

### NATIONAL

#### **Nation Observes 158th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**

- The 158th birth anniversary of Asia's first Nobel laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, was celebrated across the country on May 7, 2019.
- Tagore (nicknamed "Rabi") was born on 7 May 1861 in the Jorasanko mansion in Calcutta to Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi.
- He became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for 'Song Offerings,' the English version of his collection of poems, 'Gitanjali.'
- Tagore reshaped Bangla language and literature in the 19th and 20th centuries.

#### **GRIHA Council Launched "GRIHA for Existing Day Schools"**

- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council has launched 'GRIHA for Existing Day Schools', a new rating tool to evaluate environmental performance of existing schools across India.
- GRIHA council was founded by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) with support from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy along with variety of experts in the fields related to sustainability of built environment from across the country.

### INTERNATIONAL

#### **India-China Signs protocol for Export of Indian Chilli Meal**

- India and China have signed a protocol for export of Indian chilli meal from India to China.
- The two countries have also agreed to resolve market access issues expeditiously in order to promote a more balanced trade.
- Greater market access will help to bridge the widening trade deficit.

#### **India and Bangladesh agreed to jointly produce film on the life of Mujibur Rahman**

- India and Bangladesh will co-produce a film on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War.
- A Delegation from Bangladesh led by Adviser to Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Gowher Rizvi met Secretary and other officials of Information & Broadcasting Ministry and focussed on various aspects of making of feature film.
- The co-production was earlier announced by the Prime Ministers of both the countries.

### ECONOMY

#### **TCS becomes India's most valued firm again; surpasses RIL in m-cap**

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has now become India's most valued firm in terms of market capitalization (market-cap) on May 09, 2019 by displacing Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to number two position.
- TCS market-cap stood at Rs 8.13 trillion, more than RIL's of Rs 7.95-trillion valuation as per BSE data. RIL has lost 11 percent at the bourses.

#### **Apple to open its first retail store in India in Mumbai**

- Apple Inc has finalized a short list of locations for its first retail store in India. It will open its first retail store in India in Mumbai.
- However, the final place is not finalized yet.

#### **Max Life Insurance to Mark Protection Day on 6th of Every Month**

- Leading life insurance company in India, Max Life Insurance Company Limited has announced that it will observe 6th day of every calendar month as 'Protection Day' to spread awareness about the concept of financial protection.
- The Company will roll out wide range of initiatives across Max Life's network of over 240 Max Life's offices and distribution partners. including a "Super Customer Week", where customers across the board will be educated about various aspects of financial protection.

#### **Mastercard Announced \$1 Billion Investment In India**

- Global card payments brand Mastercard has announced its plan of investing \$1 billion in India operations over the period of next five years.

- About \$350 million of the total amount would be invested in setting up of a local payments processing centre as per the Reserve Bank of India's mandate to store all payments data locally.
- This is the first such processing centre of the company outside of the US and could provide service markets such as Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific.

### **Income Tax E-Filings Drop By Over 6.6 Lakh In 2018-19**

- In a first in recent history of tax filings, income tax e-filings in FY 2019 have dropped by more than 6.6 lakh, a trend that analysts said was surprising as tax base was expected to increase post demonetisation.
- According to the Income Tax Department's e-filing website, income tax e-filings in FY 2018-19 was 6.68 crore, down from 6.74 crore in the previous fiscal year. E-filers in FY 2016-17 were 5.28 crore.
- However, registered filers have been on the rise – they grew by 15 per cent to 8.45 crore as on March 31, 2019.

### **PERSON IN NEWS**

#### **Laurentino Cortizo Wins Presidential Elections of Panama**

- Laurentino Cortizo, member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, has won the presidential elections of Panama with 33.27% of the vote in support.
- The 66-year-old will take office on July 1, 2019.

#### **Stevo Pendarovski Elected New President of North Macedonia**

- Stevo Pendarovski, of the ruling Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, has won the 2019 Macedonian presidential elections with 51.66 percent vote to become the President-elect of North Macedonia.
- The 56 year old will assume charge on 12 May 2019.

#### **Dragan Mihailovic of Serbia Appointed New Coach of Indian Men's Volleyball Team**

- The Volleyball Federation of India has appointed Dragan Mihailovic of Serbia as the head coach of the Indian men's national team with focus on an Olympic berth in the future.
- In addition, Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski of Poland and Valadimir Radosevic of Serbia will take charge as the team's physio and physiotherapist respectively.

#### **UN Re-Elects India's Jagjit Pavadia To International Narcotics Control Board**

- Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected for a five-year term on International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) by the 54-member UN Economic and Social Council.
- She will begin her second five-year term from 2nd March, 2020.

#### **Modi second most followed politician globally: Report**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the second most-followed politician in the world with a social media audience of 110,912,648 million on platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, a study by online visibility management and content marketing SaaS platform SEMrush said recently.
- The most-followed politician globally was former US President Barack Obama, who has 182,710,777 followers on his Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.
- With almost 110 million followers worldwide, Modi has overtaken US President Donald Trump who has 96 million followers globally.

### **SPORTS AND GAME**

#### **Team Representing India Wins Microsoft's Imagine Cup Asia Championship 2019**

- A team of three students from India has emerged the first runner-up in Microsoft's prestigious Imagine Cup World Championship 2019 held in Seattle.
- Called as Team Caeli, the Indian team won the first position in the Asia Region.
- The trio including Aakash Bhadana, Vasu Kaushik and Bharat Sundal won the second prize for their innovative smart automated anti-pollution and drug delivery mask named "Caeli" at the World Championship.
- Caeli is the world's first smart automated anti-pollution and drug delivery mask for asthmatic and chronic respiratory patients.

- The championship was won by the Team EasyGlucose from the United States.
- Imagine Cup is organised every year by Microsoft to empower computer science students to use their innovative ideas to create applications that solve some of the world's toughest challenges.

#### **Amul to sponsor Afghanistan in 2019 World Cup**

- Amul has been announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.
- The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event.

#### **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

#### **Tiger Woods awarded 'Presidential Medal of Freedom'**

- American Golfer, Tiger Woods has been awarded with US' highest civilian honour i.e "Presidential Medal of Freedom".
- He was given the honour by President Donald Trump. The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognises persons who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States.

#### **Two Indians among 115 UN Peacekeepers Honored for Sacrifice in Line of Duty**

- 115 UN peacekeepers from 43 different nations who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty have been honoured by the global organisation United Nations.
- The list also includes two Indians namely Jitender Kumar and Shikha Garg.
- All these 115 Peacekeepers lost their lives in the service of peace between January 2018 and March 2019.
- An Indian police officer, Jitender Kumar served in the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).
- Shikha Garg was United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consultant attached with India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. She was killed in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash.

#### **Indian crew The Kings wins 'World of Dance'**

- The Kings, a hip-hop dance crew from Mumbai, has found international glory with their victory on American reality television show "World of Dance", taking home a cash prize of \$1 million.

#### **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar gets Order of St. George award by Kerala church**

- Founder of The Art of Living Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was conferred with 'Order of St. George' award as part of the Church's Commemorative Feast. Along with Ravi Shankar, the event was attended by former Kerala Chief Minister Dr Oommen Chandy.
- Recipient of the 'Order of St. George', Gurudev has spearheaded an unprecedented worldwide movement for a stress-free, violence-free society.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Microsoft unveils tool "ElectionGuard" for secure, verifiable voting**

- Microsoft has launched a software named "ElectionGuard" to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting.
- The tool "ElectionGuard" will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted.
- However, it should be noted that "ElectionGuard" is not designed to support internet voting and is aimed at supplementing and improving the paper ballot systems.

#### **US Air Force Successfully Tests Laser System 'SHiELD' to Shoot Down Missiles**

- The United States Air Force successfully conducted the test of a laser weapons system called the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD) in April 2019.
- SHiELD is an Advanced Technology Demonstration (ATD) Program which is capable of shooting down multiple missiles in flight.
- It would be mounted on aircraft to demonstrate self-defense of aircraft and protect the fighter jets against surface-to-air (SAM) and air-to-air (AAM) missiles attack.

**DAY&DATE****World Asthma Day 2019: May 7**

- The World Asthma Day takes place annually on the first Tuesday of May since 1998 by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world.
- The 2019 World Asthma Day was held on May 7.
- The theme for 2019 World Asthma Day is STOP for Asthma.

**World Red Cross Day: May 8**

- The World Red Cross Day, also known as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, is observed every year on May 8 to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- It marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- He was born on 8 May 1828. The theme for 2019 World Red Cross Day is, '#Love'.

**World Thalassaemia Day: May 8**

- World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- The theme for 2019 World Thalassaemia Day is "Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patient"
- Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder which is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.
- A person suffering from thalassaemia has at least one of the parents as carrier of the disease.

**Fifth United Nations Global Road Safety Week 2019: May 6-12**

- The 5th edition of the United Nations Global Road Safety Week has been organised from 6-12 May 2019.
- The theme of 2019 UN Global Road Safety Week is Leadership for Road Safety.
- To achieve the goal of the theme, UN has launched a campaign known as: Save Lives – #SpeakUp.

**OBITUARY****West Indies cricketer Seymour Nurse passes away**

- Former West Indies cricketer Seymour Nurse passed away at the age of 85 years.
- He was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1967

**N. R. Madhava Menon, Father of Modern Legal Education, Passes Away**

- Prof N.R. Madhava Menon (Neelakanta Ramakrishna Madhava Menon), an educationist, scholar and the pioneering spirit behind modern legal education in India passed away

**ONE LINER**

- Singapore's parliament passed the Protection from Online Falsehood and Manipulation Act (POFMA), a move to tackle the spread of online fake news. The bill was passed after two days of debate in the parliament.
- Auto industry body SIAM said Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma has been elected as Vice-President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA).
- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a four-day official visit to Vietnam. The visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian nation.
- The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard in its frontline anti-Naxal force.
- Telecom major Bharti Airtel and Hughes Communications India Ltd (HCIL) announced the merger of their VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite communications operations in India.
- Drug firm Merck Ltd renamed as Procter & Gamble Health Ltd.
- Desert Storm 2019, touted to be the longest Cross-Country Rally in India started. The four-day-long Rally will see over 100 teams competing in high temperatures, dune crossings and fast technical gravel straights.
- Last Captive White Tiger 'Bajirao' at Sanjay Gandhi National Park Passes Away at 18.