

# Current Affairs Of August 2019

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## CONTENTS

National.....	2
International.....	12
Defence .....	15
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	16
Honours/ Awards.....	18
Sports.....	22
Obituaries.....	27
Important Days with theme.....	29

## National

### Lok Sabha to become paperless from next session

**i. Lok Sabha Speaker** has announced that the **Lower House will become paperless from the next session.**



**ii. This move will save crores of rupees to the exchequer.**

#### Do You Know-

- **Speaker of Lok Sabha:** Om Birla.

### Cabinet approves ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow

**i. Cabinet has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow in Russia.**

**ii. The unit will collaborate with Space agencies and industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.**

**iii. ITLU will support the ongoing bilateral programmes of cooperation in space technology and will act on behalf of ISRO.**

**Do You Know-**

- **Chairman of ISRO:** Dr K. Sivan; **Headquarters:** Bengaluru; **Established:** 1969.



### Tarun Chaudhri becomes first IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump

**i. Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri has become the first Indian Air Force pilot to perform a wingsuit skydive jump.**

**ii. Chaudhri achieved the feat during the Kargil Diwas celebrations at Air Force Station in Jodhpur.**

**iii. The jump was accomplished from a Mi-17 helicopter from an altitude of 8,500 feet. This is the first IAF Wing Suit Skydive Jump by a pilot who has flown and captained the same type of helicopter.**

#### Do You Know-

- **Chief of the Air Staff of IAF:** BS Dhanoa.



### London named the world's best city for students

**i. London has named the world's best city for students for the 2nd consecutive year, beating Tokyo and Melbourne that came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, on a new worldwide ranking.**



**ii. According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113th and Chennai at 115th, out of a total of 120th cities in the list.**

**iii. The QS Best Student Cities Ranking compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds highlights each city's performance across different categories.**

### French inventor crosses English Channel on 'Flyboard'

**i. French inventor Franky Zapata is 1st person in history to cross the English Channel on the jet-powered hoverboard.**



**ii. Zapata completed the crossing in 22 minutes, reaching speeds of up to 110mph (177km/h) flying 15-20 metres (50-65ft) above the water. Zapata made the 35-kilometre (21.5 miles) crossing from the French seaside town of Sangatte to St. Margaret's Bay in Dover, England.**

### One Nation One Ration Card scheme launched on pilot basis in 4 States

**i. One Nation-One Ration Card scheme launched on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.**

**ii. Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.**

#### Do You Know-

- **Minister of Food Processing Industries:** Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

### India slips to 7th largest economy in 2018

**i. According to the World Bank, India has been pushed to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings in 2018. In 2017, India had emerged as the 6th largest economy.**

ii. The US remains the top economy with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion in 2018. China was the 2nd largest economy with \$13.6 trillion, while Japan took the 3rd place with \$5 trillion.

iii. India's GDP was at \$2.7 trillion in 2018, while UK and France were at \$2.8 trillion.

India still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

Do You Know-

- **President of World Bank:** David Malpass; **Headquarters:** Washington DC, USA; **Established:** 1944.

**Maharashtra: 1st State to adopt Digital fingerprint and iris scanning system**

i. Maharashtra became the first state to adopt a digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to aid police investigations.



ii. The **Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS)** adopted by the Maharashtra Police will soon be replicated across the country, with the state government working with the **National Crime Records Bureau in New Delhi** to create standards to be used by other state police forces.

**SBI, Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS**

i. The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch is now connected to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS).

ii. SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency and also inducted to the CNAPS by the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

iii. SBI Shanghai can also offer the real-time transfer of local funds within China by routing them through the PBOC.

iv. The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments.

Do You Know-

- **Chairperson of SBI:** Rajnish Kumar; **Headquarter:** Mumbai; **Founded:** 1 July 1955.

**Art – 370 and Art -35-A revoked from J&K by GOI**

A series of historical

decisions which includes

the **scrapping of Article 370 &**

**Art-35-A** and the introduction

of “**J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019**” were taken today

during the session of **Rajya Sabha**. Article 370 was providing special autonomous status to the Indian state

“**Jammu & Kashmir**” which will be no longer

applicable from today. The **Constitution (Application**

**to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 2019** made by **Indian**

**President Ram Nath Kovind** was published. Once this

order was tabled by the home minister, it came into

force immediately and **supersede** the **Constitution**

**(Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 1954**.

All the provisions related to the state of Jammu &

Kashmir mentioned in the order will apply to the state.

With the above proceedings, **Home Minister moved a**

**resolution in Rajya Sabha that all clauses of Article**

**370 of the Constitution, which gives special status**

**to Jammu and Kashmir, will not be applicable in**

the state.

With this, **Union Government scrapped article 370**

**and 35A in J&K** and introduced a new bill

named “**J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019**”.

Art -370 and its effects on citizens of India

**Article 370** was providing special autonomous status

to the Indian state “**Jammu & Kashmir**”. Now,

the **government's decision to revoke article 370** will

revoke the **special provision** which grants **power to**

**J&K** to have its own **constitution**. As a

result, **J&K** will have to **adhere to the constitution of**

**India** much like the rest of the country and people



from outside J&K will be able to buy property in the state and settle here.

### About Article 370:

**Article 370** is an article under **part XXI of the Constitution of India**. This article was drafted by Sheikh Abdulla in 1947, who was the then prime minister of Jammu & Kashmir. The article deals with the “**Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions**” and is a temporary provision that commits to providing **special autonomous status to the Indian state “Jammu & Kashmir”**. According to the article, J&K don't come under the provisions of the Constitution which apply to all other states. For example: till 1965, J&K was having “**Sadr-e-Riyasat**” in place of “**the Governor**” and “**Prime Minister**” instead of “**the Chief Minister**”.

Under the purview of this article, **parliament can implement only some laws** in the state which includes **defence, communications, finance, and foreign affairs**. For the **implementation of other laws**, except stated above, **parliament needs the state to agree with them**. As a result, J&K's citizens live under a separate umbrella of laws as compared to other Indians. The other laws include those related to fundamental rights, citizenship and ownership of property. Due to this, an emergency can be declared by the central government under the state of war or any external aggression.

### What is Article 35-A?

Article 35-A provides **power to the legislature of Jammu & Kashmir** to define the **permanent residency** in the state. In 1954, Indian President Dr. Rajendra Prasad issued the **Constitution (Application**

**to Jammu & Kashmir) Order 1954**, under which the Article 35-A was introduced.

Jammu & Kashmir's constitution was adopted in 1956 and defined the “**Permanent Resident**” and provide the residents with notable benefits that are only available to them. It defined a permanent resident as someone who was a state subject on May 14, 1954, or who has been a resident of the state for 10 years and has lawfully acquired immovable property.

**Article 35-A provides special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and disallows people from outside the state from purchasing any immovable property, acquiring land, applying for government jobs, any type of aid & scholarships and public welfare projects in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.**

### J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019:

J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019 was moved by the Home Minister Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha. The **bill bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir into 2 new Union Territories**, one with the legislature and the other without the legislature. The 2 Union Territories will be Jammu and Kashmir division and Ladakh. As per the bill, the **union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature** the same as that of Delhi and **union territory in Ladakh will have no legislature**, same as that of Chandigarh.

This is a great decision taken by the government of India to ensure the welfare of the people of Kashmir and India as a whole. This step will help to cure India from terrorism, Army issues among others.

## Aamir Khan launches Mission Shakti sports initiative in Maharashtra

### i. Film actor Aamir Khan

attended the launch function of Mission Shakti, an initiative by Maharashtra minister Sudhir Mungantiwar to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics.



### Do You Know-

- **CM of Maharashtra:** Devendra Fadnavis; **Governor:** CH Vidyasagar Rao.
- **Capital of Maharashtra:** Mumbai.

## Rajasthan Assembly passes bills against honour killings and Mob Lynching

### i. The Rajasthan Assembly passed Bills against mob lynching and honour killing,

which make the cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offences with life imprisonment and a fine up to Rs 5 lakh. The bill to curb honour killing also has a provision of the death penalty for the convict.



ii. Now Rajasthan has become the 2nd state after Manipur which passed a law to curb lynching cases.

## Centre has approved the project to link Kosi & Mechi rivers

i. The Centre has approved a Kosi-Mechi river interlinking project in Bihar. Estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,900 crore.



ii. The project will provide irrigation for over 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar in north Bihar.

iii. This is India's 2nd major river linking project after Ken-Betwa of Madhya Pradesh.

## Rajya Sabha clears Bill for more judges in Supreme Court

i. The Rajya Sabha has passed a Bill for more judges in Supreme Court. The bill proposed an increase in the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 30 to 33 judges.

## NEFT facility to be available 24x7 by December 2019

i. The Reserve Bank of India will make available the National Electronic Funds Transfer system on a 24x7 basis from December 2019 as per the Payment System Vision 2021 document.



ii. Presently, the transfer of funds via NEFT can only be done during banks' working hours. The facility of electronic transfer of funds is available from 8 am to 7 pm on all working days, except the second and the fourth Saturday of the month.

iii. The move will revolutionize the retail payments system of the country. It will also reduce the number of cheques while making payments and will also increase efficiency in businesses.

## President signs National Medical Commission Bill into a law

i. President Ram Nath Kovind has signed National Medical Commission Bill which was passed by both houses of Parliament.



ii. The NMC bill aims at mega reforms in the medical education sector and will replace the nearly 63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act. The bill will ensure probity, quality education and bring down costs of medical education.

iii. National Medical Commission Bill will also simplify procedures and provides wider access to people for quality healthcare. The NMC will have eminent medical personalities as members who will be appointed for only one term of four years and will not be eligible for any further extension.

## Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record

i. The Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is all set to find a place in the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.



ii. The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March

20, becoming the most visited museum in the **Indian sub-continent in a single day.**

### President approves Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019

i. President has approved the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.** The bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.



ii. The act aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system. Some main **features of the act are:**

- The Bill proposes to increase the minimum compensation for hit and run cases. In case of the death, the compensation has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 2,00,000, and in case of grievous injury it will be from Rs. 12500 to Rs. 50,000.
- The law has proposed stiffer penalties for traffic rule violations such as over-speeding, dangerous driving, driving under the influence of alcohol and other offences such as not wearing a helmet or driving without licence.

### UP's "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh" drive creates world record

i. **Uttar Pradesh's "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh"** drive has created world record after planting more than 22 crore



saplings. The drive was launched on the occasion of 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement. More than 22 crore saplings were planted at 12.2 lakh locations under the drive in state.

ii. Another record of "largest distribution of saplings in the world" was created when 76823 saplings were distributed free in just 6 hours in Prayagraj.

### Udaipur to host India's Largest Education Brainstorm

i. The **3rd edition of India's largest** education brainstorming event, the **ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF)** will



held in the city of lakes, **Udaipur.**

ii. It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse.

iii. The theme for fest is **Education for Sustainability: Moving on from Conformity to Creativity'.**

### Dr Vikram Sarabhai's 100th Birth Anniversary

i. The country is celebrating the **100th birth anniversary** of scientist and innovator **Dr Vikram A**

**Sarabhai.** He is considered as the father of India's space program.



ii. The lander of Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the moon, is named 'Vikram' to honour the late Dr Vikram Sarabhai.

### Do You Know-

- ISRO Director: K. Sivan; Headquarters: Bengaluru; Established: 1969.

### 15-km long national flag unfurled in Raipur, Chattisgarh

i. In Chhattisgarh, thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a **15-km long national flag** by forming a human chain in Raipur ahead of the Independence day.



ii. This event was organised by Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation to entered the **Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour).**

### Do You Know-

- CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel; Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey.

### Doordarshan produced a patriotic song "Watan"

i. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister has released a patriotic song "Watan" to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019.



ii. The song is sung by singer Javed Ali, penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by Doordarshan.

iii. The song highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2".

iv. The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

#### Do You Know-

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister: Prakash Javadekar.

#### Headgear becomes mandatory for children above 4 years

i. Central government has made "**Headgear**" mandatory for **children above 4 years** while **travelling on a motorcycle**.

ii. The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019.

iii. Making the protective headgear mandatory for children, Central government has **replaced Section 129 of the principal Act** in the Act as "Every person, above four years of age, driving or riding or being carried on a motorcycle of any class or description shall, while in public place wear protective headgear conforming to such standards as may be prescribed by the Central government".

iv. Only **Sikhs wearing turban** have been **exempted** from the provision of Section 129 that makes helmets mandatory for all riders of motorcycles above 4 years of age.

#### Two new UTs, J&K and Ladakh will come into existence on Oct 31

i. President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to legislation for bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, and two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will come into existence on **October 31**.

#### PM announces appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff

i. In his Independence Day address to the nation, Prime Minister has announced the **appointment of a**



**Chief of Defence Staff.** The Chief of Defence Staff will be **above the three Service Chiefs.**

ii. The CDS is meant to be a single-point military advisor to the government who will coordinate long-term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three services. The CDS will also act as the military advisor to the Prime Minister on nuclear issues.

iii. This is one the **country's biggest higher level military reform** to bring in jointness and tri-service integration.

iv. In the absence of a CDS, presently the senior most of the three Chiefs functions as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa is the present chairman of COSC.

#### PM to be the chairman of the Inter-State Council

i. The **Inter-State Council** has been reconstituted with **Prime Minister as its chairman** and 6 Union ministers and all chief ministers as its members. **Home Minister Amit Shah** will chair the **standing committee of the Inter-State Council.**



ii. The Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).

#### Vice President's book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading" released

i. Home Minister Amit Shah released a Vice President **M Venkaiah**

**Naidu's** book titled "**Listening, Learning & Leading**".



ii. The book captures the glimpses of the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country in the last 2 years. The book also showcases the Vice President's feat as the Rajya Sabha Chairman in enhancing its effectiveness and promoting its efficiency.

#### Huawei launches its own operating system HarmonyOS

i. Chinese telecom giant **Huawei** unveiled its own operating system will be called the **HongmengOS**, known in English as the **HarmonyOS**.

- ii. The operating system will be released as an open-source platform worldwide to encourage adoption.
- iii. HarmonyOS is future-oriented and designed to be more smooth and secure, and is completely different from Android and iOS.

### President inaugurates Bunker Museum in Mumbai

- i. President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated underground **Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai.**
- ii. The British-era bunker was discovered in **2016** and has 13 rooms such as Shell Store, Gun Shell, Cartridge Store and Central Artillery Store. The **15,000 square feet** underground bunker museum has virtual reality booths in which visitors can "**time travel**" to the **19th century.**

### Rel Jio & Microsoft partners to offer cloud infrastructure for businesses

- i. **Reliance Jio** and **Microsoft** announced a partnership to accelerate the digital transformation in India. Under this deal, Microsoft will bring in the Azure Cloud on Jio Network and target the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift.

### "Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar" a book on the life of Sridevi

- i. The book, titled '**Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar**' will be launched on Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary.
- ii. The book is written by author-screenwriter **Satyarth Nayak**. The book will be published under the Ebury Press imprint of Penguin Random House in October 2019.

### Gujarat to get India's first CICET

- i. India's first **Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology** will be set up in **Gujarat**. It will be set up either in Ahmedabad or Surat. It will be built on the lines of Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology.
- ii. The aim of setting up the institute is to facilitate the chemical industry with research and innovations.

### Do You Know-

- **CM of Gujarat:** Vijay Rupani; **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat; **Capital:** Gandhinagar.

### Government announces Mega Merger of Public Sector Banks

- i. Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced a **big consolidation of public sector banks**. Under the scheme of amalgamation, **10 public sector banks** are to be merged **into four banks**.
- ii. After the amalgamation, the total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks in 2017
- iii. **The amalgamation of banks will be in the following manner:**
  - Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India to be merged into one single bank, with business of Rs 7.95 trillion to make **India's 2nd largest bank.**
  - Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank are to be merged to become the **4th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 15.2 lakh crore.
  - Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be merged to become the **5th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 14.6 lakh crore.
  - Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank to become the **7th largest public sector bank** with business of Rs 8.08 lakh crore.

### Most awaited "Assam's National Register of Citizens List" released

- i. State coordinator of the National Register of Citizens, **Prateek Hajela** has released the most awaited **Assam's final National Register of Citizens** list. The list has been made accessible online and at all NRC seva kendras in the state.
- ii. The process of NRC Update was started in the state of Assam as per order of the Supreme Court of India in 2013. The NRC took **five years** and **Rs 1,220 crore** before getting published.
- iii. **Important findings of the NRC:**
  - From the 3.29 crore applicants, a total of 3.11 crore people have been found eligible for inclusion in final NRC list.
  - 19.06 lakh people have been excluded from the final NRC list.



- Those excluded from the final NRC list will have 120 days to approach the Foreigners' Tribunals. If a person is dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision, he/she can appeal against it.
- Foreigners tribunals is a place where bona fide citizens, whose names do not figure in the final NRC, can approach to challenge their exclusion.
- To accommodate excluded people, detention camps have been set up across the state of Assam.

iv. The NRC list is the biggest exercise India has undertaken to expel illegal immigrants residing illegally in India. The updation process of NRC was carried out under **The Citizenship Act, 1955**, and according to the rules framed in the **Assam Accord**.

### Union HRD Minister launches Integrated Online junction 'Shagun'

i. Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School



Education 'Shagun' in New Delhi. Shagun is coined from two different words-

'Shala' meaning **Schools** and 'Gunvatta' meaning **Quality**.

ii. School Education Shagun is an over-arching initiative to improve the school education system by creating a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education and Literacy in the Government of India and all States and Union Territories.

### Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees get GI tag

i. Tamil Nadu's **Dindigul locks** and **Kandangi sarees** have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags. The famous Dindigul locks are known throughout the world for their superior quality and durability, that's way the city is called Lock City.



ii. The lock-making industry in Dindigul is said to be over 150 years old and they make over 50 varieties of locks. Similarly, the hand-woven Kandangi sarees also

have a 150-year-old tradition, and its history is interwoven with the story of the influential business community of Chettiars.

iii. The Geographical Indication sign is used on products which correspond to a specific geographical location. The use of a geographical indication may act as a certification that the product possesses certain qualities, enjoys a certain reputation, due to its geographical origin.

### 'Statue of Unity', Mumbai's Soho House among Time's 100 greatest places in the world

i. The **597-ft tall 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat** and **Mumbai's Soho House** have been featured by the



Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World's greatest places, in a compilation of 100 new and newly "noteworthy destinations."

ii. The 'Statue of Unity', the world's tallest statue, is a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent India's first home minister as well as deputy prime minister. Soho House Mumbai is Asia's first Soho House that puts a local spin on the "formula that has allowed Nick Jones' members-only clubs to blossom across the US and Europe".

### 2nd Uday Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada

i. Indian Railway's **2nd double-decker Uday (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air Conditioned Yatri Express)** will run



between **Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada**. The train would consist of **9 double-decker coaches** and **2 power cars**.

ii. The trains are primarily allocated to routes with heavy passenger traffic. They are equipped with WiFi facility, have striking interiors, cushioned seating, and display screens.

### Do You Know-

- **Union Railway Minister:** Piyush Goyal.

### Amazon's largest campus in the world inaugurated in Hyderabad

i. **Amazon** has opened its **largest campus** in the world in **Hyderabad**. The campus covers 1.8 million square feet and can accommodate 15,000 workers.

ii. This is Amazon's first owned-building outside of the US and is also its largest tech base outside the Seattle headquarters, which has about 155,000 contract employees.

#### Do You Know-

- CEO of Amazon: Jeff Bezos; Headquarters: Seattle, United States.

### Karnataka tops the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index

#### i. The State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL was

launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities. **Karnataka has topped the index** which evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.



### President Kovind inaugurates the First World Youth Conference

i. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the **first-ever World Youth Conference**. Which was organised by the **UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi**.

ii. The theme of the conference was **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.

iii. The conference was in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and aimed at providing youth with creative, effective methods of engaging and realising the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Narendra Modi launches RuPay card in UAE

i. Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched the **RuPay card**, making the **UAE** the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment. RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments.



ii. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

#### Do You Know-

- Currency of UAE: Dirham, Capital: Abu Dhabi
- RuPay card scheme was conceived and launched by NPCI

### Akshay Kumar takes 4th spot in Forbes highest-paid actors list 2019

i. Bollywood Actor **Akshay Kumar** has made it to the 4th position on the **Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019** list.



Akshay has raked in \$65 million. Hollywood star **Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson** tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.

### Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 listed by Forbes:

1. Dwayne Johnson (\$89.4 million)
2. Chris Hemsworth (\$76.4 million)
3. Robert Downey Jr. (\$66 million)
4. Akshay Kumar (\$65 million)

### SRK launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station

i. Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** launched heritage postal stamp of **Bandra station** in Mumbai, Maharashtra on the completion of **150 years of the railway station**. He urged the people present at the launching event to use the postal stamps instead of online texting.

### CVC sets up 4-member Advisory Board for Banking Frauds

i. The **Central Vigilance Commission** has constituted a 4-member **Advisory Board for Banking Frauds**. The ABBF will be **headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T.M. Bhasin**.

ii. The panel will function as the 1st level of examination of all large fraud cases. Lenders will refer all large fraud cases **above Rs 50 crore** to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matters.

iii. The other members of the panel are Madhusudan Prasad, former Urban Development Secretary; D.K. Pathak, former Director General of the Border Security Force; and Suresh N Patel, former MD and CEO of Andhra Bank.

iv. The panel was previously called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

#### Do You Know-

- Central Vigilance Commissioner: Sharad Kumar.

#### “Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story” book will be launched in October

i. A new book recounting the story of how **Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal** (both-former founders of Flipkart) built e-commerce giant



Flipkart. This book is written by **Mihir Dalal**. The book is titled as “**Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story**” and will be published by “**Pan Macmillan India**”. This book will be launched in October 2019.

#### Do You Know-

- Flipkart established: October 2007;  
Headquarter of Flipkart: Bengaluru.

#### Culture Minister to launch book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi'

i. Culture Minister will launch the book "**The Diary of Manu Gandhi**" at a function in New Delhi.



ii. The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of **150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press**. The first volume covers the period **1943-1944**.

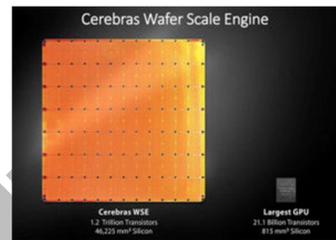
iii. The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally in Gujarati has been edited and translated by **Dr Tridip Suhrud**. Manu Gandhi (Mridula) was a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi, and stayed with Gandhiji till his assassination.

#### Do You Know-

- Union Culture Minister of India: Prahlad Singh Patel.

#### Cerebras Systems reveals "world's largest computer chip"

i. Artificial intelligence(AI) company **Cerebras Systems** has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor named **Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine(WSE)**.



ii. This chip has **1.2 trillion transistors**, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips.

iii. The rectangular shape chip measures 21.5cm sq (8.5in sq), comes with 400,000 AI (Artificial Intelligence) cores and 18 gigabytes of on-chip memory.

#### Do You Know-

- CEO & Co-Founder of Cerebras Systems: Andrew Feldman; Established: 2016.
- Headquarters: California, USA.

#### Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

i. The **Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)** decided to rename **Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium** as **Arun Jaitley Stadium** in the memory of its former president of DDCA. Jaitley was the president of DDCA from 1999 to 2013. The renaming of the stadium will take place in September.



ii. The renaming of the stadium will take place in September.

#### Do You Know-

- President of DDCA: Rajat Sharma;  
Headquarter of DDCA: Delhi.

#### Prime Minister launches Fit India Movement

i. On the occasion of **National Sports Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Fit India Movement** at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi. During the event, PM appealed to the nation to join this fitness movement and make a 'Fitter & Better India'.



ii. The nation-wide Fit India Movement aims to motivate every Indian to incorporate simple, easy ways of staying fit in their everyday life.

## India Launches World's First-Ever Facial BSID

**i.** India has become the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**, capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.

**ii.** The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two-finger or iris-based biometric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient while protecting their dignity and privacy. BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).

## International

**Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh**  
**i.** 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living

in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR's Bio-metric Identity Management System (BIMS) fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and UNHCR to all verified refugees over the age of 12.

**ii.** These cards will help in establishing and safeguarding the right of Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar. UNHCR's (BIMS) captures bio-metric data, including fingerprints and iris scans, which secure each refugee's unique identity as well as other important information such as family links.

**Do You Know-**

- UNHCR Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; UNHCR Head: Filippo Grandi.

**NASA honours Rolling Stones by naming rock on Mars**

**i.** NASA announced that it has named **rock on Mars** in honour of the iconic English band, **The Rolling Stones**. The space agency revealing that the "Rolling Stones Rock" was a stone that was sent rolling after NASA's InSight lander touched down on the Mars' surface.

**Do You Know-**

- NASA Administrator: Jim Bridenstine.
- NASA established: 29 July 1958.

**Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles**

**i.** Iran unveiled 3 precision-guided missiles. The new line-up of air-to-air missiles named the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.

**Do You Know-**



- **President of Iran:** Hassan Rouhani; **Capital of Iran:** Tehran.
- **Currency of Iran:** Rial.

### World's thinnest '2D' gold measures just 2 atoms

- The scientists at the **University of Leeds**, have created the **world's thinnest gold measuring 2 atoms thick or million times thinner than a fingernail.**
- In **2D form, gold becomes flexible** that adds to its potential of being used more efficiently such as in **bendable screens, electronic inks, medical diagnostic tests, and water purification systems.**

### Iceland commemorates 1st glacier "Okjokull" lost to climate change

- Iceland** commemorated the loss of 1st glacier "**Okjokull**", lost due to climate change. A bronze plaque was unveiled by Iceland in a ceremony which was attended by scientists and locals at the glacier in west-central Iceland.



- The plaque bears the inscription "**A letter to the future**".

#### Do You Know-

- Prime Minister of Iceland: Katrin Jakobsdottir; Capital: Reykjavik.

### Book on former US President titled "Obama: The Call of History" released

- A new book titled "**Obama: The Call of History**" has been released. The book has been written by Peter Baker, the Chief White House Correspondent for The New York Times. This book will give an in-depth account of the former US President's Barack Obama years in office.

### India becomes the largest SO2 emitter in the world

- India** is the **world's largest emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide**, which is produced from coal burning, and greatly contributes to air pollution. According to an analysis of a **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace.



According to an analysis of a **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace.

- India has **more than 15%** of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) hotspots in the world detected by the OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.

### 45th G7 Summit begins in Biarritz, France

- The **Group of 7 or G7 Summit** has begun

in **Biarritz, France**. It is an informal meeting between **France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada** as well as the European Union. These world powers, which represent 50% of the global economy, also share the values of freedom and democracy, as well as a collective ambition to deal with the world's major issues.

- India has been invited as a special guest in the summit. PM Narendra Modi will address sessions on the environment, climate, oceans and digital transformation at the G7 Summit.



#### Do You Know-

- President of France: Emmanuel Macron; Capital: Paris.

### FATF Asia-Pacific Group blacklists Pakistan

- Pakistan** has been placed on the **blacklist** of the **Financial Action Task Force's Asia Pacific Group**. Pakistan has been blacklisted for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.
- Pakistan has failed in 32 of 40 'compliance' parameters for its legal and financial systems. Pakistan has also failed in 10 of 11 'effectiveness' parameters for enforcing safeguards against terror-financing and money-laundering by UN-sanctioned entities and other non-government outfits.

#### Do You Know-

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

### Discovery, WWF tie up to preserve Sundarbans

- Discovery India and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**

**India** have partnered with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities to preserve Sundarbans. This move is to protect the Sundarbans, the mangrove



forest, the habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict. The move is also a part of a global movement “**Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers**” which aimed at building healthy habitats for Tigers.

#### Do You Know-

- Chief Minister of West Bengal: Mamta Banerjee.
- Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar.

#### Russia launches floating nuclear reactor in Arctic

**i. Russia** launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor. The vessel weighs **21,000 tons** and has two reactors with a capacity of **35 megawatts** each. This reactor loaded with nuclear fuel, the Akademik Lomonosov left the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometres (3,000-mile) voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia.



#### Do You Know-

- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin; Capital of Russia: Moscow.
- Currency of Russia: Russian ruble.
- PM of Russia: Dmitry Medvedev.

#### Scarlett Johansson tops Forbes highest-paid actresses list

**i.** For the second consecutive year, Hollywood star **Scarlett Johansson** has topped the Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors in the world.



Spurred by the success of her summer Marvel film *Avengers: Endgame*, the 34-year-old actor's earning reached **USD 56 million**

- Here's the list of the World's Highest-Paid Actresses Of 2019 listed by Forbes:
  1. Scarlett Johansson - \$56 million
  2. Sofia Vergara - \$44.1 million
  3. Reese Witherspoon - \$35 million

#### Russia sends its first humanoid robot Fedor into space

**i.** Russia launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named **Fedor**, (**Final Experimental**



**Demonstration Object Research**). It is a silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilogrammes (353 pounds).

**ii.** Fedor will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station. It blasted off in a **Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft** from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

#### Do You Know-

- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin; Capital of Russia: Moscow.
- Currency of Russia: Russian ruble; PM of Russia: Dmitry Medvedev.

#### BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award

**i.** Actor **Steve Coogan** will be felicitated with the **Charlie Chaplin Award** by the **British Academy's** Los Angeles branch.



He will receive the honour during the **2019 Britannia Awards**.

The **Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy** recognises the talents whose popularity and cultural impact exemplifies the uniquely transcendent quality of excellent comedy.

## Defence

### 5th edition of 'IASMC' kicks off in Jaisalmer

- i. The **5th edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition** with teams from **8 countries including India, China and Russia** as participants was **inaugurated at the Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of the Southern Command.**
- ii. **Lt Gen DS Ahuja, Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Southern Command, and Deputy Defence Minister of Russia Yunus Bek Evkurov** unveiled the trophy of the competition and unfolded the event's flag at the inaugural ceremony. Army Scout Master Teams from **Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and India** are participating in the **9-day event from August 6 to 14.**

### India test-fires Surface to Air-Missile from Chandipur

- i. India successfully test-fired its **all-weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) from a mobile launcher at launch complex III of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.**



- ii. This Missile Jointly developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Ltd**, the **QR-SAM weapon system is a quick reaction, network-centric missile system capable of search-on-the-move.** QR-SAM system can also engage multiple targets within a range of **around 25 to 30 km with 2 vehicle configuration for area air defence.** It is a **truck-mounted missile with a 360 degree rotatable, electro-mechanically operated, turret-based launch unit.**

### Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

- i. The Army has launched "**Mission Reach Out**" was chaired by **White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh in Jammu.**



- ii. This Mission aims to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

- iii. It was attended by **Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma**, members of the civil administration, representatives of the **J&K Police, CRPF, BSF and intelligence agencies.**

### Home Ministry fixes the retirement age of CAPF personnel at 60 years

- i. The **Union Home Ministry** has fixed the **retirement age of all Central Armed Police Forcepersonnel at 60 years.**



- ii. **MHA** has issued the order following the **2019 Delhi High Court verdict.** The high court verdict asked the Ministry to fix a retirement age that would be uniform for all members of the CAPFs "irrespective of rank".

### Iran unveils new missile defence system "Bavar-373"

- i. **Iran** has unveiled new missile defence system "**Bavar-373**". This is also Iran's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system which has been inducted into the country's missile defence network. The system was unveiled at an occasion of Iran's National Defense Industry Day.



### IAF's Shalija Dhami becomes a first female flight commander

- i. Indian Air Force's **Wing Commander Shalija Dhami** has become the **first female officer** in the country to become **Flight Commander of a flying unit.** Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase. Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit after the commanding officer.

#### Do You Know-

- Chief of the Indian Air Force: Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

**Debashis Chatterjee becomes MD and CEO of Mindtree**

i. Indian IT

company **Mindtree Ltd** has announced the appointment of **Debashis Chatterjee** as its new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**.



ii. Also, **S.N. Subrahmanyan**, the CEO of **Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T)** has been appointed as **non-executive vice chairman**.

**IFSG appoints Justice A.K. Sikri as ombudsman**

i. The **Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG)**, country's self-regulatory industry body for the online fantasy sports gaming sector, announced the appointment of **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri** as its **ombudsman and ethics officer**.

ii. Justice **A.K. Sikri** will be responsible for **investigating queries/complaints** raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms.

**Rakesh Asthana given additional charge of NCB**

i. The **Appointments Committee on Cabinet** has given the **additional charge** of the post of **Director General Narcotics Control Bureau** to **Rakesh Asthana**.

ii. He is presently serving as the **Director General of Civil Aviation Security**.

**Guruprasad Mohapatra takes charge as DPIIT secretary**

i. **IAS Officer Guruprasad Mohapatra** assumed charge as the secretary of the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**.



ii. Prior to taking over as secretary of DPIIT, he served as **chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**.

iii. Mohapatra replaces **Ramesh Abhishek**, who has retired.

**Chandrima Shaha to be the first woman president of INSA**

i. **Chandrima Shaha** is set to be the **1st woman president** of the **Indian National Science**



**Academy**. Her tenure will begin from **January 2020**. Chandrima Shaha was formerly the **Director of the National Institute of Immunology, Delhi**.

**Paytm promotes CFO Madhur Deora as President**

i. Digital payments player **Paytm** announced the promotion of its **Chief Financial Officer Madhur Deora** as the **company's President**.



ii. **Madhur** joined the digital payment firm in **October 2016**. Earlier, **Deora** has served as **Managing Director** in **Citigroup's** investment banking business in **New York, London and Mumbai**.

**Ravinder Takkar appointed as MD-CEO of Vodafone Idea**

i. **Ravinder Takkar** has been appointed as the **MD and CEO of Idea-Vodafone**. He is currently a board member of **Vodafone Idea** and **Indus Towers**, where he is responsible for all **Vodafone Group** interests in **India**. He will replace **Balesh Sharma** after his resignation as the chief executive officer of **Vodafone Idea (VIL)**.

**P.T. Usha appointed as a member of AAA's Athletes Commission**

i. **Legendary Indian sprinter P.T. Usha**, one of **India's** greatest athletes, has been appointed as a member of the **Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission**.



ii. This is the **2nd time** **P.T. Usha** has been appointed a member of the **Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission**

iii. **P.T. Usha** will be one of the **six members** of the **AAA Athletes Commission**, to be headed by **1992 Olympics gold medallist hammer thrower Andrey Abduvaliyev of Uzbekistan**.

### Qamar Javed Bajwa's term extended as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff

**i. Pakistan** Prime Minister Office has announced a **3-year extension of General Qamar Javed Bajwa's** tenure as **Chief of Army Staff**.



**ii.** Bajwa's original term was to end in November 2019 after serving as Army chief for three years. He will remain as Army chief till November 2022.

#### Do You Know-

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

### AJAY Kumar appointed as Defence Secretary

- Ajay Kumar** has been appointed as **Defence Secretary**. Ajay Kumar is currently serving as Secretary in Department of Defence Production. He will replace **Sanjay Mitra**, upon completion of his term.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved his appointments.

### Rajiv Gauba appointed as Cabinet Secretary

**i.** Home Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** appointed as a **Cabinet secretary** for two years. He will replace P.K. Sinha, who was appointed Cabinet Secretary in 2015.



**ii.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved his appointment.

### P.K. Sinha appointed as Officer on Special Duty in PMO

**i.** The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved the appointment of **P.K. Sinha** as "**Officer on Special**



**Duty**" in the office of the Prime Minister. P K Sinha was earlier serving as the Cabinet Secretary before the appointment of Rajiv Gauba.

### Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as Home Secretary

**i.** **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** was appointed as the new **Union Home Secretary**. He is currently serving as an officer on special duty in the home ministry. He replaces Rajiv Gauba, who was appointed as the new cabinet secretary.



**ii.** The Appointments Committee of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved Bhalla's appointment as the new home secretary.

### Pramod Agarwal to succeed Coal India chairman AK Jha

- Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected **Pramod Agarwal** as the next chairman of **Coal India**. He is a 1991 batch IAS from Madhya Pradesh cadre. He will take over after the present chairman **A K Jha** retires in January 2020.
- Agarwal is currently principal secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh.

#### Do You Know-

- Headquarter of Coal India: Kolkata, West Bengal.

## Honours/ Awards

### Former Cricketer Kapil Dev honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award

- i. East Bengal club will officially start the centenary celebrations on its foundation day with a glittering ceremony at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.
- ii. East Bengal club will be awarded India's first cricket World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav.
- iii. Kapil is no stranger to football as he had donned the club's colours in an exhibition match against Mohun Bagan in 1992.

### Ruhan Rajput honoured with 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019'

- i. Ruhan Rajput, a renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019 at New Delhi.



- ii. Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry. His company, is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry.
- iii. The company operates to provide comprehensive research, analysis and expert solutions to its clients.

### DD News channel bagged Champions of Empathy Award

- i. DD News is awarded with "Champions of Empathy Award" for spreading awareness about hepatitis.
- ii. Director General of DD News, Mayank Agrawal received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- iii. DD News to aware people about various diseases and preventives by showing health related programmes, reports and policies that help to spread awareness towards health in society.



### Ravish Kumar wins Ramon Magsaysay award 2019

- i. Indian journalist Ravish Kumar has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for "harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless".

ii. The Magsaysay award was started in 1957 and celebrates the memory and leadership example of the former Philippine president Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay.

iii. It is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.

iv. Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize. The awardees are presented with a medallion with a right side facing profile image of Ramon Magsaysay along with a certificate.

v. The other winners of the award are:

- Ko Swe Win (Myanmar): He is a human rights defender and the chief editor of Myanmar Now news agency.
- Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand) is human rights activist and a leading human rights defender in Southern Thailand.
- Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) is a musician who has served in the music faculty of the University of the Philippines and has conducted free workshops for thousands of students all across the country.
- Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth and a South Korean agrarian movement leader who pioneered wasteland cultivation, and strove to demonstrate through his work that life as a farmer can be fulfilling and productive.

### President Kovind honoured with the highest award of Republic of Guinea

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both countries.



the

**Do You Know-**

- **President of Guinea:** Alpha Conde; **Capital of Guinea:** Conakry.
- **Currency of Guinea:** Guinean franc.

**Indian-origin doctor wins Miss England 2019**

**i. Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor** was crowned Miss England 2019. Bhasha holds two different **medical degrees, has an IQ of 146 and is fluent in 5 different languages.** As a winner of Miss England, she will be entered into the **Miss World contest 2019.**

**BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award**

**i. Actor Steve Coogan** will be felicitated with the **Charlie Chaplin Award** by the **British Academy's Los Angeles branch.** He will receive the honour during the **2019 Britannia Awards.**



The **Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy** recognises the **talents whose popularity and cultural impact** exemplifies the uniquely transcendent quality of excellent comedy.

**India's Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity Title**

**i. India's transsexual woman Naaz Joshi** was crowned Miss World Diversity 2019. This event was held in **Port Louis, Mauritius.** This was her **3rd successive victory** in the beauty pageant **Miss World Diversity.**

**Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja' wins award at We Care Film Festival**

**i. Indian documentary film "I'm Jeeja"** has won the award at the **14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'.** "I'm Jeeja" has won the award in the **'Under 30 minute'** category. The documentary **directed by Swati**



**Chakraborty** attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability. Another Indian film "Post Dark" received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category.

**Eric Cantona to be honoured with UEFA President's Award**

**i. Former Manchester United forward player Eric Cantona** will be honoured with the **2019 UEFA President's Award.** The award recognises outstanding achievements, professional excellence and exemplary personal qualities of the player. Cantona won four Premier League titles in five years with United in the 1990s and scored 64 goals for the Old Trafford club in 143 appearances.

**PV Sindhu becomes first Indian to win World Championships gold**

**i. Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu** has won the World Championships title defeating Japan's **Nozomi Okuhara** in the final at Basel, Switzerland. Sindhu defeated her Japanese opponent Nozomi Okuhara to 21-7, 21-7.

**ii.** This was Sindhu's third straight World Championships final. With this victory, the 24-year-old shuttler has become the first Indian to book a **gold medal** at the World Championships.

**66th National Film Awards**

The **66th National Film awards** have been announced by **Rahul Rawail**, head of the **Jury for feature films.** The Jury unanimously conferred the award for the **Most Film Friendly**

**State to "Uttarakhand"** for furthering the growth of the film industry in the state including creating an environment for ease of filming in the state.



The list of **Award winners** under the **different categories** is mentioned as under:

Sr. No.	Category	Winner
1	Best Feature Film	Hellaro (Gujarati Film)
2	Best non feature film	Son Rise by Vibha Bakshi and The Secret Life of Frogs by Ajay and Vijay Bedi
3	Best Director	Adhitya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike
4	Best Actor	Ayushmann Khuranna for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
5	Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
6	Best Supporting Actor	Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
7	Best supporting actress	Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
8	Best Popular Film	Badhaai Ho
9	Best film on Social Issues	Padman
10	Best Hindi Film	Andhadhun

**CPWD-DG Prabhakar Singh selected for ‘Eminent Engineer Award 2019’**

**i. Prabhakar Singh**, Director General, Central Public

Works Department has been chosen for the ‘**Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019**’. This award will be given by the Institution of Engineers (India) for his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology.

**ii.** This Elite and Prestigious Award shall be conferred to him on the ‘**Engineers Day**’ on September 15, 2019, in New Delhi.

**Do You Know-**

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri.

**JNU Professor Meeta Narain was conferred the ‘Pushkin Medal 2019’**

**i.** JNU Professor **Meeta Narain** was conferred the ‘**Pushkin Medal - 2019**’. This award is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.



**ii.** Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.

**Do You Know-**

- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin; Capital city of Russia: Moscow.

**DAY-NULM conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award**

**i. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**, has been conferred the prestigious **SKOCH**



National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)  
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation  
Government of India

**Governance Gold Award. It**

has been conferred the award for its initiative "Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (**PAiSA**)". DAY-NULM is a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**ii.** PAiSA is a centralized IT platform which simplifies and streamlines release of interest subvention under the Mission. It offers end to end online solution for processing, payment, monitoring and tracking of interest subvention claims from banks on a monthly basis.

### Lionel Messi Wins UEFA Goal of the Season Award 2018-19

i. **Barcelona's Lionel Messi** has been awarded **UEFA's Goal of the Season award 2018-19** for his free-kick against Liverpool.



ii. **Cristiano Ronaldo** was runners-up in the UEFA award for the goal he scored for Juventus against his former team Manchester United.

### Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman to be honoured with Vir Chakra

i. **Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman** will be honoured with the **Vir Chakra** on Independence Day. Wg Cdr Abhinandan became the face of a tense military confrontation between India and Pakistan when his MiG-21 was shot down during the aerial combat between Indian and Pakistani air forces on February 27 after the February 26 Balakot airstrike. Before his jet was hit, he downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan.

### Priyam Chatterjee becomes 1st Indian chef to win French honour

i. **Priyam Chatterjee** became the **1st Indian chef** to be awarded the '**Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite**



**Agricoleto'** by the **government of France** to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.

ii. Chatterjee is best known for revisiting the traditional dishes from his native state of West Bengal and giving it a French twist.

iii. '**Ordre du Mérite Agricole'** (Order of Agricultural Merit) is a distinction bestowed by the French Republic for outstanding contributions, **to agriculture, agro-food industry and gastronomy.**

#### Do You Know-

- **President of France:** Emmanuel Macron; **Capital:** Paris; **Currency:** Euro, CFP Franc.

### Rajasthan bags award at World Education Summit 2019

i. **Rajasthan** wins the "**best innovation and initiative leadership award**" for its achievements in higher

education in the **World Education Summit-2019** held in New Delhi.

#### Do You Know-

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

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be honoured with "Order of Zayed"

i. The **United Arab Emirates** will honour the **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** with the "**Order of Zayed**", the highest civilian award of the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the award during his visit to the UAE.



ii. The order in the name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the UAE, acquires special significance as it is awarded to Prime Minister Modi in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed.

#### Do You Know-

- **Capital of the UAE:** Abu Dhabi; **Currency:** Dirham.

### Longest documentary "100 Years of Chrysostom" will receive Guinness Award

i. A biographical documentary "**100 Years of Chrysostom**" will receive **Guinness Award** in the category of **longest documentary.**



ii. The "**100 Years of Chrysostom**" is based on the life of **Philipose Mar Chrysostom**, scripted and directed by filmmaker **Blessy.**

iii. The 48-hour and 8 minutes documentary has broken the record of the 21-hour Saudi Arabian documentary "**World of Snakes**".

iv. Former Padma Bhushan awardee Philipose Mar Chrysostom is a Metropolitan Emeritus of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.

### ISRO Chairman K. Sivan honoured with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award

i. **Tamil Nadu** government has awarded **K. Sivan** with its **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award.** K. Sivan is

currently serving as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

#### Do You Know-

- **Tamil Nadu Capital:** Chennai; **CM:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami; **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit.

#### CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship

**i. Dr K Thangaraj**, Chief Scientist at **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)** was awarded **JC Bose Fellowship**.



**ii.** Thangaraj was given this fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of **population and medical genomics**.

**iii.** The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance by the **Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology**.

## Sports

#### Amla retires from international cricket

**i.** South African batsman **Hashim Amla** has retired from all formats of international cricket.



**ii.** Amla played **124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is** between his **15-year-long** cricketing career.

**iii.** Scoring more than **18,000 runs**, including **55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50**.

#### BCCI has agreed to come under NADA ambit

**i.** The **Board Of Control For Cricket In India** has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency.

**ii.** This decision makes Indian Cricket's governing body a sports federation as per government norms. As a result, all cricketers will now be tested by **NADA**.



#### Do You Know-

- Director General of NADA: Navin Agarwal; CEO of BCCI: Rahul Johri.

#### Diego forlan announces retirement from professional football

**i.** Legendary Uruguay striker **Diego Forlan** has announced his **retirement from professional football**. He had won the **Golden Ball** award after being adjudged the **best player of the 2010 FIFA World Cup**.



**ii.** Forlan made **112 appearances for Uruguay** and scored **36 goals**. He also helped his side to win the **Copa America title in 2011** and finished **4th in the 2010 FIFA World Cup**. He was the joint top scorer of the **2010 tournament** and also won the **'Goal of the Tournament'** award.

#### Ravichandran Ashwin named "PCA Player of the Month"

**i.** Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** has been named as **Professional Cricketers**



### Association's Player of the month of July 2019.

ii. He has been named for his consistent performances in the county championships as he hit 197 runs and picked up 23 wickets from just 3 matches for Nottinghamshire.

### Dale Steyn retires from Test cricket

#### i. South African bowler Dale Steyn

has announced his retirement from Test cricket. Dale Steyn has played 93 Tests for South



Africa, finishing with 439 wickets, the most in the long format by a south african bowler.

ii. His strike-rate of 42.3 balls per wicket is the best of anyone with more than 200 Test wickets. Steyn will be available to play for South Africa in One-Day and T20 International series.

#### Do You Know-

- **ICC Chairman:** Shashank Manohar; **Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.

### Vinesh wins gold in 53kg at Poland Open Wrestling Tournament

i. Vinesh Phogat won gold in women's 53kg category at Poland Open wrestling tournament in Warsaw.



ii. Vinesh prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition. This is her 3rd consecutive gold in women's 53kg category after Grand Prix of Spain and Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul in Turkey.

### Serena Williams tops Forbes list of best-paid female athletes

i. Serena Williams topped the List Of Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 published by Forbes. She has topped the annual list for a 4th consecutive year with estimated total earnings of \$29.2 million.



ii. Japan's Naomi Osaka was 2nd on the list with earnings of (\$24.3 million). Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (\$5.5 million), with Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn (\$5.3 million) rounding out the top 15 of Forbes list of best-paid female athletes.

### Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20Is

i. Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry became the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.

### Lewis Hamilton wins Hungarian Grand Prix

#### i. Formula One Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton

hunted down Max Verstappen to win the Hungarian Grand Prix for a record-extending seventh time and surge 62 points clear in the championship standings.

### Satwiksairaj & Chirag 1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title

i. India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted a piece of history by breaching the 'Chinese Wall' of reigning World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen, with a victory in the men's doubles final of the Thailand Open badminton championship in Bangkok.



ii. This is the first-ever Indian men's combination to win a BWF Super 500 title.

### Fiona Kolbinger 1st woman to win 4,000km cycling race

i. German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km (2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race from Burgas in Bulgaria to Brest in France.



ii. Kolbinger becomes the 1st woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races in her first ultra-distance event. She took 10 days, 2 hours and 48 minutes to complete the challenge, which included about 40,000 metres (131,000ft) of climbing.

## Nick Kyrgios beats Daniil Medvedev to win 6th ATP title

**i.** Australia's Nick Kyrgios kept his composure and captured the ATP Washington Open title, defeating Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev.



**ii.** The 24-year-old Aussie, who struggled through the opening set, claimed the \$365,390 top prize and his 6th career ATP crown at the US Open tune-up event.

## Women's Cricket at Birmingham CWG

**i.** Cricket will come back to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) roster for the 1st time since 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, with the inclusion of women's T20 for the 2022 edition in Birmingham.



**ii.** It will take place from July 27 to August 7, 2022, with 8 international teams playing cricket.

**iii.** This decision was taken by Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the International Cricket Council (ICC).

### Do You Know-

- ICC Chairman: Shashank Manohar; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

## Rafael Nadal wins Montreal Masters title

**i.** Rafael Nadal wins in Montreal to win 35th Masters crown. He defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev by 6-3, 6-0. With the win, he also extended his record haul of Masters 1000 titles. Nadal has successfully defended a hard court title for the first time in his career.

## Aishwarya Pissay wins FIM Bajas World Cup

**i.** Aishwarya Pissay made history by becoming the first Indian to win a world title in motorsports as she won the FIM World Cup in women's category after the final round of the championship in Varpalota, Hungary.



**ii.** The event was conducted by the International Motorcycling Federation, the governing body for motorcycle racing in the world.

## Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup 2019

**i.** Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup tennis tournament 2019 held in Toronto, Canada.



**ii.** She was the first Canadian to win the event in 50 years. Serena Williams was the runner-up in the final.

## Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix

**i.** Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix held in Tbilisi, Georgia. He defeated Iran's Peiman Bibyani by 2-0 in the 65 kg final of the men's freestyle competition. It was the 4th gold of the season for the Asian Games champion.

## Mitchell Johnson becomes MCC Honourary Life member

**i.** Former Australian pace bowler Mitchell Johnson has been elected as an Honourary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

**ii.** Johnson represented Australia in 153 One Day Internationals picking up 239 wickets, 73 international Test matches claiming 313 wickets and 30 T-20 Internationals in which he takes 38 wickets.

## National Sports Awards 2019

Selection Committee for the Sports Awards 2019 has announced the National Sports Awards 2019. National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.



Selection Committee for the Sports Awards 2019 was headed by Justice Mukundakam Sharma, Retired Judge, Supreme Court.

Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh each. A trophy and citation is given to the entity in the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, 2019. Recipients of Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar will be given Trophies and certificates. Overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments will be given MAKATrophy, award money of Rs. 10 lakh and certificate.

The complete list of awardees:

Sr. No.	Award	Name	Discipline
1	RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD	Sh. Bajrang Punia	Wrestling
2	RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD	Ms. Deepa Malik	Para Athletics
3	RASHTRIYA KHEL PRO TSAHAN PURUSKAR	(i) Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation(ii) GoSports Foundation	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent'
4	RASHTRIYA KHEL PRO TSAHAN PURUSKAR	Rayalaseema Development Trust	Sports for Development

### Liverpool beats Chelsea to win UEFA Super Cup

i. **Liverpool** defeated Chelsea in the finals to win **UEFA Super Cup** held in Istanbul. The match ended in draw with score 2-2 following the extra time.

ii. Later in the penalties, Liverpool beats Chelsea by 5-4. This was the fourth time Liverpool have won this competition.



### Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open

i. Indian Badminton star **Sourabh Verma** clinched the Men's Singles title in the **Hyderabad Open**.

ii. He beat Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in a 52-minute final clash. Sourabh Verma belongs to Madhya Pradesh.

### Hima Das, Mohammad Anas win gold in Athleticky Mitink Reiter event

i. Indian sprinters **Hima Das** and **Mohammad Anas** have won a gold medal and Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in **300m** races at the **Athleticky Mitink Reiter** event.

ii. The event was held in **Czech Republic**. While Hima won the gold in women's category and Mohammad Anas and Nirmal Tom claimed the yellow and bronze medal in men's category.



### Ravi Shastri appointed as Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team

i. Former all-rounder **Ravi Shastri** has been appointed as the **head coach of Indian cricket team** for another two years.

ii. Cricket Advisory Committee led by former Indian Cricket captain Kapil Dev along with Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy conducted interviews of shortlisted candidates for Indian cricket team's head coach.



### India wins T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series

i. **India** has won the inaugural **T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series 2019** held in

England. India defeated England by 36 runs in the finals to win the title.

ii. The 6-nation tournament was organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

### Labuschagne becomes 1st Concussion Substitute cricket player

i. Australian player **Marnus Labuschagne** has become the **1st Concussion Substitute player** in the history of International cricket.

ii. A Concussion Replacement Request is the notification made to the ICC Match Referee in accordance with the process set out by ICC.

iii. The Team Medical Representative is the individual designated for the assessment of any head or neck injury sustained by a player.

iv. A Concussion Replacement is a player who takes the place of a player who has been replaced for the remainder of the match. The player will be selected from the list of nominated players provided by that team whose player was injured and will take a full part in the match.

v. In Ashes Series 2019, **Steve Smith** was ruled out of the last day of the **2nd Ashes Test match** at Lord's due to concussion. Marnus Labuschagne replaced Smith on the last day of the Lord's Test.

#### Do You Know-

- ICC Chairman: Shashank Manohar; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

### Sreesanth's Life Ban on cricket reduced to 7 Years

i. Former India paceman **Shanthakumaran Sreesanth's** life ban has been reduced to 7 years. This order was passed by **BCCI Ombudsman, Justice (Retd.) DK Jain**. The Ban will end in 2020.

ii. The BCCI banned Sreesanth for life in **September 2013**, along with his Rajasthan Royals teammates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan, for indulging in alleged spot-fixing in the IPL.



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### Abhishek Verma and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in shooting WorldCup

i. **Abhishek Verma** won the gold medal and **Saurabh**

**Chaudhary** won the bronze medal, in a dominant display by Indian shooters in the men's 10m air pistol event. While **Elavenil Valarivan** opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro.

### Paytm retains title sponsorship of Indian cricket for 5 years

i. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has announced that mobile payments and e-commerce company "**Paytm**" has retained the **title sponsorship rights**. Paytm has retained the title sponsorship rights for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for **5 years**.

ii. Paytm has signed the deal for ₹326.80 crores which it will pay BCCI over a period ranging between 2019 and 2023.

#### Do You Know-

- **Paytm Founder:** Vijay Shekhar Sharma; **Parent Organization:** One97 Communications.

### Vikram Rathour appointed as Team India's batting coach

i. Former Indian opener **Vikram Rathour** appointed as team India's new batting coach. He will replace **Sanjay Bangar**.

While Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches.

ii. The 50-year-old Rathour has played 6 Tests and 7 ODIs in 1996. He was a senior national selector under Sandeep Patil's chairmanship.

ii. The 50-year-old Rathour has played 6 Tests and 7 ODIs in 1996. He was a senior national selector under Sandeep Patil's chairmanship.

#### Do You Know-

- Senior National Cricket selection committee head: MSK Prasad.

### Gokulam Kerala FC wins Durand Cup

i. In football, Gokulam Kerala FC won the **129th Durand Cup**, defeating heavyweights Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

ii. Bagan had more possession, but Gokulam were superb in counter-attacks. With today's win, Gokulam Kerala became the first club from the state in 22 years to clinch the tournament.



## Virgil van Dijk, Lucy Bronze win UEFA Award

**i. Liverpool Football player Virgil van Dijk has won UEFA's**

**Player of the Year award.** He

was beating Barcelona captain

Lionel Messi and Juventus

superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, while England

footballer **Lucy Bronze** taking the **Women's Player of the Year award.**

**ii.** UEFA also handed out **positional awards** for male players, with Van Dijk for Champions League Defender of the Season.



## V K Vismaya wins gold in 400m at MJS in Brno, Czech Republic

**i.** Indian sprinter **VK**

**Vismaya** clinch the **gold**

**medal** in the **400m run** at the

International Athletic Meeting -

Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech

Republic. She produced her personal best timing of

52.12s to clinch the gold medal.



### Do You Know-

- Capital of Czech Republic: Prague; Currency of Czech Republic: Czech koruna.

## West Indies fast bowler Cecil Wright retires at 85

**i.** West Indies pacer **Cecil**

**Wright** has announced

his **retirement** from all forms

of cricket at the ripe old **age of**

**85.** Wright made his first-class

debut for Jamaica against a

Barbados side which had legends Wes Hall and Sir

Garfield Sobers.

**ii.** The 85-year-old claims to have played over two million games taking over 7,000 wickets in professional cricket. Wright's longest purple patch span five seasons as he ended up taking as many as 538 wickets in five seasons.



## Obituaries

### Russi Taylor, voice of Minnie Mouse, passes away

**i.** Veteran actor **Russi Taylor**,

who voiced **Disney's Minnie**

**Mouse** for more than 30 years,

has **passed away.**

**ii.** The **artiste** also lent her **voice** to roles on other classic TV animated series like "TaleSpin", "The Little Mermaid", "Buzz Lightyear of Star Command" and "Kim Possible". Taylor was named a **Disney Legend** in 2008.



### Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passes away

**i.** **Former External Affairs Minister Sushma**

**Swaraj** passed away. She was the **1st full time**

**woman external affairs minister of India.**

**ii.** She was also the **youngest cabinet minister** at **25** when she joined the **Haryana government** in **1977** and the **first woman chief minister of Delhi.**

### Nobel laureate and beloved author Toni Morrison passes away

**i.** **Toni Morrison, the 1993**

**Nobel laureate in literature**

**passed away.** She was

the **1st African American**

**woman** to win the Nobel in

literature. Ms. Morrison was the

author of **several novels, children's books and essays.**

**ii.** Among them were celebrated works like **Song of Solomon**, which received the **National Book Critics Circle Award** in **1977**, and **Beloved**, which **won the Pulitzer Prize** in **1988.**



### King of the Ring' Harley Race Passes away

**i.** **Harley Race, American professional**

**wrestler** passed away. Race overcame serious injuries

from a car accident to become a mainstay of

the **wrestling circuit, winning numerous individual and tag-team titles** in the **1960s, '70s and '80s.**

### Veteran director J Om Prakash passes away

**i.** Veteran director **J Om Prakash** passed away.

Prakash was best known for his **collaboration with**

two of Bollywood biggest superstars, late Rajesh Khanna and Jeetendra. He also produced box office hits like **Ayee Milan Ki Bela**, **Aaye Din Bahar Ke**, **Aya Sawan Jhoom Ke**, **Aas Paas** and **Aandhi**.

### Veteran music composer Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passes away

i. Veteran music composer **Mohammed Zahur Hashmi**, popularly known as **Khayyam** passed away. He was best known for his music in classic films such as **Umrao Jaan** and **Kabhi Kabhie**. He was also a recipient of **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** and **Padma Bhushan**.



### Former ASG Amarendra Sharan passes away

i. Senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General **Amarendra Sharan** passed away. Sharan was the Additional Solicitor General in the Supreme Court from 2004 to 2009.

ii. He was also appointed as an **amicus curiae** by the **apex court** which was hearing a petition seeking fresh investigation in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.



### Veteran actor Vidya Sinha passes away

i. Veteran Bollywood actress **Vidya Sinha** passed away. She was renowned for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film "Rajnigandha".

ii. She was a major figure in Bollywood in the 1970s-1980s. Her list of notable films includes **Mera Jeevana**, **Chhoti Si Baat**, **Safed Jhooth** and many others.



### Padma Shri awardee Damodar Ganesh Bapat passes away

i. **Damodar Ganesh Bapat** from Chhattisgarh, a noted social worker and Padma Shri award winner, passed away. He was known for his social work in tribal areas in Chhattisgarh. He dedicated his life to the treatment and service of leprosy patients.



ii. For his service to the society, he was awarded the fourth highest civilian award of India i.e. **Padma Shri** award in 2018.

### Bangladeshi novelist Rizia Rahman passes away

i. Renowned Bangladeshi novelist **Rizia Rahman** passed away. She had received the **Bangla Academy Literary Award** in 1978 and was awarded **Ekushey Padak** in 2019.



ii. **Bong Theke Bangla**, **Rokter Okshor** and **Ghar Bhangra Ghar** are among some of her well known novels.

### Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passes away

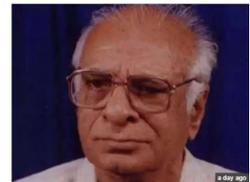
i. Former Bihar Chief Minister **Jagannath Mishra** passed away. He was **3-time Chief Minister** of Bihar. He was an economics professor at Bihar University and also authored several books.

### Nari Shakti Award Winner Neelum Sharma passes away

i. Doordarshan Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner **Neelum Sharma** passed away. Neelum Sharma was known for her programmes like '**Tejaswini**' and '**Badi Charcha**' and had been awarded the **Nari Shakti Puruskar** by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.

### Socialist leader and former Palghar MLA Navnitbhai Shah passes away

i. Socialist leader and former MLA of Palghar **Navnitbhai Shah** passed away. He took part in the freedom struggle in 1942 at the Gowalia Tank maidan in Mumbai. He was an active member of the **Rashtra Seva Dal** in Mumbai between 1943-49. He was elected as the first Sarpanch of Palghar (Maharashtra) in 1952 and as MLA in 1957 and 1962.



### India's first woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passes away

i. India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya** passed away. She was a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of

Uttarakhand. She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country.

### Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passes away

i. Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Babulal Gaur** passed away. He served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from August 2004 to November 2005 and represented Govindpura Assembly seat for 10 times.

### Naval war hero Noel Kelman passes away

i. Naval war hero and Kirti Chakra awardee **Commander Noel Kelman** passed away. Commander Kelman was awarded the **Kirti Chakra** for



valour during the **liberation of Goa in 1961**. He was involved in an operation to flush out the Portuguese from the Anjadip Island, Karnataka. Kelman had also been awarded the **King's commendation in the Second World War** for his role in sinking a Japanese submarine.

### Former finance minister Arun Jaitley passes away

i. Former Union finance minister and senior BJP leader **Arun Jaitley** passed away. He was a lawyer by profession. He held the portfolios of Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs Ministry, Defence Ministry, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

## Important Days with theme

### World Breastfeeding Week Has Observe

i. The **Food and Nutrition Board, Ministry of Women and Child Development**, is organizing several activities on the theme **"Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding"** during the **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)** being observed from **1st to 7th August 2019**.

ii. World Breastfeeding Week, which is being observed till 7th of the month, aims to create awareness among parents about breastfeeding, the importance of initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, and adequate and appropriate complementary feeding.

### 143rd birth anniversary of freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya

i. 143rd birth anniversary of freedom fighter **Pingali Venkayya** celebrates on **2nd of August**. Pingali Venkayya, a freedom fighter and the designer of the flag on which the **Indian national flag** was based was born on this day in **1876**, near **Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh**.

ii. Venkayya's design for the **National Flag** was finally approved by **Mahatama Gandhi** in a Congress meeting in **Vijayawada in 1921**.

### Hiroshima Day: 6th August

i. **August 6** marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing in **Hiroshima during World War II**. The horrific incident took place on **August 6, 1945**, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb named **Little Boy**, on the town of **Hiroshima in Japan**.

ii. This was the **first time in the history of warfare when an atomic bomb** was used against a nation. The incident wiped out around **90% of the city and killed around 80,000 people** and had left scars on the city even after all these years.



6 August  
Hiroshima Day

### National Handloom Day: 7th August

**i.** India celebrates **National Handloom Day** every year on **7th August**. The day is celebrated to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight India's handloom industry. **Bhubaneswar** has been chosen as the venue for the celebrations of the day for its rich tradition of Handlooms.



**ii.** The prime objective of holding the National Handloom Day in Bhubaneswar is to empower women and girls.

**iii.** National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.

### India observes 77th anniversary of Quit India movement

**i.** The 77th anniversary of the **August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement**, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of our country, is being observed.



**ii.** On this date in **8 Aug 1942**, **Mahatma Gandhi** gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the **Quit India Movement** at the session of the **All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai**.

**iii.** After the failure of **Cripps Mission**, **Gandhiji** gave the call to **"Do or Die"** in his **Quit India speech** delivered at the **Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai**. The grateful country is paying homage to the freedom fighters and remembering the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs during the freedom struggle.

### Nagasaki Day: 9th August

**i.** Japan commemorates the **9th August** every year as the **Nagasaki day**. On **August 9, 1945**, the **United States** dropped an **atomic bomb** on **Nagasaki, Japan**.



**ii.** It was code named **"Fat Man"** due to the design of the bomb as it had a wide, round shape.

This happened **3 days** after dropping an **atomic bomb** on **Hiroshima**.

**iii.** An area of about **5 square miles** was completely obliterated and around **65,000 people** were killed in the bombing. **Nagasaki and Hiroshima** continue to feel the impact of the destructive bombing even today.

### World Photography Day 2019

**i.** **World Photography Day** is celebrated on **19 August** every year. The day is celebrated so that people around the world can communicate their feelings and express themselves through the art of photography.



**ii.** **World Photography Day** is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science and history of photography.

### International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief: 22 August

**i.** **United Nations** observes **22 August** every year as **"International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief"**.



**ii.** The day is observed to strongly condemn continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

#### Do You Know-

- Headquarters of United Nations: New York;  
Secretary General of the United Nations: António Guterres.

### International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition: 23 August

**i.** **United Nations** observes **23 August** every year as **"International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition"**.



**ii.** The Day is observed to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The day was designated by **UNESCO** to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

#### Do You Know-

- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.

### International Day Against Nuclear Tests: 29 August

#### i. United Nations observes International Day Against Nuclear Tests on 29 August every year. It is

observed to increase awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

2010 marked the **inaugural commemoration** of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

#### Do You Know-

- Secretary General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- Headquarters: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945.



### World Biofuel Day: 10th August

i. World Biofuel Day is observed every year on **10th of August** to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas organized an event on World Biofuel Day in New Delhi.

ii. The theme for the year 2019: **Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil.**

iii. In association with the Health Ministry, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India has started an initiative of "Repurpose Used Cooking Oil" and a mobile app in which the used oil will be collected from hotels and restaurants and sent to the biodiesel plants for blending.



### International Youth Day: 12 August

i. The International Youth Day 2019 is observed across the world on 12 August with the theme "**Transforming education**".



ii. International Youth Day 2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education so that it becomes a powerful tool to achieve the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

### 15 AUGUST 2019

Independence Day of India was celebrated by the people all over the India on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2019. This year in 2019, India celebrated its 73rd Independence Day to pay tribute and remember all the freedom fighters who had contributed a lot and fought for the Independence of India.

The first Independence Day was celebrated in India on 15<sup>th</sup> of August in 1947.

### SPECIAL ON 73<sup>RD</sup> INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY 2019-

Independence Day in India was fervently celebrated all throughout the nation. This year too, the celebrations were remarkable as India commemorated its 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day, which was very special in more than one ways:

- Former President Pranab Mukherjee, social activist Nanaji Deshmukh and singer, lyricist Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) were conferred with the Bharat Ratna in an event at President House on 8th August.
- Chhattisgarh set a new world record by unfurling world's longest Tri-Colour flag of about 15 km length on 11th of August 2019 supported by a chain of thousands of people in Raipur.
- On 73rd Independence Day of India, for the first time Indian Flag was displayed at several locations in Jammu & Kashmir amid grand celebrations.
- This year, after the abrogation of Article 370, the state of Jammu & Kashmir celebrated its first biggest National Festival ever.
- Wing-commander Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded Veer Chakra on 73rd Independence Day.
- The Government honoured 5 brave Indian pilots involved in the Balakot air strike, namely wing commander Amit Ranjan, Squadron

leader Rahul Basoya, Pankaj Bhujde, B.K.N. Reddy and Shashank Singh.

- The Prime Minister also announced in his speech “Jal-Jeevan Mission” – an approximately 3.5 lakh Crores project to provide clean drinking water to every household.
- 132 personnel of Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces were conferred with various gallantry awards on Independence Day.

### Sadbhavana Diwas: 20 August

**i. Sadbhavana Diwas** is celebrated on **20**

**August** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi**. This year will be the **75th Birth Anniversary** of Rajiv Gandhi.



**ii.** On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on **August 20, 1944**, in **Bombay**. At 40, Mr Rajiv Gandhi was the **youngest Prime Minister of India**.

**Do You Know-**

- Rajiv Ratna Gandhi was the 6th Prime Minister of India, serving from 1984 to 1989.
- He was assassinated on 21 May 1991.

### World Humanitarian Day 2019

**i. World Humanitarian Day** is observed across the world on **August 19** to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and to gather support for people affected by crises around the world.



**ii.** The day was designated by the UN General Assembly to commemorate the **19 August 2003** bombing of the **United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq**.

**iii. WHD 2019 campaign: #WomenHumanitarians.**

**iv.** World Humanitarian Day 2019 is set to celebrate **Women Humanitarians** and their undying contribution in making the world a better place.

**v.** This year's campaign on Women Humanitarians supports the recognition that women deserve in the

strengthening of global humanitarian response as well as in protection efforts under the international law.

**Do You Know-**

- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

### National Sports Day 2019

**i.** Just like every year, this year too, two athletes have been nominated by the Selection Committee for sports awards in highest sporting honor in the country - Khel Ratna.

**ii.** Wrestler Bajrang Punia and Rio Paralympics silver medalist Deepa Malik has been nominated for the award.

**Important takeaways**

- The day is celebrated to honor the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand Singh.