



# Monthly **GK** Mania



May - 2019

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### **Rima Das: new ambassador of 'Share Her Journey'**

Assam filmmaker Rima Das has got appointed as the official ambassador of Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF)'s 'Share Her Journey' campaign on 29th March 2019. This five year campaign had begun in 2017 to increase participation, skills, and opportunities for women behind and in front of the camera. Recently Rima's movie, 'Village Rockstars' had made official entry into Oscars 2019 from India and her another film 'Bulbul Can Sing' had fetched her Dublin Film Critics Circle Jury Award in Best Director category. She has claimed many national and international awards including the ICC NE Excellence Award of Indian Chamber of Commerce.

### **The first Indian Shipyard to deliver 100 Warships**

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) has delivered its 100th Warship 'Landing Craft Utility, L-56', to the Indian Navy on 30th March, 2019. Rear Admiral V. K. Saxena, Chairman & Managing Director, GRSE to Lt. Cdr. Gopinath Narayanan, Commanding Officer of the Ship did this honor and with this GRSE has become the first Indian Shipyard to deliver 100 Warships to the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Mauritius Coast Guard.

### **The new Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet**

Rear Admiral Suraj Berry has got appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet on 30th March 2019. He has succeeded Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as the 24th chief of naval staff. He has led Eastern Fleet in several bilateral exercises viz. JIMEX-18 with the Japanese Navy, the 25th edition of SIMBEX with the Singapore Navy and INDRA-18 with the Russian Navy. He led Tsunami Relief operations in Sri Lanka/ Maldives in 2006 that fetched him Vishisht Seva Medal. He holds a rich experience as a Commanding officer in the missile vessel INS Nirbhik, missile corvette INS Karmuk, stealth frigate INS Talwar, and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

### **Chandok : The new MD and CEO of ICICI Securities**

Executive Director of ICICI Bank UK PLC and ICICI Bank Canada, Vijay Chandok became MD and CEO of a subsidiary of ICICI bank, 'ICICI Securities'. He has succeeded Shilpa Naval Kumar. He came in ICICI in year 1993 and had made it 'India's Best Bank in SME Financing' in 2008 and it was under his leadership ICICI was acknowledged with 'Excellence in SME Banking in Asia Pacific, Central Asia and Gulf Region' Asian Banker Award in 2009.

### **First-ever three-way merger in India's banking sector**

On 1st April 2019, Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank merged with Bank of Baroda to create the third-largest lender of the country. The merger has created a combined business of Rs. 14,82,422 crore which includes account business worth Rs. 1,72,937 crore and Rs. 2,79,674 crore of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank respectively. To facilitate this merger, the government infused 5,042 crore rupees in Bank of Baroda to enhance its capital base to meet additional expenses. The new unified entity will deliver more to the stakeholders with 22% market share in Gujarat and 8-10% market share in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

### **Agriculture & Allied Courses via NTA route**

National Testing Agency (NTA) has got entrusted with task of conducting All India Entrance Exam for admission to bachelor and master's degree programme in agriculture and allied courses. Online registration for the same has begun from April 1 and will continue till April 30, 2019. Earlier, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) conducted two separate exams for filling 15% undergraduate seats and 25% postgraduate seats in agricultural universities as well as in deemed-to-be-universities like IARI, IVRI, NDRI.

### **The Foundation day of Odisha**

April 1, 2019 marked 84th Foundation day or 'Utkal Divas' for Odisha. The day acknowledges the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936. Odisha was carved from Bihar and it was the first state which was formed on linguistic basis. The state has rich cultural diversity and natural beauty. Several schools and colleges organised various cultural activities for the celebrations. Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik shared his artwork along with his students' sand art with the message 'Vande Utkal Janani' at Puri beach.

### **Indians finished India Open 2019 at low note**

Badminton Championship, India Open 2019 got concluded on 1st April 2019 at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India in which prizes worth \$350,000 were given out. In this championship India's Srikanth Kidambi managed to reach the final of men's singles but was defeated by Denmark's Viktor Axelsen. The winners in this championships under different categories include Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand, Women's singles), Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin (Chinese Taipei, Men's Doubles), Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia, Women's Doubles), Wang Yiliu and Huang Dongping (China, Mixed Doubles)

### **Death of eminent dramatist Kartik Chandra Rath**

On 2nd April 2019, renowned dramatist and theatre organiser Kartik Chandra Rath died of cardiac arrest at the age of 70 in Odisha. He was also a teacher of Economics. He began acting in dramas from his childhood and had scripted his first play titled 'Ei Desha, Ei Maati'. His play, 'Mansara Phula' was acknowledged with 17 awards in year 1978 while his 'Jibana Yajna' won the best play

award at the All India Drama Competition. Utkal Yuva Sanskritika Sangh in Cuttack is his credential which he formed to popularise Odia theatre in India. He became the proud recipient of Kendriya Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

### **Indian Army built the Longest Suspension Bridge**

On 1st April 2019 Indian army inaugurated its Longest Suspension Bridge 'Maitri' Over River Indus in Leh-Ladakh, J&K. The combat engineers of 'Sahas aur Yogyata' regiment of 'Fire and Fury Corps' of the Indian Army constructed this 260-foot long bridge in just 40 days. The bridge symbolises the excellent civil-military relations between the military personnel and the locals of the Leh-Ladakh region and connects remote areas of Ladakh a helping residents of the largest villages in Ladakh, namely, Choglamsar, Stok and Chuchot. This project was a part of the 25,000 crore projects allocated for J&K by the centre.

### **1st to 7th April 2019 : Prevention of Blindness Week**

The Government of India has organized "Prevention of Blindness Week" that began from 1st April and will continue upto 7th April to raise awareness regarding the precautions to be taken to prevent blindness. Campaign is being organized across the country to provide knowledge about the risk factors that lead to the eye injuries which can cause visual impairment. The week is dedicated to detection, cure and treatment of eye problems. Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, under Societies Registration Act of 1860 began this annual observation in 1960.

### **Rajan is all set to leave Google India**

Google South East Asia and India Vice President, Rajan Anandan decided to leave the firm at the end of April to join Sequoia Capital. Vikas Agnihotri, country director, sales, will take his place in the interim for Google India. Anandan has been with Google for about eight years and personalized its services for India. Prior to Google, Anandan had worked as Managing Director at Microsoft India between September 2008 and August 2010. He has also served Dell India as Vice President and Country General Manager.

### **Vinod K.Dasari : the new CEO of Royal Enfield**

On 1st April 2019, Ex MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland, Vinod K.Dasari has been appointed as CEO of Royal Enfield as well as executive director of Eicher Motors. He has succeeded Siddhartha Lal, who will now continue to be MD of Eicher Motors. The company is planning to invest Rs.700 crore in capital expenditure for 2019-20 which will be spent on completion of construction work of the Technology Centre, Phase-2 of the Vallam Vadagal plant in Tamil Nadu and for the development of new platforms and products.

### **Bollywood actress is now Google India industry head**

On 4th April 2019, Bollywood actress, Mayuri Kango has been appointed as industry head of Google India. The light-eyed actress popularly known as “Ghar se nikalte he” girl, starting her acting career with national award-winning film ‘Naseem’ and then gave hits like ‘Papa Kehte Hain’, ‘Betaabi’, ‘Hogi Pyaar Ki Jeet’, ‘Badal’ and ‘Papa the Great’. She chose films over her IIT Kanpur call. She left acting a long time ago and made her own place in digital advertising world. Before Google India, she had served as the managing director of Performics Resultrix of the Publicis Group and many more.

### **CCMB discovered a new enzyme**

In April 2019, the researchers of Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) under guidance of Dr Manjula Reddy have discovered a new ‘scissors enzyme’ or “Murein EndopeptidaseK” that helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria so it is possible for a new drug treatment that prevents bacterial resistance by existing antibiotics. This finding offers possibility of a new drug delivery route to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance. CCMB director Rakesh Mishra and senior scientist Manjula Reddy have underlined the growth of cells in bacteria to understand the anti-bacterial resistance to currently available antibiotics. The next step of researchers in this research will be about finding the molecule of this enzyme endo-pepcidine that has to be followed by the drug trials to reveal a new combination of drugs to replace existing antibiotics.

### **Rooftop solar projects of Tata Power & Indraprastha Gas**

On 2nd April 2019, India’s largest CNG distribution company, Tata Power inked an agreement with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for green energy solutions that includes rooftop solar projects, establishment of commercial-scale EV charging/battery swapping stations. The MoU has opened way for exploring the possibility of cooperation in common utility revenue cycle management and customer management solutions and will lead to sharing of existing standalone customer care infrastructure.

### **Pawan Munjal got ‘Special Achievement Award’**

Hero MotoCorp Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal was presented ‘the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award’ at the ceremony of Hero Indian Open Golf tournament for his outstanding contributions to Asian Golf on 2nd April 2019. Since 14 years, he has been supporting the Hero Indian Open along with the Hero Women’s Indian Open, the Hero Challenge series on the European Tour and the Hero World Challenge on the PGA Tour. In addition to these, he has also been hosting multiple golf tournaments in India that includes the marquee Hero Indian Open for both men and women. Besides him, a special salver was conferred upon Dr Munjal, under whose leadership, Hero MotoCorp achieved the title of World’s No. 1 two-wheeler in 2001.



### **BSE, India INX became the first Indian exchanges to deal with MOEX**

On 3rd April 2019, BSE (erstwhile Bombay Stock Exchange) and INX (India International Exchange) have become the first Indian exchanges to enter into contract with MOEX (Moscow Exchange) for capital formation platform and establishing connection between investor community and companies in both India and Russia. BSE, INX and MOEX will employ the India-Russia initiative to enlarge the client network and enhance professional intermediaries in both the home market and through cross-border. They will jointly promote research in the areas of cross-listing of fixed income product cooperation, derivative products, dual listing and Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).

### **BSNL has now In-Flight Connectivity License**

On 4th April 2019, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has given In-Flight Connectivity license to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for enabling in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) within Indian airspace. The satellite partner of BSNL, Inmarsat and BSNL together will operate the GX Aviation service to ensure in-flight connectivity to airlines. This facility will help the users in sending messages, surfing the internet and tweeting, when a flight is at a minimum height of 3,000m in Indian airspace. It is worth knowing here that currently there is no internet connectivity for both domestic and international flights on Indian flights.

### **5th April : National Maritime Day**

5th April, 2019 got celebrated as the 56th edition of National Maritime Day across India. “Indian Ocean- An Ocean of Opportunity” was the theme for this year. It meant to support the global economy, the most well-organized, safe and sound environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the globe. This day was celebrated for the first time on 5th April, 1964 to inform people and spread awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy across the globe.

### **Vikram Kirloskar became CII President**

On April 6, 2019, the Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Systems Ltd and Vice Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Vikram Kirloskar has become the new President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). He has taken place of Rakesh Bharti Mittal, who is the Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises. Kirloskar is with CII for 30 long years and has been the chairman of Global Innovation and Technology Alliance Board since its inception in 2012-13. The man holds 24 years of experience in the business of manufacturing automobiles and auto parts. Besides him, Uday Kotak, founder and MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the President-Designate, while TV Narendran, the CEO and MD of Tata Steel is now the Vice President for the period 2019-20.

### **Sohini Sastri was bestowed D. Litt in Astrology**

On 4th April 2019, National American University, USA conferred 'D. Litt in Astrology' upon Indian Astrologer Dr. Sohini Sastri at an event held in Mumbai at Classique Club for her deep knowledge and contribution towards Astrology. Prior to this, in the year 2018, she was presented Doctorate in Astrology by Victoria Global University, USA and Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu had also honoured her with 'Champions of Change Award'. Besides her, Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan and choreographer Terence Lewis were also acknowledged with Doctorates.

### **SEBI agreed to 'Airport Specific Fund'**

In April 2019, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) made history by sanctioning an 'airport' specific fund 'Taking Off To the Future Airport Fund' under 'Category II Alternative Investment Fund'. The fund is likely to raise a capital amounting to 1.5\$bn (Rs. 10,000 crore). Based in Chennai, the 'Sponsor and Investment Manager' works under Gigi George's supervision. The fund is looking forward to a minimum capital contribution of Rs. 3500 crore and a maximum of Rs. 7000 crore.

### **'Chennai Central' is now 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Chennai Central'**

In April 2019, Tamil Nadu State Government has renamed Chennai Central railway station as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station after late Chief Minister, Dr. Marudur Gopalan Ramachandran or aka MG Ramachandran or 'Makkal Thilagam', who served for 10 years (1977-1987). Besides this, he was an experienced filmmaker, actor and politician and had scripted autobiography 'Naan Yaen Piranthaen (Why I was Born)' which was published after his death in 2003. He was conferred honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Madras and the World University Arizona in 1974. His policies were about economic growth and social welfare. He made several educational reforms, banned liquor, upgraded the mid-day-meal scheme and made efforts for the preservation for the state's cultural heritage. He was posthumously honoured with Bharat Ratna in 1988.

### **Northern Command won air weapon championship for the fourth time in a row**

In April 2019, Northern Command based in Udhampur won the 15th edition of General J J Singh air weapon championship for the 4th consecutive time at Army Marksmanship Unit, Mhow. The championship was on purpose of training young male and female army-officers for effective participation in national and international shooting competitions. The championship witnessed participation of more than 100 male and female Indian-Army shooters in the 10-metre air rifle and air pistol categories. The winners bagged the overall inter command championship named 'Burma Shell Trophy' on competing against 9 other teams. The winning team also claimed the women's overall trophy including 1 gold and 3 silver medals individually.

### **Tata Steel won 'Global Slag Company of the Year'**

In April 2019, Tata Steel got the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' award at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019 in Aachen, Germany for its innovative practices in the development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag). This was one of the largest global annual slag events in which major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies were the major participants. Besides Tata Steel, ArcelorMittal, CHC Resources Corporation, Contrasteel, Ecocem, Harsco Metals & Minerals, Koryo Slag Cement Co. Ltd., Metallo Belgium N.V. were also conferred awards.

### **Guwahati : First ISO certified Railway station of India**

In April 2019, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) felicitated Guwahati Railway Station with International Organisation for Standardisation certification (ISO) and with this it has become the first ever railway station in the Indian Railways to get such certification. It received ISO-14001, which stands for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in year 2015. The station is well equipped with High-class reserve (VIP) lounge, waiting rooms, AC and non-AC retiring rooms, food courts and sanitation facilities. NF Railway that mandates stricter environmental norms regarding waste disposal will review this certification in 2020.

### **Demise of Senior Dubbing Artist C R Anandavally**

In April 2019, an eminent Dubbing artist of Malayalam films, C R Anandavally died of prolonged illness at the age of 65 in Thiruvananthapuram. The deceased had carved a place for herself in the film industry by dubbing for actress Rajasri in the film 'Devi Kanyakumari', Poornima Jayaram for the film 'Manjil Virinja Pookkal'. Her efforts were well acknowledged with the Kerala state award for best dubbing artist for Aadharam in year 1992.

### **Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019**

In April 2019, Pali Scholar Dr Gyanaditya Shakya was presented prestigious presidential award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019 for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature. Bauddha Dharma Darshan Mein Brahmavihara Bhavana, Anagatavasa, Chakesadhatuvasa, Panca+gatidipani and Gandhavasa are some of his renowned books. He got prize money worth INR 1,00,000 and a certificate. Prior to this, he was honored with Vividh (Shraman) Puruskar by Governor of Uttar Pradesh Ram Naik and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath.

### **Vipin Anand : The New Managing Director of LIC**

Vipin Anand has recently become Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Centre appointed him. In the tenure of over 35 years, he worked in the capacity of head of LIC's western zone that has 23 divisions. He has also headed LIC's east-central zone headquartered at Patna. He played an instrumental role in setting up LIC's operations in Singapore and Bangladesh.



### **Reliance Jio Digital purchased Startup Haptik**

In April 2019, Reliance Jio Digital, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries purchased chatbot making Startup Haptik for Rs.700 Crore. In this, Rs.230 Crore will be used for business transaction and Rs.470 Crore will be used for business expansion. After this acquisition, Reliance Jio Digital will hold 87% stake in Haptik, while existing investor Times Internet which already holds 70% stake will exit the company. Co-founders of this startup, Aakrit Vaish and Swapan Rajdev will have a minority stake i.e.13% in Haptik.

### **The 54th Valour Day of CRPF**

On 9th April 2019, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its 54th Valour Day. On this day in year 1965, a small contingent of 2nd Battalion of CRPF successfully fought and repulsed an attack by a Pakistani Brigade on Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. They succeeded in eliminating 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four soldiers alive. The conflict claimed the lives of six valiant CRPF men. As a tribute to those brave personnel of the Force, 9th April is being observed as Valour Day in the Force. This war was historical as a handful of policemen fought back a full-fledged infantry Brigade in such a manner for the first time in the history of military battles.

### **IIT Madras tie up with GE to establish India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART Lab**

In April 2019, American conglomerate, General Electric (GE) has partnered with IIT Madras to establish India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory in the institution. With this, IIT Madras has become the first academic institution in India that have High-Pressure Cold Spray (HPCS) facility. The HPCS machinery has been carried from Plasma Giken, Japan. On 5th April 2019, CEO of GE India Technology Centre, Alok Nanda and Director of IIT-Madras, Bhaskar Ramamurthi inaugurated the laboratory. The project is sponsored by 'Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana(UAY) Scheme'.

### **Jagran's Mahendra Mohan Gupta honored with AIMA award**

On 8th April 2019, Mahendra Mohan Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director of Jagran Prakashan Ltd and Editorial Director of Dainik Jagran, has been honored with the AIMA award under Lifetime Contribution to Media category. Besides this, Chairman of Wipro, Azim H. Premji was also awarded with Lifetime Contribution Award. The winners for this year who were felicitated at the awards ceremony include: Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Group, Prathap C. Reddy (Outstanding Institution Builder); Founder & Chairman Narayana Hrudayalaya, Devi Prasad Shetty (Corporate Citizen Award); Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, Sanjiv Bajaj (Entrepreneur of the year); Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, Sanjiv Mehta (Business Leader of the Year) and Director, Producer, Writer & Editor - Sanju, Rajkumar Hirani (Director of the Year).

### **Vikramjit Sahney: New President of ICC India**

On 8th April 2019, Chairman of SUN Group, Vikramjit Singh Sahney has been elected as the new President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)– India. On this occasion, he said that “chamber would work with the government to promote India's external trade”. He will proactively support initiatives of government to promote India-US trade and reducing trade deficit with China.

### **Justice Vikram Nath : The First Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh HC**

Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Vikram Nath got appointed as the first Chief Justice of new Andhra Pradesh High Court at Amaravati on 10th April 2019. His name was suggested for the post by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S A Bobde and Justice N V Ramana of collegium of the Supreme Court. This high court came into existence on 1 January 2019, following its creation, Acting Chief Justice Chagari Praveen Kumar has been guarding it.

### **Holkhomang Haokip passed away**

April 2019 witnessed death of veteran politician and former minister of Manipur, Holkhomang Haokip. He was a leader of the Kuki community of North-east India and was elected to the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999. This son of freedom fighter Chunglet Haokip of the Indian National Army, was elected to the Manipur Assembly in 1972 and later became the Minister of Manipur for education and tribal welfare. In 1980, he was appointed as the deputy chairman of the State Planning Board. From 1981 to 1984, he served as Cabinet Minister of industries, planning and transport and from 1989 to 1992 he was the Industry Minister and from 1992 to 1995 he had been the Power Minister.

### **Indian institutes looking forward to research training**

On 10th April 2019, six Indian institutes of higher education viz. IIT-Guwahati, Kanpur and Madras, University of Allahabad, University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University entered into a contract with Germany's Heidelberg University for research training. The contract created the first joint Indo-German research training group (RTG) to ensure setting up as many as 50 PhD projects, on “Bio Big Data Science”, that will be supervised by research teams of leading Indian and German scientists. The move is on purpose of promoting the use of big data methods in biological applications.

### **India will be the Guest of Honour at ADIBF 2019**

India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, that will take place from 24th to 30th of April. The fair will highlight the UAE's rich heritage, displaying its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output. Indians form the largest part of expat population in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Indian Pavilion will host Indian writers, authors and literary scholars who will be the ambassadors for the literature and art of their country.

### **13th April 2019 : Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh massacre.**

On 13th April 1919, troops of the British Indian Army on orders of Colonel Reginald Dyer fired machine guns into a crowd of unarmed protesters and pilgrims who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. The crowd had gathered to display peaceful protest against the arrest of two national leaders viz. Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew. The horrific massacre claimed 379 lives including men, women, and children while 1,200 were wounded. In this context, British Prime Minister Theresa May had recently apologized for this 1919 massacre and called it a "shameful scar" on the British-Indian history.

### **Najma Akhtar : The first woman VC of Jamia Millia**

On April 11, 2019, Professor Najma Akhtar of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi got appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University. With this, she has become the first woman to get appointed as the JMI V-C. The lady holds 40 years of academic scholarship in educational leadership and is renowned for spearheading international educational administrators' course for senior officials from 130 countries over 15 years at National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.

### **Dr BK Nayak became the first Indian head of FIH health & safety committee**

Hockey India (HI) appointed Col(Dr)Bibhu Kalyan Nayak of Odisha as the Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee for a two-year cycle until 2020. With this, he has become the first Indian to get appointed as the Medical Officer for a World Cup. He had previously worked as the Medical Officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup and chief team physician of Indian Contingent in Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. After joining the Indian hockey team in 2009, he was with the team in Men's Hockey World Cup (all in 2010), Sultan Azlan Shah Cup (2009, 2010), Asian Games, CWG, and Asian Champions Trophy (2012).

### **13th April came as Rajouri Day**

In order to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir from clutches of Pakistan, Indian Army observed Rajouri Day on 13th April 2019. The war claimed over 20,000 lives including men, women, and children till April 13, 1948. It is worth remembering here that the Year 2019 is being celebrated as the 'Year of Next of Kin' to help families of martyrs.

### **ISRO lost its renowned scientist**

In April 2019, former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC), SK Shivakumar passed away at the age of 66 in Bengaluru. He belonged to Mysuru, Karnataka and had played a significant role in the team that had developed telemetry system for India's first moon mission Chandrayan – I. He had been the project director for India's first native Deep Space Network Antenna at Byalalu and had also led the team of 2,500 engineers for ISRO's Mangalyaan

Mission. Besides these, Bhaskara, INSAT, IRS-1B and IRS-1C were the other missions that received his contributions. He was felicitated with Padma shri as well as with Karnataka Rajyotsava award for his accomplishments.

### **Paying electricity bill on EMIs**

Bajaj Finserv through its lending arm Bajaj Finance Ltd. proposed a unique way of payment of electricity bills through a campaign of #BijliOnEMI on 15th April 2019. For this facility customers need to avail an Insta Credit loan in their Bajaj Finserv Wallet that will give them the access of EMI network card digitally. The card will provide facility of tracking loan-related details online, secure transactions with EMIs on purchases, payment of bills, booking of tickets and transfer of funds easily and seamlessly. The Insta Credit loans worth Rs. 5000 and Rs. 7000 will be available only at purchase of air conditioners above Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 40,000 respectively.

### **India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park**

In April 2019, EsselWorld in Mumbai introduced India's first exotic Bird Park 'EsselWorld Bird Park'. The family entertainment arm of the \$6-billion Essel Group, EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd. has erected this park over 1.4 acres of land surrounded by flora and fauna. It accommodates 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has 200 species of special plants and trees for the birds. The African Grey Parrot, Cockatiel, Rainbow Lorikeet, Blue Gold Macaw, Toucan, Black Lory, Violet Turaco are star attractions among many other varieties of bird.

### **15th April : Bengali New Year Day**

West Bengal celebrated Bengali New Year's day on 15th April 2019 with a number of cultural programmes in different parts of the state depicting the culture of Bengal. Bengali business community opened new books of accounts called Halkhata on this day. Dakshineswar and Kalighat temples witnessed large crowd since early morning. People wished each other saying Suvo Nabo Barsho and exchanged sweets and greetings. The first day of the Bengali New Year is known as Poila Baisakh.

### **Dhoni : the new brand ambassador of redBus**

On 15th April 2019, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni got appointed as the brand ambassador of Bus ticketing platform redBus to boost the redBus brand. RedBus started its operation in year 2006 and works with more than 2500 bus operators and have sold more than 180 million bus tickets till date. It is a part of the MakeMyTrip group. It is worth knowing that besides this, the cricketer is brand ambassador of sports firm Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, BharatMatrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and health supplement brand Revital H also.

### **Rajesh Yaduvanshi : Executive Director of PNB**

In April 2019, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi as its Executive Director. The appointee earned a doctorate in science from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, (IARI) New Delhi, joined PNB as a management trainee in 1985 and gained an experience of 34 years in the banking career. Being a certified associate member of Indian Institute of Bankers, he had served Dena Bank in capacity of the Executive Director as well. Presently, PNB has three Executive Directors, namely, Yaduvanshi, L V Prabhakar and A K Azad.

### **Assam rolled on Rongali Bihu festival**

In April 2019, Assam welcomed its most awaited festival, the Rongali Bihu, also known as 'Bohaag Bihu' that marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year. Assam celebrated major agricultural events in this festival of Bihu. It is worth learning here that Assam observes not one, not two but three Bihu festivals in a year viz. Rongali Bihu or Bohaag Bihu, Bhugali (Magh Bihu) and Kangali (Kati Bihu) for marking the distinctive phase in the farming calendar. The festival showcases traditional Bihu dance in the form of husori in which a group of Bihu dancers visit houses to take blessings from elders.

### **India's sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'**

In April 2019, Country's indigenous 1,000 km strike range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' cleared its test firing round from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. The missile proved its capability of loitering and cruising at 0.7 Mach at altitude as low as 100 metre, covered the designated target range in 42 minutes and 23 seconds. The state-of-the-art missile, is meant to get deployed from multiple platforms. The flight test achieved all the mission objectives, right from lift off till the final splash.

### **Canara Bank became first to conform RBI's EMV mandate**

In April 2019, Canara Bank became the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate. It tapped into the extensive functionality of ACI Worldwide's UP Retail Payments solution for EMV shift. ACI Worldwide is a global provider of real time electronic payment and banking solutions. The bank has succeeded in rolling out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market goal. RBI had set a deadline of December 31, 2018 for the switch, mandating use of an embedded chip to replace the traditional magnetic stripe card.

### **ETMONEY is in news**

In April 2019, India's largest app for financial services, ETMONEY became India's first comprehensive financial services app to get integrated with Unified Payment Interface(UPI). It did so to double its monthly user base by the end of 2019. This integration will make the mutual fund



payment easy for millions of ETMONEY users. With valid UPI ID, now ETMONEY users can make payment easily by using UPI option on the payment page. They can select different UPI-enabled apps like Google Pay, BHIM UPI, PhonePe among others. Apart from this, ETMONEY users can use Netbanking and Debit Card for payments and in recent past ETMONEY app crossed the landmark of Rs. 2000 crores of money invested in Mutual Funds via their platforms.

### **Sanjay Manohar: New MD of McAfee India**

On 18th April 2019, Sanjay Manohar has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of McAfee, an American global computer security software company for India operations. In his new role, he has given a responsibility of building and leading groups to drive product revenues, increase appropriation of cloud-based products, enhance and strengthen customer relationships and fulfil McAfee's mission of keeping the whole world safe from growing cyber threats. He will directly report to Craig Nielsen, Vice President of APAC, McAfee. Prior to this, he worked at Akamai Technologies as regional Vice-President.

### **Jitendra Chaddah appointed as Chairman of IESA**

In April 2019, Jitendra Chaddah, Intel India senior Director for operations and strategy, has been appointed as the new Chairman of India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA). He succeeded Anil Kumar Muniswamy. Apart from this, IESA also appointed Satya Gupta, CEO and Co-founder of SezOpt Technologies India, as its Vice Chairman and Veerappan V, Co-founder and Director of Tessolve Semiconductor, as Treasurer of the new Executive Council(EC) for the year 2019-20.

### **Gagandeep Kang: 1st Indian woman scientist in Fellow of Royal Society in 358 years**

Dr. Gagandeep Kang has become the first Indian woman scientists to be selected for the Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), London in 358 years of history of this prestigious scientific academy. She is known for her interdisciplinary research, development and prevention of enteric infections in children in India. In her achievements, she built national rotavirus and typhoid surveillance networks, established laboratories to support vaccine trials and conducted phase 1-3 clinical trials of vaccines. Fellows of the Royal Society -2019 are Professor Salim S. Abdool Karim FRS; Professor Charles Bangham FMedSci FRS; Professor Gurdyal Besra FMedSci FRS; Professor Manjul Bhargava FRS; Professor Caucher Birkar FRS; Professor Benjamin Blencowe FRS and among others.

### **April 17 came as Mahavir Janma Kalyanak**

Jain community across the globe celebrated Mahavir Jayanti or the Birth Anniversary of VardhamanaMahavira on 17th April 2019. Every year, the community observes Mahavir Jayanti on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra as per the Hindu Calendar. Mahavira was the 24th and the last, Tirthankara or spiritual teacher. He was born in Ahalyabhumi and belonged to the Ikshvaku dynasty. His followers strictly adhere to a particular satvik diet on this day.

### **‘Veera’: The Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel**

In April 2019, Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat commissioned Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel, ‘Veera’. Built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupali in Chennai, Veera is 98 metre long, 15 metre wide patrol vessel with a 3.6 metre draft and has a range of 5,000 nautical miles. The vessel also has a 30mm naval gun meant to be fitted with 12.7mm Gun with FCS. It is equipped with advanced technology navigation and communication equipment, sensor and machinery. It also has an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Automated Power Management System (APMS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and High Power External Fire Fighting System (HPEFS).

### **The Sahitya Akademi awards**

On 20th April 2019, The Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi (CSA) acknowledged the seasoned authors from Chandigarh at Punjab Kala Bhawan. Former president of the National Sahitya Akademi Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the awards to the writers in different categories in English, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and Sanskrit languages. Among the awardees, Dr Prasoona Prasad (Hindi), Professor Tejwant Singh Gill (English), Dr Chaman Ahuja (Urdu), Dr Om Prakash Vasishta (Punjabi), and Professor Virender Kumar Alankar (Sanskrit) were honored for their lifetime contribution. The names of other awardees included Masha Kaur (Best Book Award in English Novel), ShashiPrabha (Best Book Award in Hindi Novel), Amarjeet Amar (Best Book Award Poetry), Pragya Sharda (Best story), Anita Surbhi (Best children’s literature), Jang Bahadur Goyal (Best Translation), Daljit Kaur Saini (Best children’s literature, Punjabi), Narender Pal Singh Komal (Best Book Award in Punjabi Novel), Subhash Sharma (Best Book Award in Punjabi, Poetry), Arvinder Nihal (Best Translation in Punjabi) and Professor S S Bhatti (Best Book Award in Urdu Poetry)

### **April 21 : National Civil Service Day**

Nation celebrated the annual National Civil Service Day on April 21, 2019. The theme for this year was ‘Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts’. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pensions organized a function in which Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration were bestowed to the best civil servants at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. This award was instituted in 2006 to commemorate inauguration of All India Services by Sardar Patel in 1947. He addressed the first batch of probationary officers at All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi and called bureaucrats as the “steel-frame of India”.

### **India’s largest AI supercomputer in IIT-Jodhpur**

In April 2019, IIT Jodhpur inked a memorandum of understanding with US based company, NVIDIA to install NVidia DGX-2, a state of the art machine with 512 GB of GPU memory and an enterprise grade Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure. The proposed computer will be India’s

first and industry's largest AI Supercomputer. It will be employed for solving several national technological challenges related to infrastructure (Tele Communication, Smart Cities), healthcare, scientific research & development, agriculture, education and many more. It will promote scientific and technological research.

### **Bandhan Bank will acquire Gruh Finance**

In April 2019, Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank got approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for acquiring Gruh Finance which is the affordable housing finance arm of HDFC Ltd in a share-swap deal. For this acquisition, Bandhan Bank has transferred 14.9 % stake to HDFC. With this, the shareholding of Bandhan Financial Holdings dropped to 61% from about 82%, and HDFC held around 15% in the merged entity from about 57 % in Gruh Finance. This spelled a swap ratio of 568 shares of Bandhan Bank for every 1,000 shares of Gruh Finance.

### **A new method for Cancer detection**

According to the research published in the journal, 'FASEB Bioadvances' researchers of IIT Roorkee identified a new method to detect breast and ovarian cancer. Certain proteins in the saliva could function as salivary biomarkers in the diagnosis of these cancers.

Researchers identified 646 proteins of which 409 proteins were identified across all four groups. In addition to the 409 identified proteins, 352 proteins were common in all the blood groups, while 57 were either present or absent exclusively in one group or common in any two/three blood groups.

### **Death of Famous Bengali Folk Singer Amar Paul died**

In April 2019, an eminent Bengali folk singer, Amar Paul, died of cardiac arrest in SSKM Hospital at Kolkata, West Bengal at the age of 97. He had learnt folk music from Suren Chakraborty and Mani Chakraborty and classical music from Ayat Ali Khan. He joined All India Radio as a folk singer in 1950s and lent his voice to the number of films including Satyajit Ray's famous movie "Hirak Rajar Deshe" that fetched him instant recognition. His art was well acknowledged with numerous awards viz. West Bengal State Academy of Dance, Music and Visual Arts, and Lalan Puraskar for folk music as well as Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to folk music of West Bengal.

### **India Post collaborates with TCS to digitize 1.5 lakh post offices**

In April 2019, India Post has collaborated with India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to modernise a network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices across India. Thus, making it the largest distributed e-postal network in the world. Both the companies together had struck a deal of over Rs. 1,100 crore in 2013 for an end-to-end IT modernization program. The prime objective of the deal was to digitize the Indian post offices with the modern technologies and systems for providing efficient services to the consumers, thus driving financial inclusion by providing advantage for accessibility to citizens in remote areas.

### **BEML joined hands with Syndicate Bank**

The Syndicate Bank and BEML Limited have signed an agreement for financing Earth Moving and Construction Equipment on 22nd April 2019. It will also facilitate the availability of loans and address the growing demand for higher capacity equipment in the Mining Industry. Under this agreement, the customers will be offered loans in the range of Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs. Syndicate Bank and BEML also expect to book business worth Rs.100 crore by March 2020.

### **AYUSH Ministry & CSIR ink MoU for research**

On 22nd April 2019, the Union Ministry of AYUSH and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science. Under this MoU, both the organisations will jointly pursue research and development covering fundamental research; AYUSH specific diagnostic tools; linking microbiome, and gene expression and prakriti. They will further collaborate in preserving and protecting traditional knowledge related to the Indian systems of healthcare.

### **24 April came as National Panchayati Raj Day**

The annual National Panchayati Raj Day celebrations on 24th April commemorates the passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that became effective from 24th April 1993. The Constitution of India defines Panchayats as ‘Institutions of self-government’ that allows states to take steps to organize village panchayats and grant them the requisite powers and authority to help them to function as units of self-government. On 24th April 2010 National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated for the first time.

### **Network Intelligence & BSE entered into a contract**

Asia’s first and India’s largest stock exchange, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) signed a deal with a global cyber security services provider & CERT-IN empanelled vendor, Network Intelligence in April 2019 for procuring Cyber Security Services in line with cyber security framework set by SEBI. In 2018, SEBI had released its guidelines on cyber security titled “Cybersecurity & cyber Resilience Framework for Stock Brokers/Depository Participants.” Network Intelligence has come up with a platform, BlueScope to offer 24×7 monitoring services along with VAPT, Asset Management, Endpoint Security, Network Security and more to the members. It will employ its state-of-the-art Next-Gen Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) for this purpose.

### **Manish Maheshwari: The New India Head of Twitter**

In April 2019, former Network 18 Digital CEO, Manish Maheshwari got appointed as Managing Director of Twitter as India’s Head. He has succeeded BalajiKrish. The appointment will come into effect from 29th April 2019. Maheshwari will look into management of an integrated business strategy to stimulate Twitter’s audience and revenue growth in the country, overseeing Twitter India’s teams in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. Prior to this, he has worked in Flipkart, txtWeb, Intuit, McKinsey and P&G.

### **India's first 'Green Car Loan'**

On April 22, 2019 the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme is meant to provide loan at 20 basis points lower than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes. The scheme offers the longest repayment period of up to 8 years. This is a strategic inclusion to SBI's auto loan segment that is granted with zero processing fee for the first 6 months of the launch. It further declares EMI per Rs 1 lakh will be lower at Rs 1,468 for 96 months against Rs 1,622 for 84 months, based on the maximum tenor.

### **Dr. Benny Antony received the National IP Award**

Joint Managing Director and co-founder of the Kochi-based Arjuna Natural Ltd., Dr. Benny Antony was presented Intellectual Property Award, 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization in April 2019. It is worth knowing that Dr. Antony is the inventor of BCM-95, the world's leading patented turmeric extract formulation. More than 80 international patents are his credentials. Besides this, he has been honored with 'WIPO Medal for Inventors' by the Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

### **IIM-Bangalore in QS EMBA rankings 2019**

IIM-Bangalore's Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has been ranked 12th in Asia-Pacific region (APAC) and 61st globally in the April 2019 QS Executive MBA rankings. IIM-Bangalore is the only Indian institute that has been featured in this ranking. The privileged institute's Post Graduate programme in Enterprise Management is meant to make technically qualified managers grow into business leaders. This programme trains them to apply classroom learning to real-life business challenges that demands analysis, thought and action.

### **M S Yadav : General Secretary of AIFPTIEU**

On 27th April 2019, M S Yadav got elected as General Secretary of the All India Federation of PTI Employees' Unions (AIFPTIEU) by the 45 elected council members from different regions. Besides him, Bhuwan Choubey became President, P C Maity (treasurer), Md. Sallimuddin and O J Tomy (Vice-Presidents), M S Hasan and B T Mohan Rao (Assistant General Secretaries). Apart from this, a 16-member executive body was constituted that included Meheruddin, Sunil Gaur, Rajbir Singh, Jagmohan Rawat, Arvind Kumar Singh, Naresh Pal, K K Verma, Kulbhusan Yadav, Sudip Ghosh Choudhury, Salav Rastogi, Gopal Prasad Sav, G N Patnaik, Mahender Verma, R S Batwal, A K Tripathy and Sayeed Latifudfin.





### **Tesla' s largest energy storage system in Asia**

In order to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan, American Automotive company, Tesla in collaboration with Japanese railway operator, Kintetsu installed 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system in Osaka, which is said to be its largest energy storage project in Asia, and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. It has established a bank of 42 Powerpacks at a train station which have the potential of providing sufficient backup power to move a train and its passengers to the nearest station in the event of a power outage. The system is made up of 16 individual battery pods, each with an isolated DC-DC converter. It is a fully integrated and AC-connected energy storage system.

### **Brexit got rejected for the third time**

In March 2019, British parliament rejected the Brexit deal for the third time. In the House of Commons, 344 MPs voted against the terms of Britain's so-called divorce from the European Union (EU), while 286 were in favour. Earlier, the EU had asked Prime Minister Theresa May to propose a different way forward if her divorce bill does not clear the UK Parliament hurdle till April 12, 2019. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has asked May to change her deal or resign immediately. However, she is still trying hard to bring her EU withdrawal agreement back to the Commons for a fourth attempt.

### **Lawyer Caputova has become Slovakia's President**

On 30th March 2019, liberal lawyer Zuzana Caputova won presidential elections of Slovakia and with this she has become Slovakia's first female President. She has succeeded Andrej Kiska. In 2016, She was presented the Goldman Environmental Award for her strong and resolute leadership in context to the Pezinok landfill affair. The victory came as big accomplishment for her as being a novice in the political field, she succeeded in defeating high-profile diplomat Maros Sefcovic who was nominated by the governing party.

### **World Autism Awareness Day 2019**

The World Autism Awareness Day was observed worldwide on April 2, 2019 to encourage the Member States of the United Nations to take measures to raise awareness about autism across the globe. The theme for this year was "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation". Access to affordable assistive technologies will enable the victims of the disease to exercise their basic human

rights and will contribute towards comprehension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Autism is a neurological disorder that generally manifests itself during the first three years of life, affecting the functioning of the brain resulting in lifelong developmental disability.

### **'Reiwa': Japan's new imperial era**

On April 1, 2019, Japan proclaimed its new imperial era with name 'Reiwa' that will begin on May 1, 2019 with crowning of Prince Naruhito, who will ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne. Naruhito will succeed his father Emperor Akihito, who will step down from the throne on April 30, 2019, marking an end of 30 year long 'Heisei' era. This will be the 248th era in the history of Japan. The name 'Reiwa' has been coined from two characters from the 7th century poetry collection "Manyoshu" in which 'Rei' and 'Wa' stands for 'order' and 'peace', respectively.

### **Manu Sawhney, the new ICC Chief Executive**

Former Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports, Manu Sawhney has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council on April 1, 2019. Sawhney will look into the broadcasting rights cycle after the 2023 World Cup as his first assignment. Sawhney will assist incumbent ICC Chief Executive Dave Richardson, who is slated to retire after the World Cup in July 2019. Currently, the appointee is also a non-executive director and member of the Audit Committee of Manchester United Ltd.

### **US trimmed aid of 'Northern Triangle'**

In the last week of March, the USA Government decided to cut aid to the countries of "Northern Triangle" that includes three central American nations viz. El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras on account of U.S.-bound migrant issue. In February, U.S.-Mexico border was fluxed with more than 76,000 migrants among which most of them were from these Central American nations. According to Washington post the aid affects USD 500 million approx in 2018 funds and millions more left over from the previous fiscal year.

### **China launched new data relay satellite**

On March 31, 2019, China launched 'Tianlian II-01' satellite via Long March 3B carrier rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan province which is the first of its new-generation data relay satellites. The move is a part of the preparatory work for the nation's next manned space missions. Built by China Academy of Space Technology, the satellite has a DFH-4 framework, meant to relay data for the country's piloted spaceships, space labs, low and mid-orbiting satellites as well as its future space station. Besides this, it will also track and monitor spacecrafts.

### **UAE to issue equivalency to all Indian degrees**

UAE gave a sigh of relief to Indian expats living in the gulf nation by issuing equivalency for all Indian degrees that match its set criteria. The Indian Ambassador to UAE, Navdeep Singh Suri broke this news via the Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi on March 31, 2019. The move came as solution to the incident when the UAE government had dismissed the equivalency of some Indian degrees on account of lack of clarity about term 'external' used in context of mark sheets as part of degrees. After receiving clarification on this from the Indian side the UAE government understood that external here meant method of evaluation and not the place of study.

### **BATMAN entered Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame**

In March 2019, 80 years old fictional superhero comic character, 'Batman' was chosen to get inducted into the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame at WonderCon, Anaheim City in California. With this, it has become the first entrant to the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame. Bob Kane and Bill Finger had given birth to this comic character for Action Comics #12 and then later on made his full-fledged debut with National Comic Publications' 'Detective Comics No. 27'.

### **Nicholas Koumjian : New investigation head for Myanmar**

On April 2, 2019, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres appointed International criminal justice lawyer, Nicholas Koumjian as the head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIM) for Myanmar. With this he has become the first head of the IIM for Myanmar, which was set up by the Human Rights Council on September 27, 2018. The veteran American prosecutor will collect and analyse evidence that Myanmar continued crimes against Rohingyas- the ethnic minority community, over the last eight years.

### **India & Chile's Joint Statement**

On April 1, 2019, India and Chile released a Joint Statement reaffirming their commitment to enhance cooperation and ties in various key areas after extensive talks between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and the President of Chile, Sebastian Pinera Echenique. India along with its sixth largest trading partner in the Latin American region, Chile promised cooperation in UNSC expansion, economic, social and cultural fields as well as in combating terrorism, promotion of democracy, empowerment of persons with disabilities and many more.

### **International Mine Awareness Day**

4th April was observed as International Mine Awareness Day across the globe. This annual observation was meant to create awareness about landmines and the actions that need to be taken towards their eradication. The theme for this year was "United nations promotes SDGs –Safe

Ground –Safe Home” with SDG implying Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations Mine Service (UNMS) organized a multimedia exhibition at the United Nations headquarters in New York to give information about threats caused by mines. United Nations General assembly instituted this day on 8th December 2005.

### **The new sharia laws of Brunei**

In April 2019, Asian nation Brunei introduced harsh new sharia laws and with this, it has become the first place in East or Southeast Asia to have a sharia penal code at the national level. The move incurred harsh criticism from global community and it has brought Brunei in row of many West Asian countries like Saudi Arabia. Derived from the Quran, the Hadit and fatwas, sharia laws are part of the Islamic tradition. The tough penal code in the country has provision of wide range of punishments from public lashing to publicly stoning to death, amputation of hands and crucifixion.

### **PM Narendra Modi received Zayed Medal**

On April 4, 2019, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) felicitated PM Narendra Modi with Zayed Medal, which is the highest decoration of UAE. His "pivotal role" in strengthening ties between India and UAE, fetched him this honor. The Zayed Medal is awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states. Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Queen of the United Kingdom Elizabeth II among several leaders were the previous recipients of this honor.

### **David Malpass , the new President of World Bank**

On 5th April 2019, Senior US Treasury official David Malpass has got appointed as the 13th President of the World Bank for a five-year term. The World Bank's executive board chose him unanimously. The 63-year-old President has become Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association. Prior to this Malpass has been on the boards of the Economic Club of New York, Council of the Americas and the National Committee on US-China Relations.

### **Matter of the Dark matter**

According to April 2019 publication of the journal Nature Astronomy, scientists have put Stephen Hawking theory to test that states dark matter is not made up of primordial black holes smaller than a tenth of a millimetre. Dark matter comprises 85% of the matter of the universe and its gravitational force keeps the stars intact in our Milky Way. This led scientists to test Hawking's 1974 theory of the existence of primordial black holes, born shortly after the Big Bang as well. He advocated that black holes could make up a large fraction of the elusive dark matter. However, as per latest findings via Hyper Suprime-Cam digital camera, researchers concluded primordial black holes can contribute just 0.1 % of all dark matter mass.

### **'Death switch' mechanism in plants**

The journal 'Science' publication of April 2019 informs that researchers of Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Genetics and Development Biology have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system that inspires suicide in infected cells, thus limiting the spread of the disease and keeping other parts of the plant healthy. The discovery has seeds of a new generation of disease-resistant crops that requires significantly less pesticide and are more environmental friendly.

### **'AFRICAN LION 2019', Morocco –US Joint Exercise**

Morocco- US sponsored exercise 'African Lion 2019', that started on March 16, 2019 got concluded on April 7, 2019 at Morocco. The annual Military exercise was carried in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir and involved thousands of military personnel from Canada, Spain, Great Britain, Senegal and Tunisia as well . It succeeded in imparting training on Counter terrorism operations, land and air exercises as well as tactical stimulation.

### **Death of Malaysian Golfer Irawan**

On 7th April 2019, Malaysian golfer, Arie Irawan passed away at the young age of 28 years due to some 'apparent natural causes' at the Chinese resort island of Hainan. The 1990 born golfer had become professional Golfer in year 2013 and had won two Asian Developmental Tour events in his seven-year career. He also contested the PGA Tour Series-China's Sanya Championship where he missed the cut yet remained at the Sheraton Sanya Resort across from Yalong Bay Golf Club.

### **US H-1B visa touched 65,000 limit for 2020**

According to the latest April 2019 information from US citizenship and immigration services, the count of US H-1B visa petitions touched 65,000 limit for 2020 in the first season after implementation of new rules. In this, Indians have historically accounted for over 70% of the total of 85,000 H-1B visas that the US grants every year against applications by American employers for speciality occupations. Among the petitioners, some were those employed by Indian companies with US operations like TCS and Infosys, while those hired by American companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft formed a larger chunk.

### **Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Traditional Konyak Dance'**

On 8th April 2019, around 5000 Konyak women in their traditional attire succeeded in establishing a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Traditional Konyak Dance' during the Aoleang Monyu festival at Mon, Nagaland. The theme of this festival was 'Empowering women for cultural heritage.' It was celebrated for the arrival of Spring and for a good upcoming harvest. Konyak Union, Konyak Nyupuh Sheko Khong (KNSK) and Konyak Students' Union (KSU) together organized this event.



### **US homeland Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen will depart**

In April 2019, US President Donald Trump informed that the US Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen is all set to step down. She was confirmed to take over the post from John Kelly when he became the President's chief of staff. Trump applauded her services in the department which was responsible for implementing the proposed border wall and the separation of migrant families. Now Customs and Border Protection Commissioner, Kevin K. McAleenan will replace her.

### **James Bond actress passed away**

The famous actress of Serbia, Nadja Regin passed away on 8th April 2019 at the age of 87 years. She was born on 2nd December 1931 in Belgrade, Serbia. She worked in two Bond films "From Russia with Love" and "Goldfinger,". In the 1970s, she worked for companies like Rank Film and horror producers Hammer. In the year 1980, she co-founded Honeyglen Publishing Ltd. She also wrote the novel 'The Victims and the Fools', which was published under her full name Nadja Poderegin.

### **India highest recipient of remittances in 2018**

As per World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief, India was positioned as the world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending \$ 79 billion back to their home country in 2018. The remittances in 2018 grew by more than 14% in India, where natural disasters like Kerala floods likely boosted the financial help that migrants sent to their families. The top remittance recipients were India with \$ 79 billion, followed by China (\$67 billion), Mexico (\$ 36 billion), the Philippines (\$ 34 billion), and Egypt (\$ 29 billion). The largest remittance source of Pakistan is Saudi Arabia. Due to the notable decline of remittance inflows from Saudi, Pakistan's remittance growth was lowered moderately to 7%.

### **India, Sri Lanka agree to strengthen bond in security**

In April 2019, India and Sri Lanka have agreed to increase cooperation in security and defence spheres in several areas, including regional security, curbing drug smuggling and human trafficking. For this agreement, Defence Secretary of India Sanjay Mitra and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena meet in Colombo. Sri Lankan President has thanked the Indian Government for training the country's security forces. He also requested to expand the number of trainers from India.

### **Jean Michel Lapin: The New Prime Minister of Haiti**

On 9th April 2019, the acting Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean Michel Lapin got confirmed as Haiti's new Prime Minister by the President Jovenel Moise. He has succeeded Jean-Henry Ceant. It is

worth remembering here that coming from Jacmel, a port city in the southeast, Lapin is former Culture and Communications Minister as well as the third Premier under President Moïse since his joining of office in February 2017. Haiti needs the new government for the disbursement of the first tranche of a \$229 million from International Monetary Fund.

### **The First image of black hole**

April 2019 witnessed remarkable achievement in the field of astrophysics as Astronomers succeeded in capturing the first ever image of a black hole named “a monster” via a network of eight linked telescopes, Event Horizon Telescope (EHT). Located in a 500 million trillion km away distant galaxy ‘M87’, the black hole is 40 billion km in dimension. It is three million times the size of the Earth and has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun. It is one of the heaviest black holes according to Prof Heino Falcke of Radboud University in the Netherlands, who had proposed this experiment. The image shows an intensely bright “ring of fire” surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole. The bright halo is because of superheated gas falling into the hole. Its light is brighter than the combined lights of all the billions of other stars in the galaxy and that is why it was visible at such a distance from Earth.

### **YouTube's largest market, ‘India’**

On April 9, 2019, during annual flagship event Brandcast at Mumbai, American video-sharing website, YouTube’s CEO Susan Wojcicki revealed that India has become YouTube’s largest and fastest growing market. According to the ComScore data, YouTube has more than 265 million monthly active users in India. The data confirms that in the last one year, YouTube’s consumption on mobile has raised to 85%, with 60% of the watch time coming from outside the six largest metros in India. Currently, YouTube creators have become effective storytellers, with more than 1,200 Indian creators crossing the million subscriber-milestones in comparison to five years ago, when there were only two creators.

### **A new state of matter**

In April 2019, Researchers of the University of Edinburgh found existence of new state of matter, i.e. solid and liquid at the same time. According to the findings published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences some elements can, when subjected to extreme conditions like high pressures and temperatures, take on the properties of both solid and liquid states. A simple metal potassium when subjected to 20,000 and 40,000 times atmospheric pressure and 400 to 800 Kelvin (260 to 980 degrees Fahrenheit), shows some solid lattice structure along with liquid. Its stable state exhibits both solid and liquid states. Until now, it was not clear if the unusual structures represented a distinct state of matter, or existed as transition stages between two distinct states.

### **Benjamin Netanyahu became PM for the fifth time**

On 10th April 2019, Benjamin Netanyahu got re-elected as Prime Minister of Israel for the record fifth term. He garnered 97% votes. Now his conservative Likud party is likely to gather enough support to control 65 of the Knesset's 120 seats. Netanyahu managed to win the elections amid harsh criticism regarding his character and corruption charges. He confronted possible summons in three graft cases and has refused the imposed charges in all of them. Tel Aviv Stock Exchange main indexes opened up 0.5% on 10th April in his support.

### **SpaceX rolled out its first commercial launch**

On 11th April 2019, privately owned SpaceX, also known as Space Exploration Technologies of USA carried out its first commercial launch or its first customer payload in the form of Saudi satellite with its Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. This billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company, which had launched Musk's cherry red Tesla roadster to space in a 2018 debut test flight, employed the 23-story-tall Heavy Falcon rocket to grasp lucrative military launch contracts. After placing the payload into space, the rocket returned nearly 10 minutes later for a successful landing on SpaceX's seafaring drone ship 400 miles (645 km) off the Florida coast.

### **Russia honoured Indian PM with its highest award**

In April 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Russia's highest state decoration the 'Order of St Andrew the Apostle' for cementing ties between India and Russia.

This added the seventh feather in the international award cap of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to a statement by the Russian embassy, the PM has been felicitated with this award for "exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples".

### **South Korea condemned the anti-abortion law as unconstitutional**

In April 2019, a panel headed by nine judges declared the anti-abortion law as unconstitutional by a 7-2 vote, in response to a complaint filed by an obstetrician in 2017, who is on trial for performing multiple abortion procedures. With this, the 66-year-old law stood defeated that advocated abortion a punishable crime. This ruling signalled a major victory for those who campaigned extensively for the abolition of the strict and controversial legislation. The court has given the South Korean Parliament a deadline of 2020 to revise the law and if the lawmakers fail to meet the deadline, then the law would become null and void.

### **Discovery of unique oil-eating bacteria**

As per April 2019 publication of 'Microbiome', team of researchers led by Xiao-Hua Zhang of the Ocean University, China discovered unique oil-eating bacteria in the deepest part of the Western Pacific Ocean, deep in the Mariana Trench which is approximately 36,089 feet i.e 11,000 metres. The discovery help in sustainable ways of cleaning up man-made oil spills. The discovered entities are new group of hydrocarbon degrading bacteria that feed on compounds similar to those in oil. Mostly found in crude oil and natural gas, hydrocarbons are organic compounds which are made up of hydrogen and carbon atoms.

### **Mohammed Ishtayeh: The New PM of Palestine**

On 14th April 2019, President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas administered the oath of Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh. The veteran peace negotiator and harsh critic of Gaza's Hamas rulers will now head the 24-member cabinet, which has replaced a technocratic government that was formed by Rami Hamdallah. This move has deepened the rift between the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic militant group, Hamas that governs the Gaza Strip. It is worth remembering here that US recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2018, that triggered the Palestinian Authority to serve its ties with the US.

### **Book 'Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid:Rowley Jefferson's Journal'**

Eminent author cum American cartoonist, Jeff Kinney has penned a book 'Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid : Rowley Jefferson's Journal' in April 2019. Jeffrey Kinney had earlier authored the children's book series ' Diary of a Wimpy Kid' . The book is written from the opinion of Rowley Jefferson who is the best friend of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' supporter Greg Heffley. The book has Kinney's trademark humour that will also mark around 350 black-and-white illustrations. It comes as Jeff Kinney's first book outside of his "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

### **World's first armed amphibious drone boat**

In April 2019, China conducted successful test of world's first armed amphibious drone boat, "Marine Lizard" capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships as per need in military operations. Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC), constructed the 12-meter-long Marine Lizard, that has maximum operation range of 1,200 kms and it can be remotely controlled via satellites. In ship form, it plays as trimaran propelled by a diesel-powered hydrojet and can reach a maximum speed of 50 knots while maintaining stealth. While approaching land it can release four continuous track units under its belly, and travel at 20 kms an hour on land and its land speed can be maximized by installation of larger track units.

### **Flight of world's largest airplane**

April 2019 witnessed successful flight of world's largest airplane 'Stratolaunch behemoth' over California. An engineering company, Scaled Composites built this airplane that has wingspan of 117 meters and is about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380. It is well equipped with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines and is meant to carry and drop a rocket that would in turn ignite to deploy satellites. The airplane can attain maximum speed of 304 kilometers per hour (189 mph) and touch an altitude of 17,000 feet or 5,182 meters. Co-founder of Microsoft, Paul Allen has financed it.

### **Robot for cleaner and greener environment**

In April 2019, an Indian student Sainatha Manikandan of GEMS United Indian School in Abu Dhabi invented 'Marine Robot Cleaner (MBot)' for cleaner greener environment. It is a prototype robot that can remove floating wastes from surface water. It has shape of a boat and can be operated remotely with a radio control. It has two motors that help the boat move in the water. The invention will contribute in protection of marine life and will also minimise human labour on farms.

### **The 2019 Pulitzer Prize Distribution**

Columbia University in New York City announced Pulitzer Prize for year 2019 for recognizing achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. The names of winners include Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel in Journalism -Public service category, Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post (Criticism), Brent Staples of the New York Times (Editorial writing) and Reuters (international reporting) . In Books, Drama, And Music- "The Overstory" by Richard Powers (Fiction), "Fairview" by Jackie Sibblies Drury (Drama), "Frederick Douglass" by David W. Blight (History), "The New Negro" by Jeffrey C. Stewart (Biography or autobiography), "Be With" by Forrest Gander (Poetry), "Amity and Prosperity" by Eliza Griswold (General nonfiction), "prism" by Ellen Reid (Music) and Aretha Franklin (Special Citation).

### **Discovery of First Earth-Size planet: HD 21749b**

According to 15th April, 2019 publication of 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Exoplanet Mission has discovered an Earth-sized planet, 'HD 21749b' 53 light years away from Earth. This gaseous planet is said to be 23 times heavier and 2.7 times wider than Earth with surface temperature around 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150 degrees Celsius) and has an orbital period of 36 Earth days. Researchers employed 'Planet Finder Spectrograph' (PFS) on the 'Magellan II telescope' in Chile to confirm the planetary nature of the TESS signal and measure the mass of HD 21749b.



### **17th April : Mujibnagar day of Bangladesh**

Bangladesh commemorated the event of oath taking ceremony of Bangladesh's first government in 1971 at Baidyanathtala in Meherpur as 'Mujibnagar day' on 17th April 2019. On this day Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister of Bangladesh Obaidul Quader placed a wreath at portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Political parties, social and cultural organisations celebrated this day through various programs across Bangladesh. President of Bangladesh Abdul Hamid recollected the support and cooperation of the world community for liberation struggle of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of hunger, poverty and illiteracy free Bangladesh.

### **17th April marked World Haemophilia Day**

Globe observed 17th April, 2019 as the 30th World Hemophilia Day. 'Outreach and Identification' was the theme for this year. World Haemophilia Day observation began in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia which chose to bring the community together on April 17 in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday. The day propagated awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders that led to better diagnosis and access to care for the millions who go untreated.

### **Europe sobbing over Notre-Dame fire**

In April 2019 Paris's Notre Dame cathedral became victim of devastating blaze. The 850-year-old Gothic building's spire and roof have collapsed but the main structure, including the two bell towers, has been saved from damage. This colossal damage to the most famous of the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages, which is being distinguished for its size, antiquity, and architectural interest has come as heavy blow to Europe. Now entire Europe will contribute to its reconstruction. Notre-Dame has stood tall above Paris since the 1200s.

### **President Jose Maria Marin will suffer lifetime ban**

In April 2019, FIFA banned former Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) President Jose Maria Marin for life from all football activities of FIFA. Marin, who led Brazil's organising committee for the 2014 World Cup, was sentenced to four year imprisonment for racketeering, money laundering and wire fraud and with that he had become the first person to get imprisoned as the result of the US investigation into corruption at world football's governing body. He took \$6.6 million in bribes. He was made to forfeit \$3.3 million and pay a \$1.2 million fine. In addition to this, FIFA ethics committee also imposed a 1 million Swiss franc fine on him.

### **Nepal launches its first satellite “NepaliSat-1”**

On 18th April 2019, Nepal has successfully launched its first satellite “NepaliSat-1” into space from Virginia in the United States. The objective of this satellite is to gather detailed geographical information of the Himalayan nation, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists. The satellite was developed by two Nepali scientists, Aabhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha who are currently studying at Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology. NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite which will be 400-km away from the Earth’s surface. The satellite will take photographs on a regular basis to gather geographical information of the nation.

### **18th April 2019: World Heritage Day**

The World Heritage Day is observed every year on 18th April. It is also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites. The main aim to celebrate this day is to emphasize the importance of safeguarding various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status. The day was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites on 18th April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983. The theme for the year 2019 is “Rural Landscapes”. The top 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India are Taj Mahal, Agra; Qutub Minar, New Delhi; Sun Temple, Odisha; Monuments of Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh and Mahabodhi Temple, Bihar.

### **Scientists print world’s first 3D heart**

In April 2019, Scientists from Tel Aviv University, Israel have made world’s first 3D printed vascularised engineered heart by using a patient's own tissues and biological materials. They produced an entire heart, complete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers. The size of this first 3D heart is equal to rabbit’s heart. The process of creating the heart started with a biopsy of fatty tissue taken from patients. The cellular material from the tissues was used as the "ink" for the print job. That entitled scientists to create complex tissue models including cardiac patches and eventually an entire heart. This heart is not the actual size of human heart but a complete prototype.

### **Keshav Raghvan will head NASA’s CubeSat project**

In April 2019, NASA selected Indian American student, Keshav Raghvan to lead its mini research satellite, CubeSat, which is to be sent to space to detect cosmic rays. This satellite is smaller than a loaf of bread and has a modular structure of 10 x 10 x 10 cm cubes. It is a scientific investigation mission of NASA to collect scientific information, map the distribution of galactic cosmic radiation in the night sky. The satellite will also identify and count alpha particles and beta particles in the rays, along with measuring of the radiation energy around Earth.

### **FIH imposed fine on Pakistan**

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has imposed a heavy fine of one lakh seventy-six thousand Euros on Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for not completing the Pro League commitments. PHF was penalized for not sending the national team for the Pro League matches in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The Pakistan sports body has to pay this fine until 20th June else the penalty would be doubled. PHF Secretary General Shahbaz Ahmed has requested the FIH to decrease the fine and accept the payment in instalments.

### **21st April: World Creativity and Innovation Day**

Globe observed the World Creativity and Innovation Day on 21st April 2019 to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all problems related to achievement of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. More than 50 nations across the globe began this celebration from 21st April 2002. In year 2006, legendary icon of cross-disciplinary creativity in the arts and sciences, Leonardo Da Vinci's birthday was celebrated from 15th April to 21st April. The United Nations (UN) instituted 21st April as an official World Creativity and Innovation Day on 27th April 2017 and UN celebrated the day for the first time in year 2018. A creativity expert, Marci Segal, is the brain behind this celebration, who got inspired by a headline in the newspaper "Canada in Creativity Crisis".

### **Gene therapy for "bubble boy" disease**

According to the New England Journal of Medicine's recent publication, researchers of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee hospital employed Human Immunodeficiency Virus to develop gene therapy that cured 8 infants of a rare Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disease (SCID) termed as "bubble boy" disorder. It is caused by a mutation in the 'Interleukin-2 receptor Subunit Gamma Gene' (IL2RG) that produces a protein which is important for normal immune-system development. The gene-therapy treatment involves collection of the baby's bone marrow, followed by replacement of the mutated gene 'IL2RG' with an edited copy containing the "correct" gene into an altered version of HIV virus. The treatment renders fully functional immune systems including T (thymus cells) and B (bone marrow- or bursa-derived cells) cells and natural killer (NK) cells to the victims.

### **Benjamin Netanyahu : Prime Minister of Israel**

In April 2019, President of Israel Reuven Rivlin has handed letter of appointment to Benjamin Netanyahu to form a coalition government following last week's general election. In the 120-seat parliament of Israel, 65 MPs have recommended Benjamin Netanyahu as PM, while 45 members supported his main rivals from the Blue and White alliance led by ex-military chief Benny Gantz and the 10 members of the Arab parties recommended nobody. The proposed coalition of 65 seats

is likely to engage Likud (35 seats), the ultra-Orthodox Shas (8), United Torah Judaism (8), Union of Right-Wing Parties (5), Yisrael Beytenu (5) and Kulanu (4). And the opposition is likely to have Benny Gantz's Blue and White party (35), Labor (6), Hadash-Ta'al (6), Meretz (4) and Ra'am-Balad (4).

### **Demise of first female astronaut candidate of USA**

In April 2019, Journalist Miles O'Brien broke the information of death of American aviator, Jerrie Cobb who was also the first female astronaut candidate of USA at the age of 88 in Florida. The deceased had qualified arduous physical testing round and had become a part of Mercury 13 in year 1961. With this, she had become the first female to pass the astronaut testing to join 12 other women for the space mission. But as NASA already had its Mercury 7 astronauts, all jet test pilots and all military men, none of the Mercury 13 got chance to reach the space. Besides this, she was also the first woman to fly in the world's largest air exposition, the Paris Air Show that fetched her 'Pilot of the Year' title and Amelia Earhart Gold Medal award.

### **Sri Lanka is in state of emergency**

Government of Sri Lanka has declared emergency from the midnight of April 22, 2019 after the suicide bomb blasts at two churches and four luxury hotels in and around Colombo on the occasion of Easter that claimed lives of more than 290 people and wounded over 500. The government has blocked access to social media and messaging sites, including Facebook and WhatsApp to enhance counter-terrorism powers of the security forces. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena appointed a special committee led by retired Supreme Court judge to investigate the attacks.

### **Sanjay Kumar came in NGAC**

In April 2019, the US Department of Interior appointed the first Indian, Sanjay Kumar, in its prestigious National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for 3-year term. The appointee is a Geospatial Media and Communications CEO and WGIC Secretary General and with this he has become the first Indian to grab a place in NGAC. The 30 member-NGAC is a Federal Advisory Committee that gives advice and recommendations on National Geospatial Policy and management issues, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in November, 2018 honoured Sanjay Kumar with the Global Geospatial Industry Ambassador award.

### **NASA Rover Challenge 2019**

In April 2019, NASA conducted Rover Challenge 2019 for college students and high school students to develop and test roving vehicles for future missions to the Mars, Moon and

beyond. Three Indian teams won awards in this Annual Human Exploration Rover challenge at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama. KIET Group of Institutions in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh won “AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award”; . Team from Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab, claimed “STEM Engagement Award” and The Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering, Mumbai, Maharashtra, clinched the “Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award”.

### **Kepler-47d : The Third Transiting Planet in the Kepler-47 Circumbinary System**

A group of astronomers at San Diego State University used the data from NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope and detected a new Neptune-to-Saturn size planet, ‘Kepler-47d’ orbiting between two previously known planets Kepler-47b and Kepler-47c. This new planet is about seven times larger than Earth and also the largest of the three planets in the Kepler-47 circumbinary system. The Kepler-47 system is 3.5 billion-years-old, has equilibrium temperature around 50 degree Fahrenheit (10 degree Celsius) and it is 3,340 light years away in the direction of the constellation Cygnus.

### **NASA astronaut Christina Koch is all set to set record**

In April 2019, NASA broke the information about astronaut Christina Koch who will undertake 11 month long or 328 days spaceflight and will create a record for the longest spaceflight by a woman. 40 year old Koch reached International Space Station (ISS) on 14th March 2019 along with two other crew members- an American and a Russian for a six-month mission. The two other astronauts will return to Earth on October 3, 2019, while Koch’s stay would be extended until February 2020, which would beat the record made by another female US astronaut, Peggy Whitson, who spent 288 days aboard the ISS in 2016-17. The extended mission is on purpose of providing additional data about the effects of long-duration spaceflight on the human body. So far the longest ever spaceflight was undertaken by Russia’s Valery Polyakov, who spent 14 months aboard the Mir space station in 1994-95.

### **Helium hydride ion (HeH<sup>+</sup>) : Universe’s first molecule**

In April 2019, flying observatory SOFIA of NASA reported unambiguous detection of the molecule Helium hydride ion near the planetary nebula NGC 7027. The Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in Germany confirmed the reaction of ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms for formation of HeH<sup>+</sup>. It was the first molecule that was formed almost 14 billion years ago when the temperature in the young universe had fallen below 4000 Kelvin. The ions of the light elements viz. hydrogen, helium, deuterium and traces of lithium were produced in the Big Bang nucleosynthesis by recombining in reverse order of their ionisation potential. The molecule will emit its strongest spectral line at a characteristic wavelength of 0.149 mm. This discovery of HeH<sup>+</sup> is seen as a dramatic and beautiful demonstration of nature’s tendency to form molecules.



### **Indian peacekeepers got UN Medal of Honour**

In April 2019, The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) felicitated 150 Indian peacekeepers who are serving the mission, with Medals of Honour for their supreme dedication and sacrifices in Malakal, South Sudan. Colonel Amit Gupta commanded a battalion of 850 soldiers in the Upper Nile region of South Sudan for highly desired veterinary camps and veterinary hospital in Malakal. The UNMISS, the Indian Horizontal Mobility Engineering Company had completed the renovation of 145 km of roadway linking Bentiu and Leer in South Sudan facilitating the way for the delivery of humanitarian aid, trade and inter-communal dialogue.

### **Ravi Shastri became Corporate Ambassador of 'RAKEZ'**

In April 2019, one of the leading hub for businesses operating in commercial, service & consultancy field, Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) appointed former cricketer Ravi Shastri as its Exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community . These communities are carrying on operations in various fields viz. 1,600 in the commercial field, around 1,000 in services, more than 350 in general trading and around 100 in the industrial sector.

### **23rd April: World Book and Copyright Day**

The World Book and Copyright Day is observed every year on 23rd April. The main aim to celebrate this day is to promote reading, publishing and copyrights and to awaken book love in people's minds. The day was first celebrated on 23rd April 1995. The day also pay tribute to books and authors by encouraging everyone to discover the pleasure of reading. This year, UNESCO designated Sharjah as a World Book Capital for 2019. In 2019, World Book and Copyright Day event focuses on six broad themes: inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing and children with a slogan "Read – you are in Sharjah".

### **Mercury has a massive solid inner core: NASA**

On 23rd April 2019, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has disclosed that Mercury, the smallest planet in the solar system, has a massive solid core. As per NASA's information, both Mercury and the Earth have metallic cores and like Earth, Mercury's outer core is of liquid metal. NASA indicates that innermost core of Mercury which is 85 percent of Mercury's volume is solid and it is nearly of the same size as Earth's inner core. This new mission termed as 'BepiColombo'. It is a joint mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

### **Amartya Sen Chair announced by London School of Economics**

In April 2019, to honor the Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has created the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies. He was a Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82. He will also serve as the Director of the LSE International Inequalities Institute. The chair, along with Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic

Equity (AFSEE), will benefit from a significant investment by Atlantic Philanthropies for harnessing the power of research and social change initiatives to further global equity. In 1998, he was honored with the Nobel Prize in Economic sciences and Bharat Ratna in 1999.

### **The 24th April celebrations**

24th April 2019 was observed as World Day for Laboratory Animals to put an end to the suffering of animals in laboratories around the world and their replacement with advanced scientific non-animal techniques. An officer of the Royal Air Force of Great Britain and a famous animal rights fighter and opponent of vivisection, Hugh Daudinga's birthday was chosen for this observation. In addition to this, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was also observed to underline importance of preserving the values of multilateralism and international cooperation is fundamental in promotion of the three pillars of the UN - Peace and Security, Development and Human Rights.

### **UAE adopted National Artificial Intelligence Strategy**

In April 2019, government of UAE adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 at a meeting chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi. The adoption was on purpose of positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031 and to develop an integrated system that uses artificial intelligence in vital areas like resources and energy, logistics and transportation, tourism and hospitality, healthcare, cyber security, education, government services and the community wellbeing. It will lead to establishment of an incubator for AI innovations.

### **Japan made world's 1st artificial crater on asteroid**

On 25th April 2019, Japanese scientists succeeded in creating the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid to get an insight about evolution of the solar system. The project manager of space probe mission Hayabusa 2 reported the captured images of crater by the probe located 1,700 meters (5,500 feet) from the asteroid's surface. Launched in December 2014, Hayabusa 2 is slated to return to Earth with its samples in 2020 at a total expenditure of 30 billion yen (\$270 million).

### **Dawn Journalist Cyril Almeida : IPI's 71st World Press Freedom Hero 2019**

In April 2019, Dawn editor and Columnist, Cyril Almeida from Pakistan emerged as the International Press Institute (IPI)'s World Press Freedom Hero for year 2019. The awardee has been felicitated for his "critical" and "tenacious coverage" of the civil-military relations in Pakistan. He was charged with treason in 2018 for publishing an interview with Nawaz Sharif, in which he indirectly suggested the involvement of Pakistan's military in carrying out the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack. Besides him, an Egyptian news site named 'MadaMasr', has claimed the Free Media Pioneer Award 2019 of the IPI and International Media Support (IMS).



### **The 2019 Miami Open**

31st March 2019 marked an end to the 35th edition of Miami Open 2019 at Miami Gardens in Florida, USA. It was a part of Masters 1000 category of 2019 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour and Premier mandatory Category of 2019 WTA (Women Tennis Association) Tour. Roger Federer of Switzerland won in Men's Singles category, Ashleigh Barty of Australia (Women's Single), Bob Bryan of USA and Mike Bryan of USA (Men's Double) and Elise Mertens of Belgium and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus (Women's Doubles) were the winners.

### **Saurav Ghosal : First Indian male in top-10 PSA world ranking**

Professional Squash Association released list of PSA world ranking on 1st April 2019 in which Saurav Ghosal received 10th rank and with this, he has become the first Indian male squash player to get into the top 10 of this coveted list. Saurav gave brilliant performance in the 2018-2019 PSA World Championship of Chicago, USA and had succeeded in reaching up to the quarter finals. Prior to him, Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal were the only two Indian women squash players who had entered into top 10 of PSA World ranking which was released earlier.

### **Praful Patel : First Indian to become FIFA Council member**

In April 2019, The All India Football Federation (AIFF) chief, Praful Patel got elected as the FIFA Council member among eight candidates during the 29th Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Congress in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur . With this, he has become the first Indian to enter the prestigious panel in a landmark development. He succeeded in garnering 38 votes out of 46. The Council inducted a total of five candidates in addition to the AFC president, and one female member for the term 2019-2023.

### **Malaysia Open 2019 concluded**

Malaysia Open 2019 was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2nd to 7th April, 2019. In the event, famous badminton player of China, Lin Dan has won the men's singles title by defeating Chen Long of China. Besides this, Tai Tzu-Ying of China has won the women's singles title by defeating Akane Yamaguchi of Japan. Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen of China has won the men's doubles title. Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan of China has won women's doubles title. Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong of China has won mixed doubles title.

### **Indian women's hockey team got edge over Malaysia**

On 11th April 2019, Indian women's hockey team won the five-match bilateral series in Kuala Lumpur by 4-0 against Malaysia. India clinched the fifth match with a 1-0 win. The credit went to Navjot Kaur's fine field goal in the 35th minute and a good defensive display that fetched victory for India win. According to Indian Team Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne, India needs to work on converting goals. The team will come back today from its successful campaign.

### **Induction of Inzamam-ul-Haq & Mark Boucher**

In April 2019, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) conferred the honor of honorary life membership upon Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq and South Africa's Mark Boucher for outstanding achievements in cricket. Former Pakistan skipper and batsman, Inzamam-ul-Haq played 119 Test matches. He scored 8,829 runs at an average of 50.16, inclusive of 25 centuries. He played 378 ODIs, and scored 11,739 runs at an average of 39.5. Former South African wicket keeper and batsman, Mark Boucher became the first glovesman to take 500 catches in the longest format in Test Cricket. He played 146 Test matches and scored 5498 runs, took 530 catches and 23 stumpings. He held the combined-format international record for wicket-keeping dismissals- total of 998.

### **Singapore Open Badminton title 2019**

In April 2019, Japan's Kento Momota won the Men's Singles title in Singapore Open Badminton title by defeating Anthony Ginting of Indonesia by 10-21, 21-19, 21-13 at Singapore Indoor stadium in Singapore. The other winners of this title were Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan, Women's Singles), Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan, Men's Doubles), Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan, Women's Doubles) and Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand, Mixed Doubles). The tournament distributed prizes worth \$355,000.

### **Fabio Fognini : the first Italian to conquer Monte Carlo Masters**

In April 2019, Italy's Fabio Fognini scripted history at Monte Carlo Country Club by becoming the first Italian to lift a trophy in 51 years, following on from Nicola Pietrangeli who had won this trophy in year 1968. Fabio defeated Dusan Lajovic of Serbia by 6-3, 6-4 to clinch the Monte Carlo Masters 2019. It is worth knowing that Fognini succeeded in outshining 11-time Monte Carlo champion Rafael Nadal in the semi-final.

### **Asian Athletics Championship 2019**

On April 21, 2019, the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championship began in Doha, Qatar. Around 63 nations across the world are participating in this four day event. So far Bahrain is leading



the table with 7 medals, followed by China (5 medals), Iran( 2 medals) and Philippines (1 medal). India was ranked 5th in the medals tally. For India, Annu Rani won a silver medal in women's javelin throw; Avinash Sable clocked 8 minute 30.19 seconds to claim silver medal in men's 3000m steeplechase; Parul Chaudhary managed the bronze medal with a time of 15:36.03 in the women's 5000m race; M R Poovamma clocked 53.21 seconds to finish third in the women's 400m race and Gavit Murali Kumar won a bronze in men's 10000m race with a personal best time of 28 minute 38.34 seconds.

### **Indian account in Asian Athletics Championship 2019**

India finished fourth with 17 medals in the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championship that recently got concluded in Doha, Qatar. India won 3 Gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze medals. The names of medal winners include Tejinder Pal Singh Toor(Men's shot put, Gold), Gomathi Marimuthu (Women's 800m, Gold), PU Chitra (Women's 1500m race, Gold), Ajay Kumar Saroj (Men's 1500m race, Silver), Swapna Barman (Women's heptathlon, Silver), Annu Rani (Women's javelin throw, Silver), Shivpal Singh (Men's javelin throw, Silver), Avinash Sable (Men's 3000m steeplechase, Silver), Prachi, Poovamma, Saritaben Gayakwad and VK Vismaya (Women's 4x400m relay, Silver), Muhammed Anas, MP Poovamma, VK Vismaya and Arokia Rajiv (4x400m mixed relay, Silver), Dutee Chand (Women's 200m, Bronze), M R Poovamma (Women's 400m, Bronze), Parul Chaudhary (Women's 5000m race, Bronze), Sanjivani Jadhav (Women's 10,000 m, Bronze), Gavit Murali Kumar (Men's 10,000m, Bronze) M P Jabir (Men's 400m hurdles, Bronze) and Saritaben Gayakwad (Women's 400m hurdles, Bronze).

### **Sharath Kamal became sportsperson of the year**

Ace table tennis player, Sharath Kamal clinched the title of Sportsperson of the Year at the annual awards and scholarships function that was organised by the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA) and the India Cements in Chennai on 27th April 2019. Besides him, Indian tennis player Vijay Amritraj , former India leg-spinner V V Kumar and Asian Games gold medallist (200m) R Gnanasekaran were felicitated with TNSJA Lifetime Achievement; Chess coach R B Ramesh received Coach of the Year award; Tamil Nadu Women's Football team won India Cements -TNSJA Team of the year 2018-19 and athlete P M Tabitha became India Cements -TNSJA Young Achiever of the year 2018-19.

### **Kento Momota booked Badminton Asia Ch'ship**

On 27th April 2019, world number one Badminton player Kento Momota defeated Shi Yuqi of China by 21-12, 11-11, 21-18 and scripted Badminton Asia Championships on his name in Shanghai. Besides him, silver medallist Yamaguchi has also scored an emphatic victory over home



player He Bingjiao by 21-19, 21-9 at Wuhan. Now men and women badminton players are looking towards the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with the 12-month qualification period starting at the end of April 2019.

### **Raheem Sterling : 2019 FWA footballer of the year**

Football Writers' Association (FWA) adjudged Raheem Sterling as the 2019 footballer of the year. The Manchester City and England forward, Sterling topped the poll of the 400-strong FWA membership as a clear winner, with 62 % of the votes. He was more than 100 votes ahead of Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk. Although hours earlier, Sterling lost out to Van Dijk in the race for the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) award, yet he clinched 'PFA young player of the year'.

CAREER FLITE

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In March 2019, Lawyer Zuzana Caputova has become the first female President of which country?

(a) Slovakia (b) Algeria (c) Poland  
(d) Zambia (e) Ukraine
- In March 2019, who has been honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award ?

(a) Preetha Reddy (b) Vinita Gupta  
(c) Rajendra Kumar Joshi (d) Pankaj Patel (e) Desh Bandhu Gupta
- Which country has declared “Reiwa” as the name of its new imperial era that will begin on 1st May 2019?

(a) China (b) South Korea (c) Indonesia  
(d) Thailand (e) Japan
- In March 2019, which country has successfully launched its first 2nd generational data relay satellite?

(a) China (b) Japan (c) South Korea  
(d) Germany (e) United States
- In April 2019, Kandhamal Haldi of which state has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India?

(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) West Bengal  
(d) Odisha (e) Bihar
- In April 2019, Indian Army has constructed the longest suspension Bridge 'Maitri' in \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) Leh-Ladakh (b) Srinagar (c) Kishtwar  
(d) Kargil (e) Doda
- Which state topped in e-learning training programme of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)?

(a) Kerala (b) West Bengal (c) Tamil Nadu  
(d) Karnataka (e) Telangana

8. The scientists of which nation has showed that dark matter is not made up of tiny black holes?  
(a) United States (b) India (c) China  
(d) Japan (e) South Korea
9. The Reserve Bank of India fixed the Repo Rate at what percent in its first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2019-20?  
(a) 6.25% (b) 6.50% (c) 6.15%  
(d) 6.00% (e) 6.35%
10. In April 2019, which country has honored Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi with its highest decoration “Zayed Medal”?  
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Algeria  
(c) United Arab Emirates (d) Russia (e) Germany
11. India has won total how many medals in Asian Athletics Championship 2019?  
(a) 17 (b) 16 (c) 14  
(d) 15 (e) 13
12. In April 2019, scientists of which country has successfully created the world’s first artificial crater on an asteroid?  
(a) China (b) South Korea (c) Germany  
(d) Japan (e) United States
13. In April 2019, Karnam Sekar has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of which bank?  
(a) Dena Bank (b) Standard Chartered (c) Bank of India  
(d) Indian Overseas Bank (e) Bank of Baroda
14. In April 2019, which among the following African countries has launched the pilot tests for the world’s first malaria vaccine “RTS-S”?  
(a) Malawi (b) Ghana (c) Nigeria  
(d) Kenya (e) Togo
15. Who has won India’s first gold medal in the Asian Athletics Championships 2019?  
(a) Dutee Chand (b) Hima Das (c) Bajrang Punia  
(d) Satyawart Kadian (e) Gomathi Marimuthu

16. In April 2019, which bank has signed an agreement with BEML limited for financing Earth Moving and Construction Equipment?  
(a) Dena Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) ICICI Bank  
(d) Syndicate Bank (e) State Bank of India
17. In April 2019, which country has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana?  
(a) Indonesia (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka  
(d) Bhutan (e) Malaysia
18. In April 2019, Volodymyr Zelensky has been elected as the President of which country?  
(a) Ukraine (b) Austria (c) Benin  
(d) Chile (e) Fiji
19. In April 2019, which woman astronaut is about to set a record for the longest single spaceflight?  
(a) Gagandeep Kang (b) Peggy Whitson (c) Jessica Meir  
(d) Christina Koch (e) None of above
20. In April 2019, Indian peacekeepers has been honored with UN Medal of Honour for their service in which country?  
(a) Sudan (b) Ghana (c) South Sudan  
(d) Nigeria (e) Algeria

# • ANSWERS •

- 1.(a) In March 2019, Lawyer Zuzana Caputova has become the first female President of **Slovakia**. She will succeed Andrej Kiska. In this election, Zuzana Caputova received 58 percent of the votes, while his opponent Marco Sefcovic got 42 percent of the votes.
- 2.(c) In March 2019, Dr. **Rajendra Kumar Joshi**, the founder and Chairman of the RUJ Group has been honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. He received this award for his magnificent achievements in the field of science, education and medicine. He was honored by the Embassy of India in Switzerland, on behalf of the President of India with a commendation letter and a medal.
- 3.(e) **Japan** has declared “Reiwa” as the name of its new imperial era that will begin on 1st May 2019 once the new Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne. The new prince succeeded his father Emperor Akihito, putting an end to three decades long ‘Heisei’ era. The new era will be the 248th in the history of Japan.
- 4.(a) In March 2019, **China** successfully launched its first 2nd generational data relay satellite named “Tianlian II-01” with the help of a Long March-3B Carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province. The Satellite will offer data relay, transmission services, measurement and control for China’s manned spacecraft, satellites and carrier rockets along with other non-spacecraft users.
- 5.(d) In April 2019, Kandhamal Haldi of **Odisha** has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India. In the year 2018, Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM) in Phulbani, had applied for registration of the Kandhamal turmeric.
- 6.(a) In April 2019, Indian Army has constructed the 260-feet longest suspension Bridge 'Maitri' over river Indus in **Leh-Ladakh** in just 40 days. The combat engineers belonging to ‘Sahas aur Yogyata’ regiment of ‘Fire and Fury Corps’ of the Indian Army undertook the construction of ‘Maitri’. 500 tonnes of bridge equipment and construction material was ferried to build this bridge.
- 7.(e) **Telangana** topped in e-learning training programme of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India for consecutive second year. In the financial year



2018-19, Dr. MCR HRD Institute enrolled over 20,000 field staff in different districts of the State to impart training on 12 soft skills modules and 3 domain-specific modules on RTI, Office Procedures, and Finance & Accounts, apart from Sustainable Development Goals.

- 8.(d)** Researchers led by Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe in **Japan** has put a theory speculated by the late Stephen Hawking to its most rigorous test to date, and their results have ruled out the possibility that primordial black holes smaller than a tenth of a millimeter make up most of dark matter. They used the gravitational lensing effect to look for primordial black holes between Earth and the Andromeda galaxy.
- 9.(d)** On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to reduce the policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 0.25 basis points to **6%** from 6.25% with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.
- 10.(c)** In April 2019, the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has honored Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi with its highest decoration "Zayed Medal". He received this honor for his "pivotal role" in strengthening ties between the two nations. The Zayed Medal is the highest decoration of the UAE awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states.
- 11.(a)** India has won total **17** medals in Asian Athletics Championship 2019. The medals include 3 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze. India finished at fourth position in the tournament. Bahrain topped the medal tally with 11 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze and followed by China with 10 gold, 13 silver, 7 bronze.
- 12.(d)** Scientists of **Japan** have successfully created the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid. It gave some clue on how the solar system evolved. The Project Manager of Hayabusa2, Yuichi Tsuda confirmed the crater from images captured by the probe located 1,700 meters (5,500 feet) from the asteroid's surface. The total estimated cost of this mission is 30 billion yen.
- 13.(d)** In April 2019, Karnam Sekar, Dena Bank's former Managing Director, has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Indian Overseas Bank**. He would take up the position from 1st July 2019. He succeeded R. Subramania Kumar.

- 14.(a) Malawi** has launched the pilot tests for the world's first malaria vaccine "RTS-S". It is also known as Mosquirix. This vaccine was created by British Pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 1987. After that vaccine has undergone 30 years of testing which was supported by many organizations including a non-profit organization PATH.
- 15.(e) Gomathi Marimuthu** from Tamil Nadu has won India's first gold medal in the women's 800m race at the Asian Athletics Championships 2019. She finished the race in just 2 minute 02.70 seconds. Besides this, Tajinder Pal Toor has also won gold medal in men's shot put with a season's best throw of 20.22 metres.
- 16.(d)** In April 2019, the **Syndicate Bank** has signed an agreement with BEML limited for financing Earth Moving and Construction Equipment. Under this agreement, the customers will be offered loans in the range of Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 300 lakhs. Syndicate Bank and BEML also expect to book business worth Rs.100 crore by March 2020.
- 17.(a)** In April 2019, **Indonesia** has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of its diplomatic ties with India. The stamp was designed by Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta. The stamp featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- 18.(a)** Famous comedian and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky has been elected as the President of **Ukraine**. He got 73% votes while his opponent Petro Poroshenko got 25% votes.
- 19.(d)** In April 2019, NASA astronaut **Christina Koch** is going to have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days. She would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman. With this, she will eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.
- 20.(c)** In April 2019, 150 Indian peacekeepers has been honored with UN Medal of Honour for their supreme dedication and sacrifices in Malakal, **South Sudan**. Colonel Amit Gupta was among the recipients of the medal of honour. He commands a battalion of 850 soldiers in the Upper Nile region of South Sudan. Under his command, Indian peacekeepers conducted highly desired veterinary camps and run a veterinary hospital in Malakal.