

Monthly One- Liner GK Digest



June 2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

International News	1
National News.....	4
Banking.....	10
Reports	12
Appointments	12
Awards and Honours.....	13
Important Days	13
Books and Authors.....	14
Government Schemes	14
Science and Technology.....	14
Defence	18
Sports	18
Summits and Conferences	20

MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: JUNE 2019

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore Declared as International Airport

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

India's preferential Trade Status under GSP Programme

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

- The 60-day notice period ended on May 3.

Sudan suspended for no Civilian rule in Country

- The African Union's Peace and Security Council has suspended Sudan as there is no civilian rule established in the country.
- The decision was taken at AU's Peace and Security Council meeting in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.
- The AU's suspension followed the forceful dispersal of the month-long sit-ins.
- **About the African Union(AU):**
 - 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.

SriLankan Airlines named 'World's Most Punctual Airline'

- 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.
- This status was achieved for the second time in less than 12 months.
- 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.

The Sultan of Oman grants 'Royal Pardon' to 17 Indians

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

UK Government banned Commercial that Reinforces Gender Prejudices

- 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.

India to be Guest at Guadalajara International Book Fair

- India pavilion at the fair will showcase over 35 Indian authors and artists, along with 15 publishing houses.
- Ancient and rare manuscripts including "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana" will be put on exhibition, along with photo books, handicrafts, and paintings.
- The "Festival of India" will showcase folk, classical and contemporary cultural programmes.

Adani Group gets approval for Coal Mine Project in Australia

- The plan was approved by the central government in April, 2019.
- **Background:**
 - 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.
 - 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.

Iraq allowed by US to import Iranian gas

- The United States has allowed Iraq to import Iranian gas for its power grid for another three months by extending a waiver to sanctions.
- 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.
- **One must know:**

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

"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.
- 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.

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.
- 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.

Elections held in Mauritania for the First Time

- 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.
- 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.
- Bound by term limits, Abdel Aziz threw his support behind 62-year-old Mohamed Ould Ghazouani.
- **About Mauritania:**
 - The country is officially named 'Islamic Republic of Mauritania' and lies on the Atlantic coast of Africa.
 - In 1981, Mauritania became the final country in the world to formally abolish slavery, but it continues to this day.

Saudi Arabia becomes 1st Arab country to get FATF Membership

- Since November 2004, Saudi Arabia has been a Founding Member of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) arm of the FATF group.
- 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.
- **What is the FATF?**
 - It was established in 1989, with headquarters in Paris, France.
 - With the Kingdom becoming a FATF member, the number of permanent members in the group is now 39.

A Peace Museum built on WWII memories gifted to Manipur

- The inauguration of Imphal Peace Museum marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.
- 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.
- **About the Battle of Imphal 1944:**
 - 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.

Russia extends the ban on EU Food Import until the end of 2020

- This decision was in continuation of Russia's retaliation against sanctions over Ukraine.
- **A look into the background:**
 - 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

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

August 2014 imposed counter sanctions on most food imports from the European Union, the US and several other countries.

- The international restrictions were primarily targeted at finance, energy and defence sectors of the Russian economy.

- **Result of the Sanctions:**

- 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.

Anti-money laundering platform Launched by UAE

- 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 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 being considered as one of the UNODC's strategic responses to financial crime, such as money laundering and terrorist financing.
- **One must know:**
 - 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.

NATIONAL NEWS

'Hawa Aane De' song Launched by Environment Ministry

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched a song titled 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution.
- Every year on 5 June World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated globally.
- For the year 2019 theme for WED is 'Air Pollution'.
- 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:**
 - 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 song is written by Shri Swanand Kirkire.
- **About the National Clean Air programme (NCAP):**
 - It is one of the initiatives recently by launched Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat air pollution.
 - 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.

India's Last Orangutan 'Binny' Died at Nandankanan Zoological Park

- India's last Orangutan 'Binny' who was 41-years-old died at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park on 29th May following a prolonged illness.
- 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.
- **About Orangutan:**
 - 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 have been extensively studied by researchers for their learning abilities.

Tripura to Host the 10th NSFFI in 2020

- 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be held in Agartala, Tripura in January-February 2020.
- 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.
- NSFFI was first held in Chennai in 2011.
- **About National Science Film Festival of India(NSFFI):**
 - 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

- New Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her first Union Budget for 2019-20 on July 5th.
- The Economic Survey will be presented by new Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on July 4.
- 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

- 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.
- It has also recommended the setting up of a nodal body for the certification of chartered project management professionals to create world-class infrastructure.
- **About NITI Aayog:**
 - NITI Aayog is a policy think tank of the Government of India.

ONGC becomes India's Most Profitable Public Sector Company

- 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.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) reported a 34% jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to Rs. 26,716 crore.
- ONGC, in the previous two financial years, had lost the most profitable PSU tag to IOC.
- **About ONGC:**
 - 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.

Ministry of AYUSH Launches Yoga Centers and Instructors

- 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.
- 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.
- **About Yoga and International Yoga Day:**
 - Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice originated in India.
 - The International Yoga Day is celebrated on June 21 every year.

AAI signs 'Technical Assistance Agreement'

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

Madhya Pradesh to Increase Reservation for OBCs to 27%

- 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.
- 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.

Nirmala Sitharaman to Attend G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Japan

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

Rajnath Singh to chair Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is to chair the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs in the second term of the NDA government.
- Decisions on all the parliament matters will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
- 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).

Bihar to waive off 50% of Taxes on e-rickshaws

- The announcement was made by the deputy chief minister of state Sushil Kumar Modi.
- 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.

Bancha, the First Solar Kitchen only Village in India

- 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.
- 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.

Pink Sarathi Vehicles Launched by Karnataka Government

- Karnataka government has launched 'Pink Sarathi' vehicles that are procured by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) and it will use the vehicles to attend to the grievances of women passengers in city buses.
- It was launched by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.
- The BMTTC now has a fleet of 25 Pink Sarathi vehicles fitted with GPS and public announcement systems.

- 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.

ASI declared Chaukhandi Stupa as of National Important Monument

- 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 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.
- **About the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):**
 - ASI was formed on 1861 and is headquartered at New Delhi, India.
 - It functions under the Ministry of Culture.

India & Portugal to set up National Maritime Heritage Museum

- India has partnered with Portugal to set up a National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal in Gujarat.
- **Details:**
 - 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.
- **Implementation of the Project:**
 - 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.
- **Partnership and plans for the Museum:**
 - The initial discussion about the partnership was held during the visit of Portuguese Defence Minister João Gomes Cravinho to India in April 2019.

Bihar to punish Children for abandoning Elderly Parents

- 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.
- Such cases will be registered under the non-bail able 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.

IRSDC enters into Tripartite Agreement with French Railways & AFD

- 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.
- 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.
- **Significance of this Tripartite Agreement:**
 - 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.

Amasebailu becomes First 100% Solar Powered Village in Karnataka

- The village is tagged as a Solar Gram Panchayat with about 1858 houses illuminated with solar lamps.
- 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.

Tripura to set up Museum to showcase R.D. Burman's Work

- 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 'Pancharam Da'.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

- The museum will have rare collections of Pancham Da's music, photographs, recordings and books.
- 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.

HP Government Makes GPS mandatory for Trekkers

- The announcement also added that it is important that trekking and other yatras must be restricted during adverse weather.
- **About Himachal Pradesh:**
 - Himachal Pradesh got its statehood on 25th January 1971.
 - Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is Jai Ram Thakur.
- **Unemployed Graduates to get up to Rs 3,500 in Rajasthan**
 - Unemployed youth who have completed their graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by the Rajasthan government.
 - 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.

Kolhapuri Chappals get GI Tag

- 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.
- 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:**
 - 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.
 - 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:**
 - Getting GI Tag will open large markets, both domestic and international to artisans who produce Kolhapuris.

Tree-Felling banned by Bihar Government

- 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.
- 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.
- **One must know:**
 - This new scheme is valid only for State Government owned properties and not for people who privately own a tree.
- **More about this Initiative:**
 - With this new initiative, the Bihar Government has put a hold on tree harvesting for at least government held projects.
 - Trees on private land, however, can be felled in the absence of a tree-protection Act in Bihar.

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.

- **About the Flood Hazard Atlas:**

- 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.
- 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.

Free DD set-top boxes distributed by Central Government

- 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.
- 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:**
 - 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.

Korean Ambassador to India launches "Jaipur Foot Korea"

- 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.
- **About Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti:**
 - BMVSS is the world's largest organisation rehabilitating more than 1.78 million disabled.
 - It provides all its assistance, such as artificial limbs, callipers and many other aids/appliances with everything being totally free of charge.
- **About Jaipur Foot:**
 - It is a lightweight and durable prosthetic limb/artificial limb.
 - Being inexpensive it is widely accepted as prosthesis and has been widely used in India.

Annual Health Assistance announced to 'Loktantra Senanis'

- 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.
- Loktantra Senanis are the people who were jailed during 1975-1977 Emergency under preventive detention laws.
- **About the Indian Emergency of 1975-1977:**
 - Indian Emergency that started from 25th June 1975 continued for a 21 month period up to 21st March 1977.
 - Once the emergency was proclaimed, it effectively bestowed on Prime Minister the power to rule by decree, suspending elections and civil liberties.

32nd ISTA Congress hosted by Telangana

- The ISTA Congress is being held for the first time in Asia.
- The eight-day conference is being jointly hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Telangana government.
- **About the International Seed Testing Association:**
 - ISTA was formed in 1924 during the 4th International Seed Testing Congress held in Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- **One must know:**
 - 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.

HRD Ministry releases 5-Year Vision Plan on Quality Education

- 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:
- 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.
- 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.

'Go Tribal' campaign Launched for promoting Indian Tribal

- '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:**
 - 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.
- **Significance of this Campaign:**
 - 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.

BANKING

Banks to Accept Aadhaar only for KYC

- 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.
- RBI has added the 'Proof of possession of Aadhaar number' to the list of Officially Valid Documents (OVD).
- 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:**
 - 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.
 - Form 60 is submitted by an individual who do not have a Permanent Account Number (PAN).

Interest Rates Reduced RBI by 25 basis Points to 5.75%

- 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.
- 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?**
 - 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.

RBI scraps NEFT and RTGS Transaction Charges

- 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.
- RBI expects the banks to pass on the benefits of this move to customers.

- 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.

RBI imposed Rs. 2 cr penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank

- 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.
- The penalty was imposed by the RBI in exercise of powers vested in it under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **About the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - It was established on 1st April 1935.
 - The current Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das.

Enhanced Disclosure Guidelines introduced by SEBI

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced enhanced disclosure guidelines for credit rating agencies (CRA).
- **Reason for the move:**
 - 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:**
 - The rating companies must create a 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.

RBI asks banks to grout their ATMs to a structure

- 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.
- 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.
- **About the Committee on Currency Movement (CCM):**
 - The RBI had set up a Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) in 2016.

J&K Bank to now comes under the RTI Act, CVC guidelines

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

Rs.1 Crore Penalty Imposed on HDFC Bank by RBI

- 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.
- 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 said that the penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- RBI said that a notice was issued to HDFC Bank on why monetary penalty should not be imposed for non-compliance with the directions.

Indiabulls Housing Finance-Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger gets CCI

- 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.
- **About the Competition Commission of India (CCI):**
 - 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.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

IndusInd Bank-Bharat Financial merger to be effective from July 4

- 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.
- **About IndusInd Bank:**
 - It has its headquarters in Mumbai.
 - The CEO of IndusInd bank is Romesh Sobti.
- **About Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL):**
 - 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.

RBI launches CMS on its website

- 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:**
 - 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).
- **More about CMS:**
 - Keeping convenience of customers in mind, RBI has designed CMS in a way to enable online filing of complaints.
 - 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.

REPORTS

Gujarat tops Annual Fish Production of 7.8 lakh tonnes

- 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).
- The Fisheries Resources Assessment Division (FRAD) of CMFRI had collected random sampling data across the state and finalized the provisional figure.
- **Fish export in 2018:**
 - 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.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Vice Admiral Karambir Singh	Next Navy Chief
Chandrani Murmu	Youngest MP in India
Anita Bhatia	Deputy Executive Director
Ajay Singh	Chairman and MD to the Board of International Air Transport Association
Mr. Ajit Doval	National Security Advisor with Cabinet Minister Rank
Rakesh Makhija	Chairman of Axis Bank
Tijjani Muhammad-Bande	President of UN General Assembly
Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel	Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra	Chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD)
RK Chibber	Interim Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Romila Thapar	International Member of the American Philosophical Society
Virendra Kumar	Pro-Tem Speaker of Lok Sabha
Kassym-Jomart Tokayev	President of Kazakhstan
Thawarchand Gehlot	Leader of Rajya Sabha
Lt. General Faiz Hameed	Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence
Inger Andersen	Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
Jagat Prakash Nadda	BJP's working President
Zuzana Caputova	Slovakia's First Female President
Om Birla	17th Lok Sabha Speaker
Shefali Juneja	Representative of India in the council of ICAO
Amish Tripathi	Director of London's Nehru Centre
K. Natarajan	New Director General of the ICG
Samant Kumar Goel	Director of the RAW
Arvind Kumar	Director of the Intelligence Bureau
Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya	Governor of Manipur
Narinder Batra	Member of the International Olympic Committee
Sharad Kumar Saraf	New President of FIEO

Resigns

Sarah Huckabee Sanders	White House Press Secretary
Viral Acharya	RBI Deputy Governor

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
"Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" award	Ms. Pratibha Patil
Country's First Woman Fighter	Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh
Global Leadership Award 2019	Sunder Pichai and Adena Friedman
World's Richest Female Musician	Rihanna
'Nishan Izzuddin'- Maldives' award	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Distinguished Alumni Award	Nirmala Sitharaman and S. Jaishankar
Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award	Priyanka Chopra
54th Jnanpith Award	Amitav Ghosh
BBC World Service Global Champion	Akshaya Patra
Femina Miss India World 2019	Suman Rao
'Save Water Hero Award'	Makarand Tilloo
Innovation for Sustainable Development Award	Nitesh Kumar Jangir
Miss Universe Australia 2019	Priya Serrao

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
3rd June 2019	World Bicycle Day	
3rd June to 7th June 2019	Financial Literacy Week	Theme: 'Farmers'
5th June 2019	World Environment Day	Theme: "Beat Air Pollution"
8th June 2019	World Oceans Day	Theme: "Gender and Oceans"

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

12th June 2019	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme: Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!
14th June 2019	World Blood Donor Day	Theme: Blood Donation and Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion.
17th June 2019	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme: "Let's grow the future together."
20th June 2019	World Refugee Day	Theme: Take A Step on World Refugee Day.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
'My Life, My Mission'	Baba Ramdev
'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly'	Anupam Kher
'The New Delhi Conspiracy'	Meenakshi Lekhi
'A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief'	Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Assam Govt hikes Parental income limit to Rs 2 Lakhs

- 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.
- This scheme does not cover private colleges and universities in Assam.
- Children of parents working in state and central government are not eligible.

Rajasthan Increased Financial aid under 'Aapki Beti' Scheme

- 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:**
 - 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:**
 - 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.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Madras Launches a Data Platform called IDIP

- 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.
- **IDIP's focus on the Road Sector:**
 - 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.
 - The Road PPP in India is the largest in the world.

- 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

- 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.
- Under the programme, a three-member crew will spend a minimum of seven days in space.
- The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will lead the selection and training of astronauts on behalf of IAF.
- **Gaganyaan Mission:**
 - Gaganyaan ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
 - The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021.

Facebook plans to Launch 'GlobalCoin'

- Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency 'GlobalCoin' by the first quarter of 2020.
- 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.
- **India - A Key focus for Facebook:**
 - 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?**
 - A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
 - A cryptocurrency is difficult to counterfeit because of this security feature.

Scientists identify a New Species of Wasp in Goa

- Scientists have recently identified a new species of Wasp from the genus Kudakrumia in Goa.
- The Wasp, Kudakrumia Rangnekari, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.
- **What is a Wasp?**
 - A Wasp is any insect of the order Hymenoptera and suborder Apocrita that is neither a bee nor an ant.
- **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.

China Launched Space Rocket from Sea for the First Time

- China launched a space rocket from the sea for the first time on 5th June 2019.
- 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.
- **About the Payloads:**
 - The rocket carried two experimental satellites and five commercial satellites.
 - It was built by the China Academy of Space Technology in Beijing.
- **About China's space exploration:**
 - 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.

Google Maps Launches Three New Public Transport Features

- 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.
- 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.
- **Interesting to know:**
 - India is the top three countries for Google Maps transit usage.

New Species of Dung Beetle found in Arunachal Pradesh

- 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.
- The species plays an important in agriculture and tropical forests.
- They bury and consume dung and in turn improves nutrient recycling and soil structure.

IAF signs Rs 300 cr deal to buy 100 more SPICE bombs

- It is manufactured by Israeli defence firm Rafael Advanced Defence Systems.
- **One must know:**
 - 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.

India's First Dinosaur Museum-Cum- Park in Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated India's first Dinosaur-Museum-cum-Park in Balasinor city in the Mahisagar district.
- The museum is located in Raiyoli area in Balasinor city which exhibit remains of various dinosaurs and fossil records.
- **About the Dinosaur-Museum-cum-Park:**
 - It is equipped with modern technology like 3D projection, virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks and life-size dinosaur replicas.
 - It is a world-class tourism spot and will prove useful to students as well as experts.

Cabinet approved the setting up of DSRO

- The approval is aimed to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space.
- **Members of DSRO:**
 - 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:**
 - DSRO will provide technical and research support to its parent organization, the Defence Space Agency (DSA).
- **About DSA:**
 - 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.

Manipur man detects WhatsApp bug enters FB 'Hall of Fame'

- Facebook, the social media giant honoured 22-year-old Mr. Sougajam, by including him in Facebook Hall of Fame 2019 and also awarded \$5000.
- **About the WhatsApp Bug:**
 - 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.
 - The WhatsApp caller was then able to see what other person on receiving end is doing, thus violating the privacy of the receiver.

World's Highest Weather Stations installed on Mt Everest

- 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.

- The two weather monitoring stations are located at an altitude of 8,430 meters (27,657 feet) and 7,945 meters (26,066 feet).
- The data gathered from the stations will help scientists to understand how rising global temperatures impacts the rapidly melting glaciers.
- 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.

Facebook Unveils Details About its Cryptocurrency 'Libra'

- Using Libra people can buy things or send money to people with nearly zero fees.
- **More about Libra:**
 - Libra is a global currency and financial infrastructure.
 - 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.

Tech Mahindra signs Multi-Year contract with Airbus

- 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

- 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.
- **About the QS World University Rankings:**
 - Quacquarelli Symonds Limited is the publisher of the QS World University Rankings.

ESA tests device to rescue Injured Astronauts

- 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.
- 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.
- **Need for such device and its significance:**
 - 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.

NASA's Curiosity Rover Finds Largest amounts of Methane ever on Mars

- 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.
- **About the Curiosity Rover:**
 - It is a car-sized rover designed to explore a crater on Mars called Gale.
 - 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.

All Panchayats to have Broadband Connectivity by March 2020

- 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.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

- 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?**
 - 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.

DEFENCE

"Operation Sankalp" Launched by Indian Navy

- 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.
- 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.
- **One must know:**
 - 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.

SPORTS

ITF Men's Future Tennis title Won by Sidharth Rawat

- Sidharth Rawat won his title in the \$25,000 ITF Men's Futures Tennis tournament.
- The tournament was held in Thailand.
- Last year he won with Manish Suresh kumar for doubles.
- He is associated with coach Gaurav Sharma for nearly 15 years.

Indian Jr. Women's Hockey Team wins Cantor Fitzgerald U21

- 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.

IAAF changes its Name to "World Athletics"

- The members of IAAF council have approved the rebranding at an IAAF Council meeting held in Monaco on 8th June.
- **Purpose of this rebranding:**
 - 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:**
 - 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.

Peter Gilchrist wins Pacific International Billiards Championship

- Peter Gilchrist has won the Pacific International Billiards Championship 2019 at the Yarraville Club in Melbourne, Australia.
- **About Peter Gilchrist:**
 - Peter Gilchrist is an English-born Singaporean English billiards player.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

- He also set the world record for highest break in billiards (1346) under modern rules, at the New Zealand Open Billiards Championships.
- He is the only player of the modern era who scored more than one 1000 points in tournament break.

Virat Kohli becomes Fastest Cricketer to score 11,000 ODI runs

- Kohli got there in 222 innings, 54 innings are 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.

Bangladesh record 2nd Highest Successful Chase in World Cup history

- The Bangladesh cricket team chased down the target of 322 against West Indies.
- 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.

World Record for Most Sixes in an ODI Set by England Captain

- England captain Eoin Morgan set the world record for most sixes (17) in a One Day International (ODI).
- He achieved this record during his 71-ball 148-run knock against Afghanistan in the World Cup on 18th June 2019.
- **Previous record:**
 - The previous record for most sixes (16 sixes) was jointly held by Rohit Sharma, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers.

P. U. Chitra wins Gold at the Folksam Grand Prix 2019

- India's P.U. Chitra won gold medal in women's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix 2019 held in Sollentuna, Sweden.
- 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:**
 - Jinson Johnson from India won silver medal in men's 1500m at Folksam Grand Prix by clocking 3:39.69
- **Other Indian performance at another event:**
 - In another separate competition, National record holder Murali Sreeshankar won gold in men's long jump, at the Copenhagen Athletics Games in Denmark.

Women's Cricket nominated for 2022 Commonwealth Games

- 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.
- **One must know:**
 - The first official Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Canada.
 - 2022 Commonwealth Games will be held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Bronze for India in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics Meet

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

Pranati Nayak wins Bronze at Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship

- 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.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: June 2019

- Pranati Nayak now currently stands tall as India's 3rd major vaulting medallist after Dipa Karmakar and Aruna Reddy.
- **About the Asian Gymnastic Championships:**
 - 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.

Pankaj Advani wins the 35th Asian Snooker Championship

- 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.
- 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.
- **About the ACBS Asian Snooker Championship:**
 - It is the premier non-professional snooker tournament in Asia that started from 1984.

2026 Winter Olympics to be hosted by Italy

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the 2026 Winter Olympics will be staged at the Italian venue of Milan/Cortina d'Ampezzo.
- The Winter Games will happen from 6th February to 22nd February in 2026.
- It first hosted the Winter Olympics in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and then in 2006 in Turin.
- One must know:
 - The 2022 Winter Olympics will be staged in Beijing.

Virat Kohli becomes the Fastest Cricketer to score 20,000 runs

- 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).

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

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.
- COP-14 will be held between September 2nd and 14th in Delhi.
- The Centre launched a flagship project, part of a larger international initiative called the 'Bonn Challenge' ahead of the COP-14.
- **About United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):**
 - 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.
 - There are 197 parties to it (196 states + the European Union).

India extends \$15 mn assistance to Niger for holding AU summit

- 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 is more important at a time when India is competing for influencing the continent with China.
- **One must know:**
 - AU Summit is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).