism and violent extremism are threats to the international order. The duo will make efforts on counter-terrorism issues, exchange of expertise and information on combating terrorism and will boost individual training and capacity-building in this regard. Apart from this, the UAE Cabinet has adopted 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031' for developing the first 'National Wellbeing Observatory' to support the policymaking process. The move is on purpose of promoting an integrated concept of wellbeing, to support the UAE Vision 2021 and the UAE Centennial 2071.

Global days at a glance

Some of the international days that globe observed in June 2019 include World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17th June) on 'Let's grow the future together' theme to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification caused via land degradation and drought ; International Day of Family Remittances (16 June) was observed to acknowledge the contribution of migrant workers to their families and communities back home, and to the sustainable development of their native countries. It is good to learn that one in nine people globally are supported by funds sent home by migrant workers; World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (15th June) was observed to oppose the physical, psychological or emotional and financial abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people.

Venezuela rolled out three new banknotes

In June 2019, Venezuelan government announced issuance of new Banknotes of 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000 bolivar denominations on account of the hyperinflation that rose over 1.3 million percent eroding the currency's value. The move aims to strengthen the payment system and commercial transactions in the country. Prior to the announcement, 500 bolivar note was the highest bill in circulation. Currently, the largest denominations banknotes is worth Rs.560 (\$8) which is more than the minimum wage of 40,000 bolivars.

Sajid Javid issued US extradition order for Julian Assange

In June 2019, UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid signed a request for Wikileaks co-founder, Julian Assange, who is to be extradited to the US on account of charges of soliciting and publishing classified information and conspiring to hack into a government computer. The case is under Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot, who presided over high-profile Indian extradition requests including that of liquor baron Vijay Mallya and diamond merchant Nirav Modi. Flashback says that Assange had spent seven years in Ecuador's embassy in London, where he enjoyed asylum under then-

President Rafael Correa. Ecuador's current President Lenin Moreno has suspended Assange's asylum and permitted British police to enter the embassy and arrest him in April. All additional hearings regarding Assange's case have been suspended until February of next year.

ADB sanctioned Rs 1,650 cr infrastructure projects in India

In June 2019, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project of Rs 1,650 crore for development of infrastructure in seven district headquarter towns of Tripura, India. In this sanctioned amount, 80% will be grant-in-aid and the state will have to repay 20% loan in due course of time. The proposed project is likely to modernize all the district headquarter towns and boost tourism and trade prospects transforming Tripura into a model state.

Sun's history in Moon's crust

Astrophysicists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center discovered clues to the ancient mysteries of the Sun on the Moon's crust. They used sophisticated computer models to understand the development of life. The clues say that around four billion years ago, the Sun went through violent outbursts of intense radiation during which it spewed scorching, high-energy clouds and particles across the solar system. On one hand where these growing pains sowed seed of life on early Earth via triggering chemical reactions to keep it warm and wet and on the other hand it prevented life from emerging on other worlds by removing atmospheres and zapping nourishing chemicals.

'Libra' Digital Currency of Facebook

On 18th June 2019, Facebook Inc announced its own digital currency, 'Libra'. The social networking giant will make the currency available to billions of its users to make financial transactions via Libra app, WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger by 2020. In addition to this, Facebook has also created a subsidiary called Calibra, which would offer digital wallets to save, send and spend Libras. The wallet will be connected to FB Messenger and WhatsApp.

Madame Tussauds got Priyanka Chopra's statue

In June 2019, world-famous wax museum, Madame Tussauds in London, UK unveiled Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra's statue. Priyanka Chopra married American singer-songwriter Nick Jonas in 2018 and has been working closely with Madame Tussauds' team on the epic project in New York City. The wax statue with exquisite gold sequin gown by Ralph Lauren has been styled to match the actress' appearance at the 2017 Golden Globes. Madame Tussauds has accommodated the 36 year old actress' statue among the attractions of "Party" area, where visitors sip their drink of choice at the Tussauds Bar.

WHO launched “AWaRe” campaign

On June 18, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign named “AWaRe” to encourage governments to adopt a tool to control the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs. WHO Essential Medicines List developed it. The Ministers of Health of the Netherlands and Indonesia and WHO Assistant-Director General Hanan Balkhy officially launched this campaign at the second ministerial conference on AMR in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.

June 20: World Refugee Day

Globe observed June 20, 2019, as World Refugee Day on “#StepWithRefugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day” theme. Every year on this day stories and contributions of refugees are recalled. According to the latest annual study released by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 70.8 million children, women and men were forcibly displaced at the end of 2018 on account of violence and persecution. The figure of 70.8 million is the highest number of displaced people in the organization’s almost 70-year history. About 80 % of these refugees live in countries neighbouring their country of origin.

Discovery of the first iron ore mine of Bangladesh

On 18th June 2019, the Geological Survey of Bangladesh after extensive drilling over two months at Isabpur village in Dinajpur, announced the discovery of the nation's first iron ore mine. A 400 feet thick iron layer was found 1,750 feet beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometre. The percentage of iron in the mine is said to be 65 that indicates the high quality of the ore. Besides this, gold, copper, nickel and chromium were also found at different levels of the mining.

Raavana-1: Sri Lanka’s 1st satellite

In June 2019, Sri Lanka’s first ever satellite ‘Raavana-1’ was launched from the International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal. Designed and developed by two Sri Lankan engineers, Tharindu Dayaratne and Dulani Chamika who are students of space engineering at Japan’s Kyushu Institute of Technology, Raavana-1 was deployed to 400-km of orbit at an inclination of 51.6 degrees via Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency (JAXA) owned Kibo experiment module. Raavana-1 is a 1.05 kg cube satellite of 11.3 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm dimension. It is meant to fulfil 5 missions including capturing pictures of Sri Lanka & its surrounding regions and has a minimum lifespan of 1.5 years.

The new type of cooling vest

In June 2019, Japanese researchers from Hiroshima University developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes to help them compete safely in sweltering summer conditions. It is being made to cope with the body heat that generates during sports events. The cooling vest is filled with ice packs and has a collar that can also cool the neck. It will prevent athletes from dehydration, decreased performance and decreased brain function during summer sports events. The upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics will counter the hot and muggy Japanese summer where the ambient temperature is expected to get above 33 degrees Celsius.

The First Bangladesh International Theatre Festival

The first international theatre festival of Bangladesh has begun at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka on 20th June 2019. Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid inaugurated this week long festival in which theatre troupes from India, Bangladesh, Russia, China, France, Vietnam and Nepal are taking part. The festival that began with Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama 'Mayar Khela, is likely to witness theatre and puppet shows by eight troupes.

No petrol and diesel cars in Ireland

According to the June 2019 publication of 'Climate Action Plan' of Irish government, the sale of petrol and diesel cars will be banned in the country from 2030 for combating greenhouse gas emissions for protection of the environment. The move is among 180 measures planned by the government. The "Climate Action Plan" further states the removal of non-recyclable plastic and higher fees on the production of materials that are difficult to recycle. The government is planning to set up nationwide charging network for launching 950,000 electric vehicles.

Mexico: the first country to ratify the trade deal to replace NAFTA.

In June 2019, Mexico became the first country to consent the trade deal to replace the 25 year old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new trade deal is named as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). It has been modified to include changes for automakers, stricter labor and environmental standards, intellectual property protections, and digital trade provisions. President of US Donald Trump, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexico's then-President Enrique Peña Nieto signed this deal in November 2018 however it still needs to be ratified by all three governments. The deal was endorsed with 114 Senators voting in favor and 4 against it.

India topped in global data usage index

According to June 2019 Ericsson Mobility Report, India emerged as the topper with data usage of 9.8 Giga Byte (GB) per month. North East Asia followed India at the second place with 7.1 GB per month and North America grabbed the third spot with 7 GB per month. On the other hand, West Asia and Africa regions registered the lowest data consumption at 3 GB per month. The credit of

India's top position goes to increased numbers of Long Term Evolution subscriptions, attractive data plans offered by service providers and young people's changing video viewing habits. Indian smartphone users are showing enhanced inclination towards futuristic 5G services. Moreover, the total smartphone subscriptions in India is likely to touch the figure of 1.1 billion by 2024, with an 11% compound annual growth rate (CAGR); the total mobile broadband subscriptions to 1.25 billion in 2024; the 4G LTE subscriptions to 1.16 billion in 2024 and total mobile data traffic per month to 16 Extra Bytes in 2024.

Qu Dongyu: the new head of FAO

On June 23, 2019, China's 55 year old Agricultural Deputy Minister, Qu Dongyu got chosen as the new Director General of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy. He received 108 votes in the election defeating Catherine Geslain-Laneelle of France (the first woman to run for the post as well as a former head of the European Food Safety Authority) with 71 votes. Qu Dongyu will now fight to eradicate world hunger that is presently threatened by global warming and wars. He will draft policies for feeding the world population which is expected to increase from 7.7 billion people to 9.7 billion in 2050. Qu will support the small-holder farms and fisheries to counter the ills of intensive farming, food waste, and poverty.

IOC's new Headquarter is in Switzerland

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland on the 125th anniversary of Olympic Games on 23rd June 2019. The inauguration of the new headquarters has come exactly 125 years after Olympic Games were revived. The Olympic Games are a symbol of hope and peace for mankind. IOC is a non-governmental sports organisation, which was created by Pierre de Coubertin and Demetrius Vikelas on 23 June 1894 in Paris, France.

Japan gifts peace museum to India.

In June 2019, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal, which was one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War, Japan gifted the peace museum to India. Manipur Revenue minister Mr. Karam Shyam and the Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu, along with many other dignitaries attended the inaugural ceremony of the museum at Maibam Lokpa Ching popularly known as Red Hill (about 20 km southwest of Imphal). A non-profit grant-making organization of Japan, The Nippon Foundation (TNF) provided funds for this museum, which is the symbol of reconciliation between Japan & Britain and Japan & India.

Stories from Space

In June 2019, the American space agency, SpaceX, launched the Falcon Heavy Rocket carrying 24 experimental satellites from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. These satellites of various

agencies and organizations are on purpose of testing new telescope technologies, a futuristic atomic clock and the solar sail project involving LightSail-2, that will travel in space using solar energy among others. Besides this, NASA's Curiosity Rover detected high levels of Methane on Mars i.e. about 21 parts per billion units by volume (ppbv) indicating a strong possibility of life outside the Earth.

Mexico approved US-Mexico-Canada agreement

In June 2019, Mexico gave nod to the US-Mexico-Canada agreement and with this it has become the first country to give the new North American trade deal final approval despite recent tensions with the US. The move has paved path for an open economy deepening economic integration in the region. The deal is likely to fetch more foreign investment and jobs in Mexico, access to the US market and will replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that helped in Mexico's transformation. into an exporting powerhouse over the past 25 years. The three nations inked this agreement on 30th November. Now the agreement is waiting to get approved by Canada and the US.

'Bumble': the first self powered Astrobe robot in space

In June 2019, National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Astrobe Robot "Bumble" started its first solo flight in space and became the first astrobe robot to fly on its own in space. It is meant to help researchers examine new technologies in zero gravity and assist astronauts to conduct routine work like taking inventory, documenting experiments conducted by astronauts with its built-in cameras or working together to move cargo throughout the International Space Station (ISS). It is expected to function as a caretaker for NASA's lunar gateway and will play a significant part in NASA's future missions to explore the Moon and Mars. Besides 'Bumble', a second astrobe named 'Honey' has also been launched and a third astrobe, 'Queen', will also be launched in July 2019.

Oxford conferred honorary degrees

In June 2019, the University of Oxford conferred honorary degrees upon eight people that includes Jennifer Doudna, Andrea Ghez, Shafi Goldwasser, Daniel Kahneman Simon Wessely, and Yo-Yo Ma (cellist), along with Cyrus Poonawalla and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan at their annual ceremony called 'Encaenia'. Cyrus Poonawalla, founder of the Serum Institute of India, which is currently the world's largest manufacturer of life-saving vaccines by the number of doses, producing more than 1.5 billion doses a year that are used in over 170 nations across the globe. The renowned Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan has released more than fifty music albums, performed in numerous high-profile concerts worldwide and amassed a global following of over one billion views online.

Oracle launched Crime Mitigation solution

In June 2019, Oracle, a multinational software firm based in the United States launched “Anti Money Laundering Express Edition(AMLXE)” tool to help small and mid-sized banks to tackle fraud. The solution features an in-built library with scenarios that have the ability to detect money laundering behaviors. The tool employs new architecture principles that offer quick deployment on premise or on cloud infrastructures allowing firms to transit to their future states faster and at economical implementation costs. It permits visual scenario configuration, reducing coding overheads, and enabling easy adaption to ever-changing compliance demands.

Crime never pays

62-year-old Almazbek Atambayev, former President of Kyrgyzstan, has been accused of making illegal land purchases and allied corruptions, however, he has been enjoying immunity from criminal prosecution being a former head of state. Kyrgyzstan lawmakers voted on 28th June 2019 to lift the immunity of the former president, clearing the way for a prosecution that is likely to provoke a political crisis in the Central Asian state. Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted 103 to 6 in favour of lifting the protection.

Wind & Sun : The future power suppliers of the world

BloombergNEF released a report, titled “New Energy Outlook (NEO) report 2019” in June 2019. The report stated that presently two-thirds of countries around the world are using wind and solar power and by 2050 the sources are likely to make up almost half of the electricity system. The electricity demand is likely to increase by 62%, which in turn will attract \$13.3 trillion in new investments, of which wind will take \$5.3 trillion and solar will take \$4.2 trillion. In the future scenarios, wind and solar power supply will grow from existing 7% to 48% by 2050.



India finished ISSF Championship on high note

In May 2019, India succeeded in displaying their best performance with a total of 5 gold and 1 silver medal, to top the medals tally at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany. Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won 10m Air Pistol mixed team title. Pair of Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar also won the 10m Air Rifle mixed team gold. The names of other gold medallist included Apurvi Chandela (10m Air Rifle Women), Rahi Sarnobat (25m Pistol Women) and Saurabh Chaudhary (10m Air Pistol Men). China bagged nine medals - two gold, two silver and five bronze medals.

The 2019 ITTF World Tour Hong Kong Open & China

In 2019 edition of International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Tour Hong Kong Open, China won four gold medals. In Women's Singles, Wang Yidi of China defeated No.2 seed Mima Ito of Japan by 4-0 scoreline. In Women's Doubles, Chinese pair Chen Ke and Mu Zi got edge over Jeon Ji-hee and You Eun-chong of Republic of Korea (South Korea). In Men's Singles, Lin Gaoyuan of China outshone Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan and in Men's Doubles, final Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan of China defeated Jang Woo-jin and Lim Jong-hoon of South Korea.

Virat Kohli broke Tendulkar's record

On 16th June 2019 during the World Cup against Pakistan, Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of being the quickest to make 11,000 ODI runs. He took 222 innings to achieve this milestone, while Tendulkar did this in 276 innings. With this, Kohli has become the third Indian and ninth player overall to accomplish this feat. The players who scored 11,000+ ODI runs are Sachin Tendulkar (India, 18,426), Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka, 14,234), Ricky Ponting (Australia, 13,704), Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka, 13,430), Mahela Jayawardene (Sri Lanka, 12,650), Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan, 11,739), Jacques Kallis (South Africa, 11,579), Sourav Ganguly (India, 11,363) and Virat Kohli (India, 11,003*).

The FIH Series

In June 2019, during FIH Men's Series Finals, Indian Hockey team defeated South Africa by 5-1 in the title clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. India scored goals in the 2nd, 11th, 25th, 36th and 50th minutes. In FIH Women's Series Finals, India got an edge over Uruguay by 4-1 in its first Pool-A match at Hiroshima in Japan. Rani Rampal (10th minute), Gurjit Kaur (21st minute), Jyoti (40th minute) and Lalremsiami (56th minute) scored goals for the country.

The 2019 World Archery Championships

The 50th edition of World Archery Championships, 2019, which is also known as Hyundai World Archery Championships got concluded on 16th June 2019 in Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. It featured Men's Individual, Women's Individual, Men's team, Women's team and Mixed team events. South Korea topped the medal tally by grabbing 3 gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze followed by Chinese Taipei at the second spot with 3 Gold and 1 Bronze. India claimed three medals viz 1 silver and 2 bronze in the championship.

England broke records in world cup

18th June 2019 became a red letter day for England as it broke many records in history of cricket. Playing against Afghanistan, England recorded a big victory that brought it to top spot in the points table. England defeated Afghanistan with a big margin of 150 runs. Electing to bat first, it posted this year's World Cup's best score of 397 for 6 and succeeded in dismissing Afghanistan at a score of 247 for 8. England's captain Eoin Morgan posted his career-best 148 runs off 71 balls. He became the first batsman in ODI history to hit 17 sixes in an innings. He has also become the first batsman in ODI history to score 100-plus runs in sixes in an innings. With this, England are on the top spot with a net run rate of 1.862.

Folksam Grand Prix revealed gold for India

In June 2019, India's PU Chitra won a gold medal in the women's 1500m by clocking 4 minute 12.65 seconds at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden. Kenya's Mercy Cheronu, who won the 5000m gold in Commonwealth Games 2014, grabbed the second position in this event. Jinson Johnson from India clocked 3:39.69 and won silver medal in the men's 1500m at this Grand Prix.

Pankaj Advani won the men's Asian Snooker Championship 2019

On 22nd June 2019, famous Indian Snooker player, Pankaj Advani won the men's Asian Snooker Championship 2019 title. In the finals, he defeated Thanawat Thirapongpaiboon of Thailand by 6-3 points. With this, he has become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats. He has now claimed the ACBS Asian snooker events — 6-red (short format) and 15-red (long format) — along with the IBSF World Championships in both formats.

News from Sports world

In June 2019, the 20-time Grand Slam champion, Roger Federer of Switzerland got edge over David Goffin of Belgium in the 27th edition of the Halle Open 2019 (also known as Noventi Open 2019) at the Gerry Weber Stadion in Halle. Besides this, Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won French Grand Prix that was held in Circuit Paul Ricard, Le Castellet, France with 187 points. This was his

eighth straight victory in the year 2019. Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes (Finland) grabbed the second spot with 151 points. Charles Leclerc of Ferrari (Monaco) held the third rank followed by Max Verstappen of Red Bull of Belgium and Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari of Germany.

Pranati Nayak claims bronze

In June 2019, Pranati Nayak won a bronze medal in the vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She scored 13.400 and 13.367 in the first and second vault event. In this championship China's Yu Linmin and Japan's Ayaka Sakaguchi bagged a gold and a silver medal respectively.

National players making international news

In June 2019, a 14-year-old Indian Chess Grandmaster Nihal Sarin won Blitz Event at 2019 Asian Continental Chess Championship that was held in Xingtai, China. He scored eight points from nine rounds of the event which meant that he ended the tournament with a lead of a full point. The winner has recently obtained the 2600 Elo points to become the third youngest player to achieve the feat. Besides this, Indian billiards champion, Sourav Kothari booked 2019 Pacific International Snooker Championship on his name. He defeated Tyson Crinis of Australia to win the title in the Reventon Classic, in Melbourne, Australia. The Arjuna awardee is the gold medalist of the 2014 Asian Billiards Championship and had won bronze medals in 2011, 2014 and 2015 World Billiards.

Virat Kohli: The fastest player to score 20,000 International Runs

27th June 2019 became a red letter day for the Indian skipper Virat Kohli who became the fastest batsman to reach the 20000-run mark in international cricket during the World Cup against West Indies at Old Trafford, England. He achieved the feat while scoring his 37th run in this match. He reached this milestone in mere 416 innings (131 in Tests, 223 in ODIs and 62 in T20Is) breaking Tendulkar's and Lara's record , who took 453 innings to accomplish this feat.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Who has won the gold medal in the 10 meter air rifle mixed team event in the ISSF World Cup 2019?
(a) Divyansh Singh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil
(b) Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker
(c) Deepak Kumar and Apurvi Chandela
(d) Divyansh Singh Panwar and Manu Bhaker
(e) Saurabh Chaudhary and Anjum Moudgil
- In May 2019, who has been appointed as the new Finance Minister of India?
(a) Amit Shah (b) Rajnath Singh
(c) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (d) Nitin Gadkari (e) Nirmala Sitharaman
- In May 2019, who has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet?
(a) Mohana Singh (b) Avani Chaturvedi (c) Bhawana Kanth
(d) Hina Jaiswal (e) None of the above
- In June 2019, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the President of which country?
(a) Panama (b) Nicaragua (c) El Salvador
(d) Guatemala (e) Belize
- In June 2019, which state has signed a \$287-million loan agreement with World Bank for Healthcare Reform?
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh
(d) Karnataka (e) Telangana
- In June 2019, which state cabinet passed resolution to increase OBC quota to 27% ?
(a) Gujarat (b) Jharkhand (c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Bihar (e) Chhattisgarh
- In June 2019, a new species of dung beetle has been discovered in which state?
(a) Assam (b) Tripura (c) Manipur
(d) Sikkim (e) Arunachal Pradesh

8. In June 2019, Arun Kumar Sahu has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of _____.
- (a) Jamaica (b) Haiti (c) Cuba
(d) Trinidad and Tobago (e) Mexico
9. In June 2019, which country has successfully launched “Long March-11 rocket” from sea for the first time?
- (a) Japan (b) Russia (c) China
(d) South Korea (e) United States
10. In June 2019, Prayuth Chan-ocha has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of which country?
- (a) Canada (b) Thailand (c) Japan
(d) Malaysia (e) Myanmar
11. What is the rank of India in the Global Gender Equality Index 2019?
- (a) 93rd (b) 94th (c) 95th
(d) 96th (e) 97th
12. In June 2019, which state’s Chief Minister has appointed five Deputy Chief Minister in cabinet?
- (a) Manipur (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Odisha
(d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Kerala
13. Which tennis player has won the men’s singles title in French Open 2019?
- (a) Dominic Thiem (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Roger Federer
(d) Pete Sampras (e) Rafael Nadal
14. In June 2019, which country has conferred its highest honour “Nishan Izzuddin” to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?
- (a) Sri Lanka (b) Maldives (c) Myanmar
(d) Malaysia (e) Singapore
15. What is the current repo rate in the second bi-monthly monetary policy review of RBI for FY20?
- (a) 5.00% (b) 5.25% (c) 5.50%
(d) 5.65% (e) 5.75%

16. In June 2019, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared which monument as protected area “Monument of national importance”?
- (a) Chaukhandi Stupa (b) Dhamek Stupa (c) Durga Mandir
(d) Ganga Maha (e) Nepali Mandir
17. Which writer has been honored with the Jnanpith Award 2018?
- (a) Vikram Seth (b) Amitav Ghosh (c) Salman Rushdie
(d) Amit Chaudhari (e) Ashwin Sanghi
18. In June 2019, India has successfully launched new Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Missile (HSTDV) off the coast of _____.
- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Odisha
(d) Goa (e) None of the above
19. In June 2019, Zuzana Caputova has been sworn-in as the first female President of which country?
- (a) Slovakia (b) Austria (c) Poland
(d) Greece (e) Denmark
20. Who has won the Femina Miss India 2019 title?
- (a) Shivani Jadhav (b) Shreya Shanker (c) Suman Rao
(d) Sanjana Vij (e) Aashna Bisht

• ANSWERS •

- 1.(a) Famous Indian shooters, **Divyansh Singh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil** has won a gold medal in the 10 meter air rifle mixed team event in the ISSF World Cup 2019. Besides this, Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker won a gold medal in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team event . In this tournament, India has won 5 gold medals and one silver medal.
- 2.(e) In May 2019, former Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has been appointed as the new Finance Minister of India. With this, she has become India's first full time woman Finance Minister. She succeeded former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Besides this, Nirmala Sitharaman is also appointed as new Corporate Affairs Minister.
- 3.(a) In May 2019, Flight Lieutenant **Mohana Singh** has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet. She has completed 4-aircraft combat sortie at Kalaikunda Air Force station in West Bengal and has become the first female pilot to execute the Hawk Advance Mission. At the training period, she was trained to fly air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions.
- 4.(c) In June 2019, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the President of **El Salvador**. He succeeded former President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.
- 5.(b) In June 2019, **Tamil Nadu** has signed a \$287-million loan agreement with World Bank for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP). The objective of this loan agreement is to improve the quality of healthcare, reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services.
- 6.(c) In June 2019, **Madhya Pradesh** Cabinet passed a resolution to increase reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from existing 14% to 27%. It also increased three percent dearness allowance for employees and pensioners. It will benefit around seven lakh employees.
- 7.(e) In June 2019, a new species of dung beetle "Enoplotrupes tawangensis" has been discovered in Tawang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**. It is shining dark blue in colour and relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles. The specimens were first collected and studied by two scientists from the Zoological Survey of India: Kailash Chandra and Devanshu Gupta.

- 8.(d)** In June 2019, Arun Kumar Sahu has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Trinidad and Tobago**. Currently, he is serving as Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Ottawa. He succeeds Biswadip Dey.
- 9.(c)** In June 2019, for the first time, **China** National Space Administration (CNSA) has successfully launched “Long March-11 rocket” from the sea. The rocket was launched from a platform on a large semi- submersible barge in the Yellow Sea. It carried on board a cargo of 7 rockets, including 5 designed for commercial use and 2 include experimental payloads for space-based research.
- 10.(b)** In June 2019, military government Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Thailand**. In this election, he got 500 votes while his opponent Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, leader of Future Forward party got 244 votes.
- 11.(c)** India ranked **95th** out of 129 countries in the Global Gender Equality Index 2019. The index measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace. The list was topped by Denmark. In this index, China ranked at 74th position.
- 12.(b)** In June 2019, Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh**, Jagan Mohan Reddy has appointed five Deputy Chief Minister in a full 25-member Cabinet. The five Deputy Chief Ministers are Pamula Pushpa Sreevani, Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose, Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas, L. Narayana Swamy, and Amzath Basha. With this, Andhra Pradesh became the first state in India to have 5 Deputy Chief Ministers.
- 13.(e)** Famous Tennis player of Spain, **Rafael Nadal** has won the men’s singles title in French Open 2019. In the final, he defeated Dominic Thiem of Austria by 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1 points. With this, Rafael Nadal became the first player to win 12 Singles titles at the same Grand Slam.
- 14.(b)** In June 2019, **Maldives** has conferred its highest honour “Nishan Izzuddin” to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals. The award was conferred by Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at a ceremonial function held in Male.
- 15.(e)** In June 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 0.25 basis points to **5.75%** from 6.0% with immediate effect in its 2nd bi-monthly monetary policy statement

for 2019-20. Consequently, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 5.50%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0%.

- 16.(a)** In June 2019, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared **Chaukhandi Stupa** as protected area “Monument of national importance”. It is located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh. Chaukhandi stupa was built between 4th to 6th century of the Gupta period. During excavations some Buddha and other statues were found at Chaukhandi Stupa.
- 17.(b)** Famous English writer, **Amitav Ghosh** has been honored with the Jnanpith Award 2018. He received this award for his outstanding contribution towards literature. His recent book is 'The Great Derangement; Climate Change and the Unthinkable'. He is also honored with the Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi Award.
- 18.(c)** In June 2019, India has successfully launched new Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Missile (HSTDV) off the coast of **Odisha**. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had carried out the trials from Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal. HSTDV is developed by DRDO with help from Israel and the United Kingdom. It is a dual-use technology Project with civilian applications.
- 19.(a)** In June 2019, anti-corruption activist, Zuzana Caputova has been sworn-in as the first female President of **Slovakia**. In the election, she defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.
- 20.(c)** In June 2019, a 20-year-old model of Rajasthan, **Suman Rao** has won the Femina Miss India 2019 title. She also won the Miss India Rajasthan 2019 title. Besides this, Shivani Jadhav of Chhattisgarh has won Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker of Bihar has won Miss India United Continents 2019 title.