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## National

### Paytm Acquired Hotel Booking Platform, Night Stay

- i. Paytm has launched hotel bookings on its platform and **acquired Night Stay**, which offers deals on last-minute bookings at luxury hotels, as the Alibaba-backed payments and e-commerce company expands its travel business.
- ii. Paytm plans to invest Rs 500 crore in scaling up its travel operations and has partnered with more than 5,000 hotels across the budget, luxury and business segments.

### India's Unemployment Rate Hit 4 Decade High Of 6.1% In 2017-18: NSSO

- i. As per the **National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's)** periodic labor force survey (PLFS) India's unemployment rate hit a **45 year high of 6.1% in 2017-18**. It is the first comprehensive survey on employment conducted by a government agency after demonetization.
- ii. Unemployment is higher in urban areas which is **7.8%** as compared to **5.3%** in rural areas of the country. The unemployment rate is at its highest level as in **1972-73**. The rate of jobless rural males rose to **17.4%** from **5%** and among rural jobless females, the rate became **13.6%** from **4.8%**.

### PM Laid Foundation Stone For Various Development Projects in Leh

- i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects, **worth nearly 12,000 crore rupees, at Leh**. He laid the foundation stone for a **480 crore rupee Terminal Building at Leh Airport**. Mr Modi inaugurated the **9-megawatt Dah hydroelectric project**.
- ii. The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the **220 KiloVolt Srinagar-Alusteng-Drass-Kargil-Leh transmission system**. Mr Modi also launched the University of Ladakh, the first-ever in the state's region.
- iii. He also visited Jammu and Srinagar. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various projects, including two new All India Institute of Medical Sciences and **624 MW Kiru Hydroelectric project in Kishtwar**.

### India's Tourism Sector Registers 19% Growth In 2018

- i. **Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons** has announced that the **country's tourism sector fetched revenue of 234 billion US Dollar in 2018, registering a growth of over 19%**. This revenue was contributed by 87% domestic and 13% foreign tourists.
- ii. He made the announcement at the **2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Guwahati**. The country is **ranked third in the tourism sector**, according to the 2018 report of the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)**.

### Kala Ghoda Festival 2019 Begins In Mumbai

- i. The **Kala Ghoda festival**, India's **largest multi-cultural street festival** begins in Mumbai to celebrate its **20 years** of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature, and sculpture. **Maneck Davar** is Chairman of Kala Ghoda Association.
- ii. The festival hosted the exhibition at the **Jehangir Art Gallery** to celebrate the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** and some rich history of Mumbai. To underscore KGAF's two-decade run, the theme for this year is **A Measure of Time**.

### Kerala Becomes 1st State To Set Up Price Monitoring And Research Unit

- i. **Kerala has become the first State** to set up a **Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU)** to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the **Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO)**.
- ii. The move comes more than five years after the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** proposed such a system for the States and the Union Territories.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Kerala CM:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** Palaniswamy Sathasivam.

### **Swiggy Acquires Bengaluru-Based AI Startup Kint**

- i.** Food delivery startup **Swiggy** has **acquired** Bengaluru-based AI startup **Kint.io** for an undisclosed amount. As part of the deal, Kint.io's founding members **Pavithra Solai Jawahar and Jagannathan Veeraraghavan** will join the Swiggy team.
- ii.** **Acqui-hiring** refers to buying out a company or an entity primarily for the skills and expertise of its staff, rather than for its products or services.

### **Assam Tops In Budgetary Practices Followed By States: Transparency International**

- i.** **Assam occupied the top slot** in the ranking of best practices followed by states in the Budget formulation, **followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**, as per a survey by **Transparency International**.
- ii.** The survey is based on 4 parameters which include public disclosure, budgetary process, post-budget fiscal management and efforts to make the budget more transparent and citizen-friendly. The states which figured lower in the ranking were Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab.

### **ISRO Launches GSAT 31 From French Guiana**

- i.** **India's 40th communication satellite GSAT-31** has been launched successfully from **French Guiana**. The **Ariane-5 rocket** lifted off with it from Kourou Launch Base, and in 42-minutes, placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- ii.** It was immediately taken control by Indian Space Research Organization ISRO scientists from its Hassan facility in Karnataka. GSAT-31 will provide transponder capacity for DTH television and connectivity to services like VSATs for ATMs, stock-exchanges, Digital Satellite News Gathering DSNG and e-governance applications.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **ISRO Director:** K. Sivan, **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, **Established in:** 1969.

### **'Darwaza Band Part 2' Campaign Launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen**

- i.** **'Darwaza Band- Part 2'** campaign launched by **Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen** focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country. Earlier Darwaza Band campaign was launched in **2017**.
- ii.** The campaign launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Mumbai in the presence of actor Amitabh Bachchan.

### **American Members of US-India CEO Forum Announced**

- i.** **US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross** has announced the names of the American private sector members of the **US-India CEO Forum** among who are MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga and Qualcomm CEO Steve Mollenkopf. The first meeting of the forum will be held in New Delhi on February 14.
- ii.** The US CEOs serve two-year terms and are selected from respondents to a Federal Register Notice calling for CEO-level applicants to the US Section of the Forum.

### **India Jumps 8 Place To 36th On International IP Index 2019**

- i.** India has jumped eight places to **36th** position on the **International Intellectual Property (IP) Index**, which analyses the IP climate in **50 global economies**, this year. **The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany** remained the top five economies on the intellectual property index in 2019 retaining their spots from the last year.
- ii.** The index brought out by the **US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)** ranks countries based on 45 indicators that are critical to an innovation-led economy supported by robust patent, trademark, copyright, and trade secrets protection.

### **J&K Government Grants Divisional Status to Ladakh Region**

**i. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir issued a notification of creation of Ladakh as 3rd Division in the state.**

**ii.** Divisional status would facilitate this region in a great way to progress. Routine administrative clearances for Leh and Kargil can be obtained at Divisional headquarters in Leh. Apart from that, new Division also brings opportunities of employment of different levels in various departments for the locals.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Satya Pal Malik is the present Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

### **2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit Held in Guwahati**

**i. Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the *2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit* at Hotel Taj Vivanta in Guwahati.

**ii.** Over 100 youth delegates from Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia took part in the summit tag-lined Connectivity: Pathway to Shared Prosperity, organised by India Foundation and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve Facility**

**i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated to the nation the **1.33 million metric ton capacity Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve** facility at Guntur in **Andhra Pradesh**.

**ii.** He also inaugurated Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited's Vashishta and S1 development project located in the **Krishna-Godavari Offshore Basin**.

**iii.** Mr Modi also laid the foundation stone for setting up of a new terminal of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at Krishnapatnam.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Andhra Pradesh CM:** N Chandrababu Naidu, **Governor:** ESL Narasimhan.

### **Himalayan Cloud Observatory Set Up In Tehri**

**i.** A **Himalayan Cloud Observatory** is set up in **Tehri district** of Uttarakhand with a motive to **forecast and monitor cloudburst** incidents in the Himalayan region and help to minimize the damage.

**ii.** The Observatory is established in the **SRT campus**, in **Tehri** and is in the testing period. This is the **second** observatory in the country to monitor cloud activities by the **Indian Science and Technology** Department and **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** that can function in high-altitudes.

### **Great Indian Bustard Announced As The New Mascot For COP-13**

**i.** Union Environment Minister, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, announced the **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** as the mascot for the **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the **UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)** to be held in Gujarat in **2020**. He also revealed that the bird has been fondly named by the ministry as '**Gibi**'.

**ii.** CMS-COP 13 is a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats. It has over **120** participating countries.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **CMS Headquarters:** Bonn, Germany.
- The Government also launched a website for the COP-13. CMS COP is also known as the **Global Wildlife conference**.

### **Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated 13th PETROTECH 2019 In Greater Noida**

**i.** The **13th International Oil and Gas Conference – PETROTECH – 2019** got underway at **India Expo Mart, Greater Noida**. Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries are expected to participate in the three day Conference.

ii. The theme of the conference is '*Collaborating For Sustainable and Secure Energy Access for all*'.

### **PM Modi launches dedicated channel 'DD Arunprabha' for Arunachal Pradesh**

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel, 'DD Arunprabha' for Arunachal Pradesh during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura.

ii. DD Arunprabha is the Doordarshan's **second channel** for the northeastern region; **DD Northeast** was the first one.

### **PM Modi Launched Several Development Projects for Haryana**

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several development projects** at Kurukshetra in Haryana.

ii. The important events are enlisted as follows:

1. Mr Modi dedicated to the nation the **National Cancer Institute at Bhadsa in Jhajjar district**. The institute is the state-of-the-art tertiary cancer care-cum-research centre constructed at the AIIMS Jhajjar campus.

2. Mr Modi also inaugurated **Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC)** medical college and hospital in Faridabad. This will be the first ESIC medical college and hospital in north India.

3. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of **National Institute of Ayurveda in Panchkula** which is being set up at Shri Mata Mansa Devi Temple Complex.

4. Foundation stone of Sri Krishna Ayush University, Kurukshetra was also be laid by Mr Modi. It will be the first university related to Indian system of medicine in Haryana as well as the first of its kind in India.

### **'Exercise Rahat' Concluded In Jaipur**

i. Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise '**Exercise Rahat**' concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was demonstrated in Jaipur, Kota, and Alwar in **Rajasthan**.

ii. Indian Army was represented by **Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command**. Representatives from Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Response Mechanism (NDMRM), SDMA Rajasthan and DLMA's participated in the exercise.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Rajasthan Capital- Jaipur, Chief Minister – Ashok Gehlot, Governor – Kalyan Singh.**

### **India's 1st Aqua Mega Food Park Commissioned in Andhra Pradesh**

i. Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissioned **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park** at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, **Andhra Pradesh** through video conferencing.

ii. The park is promoted by Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd. It will be the first Mega Aqua Food Park operationalised exclusively for fish and marine products processing in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Andhra Pradesh CM: Chandrababu Naidu, Governor: ESL Narasimhan.**
- The Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd has been set up in 57.81 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 122.60 crores.

### **16th Lok Sabha Session Concludes**

i. The last session of **16th Lok Sabha** came to an end on 13th of February 2019. Giving the details for the tenure of 16th Lok Sabha, **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** informed that there were a total number of **331 sittings for Lok Sabha. 205 bills were passed and the productivity was 85%.**

ii. **For Rajya Sabha, 154 bills** were passed and the productivity was 68%. The just-concluded Parliament session provided 10 sittings spread just-concluded of 14 days. The productivity of Lok Sabha was 89% and that of Rajya Sabha was 8%.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Sumitra Mahajan is the present Speaker of Lok Sabha.

### **P Chidambaram's Book "Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India" Launched**

- i. Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the new book of **former Finance Minister P Chidambaram** named **"Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India"** at Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi.
- ii. The book is a collection of essays on the country's atmosphere of fear and how the constitutional values are being threatened.

### **Amazon Launched 'Amazon Pay UPI' For Android Users In India**

- i. Amazon launched **"Amazon Pay Unified Payments Interface (UPI)"** for Android users in partnership with **Axis Bank** to issue UPI IDs to its customers in India.
- ii. With this, users would be able to use their **Amazon Pay UPI ID** to shop on Amazon.in, make payments for their daily purchases, including recharge and bill payments, without entering bank account or debit card credentials.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- UPI is an instant **real-time** payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India** processing inter-bank transactions.

### **India Withdraws Most Favoured Nation Status To Pakistan**

- i. Following the attack in **Jammu & Kashmir's Pulwama** that left **44 CRPF** personnel dead, India has withdrawn the **MFN** (Most Favoured Nation) status that it had granted to **Pakistan**.
- ii. The decision was taken during the Cabinet Committee on Security meeting held in New Delhi. India had granted the status to Pakistan in **1996**, a year after WTO's formation.

### **India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue And CEO Forum Held in New Delhi**

- i. India and the United States held **India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue** and **India-U.S. CEO Forum** in New Delhi. Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, chaired the meeting.
- ii. The CEO Forum was co-chaired by Chairman, Tata Sons, N. Chandrasekaran and President and CEO of American Tower Corporation, Mr. James D.
- iii. The MoU was signed between **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)** of India and **ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB)** of the United States for cooperation in matters related to accreditation.

### **Expert Committee Recommends Rs 9,750 Monthly National Minimum Wage**

- i. The Expert Committee led by **Anoop Satpathy**, Fellow of V. V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI), submitted its report on **"Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage"** to the Government.
- ii. It recommended the fixation of need-based **National Minimum Wage (NMW)** for India at **Rs 375 per day** or **Rs 9,750 per month** irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption units. The Present NMW is **Rs. 4,576**.

### **India's First Agromet Forecast Centre Inaugurated In Karnataka**

- i. Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, inaugurated the **North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC)**, India's first agromet forecast centre, at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in **Dharwad, Karnataka**.
- ii. The main objective of the centre is to give **accurate reports on the weather** which would enable the farmers to protect the crops and get a good yield.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Karnataka CM:** H. D. Kumaraswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.

### **World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 Held At New Delhi**

i. **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2019**, the flagship event of 'The Energy and Resources Institute' (TERI), was inaugurated by Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

ii. The theme of WSDS 2019 was '**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: delivering on our promise**'. **Frank Bainimarama**, Prime Minister of **Fiji** was honoured with the **Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2019** for his outstanding contributions towards sustainable development in Fiji.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **TERI Director-General:** Dr. Ajay Mathur, **Headquarters:** New Delhi.

#### **Early Ed Asia 2019 Held In Jaipur**

i. **Early Ed Asia 2019**, the two-day event which is **Asia's largest conference** on Early Childhood, was held at the City Palace in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**. The motto of the event was '**Our Children. Our Future**'.

ii. It was the first time such a conference was held in India with over **6000** eminent early childhood educators, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders from India and foreign countries.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Rajasthan Capital:** Jaipur, **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot, **Governor:** Kalyan Singh.

#### **'Simplicity & Wisdom' Authored By Mr. Dinesh Shahra Launched**

i. A book '**Simplicity & Wisdom**' written by **Dinesh Shahra** was launched at Parmarth Ashram in Kumbh Mela.

ii. Launched by the Governor of West Bengal– **Keshari Nath Tripathi** and Swami **Chidanand Saraswati**, Head of Parmarth Ashram, this book is dedicated to Late Vedanti Swami **Pragananandji**.

#### **Infosys Unveils A Learning App 'InfyTQ' For Engineering Students**

i. **Infosys**, the country's 2nd largest IT firm has launched a next-generation digital platform '**InfyTQ**' to facilitate engineering students with best learning experiences by imparting technical and professional skills.

ii. InfyTQ is a free platform available on both mobile and desktop, featured with always-on, anytime, anywhere learning catered through a **continuous transfer of digital skills**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Infosys CEO:** Salil Parekh.

#### **India's First District Cooling System To Be Built In Amravati**

i. United Arab Emirates (UAE) based international cooling provider, **National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed)** entered into a 30-year concession with **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)** to build **India's first district cooling system** in **Amaravati**.

ii. The agreement is for a contracted cooling capacity of **20,000 Refrigeration Tons (RTs)** and will cater to the State's Assembly, High Court, Secretariat and other Government buildings currently being constructed, for which cooling services will start in early **2021**.

#### **PM Modi Flagged Off 1st Ever Diesel To Electric Conversion Locomotive**

i. Under 'Make in India' initiative, Indian Railways has created history by **converting a diesel locomotive into electric locomotive for the first time in the world**. This all new converted energy-efficient electric locomotive has been flagged off by PM Narendra Modi in Varanasi.

ii. In a first of its kind notable initiative, the diesel locomotive which has been converted to electric locomotive by the **Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi**. The entire project is an Indian R&D innovation for the entire world, says Indian Railways.

#### **Saudi Becomes 73rd Nation To Sign International Solar Alliance**

i. **Saudi Arabia** became the **73rd nation** to sign the **International Solar Alliance**. **ISA** was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in 2015.

ii. The move came at Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visit to India.

### **Bandicoot-A Drainage-Cleaning Robot Introduced In Chennai**

i. **Bandicoot**, a **drainage-cleaning robot**, has been introduced for **the first time in India** at the Kumbakonam city corporation as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging at the cost of **Rs 18 lakh** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

ii. It is a **semi-automatic robot** can enter manholes for cleaning sewage lines with its robotic arm and is equipped with 5 night-vision cameras to relay the scenario underneath.

### **HDFC ERGO Launched 1st-of-its-kind Trip Protector' Policy**

i. **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company**, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, announced the launch of **'Trip Protector'** insurance policy, a pioneering policy in the non-life insurance segment in India.

ii. In the event of a cancellation, either a flight or hotel booking, Trip Protector insurance policy will safeguard travelers financially against the cost of cancellation levied by Hotels or Airlines.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** is a 51:49 joint venture between the Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) and ERGO International AG.

### **India Boosts Customs Duty To 200% On Goods Imported From Pakistan**

i. India with immediate effect has boosted the Customs Duty on all the goods imported from Pakistan to **200%** followed by the day after India repealed **Most Favoured Nation (MFN)** status from Pakistan.

ii. This 200% tariff rate is higher than the average bound rate of **113.5%** for agriculture products and **34.6%** for non-agriculture products. The MFN applied rates are **32.8%** and **10.7%**, respectively for farm and non-farm products.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Pakistan Capital:** Islamabad, **PM:** Imran Khan, **President:** Arif Alvi.

### **International Annual Desert Festival Held In Jaisalmer**

i. The **40th International Annual Desert Festival** held on the sand dune in **Jaisalmer** with thousands of tourists participating in the colourful event.

ii. It had interesting events like **Mr. Desert** and **Ms. Moomal** competitions, mustache competitions, turban tying, musical and cultural performances, among others. Folk artists also gave their enthralling performance.

### **Rajasthan Assembly Passes Bills Scrapping Minimum Qualification For Local Polls**

i. The Legislative Assembly of **Rajasthan** passed the **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019** and the **Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019** to **end** the minimum education criterion for **panchayat and civic polls** candidates.

ii. The previous BJP government had introduced the minimum qualification of **class 10 for Zila Parishad/Panchayat** member election, and **class 5 or 8 class** for the post of **sarpanch**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Rajasthan Capital:** Jaipur, **CM:** Ashok Gehlot, **Governor:** Shri Kalyan Singh.

### **India's First 'Fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' Inaugurated In Kolkata**

i. Union Culture Minister **Mahesh Sharma** inaugurated India's very first **'Fulldome 3D Digital Theatre'** at the Science City in **Kolkata**, West Bengal.

ii. It is fully funded by the **Ministry of Culture** at a cost of **Rs 20 crore**. The Science City is operated by the National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture.



### **Rajnath Singh Launches Pan-India Number 112 For Women Safety**

- i. Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** launched a range of citizen safety initiatives in **New Delhi**.
- ii. Persons in distress can dial a pan-India number: **112**. Under this system, **all the states** have to set up a dedicated Emergency Response Centre, **ERC**.

### **Operation Digital Board Launched By HRD Ministry**

- i. The **Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry** launched **Operation Digital Board** on the lines of **Operation Blackboard** to provide better digital education in school.
- ii. The government has aimed at equipping **9 lakh classrooms** in schools and colleges across the country (7 lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and 2 lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities) with digital facilities for teaching by **2022**.

### **India Ranked 47th In The 'Inclusive Internet Index 2019'**

- i. India ranked **47th** in the '**Inclusive Internet Index 2019**' which is prepared by the '**Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** for **Facebook**. The index was expanded to include **100** countries which will represent 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP.
- ii. **Sweden** topped the index whereas **Singapore** ranked 2nd and the **USA** ranked 3rd. India maintained its previous year rank.

### **Mukesh Ambani World's 8th Richest With Net Worth Of \$54 bn**

- i. With a net worth of **\$54 billion**, Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has broken into the global top 10 richest billionaire list compiled by **Hurun Research**.
- ii. The **Hurun Global Rich List 2019** is topped by Amazon chief **Jeff Bezos** for the second year in a row, while the senior Ambani is placed **8th** with a network of **Rs 3.83 trillion**. Ambani is the only Asian among the **top 10**.

### **Dr. H Chaturvedi's Book On 'Quality, Accreditation & Ranking' Launched In New Delhi**

- i. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** launched the book titled '**Quality, Accreditation, and Ranking - A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education**' edited by Education Promotion Society for India's (EPSI) Alternate President **Dr. H Chaturvedi** in **New Delhi**.
- ii. On this occasion, the UGC Chairman, **Dr. DP Singh**, and Management Guru Padma Shri **Dr. Pritam Singh** were present as the guest of honor. The book launch function was organized by EPSI, BIMTECH and Bloomsbury Pvt Ltd.

### **Tele-law Mobile App, Nyaya Bandhu Launched By Department of Justice**

- i. A tele-law mobile application '**Nyaya Bandhu**' was launched by the Law Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad**.
- ii. The application will benefit **73,000** paralegal volunteers (PLVs) of National Legal Service Authority and State Legal Services Authorities (SLSA) in the country who will be associated under Tele-Law service.

### **8th World CSR Congress 2019 Held in Mumbai**

- i. **World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress (World CSR Congress 2019)** promotes Entrepreneurship, Social Responsibility, Sustainability and Social Development. **The 8th World CSR Congress was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- ii. The theme of the year 2019 is '**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**' to focus on corporate strategies, innovation, and strategic alliances. **Dr. Soumitro Chakraborty** won 'CEO of the year' award.

### **Rising India Summit 2019 Held In New Delhi**

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed **Network-18 Rising India Summit**, held in **New Delhi** and laid out his vision for a '**New India**'. The theme of the summit was, '**Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities**'.

ii. The Prime Minister discussed various topics including income tax and GDP numbers, India's global standing, Jan Dhan accounts, and unemployment.

### **Assam Launches PRANAM Commission To Protect Parents Of State Government Employees**

- i. Assam Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the **PRANAM Commission**, which is a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for the protection of parents of state government employees.
- ii. The **Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Bill**, stated to be the first-of-its-kind bill in the country, aims to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need.

### **Pinarayi Vijayan Inaugurated First Humanoid Police Robot KP-BOT In India**

- i. Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated **India's first Humanoid Police Robot** named **KP-BOT**, ranked as Sub-Inspector (SI), at the Police Headquarters in **Thiruvananthapuram**, Kerala. The robot's gender is declared female keeping in mind women empowerment and gender equality.
- ii. In **2018's Cocoon Cyber Conference** it was announced that robots will be included in the police force, after which, the work on the project was started by state police Cyberdome and a Kochi based start-up, **Asimov**.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Kerala CM: Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor: Palaniswamy Sathasivam**

### **HM Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Waste To Wonder Park In Delhi**

- i. Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a new park which houses the replicas of seven wonders of the world at **South Delhi**. The park, which is called the '**Waste to Wonder Park**', was built by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).
- ii. It is the first-of-its-kind tourist attraction in the world, with the replicas of seven wonders of the world. The replicas of all seven wonders of the world have been built with **eco-friendly, self sustainable material**, and has its own solar and wind power generation.

### **Bihar Becomes The 1st State To Deploy Dog Squad To Check Liquor Smuggling**

- i. **Bihar** has become the **first state** to deploy specially-trained dogs to check **smuggling of liquor** which continues to take place inspite of the total ban imposed in the state for the last 3 years. 20 liquor-tracker dogs were trained rigorously for nine months in **Hyderabad**, Telangana.
- ii. They were trained at Hyderabad-based Integrated Intelligence Training Academy. Patna will witness deployment of 4 such dogs.

### **Tamil Nadu Becomes 1st State in Mainland to Get 2 Coast Guard Districts**

- i. **Tamil Nadu** became the **first state in the country** to get a **second Coast Guard district headquarters - Thoothukudi**. The first district headquarters is Chennai.
- ii. Inaugurated by **state Governor Banwarilal Purohit**, the Thoothukudi district headquarters has been set up with an aim to augment security mechanism on the eastern coast and the state in particular.

### **PM Modi Inaugurated 40-Acre National War Memorial in New Delhi**

- i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated a new **National War Memorial**, situated in the India Gate complex in **New Delhi, to the nation**.
- ii. The National War Memorial, spread over 40 acres in the India Gate complex behind the canopy, is dedicated to soldiers killed during the Indo-China War in 1962, Indo-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka and in the Kargil Conflict in 1999, and also those in the UN peacekeeping missions.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The 42-metre-high India Gate was built during the British Raj as the All India War Memorial Arch to honour the soldiers who died in the First World War (1914-1918) and the Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919).

### **Madhya Pradesh Government Launched 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana'**

- Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** launched the State Government's flagship scheme '**Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana**' that guarantees **100 days** of employment every year to urban youth from **economically weaker sections**.
- Under the scheme, **Rs 4,000 stipend** per month during **100 days** period, would be given to the youth and they will also be given skill development training in order to become independent. (Only those youths, whose family's annual income is less than **Rs 2 lakh** and who are in the age group of **21-30 years**, are eligible for the scheme).

## **International**

### **2019 Announced As The International Year Of The Periodic Table**

- The **United Nations** announced **2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table** of the Chemical Elements to highlight its **first publication in 1869**. The periodic table was first designed by the **Russian scientist Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev**.
- The announcement by the United Nations will help to raise the profile of how chemistry can provide solutions to global challenges in agriculture, education, energy and health. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first publication of the periodic table by Mendeleev.

### **Macedonia Signs Accord To Join NATO**

- Macedonia** signed an accord to join **NATO** to become the **30th member of the US-led alliance**. At a formal signing of the NATO accession protocol, **Macedonia's Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov** hailed the moment as showing that the country will never walk alone once in the alliance.
- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg** stated the admittance of a new member highlighted that all European nations who meet the entrance criteria could join the regional alliance.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Macedonia Capital:** Skopje, **Currency:** Macedonian denar.

### **India Pavilion Inaugurated At 69th Berlin International Film Festival**

- The **India Pavilion at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2019** was inaugurated by **Mr Matthijs Wouter Knol, Director European Film Market (EFM)**. The poster of IFFI 2019 was also inaugurated by the dignitaries during the inaugural ceremony.
- Ministry of I&B, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry, is participating in the Berlin International Film Festival being held from 7th – 17th February, 2019 at Berlin, Germany.

### **Hindi Included As 3rd Official Court Language in Abu Dhabi**

- Abu Dhabi** has decided to include **Hindi as the third official language** used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.
- The **Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD)** announced that it has extended the adoption of interactive forms of statement of claims filed before courts by including Hindi.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- Abu Dhabi is the capital of the United Arab Emirates.

### **Multinational Maritime Exercise 'Aman 19' Commenced In Karachi**

- The 5-day **multinational maritime exercise 'AMAN-19'** in which **46** nations participated from all over the world was formally commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, with a colorful flag hoisting ceremony.
- Principal aim to conduct this exercise is to facilitate a forum of understanding of each other's maritime concepts and operation cultures and to produce ways and means to **confront common threat at sea**.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Pakistan Capital:** Islamabad, **PM:** Imran Khan, **President-** Arif Alvi.

### **World Government Summit's 7th Session Held In Dubai**

- The seventh session of the **World Government Summit** held in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. More than **4,000** people from **140** countries participated in the event.
- The main objective of the summit is to **shape the future generation of governments**, by bringing the public and private sectors together to collaborate with world-renowned experts, it seeks to help create a positive impact for citizens worldwide.

### **Macedonia Officially Changed Its Name to North Macedonia**

- The country, **formerly known as the Republic of Macedonia** officially changed its name to the **Republic of North Macedonia**, on paper ending a decades-long dispute that should pave the way for NATO membership.
- The freshly named country celebrated the event with a flag-raising ceremony marking its prospective – and long-awaited – accession to NATO.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **North Macedonia Capital:** Skopje, **Currency:** Macedonian denar.

### **President Bashir Declares Year-Long State Of Emergency In Sudan**

- Sudanese President **Omar al-Bashir** has declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country.
- Omar al-Bashir in a televised address called on Sudan's parliament to **postpone constitutional amendments** that would allow him to run for another term in a presidential election in **2020**.

### **NASA Announces The End Of Opportunity**

- NASA** announced that its **Opportunity Rover mission** is complete after the rover failed to respond despite repeated trials since **August 2018**. The space agency inferred that a planet-encircling dust storm cut off communications with Opportunity on June 10, 2018, disabling its solar panels from storing power.
- The robotic rover, which wandered the surface of the red planet for over **15 years**, was launched by NASA in **July 2003** as a part of its Mars Exploration Rover program. It is survived by NASA's **Curiosity rover**, which is now the only active robot on Mars.

### **World's Largest Bee Spotted The First Time Since 1981**

- Wallace's giant bee (**Wallace Bee**), the largest bee known on the Earth which was considered to be extinct since **1981** was re-spotted in an **Indonesian forest**.
- Scientists spotted a female bee of the species *Megachile pluto* and its size is four times the size of the typical European honeybee and has a wingspan of **2.5 inches**.

### **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019' Report Released By ILO**

- i. The International Labour Organization released **World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019** report. As per the report, unemployment rates will fall to **4.9%** in **2019** and remains steady in 2020.
- ii. Among the age group **15-24** the global unemployment stood at **11.8%** which is much higher than it is among other age groups. In the global labor market, **2 billion out of 3.3 billion** people worked keeping their economic security at risk in informal employment.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **ILO Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director General:** Guy Ryder, **Formed:** 1919.

#### **J P Morgan Became First US Bank With Cryptocurrency**

- i. **JP Morgan** rolled out the **first US bank cryptocurrency**. The currency is designed to be **decentralized** so that no one has control over transactions being sent over the network.
- ii. Cryptocurrencies are used successfully to move money between the bank and a client which usually runs on a **blockchain technology**. The cryptocurrency, called "**JPM Coin**," is intended for the bank's wholesale payments business that moves **\$6 trillion** around the world daily and not for retail customers.

#### **AntBot, The First Walking Robot To Navigate Without GPS, Developed**

- i. **AntBot** is the first walking robot to have navigational capabilities **without GPS or mapping**. It has been designed by **Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)** and **Aix-Marseille University** researchers at **ISM**, on lines similar to desert ants who use polarised lights and UV radiation to navigate in space.
- ii. Weighing only **2.3 kg**, this robot has six feet for increased mobility, allowing it to move in complex environments, precisely where deploying wheeled robots and drones can be complicated.

#### **Israel To Launch Its First Moon Mission**

- i. **Israel** is to launch its **first moon mission**, sending an unmanned spacecraft to collect data to be shared with NASA. According to a report, the **585-kilogram Beresheet (Genesis)** spacecraft is to lift off atop a **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Cape Canaveral, Florida**.
- ii. Mission control will be in Yehud, near **Tel Aviv**.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Israel Capital:** Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel.

#### **PM Modi On 2-Day Visit To South Korea**

- i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** arrived in **Seoul** on a two-day visit to South Korea. Mr Modi will hold bilateral talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and receive the **Seoul Peace Prize in recognition of his dedication to international cooperation**, global growth and human development.
- ii. Besides summit meeting with President Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister Modi will also have a number of engagements with the Korean leadership, businesses and Indian Community.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **South Korea Capital:** Seoul, **Currency:** South Korean won, **President:** Moon Jae-in.

#### **'Festival of India' Begins In Kathmandu**

- i. A **month-long 'Festival of India'** began in **Kathmandu**, Nepal, to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.
- ii. Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation **Rabindra Adhikari** and Indian Ambassador to Nepal **Manjeev Singh Puri** jointly inaugurated the event. It has its robotic arm and is equipped with 5 night-vision cameras to relay the scenario underneath.

#### **Australian Small Brown Rat Becomes World's First Mammal To Go Extinct Due To Climate Change**

- i. A **small brown rat** of **bramble cay melomys** species lived on a tiny island off **northern Australia** becomes the world's **first mammal** to have become extinct due to "**human-induced climate change**".

ii. The Australian government has officially listed the Bramble Cay melomys as extinct. Extreme high water levels and damaging storm surges, including its sources of food include the reason behind its Extinction.

### China's Xinhua Unveils World's First Female AI News Anchor

- i. Chinese news agency **Xinhua** unveiled the **world's first female** AI news anchor **Xin Xiaomeng**. She has been developed in collaboration with **Sogou Inc**, a search engine company.
- ii. Earlier, Xinhua also developed **Qiu Hao**, the world's first male AI news anchor at the World Internet Conference in **Wuzhen** held in November 2018, who is capable of mimicking human facial expressions and mannerisms while reading out news-reports.

### Zimbabwe Starts Trading New Currency RTGS dollar

- i. **Zimbabwe** started to trade its new currency, *the RTGS dollar*, two days after the central bank announced measures to try and resolve a chronic monetary crisis.
- ii. The **new currency replaces electronic bank savings called digital dollars** and the bond notes and was named after the real-time gross settlement system that banks use to transfer money between each other.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Zimbabwe Capital:** Harare, **President:** Emmerson Mnangagwa.

### India To Attend OIC Meet for 1st Time in Abu Dhabi

- i. **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** has been invited to deliver an address at the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Abu Dhabi**. This is the first time that a leader of the non-Muslim country has been invited to the OIC conference.
- ii. Mrs Swaraj will be the **Guest of Honour** and address the inaugural plenary of the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC on the 1st and 2nd of March.

### Donald Trump Signs SPD-4 To Create US Space Force

- i. US President **Donald Trump** signed Space Policy **Directive-4 (SPD-4)**, ordering the Pentagon to establish the Space Force as the **6th** branch of the United States military, to go along with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, in order to secure and extend American dominance of the space domain.
- ii. Donald Trump signs SPD-4 to create **US Space Force** SPD-4, as the name suggests, is Mr. Trump's 4th space policy directive. **The initial 3 were:**  
**SPD-1-** Directed NASA to get humans back to the Moon as a stepping-stone to Mars.  
**SPD-2-** Streamlined regulations for the commercial space sector.  
**SPD-3-** Dealt with space traffic management.



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## Defence

### **DAC Approves Indigenous Construction of 6 Submarines Worth Rs40000 cr**

- i. The **Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC** chaired by **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** approved indigenous construction of **six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees**. It is the second project under the Ministry's ambitious strategic partnership model aiming to boost the government's 'Make in India' program.
- ii. DAC has also approved the acquisition of about five thousand MILAN Anti Tank Guided Missiles for the Army.

### **Indian Army Carried Out The Annual Exercise Named 'Exercise Topchi'**

- i. Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultralight Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual "**Exercise Topchi**". The exercise was held at Deolali Camp near **Nashik**.
- ii. There were a showcase of display of rockets, missiles, surveillance, and target acquisition radars, remotely piloted aircraft and hi-tech equipment in addition to gunfire.

### **Important Takeaways from above news-**

- **Chief of the Army Staff – General Bipin Rawat.**

### **Defence Ministry Approves Torpedo Acquisition For Naval Submarines**

- i. In a major boost for the Navy's firepower, the **Defence Ministry has approved the acquisition of more than 100 heavyweight torpedoes** which will be equipped on the force's six Scorpene-class submarines

being built at Mazagon Dockyards in Mumbai.

ii. The French-origin Scorpene submarines are being built in India at Mazagon Dockyards Limited (MDL) and have now been named the Kalvari class. The first boat of the class called INS Kalvari has already been inducted into the Navy and is carrying out operational duties.

### India Signed Deal With US To Procure 72,400 Assault Rifles

i. The Indian Government has signed a deal with the US under **Fast Track Procurement (FTP)** to avail the Indian Army with **72,400** new 'Sig Sauer Assault Rifles' which will overhaul the army's inventory of frontline rifles.

ii. These Sig Sauer Assault rifles are **7.62\*51 mm** which are compact, robust, advance in technology and easy to maintain in field conditions. These new rifles will come at a cost of around **Rs. 700 Crore** and will be used by the army troops deployed along the **3,600 km** China's border.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **US President:** Donald Trump, **Capital:** Washington, D.C, **Currency:** US Dollar.

### India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise 'Sampriti 2019' in Tangail

i. As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise *Sampriti-2019* will be conducted at **Tangail, Bangladesh** from 02 March to 15 March 2019.

ii. Exercise Sampriti-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavor between India and Bangladesh and this will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.

### Cobra Gold Military Exercises Held In Thailand

i. **Thailand** and the **United States** hosted the annual **Cobra Gold** military exercise, the biggest activity of its type in the Asia-Pacific region with **29** nations taking part as participants or observers. Apart from the 2 countries, 7 countries who participated in the exercise were **India**, Singapore, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea.

ii. The Indian Army participated in the military training exercise with a 14-member contingent. India participated in this exercise for the first time in the '**Observer Plus**' category in **2016** alongside **China**.

### Hina Jaiswal Becomes The First Indian Woman Flight Engineer

i. Flight Lieutenant **Hina Jaiswal** from **Chandigarh**, became the **First Indian Woman Flight Engineer** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

ii. She was commissioned in the IAF's engineering branch in **2015** and completed the 6-month Flight Engineer course from the 112 Helicopter Unit attached to the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, **Bengaluru**.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **IAF Chief:** Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

### IAF Carried Out 'Vayu Shakti' Exercise At Pokhran

i. **Indian Air Force** conducted mega exercise '**Vayu Shakti**' in **Pokhran, Rajasthan**. The exercise was carried out day and night where the IAF showcased firepower capability of indigenously developed platforms and efficacy of missiles.

ii. For the first time, the **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALP)** and the **Akash** surface-to-air missile were deployed in the military exercise. **MiG-29** fighter jet also participated in the exercise.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Chief of Air Staff:** Air Chief Marshal Birendra Singh Dhanoa.





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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Yes Bank Senior Group President Pralay Mondal Resigns

- i. **Yes bank** Senior group President and head of retail and business banking, **Pralay Mondal resigned** from his post. He will serve his notice until 31st March 2019. Pralay Mondal joined Yes Bank in **2012**.
- ii. The bank recently named **Ravneet Gill** as its new **MD and CEO**. Former CEO **Rana Kapoor** has demitted office and **Ajai Kumar** will be the interim chief till **Gill** takes over.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Yes Bank Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, **Tagline:** Experience our Expertise.

### Rishi Kumar Shukla Appointed As New CBI Director

- i. **Rishi Kumar Shukla**, 1983 batch IPS officer of **Madhya Pradesh cadre**, was appointed as the **new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**. He will be serving for a fixed term of two years.
- ii. Shukla's appointment to the post was approved by a high-level committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya Appointed Country's Ambassador to India

- i. Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya** has been appointed as **country's ambassador to India**. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Acharya in Kathmandu. He has been appointed on the recommendation of the cabinet.
- ii.** The position of Nepalese ambassador to India was lying vacant after **Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned in October 2017** to join politics.

### **Air India Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola Appointed Civil Aviation Secretary**

- i. The government appointed Air India chief managing director and Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola** the secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Kharola will take over from Rajiv Nayan Choubey.
- ii.** Kharola, an Indian Administrative Services officer of Karnataka cadre from the 1985 batch, was named chairperson of Air India in November 2017.

### **Egypt's President El-Sissi Elected As Chairman of African Union**

- i. Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi** has been elected as the chairman of the African Union at the continental body's summit **in Ethiopia**.
- ii.** El-Sisi's election brings an end the one-year chairmanship of Rwanda's President Paul Kagame.

### **P C Mody Appointed As Chairman of CBDT**

- i. Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed senior IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody as chairman of **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- ii.** He will succeed Sushil Chandra, who was recently appointed Election Commissioner. He is 1982 batch Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre).
- iii. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**
1. It is nodal policy-making body of Income Tax (IT) department functioning under Department of Revenue, Union Ministry of Finance.
  2. It is a statutory authority established under The Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
  3. It is supreme body in India for framing policies related to direct taxes and is also tasked to enforce direct tax laws in the country.

### **CBDT Chief Sushil Chandra Appointed As Election Commissioner**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind** appointed **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra as an Election Commissioner**. The post had fallen vacant after the appointment of the then Election Commissioner Sunil Arora as Chief Election Commissioner on superannuation of his predecessor O.P. Rawat in December 2018.
- ii.** Former bureaucrat Ashok Lavasa is the first and senior-most Election Commissioner. A 1980-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) official, Mr. Chandra is an IIT graduate. His appointment comes weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

### **UN Appoints C Ramanathan As Controller And ASG For Programme Planning, Budget and Finance**

- i. Chandramouli Ramanathan** has been appointed as **Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance** in the management strategy, policy and compliance department.
- ii.** He succeeds **Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas** of Uruguay.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **United Nations Headquarters:** New York, United States, **Secretary General:** Antonio Guterres.

### **Ajay Singh Appointed As The Head Of AIBA Elite Foundation**

- i. Ajay Singh**, president of the Boxing Federation of India has been selected as the **president of the Foundation Board for Better Boxing of AIBA** (International Boxing Association).
- ii.** AIBA formed the Foundation Board for Better Boxing in the last meeting of its Executive Committee to formulate an action plan for global development of the sport in future.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **AIBA President:** Gafur Rahimov.

### SC Appoints Former Judge Justice D.K. Jain as BCCI Ombudsman

- The Supreme Court appointed a **retired judge of the court Justice D.K. Jain** as the **first ombudsman under the new BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)** Constitution approved by the court in a judgment.
- Bringing a quietus to the quibbling between the Committee of Administrators (CoA) which runs the BCCI and the State bodies that form the Board, a Bench of Justices S.A. Bobde and A.M. Sapre decided to take things into their own hands on the advice of amicus curiae and senior advocate P.S. Narasimha.

### Indra Nooyi Joins Amazon's Board of Directors

- PepsiCo's** India-born former CEO **Indra Nooyi** has joined **Amazon's** board of directors, the online retail giant. Starbucks executive **Rosalind Brewer** has also joined the Amazon Board.
- She was PepsiCo CEO from October **2006** to October **2018**, where she also served as the Chairman of its board of directors from May 2007 to February 2019.



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## Honours/ Awards

### President Presents Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards to 42 for year 2017

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards** for the year **2017 to 42 noted artists in five categories**. The awards were presented at a special function held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

### SBI UK Chief Honoured 'Freedom of the City of London'

- The **State Bank of India's** Uk chief **Mr. Sanjiv Chadha** has been honored with the **'Freedom of the City Of London'** by the city of London Corporation in recognition of his contribution to **promoting the bilateral relations**.

ii. Sanjiv Chadha took up the position in **2014** and he will be succeeded by **Sharad Chandak**. **Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru** was the previous Indian recipient of this award and other recipient includes author JK Rowling and actor Dame Judi Dench.

#### **Important Takeways from above news--**

- **SBI Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Shri Rajnish Kumar.

#### **Indian Historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam Wins Israel's Dan David Prize 2019**

i. **Indian historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam** won the prestigious *Dan David Prize 2019* for his work on inter-cultural encounters between Asians, Europeans and people of North and South America during the early modern era.

ii. He won Israel's prestigious **USD 1 million dollar award** in the category of "*Past Time Dimension*" for his work in macro-history.

#### **Francois Laborde Conferred France's Highest Civilian Honour**

i. **Father Francois Laborde**, a 92-year-old priest, was conferred the **Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour)**, the **highest civilian award of France**, in recognition of his work for **specially-abled children**.

ii. He was entitled by the French Ambassador to India, **Alexandre Ziegler**. Father Laborde had set up **Howrah South Point**, an organisation working for the development of specially-abled children, the destitute and the most deprived sections of the society.

#### **Important Takeways from above news--**

- France Capital: **Paris**, Currency: **CFP Franc, Euro**.
- **Father Francois Laborde is the third person from the state to have been awarded the Legion of Honor after film maestro Satyajit Ray and actor Soumitra Chatterjee.**

#### **Yes Bank Wins The Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018**

i. **Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018** announced **Yes Bank** as the winner in 'Innovation in Data Science' category for their industry-first project '**Yes EEE (Engage Enrich Excel)**' at Panaji, **Goa**.

ii. It was hosted by the Government of Goa. Aegis Graham Bell Awards (AGBA) Promotes **innovations and entrepreneurship** in the **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** domain.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Yes Bank Headquarters** – Mumbai.

#### **Deepa Mehta To Be Feted With Lifetime Achievement Award**

i. **Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta** will be given the **Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television**. Mehta is best known for her Elements Trilogy - '**Fire**', '**Earth**' and '**Water**'.

ii. The Canadian Screen Awards are awards given annually by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television recognising excellence in Canadian film, English-language television, and digital media productions.

#### **Bradley Cooper Wins Best Director From PETA for 'A Star Is Born'**

i. **Bradley Cooper** has been awarded the 'Oscat' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

ii. The animal rights organisation awarded Cooper "for his enlightened decision to cast his own canine companion in 'A Star Is Born' rather than using one supplied by a notorious animal exhibitor".

#### **BAFTA Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List Of Winners**

Netflix drama ‘Roma’ won the top prize at the **72nd edition of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts or BAFTA awards**. However, with seven BAFTAs in its kitty, director Yorgos Lanthimos’s The Favourite emerged top winner in 2019.

**Actress Olivia Colman** picked best actress BAFTA for her portrayal of Queen Anne in The Favourite. Roma, for which director Alfonso Cuaron also picked a trophy, rounded off with four BAFTAs while **Bohemian Rhapsody – the Golden Globes favourite – went home with just one BAFTA** for lead actor Rami Malek.

Here’s the complete list of winners for the **72nd edition of the BAFTA Awards**:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	<b>Best Director</b>	Alfonso Cuaron, Roma
2.	<b>Best Film</b>	Roma
3.	Best Actress	Olivia Colman, The Favourite
4.	Best Actor	Rami Malek – Bohemian Rhapsody
5.	Best Supporting Actress	Rachel Weisz – The Favourite
6.	Best Supporting Actor	Mahershala Ali – Green Book
7.	Outstanding British Film	The Favourite
8.	Best Animated Film	Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse

### Grammy Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners

The **61st Annual Grammy Awards ceremony** was held at Staples Center in Los Angeles. The show was hosted by Singer-songwriter Alicia Keys.

Here is the complete list of winners of **Grammy Awards 2019**:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Album Of The Year	Golden Hour, Kacey Musgraves

2.	Record Of The Year	“This Is America,” Childish Gambino
3.	Best New Artist	Dua Lipa
4.	Best Rap Album	Invasion Of Privacy, Cardi B

### NFDC Declared Winner Under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME

i. **National Film Development Corporation of India** has been declared winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.

ii. The performance parameters were procurement from SC/ST entrepreneurs, number of vendor development programmes for SC/ST and number of SC/ST entrepreneurs benefitted as per data uploaded on Sambandh Portal.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC), incorporated in the year 1975, (100% owned Central Public Sector Undertaking) was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organized, efficient and integrated development of the Indian film industry.

### Siddhartha Lal Wins The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year For 2018

i. **Siddhartha Lal**, managing director and chief executive officer, **Eicher Motors**, has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2018. Lal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 6 – 8 June 2019.

ii. **The other EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 winners are:**

1. **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro.

2. **Start-up:** Byju Raveendran, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Think & Learn (BYJU’S).

### President Conferred 'Gandhi Peace Prize'

i. **President Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the **Gandhi Peace Prize for 2015, 16, 17 and 18** at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

ii. The award comprises a cash award of one crore rupees, a citation in a scroll, a plaque and a traditional handicraft item.

**Here are the awardees that were facilitated at the occasion:**

1. **For 2015: Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari** was given the award for its contribution in Rural Development, Education and Development of natural resources.

2. **For 2016: Jointly to Akshaya Patra Foundation** for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India and **Sulabh International** for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers.

3. **For 2017: Ekal Abhiyan Trust** for its contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender, and Social Equality.

4. **For 2018: Japan's Yohei Sasakawa** for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.

### Important Takeways from above news-

- Instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

### Jharkhand's NGO Yuwa Won Laureus Sports For Good Honour

**i. Jharkhand** based NGO **Yuwa** won the **Laureus Sports for Good Award**. Yuwa works for girl empowerment and became the **third Indian entry** to receive this honour.

**ii.** Yuwa was founded in **2009** by Americans Franz Gastler and Rose Thomson. It runs a football program in rural Jharkhand with 450 girls. In 2004, **Indian Cricket team** and **Pakistan counterpart** shared Laureus Award for the first time and recently by **Magic Bus** in 2014.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Jharkhand Capital:** Ranchi, **CM:** Raghubar Das, **Governor:** Draupadi Murmu.

#### **Shiv Chhatrapati Awards Conferred On Uday Deshpande And Smriti Mandhana**

**i.** Mallakhamb coach, **Uday Deshpande**, and batswoman, **Smriti Mandhana**, were awarded the Maharashtra State Government's **Shiv Chhatrapati Award** by the State's Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao at an event held at the Gateway of India, **Mumbai**.

**ii.** Among the other award recipients are hockey player Suraj Karkera, paddler Sanil Shetty, track and field athlete Siddhant Thingaliya, who specialises in 110 metres hurdles, runner Monika Athare and squash player Mahesh Mangaonkar.

#### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Maharashtra Capital:** Mumbai, **CM:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** C. Vidyasagar Rao.

#### **Sunil Chhetri Given First Ever Football Ratna Award**

**i. Sunil Chhetri**, the **all-time leading scorer for India** in international football, has been conferred the first ever **Football Ratna honour** by Football Delhi, the association governing the sport in Delhi.

**ii.** He is popularly known as **Captain Fantastic**. He has scored the 2nd highest number of goals in international matches among active players after **Cristiano Ronaldo**.

#### **De Goede, Van Doren Win 2018 FIH Player Of The Year Awards**

**i. Eva de Goede** from **Netherlands** and **Arthur van Doren** of **Belgium** were titled the International Hockey Federation's Players of the Year for 2018.

**ii.** Eva de Goede, 29, was named the **Female Player of the Year** and Arthur van Doren, 24, won the **Male Player of the Year** award for the second year in a row.

#### **Divya Karnad Becomes First Indian Woman To Receive Future For Nature Award**

**i.** 33-year-old Ashoka University teacher and Wipro Sustainable Fellow, **Divya Karnad** became the **First Indian Woman** to be honoured with the '**Future for Nature Award**' for her work on marine conservation.

**ii.** The award is given to 3 people annually, and this year it was given to **Oliver Nsengimana and Fernanda Abra** along with Divya Karnad. It is a prestigious international award that celebrates achievements in protecting **wild animals and plant species**.

#### **Abdul Aziz Muhamat Wins International Human Rights Prize**

**i.** Sudanese refugee, **Abdul Aziz Muhamat**, who spent 5 years in the Australian detention centre on **Manus Island** in **Papua New Guinea**, was given the **Martin Ennals Award 2019** in **Geneva, Switzerland**, for exposing "**the very cruel asylum seeker policy of the Australian Government**".

#### **PM Modi Conferred With Seoul Peace Prize in South Korea**

**i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **Seoul Peace Prize** during his two-day visit to South Korea. The award was first announced by the Seoul Peace Prize Cultural Foundation in October 2018.

**ii.** Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are among previous recipients of the award.

#### **Oscar Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List Of Winners**

The **91st Academy Awards (Oscars)** has been announced at the **Dolby Theatre** in **Hollywood, the USA**. **Rami Malek** was named **Best Actor** in a Leading Role for **‘Bohemian Rhapsody’**, while **Olivia Colman** won **Best Actress Oscar** for **‘The Favourite’** at the 91st Academy Awards.

India-based **‘Period. End of Sentence.’** has won the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Subject. The film was directed by 25-year-old Iranian-American filmmaker **Rayka Zehtabchi** and co-produced by Guneet Monga, who is known for producing films like ‘Masaan’ and ‘The Lunchbox’.

**Here is the complete list of winners of Oscar Awards 2019:**

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	<b>Best Picture</b>	<b>Green Book</b>
2.	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Olivia Colman for The Favourite
3.	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Rami Malek for Bohemian Rhapsody
4.	Best Directing	Alfonso Cuarón for Roma
5.	Best Supporting Actor	Mahershala Ali for Green Book
6.	Best Supporting Actress	Regina King for If Beale Street Could Talk.
7.	Best Original Song	Lady Gaga, Mike Ronson, Anthony Rossomondo and Andrew Wyatt for A Star Is Born
8.	Best Documentary Short	Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton for Period. End of Sentence
9.	Best Foreign Language	Roma

**7th National Photography Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners**

**i. Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** presented the **7th National Photography Awards** in a function organized at National Media Centre in New Delhi.

**ii.** The theme for the Professional category was **“Women led Development”**, while the theme for Amateur category was **“Fairs and Festivals of India”**.

**iii. The list of the Award winners is as under:**

1. **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Shri Ashok Dilwali
2. **Professional Photographer of the Year** – Shri SL Shanth Kumar
3. **Amateur Photographer of the Year** – Shri Gurdeep Dhiman



### **CZPDC Bhopal And WZPDC Indore Honoured With Saubhagya Award**

- i.** The **Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal** and **West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore** were conferred with the “**Saubhagya Award**” under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana at the National Conference of Energy Ministers by the Union Minister of State for Energy, **R.K. Singh**.
- ii.** The award includes a cash prize of **Rs 100 crore** each. The **PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana-Saubhagya** was implemented by the Central Government in **September 2017**, and intends to provide electricity to all **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** houses of rural and urban areas.

### **PM Narendra Modi Conferred The National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 Awards**

- i.** The **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 awards** were given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ii.** The winners from the national level competition are:
1. **1st position-** Shweta Umre from Maharashtra.
  2. **2nd position-** Anjanakshi M.S from Karnataka.
  3. **3rd position-** Mamta Kumari from Bihar.



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## Sports

### **Mithali Raj Becomes First Woman To Play 200 ODIs**

- i. **India captain Mithali Raj** has become the **first woman cricketer** to play **200 ODIs**, adding another achievement to her illustrious career. The 36-year-old is also the **highest run-getter** in ODIs with **6622** runs at an average of 51.33, including 7 hundreds.
- ii. Mithali made her ODI debut way back in **1999**. She has also played 10 Tests and 85 T20s.

### **Ramit Tandon Wins Seattle Open**

- i. Indian squash player **Ramit Tandon** defeated **Egyptian Mohamed El Sherbini** in the finals to win the Seattle Open, a PSA challenger squash Tour event.
- ii. The top-seeded Indian, who rose to his career high ranking of **58** in the latest February list, won his first PSA title in the new year and fourth title overall in his career.

### **Smriti Mandhana Scores India's Fastest-ever T20I Fifty**

- i. Indian opener **Smriti Mandhana** hammered the **fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is**. The left-handed batswoman struck a half-century in just **24 balls** in the 1st T20I against New Zealand at Westpac Stadium in **Wellington**.
- ii. **New Zealand's Sophie Devine** holds the record of the quickest half-century in women's T20Is. She set the record in **2005** against **India** when she hammered an **18-ball** fifty.

### **Qatar Defeat Japan To Win Their First-Ever Asian Cup Title In Football**

- i. **Qatar** defeated **four-time** champions **Japan** 3-1 in the final to win their **first ever Asian Cup**. Qatar forward **Almoez Ali** broke the record of most goals in a **single Asian Cup** after netting his **ninth** goal.
- ii. This was the first time that Japan lost in an Asian Cup final.

### **Mirabai Chanu Notched Up Gold At EGAT Cup in Thailand**

- i. **World champion Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** notched up a gold medal at the **EGAT Cup in Thailand**. Chanu won the **48kg category gold** with an effort of 192 kg in the silver level Olympic qualifying event.
- ii. Making a strong comeback from the lower back injury that kept her out of action for nearly nine months, the 24-year-old Manipuri lifted 82 kg in snatch and 110 kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

### **Vani Kapoor Becomes First Indian To Grab Australian LPGA Card**

- i. **Golfer Vani Kapoor** has become the **first Indian** to grab **Australian Ladies PGA Tour (LPGA)** after securing **12th Rank** tied with three others in the first-ever qualifying tournament at the Ballarat Golf Club in **Australia**.
- ii. Total 81 players participated in the Qualifying tournament out of which top-20 earned the card for LPGA.

### **INS Dronacharya Wins Kochi Area Boat Pulling Regatta 2019**

- i. The **INS Dronacharya** team won the **Regatta trophy** in the **Kochi Area Pulling Regatta 2019** of the **Southern Naval Command (SNC)** held in the **Ernakulam Channel**. **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) School & Diving School** secured the runners up position.
- ii. The Boat Pulling Regatta is one of the **most prestigious and traditional naval sporting activities** conducted by the Navy.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** is the present Chief of Naval Staff.
- **Navy Day** in India is celebrated on **4th December**.

### **Sana Mir Becomes 1st Asian Woman To Play 100 T20Is**

- i. Former captain of the Pakistan women team Sana Mir** has become the **first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is**. Mir, 33, is one of Pakistan's most senior women cricketers and has been representing the country since 2005.
- ii.** She achieved the feat when she took the field against West Indies in the third and final T20I in Karachi.

### **Haryana Beat Defending Champions Punjab Royals To Lift PWL 4 Title**

- i. Haryana Hammers won the fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL)** as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the **Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium, Greater Noida**.

### **Smriti Mandhana Becomes World No.1 Women's ODI Batter**

- i. Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana** has become the **top-ranked batter in women's ODI cricket**, as per the latest rankings released by the ICC.
- ii.** The 22-year-old moved up three spots in the batters' rankings to reach the top spot. In the 15 ODIs Smriti has played since the beginning of 2018, she has scored two centuries and eight half-centuries.

### **Corentin Moutet Clinched Chennai Open ATP Challenger Title**

- i.** In Tennis, **France's Corentin Moutet** has **clinched the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament title** after beating Andrew Harris of Australia in the singles final.
- ii.** It was the second Challenger title for Moutet, who received 80 ATP points, while Andrew got 48 ATP points.

### **Ricky Ponting Appointed As Assistant Coach Of Australia For 2019 World Cup**

- i.** Cricket Australia appointed **Ricky Ponting** as the assistant coach for Australia's cricket team for **2019 World Cup**. Ponting was appointed after David Saker's resignation from the post. Ricky Ponting worked as the assistant for Australia's T20 in 2017 and 2018.
- ii.** The main coach for the Australian Cricket team is **Justin Langer**. The current batting coach for the team is **Graeme Hicks**.

### **Jamie Chadwick Becomes The First Female Driver To Win MRF Challenge Title**

- i. Jamie Chadwick** from England made history by becoming the **first female driver to win the MRF challenge title** after scoring a triple win in the final round in **Chennai**.
- ii.** The 20-year-old became the first woman to win the coveted prize after an incredible performance. In August, Chadwick became the **first woman to win a British F3 race**.

### **'Clouded Leopard' To Be Mascot For National Games 2022**

- i.** The Sports and Youth Ministry in the meeting of **Executive Committee of the National Games 2022** has chosen the Smiling **Clouded Leopard** to be the Mascot for the National Games 2022.
- ii. Meghalaya** will host the 2022 National Games, which is coinciding with its 50 years of statehood. Clouded Leopard is among the wild cats that live throughout the forests of **Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia Hills**.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Meghalaya Capital:** Shillong, **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma, **Governor:** Tathagata Roy.

### **Prajnesh Gunneswaran, 3rd Indian To Reach Top-100 of Men's Singles Tennis Rankings**

- i. Prajnesh Gunneswaran** has made it to the **top-100 of Men's Singles Tennis rankings** with a jump of six places that took him to 97. Prajnesh is the **third Indian player to break into the top-100 barrier** in the past decade after Somdev Devvarman and Yuki Bhambri.
- ii.** In the doubles, Rohan Bopanna stayed put at 37 and was followed by his partner Divij Sharan at 39. In the Women's Tennis Association charts, Ankita Raina continues to be country's top singles player at number 165.

### **Vidarbha Clinches The Irani Cup Title**

- i. **Vidarbha** became the only **3rd team** in Indian Domestic Cricket history after **Bombay and Karnataka** to defend their **Irani cup** titles at Jamtha Stadium in Nagpur by defeating rest of India.
- ii. Vidarbha chased a target of 280 runs on the day and young Karnewar was the **Player of the match**.

### **Manpreet Singh Honoured With AHF's Player Of The Year**

- i. **The Asian Hockey Federation** has honored **Indian skipper Manpreet Singh** with the **2018 Player of the Year award**. Women team's striker **Lalremsiami** has bagged the **Rising Player of The Year prize**.
- ii. Manpreet led the Indian team to an unbeaten streak at the Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat where the team was declared joint winners with Pakistan.

### **Chris Gayle Announces Retirement From One-day Internationals**

- i. West Indian batsman **Chris Gayle** has announced that he will retire from **One-day Internationals** after the forthcoming **World Cup**. The 39-year old left-hander has scored **9,727 ODI runs**, second only to the legendary **Brian Lara** among West Indians in **284 matches**.
- ii. Gayle has scored a Windies record of **23 ODI hundreds**, including the **first-ever World Cup double century** against Zimbabwe **4 years ago**.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- The World Cup will be held in **England and Wales** from 30th May till 14th July.

### **Senior Badminton Nationals: Saina Nehwal Wins Women's Singles Title**

- i. In badminton, **Saina Nehwal** won her **fourth title** at the **Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior Nationals**. She defeated P.V.Sindhu in the finals in Guwahati. **Sourabh Verma** completed a **hat-trick of titles**, claiming the men's singles crown after defeating young Lakshya Sen in straight games.
- ii. Earlier, the pair of **Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty** outclassed top seed duo Arjun M.R and Shlok Ramachandran in straight games to clinch the Men's Doubles title.

### **Afghanistan Scores Highest Ever T20 International Score**

- i. **Afghanistan** scored **278** for the loss of three wickets from their allotted 20 overs, to register the highest-ever total in T20s at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in **Dehradun**, Uttarakhand.
- ii. **Hazratullah Zazai** scored **162 runs** from just **62 balls**. Zazai became the first player from Afghanistan to score 150 or more runs, and his **236-run opening stand** with Usman Ghani became the **highest partnership** in T20Is.

### **Sri Lanka Becomes 1st Ever Asian Team To Win Test Series In South Africa**

- i. **Sri Lanka** cricket team became the **first Asian side** to win a Test series in **South Africa** after winning the series by 2-0.
- ii. **Kusal Perera** was given the Man of the Series award. Before Sri Lanka, only **Australia and England** have defeated South Africa in a Test series at home.

### **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Sri Lanka capital:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee, **President:** Maithripala Sirisena.
- **South Africa Capital:** Cape Town, **Currency:** South African Rand, **President:** Cyril Ramaphosa.

### **Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary Win Gold In 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team**

- i. **Manu Bhaker** and **Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched the gold medal in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** event at the **ISSF World Cup** in **New Delhi**.
- ii. Ranxin Jiang and Bowen Zhang of China won silver while the Republic of Korea pair Minjung Kim and Daehun Park got the bronze.

### **Squash Great Nicol David Announces Retirement**

- i. **Malaysia's 8-time World Champion Nicol David** has announced that she will call time on her record-breaking career at the **end** of the 2018/19 season.
- ii. The 35-year-old from Penang is one of the **most successful squash players** of all time and spent an unprecedented 9 years at World No.1 between **2006-2015**.

### **Laureus World Sports Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners**

The **Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year** is an annual award honoring the achievements of individual men from the world of sports. It was first awarded in 2000 as one of the seven constituent awards presented during the Laureus World Sports Awards.

**Novak Djokovic** was named **World Sportsman of the Year** and **United State gymnast Simone Biles** was named **Sportswoman of the Year** at the **2019 Laureus World Sports Awards**, while **Tiger Woods** won the **World Comeback of the Year** award.

### **Here is the complete list of winners of Laureus World Sports Award 2019:**

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Sportsman of the Year	Novak Djokovic
2.	Sportswoman of the Year	Simone Biles
3.	Comeback of the Year	Tiger Woods
4.	Team of the Year	France
5..	Lifetime Achievement Award	Arsene Wenger

### **Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta Wins Cannes International Open Trophy**

- i. Indian Grandmaster **Abhijeet Gupta** lifted the **Cannes International Open trophy**. He took an easy draw with Pier Luigi Basso of **Italy** in the ninth and final round.
- ii. Abhijeet won the tournament with 7.5 points. It is his first solo International tournament victory.

### **Elise Mertens Beats Simona Halep To Win Qatar Open**

- i. **Elise Mertens**, world number **21** from **Belgium** beat world number **3**, **Simona Halep** to win the **Qatar Open** held in **Doha**, Qatar.
- ii. This is her **first WTA Premier-level crown** and fifth title of her overall career. Mertens' triumph over the Romanian was her third win over a top 10 player in Doha.

## Obituaries

### Longest-Serving US Congressman John Dingell Passes Away

- i. **John Dingell**, the longest-serving congressman in US history, has passed away aged **92**. He was first elected in **1955**, serving in the House of Representatives for the next 59 years.
- ii. He retired in **2015**. Mr. Dingell served through the terms of **11** US presidents.

### Actor Mahesh Anand Passes Away

- i. Noted actor **Mahesh Anand**, best known for playing the villain in several Bollywood films in the late 1980s and 1990s has passed away at the age of **57**.
- ii. The actor has worked in many hit movies like 'Kurukshetra', 'Swarg', 'Coolie No 1', 'Vijeta', 'Shahenshah' and more.

### Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner Manfred Eigen Passes Away

- i. German scientist **Manfred Eigen**, who jointly won the **1967 Nobel Prize** for **Chemistry**, passed away aged 91.
- ii. Eigen had won the prize for working on a method to **calculate speeds of extremely fast chemical reactions**, effected by disturbing the equilibrium by means of short energy pulses.

### Legendary Goalkeeper Of England, Gardon Banks Passed Away

- i. One of the world's most famous goalkeeper **Gordon Banks** passed away at the age of 81 in England. Gordon Banks was named as FIFA (The Federation Internationale de Football) Goalkeeper of the year six times and earned 73 caps for England between 1963 and 1972.
- ii. He won World Cup in 1966.

### Best-selling British Author 'Andrea Levy' Passed Away

- i. The best-selling **British author Andrea Levy**, who explored the experience of **Jamaican British** people in a series of novel over **20 years**, has died from cancer at the age of **62**.
- ii. She was known for penning books '**The Long Song**' and '**Small Island**'. She was conferred with **Orange prize for fiction**, Whitbread book of the year, Commonwealth writers prize and many more.

### Swiss Actor Bruno Ganz Passed Away

- i. **77 years old Swiss actor, Bruno Ganz** who is famous for his role of German dictator, **Adolf Hitler** in the Oscar-nominated film **Downfall**, passed away in Zurich, Switzerland due to Colon Cancer.
- ii. Bruno Ganz was born in 1941 and he was active in German theatre, film, and television for more than **50 years**. He was honoured with **European Film Academy Lifetime Achievement** award and David di Donatello for Best Actor.

### Noted Hindi Writer Namvar Singh Passes Away

i. Noted Hindi writer **Namvar Singh** passed away in **New Delhi**. He was 92. Singh was the first chairman of JNU's Centre of Indian Languages.

ii. He has authored over dozen books including '**Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman**', '**Chhayavad**' and '**Dusri Parampara Ki Khoj**' among others. He received Sahitya Academy Award for literary criticism in **1971** for '**Kavita Ke Naye Pratiman**'.

#### **'Badge of Honor' Military Novelist, W.E.B. Griffin Passes Away**

i. American military veteran and novelist, **William E. Butterworth III**, better known as **W.E.B.**

**Griffin** (his pen name), passed away at the age of 89. He joined the army at the age of 17 and has served in the Korean War.

ii. He wrote more than 200 books under the pen name W.E.B. Griffin and various other names and sold millions of copies.

#### **Veteran Film Producer Raj Kumar Barjatya Passes Away**

i. Veteran Bollywood producer and father of filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya, **Raj Kumar Barjatya** passed away in Mumbai.

ii. He was popularly and affectionately known as Raj Babu and helmed several Bollywood hit films including '**Hum Saath Saath Hain**', '**Hum Aapke Hain Koun**', '**Vivah**', '**Prem Ratan Dhan Payo**', '**Main Prem Ki Deewani Hoon**' among others. All these films were directed by his son Sooraj.



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## Important Days with theme

### World Wetlands Day: February 2

- i. **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated every year on the **2nd of February** to raise global awareness on the **value of wetlands for humanity and the planet**.
- ii. The theme of World Wetlands Day 2019 is '**Wetlands and Climate Change**'.

### World Cancer Day: 4th February

- i. **World Cancer Day** is being observed globally on **4th February**.
- ii. This year, **Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**, which organizes World Cancer Day, is launching a new 3-year (2019-2021) campaign with the theme: "***I Am and I Will.***"

### Important Takeways from above news-

- **Union for International Cancer Control Headquarters in:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Founded:**1933.

### World Radio Day: 13 February

- i. **13 February** is celebrated as **World Radio Day** by UNESCO all over the world.
- ii. The theme of WRD 2019 is "***Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace***".

### World Day of Social Justice: 20 February

- i. **The World Day of Social Justice** is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**.
- ii. The theme for WDSJ 2019 is "***If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice***".

### International Mother Language Day: 21 February

- i. **International Mother Language Day** has been observed every year on **21st February** since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ii. This year, International Mother Language day 2019 will be framed by the International Year of indigenous languages 2019 (IYIL19) around the theme "***Indigenous languages matter for development, peace building and reconciliation***".

### National Science Day: 28 February



- i. National Science Day** is celebrated across India on **February 28**. Famous Indian scientist **Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman** or **CV Raman** discovered the Raman Effect on this day in **1928**. For his discovery, Sir CV Raman was awarded the **Nobel Prize** in Physics in **1930**.
- ii.** In honour of this discovery and as a mark of tribute to the scientist, National Science Day was marked for the first time on February 28, **1987**. This year the theme for the National Science Day is '**Science for people and people for science**'.



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