



**June 2019**

**MONTHLY  
CURRENT  
AFFAIRS  
GK DIGEST**



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## 'HAWA AANE DE' SONG LAUNCHED BY ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

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The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched a song titled 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution.

### DETAILS:

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- **Every year on 5 June World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated globally.**
- The MoEFCC celebrates WED focussing on the annual theme declared by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and organizes several events accordingly.
- **For the year 2019 theme for WED is 'Air Pollution'.**
- Thus Keeping with annual tradition the main function will be being held at Vigyan Bhawan on 5th June, 2019 and it will be presided over by the Environment Minister.
- The WED will also be celebrated across the country in State Capitals and UT's.
- **The event includes release of several books, launch of a film competition on environment and three thematic sessions on- Air Pollution, Waste Management and Forests: the Green Lungs of cities.**

### ABOUT THE "HAWA AANE DE" SONG:

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- **It is the theme song for WED 2019 and was launched in New Delhi by Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary MoEFCC in presence of artists involved with the song.**
- The objective of the song is a call to action for all people to come together to combat environmental challenges of our time.
- It urges each one of us to explore green technologies and measures to improve air quality and make India less polluted.
- **The song is produced by MoEFCC in collaboration with Bhamla Foundation, Mumbai.**
- **The song is written by Shri Swanand Kirkire.**
- It is sung by Sunidhi Chauhan, Shri Shantanu Mukherjee, Shankar Mahadevan and Kapil Sharma.

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP):

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- **It is one of the initiatives recently by launched Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat air pollution.**
- Its objective is to control and abate air pollution across the country.
- **It is a mid-term 5 Year Action Plan.**
- **It is a multi-sectoral and collaborative approach with mainstreaming and integration to reduce air pollution.**
- Its target is to reduce 20-30% of PM 2.5 and PM 10 concentration in 102 cities.
- Out of 102, 84 cities have already submitted their action plan.

### VICE ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH TO BECOME NEXT NAVY CHIEF

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The Armed Forces Tribunal made Vice Admiral Karambir Singh eligible to become the next Navy Chief while it deferred for four weeks the matter of Vice Admiral Bimal Verma which seeks to quash Singh's appointment.

#### DETAILS:

- **Karambir Singh, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, will take over as the Navy Chief on 31st May 2019.**
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1980 and earned his wings as a helicopter pilot in 1982.
- **He has extensive experience with the HAL Chetak, Kamov Ka-25 and Kamov Ka-28 helicopters.**

#### MORE ABOUT VICE ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH:

- He was born 3rd November 1959
- Commands held by Vice Admiral Karambir Singh:
  - Chief of Naval Staff
  - Eastern Naval Command
  - INS Delhi
  - INS Rana
  - INS Vijaydurg
  - ICGS Chand Bibi

#### AWARDS RECEIVED BY VICE ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH:

- **Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.**

### DEVI AHILYA BAI HOLKAR AIRPORT OF INDORE DECLARED AS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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**Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore, Madhya Pradesh has been declared as International Airport.**

#### DETAILS:

- **It was given the International status as per sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 by the Central Government.**
- The Indore airport facilitates round the clock operations and was given its World Standardization Certificate by the UK.

#### ABOUT DEVI AHILYA BAI HOLKAR AIRPORT:

- **The airport is named after Maharani Ahilya Bai Holkar of Indore.**
- **It is the busiest airport in Central India and it is operating 24\*7.**
- It is conferred with the World Standardization Certification by the United Kingdom.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

- **International airports have customs and border control facilities to enable passengers to travel between countries.**

### INDIA'S LAST ORANGUTAN 'BINNY' DIED AT NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

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India's last Orangutan 'Binny' who was 41-years-old died at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park on 29th May following a prolonged illness.

#### DETAILS:

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- She was suffering from cold and old age related respiratory tract issues and accordingly, the treatment was going on.
- **The lone female orangutan Binny was brought to Nandankanan Zoo from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on 20 November 2003, when she was 25 years old.**
- Since her arrival, she has been alone in her zoo enclosure and zoo officials failed to arrange a male partner for her.

#### ABOUT ORANGUTAN:

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- **Orangutans are one of the world's three extant species of great apes and are native to Indonesia and Malaysia.**
- **Orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra.**
- They are considered to be among the most intelligent primates.
- An orangutan can live up to 45 years in the wild and even more in zoos.
- **They have been extensively studied by researchers for their learning abilities.**
- They use a variety of sophisticated tools and even construct elaborate sleeping nests from branches and foliage.
- **The Sumatran and Bornean species are both critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List of mammals.**

### IIT MADRAS LAUNCHES A DATA PLATFORM CALLED IDIP

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Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) launched a data platform called "Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects (IDIP)".

#### DETAILS:

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- **IDIP is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of infrastructure development in India and to enable effective decision-making among different stakeholders involved in the infrastructure sector.**
- This data platform is built because the quality data on infrastructure projects in the country is scarce.
- While data sets provided by the government are often very out dated, those from external agencies such as banks and funding institutions lack details.

#### IDIP'S FOCUS ON THE ROAD SECTOR:

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- **While the database will expand to cover other infrastructure in the country, the initial focus of IDIP would be on the road sector, which has received the highest private investment among all infrastructure sectors.**
- Comprehensive infrastructural data on 250 roads across the country, built on a public-private partnership (PPP) model, has been made available at a single destination.
- **The Road PPP in India is the largest in the world.**

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- IIT-Madras is soon to work on adding around 680 roads built on the Engineering Procurement and Construction model.

### IAF SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRO FOR GAGANYAAN MISSION

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned space mission.

- AVM R.G.K. Kapoor, ACAS Ops (Space), IAF handed over the MoU to Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.

#### DETAILS:

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- Under the programme, a three-member crew will spend a minimum of seven days in space.
- A human-rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module, which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a three-member crew for the duration of the mission.
- The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will lead the selection and training of astronauts on behalf of IAF.
- The necessary infrastructure for crew training, a realization of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the program.
- ISRO will collaborate extensively with national agencies, laboratories, academia and industry to accomplish the objectives of the prestigious mission.

#### GAGANYAAN MISSION:

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- Gaganyaan ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
- Gaganyaan was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.
- The mission is worth Rs. 10,000 crore.
- The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018.
- In its maiden crewed mission, ISRO's largely autonomous 3.7-tonne capsule will orbit the Earth at 400 km (250 miles) altitude for up to seven days with a three-person crew on board.

### MP CHANDRANI MURMU BECOMES YOUNGEST MP IN INDIA

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A tribal woman from Odisha, Chandrani Murmu aged 25 of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) party became the youngest MP in the country.

#### DETAILS:

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- She defeated the two-time BJP MP Ananta Nayak by a margin of 66,203 votes and claimed the Keonjhar constituency, Odisha.
- She replaced Dushyant Chautala who was elected at the age of 26 from the Hisar Lok Sabha seat in 2014.
- She became the youngest MP in India's history.
- After spending her childhood in the Tikargumura village of Odisha, Chandrani Murmu completed her Bachelors in Technology from the Siksha O Anusandhan University in Bhubaneswar in 2017.



### BANKS TO ACCEPT AADHAAR ONLY FOR KYC

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Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to accept Aadhaar number only for 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) verification of customers with DBT accounts with their consent.

#### DETAILS:

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- **RBI has added the 'Proof of possession of Aadhaar number' to the list of Officially Valid Documents (OVD).**
- This was notified by the RBI in its amended Master Direction on KYC.
- RBI's Master Direction is a rule book that the regulated entities need to follow.
- **The bank should obtain the Aadhaar number from the customers who receive any benefit or subsidy under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).**

#### FOR NON-DBT BENEFICIARY CUSTOMERS:

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- **For Non-DBT beneficiary customers, the Regulated Entities (REs) should obtain a certified copy of any OVD describing the details of customer's identity and address along with 1 recent photograph.**
- Along with this, while submitting Aadhaar for Customer Due Diligence, the RES must redact or blackout the Aadhaar number as per Sub-rule 16 of Rule 9 of the amended Prevention of Money-Laundering(PML) Rules.
- All the non-individual customers should submit Permanent Account Number(PAN)/Form No 60 (for companies and Partnership firms - only PAN) along with other documents.
- Form 60 is submitted by an individual who do not have a Permanent Account Number (PAN).

### FACEBOOK PLANS TO LAUNCH 'GLOBALCOIN'

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Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency 'GlobalCoin' by the first quarter of 2020.

- The company is expected to reveal more details about the currency before testing begins later in 2019.

#### DETAILS:

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- **The currency, which is being referred to internally as 'GlobalCoin', will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where it's expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.**
- The currency will need to overcome numerous technical and regulatory hurdles before it can be launched.
- Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg met with the Bank of England's governor Mark Carney to discuss the opportunities and risks of the planned digital currency.

#### INDIA - A KEY FOCUS FOR FACEBOOK:

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- However, Facebook might have a harder job on its hands in India, which has taken a hostile attitude towards virtual currencies.
- **India is reported to be a key focus for the new currency, where Facebook hopes it will allow Indian workers abroad to send money back home to their families using WhatsApp.**

#### WHAT IS A CRYPTOCURRENCY?

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- **A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.**
- **A cryptocurrency is difficult to counterfeit because of this security feature.**

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- It is not issued by any central authority, rendering it theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation.
- The first blockchain-based cryptocurrency was Bitcoin, which still remains the most popular and most valuable.
- Today, there are thousands of alternate cryptocurrencies with various functions or specifications.

### SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY A NEW SPECIES OF WASP IN GOA

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Scientists have recently identified a new species of Wasp from the genus *Kudakrumia* in Goa.

#### DETAILS:

- The Wasp, *Kudakrumia Rangnekari*, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.
- It belongs to the genus *Kudakrumia*.
- The *Kudakrumia* is a genus of primitive Wasps that is described and previously known only from Sri Lanka.
- The new species was collected from Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in South Goa district, of Goa.
- The sanctuary was established in 1968.

#### WHAT IS A WASP?

- A Wasp is any insect of the order Hymenoptera and suborder Apocrita that is neither a bee nor an ant.
- Wasps are adept at controlling pest populations and are regularly deployed to protect crops.
- For example, in Brazil, farmers control sugarcane borers with a kind of parasitic wasp.

#### ABOUT MR. PARAG RANGNEKAR:

- Mr. Parag Rangnekar's quest to document the butterflies of this unique region resulted in a record of 220 species, of which 13 species had not been spotted before.
- Mr. Rangnekar, who is the founder-president of the Goa Bird Conservation Network (GBCN), has now taken up the documentation of the dragonflies in the State.
- He wrote 'Butterflies of Goa', a first field guide with photographs of the species found in the Goa region.

### TRIPURA TO HOST THE 10TH NSFFI IN 2020

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10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be held in Agartala, Tripura in January-February 2020.

#### DETAILS:

- This is for the second time the event will be held in a North-Eastern city.
- It will be jointly hosted by Vigyan Prasar of the Central Government, State Government and Tripura Central University.
- Chief Minister of the State Biplab Kumar Deb had requested the Union Science and Technology Minister to hold the NSFFI in Tripura.
- Minimum 10 countries will participate in the upcoming event and it will include the films produced by UNICEF, UNESCO and filmmakers from different countries.

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- In NSFFI, the maximum length of the films will be 40 minutes and Vigyan Prasar will raise awareness on science and environment to the society through cinemas.
- NSFFI was first held in Chennai in 2011.
- Since then, all the regions of the nation have been covered including Bhubaneshwar, Kolkata, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Guwahati and Mohali.
- Besides the NSFFI, The Tripura Government has plans to host 'Destination Tripura', a special competitive film production initiative.
- It will focus on upholding tourism and rich biodiversity of Tripura like the flora and fauna, wildlife sanctuaries, water bodies, rubber and bamboo plantations.

### ABOUT NATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA(NSFFI):

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- The festival is an initiative of Vigyan Prasar and the Government of India to promote science films in India.
- Science filmmaking is not a developed field in India compared to many other developed countries.

## FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN TO PRESENT HER FIRST UNION BUDGET

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New Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her first Union Budget for 2019-20 on July 5th.

### DETAILS:

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- The Economic Survey will be presented by new Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on July 4.
- The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha is set to begin on June 17 and will continue till July 26.
- The house will elect a speaker on June 19.
- Ms. Sitharaman, 59, is the senior most woman minister in PM Modi's cabinet and the second woman to head the finance department after late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

## NITI AAYOG RECOMMENDS NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

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A task force on project management, headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, has suggested the development of a "National Project Management Policy Framework" for the effective execution of public sector and public-private partnership infrastructure projects.

### DETAILS:

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- It has also recommended the setting up of a nodal body for the certification of chartered project management professionals to create world-class infrastructure.
- The project management, with a view to delivering on time and within budget, is a learnable capability that can be institutionalised as demonstrated by the experiences of the U.S., the U.K., the UAE, and China.

### ABOUT NITI AAYOG:

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- NITI Aayog is a policy think tank of the Government of India.

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- It is established with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

### UN SECRETARY GENERAL APPOINTS ANITA BHATIA AS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

Indian-origin Anita Bhatia has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women- 'UN Women' for Resource Management, Sustainability, and Partnerships.

#### DETAILS:

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- Anita Bhatia is a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilization and management.
- **The agency, 'UN Women' is focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.**
- **The key appointment comes less than a week after Guterres appointed decorated Indian Army officer Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar as his new Force Commander of the UN Mission in South Sudan.**

#### ABOUT ANITA BHATIA:

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- **Bhatia holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Calcutta University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Yale University and a Juris Doctor in Law from Georgetown University.**
- Bhatia served for several years as Director of Global Partnerships for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm.
- Bhatia has led diverse teams, including as Global Head of Knowledge Management, Head of Business Process Improvement and Head of Change Management.
- **In addition to Latin America, she has worked in Africa, Europe, Central Asia and South & East Asia.**

### "ORDEN MEXICANA DEL AGUILA AZTECA" AWARD CONFERRED UPON MS. PRATIBHA PATIL

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Former Indian President Ms. Pratibha Patil has been conferred the "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners.

#### DETAILS:

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- **The Ambassador of Mexico to India, Ms. Melba Pria, conferred the award on Ms. Patil, who created history as India's first woman President (2007-2012), at a special ceremony held in the MCCIA Bhavan, Pune.**
- Mexico's highest distinction for foreigners is in recognition of their outstanding services to the Mexican nation or humanity, significant contributions to strengthening the bilateral relations between Mexico and other countries.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **Ms. Patil, 85, becomes only the second Indian head of state to get the award.**
- **Earlier, the late President S. Radhakrishnan had been conferred this honour.**

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- Other Indian recipients in various categories include Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, renowned artist Satish Gujral, industrialist Raghupati Singhania, Consul-General of Mexico in Mumbai Rajju Shroff and others.

### ORDER OF THE AZTEC EAGLE AWARD:

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- **The award was created by a decree in 1993 by the then President of Mexico, Abelardo L. Rodriguez, it is awarded to prominent heads of state or government, ambassadors after they have served in Mexico, important personalities who have made a major contribution in various fields, service to the country or its people.**
- **The Royal Eagle is Mexico's national animal, sacred to the ancient Aztecs and it is present on the National Emblem of the Mexican flag.**
- It is an essential symbol that links their Aztec past with the modern nation.
- It is of gold and turquoise and is given to express the respect and admiration of the Mexican people.
- The award comes in five degrees namely Collar, Sash of Special Category, Sash, Plaque, Venera and Insignia.

### CHAIRMAN AND MD AJAY SINGH ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF IATA

---

**SpiceJet's Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh gets elected to the board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), less than three months after the airline joined the global grouping.**

### ABOUT THE BOARD OF IATA:

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- **The new board of the global airlines' grouping would be chaired by Lufthansa Group Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr, who took charge after the conclusion of the IATA annual general meeting at Seoul, South Korea.**
- Spohr will be the Chairman of the IATA Board of Governors (BoG) for a one-year term.
- Other board members include Air Canada President and CEO Calin Rovinescu, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce and Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **In March, SpiceJet became the first Indian low-cost carrier to take membership of the IATA, a grouping of around 290 airlines.**
- Founder and former chairman of the now grounded Jet Airways Naresh Goyal, who was associated with the IATA for a long time, was a member on the previous board.

### ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA):

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- **IATA is a trade association of the world's airlines which provides consulting and training services in many areas.**
- **IATA was formed on 19 April 1945 and has its headquarters in Quebec, Canada.**
- Its DG and CEO is Alexandre de Juniac.
- 290 airlines of 120 countries have the membership of IATA.

### WORLD BICYCLE DAY CELEBRATED ON JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>

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**In April 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 3rd June as International World Bicycle Day.**

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### DETAILS:

- The resolution for World Bicycle Day recognizes the uniqueness, longevity, and versatility of the bicycle, which has been in use for two centuries, and that it is a simple, affordable, reliable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation.
- **2019 will be the second year when it will be celebrated after the UN General Assembly declared it in 2018** to acknowledge the importance of the bicycle which is an environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

### AIM OF WORLD BICYCLE DAY:

- The day aims to promote the use of bicycles as a means of fostering sustainable development, strengthening education, including physical education, for children and young people, promoting health and tolerance, preventing disease, mutual understanding and respect, facilitating social inclusion and a culture of peace.

### WORLD BICYCLE DAY IN INDIA:

- **In India, Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu had flagged off a cycling rally in Connaught Place in Delhi on the occasion of World Bicycle Day.**
- It was also celebrated by cyclists in many other cities like Bengaluru and Mumbai.

## ASSAM GOVT HIKES PARENTAL INCOME LIMIT TO RS 2 LAKHS

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Assam Government increased the parents' annual income of students eligible for fee waiver scheme up to post graduation level from Rs 1 Lakh to Rs 2 Lakh.

### DETAILS:

- This was announced by Assam education minister Siddhartha Bhattacharya.
- **This scheme does not cover private colleges and universities in Assam.**
- **Children of parents working in state and central government are not eligible.**

## ONGC BECOMES INDIA'S MOST PROFITABLE PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANY

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Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), India's top oil and gas producer, has toppled Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to regain the crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.

### DETAILS:

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a 34% jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to Rs. 26,716 crore.**
- Whereas, IOC registered a net profit of Rs. 17,274 crore for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.
- **ONGC, in the previous two financial years, had lost the most profitable PSU tag to IOC.**
- **With its refining margins under pressure due to falling oil prices, IOC had also lost the title of being India's largest company by turnover tag to billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries in FY19.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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### ABOUT ONGC:

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- **ONGC is an Indian multinational oil and gas company.**
- **It is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- It produces around 70% of India's crude oil and around 62% of natural gas.
- It was founded on 14th August 1956 and has its headquarters in New Delhi, India.
- The Chairman & MD of ONGC is Mr. Shashi Shankar.

### RAJASTHAN INCREASED FINANCIAL AID UNDER 'AAPKI BETI' SCHEME

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Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme and ex-gratia payment to the families of polling personnel who die during election duty.

### ABOUT THE AAPKI BETI SCHEME:

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- **Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died to get annual financial assistance in the state.**

### AMOUNT SANCTIONED UNDER AAPKI BETI SCHEME:

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- **The amount has been increased to 2,100 from Rs 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500.**
- **Similarly, the government has also increased ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of an officer killed on election duty to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 15 lakh.**

### FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK 2019 BEING OBSERVED

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Financial Literacy Week 2019 is being observed from 3rd June to 7th June 2019.

### DETAILS:

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- **It is an annual initiative by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to promote awareness of key topics through a focused campaign.**
- **The theme of Financial Literacy Week 2019 is 'Farmers'.**
- **The FL Week would focus on farmers as the target group with the primary theme being "responsible borrowing and agricultural finance".**
- It would also focus on how they can benefit from being a part of the formal banking system.
- The aim of the initiative is to create awareness about financial products and services, good financial practices, going digital and consumer protection.

### RBI'S FINANCIAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE INCLUDES:

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- **The FAME (Financial Awareness Messages) booklet- which provides basic financial literacy messages for information of the general public.**
- **It has developed tailored financial literacy content for five target groups' namely Farmers, Small entrepreneurs, School children, Self Help Groups and Senior Citizens.** The content can be used by the trainers in financial literacy programmes.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- **RBI has designed Audiovisuals on Basic Financial Literacy, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Going Digital** for the benefit of the general public on topics relating to Financial Literacy.

### MOHANA SINGH BECOMES COUNTRY'S FIRST WOMAN FIGHTER

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**Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh becomes the first woman fighter pilot of the Indian Air Force to fly by day on a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.**

#### DETAILS:

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- She landed after a grueling 4-aircraft combat sortie at Kalaikunda Air Force station in West Bengal.
- The other women officers - Bhawana Kanth and Avani Chaturvedi - joined the fighter stream in June 2016.
- Last week, Flight Lt. Bhawana Kanth became the first daytime woman fighter pilot to fly a MiG-21 Bison.
- She involved flying both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions.
- She has undertaken many practice missions which involved firing of rockets, guns and dropping high caliber bombs and has also participated in various Air Force level flying exercises.
- She has a total of over 500 hours of incident-free flying of which 380 hours are on the Hawk Mk 132 jet.

### MINISTRY OF AYUSH LAUNCHES YOGA CENTERS AND INSTRUCTORS

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**Ahead of International Yoga Day which is celebrated on June 21, the Ministry of AYUSH has launched "Yoga Locator", an app to locate yoga events and centers providing training and instructor within the user's range.**

#### DETAILS:

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- The mobile app was launched ahead of International Yoga Day on June 21st.
- **Yoga Locator is a map-based location app which will also enable yoga instructors to register themselves and reach out to a large number of people.**
- **The Yoga Locator app will help people to locate yoga centres as well as yoga instructors within the preferred radius of their vicinity.**
- It will be a permanent app which will give information to people about yoga activities happening in their vicinity throughout the year.

#### ABOUT YOGA AND INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY:

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- **Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice originated in India.**
- An International Day for Yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly.
- **The International Yoga Day is celebrated on June 21 every year.**

### MR. AJIT DOVAL REAPPOINTED AS THE NSA WITH CABINET MINISTER RANK

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**Ajit Doval is reappointed as the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India for another five year tenure.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **In recognition of his earlier contribution in the national security domain, he has also been elevated to the rank of Cabinet Minister for this term.**



## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- During his first term 2014-2019 as NSA, he was given the rank of Minister of State (MoS).

### ABOUT AJIT DOVAL:

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- He is a 1968-batch IPS officer.
- **For over 33 years he worked as an intelligence officer during which he served in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.**
- **The 74 year old Doval had also done several key diplomatic assignments in Pakistan and the United Kingdom (UK).**
- **He headed the Intelligence Bureau's (IB) operations wing for over a decade including serving as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) from July 2004 to January 2005.**
- Post retirement, he founded Vivekananda International Foundation, a public policy think tank headquartered in New Delhi.
- **In May 2014, he was appointed as India's fifth NSA.**
- **Under his supervision, a surgical strike was conducted in September 2016 (aftermath of Uri terror attack) and Balakot airstrike was conducted in February 2019 (aftermath of suicide attack on CRPF convey).**

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR (NSA):

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- **NSA is the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security policy matters.**
- He serves at the discretion of the Prime Minister of India.
- NSA is now seen as the most powerful bureaucrat in the Government of India.
- **This post was created in 1998 by then government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Since then either an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) or the Indian Police Service (IPS) serves the post.
- **Senior IFS officer Brajesh Mishra was India's first NSA (in office from November 1998-May 2004).**
- **NSA presides over the National Security Council (NSC).**
- NSC was established in 1998.
- It is an executive government agency that oversees India's political, economic, energy and security issues of strategic concern.
- **It is a three-tiered organization comprising of Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).**

### AAI SIGNS 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT'

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The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed a 'Technical Assistance Agreement' with aerospace major Boeing.

### DETAILS:

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- **The agreement aims to develop an air traffic management roadmap which will improve airspace utilization and help maintain efficient aircraft operations.**
- **The AAI will use guidance in the modernization of the Indian National Airspace System (NAS).**
- The roadmap is expected to be developed within 18 months and it will be undertaken with a grant from the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- In this project, Boeing will also work closely with Indian aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other airspace stakeholders like the US-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP).

### RAKESH MAKHIJA APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF AXIS BANK

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**Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approves the appointment of Rakesh Makhija as the chairman of Axis Bank.**

#### DETAILS:

- **In March 2019, the board of Axis bank had approved the appointment of Rakesh Makhija as chairman subject to RBI clearance.**
- Rakesh Makhija, independent director was appointed as the non-executive (part-time) chairman of the bank, for a period of 3 years, with effect from July 18, 2019 up to July 17, 2022.

#### ABOUT RAKESH MAKHIJA:

- Rakesh Makhija has held a number of top management positions within the SKF Group.
- Prior to joining SKF, he was the chief executive officer and managing director of Tata Honeywell Ltd.

### INDIA'S PREFERENTIAL TRADE STATUS UNDER GSP PROGRAMME

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**The United States has terminated India's preferential trade status under the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) programme.**

#### DETAILS:

- Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme.
- **India was the largest beneficiary of the GSP programme in 2017 with \$5.7 billion in imports to the US given duty-free status.**

#### REASONS FOR US WITHDRAWING INDIA'S GSP BENEFITS:

- US's trade imbalance with India
- No access to Indian market for US dairy
- Medical device industry
- Issues related to data localisation norms
- **The move was taken on determining that India has not committed to provide "equitable and reasonable access to its markets" for the US.**

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

- On March 4, President Trump announced that the US intends to terminate India's designations as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP programme.
- The 60-day notice period ended on May 3.

### MADHYA PRADESH TO INCREASE RESERVATION FOR OBCS TO 27%

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**Madhya Pradesh Cabinet passed a resolution to increase the percentage of reservation quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from existing 14 percent to 27 percent.**

### DETAILS:

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- **The move will lead to the reservation in the state breaching the Supreme Court-mandated 50 percent cap to reach 63 percent.**
- **Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country to have a 27 percent quota for OBCs.**
- Cabinet also increased the dearness allowance to 3% for employees.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY- 5 JUNE

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**World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on the 5th of June every year.**

- It is the United Nations principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

### ABOUT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2019:

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- **The theme for WED 2019 is "Beat Air Pollution".**
- **The host nation for WED 2019 is China.**

### ABOUT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2018:

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- The theme for WED 2018 was "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- **The host nation for WED 2018 was India.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **World Environment Day was first held in 1974.**
- Environment is an extremely significant area of concern today.
- **Approximately 7 million people worldwide die prematurely each year from air pollution, with about 4 million of these deaths occurring in Asia-Pacific.**

## NIRMALA SITHARAMAN TO ATTEND G20 FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING IN JAPAN

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**Finance Minister Shri Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Japan on June 8th and 9th.**

### DETAILS:

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- **It is the first overseas visit of Ms. Sitharaman as the Finance Minister.**
- She took charge as full time Finance Minister last week.
- **The main aim is to focus on the risks and challenges of overseas trade and investment in infrastructure which are faced by our country.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) submitted a report on taxation, urging greater cooperation among nations.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- India is actively participating in the OECD-G20 efforts to create a global consensus on the taxation of the digital economy.

### SUNDER PICHAJ AND ADENA FRIEDMAN TO GET GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARD 2019

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**Google's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq's President Adena Friedman selected for Global Leadership Awards 2019 by business advocacy group USIBC.**

#### DETAILS:

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- They both are recognized for their companies' contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms.
- **Washington-based US-India Business Council (USIBC) gives this award for achievements in over 30 categories for talented people who are recognized for their work by their companies.**
- **The award will be given in 'India Ideas Summit' next week.**

#### ABOUT GOOGLE:

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- Google is a tech company that was founded on 4th September 1998.
- **Its current CEO is Sundar Pichai**
- **The parent organization of Google is 'Alphabet Inc.'**
- **Founders of Google are Larry Page and Sergey Brin.**

### CHINA LAUNCHED SPACE ROCKET FROM SEA FOR THE FIRST TIME

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**China launched a space rocket from the sea for the first time on 5th June 2019.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **With this China becomes the third nation to successfully demonstrate the ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform following the U.S. and Russia.**
- **In the operation, March 11, a Long rocket was launched from a ship in the Yellow Sea.**
- The first ever seaborne launch technology aims to meet the growing launch demand of low inclination satellites.
- It is also expected to help China provide launch services for countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

#### ABOUT THE PAYLOADS:

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- **The rocket carried two experimental satellites and five commercial satellites.**
- The experimental satellites will monitor ocean winds to set up all-weather monitoring of ocean wind fields and improve typhoon monitoring and accuracy of the weather forecast in China.
- It was built by the China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing.
- Experimental satellites:
  1. Bufeng-1A
  2. Bufeng-1B

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- Commercial satellites:
  - Earth-imaging cubesat - 1
  - Tianqi-3, an experimental communications satellite
  - China's first two Ka-band communications satellites
  - New satellite for China's Jilin-1 remote-sensing satellite constellation

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### ABOUT CHINA'S SPACE EXPLORATION:

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- **China is the first nation to land a rover on the far side of the Moon.**
- **It also plans to build a research base on the lunar surface.**
- The country also plans to send a probe to Mars and build a space station in Earth orbit.
- **In 2003, China became the third nation to have the capability of launching humans into space.**

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### RIHANNA NAMED WORLD'S RICHEST FEMALE MUSICIAN BY FORBES

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**Forbes magazine has named Rihanna as the world's richest female musician.**

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#### DETAILS:

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- **Rihanna's Fenty Beauty brand business endeavors have officially made her the richest female musician in the world.**
- **Her worth is estimated at \$600m (£472m) which includes revenues made from her fashion and beauty lines in addition to those from her music career.**
- Forbes reported that the French luxury brand LVMH backs Rihanna's lucrative cosmetics company, "Fenty Beauty".
- Fenty beauty was launched in 2017.
- It is worth more than £3bn, from which Rihanna has earned \$570m.

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#### OTHER FOUR IN FORBES' LIST OF RICHEST FEMALE MUSICIANS:

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- Madonna stands second place (\$570m)
- Céline Dion stands third (\$450m)
- Beyoncé and Barbra Streisand tied in fourth (\$400m)
- Taylor Swift stands fifth (\$360m)

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#### FORBES' OTHER RANKINGS:

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- Forbes has also name Kardashian scion Kylie Jenner as America's youngest self-made billionaire.
- It has named Jay-Z as the world's first billionaire rapper as his worth is estimated at \$1bn.

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### ITF MEN'S FUTURE TENNIS TITLE WON BY SIDHARTH RAWAT

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**Sidharth Rawat won his title in the \$25,000 ITF Men's Futures Tennis tournament.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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### DETAILS:

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- **The tournament was held in Thailand.**
- Last year he won with Manish Sureshkumar for doubles.
- He is associated with coach Gaurav Sharma for nearly 15 years.
- He improved his current rank from 510 to 430.
- He defeated Shintaro Imai of Japan and lost to compatriots Vijay Sundar Prashanth and Sasi Kumar Mukund in the other finals matches.

### INTEREST RATES REDUCED RBI BY 25 BASIS POINTS TO 5.75%

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**The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reduced interest rates by 25 basis points to 5.75% with immediate effect amid slowing economic growth and rising global uncertainty, for the 3rd time in a row.**

### DETAILS:

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- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced it in the second bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20.
- **The reduction is expected to bring down the EMIs on home and auto loans and reduce the debt repayment burden on corporates.**

### WHAT IS REPO RATE?

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- **It is the rate at which the central bank of a country, that is RBI, lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.**
- The monetary authorities use this to control inflation.
- The banks can borrow money for about 7 to 14 days from the Reserve Bank of India.

### CURRENT STATUS OF DIFFERENT RATES:

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- Policy Repo Rate: 5.75%
- Reverse Repo Rate: 5.50%
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.00%
- Bank Rate: 6.00%
- CRR: 4%
- SLR: 19.00%

### TIJJANI MUHAMMAD BANDE ELECTED AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT

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**Nigeria's Ambassador to the UN, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande has been elected as the next President of the 74th session of UN General Assembly.**

### DETAILS:

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- **He will succeed Maria Fernanda Espinosa.**

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- The next General Assembly session will commence in September 2019.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **UNGA rule states that the President of the 74th session of the General Assembly should be elected from among the African States.**
- **In accordance with the rule, Muhammad-Bande has been elected.**
- He assumes charge as UNGA prepares to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its creation in 2020.
- India offered its support to Muhammad-Bande's candidature.

### FOCUS OF THE 74TH SESSION:

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- **Muhammad-Bande, a former University professor, said that his presidency will focus on peace and security, poverty eradication, zero hunger, quality education, climate action.**
- The 74th session of UNGA will focus on high-level meetings which include the High-level Political Forum, the Secretary-General's Climate Summit, the high-level events on Universal Health Coverage, Financing for Development and the commemoration of Beijing+25, providing major opportunities to promote the implementation of the goals and targets.

### INTERESTING TO KNOW:

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- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa was only the fourth woman to be elected President of the General Assembly in the world organization's 73-year-old history and the first woman president of the world body ever from Latin America and the Caribbean region.**

## RAJNATH SINGH TO CHAIR COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is to chair the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs in the second term of the NDA government.

### DETAILS:

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- **Decisions on all the parliament matters will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.**
- He was made a member of Cabinet Committee on Security and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.
- **He is also a part of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, the all-important panel on political affairs which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- All important political decisions in the ruling dispensation will be taken by the panel.
- **Apart from these 4 committees, he is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) and the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).**
- In total, he is now a part of six key panels of the government.

### GUJARAT TOPS ANNUAL FISH PRODUCTION OF 7.8 LAKH TONNES

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Gujarat topped the country with annual fish production of 7.8 lakh tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu (7.02 lakh tonnes) and Kerala (6.43 lakh tonnes) according to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

#### ABOUT THE REPORT:

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- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) released the district wise marine fish landing data for the year 2018.
- **The Fisheries Resources Assessment Division (FRAD) of CMFRI had collected random sampling data across the state and finalized the provisional figure.**
- The data was collected by the fisheries department by employing the multi-stage cluster sampling method and the figures varied.

#### FISH EXPORT IN 2018:

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- **While Cuttlefish (Cephalopods), prawns, Pomfrets, crabs and fishes belonging to the family of Percidae were exported, the protein-rich Sardines and Anchovies were sold in the local markets.**
- According to CMFRI report, the Fish production for the year 2018 was estimated at 3.49 million tonnes at the all India level.

### BIHAR TO WAIVE OFF 50% OF TAXES ON E-RICKSHAWAS

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The Bihar State government has announced to waive off 50% of the total taxes levied on the purchase and running of battery-propelled e-rickshaws.

#### DETAILS:

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- **The announcement was made by the deputy chief minister of state Sushil Kumar Modi.**
- He made the announcement while speaking at a World Environment Day function.
- The move is to combat air pollution.
- **3 cities of Bihar namely Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur are placed among the most 20 polluted cities of the world in a report by the World Health Organization (WHO).**
- **Seven departments of the state government have collectively prepared an integrated action plan to tackle the menace of pollution in the polluted cities of Bihar.**
- Also, the State has made arrangements, in 45 fuel-refilling centres in Patna alone to check the pollution emission from vehicles and at over 500 fuel refilling centres in the state in addition to run eco-friendly electric buses.

### GOOGLE MAPS LAUNCHES THREE NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT FEATURES

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Google has invented three new features- Bus travel times from live traffic in 10 of the largest cities in India, Live train status for Indian Railways trains and Mixed-mode commute suggestions that now combine auto-rickshaw and public transport.



### DETAILS:

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- The travel plan of Indian users are predicted by transit time while traveling on buses.
- **Google Maps enable users to know how long a bus trip will take when factoring in live traffic conditions.**
- **This feature is launched in 10 cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, Chennai, Mysore, Coimbatore and Surat.**
- The partnership app is 'Where is My Train' app acquired by Google in December 2018.
- It helped Google's 'Next Billion Users' initiative.

### INTERESTING TO KNOW:

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- **India is the top three countries for Google Maps transit usage.**
- The search engine has over 300 million users in the country.
- **Google Map has more than 10,000 routes on which it can predict the transit time accurately.**

## NEW SPECIES OF DUNG BEETLE FOUND IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang district.

### DETAILS:

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- **The new discovery named 'Enoplotrupes Tawangensis' is a 27-mm-long insect, relatively bigger than most dung beetles.**
- **The shining dark blue insect was first examined by two scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) - Kailash Chandra and Devanshu Gupta.**
- Czech scientist David Král confirmed that he found a similar specimen from Bhutan which borders the frontier state.
- Dung beetles feed exclusively or partially on feces.
- They belong to the super family called 'Scarabaeoidea' and have clubbed antennae and pro-tibiae (pro-legs) modified for burrowing dung inside the soil.
- **The species plays an important in agriculture and tropical forests.**
- **They bury and consume dung and in turn improves nutrient recycling and soil structure.**
- Further, they also help in seed dispersal and protect livestock from pests by removing dung from nearby.

## IAF SIGNS RS 300 CR DEAL TO BUY 100 MORE SPICE BOMBS

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The Indian Air Force signed a deal with Israel to buy around 100 'SPICE 2000' bombs, worth around Rs 300 crore.

### ABOUT THE SPICE BOMB:

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- It has a standoff range of 60 kilometres.
- **It is manufactured by Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **SPICE bombs were used by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to attack the madrasa of Jaish-e-Mohammed in Balakot, Pakistan, on February 26, in response to the terrorist attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama which resulted in the martyrdom of 40 CRPF personnel.**

### WORLD OCEANS DAY CELEBRATED ON 8TH JUNE

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World Oceans Day 2019 was celebrated on 8th June with the theme "Gender and Oceans".

### DETAILS:

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- **The day was declared in 2008.**
- It marks the day when it was first proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit, UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### THEME FOR THE WORLD OCEANS DAY 2019:

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- **The theme for the year 2019 is "Gender and Oceans".**
- **The theme is to build greater ocean and gender literacy and to discover possible ways to promote gender equality in ocean-related activities such as marine scientific research, fisheries, labour at sea, migration by sea and human trafficking, as well as policy-making and management.**
- The importance of gender equality is being recognized increasingly for the effective conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.
- Yet very little data and researches are available on these issues.
- **Serious action towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is still needed in all ocean-related sectors to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5.**

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION:

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- **María Fernanda Espinosa, the President of the General Assembly launched "Play It Out" which is a global campaign against plastic pollution.**
- Decades of overuse of single-use plastics has caused a huge menace to the marine lives.
- 13,000,000 tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year which kills 100,000 marine animals annually.
- **While most plastics are expected to remain intact for decades or centuries after use. These plastics erode and ends up as micro-plastics, consumed by fish and other marine wildlife, quickly making their way into the global food chain.**

### DHIRUBHAI NARANBHAI PATEL TAKES OATH AS THE CJI OF DELHI HC

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Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

### DETAILS:

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- **Lt. Governor Anil Baijal administered the oath of office to Justice Patel at a function held at Raj Niwas.**
- **Earlier, Justice Patel was posted at the Jharkhand High Court.**
- Supreme Court Collegium recommended his name for the appointment as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
- **He is former Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court and Judge of Gujarat High Court.**

## BANCHA, THE FIRST SOLAR KITCHEN ONLY VILLAGE IN INDIA

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**Bancha in Betul district in Madhya Pradesh is the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs.**

### DETAILS:

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- **There are places in India where solar plates are used sporadically for cooking, but with the help of a team from IIT Mumbai, a special solar stove was developed.**
- **No trees are cut by the villagers now for lighting their stoves.**
- **The Central government's decision to choose Bancha has changed has set an example which can be replicated to make other villages smoke and pollution free.**
- Villages can now cook their meals within half an hour and that too without the tension of smoke.
- **They also don't have to go anymore to the jungles for picking twigs and branches for the wooden stoves.**
- This is a big development which has changed the lives of children and women across the village.
- The project of installing solar power plates, batteries and stoves in all the 75 houses was started in September 2017 and got completed by December 2018.

## RBI SCRAPS NEFT AND RTGS TRANSACTION CHARGES

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**The RBI has removed transaction charges levied by it for Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems to boost digital transactions.**

### DETAILS:

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- **The Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) System is used for fund transfers up to Rs 2 lakh.**
- The State Bank of India (SBI) currently charges between Re 1 and Rs 5 for NEFT transactions and between Rs 5 and Rs 50 for RTGS.
- **RBI expects the banks to pass on the benefits of this move to cutomers.**
- **Also, the RBI has decided to set up a committee to review the charges levied on the use to ATMs as the usage by the public has been growing significantly.**

### INDIAN JR. WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM WINS CANTOR FITZGERALD U21

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**Indian Junior Women's Hockey team has won the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland 1-0 in the final.**

#### DETAILS:

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- India ended the tournament with three goals in four games.
- **Mumtaz Khan finished as the highest goal scorer of the tournament.**
- **Ireland created three PCs over the period of the final quarter was thwarted by a resolute Bichu Devi and the Indian defense to ensure that the team ended up with a clean sheet.**
- **Gagandeep's goal created major difference between the sides, as India prevailed 1-0 and took the title.**

### PINK SARATHI VEHICLES LAUNCHED BY KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT

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**Karnataka government has launched 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles that are procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and it will use the vehicles to attend to the grievances of women passengers in city buses.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **It was launched by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.**
- BMTC had received Rs.56.07 crore from the Centre under the Nirbhaya scheme.
- It has also taken up various measures for the safety of women passengers, including the launch of Pink Sarathi vehicles.
- **The BMTC now has a fleet of 25 Pink Sarathi vehicles fitted with GPS and public announcement systems.**
- The safety of female passengers will be a priority.
- **It will also take on other tasks such as manning traffic movement at bus bays making sure that drivers stop at the designated stops, taking action against bus crew when they fail to close the door once the vehicle is in motion, and ensuring that men are not occupying seats reserved for women.**

### MRUTYUNJAY MOHAPATRA APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF IMD

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**Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist Mrutyunjay Mohapatra has been appointed as the Chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD)**

#### DETAILS:

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- He is popularly known as the 'Cyclone Man'.
- He will take charge in the month of August.
- Mohapatra and his team at the Cyclone Warning Division (CWD) of the IMD are noted for their accurate forecasts on cyclones which have enabled the authorities to ensure early evacuation of millions of people eventually saving many lives.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- In the past six years, the CWD has given accurate forecasts on cyclones including when Phailin in 2013, Hudhud cyclone in 2014 and Titli in 2018 hit the eastern coast.

### ABOUT THE INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD):

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- The IMD is responsible for the weather and climate-related forecasts in the country.
- It is also mandated to issue warning to people about severe weather phenomenon like cyclones, dust storms, heavy rain and snow, cold and heat waves, among others.

## PM MODI CONFERRED WITH 'NISHAN IZZUDDIN'- MALDIVES' AWARD

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**Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred with Maldives' highest award 'Nishan Izzuddin'.**

### DETAILS:

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- The main aim of the visit is to further cement ties with the Indian Ocean archipelago.
- Earlier, Prime Minister Modi and Maldives President Solih held delegation-level talks as the two countries signed a slew of agreements to strengthen bilateral ties in a number of key areas including defence.
- **His last visit was in November 2018 to attend President Solih's swearing-in, this visit was the first by an Indian Prime Minister at a bilateral level in eight years.**

### RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES:

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- The relations between India and the Maldives soured after the sworn in of President Abdulla Yameen.
- **The Imposition of restrictions on work visas for Indians and signing of a new Free Trade Agreement with Beijing also did not go down well with New Delhi.**
- **The Maldives is a key to India's Maritime Silk Road project in the Indian Ocean acquired Hambantota port in Sri Lanka and Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.**
- Indian Government offered the Maldives a line of credit of 800 million US dollars and three important projects have already been identified and the project report preparation is underway.
- First project is- Water supply and sewerage for 36 of the Islands and is already implemented.
- Second one is- Addu Urban Development Centre
- The third project is- the SME Development Financing project.

## RK CHIBBER APPOINTED AS INTERIM CHIEF OF J&K BANK

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**Jammu and Kashmir government removed Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Bank Chairman Parvez Ahmad and appointed R K Chibber as Interim Chairman of the lender.**

### DETAILS:

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- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank decided to take long term measures to improve the functioning of the bank and it becomes a shining example of a well managed government-owned bank.**
- **Ahmad was appointed in 2016 as the chairman of the bank.**
- The Vigilance Organisation made 1,200 appointments during the previous PDP-BJP dispensation in the state during Ahmad's tenure as chairman of the bank.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- Last year the Governor-led State Administrative Council (SAC) approved the proposal for treating Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited as a public sector undertaking (PSU) and to make it to the state legislature from its employees.
- The government will re-examine the issue of accountability.

### SUDAN SUSPENDED FOR NO CIVILIAN RULE IN COUNTRY

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**The African Union's Peace and Security Council has suspended Sudan as there is no civilian rule established in the country.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **The decision was taken at AU's Peace and Security Council meeting in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.**
- This move by AU intensifies global pressure on Sudan's new military leaders to stand down after witnessing worst violence since Bashir's fall.
- **AU said Sudan will be suspended until power was transferred to a civilian-led authority in the country.**
- It also demanded to resolve an entrenched and bloody crisis.
- **The AU's suspension followed the forceful dispersal of the month-long sit-ins.**
- The military action resulted in the death of more than a hundred protesters.

#### ABOUT THE AFRICAN UNION(AU):

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- **The AU was founded on 26th May 2001 and was launched on 9th July 2002.**
- **The AU aims to achieve greater unity, cohesion, and solidarity between the African countries.**
- There are 55 member states in the African Union with its political centres in Addis Ababa and Johannesburg.
- **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is the Chairman of the African Union.**

### SRILANKAN AIRLINES NAMED 'WORLD'S MOST PUNCTUAL AIRLINE'

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**SriLankan Airlines named as the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time with over 90 percent of its flights in May being on time.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **This status was achieved for the second time in less than 12 months.**
- They achieved a punctuality rating of 91.37 percent.
- In May, it achieved a punctuality rating of 90.75 per cent.
- **SriLankan Airlines said achieving this status in May was impressive due to the challenges caused by heightened security at the airline's hub at the Bandaranaike International Airport in capital Colombo following the April 21 Easter Sunday terror attacks that killed over 250 people.**
- Flightstats analyzed 41 carriers data from Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and South America and includes most of the world's most prestigious airlines.

### RBI IMPOSED RS. 2 CR PENALTY ON KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for not furnishing information about the dilution of promoter shareholding.

#### DETAILS:

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- **The penalty was imposed by the RBI in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.**
- It is mainly based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- It is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank.
- **The bank failed to comply and a show cause notice was issued to the bank as to why penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the said directions.**
- **Uday Kotak recently told the Bombay High Court, he was in full compliance of the RBI rules and the regulator had never communicated to the promoters on the matter of shareholding.**

#### ABOUT THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI):

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- RBI has its headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
- It was established on 1st April 1935.
- **The current Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das.**

### INDIA'S FIRST DINOSAUR MUSEUM-CUM- PARK IN GUJARAT

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Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated India's first Dinosaur-Museum-cum-Park in Balasinor city in the Mahisagar district.

#### DETAILS:

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- It is set to give visitors a Jurassic Park kind of feel.
- **The museum is located in Raiyoli area in Balasinor city which exhibit remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records.**
- Dinosaur Museum cum Park is the first such park in the country and the world's third park.
- **Raiyoli area is the third largest dinosaur fossil site in the world and it is also the second largest dinosaur hatchery in the world, where thousands of eggs had been found.**

#### ABOUT THE DINOSAUR-MUSEUM-CUM-PARK:

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- **It is equipped with modern technology like 3D projection, virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks and life-size dinosaur replicas.**
- It has a total land area of 2.63 hectares.
- It will display the evolution of dinosaurs on earth and probable reasons for their extinction.
- **It is a world-class tourism spot and will prove useful to students as well as experts.**

### RAFAEL NADAL BEATS DOMINIC THIEM WON 12TH FRENCH OPEN TITLE

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World number two Rafael Nadal clinched the 12th French Open title in 15 years in men's singles category held in Roland Garros Stadium, France.

#### DETAILS:

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- He defeated world number four Dominic Thiem in the men's singles.
- The Spaniard won the match with a scoreline of 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.
- **The 33-year-old has now won 18 Grand Slam titles, two fewer than world number three Roger Federer.**

#### THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 2019 FRENCH OPEN:

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- Men's Singles: Spain- Rafael Nadal
- Women's Singles: Australia- Ashleigh Barty
- Men's Doubles: Germany- Kevin Krawietz / Germany- Andreas Mies
- Women's Doubles: Hungary- Tímea Babos / France- Kristina Mladenovic
- Mixed Doubles: China- Taipei Latisha Chan / Croatia- Ivan Dodig

### ASI DECLARED CHAUKHANDI STUPA AS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANT MONUMENT

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Chaukhandi Stupa, an ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, has been declared as a Monument and Protected Area of National Importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

#### CHAUKHANDI STUPA:

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- **Chaukhandi Stupa is a lofty mound of brick whose square edifice is surrounded by an octagonal tower.**
- **It was built to mark the place where Lord Buddha met his first disciples as he traveled from Bodhgaya to Sarnath.**
- The Chaukhandi Stupa is said to be originally a terraced temple during the Gupta period, that was from 4th to 6th Century.
- Govardhan, the son of Raja Todarmal gave the present shape to the Chaukhandi Stupa.
- He built an octagonal tower to commemorate the visit of Humayun, the great Mughal ruler.

#### ABOUT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (ASI):

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- **ASI was formed on 1861 and is headquartered at New Delhi, India.**
- ASI is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage in India.
- **It functions under the Ministry of Culture.**
- ASI is responsible for the regulation of all archaeological activities in the country as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.



### INDIA & PORTUGAL TO SET UP NATIONAL MARITIME HERITAGE MUSEUM

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**India has partnered with Portugal to set up a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal in Gujarat.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **The Indian Navy will be the stakeholder in the project and the Portuguese Navy will assist as they have experience in it by administering the maritime museum in Lisbon, Portugal.**
- India is to follow a similar model of the maritime museum.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT:

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- **In March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the project and the Government of India has allocated a grant for building the maritime museum.**
- The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Shipping through its Sagarmala programme.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) along with the State government and other stakeholders is also involved in setting up the museum.

#### PARTNERSHIP AND PLANS FOR THE MUSEUM:

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- **The initial discussion about the partnership was held during the visit of Portuguese Defence Minister João Gomes Cravinho to India in April 2019.**
- A Defence Ministry-led delegation will visit Portugal to study the existing museum.

#### WHAT IS A MARITIME MUSEUM?

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- **A maritime museum is a museum that specializes in displaying the objects related to ships and travel on large bodies of water.**
- A subcategory of maritime museums are naval museums, which focus on navies and the military use of the sea.

### ROMILA THAPAR ELECTED AS INTERNATIONAL MEMBER OF THE APS

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**Famous writer Romila Thapar elected as an International Member of the American Philosophical Society (APS) at its Annual Spring Meeting.**

#### ABOUT ROMILA THAPAR:

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- **She is an Emerita professor whose principal area of study is ancient India.**
- She wrote several books including the popular volume, A History of India, and is currently Professor Emerita at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi.
- **She was offered Padma Bhushan award but declined both times.**
- Her famous Works: Aśoka, epigraphy of Mauryan period, and ground-breaking studies and multiple historiographies surrounding contested Hindu and Muslim history of Somnath.

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### ABOUT THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (APS):

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- **The American Philosophical Society is an eminent scholarly organization of international reputation that promotes useful knowledge in the sciences and humanities through excellence in scholarly research, professional meetings, publications, library resources, and community outreach.**
- Considered the first learned society in the United States, it has played an important role in American cultural and intellectual life for over 270 years.
- **Benjamin Franklin was the founder of the APS and it was founded in 1743.**
- The American Philosophical Society has its headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.

### MP VIRENDRA KUMAR TO BE PRO-TEM SPEAKER OF 17TH LOK SABHA

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**Virendra Kumar, a seven-time BJP MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh is chosen as the pro tem speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **He is likely to be administered the oath of office at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 17th, the day when newly elected Lok Sabha commences its first session.**
- On the first two days, the new MPs will take the oath.
- **The election for the speaker will be on June 19th.**

#### ABOUT VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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- **He was elected to the 11th Lok Sabha for the first time in 1996.**
- He became a member of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare.
- He served as a member and chairman of various committees.
- He has a Ph.D. and started his political career in 1977.
- He became the convener of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.
- He served a prison sentence of 16 months under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in protest against the imposition of Emergency when he was associated with RSS.
- He was a minister of state in the previous Modi government.

#### DEFINITION OF PRO TEM SPEAKER:

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- **After the general election and formation of a new government, a list of senior Lok Sabha members prepared by the Legislative Section is submitted to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.**
- He then selects a pro tem speaker.
- The appointment must be approved by the President.

### TOKAYEV SWORN IN AS THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

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**Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has been sworn in as the President of Kazakhstan.**

### DETAILS:

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- **He was the interim president and hand-picked successor of Nursultan Nazarbayev.**
- He won the election, which was held on 9th June, with 70.96% of the vote which was contested against six government-approved candidates.
- Tokayev presidency aims to continue Nazarbayev's policies aimed at improving the well-being of the people.
- **He succeeded Nursultan Nazarbayev, who announced his resignation in March after 30 years in power.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **This is the first time Kazakhstan gets its new president since the collapse of the Soviet Union.**

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR OBSERVED JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

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**World Day Against Child Labour was observed on June 12th.**

- The 2019 theme is- **Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!**

### DETAILS:

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- The International Labour Organization (ILO) started to observe World Day Against Child Labour in 2002.
- **The day brings government employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers.**
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015 to include a renewed global commitment to ending child labour.
- **Sustainable Development Goals and effective measures are take-ups in order to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour includes use of child labours by the year 2025 and to end child labour in all its forms.**

## IAAF CHANGES ITS NAME TO "WORLD ATHLETICS"

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**The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the international governing body for the sport of athletics, changed its name to World Athletics.**

### DETAILS:

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- The members of IAAF council have approved the rebranding at an IAAF Council meeting held in Monaco on 8th June.
- The process to rebrand IAAF began in January 2018.

### PURPOSE OF THIS REBRANDING:

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- The new name and logo has been designed to represent the modern and positive face for athletics.
- Also, it aims to attract the younger audience.

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- It will see the organisation take on its new name and a re-designed logo after the 2019 World Athletics Championship in Doha in October.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- IAAF was formed on 17th July 1912.
- **When it was founded the name it had was International Amateur Athletic Federation.**
- **It was then changed to International Association of Athletics Federations in 2001.**
- The headquarters of IAAF are located in Monaco.
- IAAF has 215 member federations.
- **The Current President of IAAF is Sebastian Coe.**
- **The CEO of IAAF is Jon Ridgeon.**

## BIHAR TO PUNISH CHILDREN FOR ABANDONING ELDERLY PARENTS

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The Bihar State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has approved the proposal to punish sons and daughters, who abandon their elderly parents, with a jail term.

### DETAILS:

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- The approval was announced on 11th June.
- The proposal was moved by the state's Social Welfare Department.
- **Such cases will be registered under the non-bailable section after receiving complaints from elderly parents.**
- **The decision is expected to have a huge impact in society in taking care of the elderly, who are at times neglected or abandoned by their wards.**

## CABINET APPROVED THE SETTING UP OF DSRO

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The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of Defence Space Research Organisation (DSRO).

### DETAILS:

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- It is a new agency, which will develop sophisticated weapon systems.
- **The approval is aimed to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space.**
- The agency is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

### MEMBERS OF DSRO:

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- The agency will be headed by a Joint Secretary-level scientist.
- **DSRO would constitute a team of scientists which would be working in close coordination with the tri-services integrated Defence staff officers.**

### FUNCTIONS OF DSRO:

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- DSRO will be entrusted with the task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
- **DSRO will provide technical and research support to its parent organization, the Defence Space Agency (DSA).**
- The organization is also charged with finding and implementing defense applications for India's entire spectrum of space technologies.

### ABOUT DSA:

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- Defence Space Agency (DSA) will constitute of members from the three services.
- **The aim of setting up of DSA is to help the country fight wars in the space.**
- **DSA is being set up under an Air Vice Marshal-rank officer in Bengaluru.**
- It will be gradually taking over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.

### JNU TO AWARD NIRMALA SITHARAMAN AND S. JAISHANKAR

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The Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has planned to confer Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar with the 'Distinguished Alumni Award'.

### DETAILS:

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- The function is to be held in the month of August.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman studied in the School of Social Sciences and the School of International Studies of the university for her MA and M Phil degrees respectively.
- Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar studied in the School of International Studies where he completed his M Phil and Doctoral research with the specialisation in Nuclear Diplomacy.

### PRIYANKA CHOPRA SELECTED FOR DANNY KAYE HUMANITARIAN AWARD

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Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by United Nations International Children's Fund's (UNICEF) American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December 2019.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **Priyanka Chopra is known for her contribution to social causes and for being a voice for children's education.**
- She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and most recently she visited Ethiopia as part of it.
- **She also has been a part of United Nation's global "Girl Up" Campaign.**
- She is also associated with several NGOs in India to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.

### ABOUT UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF):

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- **It is special program of UN devoted to aid national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.**

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- It was established in 1946 to provide relief to children in countries devastated by World War II.
- It is headquartered in New York City, United States.
- It was formerly known as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

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### ABOUT THE DANNY KAYE HUMANITARIAN AWARD:

- It is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye.
- He was an American actor, singer, dancer, comedian, musician and philanthropist.
- He was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador in 1954.

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## THAWARCHAND GEHLOT APPOINTED AS LEADER OF RAJYA SABHA

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Thawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has been appointed as Leader of Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

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### ONE MUST KNOW:

- The Leader of the Rajya Sabha is appointed by the party in power at Centre.
- This position was occupied by senior BJP leader and former Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley in previous Narendra Modi-led government (2014-2019).

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### ABOUT THAWARCHAND GEHLOT:

- The 71-year-old Gehlot, is a leader from Madhya Pradesh has almost four decades of legislative experience.
- Apart from being an experienced parliamentarian, he is a member & general secretary of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
- He belongs to the Scheduled Caste and is a Dalit face of saffron party.
- He has been a member of state legislative assembly for several terms and has also served in Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.
- **He became a Rajya Sabha member in 2012 and was re-elected to Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh in 2018.**
- This new term of his will end in 2024.
- A member to Upper House of Parliament has a term of 6 years.

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### LEADER OF RAJYA SABHA (UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT):

- **A Leader of House is a Rajya Sabha member who either holds a rank of cabinet minister or another nominated minister.**
- The Leader has a seat next to ex-officio Chairperson of Rajya Sabha (the Vice President of India), in the front row.
- The term 'Leader of the House' has been defined in Rule 2(1) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Gopalswami Ayyangar was the 1st Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.**

### IRSDC ENTERS INTO TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH RAILWAYS & AFD

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The Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered into a Tripartite Agreement with French National Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French development agency in order to support Railway Station Development Program in India.

#### DETAILS:

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- Under the Tripartite Agreement, AFD will provide in-kind grant financing up to €700,000 to French Railways (SNCF), to provide technical know-how to Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC), which is the station development arm of Indian Railways.
- The technical know-how will be provided by French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC therefore, this will not impose any financial liability on IRSDC or Indian Railways.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT:

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- The recently signed Tripartite Agreement will go a long way in further strengthening cooperation between India and France, as well as help Indian Railways in positioning its stations in accordance to world class standards.

#### INDIAN AND FRENCH ALLIANCE IN THE RAILWAY SECTOR:

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- India and France have a strong, prosperous and long-standing partnership in the Railway sector.
- The past association between French National Railways (SNCF) with Indian Railways includes conducting station development of Ludhiana and Ambala Railway stations and undertaking speed upgradation study to enable 200 kmph speed run on 245 km long Delhi-Chandigarh corridor, one of busiest routes in northern India.

### MANIPUR MAN DETECTS WHATSAPP BUG ENTERS FB 'HALL OF FAME'

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Zonel Sougajam, a civil engineer from Manipur was included in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019, for detecting a WhatsApp bug that violated privacy of a user.

#### DETAILS:

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- Facebook, the social media giant honoured 22-year-old Mr. Sougajam, by including him in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019 and also awarded \$5000.
- His name is currently at 16th position in a list of 94 people who are included in Facebook Hall of Fame for this year.

#### ABOUT THE WHATSAPP BUG:

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- During a voice call via WhatsApp, the bug instilled used to allow a caller to upgrade it to a video call even without the authorisation and knowledge of the receiver.

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- **The WhatsApp caller was then able to see what other person on receiving end is doing, thus violating the privacy of the receiver.**
- Sougajam discovered this bug and reported the matter in March 2019 to the 'Bug Bounty Program' of Facebook, which deals with matters of violation privacy.
- The Facebook Security team acknowledged his report and its technical department fixed the bug within 15-20 days.

### THE SULTAN OF OMAN GRANTS 'ROYAL PARDON' TO 17 INDIANS

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**On the occasion of Eid ul Fitr, Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said granted a royal pardon to 17 Indians serving various jail sentences in Oman.**

- Indian Embassy in Oman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar appreciated the merciful gesture of Oman's Sultan.

#### INDIA-OMAN RELATIONS:

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- India-Oman relations are foreign relations between the Republic of India and the Sultanate of Oman.
- India has an embassy in Muscat, Oman.
- **An Indian consulate was opened in Muscat in February 1955 which was upgraded to a consulate general in 1960 and later into a full-fledged embassy in 1971.**
- The first ambassador of India arrived in Muscat in 1973.
- **Oman established its embassy in New Delhi in 1972 and a consulate general in Mumbai in 1976.**
- **India and Oman have had trade and people-to-people ties for several millennia.**
- Oman is home to a large Indian expatriate community and for Oman, India is an important trading partner.
- **Politically, Oman has been supportive of India's bid for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.**

### JUNE 14TH CELEBRATED AS WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

---

**Countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day on June 14th.**

- The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors.
- It is observed by all member states of the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### DETAILS:

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- **The theme for 2019 is - Blood Donation and Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion.**
- **The main aim is to use it as a component of achieving universal health coverage.**
- The theme encourages more people all over the world to become blood donors and donate blood regularly.
- **It is an important occasion for all governments, national health authorities and national blood services to provide adequate infrastructures to increase collection of blood from regular unpaid blood donors.**
- It helps to mobilize support at national, regional and global levels among governments and development partners to invest in, strengthen and sustain national blood programmes.



### 54TH JNANPITH AWARD CONFERRED ON AUTHOR AMITAV GHOSH

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**Author Amitav Ghosh was conferred the 54th Jnanpith Award.**

#### DETAILS:

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- He was awarded for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian literature in English at a ceremony.
- The award was presented by the former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi in New Delhi.
- **Amitav Ghosh is the first English writer to get the prestigious Jnanpith Award.**

#### ABOUT AMITAV GHOSH:

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- Amitav Ghosh is an Indian writer who is best known for his work in English fiction.
- **In 2007, the government of India awarded him the civilian honour of Padma Shri.**
- He has also received the Israeli Dan David Prize, together with Margaret Atwood.

#### HIS WORKS AND AWARDS:

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- His book, The Circle of Reason won the Prix Médicis étranger which is France's top literary awards.
- His work 'The Calcutta Chromosome' won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for 1997.
- Also, his work 'Sea of Poppies' was shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize.
- The book 'River of Smoke' was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize 2011.

#### ABOUT THE JNANPITH AWARD:

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- The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award.
- It was instituted in 1961.
- **The award is sponsored by Bharatiya Jnanpith, a literary research organization.**
- **It is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their outstanding contribution towards literature.**
- The award is bestowed only on Indian writers who writes in Indian languages that are included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral.
- **G. Sankara Kurup was the first who received the award in 1965.**
- **The award consists of a citation plaque, a cash prize of Rs.12 lakh (around), and a bronze replica of Saraswati, the Hindu Goddess of knowledge and wisdom.**

### ENHANCED DISCLOSURE GUIDELINES INTRODUCED BY SEBI

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**Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced enhanced disclosure guidelines for credit rating agencies (CRA).**

#### DETAILS:

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- SEBI asked the rating companies to disclose the probability of default for the issuers they rate, troubled by the raters' track record of detecting defaults or near-defaults.

### REASON FOR THE MOVE:

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- Since the global financial crisis in 2008, the credibility of the rating agencies has been eroding because of the conflict of interest that arises from the fact that they are paid by the issuers to rate their securities and for their failure to downgrade troubled firms until they are on the verge of bankruptcy.
- **The recent Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd's (IL&FS) liquidity crisis among non-bank lenders in India has focused attention again on credit rating agencies.**

### THE GUIDELINES:

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- **The rating companies must create an uniform probability of default benchmark for each rating category on their website, for one-year, two-year and three-year cumulative default rates, both for the short term and long term.**
- **They should use marginal default methodology to arrive at default rates.**
- The methodology should be revised.
- This can bring the rating companies in line with global best practices and increased disclosures for liquidity and rating sensitivity factors.
- **SEBI defined the terms that the companies should use to describe the liquidity position of issuer, that is, strong, adequate, stretched and poor.**
- **Tracking the probability of default is a step towards aligning Indian rules with global standards.**
- The probability of default is the likelihood of a default over a particular period.

### AMASEBAILU BECOMES FIRST 100% SOLAR POWERED VILLAGE IN KARNATAKA

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**Amasebailu has become the first village in Karnataka to have 100% solar-powered houses.**

- Amasebailu is a small village situated on the left bank of Haldi river in Udupi.
- It was a three-year-long project.

### DETAILS:

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- **The village is tagged as a Solar Gram Panchayat with about 1858 houses illuminated with solar lamps.**
- The project was launched three years ago in 2016.
- It is implemented at a total cost of Rs. 2.13 crore.
- The project was funded by the Centre and the State Government.
- **The ratio 30:20 and the rest was paid by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.**
- **The installation cost of one solar lamp lies around Rs. 5000 but they were given to household at a subsidized rate of Rs. 1500.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- The demand for decentralized small scale energy projects instead of centralized mega-projects is increasing due to growing environmental concerns.

### RBI ASKS BANKS TO GROUT THEIR ATMS TO A STRUCTURE BY SEPTEMBER END

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The Reserve Bank of India has asked the banks to ensure their ATMs are grouted to a wall, pillar, or floor by the end of September month, except those installed in high secured premises such as airports.

#### DETAILS:

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- The announcement comes with an aim to enhance security of the cash vending machines.
- **The ATMs shall be operated for cash replenishment only with digital One Time Combination (OTC) locks.**
- **All banks can also roll out a comprehensive e-surveillance mechanism at the ATMs.**
- This will ensure timely alerts and quick response.

#### ABOUT THE COMMITTEE ON CURRENCY MOVEMENT (CCM):

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- **The RBI had set up a Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) in 2016.**
- The committee was asked to review the entire gamut of security of treasure in transit and submit reports regarding that.
- As per the recommendations suggested by the panel, the Reserve Bank of India has now issued the instructions aimed at mitigating risks in ATM operations and enhancing security.

### UK GOVERNMENT BANNED COMMERCIALS THAT REINFORCE GENDER PREJUDICES

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UK Government has banned commercials that reinforce gender prejudices.

#### DETAILS:

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- **Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), UK's advertising watchdog introduced the ban because it found evidence suggesting that adverse stereotypes could restrict the choices, aspirations and opportunities of children, young people and adults.**
- These kinds of stereotypes can be reinforced by some advertisements that play a part in unequal gender outcomes.
- The new rule follows a review of gender stereotyping in adverts by the organisation that administers the UK Advertising Codes, which cover both broadcast and non-broadcast adverts, including online and social media.

### INDIA TO BE GUEST AT GUADALAJARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

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India has been designated as the Guest of Honour at the 33rd Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara (Guadalajara International Book Fair) in Mexico.

### DETAILS:

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- The book fair will be organized from November 30th to December 8th.
- **India pavilion at the fair will showcase over 35 Indian authors and artists, along with 15 publishing houses.**
- India will display a wide array of its rich and composite literary and cultural heritage through literary and academic activities comprising conferences.
- **Ancient and rare manuscripts including "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana" will be put on exhibition, along with photo books, handicrafts, and paintings.**
- The exhibition will run parallel to the book fair in the pavillion.
- They will feature art by 40 renowned Indian women artists including Arpana Caur, Paula Sengupta and Seema Kohli.
- **The "Festival of India" will showcase folk, classical and contemporary cultural programmes.**

### WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY SARAH SANDERS RESIGNS

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders will be stepping down from her current position as White House Press Secretary.

### DETAILS:

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- She has been serving in the Trump administration for more than three years.
- **Sanders, 36, worked on the communications team of Trump's 2016 campaign.**
- Later, she joined the White House as deputy press secretary when Trump took office.
- **She had been appointed as the White House Press Secretary in July 2017, after Sean Spicer resigned from the position.**

### AKSHAYA PATRA WAS AWARDED BBC WORLD SERVICE GLOBAL CHAMPION

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Bengaluru-based NGO 'Akshaya Patra' has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award.

### DETAILS:

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- The award was presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, London.
- **The award recognises a project or person who is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.**
- Akshaya Patra was selected by an international panel of judges from nominations sent in by the World Service audience around the world.
- Other projects on the shortlist included UK charity WRAP and Food 4 Education.

### ABOUT AKSHAYA PATRA:

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- **Akshaya Patra is a non-profit organisation which was established in 2000.**
- **The organisation runs one of the world's largest school meals project in India.**
- The mission aims to ensure that no child is deprived of education because of hunger.
- **It recognises that children may abandon education to do menial jobs to earn enough money to eat and also an empty stomach in the classroom can make it hard for them to concentrate.**

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- 20 years ago, the charity started its midday meal programme.
- Initially it provided 1,500 free school lunches every day.
- **Today, it feeds 1.75 million children all over India.**
- **The organisation has its location in various states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh.**

### PETER GILCHRIST WINS PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

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**Peter Gilchrist has won the Pacific International Billiards Championship 2019 at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **Peter Gilchrist defeated Kolkata cueist Kothari** who had been on a roll winning the International Reventon Classic Snooker championship, a triple crown event of Australia and thereafter went on to display some outstanding billiards en-route the final.

#### ABOUT PETER GILCHRIST:

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- **Peter Gilchrist is an English-born Singaporean English billiards player.**
- He has won the WPBSA World Championships in 1994, 2001 and in 2013.
- He has also represented Singapore in the SEA Games in 2009, where he won Gold for English Billiards Singles, and Bronze for the doubles.
- **He also set the world record for highest break in billiards (1346) under modern rules, at the New Zealand Open Billiards Championships.**
- In 2014, he scored his second 1000 break at the World Billiards Irish Open.
- **He is the only player of the modern era who scored more than one 1000 points in tournament break.**

### ADANI GROUP GETS APPROVAL FOR COAL MINE PROJECT IN AUSTRALIA

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**Adani Group has got its approvals from the Queensland state government, Australia for the Carmichael coal mine project in Australia.**

#### DETAILS:

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- The plan was approved by the central government in April, 2019.
- The project aims to ensure energy security for India and create more jobs for Australia.

#### BACKGROUND:

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- **Adani Group's mining project in Australia faced various controversies for almost nine years as the environmentalists warned it of the severe damage it might cause to the Great Barrier Reef.**
- In August 2015, a federal court in Sydney revoked the environmental clearance given to the project.

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- It cited the reason as the project threatened the Yakka Skink, Australia's native lizard and a species of ornamental snake found in the area.
- The Australian government later reversed the decision and gave the approval.
- But the government imposed more conditions relating to community issues and environmental standards.

### WORLD'S HIGHEST WEATHER STATIONS INSTALLED ON MT EVEREST

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Scientists from National Geographic Society and Tribhuvan University have installed two highest weather stations in the world in an expedition to Mount Everest that wrapped up in June 2019.

#### DETAILS:

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- The two weather monitoring stations are located at an altitude of 8,430 meters (27,657 feet) and 7,945 meters (26,066 feet).
- Also, three other stations have been set up across the Mount Everest.
- The setting up of the weather stations aim to collect weather data.
- The data gathered from the stations will help scientists to understand how rising global temperatures impacts the rapidly melting glaciers.
- The nearly two month expedition involved a team of more than 30 scientists from all over the world, including 17 Nepali researchers.
- The team also collected the world highest ice core sample at 8,020 meters, which will help the scientists study the deep record of precipitation on the mountain and composition of the atmosphere during pre-industrial times.
- The project also reached another milestone of placing the world's highest helicopter-based lidar scan and the most detailed photogrammetric imaging, also with lidar scans of the Everest Base Camp area and the entire Khumbu Glacier.

### TRIPURA TO SET UP MUSEUM TO SHOWCASE R.D. BURMAN'S WORK

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Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Deb has decided to set up a museum dedicated to noted music composer and director Rahul Dev Burman, popularly known as R.D. Burman or 'Pancham Da'.

#### DETAILS:

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- The museum will have rare collections of Pancham Da's music, photographs, recordings and books.
- His personal belongings will also be displayed for people.
- R.D. Burman's wife and singer Asha Bhosle has been invited for the inauguration.
- In 1980, R.D. Burman married singer Asha Bhosle and both of them recorded several hit songs and staged many live performances.
- From 1960s to 1990s, he composed music for 331 films.
- The only son of Sachin Dev Burman, most of RD Burman's work was done with Asha Bhosle.

### VIRAT KOHLI BECOMES FASTEST CRICKETER TO SCORE 11,000 ODI RUNS

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Virat Kohli achieved the world record of being the fastest to score 11,000 one-day international runs.

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### DETAILS:

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- Kohli reached the milestone while batting in the World Cup match against Pakistan at Old Trafford, when he flicked Hasan Ali for a four down to fine leg to take his score to 60.
- **Kohli got there in 222 innings, 54 innings fewer than the previous record holder, Sachin Tendulkar.**
- **Tendulkar broke the record in his 276th ODI innings, in 2002 in Kanpur against England.**
- **Kohli has the distinction of being the fastest to 8000, 9000 and 10,000 ODI runs as well.**

## IRAQ ALLOWED BY US TO IMPORT IRANIAN GAS

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The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions.

### DETAILS:

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- However, the US insisted that Iraq finds an alternative measure for its need of electricity, including by harnessing gas energy and reducing flaring at oil production sites.
- **Iraq has had several extensions to the waiver first granted in 2018 after Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran's oil sector forbidding countries from purchasing Iranian energy.**
- The extension was given during a phone call between Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.
- The United States continued to insist on diversifying energy imports away from Iran.
- **U.S. energy giant General Electric won a multibillion-dollar contracts to rebuild Iraq's electricity system amid intense U.S. lobbying efforts.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **US reimposed sanctions on Iran's oil industry in November, citing concerns about its nuclear programme and its meddling in the Middle East.**

## WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT 17 JUNE

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World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on June 17th.

### DETAILS:

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- **The theme for this year is "Let's grow the future together."**
- The aim of this day is to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.

### UNITED NATIONS' STANCE:

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- **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said that land degradation and drought are major threats affecting millions of people worldwide, particularly women and children.**
- Every year, the world loses 24 billion tons of fertile soil and dryland degradation reduces national domestic product in developing countries by up to 8 per cent annually.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- **Protecting and restoring land and better using it can reduce forced migration, improve food security and spur economic growth.**
- It can also help to address the global climate emergency.
- Land degradation neutrality is achieved through problem-solving, strong community involvement and cooperation at all levels.
- This day is observed to recognize the imperative of combating desertification as part of the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

### J&K BANK TO NOW COMES UNDER RTI ACT, CVC GUIDELINES

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Jammu and Kashmir Bank is now under the purview of Right to Information (RTI) Act and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines.

#### DETAILS:

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- The decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
- The move will ensure greater transparency and accountability.
- **The decision is after the removal of Parvez Ahmed as the Chairman of the J&K Bank.**
- **He was accused of alleged corruption, nepotism and favouritism.**
- Being a government-owned bank, the bank without any choice is to be under RTI.
- It has been registered under the companies act as a government company.
- **The bank is expected to be brought under the RTI and CVC guidelines by the end of June.**

#### CVC:

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- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption.

#### RTI:

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- Right to Information Act provides for setting out the practical regime of the right to information for citizens and replaces the erstwhile Freedom of Information Act, 2002.
- **A citizen of India can go for filing an RTI at any point in time whenever he wants to seek any information regarding any government organization, or its any ongoing program, any public authority, etc.**

### SUMAN RAO FROM RAJASTHANI CROWNED MISS INDIA 2019

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Suman Rao from Rajasthan won the Femina Miss India World 2019 Title.

#### DETAILS:

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- The ceremony was held at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- **Shivani Jadhav, Chhattisgarh won Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title.**
- **Shreya Shanker, Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title.**



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- The judges were designer duo Falguni Shane Peacock, Miss World 2018 Vanessa Ponce de Leon, actors Huma Qureshi, Chitrangda Singh, Aayush Sharma, choreographer-filmmaker Remo D'Souza, sprinter Dutee Chand and football captain Sunil Chhetri.
- The show was hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and actor-anchor Maniesh Paul along with Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar.
- **Suman Rao is a CA Student who is studying in Rajasthan.**
- **Telangana's Sanjana Vij won as Miss India Runner Up 2019.**

## SOCIAL ACTIVIST MAKARAND TILLOO WON 'SAVE WATER HERO AWARD'

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Social activist Makarand Tiloo has won the 'Save Water Hero Award'.

### DETAILS:

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- This award was presented to him in order to encourage his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city.
- The ceremony was held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- **He is a Laughter Yoga trainer and motivational speaker and campaigns to save water by replacing leaking taps with new ones.**
- He was honored by the HridayMitra Foundation with the presence of writer and philanthropist Ramchandra Dekhane and foundation president Shrikant Mundada.
- **Makarand Tiloo is the founder of a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) named Jalrakshak Prabodhini.**

## INDIA TO HOST CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF UNCCD

---

India will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for the first time.

### DETAILS:

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- **COP-14 will be held between September 2nd and 14th in Delhi.**
- It is expected that at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries will be participating.
- **The Centre launched a flagship project, part of a larger international initiative called the 'Bonn Challenge' ahead of the COP-14.**
- The flagship project aims to enhance India's capacity for forest landscape restoration (FLR).
- **The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land under restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.**

### ABOUT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD):

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- **UNCCD aims to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through national action programs that incorporate long-term strategies supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements.**
- It was drafted on 17th June 1994 and was signed into effect on 14th October 1994.
- **There are 197 parties to it (196 states + the European Union).**

### LT. GEN FAIZ HAMEED APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR GENERAL ISI

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**Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as the Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (DG-ISI) of Pakistan.**

#### DETAILS:

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- He assumed his office on 17th June 2019.
- The Pakistan Army also announced a number of changes to postings of its top generals.
- Lt. Gen. Hameed was appointed as Director-General of the ISI in place of Lieutenant General Asim Munir.
- Munir was transferred and appointed as Corps Commander Gujranwala.
- Lt. Gen. Munir was appointed as ISI chief in October 2018 after the retirement of his predecessor Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar.

#### ABOUT LIEUTENANT GENERAL FAIZ HAMEED:

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- He is currently the 24th Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (DG-ISI).
- On April 12, the Pakistan Army promoted then Major General Hameed to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed him Adjutant General at the General Headquarters (GHQ) later that month.
- He was previously serving as the head of the Counter Intelligence wing in the ISI.

### BANGLADESH RECORD 2ND HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASE IN WORLD CUP HISTORY

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**Bangladesh has recorded the second highest successful chase in World Cup history.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **The Bangladesh cricket team chased down the target of 322 against West Indies.**
- Bangladesh (322/3) beat West Indies (321/8) by 7 wickets in Taunton.
- **The previous second highest successful chase in World Cup was also recorded by Bangladesh when they chased down the target of 319 against Scotland in 2015.**
- **Notably, it is also Bangladesh's highest ever chase in ODI cricket.**

### INGER ANDERSEN APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNEP

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**Inger Andersen of Denmark is appointed as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**

#### DETAILS:

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- She was nominated to the post by UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- The nomination was approved by acclamation by the UN General Assembly on 20th February.
- **She will serve for a period of four years.**

### ABOUT INGER ANDERSEN:

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- **Ms. Andersen is a former Director General of the IUCN with over thirty years of experience in the field of international development.**
- She has held various leadership positions at the World Bank (with almost 15 years of experience) and United Nations.
- She was the Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank from 2011 to 2015 and Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Fund Council from 2010 to 2011.

### ABOUT UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP):

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- **UNEP aims to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations, and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.**
- **It has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.**
- UNEP was founded in 1972.

### J.P. NADDA APPOINTED AS BJP'S WORKING PRESIDENT

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**Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, a senior BJP leader, has been appointed as the party's working president during a parliamentary board meeting on 17th June.**

#### DETAILS:

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- The announcement was made by former BJP president and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after the party's highest decision-making body's meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Nadda on his appointment.

### ZUZANA CAPUTOVA SWORN IN AS SLOVAKIA'S 1ST FEMALE PRESIDENT

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**Zuzana Caputova was sworn in as Slovakia's first female President.**

#### DETAILS:

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- The swearing-in took place before Constitutional Court chair Ivan Fiacan during a ceremonial parliamentary session held in Bratislava.
- **Caputova is the fifth president in the modern Slovak history.**
- She was elected in March.
- She defeated Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic.
- She said that she does not want to rule from the office but to serve people and Slovakia.

### FACEBOOK UNVEILS DETAILS ABOUT ITS CRYPTOCURRENCY 'LIBRA'

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**Facebook finally unveiled the details of 'Libra', its cryptocurrency.**

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### DETAILS:

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- **Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees.**
- **It will be rolled out for use in 2020** and allow the platform's billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online.
- The currency will be serviced by a collective of companies called the Libra Association.

### MORE ABOUT LIBRA:

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- **Libra is a global currency and financial infrastructure.**
- In other words, it is a digital asset built by Facebook and powered by a new Facebook-created version of the blockchain, the encrypted technology used by bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.
- **Facebook aims to reach 1.7 billion people around the world who do not have access to a bank account.**
- **This new technology threatens to change the landscape of banking.**

### CRITICISM:

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- Facebook's Libra, cryptocurrency is already the subject of scrutiny, as Facebook faces increasing calls for regulation and antitrust measures.

## RS.1 CRORE PENALTY IMPOSED ON HDFC BANK BY RBI

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed Rs.1 crore penalty on private sector lender HDFC Bank for violating Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) norms.

### DETAILS:

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- **RBI had received a reference from customs' authorities regarding submission of forged bill of entries (BoEs) by certain importers to the bank for remittance of foreign currency.**
- RBI's examination revealed the violations of the RBI directions on KYC/AML norms and on reporting of frauds.
- **RBI said that the penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.**
- Also, it is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with their customers.
- **RBI said that a notice was issued to HDFC Bank on why monetary penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions.**
- The fine was imposed on HDFC Bank after considering HDFC Bank's reply, oral submissions made during the personal hearing and additional submission made.
- RBI imposed the penalty in exercise of powers vested to it under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

## BJP MP OM BIRLA ELECTED AS THE 17TH LOK SABHA SPEAKER

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Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker with the opposition Congress coming out in support of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate.

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### DETAILS:

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- **Om Birla will replace Sumitra Mahajan.**
- **He is a two-time Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of Parliament (MP) from Rajasthan.**
- Birla is also a member of the Standing Committee on Energy in Parliament, member of Committee on Petitions and Consultative Committee for Ministry of social justice and empowerment.
- He has an 86% average attendance in the House.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **Mr. Birla was nominated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister for Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari.**
- He was also backed by Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).
- **The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) which is led by the Congress has also decided to support Birla's candidature.**

## WORLD RECORD FOR MOST SIXES IN AN ODI SET BY ENGLAND CAPTAIN

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England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes (17) in a One Day International (ODI).

### DETAILS:

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- **He achieved this record during his 71-ball 148-run knock against Afghanistan in the World Cup on 18th June 2019.**
- Morgan was assisted by Joe Root in the 189-run partnership for the third wicket during which Root made 88 runs off 82 balls.

### PREVIOUS RECORD:

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- **The previous record for most sixes (16 sixes) was jointly held by Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers.**
- England ended up with the 6th highest team total in a World Cup match with 397 for 6 in 50 overs after they opted to bat first at Old Trafford cricket ground.

### 4TH FASTEST HUNDRED IN A WORLD CUP:

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- Morgan hit his century off 57 balls. It was the fourth fastest hundred in a World Cup match.
- **The first three ranks were set up by:**
  - Ireland's Kevin O'Brien (50 balls), against England in 2011
  - Australia's Glenn Maxwell (51 balls), against Sri Lanka in 2015
  - South Africa's AB de Villiers (55 balls), against West Indies in 2015

## HP GOVERNMENT MAKES GPS MANDATORY FOR TREKKERS

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The Himachal Pradesh Government made it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency.

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### DETAILS:

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- The decision was made in a review meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Shrikant Baldi on preparedness for the monsoon in Shimla.
- **The announcement also added that it is important that trekking and other yatras must be restricted during adverse weather.**
- Being a disaster-prone state, special attention must be taken to disseminate weather advisories and installing early warning systems in Himachal Pradesh.

### ABOUT HIMACHAL PRADESH:

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- **Himachal Pradesh got its statehood on 25th January 1971**
- **Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is Jai Ram Thakur**
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh is Acharya Dev Vrat
- It has 12 districts and the official language is Hindi

## "AWARE" CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY WHO TO HANDLE AMR

---

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global campaign named "AWaRe" urging governments to adopt a tool to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), adverse events and costs.

### DETAILS:

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- It is developed by the WHO Essential Medicines List.
- **It classifies antibiotics into three groups - Access, Watch and Reserve.**
- The main aim is to increase the proportion of global consumption of antibiotics in the Access group to at least 60% and to reduce the usage of the antibiotics from the Watch and Reserve groups.

### ABOUT WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO):

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- WHO was established in April 7, 1948
- **It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.**
- The Director-General of WHO is Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

## UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES TO GET UP TO RS 3,500 IN RAJASTHAN

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Unemployed youth who have completed their graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by the Rajasthan government.

### DETAILS:

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- **Male applicants will get Rs 3,000/month.**
- **The women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500/month under the Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana.**
- **The applicants must be natives of Rajasthan.**

### IRELAND TO BAN THE SALE OF NEW PETROL AND DIESEL VEHICLES

---

Ireland decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030 as part of a major strategy to protect the environment.

#### DETAILS:

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- It is one among the 180 measures of the Irish government published in the 'Climate Action Plan'.
- **They plan to have 950,000 electric vehicles on Irish roads supported by a network of charging stations.**
- **This plan also includes the elimination of non-recyclable plastic and higher fees for plastic items which are difficult to recycle.**
- To this, the government decided to invest in a nationwide charging network.

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY OBSERVED ON 20TH JUNE

---

World Refugee Day is observed on June 20th each year.

#### DETAILS:

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- The day is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
- **The theme for 2019 World Refugee day is #StepWithRefugees - Take A Step on World Refugee Day.**
- The theme expects communities, schools, businesses, faith groups and people from all walks of life should take big and small steps in solidarity with refugees.

#### WHO IS A REFUGEE?

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- Refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- The United Nations General Assembly decided that from 2000, 20th June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.
- The General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.
- **Prior to 2000, the African Refugee Day had been formally celebrated in several countries.**
- **The Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to the decision of UN to observe the International Refugee Day that coincides with the Africa Refugee Day on 20th June.**

#### UN REFUGEE AGENCY:

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- **The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations programme.**
- It aims to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

### P. U. CHITRA WINS GOLD AT THE FOLKSAM GRAND PRIX 2019

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India's P.U. Chitra won gold medal in women's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden.

#### DETAILS:

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- She produced the best time of her season so far by clocking 4 minute 12.65 seconds (4:12.65s).
- **Chitra finished first in Folksam Grand Prix ahead of Kenya's Mercy Cheronu, who won 5000m gold in Commonwealth Games 2014.**
- **She is also a gold medal winner in Asian Championships held in Doha, Qatar in April 2019.**

#### OTHER INDIAN PERFORMANCES:

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- **Jinson Johnson from India won silver medal in men's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix by clocking 3:39.69**
- He is also Asian Games gold medalist and has earlier bettered his own national record on 15 June by clocking 3:37.62 at Next Generation Athletics Meet at Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

#### OTHER INDIAN PERFORMANCE AT ANOTHER EVENT:

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- **In another separate competition, National record holder Murali Sreeshankar won gold in men's long jump, at the Copenhagen Athletics Games in Denmark.**
- He won with an impressive opening round effort of 7.93m and equalled his season-best effort which came in Lyon, France.
- In other rounds, he also had jumps of 7.89m, 7.88m and 7.61m.

#### ABOUT THE FOLKSAM GRAND PRIX:

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- **It is a series of international athletics meetings created in 2009.**
- Since then it is organized every year in Sweden by the Swedish Athletics Federation.

### INDIAN ENGINEER WINS INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

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An Indian engineer named Nitesh Kumar Jangir won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom (UK).

#### DETAILS:

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- **He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called 'Saans' for premature babies.**
- **The award was presented by Prince Harry (Duke of Sussex), Youth Ambassador of Commonwealth and Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary-General.**
- The inaugural Commonwealth Innovation Awards were conferred upon 15 innovators from 53 member-countries of Commonwealth.



## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- Each of 15 winners received a trophy, certificate and prize money worth 2,000 pounds.

### ABOUT NITESH KUMAR JANGIR:

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- **He is a Bangalore-based electronics engineer and is co-founder of Coe Labs, a medical device company which holds a vision of preventing preventable deaths in the field of emergency and critical care.**
- Thus, he created 'Saans' as a breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from neonatal respiratory distress syndrome due to lack of immediate access to complex medical equipment.
- **The award received will help in up scaling this device across Commonwealth countries, for use in similar conditions in regions like Africa.**

### ABOUT 'SAANS':

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- It is a breathing support device used for tackling avoidable deaths of premature babies from Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS).
- **It is world's 1st neonatal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device.**
- **It can be powered in multiple ways via direct source electricity, like with help of vehicle's electrical supply, rechargeable battery, compressed gas or even a manual air pumping.**
- It is a low-cost device, at least 3 times cheaper than any other such machine.

### COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL'S INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS:

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- The awards seek to celebrate and support impactful innovations and forward-looking solutions that help Commonwealth countries achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the same time advancing values in Commonwealth Charter.

### INDIA EXTENDS \$15 MN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER FOR HOLDING AU SUMMIT

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**India has for the first time extended \$15 Million financial support to Niger as a support for organizing the African Union (AU) Summit scheduled to be held in 7-8 July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger).**

- This will be the 1st time that Niger will be hosting an AU summit.

### DETAILS:

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- India's grant assistance to Niger for organizing the AU Summit will further contribute towards enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries.
- This grant assistance is also reiteration of India's firm commitment to its developmental partnership with Africa.
- **This is more important at a time when India is competing for influencing the continent with China.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **AU Summit is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).**

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- The AfCFTA is the largest free trade area in the world in terms of participating countries since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), outlined in African Continental Free Trade Agreement among 52 out of 55 African Union (AU) nations.

### "OPERATION SANKALP" LAUNCHED BY INDIAN NAVY

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**Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area.**

#### DETAILS:

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- This deployment is in the wake of following recent maritime incidents in the region.
- **Indian Naval Ships, INS Chennai (Kolkata-class stealth guided missile destroyers) and INS Sunayna (Saryu-class patrol vessel) have been deployed in the region to undertake maritime security operations.**
- **In addition to this aerial surveillance is also being done in the area by IN aircraft.**
- The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) of the Indian Navy is also keeping a close watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region.
- IFC-IOR, launched in December 2018, engages with partner nations to develop comprehensive maritime domain awareness and also share information on vessels of interest.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **Operation Sankalp has been launched in wake of the escalating tension in the Gulf of Oman, where two oil tankers, one Norwegian-owned and other Japanese-owned were attacked on 13th June 2019.**
- This incident has led to heightened tensions between Iran and the United States (US).
- Although, it remains unclear that who was responsible for attacks the US has put the blame on Iran, which, in turn, has denied all allegations.

### KOLHAPURI CHAPPALS GET GI TAG

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**The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kolhapuris, the ethnic leather chappal (footwear) to four districts each in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka.**

#### DETAILS:

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- These 8 districts are- Kolhapur, Sangli, Solapur and Satara districts of Maharashtra and Belgaum, Dharwad, Bagalkot and Bijapur districts of Karnataka.

#### ABOUT THE KOLHAPURI CHAPPAL:

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- These sturdy leather chappals are hand-crafted and tanned using vegetable dyes and the art of making them is passed down from one generation to another.

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- As per the GI application made by the two states of Maharashtra and Karnataka, Kolhapuris can be traced back to 12th century when King Bijjal ruled Bidar (in Karnataka).
- **King's Prime Minister Vishwaguru Basavanna, wanted to create a casteless society and remove the stigma attached to the cobbler community, thus, the community embraced the Lingayat faith and used its skills to start producing footwear that came to be known equally for its ruggedness and regal bearing.**
- 'Kolhapuri' as a brand was created only at beginning of 20th century when the footwear began to be traded in Kolhapur (Maharashtra).
- **Later, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur encouraged its production and 29 tanning centres were opened during his rule in Kolhapur.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS GI TAG:

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- **Getting GI Tag will open large markets, both domestic and international to artisans who produce Kolhapuris.**
- Also, getting GI Tag for Kolhapuri means that the footwear produced only in these 8 districts will qualify to carry tag of being Kolhapuris.
- **With GI tag now these local artisans get legal support. Thus, anyone who is going to copy this, can be punished.**

### WHAT IS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS?

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- GI is used on products/items which have specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality.
- **The tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.**

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **The 1st product to get a GI Tag in India was Darjeeling tea (2004).**

## SHEFALI JUNEJA TO REPRESENT INDIA IN THE COUNCIL OF ICAO

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**Senior Bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as the Representative of India (JS Level) in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.**

### ABOUT SHEFALI JUNEJA:

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- She is a 1992 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax cadre) and is currently serving as the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- **She has been appointed to the 'Representative of India' post in the council of ICAO, Montreal, Canada.**
- **Her tenure as a representative will be for a period of three years.**
- She will replace senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar who was selected for this post in October 2015.

### ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION:

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- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged with coordinating and regulating international air travel.
- **ICAO was established in 1944 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).**
- **It is headquartered in Quartier International of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.**
- Its objective is to manage the administration and governance of the Chicago Convention.

### ABOUT THE ICAO COUNCIL:

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- **It is composed of 36 member states, who are elected for a 3-year term.**
- Council's member states are chosen under three headings:
  - States of chief importance in air transport
  - States which make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for air navigation
  - States whose designation will ensure that all major areas of the world are represented in the council

## INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE-LAKSHMI VILAS BANK MERGER GETS CCI

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**The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.**

### DETAILS:

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- Lakshmi Vilas Bank is going to merge with Indiabulls Housing Finance.
- **It is a share swap deal with an intent to create a combined entity with a larger capital base and wider geographical reach.**
- After the merger, Indiabulls Housing Finance will get access to low cost deposits.
- This will result into geographical diversification and expanded client base along with cross selling opportunities.

### ABOUT THE COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI):

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- **The objectives of CCI is to prevent activities that have an adverse effect on competition in India.**
- CCI was founded on 14th October 2003 and has its headquarters in New Delhi.

## INDUSIND BANK-BHARAT FINANCIAL MERGER TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM JULY

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**IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd. (BFIL) announced that their merger will be effective from July 4th 2019.**

### DETAILS:

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- **The National Company Law Tribunal on June 10th, 2019 approved the Scheme of Arrangement among BFIL, IndusInd Bank and IndusInd Financial Inclusion and their respective shareholders and creditors.**

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- BFIL's current CEO M.R. Rao will take charge as CEO of IndusInd Financial Inclusion, which will house the Business Correspondent undertaking of BFIL.

### ABOUT INDUSIND BANK:

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- IndusInd bank was founded in 1994.
- Its founder was S. P. Hinduja and the owner of the bank is the Hinduja Group.
- **It has its headquarters in Mumbai.**
- **The CEO of IndusInd bank is Romesh Sobti.**

### ABOUT BHARAT FINANCIAL INCLUSION LIMITED (BFIL):

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- **Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) is a non-banking finance company, licensed by the Reserve Bank of India.**
- **It was founded in 1998 and its founder is Vikram Akula.**
- It has its headquarters in Hyderabad.

## WOMEN'S CRICKET NOMINATED FOR 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

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Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) nominated the inclusion of Women's Cricket in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, which are scheduled to be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

### DETAILS:

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- **International Cricket Council (ICC) in partnership with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) presented the compelling case for Women's Cricket to become part of the Commonwealth Games programme.**
- Apart from Women's Cricket, Beach Volleyball and Para Table Tennis were also nominated for inclusion in the 2022 edition.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **The first official Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.**
- 2022 Commonwealth Games will be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- 73 nations will be participating in the sports event.
- 2018 Commonwealth Games were held in Gold Coast, Australia.

## TECH MAHINDRA SIGNS MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT WITH AIRBUS

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Tech Mahindra signed a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.

### DETAILS:

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- **The main aim of the contract is to capitalize on the specialized skills and competencies in the growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.**
- Airbus is a strategic customer and partner of Tech Mahindra.

### IIT BOMBAY EMERGES AS BEST INSTITUTION IN QS RANKINGS 2020

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The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), has emerged as India's best institution in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2020.

#### DETAILS:

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- Only three Indian institutes: IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and IISc-Bangalore made it to top 200 in 2020 QS World University Rankings.
- **IIT Bombay which was at 162nd rank last year has moved up to 152nd rank.**
- **IIT-Delhi has bagged 182th position and IISc Bangalore has secured 184th rank.**
- MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has made a history by topping the 2020 QS World University Rankings for the eighth consecutive year.
- Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech); all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world, respectively.

#### ABOUT THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS:

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- QS ranking is one of the three most-widely read university rankings in the world, along with Academic Ranking of World Universities and Times Higher Education World University Rankings.
- **Quacquarelli Symonds Limited is the publisher of the QS World University Rankings.**
- Its first issue came in 2004.

### BRONZE FOR INDIA IN THE 58TH OSTRAVA GOLDEN SPIKE ATHLETICS MEET

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**Annu Rani won the Women's Javelin Bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics Meet.**

- Croatia's Sara Kolak took the Gold and Slovenia's Martina Ratej bagged the Silver.

#### ABOUT ANNU RANI:

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- She is a Javelin thrower from Uttar Pradesh.
- **She is supported by the Olympic Gold Quest, a not-for-profit foundation that identifies and supports Indian athletes.**
- **At the Asian Games in Incheon South Korea, she won the Bronze medal with a throw of 59.53 meters**
- She was born in a farmer family in Dabthuwa Village of Meerut.

### AUTHOR AMISH TRIPATHI AS THE DIRECTOR OF LONDON'S NEHRU CENTRE

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**Renowned Author Amish Tripathi has been named as the new director of London's Nehru Centre, under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).**

#### ABOUT AMISH TRIPATHI:

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- **He is the author of best-selling books such as 'Secret of the Nagas' and 'Sita - Warrior of Mithila'.**
- He will take over the director's post from diplomat Srinivas Gotru, whose 4 year tenure ended in early 2019.

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- He was appointed on basis of merit, after he applied for the director's post followed by an interview with a selection panel.
- **His appointment is being expected to bring more visibility to ICCR's flagship cultural centre and will make every centre under ICCR to be more vibrant and proactive to generate a proper understanding of the Indian culture abroad.**

### ABOUT LONDON'S NEHRU CENTRE:

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- **The Nehru Centre is a cultural centre located at the South Audley Street, London in the United Kingdom (UK).**
- **It was established in 1992 with the goal of promoting cultural exchange between India and UK.**
- Famous personalities associated with the centre include- Gopalkrishna Gandhi served as its founder director and Playwright-actor Girish Karnad was among the prominent people to have helmed the centre.
- Most of the directors to Nehru Centre's have been political appointees.
- **Diplomat Pavan Varma was the 1st bureaucrat to head the cultural wing of the Indian High Commission in London, UK and was appointed as its director in 2005.**

### TREE-FELLING BANNED BY BIHAR GOVERNMENT

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The Bihar Government recently announced a ban on the felling of trees on state-owned properties in different cities of Bihar, citing increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave in the state as the reason for the ban.

#### DETAILS:

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- **Bihar Government has taken this decision as most cities of Bihar are ranked in list of World's most polluted cities which includes- Patna (7th position), Muzaffarpur (13th position), Gaya (18th position) and Bhagalpur.**
- Also, currently Bihar does not have any Tree Protection Act active, due to which people who privately own a tree in the state are cutting it indiscriminately.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- The current order against banning tree felling was passed under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA),1980.
- **This new scheme is valid only for State Government owned properties and not for people who privately own a tree.**

#### MORE ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE:

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- **With this new initiative, the Bihar Government has put a hold on tree harvesting for at least government held projects.**
- Now for undertaking any development project (like a road or highway tenders) if anybody now wants to remove a tree would have to translocate/shift the project or the trees to some other place.
- Engineers have also been asked not to cut trees while building/expanding roads.
- All permissions granted to cut trees for development works have become null and void.
- **Trees on private land, however, can be felled in the absence of a tree-protection Act in Bihar.**

### BIHAR GOVERNMENT'S VISION:

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- **Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar has repeatedly announced his government's commitment to increase the state's green cover to 17%.**
- As of date, Bihar has been able to increase its green cover from 7% to 15% under the Green Mission.

### WHAT IS THE FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980?

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- It is an Act of the Parliament of India that was enacted for providing a higher level of protection to forests and to regulate diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.
- **As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Prior permission/approval of the Central Government is essential for De-reservation/Diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.**
- **This is given on the condition that the user agency will deposit the required amount to undertake compensatory afforestation for mitigating the negative impact of forest land diversion.**
- The act extends to the whole of India except the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

### PRANATI NAYAK WINS BRONZE AT ASIAN ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIP

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**Pranati Nayak of India has won the bronze medal in the vault event held at Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **The 23-year-old from West Bengal, who had qualified for vault finals with a sixth place, came up with a score of 13.384 to claim the bronze medal.**
- She had scored 13.400 and 13.367 in the first and second vault respectively.
- China's Yu Linmin (14.350) clinched the gold and Japan's Ayaka Sakaguchi (13.584) won the silver medal at event.
- **Pranati Nayak now currently stands tall as India's 3rd major vaulting medallist after Dipa Karmakar and Aruna Reddy.**
- She now eyes her biggest challenge of the World Championships 2019 which is scheduled to be held later this year.

### ABOUT THE ASIAN GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS:

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- **AGC is organized by the Asian Gymnastic Union (AGU) for each of the FIG (International Gymnastics Federation) gymnastic disciplines for both men's and women's categories.**
- **The FIG is the governing body of competitive gymnastics which is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.**
- The senior edition of Asian Gymnastics Championships is the one in which competitors must be above 16 years of age.
- **The Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2020 will take place in Tokyo, Japan from 2nd to 5th May 2020.**



### BABA RAMDEV RELEASE HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY TITLED 'MY LIFE, MY MISSION'

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Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev made an announcement about releasing his autobiography titled- 'My Life, My Mission'.

#### DETAILS:

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- **The book is co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar.**
- The autobiography of Baba Ramdev will unveil trials, tribulations and triumphs of his life and provide insights into his childhood.

#### MORE ABOUT THE BOOK:

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- **The book addresses major controversies, turning points and achievements of Baba Ramdev's life and is expected to be one of its kind personal narrative of the life and times of the yoga teacher.**
- In the book, Ramdev registers his journey from a small Haryana village to an international stage and pens about his passion for yoga and good health, friends & foes, and the Swadeshi campaign spearheaded by him.
- The autobiography also highlights the journey of Ramdev's venture- Patanjali Group of Institutions, with a turnover of about Rs 12,000 crores.
- **It is being published by Penguin Random House and expected to hit stands in August 2019.**

### INDIA WOMEN'S RUGBY TEAM CLAIM 1ST EVER INTERNATIONAL VICTORY

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Indian Women's Rugby team claimed their 1st ever international women's 15-a-side victory after beating Singapore in the Asian Women Rugby Championship Division 1 in Manila, Philippines.

#### DETAILS:

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- Sumitra Nayak kicked a penalty in the dying minutes to claim a narrow victory for India against Singapore with a 21-19 win for the 'Girls in Blue'.
- **This historic victory means India finished 3rd in the tournament, therefore claiming a Bronze medal.**
- The Championship Division 1 will double up as part of the qualification process for the Rugby World Cup 2021.

#### RUGBY IN INDIA:

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- India has a big following for the game of Rugby.
- **India, China and USA together constitute 33% of 800 million followers of the game globally.**
- As per Nasser Hussain, former India captain and General Manager, Indian Rugby Union, the game is spread across 24 States with India having about 80,000 registered Rugby players.

### ABOUT THE ASIAN RUGBY WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP:

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- **In 2006 the 1st recorded Asian Rugby Championship for female 15-a-side teams was founded.**
- Prior to that at least since 2000 there had been women's 7-a-side tournaments in Asia.
- It is organised by Asian Rugby Football Union (ARFU).
- **China were the hosts and winners of the 1st tournament that took place in 2006.**

### ELECTIONS HELD IN MAURITANIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

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**Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa went to polls for the first time since the African nation gained independence from France nearly 60 years ago.**

- Following independence, the country has mostly been ruled by Non-elected military governments.

#### DETAILS:

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- **President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, who seized power in a military coup in 2008, agreed to step down and abide by serving a period of maximum two five-year elected terms.**
- Under his reign, he has positioned Mauritania, as an ally of West against Islamist militants.
- **Bound by term limits, Abdel Aziz threw his support behind 62-year-old Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.**
- Ghazouani, a former general and defence minister were heavily tipped to replace outgoing President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz.
- These elections are being held to choose a successor to a democratically-elected president.
- **However, they are being criticized for being held in absence of international observers and printing of ballot papers by a company with ties to the ruling party.**

#### ABOUT MAURITANIA:

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- **The country is officially named 'Islamic Republic of Mauritania' and lies on the Atlantic coast of Africa.**
- It is home to fewer than 5 million people across a vast expanse of Western Sahara Desert.
- **In 1981, Mauritania became the final country in the world to formally abolish slavery, but it continues to this day.**

### PANKAJ ADVANI WINS THE 35TH ASIAN SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

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**India's Pankaj Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon of Thailand with 6-3 in the final to clinch the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship.**

#### DETAILS:

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- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has won the men's Asian Snooker Championship to complete a career grand slam in cue sports.
- **With this win, Advani has now become the only player to win Asian and World championships in all formats and also only the only one to do it in both Billiards and Snooker.**

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- He has now claimed ACBS (Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports) Asian snooker events: 6-red (short format) and 15-red (long format) along with the IBSF World (Billiards and Snooker) Championships in both formats.
- Although Pankaj had already accomplished it in billiards, he was missing 15-red Asian snooker title from his bulging trophy cabinet.
- Pankaj will now take part in IBSF World Cup 2019 scheduled to be held in late June in Doha, Qatar.

### ABOUT THE ACBS ASIAN SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP:

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- It is the premier non-professional snooker tournament in Asia that started from 1984.
- The Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports sanctions the event series.
- In most of the seasons, the winner of the tournament qualifies for the next season of Professional Snooker Tour.

### RBI DEPUTY GOVERNOR VIRAL ACHARYA RESIGNS BEFORE TERM ENDS

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Viral Acharya, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has resigned from his position 6 months before the end of his term citing the reason as unavoidable personal circumstances.

#### DETAILS:

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- Acharya, who joined the RBI on 23rd January 2017 for a three-year term, was the youngest Deputy Governor of RBI post economic liberalisation.
- RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya's resignation is the second high profile resignation at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In December 2018 Urjit Patel, former RBI Governor, also resigned about nine months before the end of his scheduled term citing personal reasons.
- Acharya's resignation is also significant as he resigned shortly before Bimal Jalan committee is to submit its report on whether RBI reserves could be transferred to Central Government or not.
- Mr Acharya who was in charge of the monetary policy department created a controversy in October 2018 by strongly alluding to encroachment on the autonomy of the apex bank of the country by the Government.
- One of the main tension points he highlighted was the treatment of RBI reserves.
- RBI is left with only 3 Deputy Governors- N.S. Vishwanathan, B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- Dr Acharya has been differing with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in the last two Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings on both growth and inflation.
- In the latest monetary policy meeting also, RBI Governor Das and Deputy Governor Acharya differed strongly on the state of fiscal deficit and how to account for that.
- Acharya, who was in charge of the monetary policy department while ending his term warned of the wrath of markets if the autonomy of a central bank was compromised.

### ABOUT THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA:

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- RBI is India's central banking institution, which controls issuance and supply of the Indian Rupee.

## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- The RBI began its operations on 1st April 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The RBI was nationalised on 1st January 1949, after India gained independence on 15th August 1947.
- Until the Monetary Policy Committee was established in 2016, it also controlled the monetary policy in India.

### ODISHA CM NAVEEN PATNAIK RELEASES FLOOD HAZARD ATLAS

---

Odisha has come out with a unique 'Flood Hazard Atlas' aided by satellite imagery, which is expected to help the coastal state manage floods more efficiently.

- The atlas was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State-level Natural Calamity Meeting.

#### ABOUT THE FLOOD HAZARD ATLAS:

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- The Atlas would serve as a useful resource of information for policy makers, planners and civil society groups.
- **The Atlas is compiled on the basis of historic flood inundation captured via satellite imagery over 18 years period from the year 2001 to 2018.**

#### WHAT METHODOLOGY WAS FOLLOWED WHILE CREATING THE ATLAS?

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- Firstly, all satellite data sets were analysed and flood layers were extracted from it, then all flood layers corresponding to a particular year were combined into one inundation layer so that this layer represents the maximum flooded area in that 1 year period.
- Then all such combined flood layers for a period of 18 years were integrated into flood hazard layer representing observed flood-inundated areas with different frequencies.
- This layer was integrated with the digital database layers of Odisha.

### SAUDI ARABIA BECOMES 1ST ARAB COUNTRY TO GET FATF MEMBERSHIP

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Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following the FATF's Annual General Meeting held in Orlando, Florida in the United States (US).

#### DETAILS:

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- **Since November 2004, Saudi Arabia has been a Founding Member of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) arm of the FATF group.**
- At the beginning of 2015, Saudi Arabia had received an invitation from the FATF as an Observer Member.
- **Now, the Kingdom's accession came as the global money laundering watchdog celebrated the 30th anniversary of its first meeting held in Paris (France) in 1989.**
- The full membership to Saudi Arabia comes after it was reported that the Kingdom had made tangible progress for its efforts in implementing FATF's guidelines.

### WHAT IS THE FATF?

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- **It was established in 1989, with headquarters in Paris, France.**
- The FATF comprises of 37-Member Jurisdictions and 2- Regional Organisations namely Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Commission (EC).
- **With the Kingdom becoming a FATF member, the number of permanent members in the group is now 39.**
- FATF Plenary is FATF's decision-making body which meets three times per year.

### WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF FATF?

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- The Financial Action Task Force is an international group responsible for issuing international standards, policies and best practices for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **The FATF has notified that Pakistan failed to complete its action plan on terror financing and has strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan by October 2019 or else face consequences.**

### FREE DD SET-TOP BOXES DISTRIBUTED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

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**Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, along with Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Governor Satyapal Malik distributed Doordarshan (DD) Free Dish Set Top Boxes to people living in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir region in Srinagar.**

### DETAILS:

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- At an event organized by Doordarshan Kashmir, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister launched a spectrum of initiatives for the state along with distribution of 30,000 free DD set-top boxes.
- DD Kashmir is a regional subsidiary television station of Doordarshan.
- **The Set Top Box is provided free of cost and the audience will be able to view over 100 channels for free.**
- **DD Kashmir launched a news bulletin titled 'Dogri News' for the Jammu region on the channel, which will be telecasted every day at 6.15 PM on the channel on digital mode.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STEP:

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- **In small areas and districts where there is no mobile connection, no internet and no television this new step will help in providing information and making them aware.**
- **The DD Free Dish service will help those people who are living in remote and distant areas of J&K and further aims to cover even those areas in the country where TV has not reached so far.**
- **Dogri News Bulletin on satellite medium will help Dogri language reach people across the world.**
- It will also give J&K's composite culture and literature a boost as Kashmiri, Dogri and Ladakhi languages will be available on the same channel.

### ABOUT THE DD DTH SERVICE:

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- **Doordarshan's DTH service also known as DD Free Dish was launched in 2004.**
- It has been upgraded from time to time.
- **At present, it has a capacity of 104 SDTV channels along with 40 Radio channels.**
- DD Free Dish has emerged as an empowering tool for masses and now it has reached more than 34 million households in India.

### A PEACE MUSEUM BUILT ON WWII MEMORIES GIFTED TO MANIPUR

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Japan gifted Manipur, one of India's northeastern state, a Museum of Peace built on the memories of the Battle of Imphal, one of the fiercest battles of 2nd World War (WWII).

#### DETAILS:

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- **The inauguration of Imphal Peace Museum marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.**
- The Imphal Peace Museum was inaugurated at Red Hill which lies about 20 km southwest of Imphal (Manipur's capital).
- **The museum is funded by Nippon Foundation, a private, non-profit grant-making organization based in Japan.**
- **Among the highlights of the museum such as diaries and other memorabilia of those who returned to Japan safely, is a framed calligraphy by Shinzo Abe Japan's Prime Minister, which reads heiwa-meaning peace in Japanese.**

#### WHY RED HILL?

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- About 70,000 Japanese soldiers, alongside those of Indian National Army (INA) of Subhash Chandra Bose, died in battles with British-led Allied forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March-June 1944.
- **In 1994 Japanese War Memorial was also built at Red Hill to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle.**

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MUSEUM:

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- Imphal Peace Museum symbolises the reconciliation between Japan and Britain; and Japan and India.
- It will serve as a living memory of the tragic war which reinforces the message that history changes and will make the world learn from the past which is required for a lasting peaceful world.

#### ABOUT THE BATTLE OF IMPHAL 1944:

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- **Battle of Imphal took place in the region around the city of Imphal (Manipur's capital) from March to July 1944.**
- **Japanese armies with an attempt to destroy Allied forces at Imphal invaded India but were driven back into Burma (today's Myanmar) with heavy losses.**
- The Battle of Imphal together with simultaneous Battle of Kohima (also known as Stalingrad of the East) on the road by which encircled Allied forces at Imphal, was the main turning point of 2nd World War's Burma Campaign.

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- The Japanese faced the largest defeat up until that time at Kohima and Imphal with many of Japanese deaths resulting from starvation, disease and exhaustion suffered during their retreat.

### ANUPAM KHER ON HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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**Bollywood actor Anupam Kher is coming out with his autobiography titled- 'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' that is set to release on 5th August 2019.**

#### DETAILS:

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- The book is being published by Penguin Random House.
- It is expected to be an extraordinary, riveting and no-holds-barred saga in which the actor would make some behind-the-scenes revelations, and share anecdotes and rare nuggets from his life and the lessons it taught him.

#### ABOUT ANUPAM KHER:

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- **The 64 year old actor is a winner of 2 National awards, 8 Filmfare awards and a BAFTA nomination.**
- **He is also a recipient of the Padma Shree (2004) and Padma Bhushan (2016) awards.**
- In his career spanning number of successful films in Bollywood, he even went on to feature in several mainstream Hollywood films such as Silver Linings Playbook, Hotel Mumbai, The Big Sick and The Family Man.
- **He also has a best-selling book 'The Best Thing about You Is You!' in his kitty.**
- The book has been translated in 6 languages and is in its 22nd reprint.

### ESA TESTS DEVICE TO RESCUE INJURED ASTRONAUTS

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**European Space Agency (ESA) recently tested a device called Lunar Evacuation System Assembly (or LESA), which is designed to assist in astronaut rescue missions on the surface of Moon.**

#### ABOUT LESA:

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- **Among other preparations for NASA's 2024 Moon mission (Artemis Mission), scientists are testing the Lunar Evacuation System Assembly or LESA device.**
- **It is developed by the European Space Agency (ESA), an intergovernmental organisation of 22 member states dedicated to space exploration.**
- LESA is a pyramid-like structure which is designed in a way to be deployed just by a single astronaut in lunar gravity to rescue an incapacitated crewmate.

#### NEED FOR SUCH DEVICE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE:

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- On a mission, astronauts wear Extravehicular Activities (EVA) suits that are bulky and heavy due to which they do not allow for a full range of movement.
- Thus while wearing an EVA suit, there is no way that an astronaut could carry their fallen crewmate over their shoulder.

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- In order to rescue a fallen colleague, LESA can be operated just by a single astronaut thus ensuring a rapid and safe rescue.
- LESA can be transported like a golf caddy and placed close to the fallen astronaut, hence enabling an astronaut to lift their crewmate onto a mobile stretcher in less than 10 minutes, before carrying them to safety on a nearby pressurised lander.

### KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA LAUNCHES "JAIPUR FOOT KOREA"

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Bong-Kil Shin, the South Korean Ambassador to India launched "Jaipur Foot Korea", a collaborative initiative between South Korea and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), a Jaipur-based prosthetic limb non-profit organisation.

#### DETAILS:

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- South Korea's ambassador to India signed an agreement with BMVSS for providing assistance in prosthetic limbs sector.
- Under the agreement, South Korea will provide financial and technical assistance to further research and development (R&D) collaboration, technology transfer and facilitate and develop business between India and Korea in med-tech (medical technology) sector specifically in the area of prosthetic limbs, bionic arms, 3-D printing-based Flat foot solution and mobility solutions.

#### ABOUT BHAGWAN MAHAVEER VIKLANG SAHAYATA SAMITI:

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- **BMVSS is the world's largest organisation rehabilitating more than 1.78 million disabled.**
- It is a pan-Indian organisation having over 23 branches across the country.
- **It provides all its assistance, such as artificial limbs, callipers and many other aids/appliances with everything being totally free of charge.**
- It was registered as a society under Rajasthan Societies Registration Act on March 29th, 1975 with its headquarters at Jaipur (India).

#### ABOUT JAIPUR FOOT:

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- **It is a lightweight and durable prosthetic limb/artificial limb.**
- It is a rubber-based prosthetic leg for people with below-knee amputations.
- **Being inexpensive it is widely accepted as prosthesis and has been widely used in India.**

### NASA'S CURIOSITY ROVER FINDS LARGEST AMOUNTS OF METHANE EVER ON MARS

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The Curiosity Rover of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States has found the largest amounts of Methane ever measured during its mission on Mars.



### DETAILS:

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- **Although Methane has been detected by the Curiosity team many times over the course of NASA's Mars Exploration Program but this time unusually high levels of Methane- about 21 parts per billion units by volume (ppbv) were reported.**
- 1 ppbv means that if we take a volume of air on Mars then 1 billionth of the volume of air is Methane.

### WHY FINDING METHANE IS IMPORTANT?

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- Finding such high levels of Methane is exciting because microbial life is an important source of Methane on Earth, thus it may help scientists to look for the possibility of life outside Earth.

### STILL, THERE IS A CATCH!

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- The Methane on Mars can also be created through interactions between rocks and water and since Curiosity does not have instruments that can definitively say what exactly is the source of Methane, or even if it is coming from a local source within the Gale Crater or elsewhere on the planet, it becomes impossible to tell if the Methane source is either biology or geology, or whether it is even ancient or modern.

### ABOUT THE CURIOSITY ROVER:

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- It is a part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission.
- **It is a car-sized rover designed to explore a crater on Mars called Gale.**
- It was launched on 26th November 2011 and landed on Aeolis Palus inside the Gale crater on Mars in August 2012.
- **Although the planned mission lifespan for Curiosity rover, once it lands on Mars, is 1 Martian year (i.e. 687 days) however, in December 2012 Curiosity's 2-year mission was extended indefinitely and the rover is still operational.**

## RUSSIA EXTENDS BAN ON EU FOOD IMPORT UNTIL END OF 2020

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**Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a decree for extending Moscow's embargo on food products being imported from the European Union (EU) to the end of 2020.**

### DETAILS:

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- **This decision was in continuation of Russia's retaliation against sanctions over Ukraine.**
- A decree signed by President Vladimir Putin posted on Moscow's official government website, reads that ban on produce, dairy, meat and most other foods imported from the EU will now stretch to December 31st, 2020.

### A LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND:

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- **In 2014, following the international sanctions imposed by the United States and other countries over Russia for its annexation of Crimea and support of east Ukraine's separatists, Moscow in August 2014 imposed counter sanctions on most food imports from the European Union, the US and several other countries.**

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- **The international restrictions were primarily targeted at finance, energy and defence sectors of the Russian economy.**
- Recently on 20th June 2019, the EU further extended its punishing economic sanctions against Russia (over the conflict in Ukraine) for a further 6 months period.

### RESULT OF THE SANCTIONS:

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- **The Western economic restrictions being faced by Russia as well as the country's own embargo have affected the Russian economy by pushing up food prices.**
- Western sanctions have deprived the Russian economy of \$50 billion, on the other hand, the EU has lost \$240 billion.
- **Russia has now managed to benefit from Western economic pressure as it has started phasing out its imports and replacing them with domestically made products, even in sectors in which Moscow did not have any experience, thus giving a boost to domestic producers.**

## K. NATARAJAN APPOINTED AS THE NEW DG OF THE ICG

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### K. Natarajan has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

- He will be succeeding Rajendra Singh, who retires on 30th June 2019.

### ABOUT K. NATARAJAN:

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- **Natarajan is a 1984-batch officer.**
- The flag officer has held various important command and staff appointments, both afloat and ashore.
- **He has also served as the Commanding Officer, ICGS Mandapam.**
- He is currently serving as the Additional Director General (ADG) of ICG's Western Sea Board, which looks after the security of sensitive maritime boundary from Gujarat to Kerala.
- He has commanded all classes of ICG ships:
  - Sangram: Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV)
  - Veera: Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
  - Kanaklata Barua: Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)
  - Chandbibi: Inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV)

### ABOUT INDIAN COAST GUARD:

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- It is India's statutory multi-mission paramilitary organization that is responsible for safeguarding the country's maritime interests and enforces maritime law.
- **It was established on 18th August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978.**
- It functions under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Defence.
- It has jurisdiction over India's territorial waters, including its contiguous zone and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- **It is one of the country's youngest Armed Force and has 142 ships & 62 aircraft in total.**

### 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS TO BE HOSTED BY ITALY

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**The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the 2026 Winter Olympics will be staged at the Italian venue of Milan/Cortina d'Ampezzo.**

#### DETAILS:

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- **The Winter Games will happen from 6th February to 22nd February in 2026.**
- Italy has won the bid from Sweden.
- Italy won the bid by the approval of the IOC members by 47 votes to 34.
- Italy has previously hosted the Winter Olympics twice.
- **It first hosted the Winter Olympics in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and then in 2006 in Turin.**
- It has been estimated that the games will generate five billion euros (\$5.69 billion) and create 20,000 jobs for Italy.

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **The 2022 Winter Olympics will be staged in Beijing.**

### ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PLATFORM LAUNCHED BY UAE

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**The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new anti-money laundering platform called 'goAML' (Anti-Money Laundering).**

- It is a one-stop solution, launched by UAE to crack down on organized financial crimes.

#### ABOUT GOAML:

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- **It is the new anti-money laundering platform launched by UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and is developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to curb organized crimes.**
- It is a fully integrated software solution developed for use by UAE's FIU.
- **It is being considered as one of the UNODC's strategic responses to financial crime, such as money laundering and terrorist financing.**
- It can be used for data collection, document management and analysis and will be used by financial institutions (like banks, finance companies) and law enforcement agencies such as police and designated non-financial businesses professions (lawyers, accountants).
- **goAML will facilitate the receipt, analysis and dissemination of suspicious transactions and activity reports.**

#### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **As per the officials of UAE's Central Bank (in Abu Dhabi) 'goAML' has been open for registration since May and all financial entities and Designated Non-Financial Businesses or Professions have to register on this new reporting platform system by 27th June 2019.**
- This new system ensures that the UAE financial system remains effective in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

### RBI LAUNCHES CMS ON ITS WEBSITE

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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Complaint Management System (CMS) on its website for facilitating RBI's grievance redressal process.

#### ABOUT CMS:

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- It is a software application launched by RBI for lodging complaints against any regulated entity with public interfaces such as Commercial Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- It is launched to facilitate RBI's grievance redressal process and also to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.

#### NEED FOR A CMS:

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- CMS is needed for maintaining trust and sustaining the confidence of consumers in the banking system and other financial service providers (FSPs), prompt and effective grievance redressal mechanism together with customers' empowerment through education.

#### MORE ABOUT CMS:

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- **Keeping convenience of customers in mind, RBI has designed CMS in a way to enable online filing of complaints.**
- Once the complaint is registered, it would be directed to the appropriate office of the Ombudsman or Regional Office of RBI.
- **The application has the feature of keeping complainants fully informed via auto-generated acknowledgements and enabling them to track the status of their complaints as well as to file appeals online against the decisions of the Ombudsman, where applicable.**
- Complainants can also voluntarily share feedback on their experience in obtaining redressal thus helping the service provider to further improvise its services.
- **CMS will be accessible on desktop and on mobile devices.**
- **In future, RBI also plans to introduce a dedicated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system for tracking the status of complaints.**
- RBI can leverage the data from CMS for analytics purpose, which can then be used for regulatory and supervisory interventions if required.

### SAMANT KUMAR GOEL APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE RAW

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The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the appointment of senior IPS officer Samant Kumar Goel as Director of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), external intelligence of India.

#### ABOUT SAMANT KUMAR GOEL:

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- He is a 1984 batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre.
- **He is at present the Special Secretary in RAW.**
- **He had joined the RAW in 2001 and possesses rich experience in intelligence and operations.**

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- He is instrumental in planning the Balakot air strike after the Pulwama attack in Jammu and Kashmir and surgical strikes in Uri.
- He is the recipient of Police Medals for Gallantry and Meritorious Service.

### ABOUT RAW:

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- It is the primary foreign intelligence agency of India.
- It was established in 1968.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It is under the direct command of the Prime Minister and reports on an administrative basis to the Cabinet Secretary of India, who in turn reports to the Prime Minister.
- Its functions are to gather foreign intelligence, engage in counter-terrorism, promote counter-proliferation, advise Indian policymakers and advance foreign strategic interests of India.

## ARVIND KUMAR APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE IB

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The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of senior IPS officer Arvind Kumar as Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for a fixed tenure of two years.

- He will succeed Rajiv Jain whose tenure comes to an end on 29 June 2019.

### ABOUT ARVIND KUMAR:

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- He is a 1984-batch IPS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- He has been working with the IB since August 1991 and has also served in the Indian Embassy in Moscow, Russia.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as the Special Director in the IB and his job involved supervising administrative and personal desks.
- He is considered to be an expert on Kashmir and Naxal issues.
- He is the second most senior officer in the IB after Rajiv Jain.
- He is a recipient of the President Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

### ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (IB):

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- It is India's internal intelligence agency.
- It functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was established in 1887 by the British India Government and later recast as the Central Intelligence Bureau in 1947.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## ANNUAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCED TO 'LOKTANTRA SENANIS'

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Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana has announced annual financial health assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to 'Loktantra Senanis' or their spouse for treatment at private or government hospitals.

### DETAILS:

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- **Loktantra Senanis are the people who were jailed during 1975-1977 Emergency under preventive detention laws.**
- As per the new changes proposed by the Haryana Government, the term Emergency Victim on their identity cards would be replaced with Loktantra Senani.
- **Loktantra Senanis, who went to jail during the Satyagraha Movement in an emergency, are already provided with a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 by the state government and also free travel in the Haryana Roadways buses.**

### ABOUT THE INDIAN EMERGENCY OF 1975-1977:

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- **Indian Emergency that started from 25th June 1975 continued for a 21 month period up to 21st March 1977.**
- Then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, upon advice by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, declared a state of national emergency under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Once the emergency was proclaimed, it effectively bestowed on Prime Minister the power to rule by decree, suspending elections and civil liberties.**
- This was a dramatic turn in Indian political affairs as democracy was brought to a grinding halt and all fundamental rights and legal remedies protected by the Indian Constitution were suspended.
- **During the Emergency period, most of the political opponents of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were imprisoned and press censorship was placed.**
- PM Gandhi tried to defend her emergency move on the grounds of an attempt to protect the state and Indian people but the emergency rule still faced immense criticism and is undoubtedly one of the most controversial periods of the political history of Independent India.

### 32ND ISTA CONGRESS HOSTED BY TELANGANA

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**Telangana is hosting the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress in Hyderabad.**

### DETAILS:

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- **The ISTA Congress is being held for the first time in Asia.**
- The Congress is being held from 26th June to 3rd July 2019 and is expected to help the state to implement its plans into actions.
- **The eight-day conference is being jointly hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Telangana government.**
- Congress will have the main event for three days and technical committee meetings/sessions over the next 5 days.
- Over 400 experts, policymakers, scientists, researchers and members of seed industry from more than 80 countries including the UK, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Canada and Austria, will deliberate on seed policies, production and quality aspects.
- Workshops being held during the event would focus on varietal identification, seed sampling, purity, germination and moisture.

### TELANGANA AND THE ISTA CONGRESS:

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- The state government of Telangana is keen towards making the best use of ISTA 2019 platform to showcase the state's potential in seed production and export its seeds in the international market.
- The state government is also planning to adopt the latest technology and innovative methods to increase seed production and to create awareness among farmers of Telangana.

### ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION:

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- **ISTA was formed in 1924 during the 4th International Seed Testing Congress held in Cambridge, United Kingdom.**
- It is an association of laboratories who are authorised to check on the marketability of seed as defined in various countries' laws.
- It also determines the seeds ability to germinate, vigour of seed and content of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in seed and test results, as certified by ISTA member laboratories and is accepted by trading partners of World Trade Organization (WTO) in international seed traffic.

### ONE MUST KNOW:

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- **Telangana is India's major hub of seed production as it meets about 60% of the country's needs in major crops like rice, soybean, sorghum, maize, pearl millet and cotton.**
- It is in Telangana, over 400 seed companies are operating with 413 seed processing and 13 seed testing units and about 2.5 lakh farmers in 1,500 villages are engaged in seed production in 3 lakh acres and produce about 65,000 tonnes seed of various crops.

### PB ACHARYA SWORN IN AS THE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR

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**Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya was sworn in as the Governor of Manipur on 27th June.**

### DETAILS:

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- Justice Lanusungkum Jamir of the High Court of Manipur administered the oath of office to Acharya at the Darbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan, Manipur.
- **Acharya will discharge the functions of the Governor of Manipur, in addition to his current duty as the Governor of Nagaland, during the absence of Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.**
- After swearing in, Acharya said that the Governor is the constitutional head of state and that he will discharge his constitutional duties.

### CAN A GOVERNOR BE APPOINTED FOR 2 OR MORE STATES?

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- Yes!
- Article 153 of Constitution:
- It says that there shall be a Governor for each state.
- **The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 has facilitated the appointment of the same person as a Governor for two or more states.**

### VIRAT KOHLI BECOMES THE FASTEST CRICKETER TO SCORE 20,000 RUNS

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Virat Kohli has become the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs.

#### DETAILS:

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- He took 416 innings to reach the milestone and bettered the time taken by legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- **The Indian captain reached the milestone with the score of 37 in India's 6th match in the World Cup tournament against West Indies.**
- **He scored 19,963 runs in international cricket before the innings and needed a further 37 to reach the 20,000 run mark.**
- He has played 416 innings (131 Tests, 223 ODIs and 62 T20Is).

### BJP MP MEENAKSHI LEKHI TITLED 'THE NEW DELHI CONSPIRACY'

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BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi has written her debut novel titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'.

#### DETAILS:

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- It will be released on July 8th, 2019
- **However, the formal launch of the book will be held after the Parliament session ends on July 26th, 2019.**
- **'The New Delhi Conspiracy', published by Harper Collins is Ms. Lekhi's first foray into fiction writing and she has co-written the book with Krishna Kumar who works with her.**
- **The biggest USP of 'The New Delhi Conspiracy' is its scintillating storyline that is both entertaining as well as informative.**
- The book talks of a malicious man with a dangerous agenda.
- The novel talks of the undercurrents of Delhi's political landscape and attempts to lay bare what is influencing the course of the nation's political trajectory.
- According to the publishers, the book, which is set amid the current sociopolitical context, has an unusual storyline, full of intrigue and adventure that shifts from Hong Kong to Delhi.

### NARINDER BATRA ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE IOC

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Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra has been elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

#### DETAILS:

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- Narinder Batra secured 58 votes out of 62 while four voted against him to get elected to the prestigious seat during the IOC Session.
- His election is linked to his function in a National Olympic Committee- that is president of IOA.
- **Batra now has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee as well as an international federation.**



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- **He has already become the first Indian to head an international federation of an Olympic sport- that of FIH.**
- With the election of Batra, the number of Indians who are currently active members of IOC will rise to two.
- **Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani was elected as an individual member of the IOC in 2016.**
- **She is the first Indian woman to be elected to the prestigious seat.**
- Former IOA Secretary General Randhir Singh served as a member of the IOC from 2001 to 2014 and has been made an honorary member since then.

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### FIEO ELECTS SHARAD KUMAR SARAF AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT

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**Exporters body- Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected Sharad Kumar Saraf as its new president.**

- Saraf will succeed renowned exporter Ganesh Kumar Gupta.

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#### ABOUT SHARAD KUMAR SARAF:

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- Saraf in his earlier stints at the FIEO has served twice as vice-president and four times as regional chairman (west region).
- **He is also the chairman and founder of Technocraft Industries (India).**
- **Saraf during his earlier period as vice-president and regional chairman (west region) established Indian Exporters Grievance Forum that works towards addressing exporters' grievances through the legal channel.**
- With his new appointment as FIEO's President, he will work towards further pushing issues of exporters at different forums and boost the country's exports.

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#### ABOUT FIEO:

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- **It was established in 1965 with headquarters in New Delhi.**
- It was formed by Union Ministry of Commerce and private trade and industry.
- **It is an apex body of exports promotion council, commodity boards and export development authorities in India.**
- **Its direct members contribute more than 70% of India's exports.**
- Its functions are providing a crucial interface between the international trading community of India and Centre & State Governments, railways, ports, surface transport, financial institutions and all other engaged in trade facilitation.

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### FORMER NAVY CHIEF AUTHORS A BOOK TITLED

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**A book titled 'A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief', authored by former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar was recently released.**

- The book highlights the key defence-related decisions taken by former Prime Minister of India Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Admiral Kumar served as the Navy Chief between 1998 and 2001 and also oversaw Kargil conflict in 1999.

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#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

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- The book by former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar reads that 1999 Kargil conflict was Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "finest hour".
- He credits Vajpayee for turning the strategic tactical loss into a massive victory and for which he gave full credit to the Armed Forces.
- **Vajpayee instructed the Armed Forces to not cross the LoC (Line of Control), but drive them [Pakistanis] away, telling this as his best master stroke Adm. Kumar observed that Mr Vajpayee knew the value of restraint.**
- **In the wake of the Parliament terror attack (December 13, 2001) Vajpayee wanted to hit a Pakistani Army camp but was forced to drop the plan at the last moment as it got relocated.**
- Admiral Kumar also says that while then External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh wanted India to support United States war on Afghanistan in wake of the 9/11 terrorist attack, but the military chiefs disagreed and Vajpayee diplomatically went with the latter option.

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### ALL PANCHAYATS TO HAVE BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY BY MARCH 2020

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**Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister Electronics and Information Technology informed the Parliament that all Gram Panchayats will be provided high-speed broadband connections under the BharatNet Project by March 2020.**

#### DETAILS:

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- As per the Government, as of today, 1,28,870 Gram Panchayats have been connected with optical fibre under the BharatNet Project.
- **In Phase I of the BharatNet Project, the Government connected 1 lakh Gram Panchayats and the Phase II of the project is under implementation, and a total of 2 lakh GPs (Gram Panchayats) are targeted to be completed by March 2020.**

#### WHAT IS BHARATNET?

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- The Project seeks to provide affordable last-mile high-speed broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.
- **The Nodal Ministry for implementation of the Project is the Ministry of Communication.**
- **The objective of the Project is to facilitate the delivery of e-governance, e-education, e-health, e-banking, Internet and other services to rural India.**
- **It is being funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).**
- **Till date Wifi spots have been installed in 44,140 Gram Panchayats.**
- The Project's Phase I was completed in December 2017 and 1 lakh Gram Panchayats were made service ready.
- **Phase II is under implementation with the target of covering a total of 2 lakh Gram Panchayats by March 2020.**

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### HRD MINISTRY RELEASES 5-YEAR VISION PLAN ON QUALITY EDUCATION

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## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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The Higher Education Department of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a 5-year Vision Plan titled as Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).

### ABOUT EQUIP:

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- **This Vision Plan by HRD Ministry is in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction for finalizing a 5-year Vision plan for each Ministry.**
- EQUIP report has been prepared after a detailed exercise done by experts covering the following ten areas:
  1. Strategies for expanding access
  2. Towards Global Best Teaching/Learning Process
  3. Promoting Excellence
  4. Governance Reforms
  5. Assessment, Accreditation & Ranking systems
  6. Promotion of Research & Innovation
  7. Employability & Entrepreneurship
  8. Using Technology for Better Reach
  9. Internationalization
  10. Financing Higher Education
- **For above-mentioned focus areas 10 Expert Groups drawn from senior academicians, administrators and industrialists suggested over 50 initiatives that would transform the country's higher education sector completely.**
- Goals set for the Higher Education Sector by Expert Groups are:
  1. Doubling Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and resolving geographically and socially skewed access to higher education institutions in India.
  2. Promoting India as a global study destination.
  3. Upgrade Quality of Education to global standards.
  4. Positioning minimum of 50 Indian institutions among Top-1000 Global Universities.
  5. Promote Research & Innovation ecosystems for positioning India in Top-3 countries globally in matters of knowledge creation.
  6. Introducing governance reforms in higher education for well-administered campuses.
  7. Accreditation of all institutions for assurance of quality.
  8. Doubling employability of students passing out of higher education.
  9. Harnessing education technology for expanding the reach and improving pedagogy (method and practice of teaching).
  10. Achieving a quantum increase in investment in higher education.

### 'GO TRIBAL' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED FOR PROMOTING INDIAN TRIBAL

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'Go Tribal' campaign, was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global.

### ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:

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## Monthly Current Affairs GK digest: June 2019

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- **The objective of the campaign is to create awareness and promote tribal arts & crafts as well as help in the socio-economic welfare of more than 700 Indian tribes**, by promoting and making available tribal handcrafted textiles, jewellery and other accessories via global online market spaces.
- **Under the campaign, Tribes India and Amazon Global Marketing will launch TRIBES India products globally through their website (Amazon.com) which will showcase an array of the product range.**
- **Amazon, an e-commerce giant company will market 'Tribes India' collections under sections of 'Tribes of India Heritage Collection' which will include handcrafted textiles like ikats, silks and pashminas; tribal jewellery like dokras and banjaras, gifts and pottery and 'Tribes of India Natural Collection' which will include Telangana coffees, Uttarakhand soaps, Karnataka spices and more.**

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CAMPAIGN:

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- **The careful precision and handcrafted intricacy of works of tribal master craftsmen from all over India will be showcased through the 'Go Tribal' campaign.**
- **Through this initiative, the Government wants to promote Indian tribal communities and their art while helping them to go global and providing them opportunities to attain a sustainable livelihood.**
- **This could be achieved as the online market has no geographical boundaries.**

### WHAT IS TRIFED?

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- **TRIFED is an organization that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in the marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name of TRIBES INDIA.**

## INDIA-BORN PRIYA SERRAO WINS THE MISS UNIVERSE AUSTRALIA 2019

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India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019.

### DETAILS:

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- **She will now represent Australia in the Miss Universe competition later this year.**
- **She contested for the coveted title along with 26 other women from across the country in Melbourne.**
- **It must be noted that Priya has neither entered a pageant before and nor done modelling before.**
- **The top three at the pageant were rounded by Western Australia's Bella Kasimba and Victorian Marijana Radmanovic placed at second and third.**

### ABOUT PRIYA SERRAO:

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- **Priya is a law graduate who currently works in the Department of Jobs, Precincts and regions in Melbourne.**
- **She was born in India and her family migrated to Australia from the Middle East.**
- **The family stayed in Oman then moved to Dubai before settling in Australia.**