

CURRENT AFFAIRS

August 2019



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions

Current Affairs – August 2019

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **August 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. Girraj Prasad Gupta appointed as the Controller General of Accounts

1983-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, Girraj Prasad Gupta took over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). Gupta has worked at higher positions in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ministry of Rural development, and Ministry of Finance and as the Director of National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad.

Mr. Gupta is credited for his work in development and implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS), a backbone IT infrastructure for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and other financial management modules in Government of India.



2. IFSG appointed Justice A.K. Sikri as ombudsman

The Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG) has appointed Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri as its ombudsman and ethics officer. Justice A.K. Sikri will be responsible for investigating queries/complaints raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms.

Sikri has served as a former judge of the Supreme Court of India. He was recently appointed as a judge in the Singapore International Commercial Court. IFSG is India's self-regulatory industry body for the online fantasy sports gaming sector.



3. Rajiv Kumar appointed as Finance Secretary

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of department of financial services (DFS) secretary Rajiv Kumar as the new finance secretary. Kumar succeeded 1983-batch IAS officer Subhash Chandra Garg. He is a 1984-batch Jharkhand cadre IAS officer.

A finance secretary is the senior-most bureaucrat among the finance ministry's five departments—economic affairs, revenue, expenditure, financial services and department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM).



4. Noel Quinn appointed as interim CEO of HSBC

HSBC has appointed Noel Quinn as interim Group Chief Executive and as a Director of HSBC Holdings. He replaced John Flint.

Mr. Quinn was appointed as the Chief Executive, Global Commercial Banking in December 2015. He became a Group Managing Director in September 2016. From 2011 to 2015, he was the Regional Head of Commercial Banking for Asia-Pacific, based in Hong Kong. He has since taken up postings including Head of Specialised and Equity Finance at HSBC.



5. Mindtree appointed Debashis Chatterjee as MD & CEO

Mindtree Ltd has appointed Mr. Debashis Chatterjee as its new CEO & MD. Prior to joining Mindtree, Mr. Chatterjee was President, Global Delivery and Global Leader for the Digital Systems and Technology practice at Cognizant.

This is the first top management change at Mindtree since the company was taken over by Larsen and Toubro Ltd (L&T). Mindtree also appointed S.N. Subrahmanyan as its non-executive Vice Chairman. L&T's takeover of Mindtree marked India's first-ever hostile takeover in the IT space.



6. Sonia Gandhi named interim Congress President

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) has named Sonia Gandhi as the interim Congress President. She has been made the President after Rahul Gandhi resigned as party president on May 25. She will be interim party chief till AICC elects new President.

Sonia Gandhi took primary membership of Congress in 1997 and became its president in 1998. She went on to create history as the longest serving president from 1998 to 2017. She was first elected to the Lok Sabha from Amethi in 1999.



7. Kandikuppa Sreekant takes over as CMD of Power Grid Corporation

Kandikuppa Sreekant has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of state-owned Power Grid Corporation. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was serving as the director (finance) of Power Grid.

Sreekant has been appointed as CMD till December 31, 2023, the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He has more than 33 years of experience in the power sector, involving finance and accounting functions.



8. Indian National Science Academy appointed Chandrima Shaha as its President

Renowned biologist Chandrima Shaha became first woman president of Indian National Science Academy. She has experience of working as Director of the National Institute of Immunology, Delhi. She has served as Vice President of INSA between 2016 and 2018. She has penned over 80 research papers. She received Shakuntala Amirchand Award of ICMR in 1992 and DNA Double Helix Discovery special award in 2003.



The Indian National Science Academy in New Delhi is the apex body of Indian scientists, established in January 1935 with the objective of promoting science in India and harnessing scientific knowledge.

9. Harshad Pandurang Thakur appointed as NIHF's director

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed Harshad Pandurang Thakur as director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare for a period of 5 years.

Harshad is professor of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. National Institute of Health and Family Welfare is an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.



10. Paytm promoted CFO Madhur Deora as its President

Paytm has promoted its CFO and senior vice-president Madhur Deora as President. He will be responsible for Paytm's consumer services business besides overseeing multiple business lines at the company. Prior to joining Paytm in October 2016, Deora served as Managing Director in Citigroup's investment banking business.



Paytm is the single largest platform for banks, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) payments. It has announced to invest Rs 750 crore to approximately double its monthly active user base on mobile to 250 million by March 2020.

11. Ravinder Takkar appointed as CEO of Vodafone Idea

Vodafone Idea has appointed Ravinder Takkar as its CEO after the current CEO Balesh Sharma stepped down. Mr. Sharma would take up a new role within the Vodafone Group.



Ravinder Takkar is currently Vodafone Group's representative in India. He has been in the Indian telecom industry since 2007 when the Vodafone Group entered the Indian market. He has held a number of senior roles in strategy and business development and was the CEO of the enterprise business.

12. Paytm appointed Amit Nayyar as President of FSB

Paytm has appointed ex-Goldman executive Amit Nayyar as President in the financial services business. He will look after all the financial services business like lending, insurance, wealth management, stock broking at the company. He has experience of working in ICICI Securities, Bank of America and Goldman Sachs.



Prior to this appointment, Amit Nayyar was Managing Director at Mumbai-based investment bank Arpwood Capital. He has enormous experience in BFSI sector (Banking, financial services and insurance). Paytm is an Indian e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company based in Noida.

Awards

1. NDTV journalist Ravish Kumar honored with 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award

NDTV journalist Ravish Kumar was honored with 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for his brave journalism and harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless. Ravish is NDTV India's senior executive editor. He is courageous in standing up for truth and taking ethical journalism of the highest standards.



Other awardees include Myanmar's journalist Ko Swe Win, Thailand's human rights activist Angkhana Neelapajit, Philippines' musician Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab and South Korea's activist Kim Jong-Ki. The Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's premier prize, honors transformative leadership in Asia.

2. Famous cricketer Kapil Dev honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award

India's first World Cup winning captain Kapil Dev was honored with Bharat Gaurav, East Bengal club's highest honor at its centenary celebrations. Kapil Dev had played for East Bengal club in 1992 as a substitute forward in an exhibition match against Mohun Bagan. Football icon Bhaichung Bhutia was honored with 'Identifying and Nurturing the Icon' award.



Other sports person who received awards were P.K. Banerjee as coach of the century, Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly for lifetime achievement award.

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

Co-founder and Director of Einfoolge Technologies Pvt Ltd, Ruhan Rajput, was honored with 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019' in Service Business - BPO/KPO' category. Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.



Einfoolge Technologies Pvt Ltd is one of the leading players in knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry. It provides solutions which include Patent and IPR, Market and Business Research, Clinical Data Management and Legal Data Assessment.

4. DD News channel awarded with 'Champions of Empathy Award'

DD News (Doordarshan) was awarded with Champions of Empathy Award for spreading awareness about hepatitis by showing health related programmes, reports and policies that help spreading awareness towards health in society. Director General of DD News, Mayank Agrawal received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. DD News channel detailed hepatitis causes, effects and precautions on its health awareness programmes.



Doordarshan News, usually referred to by its abbreviation as DD News is India's only 24-hour terrestrial TV news channel broadcasting in Hindi.

5. 'Indian Woman of Influence Award' received by Priya Priyadarshini Jain

Priya Priyadarshini Jain has been felicitated with the prestigious 'Indian Woman of Influence' award at the House of Lords, the United Kingdom Parliament, London. She is an eminent fashionista, social entrepreneur and philanthropist. The award recognized the power of Indian women residing in different parts of the world.



Priya also featured as one of the most prominent personalities from India in the '50 most influential Indian women worldwide' published in a coffee table book.

6. President Kovind honoured with National order of Merit, highest award of Republic of Guinea

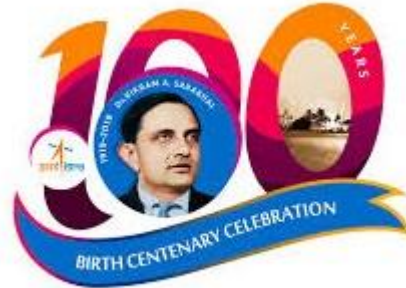
The President of Guinea awarded President Ram Nath Kovind the National order of Merit for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual co-operation between India and Guinea and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.



This is the highest award of Republic of Guinea. Indian President announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city, the capital of Republic of Guinea.

7. ISRO announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research

As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO instituted two categories of awards in journalism named as “Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research” to recognize journalists. The nominations are invited to all Indian journalists for articles published from 2019 to 2020.



There are two categories of awards, wherein the first category holds a cash price of Rs 5,00,000, a medal and citation and second category of the award holds 3 cash prizes and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media.

8. NITI Aayog to launch the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India Awards

The NITI Aayog will launch the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. The WTI Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India. This year's theme is 'Women and Entrepreneurship', in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018.



The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.

9. President of India presented Bharat Ratna Awards

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Shri Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Dr Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Shri Pranab Mukherjee.



Bhupen Hazarika popularly known as Sudhakantha, meaning the nightingale, was a legendary Assamese singer-composer. Nanaji Deshmukh was a social activist and established 1st Saraswati Shishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950. Pranab Mukherjee was the 13th President of India. Mukherjee became the fifth president to receive this award.

10. 4th edition of National Entrepreneurship Awards, 2019

The fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA), instituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has opened for nominations. NEA has a total of 45 specially designed awards to be bestowed – 39 Enterprise Awards and 6 Awards for Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders.



The eligible nominee must be under the age of 40 years; must be first-generation entrepreneur; must hold 51% or more equity and ownership of the business; and women entrants must individually or collectively own 75% or more of the enterprise. Winners will be presented with a Trophy, Certificate and a Cash Prize of ₹5 lakh (enterprises/ individuals) and ₹10 lakh (organizations/ institutes).

11. 66th National Film Awards for 2018 announced

The 66th National Film Awards were announced. The list of key winners is:

S. No	Category	Winner
1	Best Feature Film	HELLARO (Gujarati)
2	Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Badhaai Ho (Hindi)
3	Best Film on Social Issues	Padman (Hindi)
4	Best Director Award	Aditya Dhar for Uri: The Surgical Strike (Hindi)
5	Best Actor Award	Ayushman Khurana and Vicky Kaushal for their performances in Andhadhun and Uri: The Surgical Strike respectively (Hindi)
6	Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh for her performance in Mahanati (Telugu)
7	Best Film on Environment Conservation/ Preservation	Paani (Marathi)
8	Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
9	Most Film Friendly State	Uttarakhand
10	Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	NAAL (Marathi) directed by Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti
11	Best Children's Film	SARKARI HIRIYA PRATHAMIKA SHALE KASARGODU (Kannada)

12. Actor Steve Coogan to be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award at BAFTA LA

BAFTA Los Angeles will felicitate actor Steve Coogan with the Charlie Chaplin Award. 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.



Coogan's vast filmography includes movies such as "Around the World in 80 Days", "Philomena", "What Maisie Knew" and "Stan & Ollie". Jane Fonda will receive the Stanley Kubrick Britannia Award for Excellence in Film and Jackie Chan will receive the Albert R. Broccoli Britannia Award for Worldwide Contribution to Entertainment.

13. Shahrukh Khan awarded Excellence in Cinema award at IFF, Melbourne

Bollywood actor, Shah Rukh Khan, was awarded with the Excellence in Cinema award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne as a tribute to the actor's continuous contribution to cinema and popular culture in India with the award. Sriram Raghavan was bestowed with the best director award for his 2018 film 'Andhadhun'.



Vijay Sethupathi was awarded with the best actor award for the Tamil film 'Super Deluxe'. 'Bulbul Can Singh' emerged as the best indie film while 'Chuskit' and 'Super Deluxe' received the Equality in Cinema award.

14. President awarded the Certificate of Honour for the Year 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the Certificate of Honour to the following scholars for the year 2019.

Category (Number of Scholars)	Name of Scholar
Sanskrit (15)	Prof. Ramji Thakur, ShriKrishan Sharma, Kala Acharya, Dr. V.S. Karunakaran, PanditSatyaDev and many more
Pali (1)	Dr. Uma Shankar Vyas
Prakrit (1)	Prof. Kamal Chand
Arabic (3)	Faizanullah Farooqi, Mohammad Iqbal, Dr.Mohd. Samiullah Khan
Persian (3)	Dr. Iraq Raza Zaidi, Prof. Chander Shekhar, Mohammad Sidiq Niazmand
Classical Kannada(1)	Shri Hampa Nagarajaiah
Classical Telugu (1)	Prof. Ravva Srihari

Classical Mallyalam(1)	Dr.C.P. Achuthan Unny
Classical Odia(1)	Pandit Dr. Antaryami Mishra

15. President awarded the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for the year 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman to the following scholars for the year 2019.

Category (Number of Scholars)	Name of Scholar
Sanskrit (5)	Ashok Thapliyal, Prof. SujataTripathi, Dr.Sanju Mishra, Dr.AbhijitHanmant and Dr.SharachchandraDwivedi
Pali (1)	AnomaShriram
Prakrit (1)	ShriAshish Kumar
Arabic (1)	Dr. Fauzan Ahmad
Persian (1)	ER.M. ShahbazAlam
Classical Kannada(3)	G.B. Harisha, Shri S. Karthik and Dr. M. Byrappa
Classical Telugu (3)	Addanki, Dr. V. Triveni and Dr. D.K. Prabhakar
Classical Mallyalam(2)	Dr. Rajeev and SanthoshThottingal
Classical Odia(1)	Dr. Subrat Kumar

16. President approved 132 Gallantry Awards to Personnel of Armed and Paramilitary Forces

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind approved 132 Awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces. The awards include 2 Kirti Chakras, 1 Vir Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 8 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 90 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 5 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 7 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) and 5 Yudh Seva Medals.

President's Medal	Tatrakshak Medal	IG Thekkumpurath
Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)		IG Maneesh Vishal and DIG Neeraj Tiwari
Vir Chakra		Wing Commander Varthaman Abhinandan
Kirti Chakra		A. Sapper Prakash and Harshpal singh ,Dy commandant, CRPF

17. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 launched

Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019. SSG 2019 will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India and include 87,250 public places to get feedback from 2,50,000 citizens on sanitation related issues.



An independent survey agency will conduct the survey and the results will be announced based on quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters. A detailed protocol has been developed to guide the ranking of Districts. The Jal Shakti Minister released the SSG 2019 logo, the SSG 2019 brochure mobile app and a dashboard for citizen’s feedback.

18. Indian President awarded President’s Police Medal for Distinguished and Meritorious Service

President of India awarded one President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 15 Police Medals for Meritorious Service to Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force. President’s Police Medal (PPM) for Distinguished Service was honored to Shri T. S. Gopakumar, Assistant Security Commissioner, Southern Railway.



Some of officers for Police Medal for Meritorious Service were:
 -Jyoti Kumar Satija
 -Sanjay Kumar Gupta, North Western Railway
 -Anil Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant
 -N. Ashwini Kumar, IRCTC
 -Indu Prakash Singh, RDSO

19. National Youth Awards conferred for development and social service work

The Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Kiren Rijju conferred the National Youth Awards on individuals (aged between 15-29 years) and organizations for excellent work and contribution in different fields of development and social service to 20 individuals and 3 organizations.



The 3 organizations were Eco-Pro Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha, Care and Share Foundation and Samutkars Yuva Vikas Navyuvak Mandal. In addition, 3 awards were

also conferred to individuals for the Photo Exhibition on “China through Eyes of Indian Youth - 2019”.

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

Tamil Nadu government honored Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman K. Sivan with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award for successful launch of Chandrayaan-2 mission. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, is awarded by the Tamil Nadu state in recognition of contributions on scientific development, humanities and students' welfare.

Other winners were:

Tamil Nadu government’s Kalpana Chawla Award for Courage and Daring Enterprise	P. Ramyalakshmi, Assistant Director of Fisheries (Marine)
Chief Minister’s Special Award for Extraordinary Act of Bravery	P. Shanmugavelu and his wife Senthamarai
Chief Minister’s Best Practices Award	Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate
Best Doctor Awards	Dr. V. Ramadevi of Government Kilpauk Medical College

21. IIT-Delhi start-up wins NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019

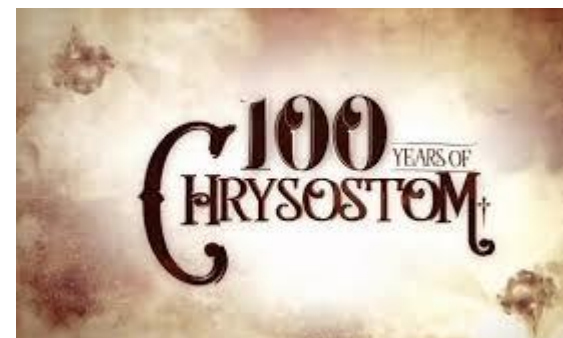
Ms. Ankita Gulati, founder of TouchVision, has won the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award 2019 under category 'B' (for Working Professionals) for developing a multisensory kit for visually impaired people. TouchVision is an IIT Delhi incubated startup.



The NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award is given away every year to those who have been doing exemplary work towards the cause of accessibility and thus ensuring a life of equality and dignity for people with disabilities.

22. Longest documentary "100 Years of Chrysostum" to receive Guinness Award

"100 Years of Chrysostum", a biographical documentary based on the life of Philipose Mar Chrysostum, will receive Guinness Award in the category of longest documentary. It is scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy.



The 48.08-hour-long documentary has broken the world record of 21-hour-long Saudi Arabian documentary World of Snakes. Philipose Mar Chrysostum is a Padma Bhushan awardee and Metropolitan Emeritus of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.

23. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2019 announced

The Union Government announced the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. It is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.



The list of awardees:

Name of the Awardees	Discipline
Sh. Bajrang Punia	Wrestling
Ms. Deepa Malik	Para Athletics

24. Dronacharya Awards 2019 Announced

The Union Government announced the Dronacharya Awards 2019. The Award is given for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.



The list of awardees:

Name of the Coach (Regular Category)	Discipline
Sh. Vimal Kumar	Badminton
Sh. Sandeep Gupta	Table tennis
Sh. Mohinder Singh Dhillon	Athletics
Name of the Coach (Life-Time Category)	Discipline
Sh. Merzban Patel	Hockey
Sh. Rambir Singh Khokhar	Kabaddi
Sh. Sanjay Bhardwaj	Cricket

25. Arjuna Awards 2019 announced

The Union Government announced the Arjuna Awards 2019. The Award is given for consistent outstanding performance for four years. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

The list of awardees:



Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
--------------------------	------------

Sh. Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Athletics
Mohammed Anas Yahiya	Athletics
Sh. S. Bhaskaran	Body Building
Ms. Sonia Lather	Boxing
Sh. Ravindra Jadeja	Cricket
Sh. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam	Hockey
Sh. Ajay Thakur	Kabaddi
Sh. Gaurav Singh Gill	Motor Sports
Sh. Pramod Bhagat	Para Sports (Badminton)
Ms. Anjum Moudgil	Shooting
Sh. Harmeet Rajul Desai	Table Tennis
Ms. Pooja Dhanda	Wrestling
Sh. Fouaad Mirza	Equestrian
Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu	Football
Ms. Poonam Yadav	Cricket
Ms. Swapna Barman	Athletics
Sh. Sundar Singh Gurjar	Para Sports (Athletics)
Sh. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth	Badminton
Sh. Simran Singh Shergill	Polo

26. Dhyan Chand Award 2019 announced

The Union Government announced the Dhyan Chand Award 2019. The Award is given for life time contribution to sports development. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

The list of winners:

Name	Discipline
Sh. Manuel Fredricks	Hockey
Sh. Arup Basak	Table Tennis
Sh. Manoj Kumar	Wrestling
Sh. NittenKirrtane	Tennis
Sh. C. Lalremsanga	Archery



27. Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2019 announced

The Union Government announced the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2019. It is given to the corporate entities (both in private and public sector) and individuals who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development and carries Trophies and Certificates. The awardees are:

Category	Entity recommended for Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar, 2019
----------	--

Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent'	(i) Gagan Narang Sports Promotion Foundation
	(ii) GoSports Foundation
Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	---
'Employment to sportspersons and other welfare measures'	---
Sports for Development	Rayalaseema Development Trust

28. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Puruskar 2019 announced

The Union Government announced the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Puruskar 2019. It is given to the overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments and carries award money of Rs. 15 lakh and certificate.

Panjab University, Chandigarh won the award for 2019. Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) in Amritsar has got the second position while Punjabi University in Patiala was at the third position. The 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up universities received Rs Rs. 7.5 lakh and Rs. 4.5 lakh respectively.



29. CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship in Hyderabad

Dr K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at CSIR- Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) was awarded JC Bose Fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.

The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance and is given by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The fellowship amount is Rs. 25,000 per month in addition to regular income and a research grant of Rs. 15.00 lakh per annum.



30. MoS (PP) Dr. Jitendra Singh presented ANUBHAV awards, 2019

Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh presented the ANUBHAV awards, 2019. The award is given to incentivize and encourage more retiring employees to submit their write-ups. The Anubhav portal was created with a vision to preserve rich experience of retired official in digital form for future generation to learn and explore knowledge.



List of awardees:

- J.N. Mogal, Vehicle Operator (Retd.) DRDO
- Sita Ram Himral, Postman
- S.Kanagaraj, ASI, CRPF
- Madan Gopal, Inspector, Central Industrial Security Force
- Kshipra Misra, Scientist, drds
- Basheer Ahammad Kaji, Sub-Inspector, CRPF
- Shri Suresh N, Technical Officer, Department of Space

31. Shri Prabhakar Singh, Director General, CPWD chosen for 'Eminent Engineer Award- 2019'

Shri Prabhakar Singh, Director General, Central Public Works Department was chosen for the 'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019' by the Institution of Engineers (India) for his distinguished and exemplary Service in the field of Engineering and Technology.



Shri Prabhakar Singh, is an IIT Graduate and MBA from one of the Premier Business Institutes of the country. His enormous contributions and dedicated service to the nation as an Eminent Technocrat has been instrumental in transforming the Premier Engineering Organisation of the Central Government – CPWD.

32. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received UAE's highest Civilian Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest civilian award of the United Arab Emirates, the "Order of Zayed" by the UAE's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He was honored for his efforts to boost bilateral ties between the two nations.



Several world leaders such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, Queen Elizabeth II and Chinese President Xi Jinping have been earlier honored with "Order of Zayed". The order is named after

UAE's first President - Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

33. PM Narendra Modi conferred with "The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance award"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with "The King Hamad Order of the Renaissance", by HM King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa at the Al Gudaibiya Palace, during his visit to Bahrain. It was the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to the country Bahrain.



King Hamad Order of the Renaissance is Member First Class, the third highest civilian honour of Bahrain. Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa (2009) and Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalif (2009) have been recipients of King Hamad Order of Renaissance.

34. JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred with the 'Pushkin Medal 2019'

Professor Meeta Narain of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has been conferred with the Pushkin Medal 2019 for her contribution to Russian studies abroad. It is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.



The Pushkin Medal was instituted in the name of famous Russian author and poet Alexander S. Pushkin. Kerala poet O.N.V. Kurip had received it in 2015. Narain has been a visiting faculty at the Department of Russian Studies in Columbia University and New York University.

35. National Awards for Community Radio for 2018 and 2019 announced

Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar presented the National Awards for Community Radio for 2018 and 2019 in Delhi.

Category	Awardee
First prize in Thematic (2019)	Friends Radio, Tripura
First prize in Thematic (2018)	Radio Namaskar, Odisha
First prize in Community Engagement (2019)	Radio Namaskar, Odisha
First prize in Community Engagement (2018)	Radio Madhuban, Rajasthan
First prize in Promoting Local Culture (2019)	Radio Madhubhan, Rajasthan
First prize in Promoting Local Culture (2018)	Pant Nagar Janvani, Uttarakhand
First prize in Innovative Category (2019)	Radio Sarang, Karnataka
First prize in Innovative Category (2018)	Sanjha Radio, Haryana
First prize in Sustainability (2019)	Sanjha Radio, Haryana

First prize in Sustainability (2018)	Radio Mattoli, Kerala
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36. Indian documentary 'I'm Jeeja' wins award at We Care Film Festival

Indian documentary film 'I'm Jeeja' directed by Swati Chakraborty bagged award in the 'Under 30 minute' category at the 14th edition of 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'. The movie is about a disability activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy.

Category	Awardee
Upto 5 minutes	Connection' (UAE)
Upto 30 min	I'M Jeeja (India)
Upto 90 min	The Eye of the Minotaur (Bulgaria)

We Care Film Festival is union of Indian organization Brotherhood and UNESCO to create awareness about disability issues through films. The fest awarded 10 films from nine countries.

37. ONGC's CMD honoured with Distinguished Fellowship of IOD, 2019

ONGC CMD Shashi Shanker was honored with the Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors (IOD) in 2019 at the 29th Institute of Directors (IOD) Annual Day Ceremony. The Fellowship has been given in appreciation of his distinguished contribution to business and society. Two more fellowships were also conferred at the event, to Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs Mr Durga Shankar Mishra and Secretary, Ministry of Coal M Sumanta Chaudhuri.



The Institute of Directors (IOD) trains Directors on corporate Board observed the event based on theme 'Future Boards: Leading Strategy to Embrace Sustainability'.

38. National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), conferred SKOCH Governance Gold Award

Deendayan Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, has been conferred with the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award for its Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAiSA).



PAiSA is a centralized IT platform which simplifies release of interest subvention under the Mission and offers end to end online solution for tracking of interest subvention claims from banks. The portal, designed by Allahabad Bank has 28 States/UTs and 74 Banks on boarded on it.

39. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018 announced

The government has announced the winners of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2018. These awards are given to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure. They will receive statuettes, certificates and award money of Rs 5 lakh each.

The list of awardees is:

Category	Awardee
Land Adventure	Aparna Kumar, Shri Dipankar Ghosh and Manikandan K.
Water Adventure	Prabhat Raju Koli
Air Adventure	Rameshwer Jangra
Life Time Achievement	Wangchuk Sherpa

40. Prime Minister presented Yoga Awards

On International Day of Yoga 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Yoga awards to the winners of PM's Award for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga. Winners of 2019 Yoga Awards –

- Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission (Gujarat) in Individual-National category
- Antonietta Rozzi, Italy in Individual-International category
- Bihar School of Yoga in Organisation-National category
- Japan Yoga Niketan in Organisation-International Organisation category



Winners of 2018 Yoga Awards-

- Shri Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik in Individual- National category
- Yoga Institute, Mumbai in Organisation- National category

Bills and Acts

1. Parliament passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill

Parliament has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. The Bill seeks to bring in clarity regarding the preference of secured financial creditors over operational creditors in the matter of distribution of assets of the corporate debtor.



The IBC Bill provides a time-bound process for resolving insolvency in companies and among individuals. Insolvency is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.

2. Parliament passed Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, (Amendment) Bill - 2019

Parliament has passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, AERA (Amendment) Bill-2019. The bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over 35 lakh passengers.



The Bill seeks to amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008. The threshold has been increased as the number of air traffic passenger has been increased 117 million from 2008 to 345 million now.

3. Parliament passed Code on Wages Bill, 2019

Parliament has passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019 after it was passed in the Rajya Sabha. The Code universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.



Under the Code, the tripartite committee comprising representatives of trade unions, employers and state governments would fix a floor wage for workers throughout the country and no state government can fix the minimum wage below it.

4. President approved Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019. Parliament adopted resolutions to scrap Article 370 and Article 35A in Jammu and Kashmir. The Bill seeks to scrap Article 370 and to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with the legislature and Ladakh Union Territory without legislature.



The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 having provisions of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections of upper caste in the state was also passed by the parliament.

5. Lok Sabha passed bill to ban commercial surrogacy

Lok Sabha has passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 that prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows only close relatives of infertile couples to volunteer for "ethical altruistic" reasons. The purpose of the Bill is to ensure effective regulation of surrogacy.



It defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple. The offences under the Bill include undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy, exploiting the surrogate mother and abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child.

6. President issued Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 2019 superseding 1954 order

The President has issued Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019. The Order comes into force at once and supersedes Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954 as amended from time to time.



The Order adds several clauses to Article 367. These include, the Constituent Assembly of the State shall become Legislative Assembly of the state as mentioned in Clause 2 of the Article.

The Governor of the state shall act on the advice of his Council of Ministers. The order reads that the President, acting on the advice of the Legislative Assembly of the State shall henceforth be construed as references to Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

7. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill passed in Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. The Bill provides a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders. A transgender person will have to make an application to the District Magistrate, who will issue a certificate of identity to the transgender person.



The Bill states that a transgender person shall have the right to self-perceived gender identity. It also states that every establishment will have to appoint a complaints officer to deal with complaints relating to the violation of any provisions.

8. President accords approval to increase number of Supreme Court judges

President Ram Nath Kovind passed a bill which seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present 30 to 33 besides the Chief Justice of India. The Parliament had earlier passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill.



There are almost 60000 cases pending in the apex court. Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase the number of judges in the top court.

9. Rajasthan Assembly passed bills to curb honour killings and Mob Lynching

Rajasthan legislative assembly passed two important bills to curb honour killings and Mob Lynching. 'The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019' and 'The Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019' was passed by the assembly.



Rajasthan has become the second state after Manipur which passed a law to curb lynching cases. The Bill has provision of Life term imprisonment and a fine up to Rupees 5 lakh to convicts in cases of mob lynching.

10. Rajya Sabha passed National Medical Commission Bill

The Rajya Sabha has passed the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill. The NMC Bill seeks to replace the Medical Council of India (MCI) and set up a National Medical Commission. It will repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, which led to the formation of the MCI.



The NMC Bill proposes a common final year MBBS exam, to be known as the National Exit Test (NEXT), for admission to postgraduate medical courses. Section 32 of the NMC Bill provides for the licensing of 350,000 unqualified non-medical persons to practise modern medicine.

11. Parliament approved landmark Consumer Protection Bill, 2019

The Parliament approved the landmark Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 which aims to protect the rights of consumers. The Bill will replace the more than three decades old Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

The Bill proposes:

- setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- for Mediation and e-filing of cases.
- an exclusive law dealing with Product Liability for the first time. A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.
- to check misleading advertisements and adulteration of products.



12. President approved Motor Vehicles Amendment Act

President Ram Nath Kovind approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 that aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system.



Provisions related to increasing penalties on traffic violations, addressing issues on third-party insurance, regulation of cab aggregators and road safety are proposed in the amendment. The Bill proposes a scheme to allow cashless treatment of victims in a road accident during the golden hour.

13. Rajya Sabha passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill

The Rajya Sabha has passed the National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which seeks to declare four National Institutes of Design in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana as institutions of national importance. The Bill seeks to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014.



Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. The four institutes will be granted the power to grant degrees and diplomas.

14. Parliament passed Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019

The Parliament has passed the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019. The bill seeks for speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from government residential accommodations.



The bill defines 'residential accommodation occupation' as the occupation of public premises by a person on the grant of a license for such occupation. The Bill adds a provision laying down the procedure for eviction from residential accommodation. The notice will require the person to show cause of why an eviction order should not be made against him, within three working days.

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

Two newly created Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will come into existence on Oct 31. As per Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Central Government appointed the 31st day of October, 2019 for the purposes of the said Act.



UT of Jammu and Kashmir will have a Lieutenant Governor and will work of legislature like Puducherry whereas Ladakh will be a UT like Chandigarh, without legislature. The tenure of J&K assembly will be of 5 years with maximum strength of its assembly of 107.

Books & Authors

1. HM Amit Shah released book on Vice Prez M Venkaiah Naidu's two years in office

Home Minister Amit Shah released a book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading" chronicling the two years in office by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in Chennai at a function organised by Information and Broadcasting Ministry.



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

2. Book on legendary actress Sridevi launched 'Girl Woman Superstar'

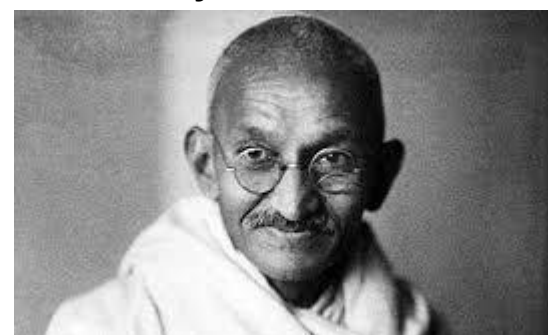
On the occasion of famous actress Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary, Penguin Random House India announced to publish a book on legendary actress Sridevi titled as 'Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar' written by author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak. The book details the journey of Sridevi as an iconic actress who became the first female superstar in the male-dominated film industry.



Legendary actress Sridevi is termed as India's beloved screen goddess. She worked in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada films. She was recipient of National Film Award, the Nandi Award, the Tamil Nadu State Film Award, the Kerala State Film Award and three Filmfare Awards.

3. Prahlad Singh Patel launched the book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi'

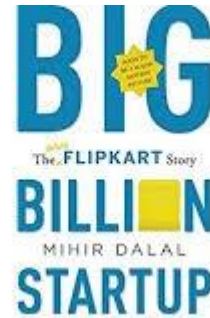
Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, launched the book 'The Diary of Manu Gandhi' (1943-44) on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press. The book has been brought out by National Archives of India. Manu Gandhi (Mridula) was grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi.



The book details record of her life, times with Mahatma Gandhi between 1943- 44 to establish the possibility of collective non-violence, and shares a moving portrait of Kasturba Gandhi's illness and death.

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

A book on untold story of Flipkart founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, titled as “Big Billion Startup: The Untold Flipkart Story” will be launched in October. It is published by “Pan Macmillan India”. The book details on how IIT graduates Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal built Flipkart, India’s biggest e-commerce start-up into a multi-billion-dollar company. The story is authored by journalist Mihir Dalal.



Flipkart that started as an online book store was established in 2007 and soon became customer’s online obsession.

5. Book on Indian classical music in Chinese language released in Beijing

An encyclopedia of Indian classical music in Chinese language was unveiled in Beijing, a first of its kind initiative. The book title is 'The Musical Culture of India' and traces back the origins of various Indian music forms. Noted Chinese musician and scholar Prof Chen Ziming authored the book.



Chen, 86, is a famous violinist and is associated with China Conservatory of Music, a leading institution for the study of traditional Chinese music and musical instruments, had spent decades in India studying Indian music.

6. Book on former US President titled “Obama: The Call of History” released

A new book on former US President Barack Obama was released. The book is titled “Obama: The Call of History” and 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 years in office while examining his legacy. The book tells the story of a young president who took on the worst financial disaster since the Great Depression. It features new details about the final months of the Obama presidency as Russia tried to intervene in American democracy.

Committees

1. Committee recommends CSR expenditure to be made tax deductible expenditure

A High Level Committee on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) under the Chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas, Secretary (Corporate Affairs), presented the report to the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The key recommendations of the committee are:

- making CSR expenditure tax deductible
- provision for carry forward of unspent balance for a period of 3 – 5 years
- aligning Schedule 7 with the SDGs by adopting a SDG plus framework
- balancing local area preferences with national priorities
- introducing impact assessment studies for CSR obligation of 5 crore or more
- registration of implementation agencies on MCA portal



2. India, Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum utilisation of water resources

India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum utilisation of Ganges water as being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.



Both the countries also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for eight rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-basin is the second largest hydraulic region in the world. Within this basin, fifty-four rivers cross the border between upstream India and downstream Bangladesh.

fifty-four rivers cross the border between upstream India and downstream Bangladesh.

3. Inter-State Council reconstituted with PM Modi as chairman

The government reconstituted the Inter State Council and the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Chairman of the Inter State Council and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union Ministers will be the members of the Council.



Home Minister Amit Shah will be the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council. Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Thaawar Chand Gehlot

and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and eight State Chief Ministers will be its members. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

4. Rajnath Singh approved setting up of committee to review Defence Procurement Procedure

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the setting up of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition) Shri Apurva Chandra to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009. 11 other members, not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Major General equivalent, are part of this high-level committee.



The Committee will revise and align the procedures with the aim of ensuring seamless flow from asset acquisition to life cycle support and submit its recommendations in 6 months.

5. High-level meeting held between Indian, Sri Lanka Coast Guards over security concerns

The Indian Coast Guard held a High-Level Meeting (HLM) with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi.



The meeting took place under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional co-operation. Both sides agreed to strengthen co-operation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security.

6. NGT forms panel to examine allegations of illegal sand mining in River Yamuna

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has formed a committee to examine allegations of illegal sand mining in the Yamuna River made by Delhi Jal Board. NGT Chairperson, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, headed the NCT bench. The bench has asked to submit the report within a month.



The panel consists of Delhi District Magistrate, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and Central Pollution Control Board. The DPCC will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

7. Amit Shah presided over the 24th meeting of Western Zonal Council

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 24th meeting of Western Zonal Council held in Panaji. The other key participants were - Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, Goa CM Pramod Sawant and administrators from Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.



Western Zonal Council is a forum for the Centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences on issues related to health, security and social welfare.

8. CBDT constituted Start-up Cell for redressal of grievances related to Start-ups

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified creation of a five-member special cell to address grievances of startups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues. The member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board will head it.

The cell will work towards redressal of grievances and mitigate tax-related issues in case of startup entities with respect to administration of Income-tax Act, 1961. Start-up entities can approach the Cell for speedy resolution of their grievances.



Deaths

1. Former Glamorgan cricketer Malcolm Nash passed away

Former Glamorgan cricketer Malcolm Nash passed away at the age of 74 years. He took 993 first-class wickets in a 17-year career between 1966 and 1983. He was first bowler whose over had six sixes hit for the first time by West Indies batsman Garfield Sobers. He had scored 7,129 runs and held 148 catches in his career.



Malcolm was known for being leading wicket-taker when Glamorgan won the County Championship in 1969. He retired from cricket in 1983 and became cricket coach in California.

2. Former RBI Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn passed away

Former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn passed away at the age of 60 years. He served as the Deputy Governor of the RBI between 2009 and 2013, during the tenure of Governor D Subbarao.



In November, 2015, Gokarn was appointed as an executive director on the board of the IMF. He was also associated with Brookings's India. He had the distinction of being the youngest deputy governor of RBI at that time.

3. Veteran Gujarati journalist Kanti Bhatt passes away

Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away at the age of 88 years. He was born on 15th July 1931 in Sachra village in erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat.



Kanti Bhatt joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai. He also worked as journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitrlekha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan. He must have written more than 45,000 articles in the course of his journalistic career.

4. Cricket commentator Anant Setalvad passed away

Famous cricket commentator Anant Setalvad passed away at the age of 84 years. He was appreciated for his pleasant voice and good command of the English language. Setalvad had started his radio commentary stint in the pre-TV days.



Anant was a commentator with AIR for Ranji Trophy and other BCCI tournaments and also for Test matches. He was on the AIR panel for the 1969 India-Australia Test match in Mumbai and also in the panel for the 1973 Test against the Tony Lewis-led England at the CCI.

5. Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away at the age of 67 years. She was the second woman to hold the office as foreign minister, after Indira Gandhi. She became first female Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998.



Sushma Swaraj was known to be first female Spokesperson of a national political party and first female Union Cabinet Minister of BJP party. She was the Indian Parliament's first and the only female MP honoured with the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.

6. WWE's 'King of the Ring' Harley Race passed away

WWE Hall of Famer Harley Race passed away at the age of 76 years. Harley Race captured the NWA World Heavyweight Championship eight times. Harley Leland Race was born on April 11, 1943, in Maryville, Missouri.



Race joined the WWE in 1986. His last serious matches were in the early 1990s. After winning the King of the Ring tournament, Race was the first to don regal robes and a crown.

7. Renowned Bangladeshi novelist Rizia Rahman passed away

Renowned Bangladeshi novelist Rizia Rahman passed away at the age of 79 years. She was known for her creative work in short stories, poems, essays as well as children's fiction and novels. Bong Theke Bangla, Rokter Okshor 'Uttar Purush (1977)', 'Surja Sabuj Rakta (1980)', 'Ekal Cirokal (1984)' and Ghar-Bhanga-Ghar are among some of her more well-known novels. Her autobiography, 'Nodi Nirobodhi', was released in 2011.



Rizia received the Bangla Academy Literary Award in 1978, Ekushey Padak in 2019, Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha Shwarna Padak and Ananya Sahitya Puraskar.

8. Former Argentina footballer Jose Luis Brown passed away

Former Argentina defender and FIFA World Cup winner Jose Luis Brown passed away at the age of 62 years. He played club football in Argentina, Colombia, France and Spain. He was known for his ultimate opening goal scored in the Mexico 1986 Final helping Argentina to 3-2 win over Germany in 1986.



Jose played 36 times for Argentina's football team and 300 league appearances for the club such as Boca Juniors, Deportivo Español y Racing Club, Atlético Nacional, Real Murcia and Brest club in France.

9. Music star DJ Arafat passed away

Ivory Coast's musician DJ Arafat passed away due to road accident. He recently received the award for best artist of the year during the Coupé-Decalé Awards in Abidjan in 2016 and 2017. He was termed as "king" of coupé-décalé dance music.



Arafat released 11 albums and some of his big hits were "Dosabado", "Kpangor", "Zoropoto", "Enfant Beni" and "Moto, Moto". He was honored with two WatsUp TV Africa Music Video Awards in 2016.

10. Indian actress Vidya Sinha passed away

Film and television actor Vidya Sinha passed away at the age of 71 years due to bad health. She worked in more than 30 movies. She was known for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film 'Rajnigandha' (1974).

Vidya Sinha worked in movies such as Choti Si Baat, Safed Jhooth, Inkaar, Rajnigandha and Pati Patni Aur Who. She also appeared on television shows like Kkavyanjali, Qubool Hai, Zindagi Wins and Kullfi Kumar Bajewala.



11. Former India cricketer V.B. Chandrasekhar passed away

Former India and Tamil Nadu opening batsman V.B. Chandrasekhar passed away. He represented India in seven One Day Internationals. He was commentator, national selector and ran a cricket academy in Chennai. He served as the coach of Tamil Nadu in 2012.

V.B. Chandrasekhar owned V. B. Kanchi Veerans team in Tamil Nadu Premier League. He was known for his outstanding performances in Ranji Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy. He scored over 4,999 runs from 81 matches in



his career.

12. Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passed away

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Babulal Gaur, passed away at the age of 89 years. He served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from 2004 to 2005 and represented Govindpura Assembly seat for 10 times. He retired from electoral politics in 2018.

Babulal Gaur served as Minister for Commerce, Industries, Commercial Taxes in Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Council of Ministers in 2008. Gaur was conferred title of Varshshri in an opinion poll conducted by Nai Duniya, Bhopal in 1991.



13. Veteran music director-composer Khayyam passed away

Veteran music director-composer Khayyam passed away at the age of 92 years. He was best known for his music in classic films such as 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Kabhi Kabhi'.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi honoured Mohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi, popularly known as Khayyam, with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Creative Music. Four years later, he was conferred with Padma Bhushan, the country's third highest civilian award. He won three Filmfare Awards for Best Music and a lifetime achievement award.



14. Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passed away

Former Bihar CM Jagannath Mishra passed away at the age of 82 years. Dr Mishra became Chief Minister in 1975, 1980 and 1989. He was also Union Agriculture Minister in Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao government at the Center in 1995.

Dr. Mishra, before he joined politics, was an economics professor at Bihar University. He has authored several research papers and books. He was also referred to as 'Maulana' Jagannath because of his influence with the Muslim community.



15. Doordarshan Anchor Neelum Sharma passed away

Doordarshan (DD) News anchor and Nari Shakti awardee Neelum Sharma passed away at the age of 50 years. She had been awarded the Nari Shakti Puruskar by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.

Neelum had anchored programmes such as 'Badi Charcha' (Prime discussion) and 'Tejasvini'. As part of her 'Tejasvini' programme, Sharma highlighted the achievements of woman achievers from the remotest parts of India who went on to become role models for the society.



16. Sahitya Akademi Award winner NS Tasneem passed away

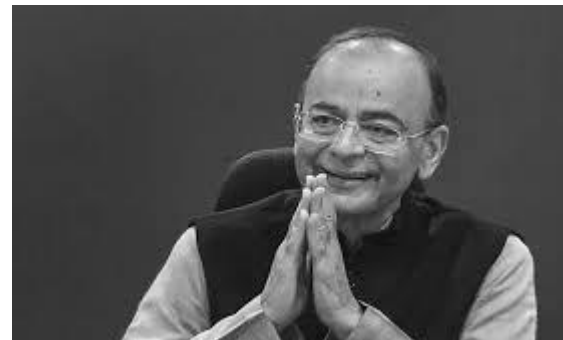
Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Professor Niranjana Singh Tasneem passed away at the age of 91 years. Tasneem had served as a professor at SCD Government College, Ludhiana.



Tasneem had been awarded Punjab's highest literary honor – Punjabi Sahit Rattan – in 2015. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for his novel 'Gawache Arth' (The Lost Meaning) which was based on Punjab and lives of Punjabis in 1984. 'Ik Hor Nawan Saal', 'Jadon Saver Hoi', 'Ret Chhal', 'Talaash Koi Sadeevi', 'Hanera Hon Tak' and 'Parchhawein' were some of the Punjabi novels penned by him.

17. Former finance minister and BJP stalwart Arun Jaitley passed away

Former Union minister Arun Jaitley passed away at the age of 66 years. He was one of the most articulate defenders of the BJP and had set a high benchmark of probity as a Parliamentarian and minister.



Jaitley's most important legacy will be rolling out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the biggest tax reforms after Independence. He was serving his fourth straight term in Rajya Sabha, where he entered in 2000 and went on to become the Leader of the Opposition and then the Leader of the House as the BJP came to power in 2014.

18. India's first woman DGP Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away

India's first woman Director General of Police Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away at the age of 72 years. 1973 batch Indian Police Service officer Kanchan Chaudhary handled many sensitive cases including the murder of national badminton champion Syed Modi and the Reliance-Bombay Dyeing case in her 33 year long career.



Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya created history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of Uttarakhand by becoming first woman in India to hold such position. She was also known to be second woman IPS officer in the country after Kiran Bedi.

Defence

1. India, US agree to pursue collaboration between their defence industry & start-ups

Indian and US officials have agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to collaboration between the defence industry and start-ups in both countries. An understanding in this regard was reached during the 15th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington.



The Defence Policy Group or DPG is the top official-level meeting mechanism between India and the US on defence issues, which comprehensively reviews and guides all aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

2. DRDO successfully test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile

India successfully test-fired a sophisticated all-weather and all-terrain Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have developed the state-of-the-art missile for the India Army.



The systems are equipped with indigenously developed Phased array radar, Inertial Navigation System, Data Link & RF seeker. The system is being developed for Indian Army with search and track on move capability with very short reaction time.

3. DAC accords approval for procurement of indigenous SDR

Defence Acquisition Council, DAC, has accorded approval for procurement of indigenous Software Defined Radio (SDR) and Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries for the Indian Navy. The SDR is a complex and state of art communication system which will enable information sharing, collaboration and situational awareness through high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability.



Next-Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries will be fitted with supersonic BrahMos surface-to-surface cruise missiles and would be deployed along the coast. It has been developed and manufactured in India by Indo-Russia Joint Venture Company, BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited.

4. Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL

The Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL).

The memorandum was signed in connection with commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility comprising an independent dispersal, aircraft hangar, administrative building and taxi track, located on the northwest side of CIAL. Military aircraft would use the CIAL runway for take-off and landing and the NAE taxi track for proceeding to and from the dispersal / hangar.



5. Defence council approves acquisition of two Brahmos missile batteries for Indian Navy

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of indigenous Software Defined Radio (SDR Tactical) and Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB-Long Range) for Indian Navy.

The SDR is a complex and state of art communication system which will enable information sharing, collaboration and situational awareness through high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability. Next-Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries will be fitted with supersonic BrahMos surface-to-surface cruise missiles and would be deployed along the coast.



6. 5th Army International Scout Masters Competition concluded at Jaisalmer Military Station

The Indian Army team won the 5th Army International Scout Masters Competition held at Jaisalmer Military Station against teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The Indian Army team was selected and trained under the aegis of Southern Command.

The prize distribution ceremony took place wherein the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave away the Champions Trophy to the winning Indian team. The Runner's Up Trophy was awarded to Uzbekistan, while the Second Runner's Up position was secured by Russia.



7. DRDO transferred design of mobile metallic ramp to Indian Army

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has handed over an indigenously developed Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to the Indian Army. MMR has been designed and developed by Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), DRDO's premier research laboratory.



CFEES developed the MMR on the requirements projected by Army for reducing the Strategic Mobility time of mobilising Armoured Fighting Vehicles. The MMR has a load-bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT). It will provide strategic mobility to the mechanized units and formations of the Army.

8. Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference 2019 to be held in Thailand

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa will embark on a three-day visit to Thailand and attend the Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence Conference in Bangkok. The conference based on theme 'Collaboration in a free and Open Indo – Pacific' will provide perspectives on common challenges faced by attending nations. The Chiefs of Defence of over 33 countries are scheduled to attend the Conference.



The participation of Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa, who is also Chairman of Chief of Staff Committee, will provide further impetus towards increasing defence cooperation with Thailand.

9. Indian Naval Ship Tarkash at Dakar, Senegal

As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to Africa, Europe and Russia, Indian Naval Ship Tarkash made a port call at Dakar, Senegal for a three-day visit. The ship is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet. The port call is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Senegal.



INS Tarkash is one of the most potent frontline frigates of the Indian Navy equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors. Tarkash will undertake a Passage Exercise at sea with ships of the Senegalese Navy which will enhance interoperability between both navies.

1. Indian IT companies contributed 57.2 billion dollars to US' GDP in 2017

Indian IT companies contributed 57.2 billion dollars to the GDP of the US in 2017. The US with US\$ 45 billion total investment is the 6th source of foreign investment in India and its two-way investments between the two countries have reached about 60 billion dollars.



Indian IT companies' initiatives have helped such as TCS educative initiative "My Future in School" and WIPRO distributed over 200,000 books in union with Trinity College. India-based global IT services companies employ more than 175,000 workers in the US accounting for 8.4 per cent of employment in the computer systems design.

more than 175,000 workers in the US accounting for 8.4 per cent of employment in the computer systems design.

2. Crisil cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9% for FY 2019-20

Rating agency Crisil Ltd has cut down India's growth estimate for 2019-20 by 20 basis points to 6.9%, citing weak monsoon, slow global growth and poor high-frequency data for the first quarter of the financial year. Crisil also expects corporate sector growth to slow to 8% in 2019-20.



Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Economic Survey of the Finance Ministry, and the Asian Development Bank as well as International Monetary Fund have cut their growth outlook for India to 7%.

growth outlook for India to 7%.

3. World Bank's Global GDP rankings 2018 placed India at 7th rank

World Bank's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings in 2018 reported India as seventh-largest economy in the world with \$2.72 trillion economy as compared to \$2.65 trillion economy in 2017.



World's top six economies in the 2018 list were the United States (\$20.5 trillion), followed by China (\$13.6 trillion), Japan (\$4.9 trillion), Germany (\$3.9 trillion), U.K. (\$2.82 trillion) and France (\$2.77 trillion). India has set the target of becoming a \$5 trillion economy in GDP terms by 2024 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2020.

GDP terms by 2024 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2020.

4. Microsoft acquired data privacy & governance startup BlueTalon

Microsoft has acquired BlueTalon, that builds data governance and compliance software for Fortune 100 companies. BlueTalon team will become part of the Azure Data Governance group, where the team will work on enhancing Microsoft's capabilities around data privacy and governance.



BlueTalon lists less than 30 employees on LinkedIn. The company started after founder Pratik Verma launched the startup in 2013 using technology he created with his father. This is Microsoft's fifth acquisition of 2019. The company's cloud services generated as much revenue as all its other businesses combined.

5. AustralianSuper, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan to invest \$2 billion in NIIF

AustralianSuper, Australia's largest superannuation and pension fund, and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (Ontario Teachers'), one of Canada's largest single-profession pension plans have each signed agreements for investments of up to \$1 billion with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India.



The agreements include commitments of \$250 million each in the Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$750 million each in future opportunities alongside the Fund. NIIF invests in equity capital in core infrastructure sectors in India with a focus on transportation, energy and urban infrastructure.

6. Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for June 2019 (Base 2011-12=100)

According to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the government, India's industrial output grew 2% in June 2019 as compared to June 2018. The cumulative growth for the period April-June 2019 over the corresponding period of the previous year stands at 3.6%.



The quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 for the month of June 2019 stood at 130.2. The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors for the month of June 2019 stand at 106.6, 130.1 and 173.0 respectively, with the corresponding growth rates of 1.6%, 1.2% and 8.2% as compared to June 2018.

7. H1 2019 net income of Saudi Aramco slips to \$46.9 billion

The first half net income for 2019 of Saudi state-owned energy giant Aramco had slipped to \$46.9 billion as compared to \$53.0 billion for the same period in 2018. It was the first time the company has published half-year financial results. The fall in income was mainly due to lower oil prices.



Aramco is planning to launch its IPO in late 2020 or early 2021, dubbed as potentially the world's biggest stock sale. Saudi Arabia plans to sell up to 5% of the world's largest energy firm and hopes to raise up to \$100 billion.

8. GST revenue collection stands at Rs 1,02,083 crore in July

The total gross revenue collected under Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the month of July 2019 was Rs 1,02,083 crore. It consisted of Central GST component of Rs 17,912 crore and State GST Rs 25,008 crore along with the Integrated GST revenue which was Rs 50,612 crore and Cess collection was Rs 8,551 crore.



The revenue collection in July 2018 was Rs 96,483 crore and the revenue in July'19 registered a growth of 5.8% over the revenue in the same month last year.

9. Eight core sectors growth drops to 0.2% in June

Growth of eight core industries dropped to 0.2% in June'19 mainly due to a contraction in oil-related sectors as well as in cement production. The eight-core sector industries - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - had expanded by 7.8% in June 2018.



The crude oil output contracted by 6.8% while the refinery segment de-grew by 9.3%. The cement output declined by 1.5% but the production of fertilisers grew by 1.5%. Steel and electricity production increased by 6.9% and 7.3% respectively.

10. Bengaluru based startup Grexter Living acquired i2Stay

Grexter Living, a co-living platform owned by Bengaluru-based Grexter Housing Solutions, has acquired i2Stay, a budget accommodation service provider. Following the acquisition, Grexter's beds capacity in Bengaluru will increase to 5,000. The details of the acquisition were not disclosed.



Grexter Living offers fully-furnished studio apartments aimed primarily at young, salaried professionals and fresh graduates. Pratul Gupta, a IIT Madras alumnus, founded the startup in 2016 with Nikhil Dosi.

11. Government relaxed norms for shares with differential voting rights

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the provisions relating to the issue of shares with Differential Voting Rights (DVRs) provisions under the Companies Act. The key change brings in increase of existing cap of 26% of the total post-issue paid-up equity share capital to a revised cap of 74% of the total voting power and removal of the earlier requirement of distributable profits for 3 years for a company to be eligible to issue shares with Differential Voting Rights.



The objective is to enable promoters of Indian companies to retain control of their companies in their pursuit for growth of long-term value for shareholders.

12. Retail inflation eased marginally to 3.15% in July

Consumer price index-based retail inflation eased marginally to 3.15% in July on the back of softening fuel prices. Retail inflation was 3.18% in June 2019, while it stood at 4.17% in June 2018.



The overall food inflation, measured on Consumer Food Price Index moved up to 2.36% during July 2019 which was 2.25% in June 2019. In fuel and light category, it remained at 0.36% as against a rise of 2.32% in June.

13. Wholesale inflation in July falls to multi-year low of 1.08%

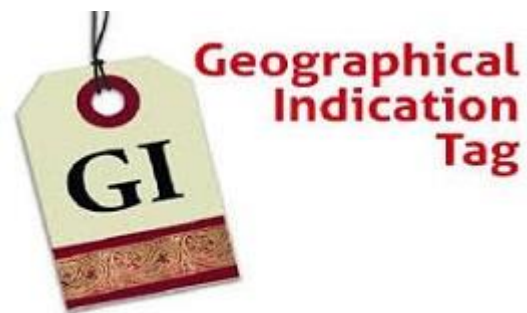
Wholesale price-based inflation in July fell to a multi-year low of 1.08% mainly on account of cheaper fuel and food items. Inflation in food articles was 6.15% in July as against 6.98 % in the previous month.



Similarly, wholesale inflation in fuel and power segment contracted further to (-) 3.64% as against (-) 2.2% in June. The retail inflation eased to 3.15% over June when it was 3.18%. Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index, WPI was at 2.02 % in June 2019 and 5.27% in July 2018.

14. Four New Products get GI Tag

The Geographical Indication (GI) under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade registered 4 new GIs. Palani Panchamirtham from Tamil Nadu State, Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram and Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala are the latest additions to the list of registered GIs.



GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality.

15. Ola acqui-hired AI start-up Pickup.ai

Cab aggregator Ola acqui-hired Pickup.ai, an artificial intelligence (AI) startup based in Bengaluru. Under acquihiring process, staff of Pickup.ai will join Ola company to improve AI-powered solutions for businesses in Ola. Pickup.ai uses autonomous technologies like AI, computer vision and sensor fusion to improve artificial intelligence in business.



Ola will benefit from AI in having improved mobility outcomes such as developing next-generation technologies in mobility like Electric, Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and improve safety and transform customer experience. Ola announced to set up an Advanced Technology Centre in the San Francisco Bay area.

16. India's forex reserves reached life-time high of \$430.57 bn

India's foreign exchange reserves surged new life-time high of \$430.57 bn due to rise in foreign currency assets such as effect of appreciation/depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the reserves. RBI reported increase of USD 1.620 billion in August beginning.



It was observed that gold reserves surged by \$1.591 billion to \$26.754 billion and overall reserves, increased by \$15.2 million to \$398.739 billion. International Monetary Fund Special drawing rights increased by \$6.7 million to \$1.441 billion.

17. Microsoft and ISB joined hands to advance AI skilling in India

The Indian School of Business and Microsoft India will collaborate in research to create AI Digital lab which will use Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to study issues that are relevant for business and public policy. The rapid development of AI will help business leaders to creatively use AI and enhance productivity.



In addition, the collaboration will also introduce a new executive program titled "Leading Business Transformation in the Age of AI" in October 2019 which will equip business leaders with tools to transform their respective organizations to AI-driven organizations.

18. Department of Agriculture released Third Advanced Estimate (2018-19)

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare released the Third Advanced Estimate (2018-19) of area and production of various Horticulture Crops. The total horticulture production of India is estimated to be over 313 million tonnes which is 0.69% higher than the production in 2017-18. Onion Production is estimated to be around 23.48mn tonnes, which is 0.95% higher than the production of 2018.



The overall increase is observed in the production of fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers and honey whereas decrease is observed in the production of plantation and aromatics and medicinal crops.

19. Ind-Ra lowered GDP growth forecast in FY20 to 6.7%

India Ratings and Research lowered its projection of India's GDP growth in F.Y. 2019-20 from 7.3% to 6.7%. The lowered projection is mainly on account of weak consumption demand, uneven monsoon, sluggish private corporate investment, slowdown in manufacturing growth, global trade tensions effect on exports and inability of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to resolve cases on early basis.



Ind-Ra has projected GDP growth to recover to 7.4% in the second half of FY20 due to recent announcements made in few sectors that can increase consumption demand.

1. Tigers in India face threat from Canine Distemper Virus

According to a study published in Threatened Taxa, tigers and leopards living in the national parks are facing the threat of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV). The CDV virus can be transmitted from CDV-infected dogs living in wildlife sanctuaries to tiger's.



86% of the tested dogs around the Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan carried CDV antibodies in their bloodstream. Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of both domesticated and wild animals.

2. Centre approved final Eco Sensitive Zone notifications

Centre has approved final Eco-Sensitive Zone notifications of the 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu, one in Chhattisgarh and one in Maharashtra to help scientific conservation of ecosystems and to give relief to the people in the area.



The sanctuaries include Vaduvloor Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary, Vettangudi Birds sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra.

3. Government unveiled draft Environmental and Social Management Framework

Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has unveiled draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for coastal zone management. The draft ESMF is part of a World Bank-funded project.



The draft plan lays out guidelines out for coastal States to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones. Currently, only 3 coastal states - Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal have prepared Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans with support from the World Bank.

4. Five new fish species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

Researchers of the Rajiv Gandhi University have discovered five new fish species in various districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Professor DN Das headed the research team. The scientific names of the newly-discovered fish species are:

- *Mystus prabini*
- *Exostoma kottelati*
- *Creteuchiloglanis tawangensis*
- *Garra ranganensis*
- *Physoschistura harkishorei*



5. Iceland commemorates first glacier lost to climate change

Iceland commemorated the loss of the glacier Okjokull, its first glacier lost to climate change. It was officially declared dead by the Icelandic Meteorological Office in 2014 at the age of 700 when it was no longer thick enough to move.

Iceland loses about 11 billion tonnes of ice per year, and scientists fear that all of the island country's 400-plus glaciers will be gone by 2200. The Prime Minister of Iceland is Katrin Jakobsdottir.



6. Odisha approves conservation plan of lakes "Chilika and Ansupa"

The State Wetlands Authority of Odisha approved 'Integrated Management Plan of Chilika and Ansupa Lake'. The plan aims for conservation of ecology and promotion of sustainable livelihood of fishermen living around the two wetlands. It will be executed for a period of five years from 2019. The cost of the investment is Rs 179.13 crore.

Chilika lake is India's largest brackish water lagoon spread over 1,100 square km in three districts of Khurda, Puri and Ganjam, and Ansupa is the Odisha's largest freshwater lake.



7. India largest SO₂ emitter in world

According to a new analysis by Greenpeace, India is the largest emitter of SO₂ in the world with more than 15% of all the anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) hotspots detected by NASA OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite. Almost all of these emissions in India are because of coal burning.



The NASA data revealed that Norilsk smelter complex in Russia is the largest SO₂ emission hotspot in the world, followed by Kriel in Mpumalanga province in South Africa and Zagroz in Iran.

8. Two new species of Freshwater Fish found

Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India have discovered two new species of freshwater fish - *Glyptothorax gopii* and *Garra simbalbaraensis*.

Glyptothorax gopii, a new species of catfish was found in Mizoram's Kaladan river. It is dark brown on its dorsal surface, and its ventral surface is of a yellowish-light brown. *Garra simbalbaraensis* was found in Himachal Pradesh's Simbalbara river. It has a yellowish-gold colour fading ventrally.



9. WWF and Discovery to preserve Sundarbans

WWF India and Discovery India have partnered with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans. It is done as a move to protect the Sundarbans – the mangrove forest, habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict and also as part of a global movement "Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers".



Through this project, two Sundarbans Ecological Observatories will be set up, each featuring data loggers, monitoring buoys and an onsite laboratory. The project will use technology to solve several of the issues faced in the region.

10. CoP18 of CITES held in Geneva

The 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was recently held in Geneva, Switzerland. CITES is an international agreement aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Smooth-coated otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) was moved from CITES Appendix II to CITES Appendix I, giving it highest level of international protection. Indian star tortoise was also moved to CITES Appendix I. Tokay gecko (*Gekko gecko*) will be included in CITES Appendix II.



1. RBI eased External Commercial Borrowing rules for corporate and non-banking lenders

Reserve Bank of India liberalised the end-use restrictions on External Commercial Borrowings taken for working capital purposes, general corporate purposes and repayment of Rupee loans. Eligible borrowers will now be permitted to raise ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of 10 years for working capital purposes and upto 7 years for repayment of Rupee loans.



Eligible corporate borrowers are permitted to avail ECB for repayment of Rupee loans for capital expenditure in manufacturing and infrastructure sector if classified as SMA-2 or NPA.

2. Center approved proposal given by RBI on draft modalities of guarantee to operationalize the Budget announcement

The government gave nod to the draft modalities of the guarantee submitted by RBI, to make effective the Budget announcement of providing one-time 6 months partial credit guarantee to public sector banks for the "first loss of up to 10%".



This will help PSBs to purchase pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs amounting to ₹1 lakh crore. The government has provided this approval so as to ease the liquidity stress in the NBFC sector and increase the access of these NBFCs to bank finance.

3. India Post Payments Bank to be converted into small finance bank

The Postal Department announced to convert the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB), enabling it to offer small loans to customers and open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

IPPB has united with Common Service Centre to expand citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance and tax payments, etc., at post offices. IPPB aims to develop infrastructure to expand the reach of the e-commerce industry to rural areas.



4. SBI, Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with China National Advance Payment System

The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch became the first Indian Bank to connect to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS). The CNAPS provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in China.



The CNAPS was launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC). SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency. The SBI had obtained the PBOC approval in December 2016 for implementation of the CNAPS and it was made live on July 8, 2019.

5. RBI allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country. It has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act. In another notification, 'Jana Small Finance Bank Limited' too has been included in the Second Schedule.



Further, the name of 'The Royal Bank of Scotland plc' has been changed to 'NatWest Markets Plc' in the Second Schedule while 'National Australia Bank' has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act.

6. RBI announced NEFT facility availability 24*7

The Reserve Bank of India announced that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) facility will be available on a 24x7 basis for the customers from December 2019. Currently, NEFT payment system is available for customers from 8 AM to 7 PM on all working days of the week except 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.



RBI also announced to create a central payments fraud information registry system to deal banking frauds and permit all categories of billers in Bharat Bill Payment System.

7. Government issued credit-support plan for NBFCs

The Union Government has issued a scheme regarding partial credit guarantee that would enable the public sector banks (PSBs) to purchase high-rated pooled assets of financially sound non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) amounting to Rs. one lakh crore.



The objective is to address temporary asset liability mismatches of otherwise solvent NBFCs/HFCs without having to resort to distress sale of their assets for meeting their commitments. It will be open for six months or till such date that assets worth ₹1-lakh crore are purchased by banks, whichever is earlier.

8. Mastercard launched identity check express to secure online transactions

Mastercard launched Identity Check Express, a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution that aims to redefine the e-commerce journey for Indian consumers.



With Identity Check Express, cardholders can make payment at leading merchants for an amount less than ₹2,000 on their trusted mobile devices by sharing a onetime merchant specific consent. For transactions greater than ₹ 2,000, cardholders will be able to authenticate themselves with a transaction PIN of their choice.

9. AePS crossed 200 million transactions in July

National Payments Corporation of India announced that Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) crossed 200 million transactions count during July 2019. 6.65 crore Indian citizens benefited banking services through AePS stage in July to perform fundamental banking transaction like money withdrawal, intrabank or interbank fund transfer and balance enquiry with the help of name of the client's bank, Aadhaar number and fingerprint captured during enrolment.



AePS is a bank driven model which permits financial transactions at point of sales or MicroATM through the business correspondent of any bank by utilizing Aadhaar authentication.

10. EnKash launched India's first Corporate Credit Card for SME's

Fin-tech startup EnKash launched the India's first corporate credit card called 'Freedom Card' for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The card allows short duration revolving credit limit for business payments considering SMEs & Startups short term credit requirements and financial liquidity. It has automated accounts payables or collection process for businesses. Freedom Card has unlimited acceptance with increased credit lines.



EnKash is a Cards Fin-tech driving Corporate Credit Card Innovations to provide innovative solutions to SMEs and Startups to help them with their Business Payments and Expenses.

11. RBL Bank launched India's first health-focused credit card

RBL Bank and Practo have jointly launched a co-branded health focused credit card RBL Bank Practo Plus powered by Mastercard. It is India's first health-focused credit card. The benefits of RBL Bank Practo Plus credit card include unlimited 24*7 online consultations for 1 year, one free full body health check-up and for every Rs. 100 spent on this card, cardholder earns 1 Practo HealthCash. When RBL Bank Practo Plus credit card is issued, a Practo health plan account is created on the Practo app.



Practo is India's leading digital healthcare platform with over 100,000 doctor profiles from across India and Singapore.

12. Third Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20 released

Monetary Policy Committee reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 bps from 5.75% to 5.40%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 5.15%, and the marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to 5.65%.



The committee set the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4%. It was noted that CPI inflation excluding food and fuel fell by 50 bps to 4.1% in May from 4.6% in April, and remained unchanged in June.

13. CVC constituted panel to examine bank fraud

The Central Vigilance Commission constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) to examine bank fraud of over 50 crore rupees and recommend action. Board's jurisdiction will be confined to those cases involving officers of General Manager level and above in the PSBs in respect of an allegation of a fraud.



The ABBF headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin has been formed in consultation with the RBI and will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.

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14. SEBI announced reward of Rs 1 crore to insider trading informants

The Securities and Exchange Board of India has announced a reward of upto one crore rupees for informants willing to provide credible information regarding insider trading cases. This will be a part of the detailed set of rules for the new 'Informant Mechanism' under Prohibition of Insider Trading Regulations that was approved by the SEBI board.



The norms also propose a possible settlement for minor wrongdoings in return for cooperation in the probe. SEBI will establish an Office of Informant Protection, which will be responsible for the receipt, registration and processing of the disclosure form and its authenticity.

Office of Informant Protection, which will be responsible for the receipt, registration and processing of the disclosure form and its authenticity.

15. SEBI removed broad-based criteria for FPIs, eases KYC norms

Capital market regulator, SEBI, has simplified KYC requirements for foreign portfolio investors and permitted them to carry out the off-market transfer of securities. It will help to simplify and expedite the registration process for foreign portfolio investors. Under the new framework, foreign portfolio investors would be classified into two categories instead of three.



In another significant regulation, SEBI announced new norms to make it mandatory for companies to provide details of delayed loan payments and possible defaults to credit rating agencies.

for companies to provide details of delayed loan payments and possible defaults to credit rating agencies.

16. RBI allows e-mandate on cards from September 1

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted the processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with a cap of ₹2,000 from September 1, 2019. There will be no charges for availing this facility.



While processing the first transaction in e-mandate-based recurring transaction series, additional factor authentication (AFA) validation should be performed. The direction is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards – debit, credit and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), including wallets.

17. Bandhan Bank launched three co-branded credit cards with Standard Chartered

Bandhan Bank launched three variants credit cards, in collaboration with Standard Chartered Bank named as One - for the mass market, Plus - for the affluent segment, and Xclusive - for the premium segment. Various offers are being provided to customers such as attractive reward points for spends on dining, movie tickets, waiver of fee against a minimum annual spend, fuel surcharge waiver etc.



Standard Chartered Bank will offer back office support and look into the credit filters of applicants to avoid credit failure. Bandhan bank has 40 lakh customer base across its 1,000 branches.

18. Bimal Jalan panel recommended review of economic capital framework every five years

The Bimal Jalan panel of the Reserve Bank has recommended that the revised economic capital framework will be reviewed every five years. The RBI, under the revised framework, decided to transfer 52,637 crore rupees excess provisions to the government.



The panel's report also recommended that the RBI accounting year (July-June) may be brought in sync with the fiscal year (April to March) from the next financial year to reduce the need for interim dividend being paid by the RBI. The Central Board of the RBI has accepted all the recommendations of the committee.

19. RBI to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh cr as dividend, surplus reserve to government

The Reserve Bank of India decided to transfer 1.76 lakh crore rupees as dividend and surplus reserve to the government. The amount includes over 1,23,000 crore rupees of surplus for the year 2018-19 and 52,637 crore rupees of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework.



RBI's Central Board has accepted the recommendations of a high-level panel headed by former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan on transfer of excess reserves to the government and has finalized RBI's accounts for 2018-19 using the revised framework as suggested by the Jalan committee to determine risk provisioning and surplus transfer.

20. SIDBI partnered with Incuspaze to open co-working space for MSMEs

Small Industries Development Bank of India has partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited to open a first-of-its-kind co-working space exclusively designed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and startups in Delhi. It is named as @Workspaze that intends to a premium co-working space with state-of-the-art facilities. The fully furnished office space is equipped with training and conference room, fast-speed internet, refreshment etc. The idea of co-working space gives MSMEs and startups the benefit of a centrally located business.



Incuspaze aims to develop a trusted network of co-working spaces across 30 Indian and eight international locations by 2022.

21. Indian Bank inaugurated MSME Centralised Processing Centre

Indian Bank inaugurated its first MSME CPC (centralised processing centre) in Chennai for speedy disposal of micro, small and medium enterprises' loan, improve credit quality and lessen transaction processing time. The new CPC center of Chennai South zone will have tagging of all 72 branches in the zone under CPC's fold.



CPC will look after the loans not exceeding 25 lakhs under micro category, 25 lakhs to 5 crore for small enterprises and 5 crore to 10 crore for medium enterprises.

22. Gross NPA ratio of banks declined to 9.1%

The early recognition and resolution of stressed assets have helped banks contain their Gross Non-Performing Loans ratio down from 11.2% to 9.1%. The new NPA recognition and resolution norms issued in June 2019 provide incentives for early resolution. The recoveries have gradually improved and investment cycle is easing.



The Capital buffers have been strengthened by recapitalisation to Rs 2.7 lakh crore, including the budgetary allocations for FY20 and the abatement of stress has rekindled bank credit inflows.

23. GeM and SIDBI sign MoU to enable growth of MSMEs, Start-ups and Women Entrepreneurs

Government e Marketplace (GeM), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India [SIDBI] to benefit MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women Self Help Groups and various loan beneficiaries under MUDRA and Stand-up India scheme.



The MoU will enable promotion of special initiatives of GeM like Womaniya and Start-up Runway with SIDBI stakeholders. GeM and SIDBI will take steps to ensure payments within a guaranteed timeframe to sellers, enhance working capital availability through bill discounting and control NPAs through control of end use.

24. Government announced mega merger of public sector banks

The government has announced the merger of ten public sector banks into four banks.

- Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India merged with Punjab National Bank to create a business of ₹7.95 trillion, India's second largest bank
- Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank with ₹15.2 trillion business, 4th largest bank of India
- Union Bank merged with Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with ₹14.59 trillion in business, 5th largest bank of India
- Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank with a business of ₹8.08 trillion, 7th largest bank in India



Important Days

1. World Breastfeeding Week 2019

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world. The Women and Child Development Ministry of India also observed the World Breastfeeding Week with a focus on protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding with the theme "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding".



Happy World Breastfeeding Week!

LACTATION MATTERS

WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old.

2. 5th National Handloom Day observed on August 7

The 5th National Handloom Day was observed on August 7 to honor the handloom weavers and their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. The events were organized at 16 NIFT Campuses and Weavers' Service Centres in different States across the country.



Handloom Mela and exhibition, workshops, panel discussion were organized. 4th All India Handloom Census report was released on the occasion and certificates were distributed to beneficiaries of various schemes.

3. Nation observed 77th anniversary of Quit India movement on August 8th

The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din, which is considered as one of the important milestones in the history of freedom struggle of India, was observed on 8th August. On this date in 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.



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.

4. 5th National Handloom Day celebrations on August 7

The 5th National Handloom Day was celebrated across the country on 7th of August. The Day is observed annually on 7th August to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also highlight India's handloom industry. The day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country and also increase the income of weavers.

The first National Handloom Day was observed in July 2015. The day commemorates the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on this day in 1905 in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the partition of Bengal by the British Government.



5. World Biofuel Day observed on 10th August

The World Biofuel Day is observed annually on 10th of August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight various efforts made by Government in this sector. This year the theme of the World Biofuel Day is "Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)".



The National Policy on Biofuels, released by the Government of India in 2018, envisages production of biofuel from UCO. FSSAI is planning to release a sticker - RUCO viz., Repurpose Used Cooking Oil and a mobile app to facilitate the collection of UCO.

6. International Day of The World's Indigenous People observed on 9 August

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on 9th August. The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The 2019 theme: "Indigenous Languages" focused on the current situation of indigenous languages around the world. The aim was to highlight the critical need to revitalize, preserve, and promote indigenous languages.



7. Nagasaki Day observed on 9th August

The Nagasaki Day is observed every year on 9th of August because on this day US dropped atomic bomb, code named "Fat Man", on the Nagasaki city of Japan in 1945 during World War II. The first bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima. The devastation caused due to the bombing led Japan surrender in World War II.



The plane that carried the atomic bomb was a B-29 Superfortress, one of the most commonly produced aircrafts in the World War II. The plane was named Bockscar. This year was the 74th anniversary of the Nagasaki bombing.

8. India celebrated 73rd Independence Day

India celebrated 73rd Independence Day on 15th August. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the national flag at the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in Delhi and made the following key announcements:



- 'Jal Jeevan' mission to make drinking water available to all households on the cost of 3.5 lakh crore rupees.
- Set up of Chief of Defence Staff, CDS, who will ensure synergy among the three Services and provide effective leadership to them
- Invest Rs 100 lakh crore in modern infrastructure to make the country a 5 trillion dollar economy in the next five years

9. International Youth Day

The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated annually on August 12. The day recognizes the contribution of the world's youth in enhancing global society. The theme for International Youth Day 2019 is "Transforming education". It highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth.



Public information activities were organized to promote awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth. India organized 'Walk for life' rally, skit presentation, poster making competitions, short filmmaking and debate competitions' to educate youth about HIV.

10. Birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi celebrated

The birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi is celebrated every year on 20th August as Sadbhavana Diwas or Communal Harmony Day. This day is observed to encourage the national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions.



2019 marked the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of the country at the age of 40 years. A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) suicide bomber assassinated him in May 1991.

11. World Humanitarian Day 2019

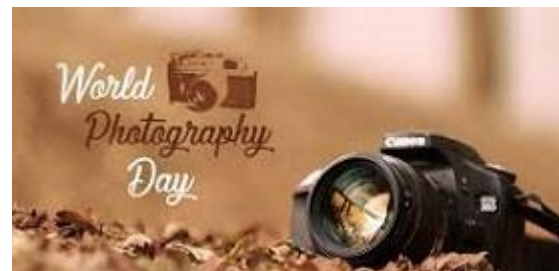
The World Humanitarian Day is observed every year on 19th August to pay tribute to workers who risk their lives in humanitarian services and gather support for people affected by crises around the world. The theme of 2019 was 'Women Humanitarians' to honour the work of women in crises throughout the world and their undying contribution in making the world a better place.



On 19 August 2003, a terrorist attack hit the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. Five years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day.

12. World Photography Day 2019

The World Photography Day is observed annually on August 19th. The day is dedicated to the art, craft, science and history of photography. The day aims to inspire photographers across the globe to share a single photo with a simple purpose of sharing their world with the world.



The origin of the day lies in the invention of the Daguerrotype, a photographic process which was developed by Frenchmen Lois Daguerre and Joseph Nicephore Niepce in 1837.

13. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

The first International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was observed on 22nd August.



The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) designated 22nd August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief following an unprecedented rise of violence against religious communities and people belonging to religious minorities. The Day comes right after the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, 21 August.

14. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

The second International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on 21st August. The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 to honor the victims and survivors of terrorism.



This year, the day will focus on the resilience of victims and their families, how they have coped and what they have done to transform their experiences to aid healing and recovery as well as become stronger and more united against terrorism.

15. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed globally on 23rd August

The International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed annually on August 23. The day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. The International Day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.



This date also pays tribute to those who worked hard to abolish slave trade and slavery throughout the world.

16. International Day Against Nuclear Tests observed on 29 August

The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed annually on August 29. The day brings public awareness and education about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests and the need to prevent nuclear catastrophes to avert devastating effects on humankind, the environment and the planet.



The United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution 64/35 on 2 December 2009. The Day was first celebrated in 2010.

17. National Sports Day celebrated on August 29th

August 29th was observed as the National Sports Day. The Day is celebrated to mark the birthday of legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand, the hockey player who won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years 1928, 1932 and 1936. He scored over 400 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.



The most noted memorial for him is the Major Dhyan Chand Award, the highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and games in India, and the National Sports Day celebrations on his birthday.

18. International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

The International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed annually on 30th August. In December 2010, the UN officially declared that it would annually observe the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on August 30 each year, starting from 2011.



The day is observed to create awareness on Enforced disappearance, mobilize political will and resources to address the concerns of Enforced disappearance and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. Enforced disappearance has become a global problem. It has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society.

International

1. US withdrew from Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia

The United States and Russia have withdrawn from the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty signed between the two nations in 1987. The treaty was signed by then US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.



The INF Treaty banned all of the two nations' land-based ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and missile launchers with ranges of 500–1,000 km (short medium-range) and 1,000–5,500 km (intermediate-range).

2. South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp organized in Kathmandu

The U.S. Embassy in partnership with Kathmandu Living Lab organized a South Asia Air Quality Tech Camp in Nepal, Kathmandu, so as to address air pollution problems. The two day camp was attended by participants from seven South Asian countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.



TechCamp participants addressed air quality issues using technology aiming at engaging society and governments to take action and improve air quality in South Asia. Various workshops were organized to build technical capacity among civil society.

3. 52nd ASEAN summit held in Bangkok

The 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the meeting was "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" which gives high importance to promoting sustainability in all dimensions and efforts to achieve a people-centred ASEAN Community. The meeting was attended by delegates from more than 30 countries.



The key points discussed in the meeting were challenges due to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, expand trade amid rising global challenges, advance ASEAN in the areas of digital economy, infrastructure development, increase the use of innovation, enhance regional economic integration, and strengthen cyber security.

4. Netherlands bans face-covering clothing

The Netherlands banned face-covering clothing, such as a burqa or niqab, in public buildings and on transport. The Netherlands is the latest European country to introduce such a ban, following the likes of France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark.



The legislation also applies to other face coverings such as full-face helmets, balaclavas or ski mask. France was the first European nation to ban the public use of veils, both face-covering niqabs and full-body burqas.

5. 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok

The 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India.



The Ministers adopted the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 that envisages project-based cooperation in the seven areas of MGC cooperation, namely tourism and culture, education, public health and traditional medicine, agriculture and allied sectors, transport and communication, MSMEs as well as three new areas of cooperation, i.e. water resources management, science and technology, skill development and capacity building.

6. United States designated China a "currency manipulator"

The United States designated China a "currency manipulator" on the basis of China's intent on continuing to receive hundreds of billions of dollars from the US with unfair trade practices and currency manipulation. China allowed the Yuan to depreciate below the symbolic level of 7 Yuan to the U.S. dollar. China is trying to game the trade system by weakening its currency to lift exports.



China is found suspicious by U.S. treasury dept for facilitating an undervalued currency through large-scale intervention in the foreign exchange market.

7. India contributed USD 5 million to UN Palestine refugee agency

India contributed USD 5 million to the UN Palestine refugee agency. India increased its annual financial assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) by four fold, from USD 1.25 million to USD 5 million.



The UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, across its five areas of operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since 1950.

8. Bangladesh signed uranium supply deal with Russia

Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP). The deal was signed between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).



As a part of the deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle. The two countries have also signed 'spent fuel sent back' agreement in 2017 for management of the nuclear waste of RNPP.

9. Hong Kong political crisis in brief

Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong have been staging protest after it sparked late this spring. The protesters have been protesting against the government's attempt to adopt a bill that would have enabled the People's Republic of China (PRC) to request extradition of suspected criminals from Hong Kong.



The protests included a one-day general strike and the initial occupation of Hong Kong International Airport. This is the biggest challenge to Chinese rule on the Hong Kong since its handover from Britain in 1997.

10. Over 5 lakh Rohingya refugees get identity cards in Bangladesh

More than 5 lakh Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh have been issued identity documents by the UNHCR. Bangladesh claims to have 11 lakh Rohingya refugees in the country.



UNHCR uses a Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) that captures unique data, including fingerprints and iris scans. At the end of the process, refugees receive an ID card that includes a photo and key information, such as name, date of birth and place of birth. The card also indicates Myanmar as the country of origin.

11. Iran unveiled three new precision-guided missiles

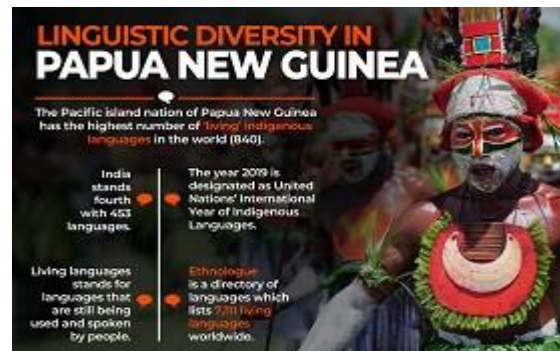
Iran unveiled three precision-guided air-to-air missiles, named "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem". The missiles are jointly developed by the defence ministry of Iran and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.



The Yasin is a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50km of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft. The Balaban is guided by GPS and sensors, equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft, while the Ghaem was a heat-seeking missile that could hit within 50 centimetres of a target.

12. Papua New Guinea has highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in world

According to a report of the United Nations, Papua New Guinea has the highest number of living indigenous languages in the world with 840. India is 4th in the list with 453 languages.



Among regions, Asia and Africa account for the highest number of indigenous languages (over 70% of the total). Ethnologue, a directory of languages, lists 7,111 living languages worldwide (languages that are still being used and spoken by people).

13. Alejandro Giammattei selected as Guatemala's new president

Alejandro Giammattei was elected as new president of Guatemala defeating former first lady Sandra Torres by 60% of the votes. He replaced President Jimmy Morales. He has promised to combat corruption and bring an economic revival.



Giammattei had previously participated in Guatemala's presidential elections in 2007, 2011 and 2015. He has been recognized as a consultant to several companies and private services since 2000 and was appointed director of the Guatemalan Penitentiary System in 2006.

14. India contributed \$1 million to UN fund

India contributed one million US Dollars to the United Nations Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System. Special Purpose Trust Fund is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat, established to receive and manage all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent way.



United Nations Special Purpose Trust Fund funding sources include voluntary contributions from the Member States, the doubling of cost-sharing amounts from the UN entities and 1% levy applied to contributions for UN development related activities.

15. US tests medium-range cruise missile after exit from INF treaty

The USA has tested a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile with a range of more than 500 km (310 miles), the first such test since the US pulled out of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF).



The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty of 1987 stipulated that the U.S. and Russia would never deploy ground-based ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers -- either nuclear or conventional. USA formally withdrew from the pact on August 2.

16. PM Modi held meeting with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi during UAE visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the full spectrum of the strong India-UAE partnership with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. With an annual bilateral trade of about \$60 billion, UAE is India's third-largest trade partner and fourth-largest exporter of crude oil for India.



To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemorative stamp was jointly released. PM also launched the RuPay card in UAE. UAE became the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.

17. Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between India and Bahrain

India and Bahrain signed the following MoUs during PM Modi's visit to the Gulf nation.

- Statement of Intent on collaboration between ISRO and National Space Science Agency in the area of Space Technology
- Statement of Intent on collaboration of the Kingdom of Bahrain with International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Bahrain
- MoU on usage of RuPay card



18. Pakistan blacklisted by Asia-Pacific Group of FATF

The Asia Pacific Group of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has put Pakistan in the Enhanced Expedited Follow Up List (Blacklist) for its failure to meet its standards. It found Pakistan was non-compliant on 32 of the 40 compliance parameters of terror financing and money laundering.



Pakistan ranked as low on 10 on 11 effectiveness parameters of terror financing and money laundering. The FATF APG meeting was held in Canberra, Australia.

19. US approved possible 8 billion Dollar sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan

The U.S. State Department approved a possible 8 billion Dollar sale of F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan, which includes 66 aircraft, 75 General Electric Co engines, as well as other systems. The sale is considered to be the largest single arms transaction between the two countries.



F-16 fighter jets will help Taiwan in improving Taiwan's ability to defend its sovereign airspace. The President of Taiwan is Tsai Ing-wen.

20. 5th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission held in Kathmandu

5th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission was held in Kathmandu. The event was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. An MoU was signed between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Nepal's Department of Food Technology and Quality Control on food safety and standards.



India also handed over a cheque of 2.45 billion Nepali Rupees to Govt of Nepal towards reimbursement for housing reconstruction in Nuwakot and Gorkha districts.

21. List of MoUs signed during visit of Prime Minister to France

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Education and Youth, Government of the French Republic for Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between National Institute of Solar Energy(NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)

COOPERATION AGREEMENT between Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), an autonomous scientific society of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and ATOS

IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENT between ISRO and CNES France for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness

22. Russia launched floating nuclear reactor in Arctic

Russia launched the world's first floating nuclear reactor. The vessel, called the Akademik Lomonosov, is 144 metres long and 30 metres wide and houses two nuclear reactors with a capacity of 35 megawatts each.



The reactor will replace a coal-burning power plant and an ageing land-based nuclear plant and will supply 50,000 people in the area with electricity. The environmental group Greenpeace has called the plan "Chernobyl on Ice".

23. Iran unveiled new missile defence system - Bavar-373

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has inducted a locally built air-defence system, Bavar-373, into the country's missile defence network. The mobile surface-to-air system is "better than S-300 of Russia and close to S-400." It has a strike range of 200km.



Bavar 373 can simultaneously engage six targets with 12 missiles at a range of up to 250 kilometers. Bavar 373 can be used against strategic and tactical fighter jets and bombers, as well as against stealth planes, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and other targets.

24. 45th G7 Summit held in Biarritz, France

G7 Summit was held in the French town of Biarritz. The G7 group comprising Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US agreed to support a medium-term reforestation plan, discussed global trade, Iran nuclear deal and climate change. G7 has agreed to spend 22 mn US\$ to tackle the huge forest fires engulfing the world's biggest Amazon rain-forest.



At G7 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra highlighted India's efforts towards eliminating single-use plastic, conserving water and harnessing solar energy. The highlight of the summit was that newly invited countries will have to work for peace and boost world economy.

25. Indian PM held bilateral talks with German Chancellor on sidelines of G7 Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met German Chancellor Angela Merkel, United States President Donald Trump and President of Senegal Macky Sall to discuss bilateral and a gamut of issues of mutual interest on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit at Biarritz, France.



President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed trade deficit, cooperation as large democracies for the benefit of citizens, global peace and the Kashmir dispute.

26. Sudan urged UNSC to withdraw all peacekeepers by June 2020

Sudan urged United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to lift its suspension of troop withdrawals and ensure all peace keepers leave Darfur by June 2020 to ensure peace building in Darfur and end restrictions on the government's movement of arms and troops in and out of the region.



However, the Security Council voted unanimously in June to put the brakes on the withdrawal of the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force from Darfur as the country dealt with a political crisis.

27. India won 19 medals at WorldSkills Kazan 2019

India won 19 medals and Medallions of Excellence at the WorldSkills International Competition 2019 in Kazan, Russia. The 48-member Indian team won one Gold, one Silver and two Bronze medals besides 15 Medallions of Excellence at the competition.



India finished 13th in the overall standings. Aswatha Narayana Sanagavarapu of Odisha won the Gold in Water Technology skill. Pranav Udayark Nutalapati of Karnataka won silver in Web Technologies while Shweta Ratanpura of Maharashtra won Bronze in Graphic Design Technology.

28. French government moves bill to shrink country's parliament by 25%

French President Emmanuel Macron's government has moved a bill to shrink the country's parliament by 25% as part of an overhaul of country's institutions. The government introduced a draft law that would reduce the number of seats in the lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, from 577 to 433.



The Senate would go from 348 to 261 members. The bill also allows for 20% of seats to be based on party lists instead of individual candidates.

29. Attorney General Kharel-led Nepali delegation on 7-day observation visit to India

A twelve-member delegation led by Attorney General of Nepal, Agni Prasad Kharel, was on a seven-day observation visit to India. The delegation comprising senior attorneys from Federal Government and all Seven Provincial Governments visited the Supreme Court of India, Delhi High Court and attended a one-day workshop at Indian Law Institute in New Delhi.



The basic objective of the visit was to study the relationship between the Central and State judicial systems in India including the relationship between Attorney General of India and Advocates General of States.

30. Britain's Queen Elizabeth approved British PM's plan to suspend parliament

Britain's Queen Elizabeth has approved Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan to suspend parliament. The British Government had proposed the Queen to suspend Parliament just days after it returns from summer recess in the first week of September and only weeks before the Brexit deadline. The suspension of Parliament has shortened the span of time for Members of Parliament to block a no-deal Brexit before the current deadline.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson had vowed that Britain will leave the European Union on 31st of October, with or without a deal. Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU).

31. Brazil banned setting Amazon fires to clear land for 60 days

Brazil banned setting fires to clear land for 60 days in response to a massive increase in the number of fires in the Amazon rainforest. The decree was signed by President Jair Bolsonaro. The fires devastating parts of the Amazon rainforest have led to global scrutiny of Brazil's commitment to environmental conservation.



The UN Chief Antonio Guterres mooted a meeting of key countries to drum up support to tackle the fires that have also devastated swaths of Bolivia. Thousands of troops and firefighters have been deployed to combat the fires.

32. India and Nepal organized training programme on EXIM Bank's guidelines

The Embassy of India in Nepal and National Reconstruction Authority of Nepal organized 2-day training programme in Kathmandu on the Export-Import Bank of India's Line of Credit guidelines. EXIM Bank Senior experts of India conducted the training programme for Nepal's 27 officials.



The training programme was organized as part of a bilateral understanding between India and Nepal during the 7th Line of Credit (LOC) Review Meeting held in June. The two sides also agreed to collaborate on future capacity building efforts of the Nepal officials who would be working on the India's Line of Credit supported projects.

33. Lionel Aingimea became the new President of Nauru

Former Nauruan lawyer and politician Lionel Rouwen Aingimea became fifteenth President of the pacific nation Nauru. He defeated David Adeang by 12-6 votes. He replaced President Baron Waqa. Lionel has worked for the Regional Rights Resource Team NGO and as a public defender in the Marshall Islands.



Nauru is an island country in Central Pacific with population of 12000 people, making it the world's third smallest country in terms of its population and third-smallest country in the world in terms of its size.

Miscellaneous

1. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched gold with score of 1166 in Men's Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters competition in New Delhi.
2. Indian Army launched an ecological initiative E Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd.
3. West Bengal launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, 'Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.
4. Famous Indian filmmaker J Om Prakash passed away at the age of 93 years.
5. Union ministers Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat have launched the Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha drive to promote water conservation activities among school students.
6. The government has set a target of transporting nearly 25% of cargo through coastal shipping and inland waterways over the next 10 years. Increase in exim cargo will help reduce inflation by nearly 2.5%.
7. Dhaka Metropolitan Police said that flying drone or any remote-controlled devices without authorization is a punishable offence as it creates panic among people.
8. The Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in the country in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
9. The Khadi and Village Industry Commission has launched "Leather Mission" on World Tribal Day.
10. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, hosted an 'At Home' reception for freedom fighters on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of Quit India Day (August 9) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
11. Indian Bank has entered into a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.
12. Uttar Pradesh's "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh" drive has created world record after planting more than 22 crore saplings.
13. INS Tarkash has arrived in Norway for a 3-day visit as part of Western Fleet Overseas Deployment.
14. A powerful tropical storm 'Krosa' lashed Japan bringing strong winds and torrential rain at the speed of 126 kms per hour.
15. Delhi Development Authority launched plantation drive in Delhi to involve school eco clubs. Scheme involves plantation of four lakh trees.
16. Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) bagged an award in 'government's initiative to promote and develop the technologies' category in the World Education Summit 2019.
17. Ghotu Ram Meena has been named as India's next Ambassador to Republic of Congo.
18. Indian Army launched 'Mission Reach Out', a conference to review the prevalent situation and ensure basic necessities and essential services in Jammu post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370.
19. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) to work jointly to achieve the objective of national solar mission through training programmes.
20. Indian Railway's 2nd double-decker Uday (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
21. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the state's first-ever CNG fuelling station in Dibrugarh.

22. President Ram Nath Kovind planted a sapling of Maulsari in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate and launched a plantation drive as part of Van Mahotsav celebrations.
23. The Karnataka government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison".
24. Iran unveiled a domestically-built long-range, mobile surface-to-air missile system.
25. The Homeland Security 2019 Conference was held in New Delhi.
26. PM Modi went on a 3-nation tour to France, UAE and Bahrain.
27. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the formal beginning of the re-development of the temple of Shreenathji in Bahrain, the oldest in the Gulf region.
28. The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2019 has been awarded to 96 Police personnel which includes 13 women police officers.
29. Both the Indian Women's and Men's hockey teams have won the Olympic Test event in Tokyo after they defeated Japan and New Zealand respectively.
30. BookMyForex.com, a marketplace for foreign exchange and remittances, has partnered with YES Bank to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card for Indian overseas travellers.
31. Acko General Insurance, an insurtech company, has partnered with ZestMoney, a consumer lending fintech, to offer credit insurance.
32. Centre has appealed to all the States to generate maximum community participation in the form of mass movement to achieve the target of functional household tap connection by 2024.
33. 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.
34. Brazil rejected aid from G-7 countries to fight Amazon forest fires, referring to a pledge of 20 million dollars made at the G-7 Summit in France to fight the rainforest blazes.
35. The 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.
36. Indian bank entered into a bancassurance MoU with Tata AIG to provide Tata AIG's suite of general insurance products.
37. Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar released the booklet "Jan Connect: Clear Intentions, Decisive Actions" on key decisions taken by the Government in the first 75 days of its second tenure.
38. Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik has announced to open 50 new colleges in state.
39. "IndTokyo" mobile app was launched to help para-athletes to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics Games.
40. Canara Bank launched India's first OTP facility for ATM cash withdrawals above Rs. 10,000 in a day.
41. On the occasion of International Day of Yoga 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released 12 commemorative postal stamps to honour eminent scholars, Practitioners and great Master Healers of AYUSH Systems.
42. On the occasion of International Day of Yoga 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 10 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres (AYUSH HWCs) located in the state of Haryana.
43. Air India will completely ban use of plastic in Alliance Air and Air India Express from 2nd October.
44. Delhi government launched "10 Hafte, 10 Baje 10 minute Har Ravivar, Dengue Par War" campaign against dengue and chikungunya.
45. Senior diplomat Pavan Kapoor has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

46. Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected Pramod Agarwal as the next chairman of Coal India.
47. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Malayala Manorama News Conclave 2019 in Kochi via video conferencing.
48. Tamil Nadu's Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
49. The Steel Users Federation of India has signed an MoU with the Bombay Stock Exchange to launch trading in steel futures.
50. IIT Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RD Grow Green India Pvt for Technology transfer for safer drinking water.
51. ICRA Ltd ousted its Managing Director and group Chief Executive Officer Naresh Takkar over allegations of misconduct.
52. Veteran Bengali actor Nimu Bhowmik passed away. He acted characters of different shades in 'Ganadebata' (1979), 'Baghini' (1968), 'Dadar Kirti' (1980), 'Guru Dakshina' (1987).

National

1. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi in Gambia

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi in Gambia to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This was the first-ever state visit to Gambia by an Indian President. President Kovind met his Gambian counterpart Adama Barrow.



India has promised to extend an assistance of USD 500,000 in support of skill development and cottage industry projects in Gambia. Both nations also signed MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

2. Pashmina Products receive BIS Certification

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published an Indian Standard for identification, marking and labelling of Pashmina products to certify its purity. The certification will help curb the adulteration of Pashmina and also protect the interests of local artisans and nomads who are the producers of Pashmina raw material.



Bureau of Indian Standards would set up a Pashmina testing centre in Leh, in partnership with the lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. It will have lab, machines and scientists to check the quality of pashmina collected.

3. One Nation-one Ration Card scheme implemented in 4 States

One Nation-One Ration Card scheme was implemented on a pilot basis in four states - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Under the scheme, ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number. This will kick-start inter-state portability of ration card between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.



The White Card beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the states. Similar would be the case in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

4. Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre in New Delhi to encourage the spirit of innovation at the community level. This initiative aims to encourage the spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society.



NITI Aayog will open innovation Centres in all Gram Panchayats of the country to promote local innovation and focus on the 484 backward districts where the innovation infrastructure is very weak.

5. Government launched Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion and mobile application “Indian Air Force: a cut above”

Minister of Human Resource Development, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank,’ inaugurated the ‘Facilitation cum Publicity Pavilion (FCP)’ and launched 3D Air Combat Mobile Game “Indian Air Force: A Cut Above” in New Delhi. The FCP will be visited by children annually. It comprises of a Flying Simulator, a Self-interactive career information Kiosk, a selfie point with fore drop of pilots in G-suit and miniature models of IAF aircraft, digital flexes etc.



The mobile app would highlight various missions and air combat scenarios undertaken by the IAF and help immerse the player in a game with a “having been there” sensation.

6. KABIL set up to Ensure Supply of Critical Minerals

The Government is going to set up a joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) with the participation of three Central Public Sector Enterprises - National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL). The objective of KABIL is to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market.



The KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country’s requirement of these minerals.

7. UGC recommends 20 educational centres for status of Institutions of Eminence

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a list of 20 institutes - 10 public and 10 private for the grant of the status of Institutions of Eminence (IoE) made the recommendations on the report of the Empowered Expert Committee set up by the government under the chairmanship of N Gopalaswami.



The institutions which are given IoE status from public category includes, Delhi University, BHU, Hyderabad University and IIT Madras and Kharagpur. The Institute of Eminence scheme aimed at developing 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map.

8. Union HRD Minister inaugurated TechEx at IIT Delhi

Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the TechEx - technology exhibition at IIT Delhi. TechEx was organized to demonstrate products and prototypes developed under the two flagship schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) namely IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY).



50 models/prototypes under IMPRINT and 26 under UAY were showcased during the exhibition in addition to 142 posters. IMPRINT provides solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges. UAY aims to promote innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.

9. UNIDO and National Institute of Solar Energy to partner for skill development program

The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) signed an agreement with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.



NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material. The agreement is part of the ongoing MNRE-GEF-UNIDO project implemented jointly by UNIDO and to support capacity building and skill development of technical manpower in the Concentrated Solar Thermal Energy Technologies (CST).

10. Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers organized

The Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service Officers was organized at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi. The Conference was organized with a view to attain greater integration of all Media Units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in order to further amplify government communication.



The Conference discussed roadmap for celebration of 550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak, 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 75 Years of India's Independence and Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India.

11. Government sanctioned over 5,000 electric buses under second phase of FAME India scheme

Government has sanctioned 5,095 e-buses to 64 cities/state transport corporations for intra-city operation, 400 e-buses for intercity operation and 100 e-buses for last-mile connectivity to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation under the second phase of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME-India) scheme.



The objective of the scheme is to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront incentives on purchase of electric vehicles. This will give a further push to clean mobility in public transportation.

12. 22nd National Conference on e-Governance held at Shillong

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and the State Government of Meghalaya organized the 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 on 8-9th August, 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya. The theme of this Conference was "Digital India: Success to Excellence".



The Conference provided a platform to disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing and implementing sustainable e-Governance initiatives to provide end-to-end Digital Services, exchange experiences in solving problems, mitigating risks, resolving issues and planning for success.

13. Registration opens for PM Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

The Union government has started registration for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY). The scheme is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.



The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the age of 60 years. The Central Government will also make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund.

14. 2-day exhibition on DAE Technologies held in New Delhi

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) of the Government of India organized a two-day exhibition on DAE Technologies: Empowering India through Technology at New Delhi.



The exhibition is covering technologies developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Raja Ramanna Centre for Advance Technology, Indore and other Units of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which are useful for the common man in day-to-day life e.g. in the field of health, agriculture, water, food security and environment.

(For Details: <http://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192588>)

15. Hardeep Puri launched Swachh Survekshan 2020 league

Union Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020). The league will be a quarterly cleanliness assessment of cities and towns in India and will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted between January - February 2020.



Alongside, the Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water PLUS Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar – an integrated waste management app and AI enabled mSBM App were also launched.

16. RPF Launches “Operation Number Plate” across Indian Railways

Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name – Operation “Number Plate” to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in the ‘No Parking’ areas for longer duration.

This was conducted as a special drive from 9th August to 11th August at 466 Railway Stations all over Indian Railways. 3943 Vehicles were found parked unattended/unclaimed for more than 05 days in the authorized parking lots of Railway stations. 4 vehicles were recovered which were reported to be stolen and cases were registered previously by the Police.



17. 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave held in Manesar, Gurugram

The 3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave was held at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Gurugram. The Conclave was held to create a knowledge-sharing platform to ensure flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.



The EV Conclave was organized by ICAT in association with India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA). The government has made provision of Rs. 10,000 crore for electric mobility in the Union Budget of 2019-20.

18. India signed UN Convention on International Settlement

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA). Forty-six countries signed the treaty named Singapore Convention on Mediation.



The signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). In order to encourage international commercial arbitration in India, to evolve a comprehensive ecosystem of arbitration the Government is establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) as a statutory body.

19. MNRE organised Curtain Raiser ceremony for the 3rd RE-INVEST

Ministry of New & Renewable Energy organised Curtain Raiser ceremony for the 3rd Edition of Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2019) which will be held from 30th October to 2nd November 2019 in India, coinciding with the Second Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA). The objective of the event is to attract the right investments in renewable energy (RE) and present India's RE story to the world.



As of June 30, 2019, India has an installed renewable energy capacity of 80.47 GW, of which solar and wind comprises 29.55 GW and 36.37 GW respectively. Biomass and small hydro power constitute 9.81GW and 4.6GW respectively.

20. Government plans to expand rotavirus vaccine coverage to all states

The Union Government plans to expand the coverage of Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states and UTs by September, 2019. The vaccine is currently available only in 28 states and union territories in India.



The government aims to end morbidity and mortality in children due to diarrhoea by 2022. Rotavirus is a leading cause of diarrhoea in children less than 5 years of age. It is estimated that rotavirus causes 8,72,000 hospitalizations, 32,70,000 outpatient visits, and an estimated 78,000 deaths annually in India.

21. 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 successfully concluded at Shillong

The 22nd National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2019 successfully concluded at Shillong, Meghalaya after the adoption of 'Shillong Declaration' on e-Governance. The theme of this Conference was "Digital India: Success to Excellence".



Some of the key points of the declaration are:

- Improving citizen's experience with Government services by promoting timely implementation of India Enterprise Architecture (IndEA)
- Promoting Digital India Projects with focus on Smart Villages and Smart Cities through Startups and Smart Entrepreneurship

22. ISRO launched programmes to commemorate birth centenary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

ISRO launched programmes across the 100 selected cities commencing from August 12, 2019 and ending on August 12, 2020 to commemorate the birth centenary of its founder and eminent space scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai. It includes exhibitions, competitions to school children, journalism awards and speeches by eminent personalities.



ISRO unveiled a commemorative coin, a Coffee Table book and a photo album of on life and work of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai also known as father of Indian Space Program. "Space on Wheels" exhibition inside the bus was inaugurated on this occasion.

23. 16 State Governments signed MoU with Textiles Ministry to impart skill training to workers

Sixteen State Governments signed MoU with Ministry of Textiles to impart skill training under Samarth - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS). The training programme involves advanced technology oriented features like Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System, CCTV recording, dedicated Call Centre, Mobile App based Management Information System and on-line monitoring.



The scheme aims at skill development of 10 lakh youth upto 2020 in the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving in the organized sector, with a projected outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.

24. Shri Piyush Goyal launched CORAS (Commandos For Railway Security) of Indian Railways

Minister of Railways Shri Piyush Goyal launched CORAS (Commando for Railway Security) of Indian Railways, a new state of the art commando training centre to be established in Jagadhri, Haryana and a new establishment manual for Railway Protection Force.



CORAS, a special Railway Unit, is a result of detailed policy formulation in protecting Railway passengers and Railway property in far and inaccessible threat prone areas. CORAS is a separate Commando Unit of RPF. This special unit is given world class training and best facilities. Commando shall be deployed in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) or terrorism affected railway areas.

25. President of the Republic of Zambia and India signed various MoUs

India and Zambia signed following 6 MoU during the State Visit of President of the Republic of Zambia, Edgar Chagwa Lungu, to India:

- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Defense
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Arts & Culture
- MoU between Foreign Service Institute of India and Zambian Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies
- MoU on EVBAB Network Project
- MoU between Election Commission of India and Electoral Commission of Zambia



26. National Conference on Capacity Building of Sustainable Food Value Chains

A two-day National Conference on Capacity Building of Sustainable Food Value Chains for Enhanced Food Safety and Quality was organized by National Productivity Council (NPC) in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization, Tokyo, Japan in New Delhi to develop the mitigation strategies for curbing food wastages, enhancing food security and food quality.



The conference discussed developing sustainable strategies for food safety in India and highlighted the relevance of the international standards enacted through the Food Safety and Security Act, 2006.

27. Union HRD Minister launches NISHTHA to build capacities of 42 Lakh government teachers

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal launched the National Mission to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level- NISHTHA, National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement. The aim of 'NISHTHA' is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. The teachers will get awareness and develop their skills on various aspects related to Learning Outcomes, Competency Based Learning and Testing, Learner-centered Pedagogy, School Safety and Security.



The training will be conducted directly by 33120 Key Resource Persons and State Resource Persons identified by the State and UTs.

28. Power Minister Shri RK Singh launched SARAL – ‘State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index’

Shri RK Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index–SARAL, index that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Index was topped by Karnataka followed by Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh at 2nd, 3rd and 4th rank respectively. SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.



MNRE has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022 of which 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops.

29. Government proposed to have different e-visa fee

India has introduced a flexible e-tourist visa regime based on tourist footfall. The e-visa fee for a duration of 30 days during the peak season from July to March will be \$25. While, the e-visa fee during the lean period from April to June is to be kept at \$10.



A new five-year e-tourist visa will be introduced with USD 80 fee and a one year e-tourist visa with USD 40 fee. In 2018, the government announced plans to increase foreign tourist arrivals to 20 million by 2020. The number stood at 10 million in 2017.

30. First Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology to be set up in Gujarat

The first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat considering the significant presence of Chemical industries in Vapi, Ankleshwar and Vatva to benefit the chemical industry. The first CICET will be set up either in Vatva or Surat.



The Union Government is also planning to set up another campus of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) in Valsad at the cost of Rs 54 crore as well as a Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

31. High Level Committee approved Rs 4432.10 crore of additional Central assistance to 3 states

The High Level Committee (HLC), chaired by the Union Minister for Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah, approved additional central assistance of Rs. 4432.10 crore to three States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) - Rs. 3338.22 crore to Odisha for Cyclone Fani, Rs 1029.39 crore to Karnataka for drought and Rs 64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh for avalanches and hailstorm.



During 2018-19, Centre had released Rs 9,658 crore to all states and during 2019-20, till date Centre has released Rs 6,104 crore to 24 States from SDRF.

32. India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants operationalised

The India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian Civil Servants was operationalised following delegation level talks. A consensus was reached between the 2 sides on the dates and participation levels for the first 10 training programmes from September, 2019 to December, 2020.



The Prime Minister of India in his visit to Maldives in June 2019, had emphasised India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. One of the MoUs signed during the visit was between the National Center for Good Governance, India and the Civil Services Commission of Maldives.

33. IIT Kanpur collaborates with NCPCR to develop kit to spread sexual abuse awareness

IIT Kanpur has collaborated with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and developed a kit to spread awareness about sexual abuse among children. The kit consists of a set of cards, posters, short animation clips and games.



Teachers or NGOs can use the kits for an interactive workshop for children about sexual-abuse awareness. It helps create awareness about personal safety, respecting their body and overcoming guilt among children.

34. President inaugurated bunker museum at Maha Raj Bhavan

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the underground 'Bunker Museum' at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. The 15,000 square feet underground bunker museum has virtual reality booths in which visitors can "time travel" to the 19th century.



The bunker was created in the 19th century to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships. Another section depicts the history of Raj Bhavan. The British-era bunker was discovered in 2016 and has 13 rooms such as Shell Store, Gun Shell, Cartridge Store and Central Artillery Store.

35. Government released Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy, 2019 inviting comments and suggestions from stakeholders including public/private organizations, experts and concerned citizens on the draft policy.



The Draft National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP) envisions a future with environmentally sustainable and equitable economic growth, resource security, healthy environment (air, water and land), and restored ecosystems with rich ecology and biodiversity.

36. President Kovind inaugurated the First World Youth Conference on Kindness

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the first World Youth Conference on Kindness in New Delhi. The conference was organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development with the aim to impart critical competencies (i.e. empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry) in global youth.



The conference aims to inspire youth to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities. Youth leaders, representing over 27 countries participated in this Conference.

37. Union Minister of Health inaugurated state-of-the-art National Food Laboratory of FSSAI

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the first ever state-of-the-art National Food Laboratory-Delhi, NCR of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). He released a report "Food Laboratories in India: a Meta Study" and awarded Certificate of Recognition to 13 National Reference Laboratories. The Laboratory will conduct analysis as per global accreditation standards for testing and calibration.



Dr Harsh Vardhan also presented the State of Uttar Pradesh with two "Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) vans" to cater to the food testing requirements in Ghaziabad and Western UP.

38. India and Bahrain agreed to enhance cooperation in field of security & counter-terrorism

India and Bahrain agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of security and counter-terrorism. The two countries also agreed to focus on enhancing cooperation in energy and strengthen maritime security in the Gulf region and signed MoUs on cultural exchange programme, space technology, solar energy.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his visit to Bahrain, met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and PM of Bahrain Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

39. PM Modi announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to celebrate September as a month of nutrition to fight malnutrition among children as part of 'POSHAN Abhiyaan'(National Nutrition Mission). Gujarat Government had launched a pilot project, Poshan Abhiyan which is a statewide mission to eradicate malnutrition among children.



Gujarat Government had also launched PURNA project (Prevention of under Nutrition and Reduction of Nutritional Anaemia among Adolescent Girls) to eliminate malnutrition among girls in age group of 14 to 18 years with a budget of Rs 270 crore.

40. R K Singh approved proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy

Minister of New and Renewable Energy R K Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy. The energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion will be considered as Renewable Energy. It will be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations.



Government of India steps up its effort to reach the objectives to contemplate its Renewable Energy and climate change objectives post 2022. MNRE looks over the horizon at development of new technology and considers the various options available to support its deployment.

41. Government to make FASTag mandatory for all vehicles from Dec 2019

The Union Government has proposed to make FASTags mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019. The move is part of the government's larger plan to promote digital payments at toll plaza and decongest national highways.



Over 52 lakh FASTags have been issued till date. FASTags are being issued by 22 certified banks. FASTag is attached to the windscreen and uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to enable direct toll payments while the vehicle is moving.

42. Kiren Rijju, Baichung Bhutia flagged off Delhi leg of Op-Blue Freedom

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and former India football captain Baichung Bhutia flagged off the Delhi leg of Op-Blue Freedom. This is an initiative in which a group of armed forces veterans train sports enthusiasts in survival training and self-defence.



Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as the able bodied. The program aims to train adventure enthusiasts in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.

43. India to launch e-commerce portal "Bharatcraft" for MSME's

The union Government is planning to launch its own desi version of an e-commerce portal and named it Bharatcraft. The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to markets and sell their products. It will be on the lines of Alibaba and Amazon.



Bharatcraft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth ₹10 lakh crore in next 2-3 years. The MSME sector is likely to contribute 50% to the total GDP in the next five years. At present, the sector currently contributes 29% to the country's GDP and employs 110 million people.

44. Union Minister launched Project SURE

Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani launched Project SU.RE, a move towards sustainable fashion, at Lakmé Fashion Winter/Festive 2019, in Mumbai. The SU.RE project is a commitment by India's apparel industry to set a sustainable pathway for the Indian fashion industry. SU.RE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution' - a firm commitment from the industry to move towards fashion that contributes to a clean environment.



It was launched by Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI); United Nations in India; and IMG Reliance, the organizers of Lakme Fashion Week.

45. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched 10th City Gas Distribution bidding round

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution (CGD) bidding round which will cover 50 Geographical Areas (GAs) in 124 districts. As per the minimum work program approved by the PNGRB for the 10th round, 2.02 crore PNG domestic connections will be provided, 3578 CNG stations will open, and 0.58 lakh Inch-km steel pipeline will be laid.



Over 5 lakh crore rupees are being invested in gas infrastructure, which includes exploration, distribution, marketing, regasification, pipeline network laying, etc.

46. Center to provide Wi-Fi in all villages through GramNet

The Government will provide Wi-Fi in all the villages through GramNet with connectivity between 10mbps to 100 mbps speed. BharatNet also plans to provide 1 GBPS connectivity, which can be expanded up to 10 GBPS.



The government-run Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) launched new products of C-DOT- XGSPON, C-Sat-Fi & CiSTB C-DOT. C-Sat-Fi technology will empower Indian People in rural areas as telephone and Wi-Fi facilities will be available in all corners of the country on any mobile phone.

47. NACO and DoSJE sign MoU for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention

National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) signed MoU for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention. NACO comes under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare while DoSJE comes under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE).



The MOU will catalyze in achieving the national goals and objectives of HIV prevention and impact mitigation. Through this MoU, the services of various institutes under DoSJE such as National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention (NCDAP), National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Integration Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) will be leveraged for execution of activities laid out in the MoU.

48. 7th Community Radio Sammelan held in Delhi

The 7th Community Radio Sammelan was held in Delhi by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The theme of this year's Sammelan was 'Community Radio for SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)'. The representatives of the Community Radio Stations discussed experiences and possibilities of programming for better public awareness on the SDGs and various flagship schemes of the Government like the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan and efforts for Disaster Risk Reduction, broadcasting etc.



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar presented National Awards for Community Radio for 2018 and 2019. He also released the booklet "Jan Connect: Clear Intentions, Decisive Actions".

49. MoU signed between Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization

A MoU was signed between the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and National AIDS Control Organization.



Salient points of MoU are-

- Inclusion of target groups of NACO and National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction in the programmes for awareness generation.
- Create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse.
- Develop human resources to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for treatment.
- Address risk of HIV transmission through preventive risk reduction messaging on HIV.
- Reduced incidence of social stigma and discrimination against victims of drug abuse.

50. Over five lakh local water conservation infrastructures developed by Jal Shakti Abhiyan

Over 3.70 crore people have joined the nationwide Jal Shakti Abhiyan and the initiative has delivered over five lakh local water conservation infrastructures in 256 districts. Out of these, 2.73 lakh are water conservation and rain water harvesting measures, over 44,000 related to the rejuvenation of traditional water bodies.



About 1.50 lakh are water reuse and recharge structures and 1.23 lakh are watershed development projects. The initiative is aimed at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a mass movement through asset creation and communication campaigns.

51. India registered over 80% decline in new HIV cases

The government declared that there has been more than 80% decline in new HIV infection cases in the country since its peak in 1995. The global average of decline in new infection is estimated at 47%. National Aids Control Organization has signed an MoU with 18 Ministries and Departments to augment a comprehensive AIDS response mechanism.



The MoU intends to create awareness and educate people about the ill-effects of drugs abuse on the individual, family, workplace and society at large. It aims to reduce discrimination against individuals based on drugs.

52. HRD Ministry launched National Digital Library of India

Human Resource Development Ministry under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, NMEICT has launched the National Digital Library of India project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility. There are more than 3 crore digital resources available through the National Digital Library.



National Digital Library has been integrated with UMANG App and users can register through www.ndl.gov.in or through the mobile app. More than 50 lakh students have registered themselves in the National Digital Library with about 20 lakh active users.

53. Smriti Irani laid foundation stone of Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex in Meghalaya

Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Textiles Tourism Complex at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma. The complex and the activities will ensure that those who currently undertake crafts in wood, bamboo, stone carving, embroidering, pottery, dry flower and jewellery get benefitted and aided from the Government of India.



Under the 'Samarth' scheme which plans to skill 7,200 youth in apparel and garments, textiles and handloom sectors has now been extended to skill 30,000 citizens.

54. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It is part of 4 crores project in modernising the facility at SACON.



NCAE will research the impact of chemical contaminants on individual species of birds, study the movement of environmental contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals and drugs through food chain, and their harmful effects on birds.

55. IIT-Delhi establishes DESMI Centre of Excellence

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and Denmark based DESMI have entered into a partnership under the aegis of the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), Govt of India, to setup 'DESMI Centre of Excellence on Waste to Wealth' at IIT Delhi. The objective of the DESMI Center is removal of floating debris from drains and other water bodies in Delhi and generating resource from the mixed waste feedstock collected.



MoU will include removal of floating solid wastes and automated/energy efficient collection of waste from streams with cost-effective segregation of solid-wastes based on post-processing methodologies.

56. Microsoft announced Digital Governance Tech Tour to help accelerate Digital India

In line with the government's Digital India vision, Microsoft India launched the Digital Governance Tech Tour, a National program to deliver critical AI and intelligent cloud computing skills to the Government officials in charge of IT across the country. The initiative comprises a series of physical and virtual workshops and aims to train 5,000 personnel over a period of 12 months.



NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant launched the initiative at Digital Governance Tech Summit 2019 in Delhi. AI and the cloud can enable innovation and drive the next phase of India's growth to become a \$5 trillion economy.

57. Amazon India launched Military Veterans Employment programme

Amazon India launched Military Veterans Employment program that will create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across Amazon India's Fulfillment Centers, Sort Centers and Delivery Centers in India. Amazon India is partnering with the Office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organization (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across India.



Amazon India has already over 17500 military veterans and spouses actively engaged in its different program worldwide such as AWS apprenticeship to Military Leaders Program.

58. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Peru on Cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants

The Union Cabinet has approved signing of agreement between the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH and the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Peru on Cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants.



India and Peru both have rich medicinal plants biodiversity and medicinal plants based indigenous traditional system of medicines. Hence the proposed Agreement will further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of Medicinal Plants.

59. Cabinet approved Establishment of an International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the Establishment of an International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) along with its supporting Secretariat Office in New Delhi. The CDRI is proposed to be launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, USA on 23rd September 2019.



The CDRI will serve as a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure. This initiative will benefit all sections of society.

60. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Gambia on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Gambia in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine. The MoU was signed in Gambia on 31st July 2019 during the visit of the President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.



The MoU will provide a framework for cooperation between India and Gambia for the promotion of traditional systems of medicine and will mutually benefit the two countries in this field. Activities mentioned in the MoU will boost the importance of AYUSH Systems of Medicine in Gambia.

61. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Guinea

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for the MoU between the India and the Republic of Guinea on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Traditional Systems of Medicine.



As a part of global promotion and propagation of the AYUSH systems of medicine, the Ministry of AYUSH has signed Country to Country MoUs on cooperation in the field of Traditional Medicine with various countries and also established AYUSH academic Chairs in identified Universities in various foreign countries.

62. Cabinet approved proposal for review of FDI policy on various sectors

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for Review of Foreign Direct Investment on various sectors.

- 100% FDI under automatic route in coal mining and associated infrastructure has been approved.
- 100% FDI in contract manufacturing under automatic route has been allowed.
- 26% FDI allowed under government route for uploading and streaming of News and Current Affairs through Digital Media.
- on FDI in single-brand retailing, the Cabinet has expanded 30% domestic sourcing norm and allowed single-brand retailers to start on-line sales



63. Cabinet approved Sugar export policy

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved for providing a lump sum export subsidy @ Rs. 10,448 per Metric Tonne (MT) to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20. The total estimated expenditure is about Rs. 6,268 crore.



The export subsidy will be provided for export of up to 60 Lakh Metric Tonne (LMT) of sugar limited to Maximum Admissible Export Quantity (MAEQ) allocated to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20.

64. Cabinet approved 75 new Medical Colleges

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved for establishment of 75 additional Government Medical Colleges by 2021-22. The Cabinet also sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 24,375 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period i.e. up to 2021-22.



The new proposed medical colleges would lead to addition of at least 15,700 MBBS seats in the country. New medical colleges would be set up in under-served areas having no medical college; with at least 200 bedded District Hospital.

65. Indian Navy signed MoU with IMD

The Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the handing over of Cyclone Detection Radar (CDR) building. The MoU will enable the IN to utilise the CDR building within naval premises at Kochi for meteorological purposes.



The CDR building had been lying vacant and unused after IMD commenced operating a new Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) at Mundamveli, Kochi. The CDR building was operated by IMD from 1987-2017.

66. “Janaushadhi Sugam” launched for locating outlets and searching Generic medicines

Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda launched a mobile application “Janaushadhi Sugam” It will enable people to search Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers. He also announced that “Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin” will now be available at only One Rupee per pad.



Jan Aushadhi Suvidha comes with a special additive, which makes pads biodegradable when it comes in contact with oxygen after being discarded. “Janaushadhi Sugam” mobile application would have user-friendly options such as locating nearby Janaushadhikendra, analyzing product comparison of Generic vs. Branded medicine, etc.

67. India pledges to restore 50 lakh hectares of degraded land by 2030

India pledged at the Curtain Raiser Press Conference in New Delhi, to restore 50 lakh hectares of degraded land by 2030. Curtain Raiser Press Conference was about 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to be hosted by India in September.



India will convert degraded land of nearly 50 lakh hectares to fertile land in next 10 years; it will implement provisions of New Delhi Declaration which is to be adopted at the end of conference and a Centre for Excellence will be established at Dehradun.

68. IIP sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel

Union Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated a plant to convert waste plastic into diesel in Dehradun. The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel. It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.



Earlier to this, institute has also developed plant producing biofuel for aircraft. This innovative research of such plant will reduce India's dependence on other countries for petroleum products.

69. Union HRD Minister launched Integrated Online junction for School Education 'Shagun'

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal launched one of world's largest Integrated Online Junction for – School Education 'Shagun' in New Delhi. School Education Shagun (URL: <http://shagun.govt.in/>) is a junction for all online portals and websites relating to various activities of the Department of School Education.



The websites of 1200 KendriyaVidyalayas, 600 NavodayaVidyalayas, 18000 other CBSE affiliated schools, 30 SCERTs, 19000 organisations affiliated with NTCE are integrated with Shagun. The website also provides vital information relating to availability of nearby schools, navigable distance and report cards of 15 lakh schools.

70. India launched world's first ever Facial Bio-Metric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document

India became the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers. The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based bio-metric data, with modern security features. It will make the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy.



The BSID introduces modern security features. It will have a biometric chip embedded in it. The total number of Indian seafarers who were employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels increased from 154349 in 2017 to 208799 in 2019.

71. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Fit India Movement

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Fit India Movement at the Indira Gandhi Stadium on the occasion of National Sports Day. Prime Minister urged the people to be less dependent on technology and perform various activities such as cycling, playing sports, swimming, etc., to remain fit physically and mentally.



Various dance performances and martial art forms were presented at the event highlighting the importance of physical activity resulting into fitness. A 28-member committee under the chairmanship of sports minister Kiren Rijju has been formed to advise the government on the Fit India Movement.

72. Centre released Rs. 47,436 crores for afforestation to various states

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar handed over Rs. 47,436 crores of CAMPA funds to various states towards forestry activities to achieve the objectives of the Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) of increasing its forest & tree cover. CAMPA is Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority Act.



The fund will be utilised for the Compensatory Afforestation, Catchment Area Treatment, Wildlife Management, Assisted Natural Regeneration, Forest Fire Prevention, Soil and Moisture Conservation Works, Improvement of Wildlife Habitat, Management of Biological Diversity, Research in Forestry and Monitoring of CAMPA works.

73. Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched National Lab Directory

Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched the National Lab Directory which is a one-stop-shop for all testing needs of the industries, academia, researchers and other stakeholders who need to get their Testing Facilities accredited / certified / recognised. 4500 labs have now been linked through this directory, which will provide one stop shop for testing where products can also be seen.



The National Lab Directory presently encompasses NABL accredited, BIS Recognised/Empanelled Labs, Hallmarking Labs. The Testing Facilities are being completely digitised so as to make these objective & free from the existing Doc & PDF files.

74. Government signed MoU to tackle TB through Artificial Intelligence

The Central TB Division of the Union Health Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Mumbai to explore the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the fight of the government against tuberculosis (TB) in India.



As part of the collaboration, Wadhvani AI would be supporting National TB programme become AI-ready which would include, developing, piloting, and deploying AI-based solutions. It would support the programme in vulnerability and hot-spot mapping, modelling novel methods of screening and diagnostics.

Persons in News

1. Tarun Chaudhri became first IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump

Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri created history by becoming first Indian Air Force pilot to perform a wingsuit skydive jump, during the Kargil Diwas celebrations at Air Force Station in Jodhpur.

The jump was performed at a height of 8500 ft from a Mi-17 helicopter. It is known to be the first IAF Wing Suit Skydive Jump by a pilot who has flown and captained the same type of helicopter. The longest verified wingsuit BASE jump is 7.5 kilometres done by the American Dean Potter.



2. Vidisha Baliyan becomes first Indian to win Miss Deaf World Pageant

India's Vidisha Baliyan was crowned Miss Deaf World 2019, held in Mbombela, South Africa becoming the first Indian to win the crown. 21-year-old Vidisha hails from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh and is a modelling student of Asian Academy of Film & Television.

Vidisha is also a former international tennis player having represented India in the Deaflympics and won a silver medal. She also won two silver medals at the national games in 2016.



3. Indian-Origin Doctor Bhasha Mukherjee Crowned Miss England 2019

23-Year-Old Indian-Origin British Doctor Bhasha Mukherjee has been crowned Miss England 2019. She will compete in the 69th Miss World contest to be held in December in London. She has a Bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham.

Bhasha has an IQ of 146, making her officially a "genius". Her family shifted base to the UK when she was 9 years old. She now stays in Derby.



4. France's Franky Zapata successfully crosses English Channel on hoverboard for 1st time

French inventor Franky Zapata successfully crossed the English Channel on his Flyboard Air, a jet-powered hoverboard. He departed from Sangatte, France and arrived in Dover, England.



Zapata invented the Flyboard in 2011, a device that uses a water jet to propel the rider through the air behind a boat. He later invented the Flyboard Air, a board powered by four turbo jet engines that allows a rider to fly through the air untethered, using a computer to keep it stabilized.

5. Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity Crown for third time

India's Naaz Joshi created history by becoming the first transgender to win the Miss World Diversity title for the third consecutive year. She also became the first transgender person to win an international crown against cis-gendered women.



Naaz competed against 14 other international contestants in Mauritius. Naaz has also been crowned as Miss Republic International Beauty Ambassador 2017 and Miss United Nationals Ambassador.

6. Priyam Chatterjee became first Indian chef to win French honour

French Government honored Indian chef Priyam Chatterjee with 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto'(Order of Agricultural Merit) in recognition of his reinventing the gastronomic scene in India. He became first Indian chef to receive this honor. He is known for revisiting of traditional dishes of his native state, West Bengal giving it a French twist and masterful plating.



Priyam has been trained under French chef Jean Claude and is presently the head chef at Jaan Restaurant Yacht in France. The Order of Agricultural Merit is an order of merit that honors outstanding contributions to agriculture.

7. Madhya Pradesh para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia crossed America's Catalina Channel

Madhya Pradesh's Divyang Satendra Singh Lohia became the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America. Satendra holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels.

Satendra led the Indian Para Relay team along with five team mates and crossed the 42 kms Catalina Channel in 11 hours 34 minutes at water temperature of 13 degrees Celsius. Satendra has also been honoured with the Vikram Award, the highest sports award in Madhya Pradesh.



8. Indian-American teen won South Asian Spelling Bee competition 2019

New Jersey's Indian-American teenager Navneeth Murali, won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest by correctly spelling the word 'flipe', variant spelling of flype. He received annual title and USD 3,000 grand prize. Texas' Pranav Nandakuma and California's Vayun Krishna was first runners-up.



South Asian Spelling Bee is an annual spelling bee platform in U.S. that conducts contest among students of South Asian descent of at or below the age of 14 years. It was conducted among 600 spellers in five regional centers across the U.S.

9. Mitchell Johnson elected as MCC Honorary Life Member

Former Australian fast bowler Mitchell Johnson has been elected as an honorary member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The left-arm seamer lies fifth on Australia's list of all-time Test wicket-takers. The Club has bestowed this honour in recognition of his outstanding achievements in cricket.



Johnson made his Test bow in 2007 and in his 73 Test matches for Australia, he claimed 313 wickets at an average of 28.40. He also claimed 239 wickets in 153 One-Day Internationals, at an average of 25.26, and 38 wickets in his 30 T20 Internationals.

10. Scarlett Johansson topped Forbes highest-paid actresses list

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson has once again topped Forbes' list of the highest-paid actresses with earnings \$56 million. Her movie Avengers: Endgame of 2019 paid her \$35 million. The list included Sofia Vergara (\$44.1mn) at 2nd, Reese Witherspoon (\$35mn) at 3rd, Nicole Kidman (\$34mn) at 4th and Jennifer Aniston (\$28mn) at 5th place.



The list included newcomers Elisabeth Moss and Margot Robbie. World's ten highest-paid actresses tallied a combined \$314.6 million between June 1, 2018, and June 1, 2019.

11. IAF's Shalija Dhami became a first female flight commander

Shaliza Dhami, who served as a Wing Commander in the Indian Air Force created history by becoming India's first woman Flight Commander. She took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase. She is also known as the IAF's first female Qualified Flying instructor for Chetak and Cheetah helicopters.



Ludhiana's Shaliza Dhami is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force. Shaliza who has served IAF for 15 years, is known to be first woman officer to be granted permanent commission for a long tenure.

Places in News

1. London named the world's best city for students

The QS Best Student Cities Ranking has named London as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year. The report was released by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds. Tokyo and Melbourne were ranked at 2nd and 3rd position respectively.



India's best student cities named among the list were Bengaluru (81), Mumbai (85), Delhi (113) and Chennai (115) out of a total of 120 cities. QS Best Student Cities Ranking highlights each city's performance across different categories.

2. Regional Conference on Good Governance to be held at Jaipur during November 14-15, 2019

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) will organize the Regional Conference on Good Governance with the theme "Strengthening State Institutes of Public Administration" during 14th-15th November, 2019 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. It will bring National and State level organizations on the same platform to share experiences and implementation of good governance initiatives.



Discussions will be held on 6 sub-themes during the Conference: Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Capacity Building Programs, Training of Trainers, Online Training Programs & e-Governance Modules, Development of a Training Index, Centers of Excellence in the State Institutes of Public Administration and Training Vision 2024.

3. Chandigarh's Mohali gets first 3-D traffic signal

Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of Chandigarh University. The wireless system, called 'Intelights' proposes an Intelligent Traffic Timer Control; which uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights according to the traffic density at an intersection.



The system uses existing CCTV cameras to gather live traffic video feed, and automatically evaluates the traffic density using Artificial Intelligence, and sets the signal timers accordingly.

4. 2-day international conference on teacher education held in Delhi

A two-day international conference on teacher education was held in New Delhi. The title was "Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global". It was inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.



The event was organized by the National Council of Teacher Education as part of silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995. The objective of the conference was to bring our school education system in alignment with global trends.

5. National Conference of Tourism Ministers concluded successfully in New Delhi

The one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers concluded successfully in New Delhi. It was organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism.



Union Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Hindi version of the new Incredible India portal at the conference while the Arabic, Chinese and Spanish versions of the website would be launched in Sep 2019. He also launched the Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) portal during the conference. IITFC is an online programme where one can learn about tourism and become a Certified Tourist Facilitator of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

6. 9th Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee held in New Delhi

The 9th Session of the India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 19th – 20th August 2019 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal. The Kenyan delegation was led by Peter Munya, Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of the Republic of Kenya.



Both sides reviewed the developments in their bilateral trade. Progress in cooperation in the power sector, renewable energy, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation and agricultural research was also reviewed.

7. 4th edition of the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019

The fourth edition of the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 concluded in Bangalore. The theme of the two-day event was 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'. It focused on ten tracks, namely: Energy, Healthcare, Defence, Standards, Retail, Digital Communication, Skills, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Smart Cities.



IoT India Congress is a flagship event organised by the The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). The IET is one of the world's largest engineering institutions with over 168,000 members in 150 countries.

8. 12th India Security Summit held in New Delhi

The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy". During the conference, many issues were discussed such as protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response.



The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has rolled out a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to combat cyber crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

Regional

1. Jammu & Kashmir Governor approved operationalisation of 24x7 Free Ambulance Service

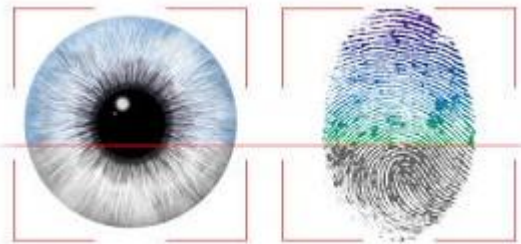
Jammu and Kashmir's administration approved operationalisation of the 102-108 Toll-Free ambulance service in the state. The state government has decided to bring a fleet of 416 Ambulances under the ambit of this service, which will be operationalised through a centralised Call Centre working on a 24x7 basis.



102 Ambulance Service will provide free of cost service to the targeted population. Dedicated centralized Call Centres, one each at Srinagar and Jammu, would be established to run the Service.

2. Maharashtra becomes first state to adopt a digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to aid police investigations

Maharashtra became the first state to adopt Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (or AMBIS) to aid police investigations. It is now integrated with facial recognition from CCTV cameras. An AMBIS unit comprises a computer terminal, a camera, and iris, fingerprint, and palm scanners. It also includes a portable system to dust off and capture fingerprints from crime scenes.



AMBIS replaces the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which has been used by Indian law enforcement agencies to search finger and palm prints. AMBIS will soon be replicated by police forces of other states in the country.

3. Gujarat CM launched 'Vhali Dikri Yojna'

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' for the welfare of girl child with a view to raising the female birthrate at par with male to achieve gender equality. Rs.133-crore has been allocated for this scheme.



According to this scheme, the State Government will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1-lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 and another Rs. 1-lakh at the time of marriage.

4. First set of anti-riot vehicles introduced in Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh State Home Minister Bamang Felix flagged off five Anti-Riot police vehicles, also known as Vajra, from Police Headquarter in Itanagar. This is the first set of anti-riot vehicles introduced in the state police department.



These vehicles come with special features for quick response, automatic multi-barrel launchers for tear gas, with a capacity of 12 persons and a battery backup for long hours stuck in the rioting crowd.

5. “Aadi Perukku” festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu

The “Aadi Perukku” festival was celebrated in Tamil Nadu. It is celebrated on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Adi (mid-July to mid-August) to pay tribute to water's life-sustaining properties. It is celebrated near river basins, water tanks, lakes and wells, etc.



The festival is to show reverence by the public to rivers, as the traditional season of sowing of seeds for the next crops begin.

6. UP extends bilateral cooperation MoU with Netherlands in several fields

Uttar Pradesh government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years till 2024.



The MoU, inked earlier, sought cooperation and exchange of the knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management including restoration of water bodies and mobility planning. The MoU is also related to cooperation in fields of transport management, energy efficiency, sewerage and effluent treatment, agriculture, dairy and horticulture, development of smart cities in UP, cultural heritage and the cycle track infrastructure development in various cities of the state.

7. Govt. of Tripura and NLFT- SD signed Memorandum of Settlement

A Memorandum of Settlement was signed by the Government of India, Govt. of Tripura and National Liberation Front of Twipra led by Sabir Kumar Debbarma (NLFT-SD).



NLFT has been banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act since 1997. NLFT has agreed to the surrender of its 88 cadres with their weapons. The surrendered cadres will be given surrender benefits as per the Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme, 2018 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The State Government of Tripura will help the surrendered cadres in housing, recruitment, education etc.

8. J&K government to host Global Investors Summit in Srinagar from October 12

Jammu and Kashmir government will host a three-day Global Investors Summit from 12th October in Srinagar. The meet will provide J-K an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies and potential.



The summit will be the first ever summit in the state and provide an opportunity to allay fears and apprehensions in the minds of outside trade and business community. Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) signed MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for organisation and management of the event. CII will be the national partner of the event.

9. Andhra Pradesh to launch YSR Navodayam scheme

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet has approved a proposal to launch a new scheme titled YSR Navodayam. It will give a boost to the ailing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. About 86,000 MSMEs in the state have been identified for restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020 under Navodayam scheme.



The initiative would benefit the MSMEs, which were facing a financial crisis for three years. The government proposes to provide a one-time grant of ₹3,900 crore for restructuring to the MSMEs so as to ensure that they do not become NPAs.

10. Rajasthan launched new higher education model

Rajasthan government has launched a new higher education model called RACE - **R**esource **A**ssistance for **C**olleges with **E**xcellence, for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalise the availability of resources.

RACE model will create a pool for sharing of facilities which will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure. The model will help the colleges situated in small towns facing shortage of faculties and infrastructure.



11. ADB to provide \$200 million for rural road project in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$200 million to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra to better connect rural areas with markets and services.



The project will also work with the rural infrastructure agency, the Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association (MRRDA). ADB will also provide a technical assistance grant of \$1 million to support MRRDA. The total cost of the project is \$296 million, of which the government will provide \$96 million. It is due for completion at the end of September 2024.

12. Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record

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



Virasat-e-Khalsa was built to commemorate the rich history and culture of Punjab and Sikhism and was inaugurated in November 2011. Earlier, Virasat-e-Khalsa made it to Limca Book of Records in the February 2019 edition and India Book of Records.

13. National Tribal Festival “Aadi Mahotsav” celebrated in Leh- Ladakh

Aadi Mahotsav (National Tribal Festival), a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was celebrated across Leh-Ladakh based on theme "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce".



The 9-day event from 17th August till 25th August, 2019 witnessed 160 Tribal artisans from more than 20 states across the country, actively participating and showcasing their masterpieces. Mahotsav covered food and forest produces, which can be marketed and displayed the rich e-commerce being promoted by Tribes India.

14. Uttar Pradesh state announced various initiatives on death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Uttar Pradesh state government will set up Atal Bihari Vajpayee residential schools for children of labourers in all 18 divisions of state in remembrance of former prime minister Atal Bihari.



Chief Minister Aadiyanath announced that a 'Centre of Excellence' will be established in DAV college in Kanpur where Atal ji had his education. A medical university in Lucknow and a satellite centre of KGMU will be set up in Balrampur, from where Vajpayee had contested elections in 1957.

15. Assam gets its first ever CNG fuel station in Dibrugarh

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first ever CNG fuel station of the state at Chowkidingi in Dibrugarh to bring clean and green fuel and reduce pollution. Assam Gas Company will install the station followed by subsequent stations in Tinsukia, Sivsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat and Guwahati.



With this, Assam became the second state in the Northeast after Tripura to get a CNG filling station. State government has planned to launch the service of 15 CNG buses in Guwahati and use of electric vehicles in Assam to keep the state pollution free.

16. Nagaland State Police Dept gets first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre

Nagaland State Police Department got its first Laboratory-cum-Training Centre named as 'CCPWC Lab cum Training Centre' for prevention of cyber crime against women and children. Police personnel skills shall be improved to tackle the threats and increase awareness for prevention of cyber crimes.



Police personnel will be trained in ways to assist women and children victims of such crimes and will be made aware of Cyber Forensic tools and Mobile Forensic tools for extraction, imaging, data recovery, password recovery and analysis of digital devices. The training will commence with 50 police personnel from different police units.

17. Rajasthan state bagged award at World Education Summit 2019

Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati received "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for Rajasthan state at 14th World Education Summit-2019 in Delhi. Bhanwar Singh Bhati promoted various schemes on higher education, developing skills to face competitive exams, free education for girls to improve sex ration in higher education and inculcating ethical values among the students.



World Education Summit is international platform to honor innovations and creative actions in the education sector.

18. Vice President launched 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana' in Jharkhand

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the Jharkhand government's 'Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana' under which money will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of farmers in the state. Under the scheme, beneficiaries having farm land of less than one acre to five acres, will get 5,000 to 25,000 rupees in their bank accounts.



Under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana, approximately 35 lakh farmers will benefit and by October, 3000 crore rupees will be sent in the accounts of the beneficiaries. The launching ceremony was also held in other 23 districts, apart from Ranchi.

19. Manipur Chief Minister launched "School Fagadaba" scheme

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme. The aim of the scheme is to improve infrastructure of government schools in the state.



The project is aimed at improving 60 government schools, one school from each of the 60 Assembly constituencies, across the state. The overall objective of the mission is to improve the government schools in terms of physical and manpower gaps and increase in enrollment of students.

20. Bihar state to implement several measures to ban single use of plastic

Bihar government has taken several measures to ban single use of plastic. Such measures include cancel of licence of those factories producing single-use of carry bag, collection of milk pouch from customers for recycling, restriction on distribution of single use of plastic, etc.



Bihar State Pollution Control Board chairman Ashok Ghosh announced penalties ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 500 in case of household and Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 in case of public places on violation of the ban from December 23 onwards.

21. Maharashtra launched Super 50 programme

Taking an inspiration from the work of Patna's Anand Kumar and his Super 30, Maharashtra's Tribal Development Department in association with the Pace Educational Trust launched Super 50 programme. It is an academic programme for young tribal students aspiring to be doctors and engineers.



The students will be trained at the Vagad Pace Global School, Virar. It will be a two-year residential programme, where the students will be provided hostel and mess facilities, a tablet, NCERT books and career counselling.

22. Punjab CM dedicated 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to victims of Jallianwala Bagh massacre

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh dedicated the third phase of the 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial in the memory of the people who were killed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and freedom fighters who were incarcerated in the Andaman Cellular jail.



Amarinder Singh dedicated Rs 20 crore for third phase of the Jung-E-Azadi memorial. The first and the second phase of the memorial were constructed at cost of Rs 290 crore. The memorial will display India's glorious past and the sacrifices made by the national heroes so as to connect youth with national freedom struggle.

23. Maharashtra Transport Minister launched live tracking system for MSRTC buses

Maharashtra Transport Minister Diwakar Raote launched a live tracking system for MSRTC buses which will allow people to have real-time information about their commute. The mechanism will help the corporation to efficiently deploy services, inform passengers about delays, and provide the driver information about congestion on the route and suggest alternatives.



The cost of the project, including deployment of GPS machines, tracking software, and putting up screens to display information at bus stops is 32 crore rupees.

24. Punjab launched "Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" health insurance scheme

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh launched his government's flagship universal health insurance scheme " Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana" to let public avail annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. The scheme with 1,396 treatment packages will benefit 46 lakh families to cover 76% of the state's population.



With this scheme, Punjab became the first state in the country to offer medical insurance cover to the maximum number of its people. The cost will be borne by Centre and state in the ratio 60:40.

25. Tamil Nadu education dept launched exclusive 24-hour tv channel for students

The Education Department in Tamil Nadu has launched an exclusive 24-hour television channel named as 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi' for the school students. Channel programmes would cover syllabi from pre-KG to 12th standard. Interviews and motivational programmes on joining civil services, defence forces and banks would be aired by the television as a form of career guidance.



Tamil Nadu Education Department is under process to set up hi-fi laboratories and smart classes in all Government High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools in the state at a cost of 520 crore rupees.

26. Indian Army established 45 Army Goodwill schools in J&K

Indian Army has established 45 Army Goodwill schools in Jammu & Kashmir as a part of goodwill initiative. These schools have over 14000 students studying at present. Children belonging to low-income group families are given admission for pursuing their studies free of cost.



Besides imparting quality education, the Goodwill Schools are also providing employment to qualified youth of the State. As on date nearly 1000 teaching and non-teaching staff are employed in various Goodwill schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

27. Annual festival of famous Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple began in Tamil Nadu

The ten-day annual festival of the famous Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple, in Tamil Nadu, began with a formal flag hoisting ceremony. One of the interesting aspects of the festival is the enactment of various incidents in the lives of Lord Sundareswara and Goddess Meenakshi.



Music and dance performances as well as processions were held in the brightly lit temple premises including the famous Golden Lotus pond and the Thousand Pillared Hall. The main ceremony of the crowning of Lord Sundareswara will be held on 7th of September.

28. Chhattisgarh to open India's first garbage café in Ambikapur

Ambikapur Municipal Corporation in Chattisgarh will open a first-of-its-kind 'Garbage Cafe' to make the city plastic free. In this unique Cafe', poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for 1kg of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kg of plastic is brought to the cafe. The collected garbage will be sold at Solid Liquid Resources Management Centre that turns plastic into granules for construction of roads.



Ambikapur is Chhattisgarh's first dustbin-free city and has been hailed as the second cleanest city in the country in Swachhata rankings.

29. Lt. Governor launched 'QR Code Scheme' on Himmat Plus app

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal launched a QR Code Scheme on the Himmat Plus app to make rides safer for citizens and tourists. A user can scan the QR code of the card pasted on the back of the driver's seat using the Himmat Plus app, verify the identity of the driver and raise an alarm if identity of the driver is not matched.



On user's 'Report Journey' button instructions, the app sends the location with driver's unique ID to Himmat stations of the Police Head Quarters. Vehicles plying outside airports and railway stations have been registered.

30. Meghalaya CM launched 'walk to work' campaign

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched 'walk to work' campaign in order to support Fit India Movement launched by the Prime Minister. The Chief Minister took a two-kilometer walk from his residential quarters to his office chamber launching the #WalktoWorkMeghalaya.



The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO₂ emission, reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness.

31. Uttarakhand to set up Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve

The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve to provide a second layer of protection for the big cat. The force will have 85 posts.



The STPF will be effective in checking illegal human intrusion into the reserve through villages located on its fringes. The first layer of protection is provided in the inner range by beat level forest guards while the third layer of protection comes from intelligence-gathering mechanisms.

32. Final NRC of Assam released

The final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been released in Assam. Names of 3 crore 11 lakh applicants have been included in the final NRC, while 19 lakh 7 thousand have been excluded. The NRC is an exercise to identify Indian citizens living in Assam, a state marked by illegal migration from Bangladesh.



When the NRC was first prepared in Assam in 1951, the state had 80 lakh citizens. According to the 2011 census, the state's total population is over 3 crore 11 lakh. The first NRC draft was published on the midnight of 31st December 2017. The process of the updation of NRC is being carried out by the Registrar General of India and is being closely monitored by the Supreme Court.

1. Serena Williams tops the Forbes list of best-paid female athletes

Serena Williams was ranked first in the Forbes' list of the highest-paid female athletes for fourth year in a row. The 23-time grand slam singles champion earned \$29.2 million for the 12 months to June 1.



Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka was second in the list with \$24.3 million. Angelique Kerber was third while Simona Halep was placed fourth. The top eleven list consisted of all being tennis players. The highest-placed athlete from another sport was United States footballer Alex Morgan in 12th. Indian badminton star PV Sindhu was 13th in the list with \$5.5 million.

2. Manipur tops in Breastfeeding, Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices

According to a report released by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Manipur has topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.



The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.

3. Four of the six states with the highest forest and tree cover from Northeast

According to a report published by the Forest Survey of India, whose findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), among the six states with the highest forest and tree cover, four are in the Northeast - Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya.



Key Highlights

- 24.49% of India's geographical area is under forest and tree cover
- Haryana at 6.79% has the lowest forest and tree cover
- UT of Lakshadweep is on top with 97% of its geographical area under forest and tree cover
- In terms of geographical area, the highest tree and forest cover is in Madhya Pradesh, with 85,487 sq km

4. NITI Aayog released Report on the Composite Water Management Index

NITI Aayog launched the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0). The index is a tool to instill the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states. It helps measure different dimensions of water management and use across the lifecycle of water.



Gujarat was ranked first followed by Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In North Eastern and Himalayan States, Himachal Pradesh has been adjudged number 1 in 2017-18 followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura and Assam.

5. Gujarat's Statue of Unity, Mumbai's Soho House in TIME's 100 greatest places 2019 list

India's 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and 'Soho House' in Mumbai have been featured in the Time's list of 100 greatest places in the world. The Statue of Unity, dedicated to Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, is situated on the river island called Sadhu Bet in front of the Narmada Dam in Gujarat. It is the world's tallest statue at a height of 182 metres.



Mumbai's Soho House is located in an 11-storey building overlooking the Arabian Sea. It houses a library, a cinema with 34 seats and a rooftop bar and pool.

Resignations & Retirements

1. Venugopal Rao announced retirement from all forms of cricket

Former India player and Andhra Ranji captain, Y. Venugopal Rao has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 16 One-Day Internationals for India scoring 218 runs in 11 innings for the country.

Venugopal Rao played 121 first-class games and scored 7,081 runs with 17 centuries. He also played 65 Indian Premier League (IPL) matches for Deccan Chargers, Delhi Daredevils and SunRisers Hyderabad between 2008 and 2014. He was also a member of the India under-19 World Cup-winning team in 2000.



2. South Africa's Dale Steyn announced retirement from Test cricket

South African leading wicket-taker and fast bowler Dale Steyn announced his retirement from Test cricket. Dale Steyn has played 93 test matches for South Africa and took 439 wickets at an astonishing average of 22.95. He is South Africa's leading wicket-taker in Test cricket.

Steyn dominated the number one spot in the ICC Test rankings during the peak of his career, for a record 263 weeks between 2008 and 2014. Dale Steyn has been honored with Wisden Cricketer of the year for 2014 and Wisden Leading Cricketer for 2013.



3. Former Uruguay Captain Diego Forlan announced retirement from professional football

Former Uruguay captain and legendary striker, Diego Forlan, announced his retirement from professional football. Forlan had won the Golden Ball award after being adjudged the best player of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Forlan helped Uruguay win the Copa America Cup in 2011. He scored 36 goals in 112 matches for his country. Forlan won the Premier League and FA Cup with Manchester United and the Europa League in 2009-10 for Spanish team Atletico Madrid. He also played for Mumbai City in the Indian Super League in 2016.



4. Hashim Amla announced retirement from international cricket

South Africa batsman Hashim Amla announced retirement from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect. He will continue to play domestic cricket and T20 leagues.

Amla has played 124 Tests, 181 One-Day Internationals and 44 Twenty20 Internationals. He has 9282, 8113 and 1277 runs in the three formats respectively, scoring a total of 55 international centuries. He holds the record for the most ODI tons by a South African (27). He was the first South African to score a triple hundred in Test cricket.



5. Dutch Footballer Wesley Sneijder announced retirement from Football

Netherlands' Wesley Sneijder announced his retirement from football of 17 years long career. He played 134 times for his country and from clubs such as FC Utrecht and Al Gharafa.

Sneijder is known to be most capped Dutch player of all time. He has been honored with 2010 Bronze Boot, the 2010 Silver Ball for Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup. He was named UEFA midfielder of the season and one of the three best midfielders in the world for 2010 by FIFA.



6. Former England, Chelsea and Arsenal defender Ashley Cole announced retirement

Former England, Arsenal and Chelsea left-back Ashley Cole announced his retirement. Cole made his debut for Arsenal in 1999 as an 18-year-old and won two Premier League titles and three FA Cups during his seven seasons at the club.

Cole was part of the Arsenal "Invincibles" side that won the Premier League without losing a game in 2003/04. Cole went onto win another Premier League title, the Champions League and the Europa League in an eight-year spell at Chelsea.



7. West Indies fast bowler Cecil Wright retired at 85

West Indies pacer Cecil Wright announced his retirement from all forms of cricket at the age of 85 years. Cecil has played over twenty lakh matches taking over 7,000 wickets in professional cricket. He played his first match against a Barbados side and his latest match will be against Pennine League side Springhead on September 7.



Jamaican Cricketer Cecil was a right arm fast bowler and his career lasted for 60 years. At one time, Cecil took 538 wickets in 5 seasons thus calculating to one wicket in every 27 balls he played.

8. Sri Lankan cricketer Ajantha Mendis announced retirement from Cricket

Srilankan spinner Ajantha Mendis announced retirement at age of 34 years from all forms of cricket. He is best known for his 6/13 in the Asia Cup Final in 2008. He has played 19 Tests, 87 One-Day Internationals and 39 T20Is for Sri Lanka, taking 70 Test wickets, 152 ODI wickets and 66 T20I wickets in his career.



Ajantha Mendis is known to be only bowler to take a six-wicket haul in T20Is twice. His last match played was for Sri Lanka in 2015.

1. Cabinet approved ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow, Russia. An average annual expenditure of about Rs. 1.50 crore per annum is anticipated to be incurred at ITLU in Moscow, Russia towards salary, office expenses, rent, taxes etc.

The ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow will enable effective technical coordination for timely interventions on diversified matters with Russia and neighbouring countries for realization of the programmatic targets of ISRO.



2. IIT-KGP researchers develop tech for solid waste management

A research team at IIT Kharagpur has developed a technology which can generate energy from solid waste with high moisture content. The new technology - Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) - can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.

HTC is industrial-scale reactor with improved heat integration system. The moisture in the waste is used to the advantage of the process which uses water for the reaction. The biofuel generated as the recovered output can help curb air pollution.



3. India to conduct its biggest tuberculosis preventive trial with two new vaccines

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002 with an aim to replace the BCG vaccine. This will be first large preventive TB vaccine trial involving more than 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed TB patients from across six states.

The Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine, which is used currently, is over 100 years old and is partially effective in protecting young children, particularly from the most severe forms of TB.



4. ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set up a Directorate of Space Situational Awareness and Management aiming at protecting high valued space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions. A control centre is being established at Bengaluru. The Control Centre would facilitate the intensified activities foreseen for SSAM.

ISRO is currently dependent on North America Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) data for keeping track of space debris and monitoring our active and passive (dead) satellites.

5. Australian student uses Artificial Intelligence to detect fast radio bursts

Wael Farah, an Australian student, has developed an automated system that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionise our ability to detect and capture fast radio bursts (FRBs) in real-time.

FRBs are mysterious and powerful flashes of radio waves from space, thought to originate billions of light years from the Earth. They last for only a few milliseconds or a thousandth of a second. FRBs can potentially be used to study matter around and between galaxies that is otherwise almost impossible to see.



6. NASA satellite uncovered earth like habitat in 'first nearby super-Earth planet GJ 357 d'

Researchers have uncovered first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system and earth-like planet, located just 31 light years away named as GJ 357 d planet, discovered in early 2019. GJ 357 d is located within the outer edge of its star's habitable zone, where it receives about the same amount of stellar energy from its star as Mars does from the Sun.



The planet weighs at least 6.1 times Earth's mass, and orbits the star every 55.7 days at a range about 20% of Earth's distance from the Sun.

7. IIT Madras and NIOT researchers developed turbines to generate electricity through wave energy

IIT-Madras has collaborated with National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) to develop turbines that can generate electricity from waves along the country's 7,500-km-long coastline, estuaries and gulfs. The research is being headed at IIT Madras by Dr. Abdus Samad, Associate Professor, Department of Ocean Engineering.



The project is being funded by Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, and focuses on improving the devices and machines used for wave energy harvesting.

8. SpaceX launched Falcon 9 loaded with Israel's AMOS-1

US carrier rocket Falcon 9, manufactured by SpaceX, successfully lifted off from a space center in Florida. It was loaded with Israeli AMOS-17 communication satellite. Amos-17 is set to replace Amos-5 satellite launched in 2011.



Communication with Amos-5 was lost in 2015. Amos-17, built by Boeing, will provide Ka, Ku and C-band signal transmission and expand Israeli communications satellite operator Spacecom's coverage in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

9. Mexican engineer discovered way to turn cactus leaves into a non-toxic, biodegradable plastic

Sandra Pascoe Ortiz of the University of the Valley of Atemajac has developed a way to turn cactus leaves into non toxic and biodegradable material with similar properties to plastic. It will help cut down the amount of single-use plastics.



The new alternative plastics start to break down after sitting in the soil for a month. In water, they break down in a matter of days. This new plastic is also non-toxic in nature. So, even if the fake plastics make their way into the ocean, they'll either feed the fishes or dissolve instead of hurting wildlife.

10. Huawei launched its own operating system: HarmonyOS

Chinese mobile giant Huawei has launched its own operating system — the HongmengOS, known in English as the HarmonyOS. The open-source OS can be used across different devices, from smartphones to smart speakers and even sensors.



In the wake of the US-China trade war, Huawei has recently launched its own operating system which is aimed to reduce the company's reliance on the Google-developed Android OS. In addition, to be on a par with Google Maps, it is planning to unveil its own mapping service known as Map Kit.

11. UK researchers developed new technique to make cancer treatment more affordable

Researchers in the University of Sheffield in Britain developed a new technique that could make light-based cancer treatment more effective and safer for patients while reducing its cost. Light-based or photo-dynamic therapy is already a clinically-approved treatment, which uses drugs to destroy cancer cells but these drugs are frequently toxic leading to treatment failure.



Researchers developed tiny carbon nanoparticles that can deliver cancer drugs to tumours. The researchers have sought to improve these drugs by using small carbon dots as a way to get the drug to the tumour.

12. IIT Kharagpur researchers developed low-cost diagnostic device

A team of Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur researchers led by Prof Suman Chakraborty, has developed a low-cost and user friendly diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests such as blood glucose and haemoglobin.



The device will test blood sample taken from a fingerprick on a paper strip based kit integrated with a smartphone and read out functions. It has LED light for imaging. The cost incurred will be Re 1.

13. Researchers develop process to get bone implant material from eggshells

Researchers from National Institute of Technology (NIT)- Jalandhar and Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad developed procedure to synthesize bone implant material from waste eggshells.



These bone implant materials include tricalcium phosphate, a commonly-used bone substitute material which was made available from natural resources but now it will be synthesized from egg shells containing 95% minerals. This research will help in replacement of damaged and missing bones as now tricalcium phosphate from eggshells will be used instead of using commercially available tricalcium phosphate.

14. Wipro collaborated with IISc on robotics and 5G

Wipro Limited announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space. The two organizations have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry academia collaboration unit, which will drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.



They will focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Visual Computing, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X). The Institute will benefit from advancing its research goal and capacity building.

15. NASA takes first high-resolution measurements of Interplanetary Shock

NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission took first high-resolution measurements of an interplanetary shock. Interplanetary shocks start at the Sun, which continually releases streams of charged particles called the solar wind.



Interplanetary shocks are a type of collisionless shock — ones where particles transfer energy through electromagnetic fields instead of directly bouncing into one another. These collisionless shocks are a phenomenon found throughout the universe, including in supernovae, black holes and distant stars.

16. 'Maitri' App developed by Noida girls win US tech prize

A team of five girls from Noida has developed an app called "Maitri" that helps connect children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes. The all-girl team 'Tech Witches' won bronze medal at the Technovation Challenge, the world's largest technology and entrepreneurship programme for girls, held in San Francisco, USA.



Ananya Grover, Vanshika Yadav, Vasudha Sudhinder, Anushka Sharma and Arefa are all Class 12 students of Amity International School in Noida.

17. Russia launched rocket carrying life-sized robot to International Space Station

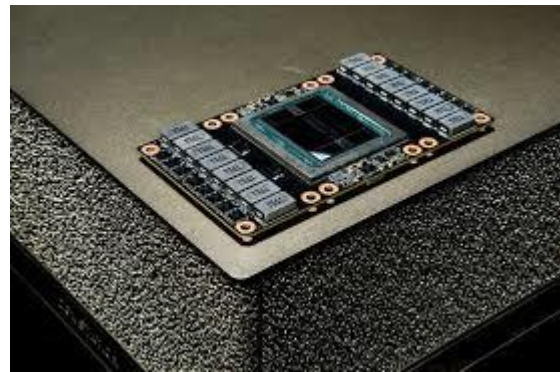
Russia launched a rocket carrying life-sized robot to the International Space Station (ISS) from Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The robot, named Fedor that weighs 160 kgs and is 5ft 11 inches tall, is the first ever sent into space by Russia. In order to test a new emergency rescue system, the robot was the Soyuz rocket's only passenger.



Fedor will learn new skills such as connecting and disconnecting electric cables, using standard items from a screwdriver and a spanner to a fire extinguisher, during its 10 days' journey.

18. California based start-up unveiled world's largest computer chip

Californian start-up Cerebras Systems has unveiled the "world's largest computer chip" at the Hot Chips conference at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. It is called Wafer Scale Engine and is bigger than an iPad.



The most powerful GPU's have 5,000 cores but the new chip has four lakh cores, all connected to each other by high-bandwidth connections. Hence it can handle complex machine learning challenges with less lag and lower power requirements.

19. NASA honours Rolling Stones by naming rock on Mars after band

A team behind NASA's InSight lander has named a rock on Mars in honour of the iconic English band, 'Rolling Stones Rock'. The popular band consists of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood



InSight is part of NASA's Discovery Program, managed by the agency's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The InSight mission is led by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, just up the road from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

20. Russia sent its first humanoid robot Fedor into space

Russia has just sent its first humanoid robot, Fedor (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research), onboard the Soyuz rocket bound for the International Space Station (ISS). It was launched from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Fedor measures 1.8 metres tall and weighs 160 kilograms. It will spend 10 days aboard the ISS practising other skills, such as using tools to fix issues that might arise on the space station. Eventually it will be able to take part in space walks with other astronauts.



21. Intel launched first artificial intelligence chip Springhill

Intel revealed first artificial intelligence chip named as Intel Nervana NNP-I or Springhill. It will focus on AI to provide customers the right intelligence at the right time.

The chip is developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor that will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy and deal with huge amounts of data generated. Springhill chip will help Intel Xeon processors in large companies to deal with complicated AI computations.



22. Astra Rafael Communication System opened facility in Hyderabad

Astra Rafael Communication System inaugurated its state-of-the-art facility in Hyderabad. ARC is a joint venture between Astra Microwave Products Ltd and Israel-based Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd set up on a 51:49 % basis with an investment of Rs 35 crore.

ARC will design, develop and manufacture tactical communication systems for Indian armed forces. It is in line with the 'Make in India' initiative. ARC would invest in high-technology and advanced production techniques.



1. BCCI suspended Prithvi Shaw for doping violation

Indian Test opener Prithvi Shaw has been suspended for an eight-month period from 16th March 2019 to 15th November 2019 by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a doping violation. Shaw had inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance known as Terbutaline. Terbutaline is commonly found in cough syrups. Terbutaline comes under WADA Prohibited List of Substances.



Prithvi Pankaj Shaw is an Indian cricketer, known as the second-youngest Indian after Tendulkar to make a Test century and the youngest Indian to score a century on a Test debut.

2. Indian shuttler Sai Praneeth enters top 20 in World Badminton Rankings

Indian shuttler B. Sai Praneeth has jumped four places to enter in the top 20 players in the latest World Badminton Rankings, placed at 19th rank in Men's Singles badminton ranking. Japan's Kento Momota topped Men's Singles world rankings while Japan's Yamaguchi topped Women's singles world rankings.



Among other Indian Men's singles shuttlers, Kidambi Srikanth has maintained his 10th position while Sameer Verma retains his 13th position. Women shuttler P.V. Sindhu retained her 5th position and Saina Nehwal 8th position. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have moved up to 16th position.

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

Australia's Ellyse Perry became the first cricketer of either gender to reach all rounder milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 international cricket. Perry picked up her 100th wicket against England's Nat Sciver in the World T20 final.



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan with 1471 runs/88 wickets and Pakistan's Shahid Afridi with 1498 runs/98 wickets are players closest to Perry's world record. Perry is the first Australian to have appeared in both cricket and football World Cups.

4. Collin Morikawa won the US PGA title

USA's Collin Morikawa won his first US PGA title at the Barracuda Championship. He finished with 47 points for a three-point victory over Troy Merritt. Robert Streb tied for third with John Chin.

Morikawa joins Matthew Wolff of Oklahoma State as players who have gone straight from college to their first PGA Tour victory. He cracked the top 100 in the world ranking. The Barracuda Championship, formerly known as Reno-Tahoe Open, is a professional golf tournament on the PGA Tour in western Nevada.



5. Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix to earn his 81st Formula One race victory. He is now only 10 wins behind seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was second in the race followed by Sebastian Vettel.

Hamilton leads the driver's table this season with 8 wins and 250 points way ahead of Valtteri Bottas with 2 wins and 188 points. Mercedes leads the Constructor's ranking 2019 with 10 wins and 438 points in total followed by Ferrari with 288 points and Red Bull at 244.



6. Satwiksairaj, Chirag 1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian pair to win a BWF Super 500 badminton tournament. The duo beat World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash of Thailand Open 21-19, 18-21, 21-18 in Bangkok to win the men's doubles category.

With this win, the Indian pair broke into the top ten of the world ranking for the first time, making it the first-ever Indian men's doubles duo to enter the elite bracket. The win was also the most prestigious doubles title for India since the inception of the ranking system.



7. India topped latest ICC Test rankings

India topped the latest ICC Test team rankings while New Zealand is placed 2nd and South Africa is in 3rd position. Indian skipper Virat Kohli retains his number one position in the latest ICC Test batsmen's rankings.



Among the Test all-rounders, Jason Holder of the West Indies tops the list while Ravindra Jadeja is placed 3rd and Ravichandran Ashwin is in sixth place. Australian speedster Pat Cummins retains his top position in Test bowling.

8. Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti sports initiative

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti, an initiative by Maharashtra minister Sudhir Mungantiwar to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics. He also felicitated a team of tribal mountaineers from Maharashtra who had recently scaled Mount Everest as part of 'Mission Shaurya'.



Mission Shakti aims to groom tribal student for an Olympic medal by 2024. The mission is directed towards 6 sporting disciplines namely-

archery, shooting, volleyball, swimming, weightlifting and gymnastics.

9. Indian cricketer R. Ashwin named as "PCA Player of the Month"

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was honored with Professional Cricketers Association's (PCA) Player of the month award for July 2019 for his outstanding performances in the county championships. Ashwin represented English County's Nottinghamshire and played 3 matches where he scored 197 runs and picked up 23 wickets.



R. Ashwin won the honor with 61% of the supporters' vote. Ashwin won 81.53 MVP points for his efforts of 12/144 against Surrey, the most of any player in a single game this season.

10. Women's cricket to be part of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games Federation has announced that women's T20 Cricket has been confirmed for inclusion at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022. Eight teams will compete across eight match days. Edgbaston will play host to all the matches.



Cricket returns to the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 1998 when South Africa won the gold medal in a men's 50-over format competition in Kuala Lumpur. The 2022 Commonwealth Games will take place in England from 27th July to 7th August.

11. Djokovic remains at the top of ATP rankings

According to the latest ATP rankings released, Serbia's Novak Djokovic remains at the top of the table with 12,325 points. Rafael Nadal of Spain is placed second with 7,945 points followed by Roger Federer of Switzerland with 7,460 points. Dominic Thiem of Austria and Kei Nishikori of Japan complete the top five.



In the women's rankings, Naomi Osaka of Japan tops the chart with 6,417 points. Ashleigh Barty of Australia, Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic, Simona Halep of Romania and Kiki Bertens of Netherlands are ranked in the top five respectively.

12. Rafael Nadal won Rogers Cup 2019

Rafael Nadal of Spain won his 35th ATP 1000 Masters title in Montreal. He defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the final of the Coupe Rogers in Montreal. This was his 5th Canadian Masters 1000 crown (2005, 2008, 2013, 2018).



The Spaniard won his third tour-level title of the year (Rome, Roland Garros) and, for the first time in his career, defended a hard-court title. Rogers Cup presented by National Bank is a prestigious professional tennis tournament organized by Tennis Canada.

13. Aishwarya Pissay becomes first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports

Aishwarya Pissay became the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, after winning the FIM World Cup (Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme) in the women's category after the final round of the championship at Varpalota in Hungary.



Aishwarya, who won the first round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), fifth (Spain) and fourth (Hungary) in the subsequent outings, finished with a tally of 65 points, just four ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira in the final overall standings for women. The 23-year old from Bengaluru also finished second in the FIM Junior category with 46 points, behind championship winner Tomas de Gavardo (60) of Chile.

14. Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open title

Reigning national champion, Sourabh Verma, clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open. He beat Singapore's Loh Kean Yew 21-13, 14-21, 21-16 in the final. Sourabh had won the Slovenian International in May 2019.



Winners of other categories

- Women's Singles Title: Singapore's Yeo Jia Min
- Women's Doubles Title: South Korea's Baek Ha Na and Jung Kyung Eun
- Men's Doubles Title: Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana
- Mixed Doubles Title: Malaysia's Hoo Pang Ron & Cheah Yee See

15. Indian junior shuttlers win 6 medals at Bulgarian Open

Indian junior shuttlers won six medals (three gold, a silver and two bronze) at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships which concluded in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria. Samiya Imad Faruqui won the gold medals in women's singles, the duo of Edvin Joy and Shruti Mishra in Mixed Doubles and pair of Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt in women's doubles. Men's doubles combination of Ishan Bhatnagar and Vishnuvardhan settled for the silver medal.



Malvika Bansod and Meiraba Luwang won a bronze each in other singles events.

16. BCCI agrees to come under NADA ambit

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) after years of resisting the move.



The BCCI had been vehemently opposed to signing up with NADA, claiming that it is an autonomous body, not a National Sports Federation and does not rely on government funding. The BCCI's primary concern with coming under NADA was the contentious whereabouts clause that deals with out-of-competition testing.

17. Bajrang Punia won gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix

India's Bajrang Punia defended his title at Tbilisi Grand Prix. Bajrang, who had won a gold at the same event last year as well, prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65 Kilogram category final of the men's free style competition in the capital city of Georgia.



It was fourth gold of the season for the Asian Games champion Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament.

18. World Archery suspends AAI for defying guidelines

The World Archery (WA) has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI) for defying its guidelines by electing two parallel bodies, asking the federation to put its house in order by the end of August 2019.



The last event in which the archers participated under the Indian flag was the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid from 19th to 25th of August. Indian archers will now have to compete in International tournaments as independents. Two opposing archery factions have been created in India, led by Union Minister Arjun Munda and BVP Rao.

19. Cricket Australia announced new transgender inclusive policy

Cricket Australia announced a new guideline which enables transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels in line to the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.

The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams. Elite female cricketers will need blood testosterone levels below 10 nano-moles per litre (nmol/L) for 12 months.



20. Ravi Shastri re-appointed as head coach of Indian men's team

Ravi Shastri was re-appointed head coach of the Indian men's team by the Kapil Dev-led Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). Shastri has been reappointed for a two-year period, ending with the 2021 T20 World Cup in India.



Under the guidance of Ravi Shastri as Indian team coach, India have won 11 out of 21 Tests, 43 out of 60 ODIs and 25 T20 Internationals out of 36. Indian team reached the No.1 ranking in Test matches and won a series in Australia for the first time in 71 years, under his guidance.

21. Deepak Punia became India's first junior World Champion in 18 years

Wrestler Deepak Punia claimed a gold medal in the 86kg junior freestyle title at the Junior Worlds Championship by beating Russia's Alik Shebzukhov at Tallinn, Estonia. With this victory, he became India's first junior World Champion in 18 years to win a Junior World Championship title. On the other hand, India's Vicky Chahar won bronze by beating Mongolia's Batmagnai Enkhtuvshin in the 92-kg weight category.



Russia topped the medal tally over all weight categories while India was placed at 5th rank in the medal tally.

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

Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission appointed Indian sprinter P.T. Usha as one of the six members of Asian Athletics Association. The commission is headed by 1992 Olympics gold medallist hammer thrower Andrey Abduvaliyev of Uzbekistan. Other members include Wang Yu of China, Kazakhstan's gold medallist triple jumper Olga Rypakova, Lee Hup Wei of Malaysia and Saad Shaddad of Saudi Arabia. Asian Athletics Association is the governing body of Athletics in Asia, headquartered in Singapore.



Legendry athlete P.T. Usha has been winner of 101 international medals. She was honored with Padma Shri and Arjuna Award.

23. Gymnast Simone Biles created history with a “triple-double” twist

American gymnast Simone Biles created history by becoming first woman to land triple double flip, one of the 'hardest move in the world'. She won sixth national all-around title with a never-before-seen “triple-double” floor landing with two flips and three twists at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Kansas City.



Biles is also known to be the tenth gymnast and first American gymnast to win a World medal on every event. Biles created an American record for most gold medals in women's gymnastics at a single Olympic Games.

24. Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu won Rogers Cup 2019

19-year-old Bianca Andreescu became the first Canadian in 50 years to make the women's final and win Rogers Cup tennis tournament 2019. She defeated Serena Williams in the finals by 3-1. With this victory, Bianca reached high singles ranking of No. 14 by the Women's Tennis Association and ranking of No. 3 by the International Tennis Federation.



2019 Rogers Cup is part of the ATP Tour Masters 1000 of the 2019 ATP Tour, held at the Aviva Centre in Toronto.

25. UEFA's Goal of the Season award 2018-19 bagged by Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi's free-kick against Liverpool won UEFA.com Goal of the Season for 2018/19. Messi's winning effort came in a 3-0 victory over Liverpool in 2018 UEFA Champions League semi-final first leg. It was the Barcelona forward's second of the night and his 600th for the club. This is the third time Messi has claimed this award.



Cristiano Ronaldo stood 2nd in the votings and Portugal Danilo stood third. Only goals scored in UEFA club or international fixtures in 2018/19 were eligible for consideration in UEFA.com Goal of the Season.

26. Indian cyclists win gold at World Junior Track Cycling Championships

Indian cyclists trio Esow, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh bagged a gold medal in the men's sprint event and created history at World Junior Track Cycling Championships held in Frankfurt, Germany. It was India's first ever gold medal in a global cycling competition.



India defeated Australian team in the finals to won the gold medal in team sprint category. India finished with 3 medals in medal tally with one gold, one silver and one bronze. The medal tally was topped by Germany followed by New Zealand, Greece, U.S. and Australia in the top five.

27. India won T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series

India won the inaugural world title T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series 2019 by beating host England by 36 runs. India scored 180 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs restricting England to 144 runs for eight wickets.



K D Phanase got 'Man of the match'. The inaugural Six-nation T20 Physical Disability Cricket World Series was hosted by England and Wales Cricket Board.

28. CISF bagged 5 gold medals at World Police and Fire Games

Sports personnel of CISF won five Gold, three Silver & two Bronze medals in World Police and Fire Games held at Chengdu, China. Kuheli Gangulee, HC Harmeet, Meena Kumari Devi, HC Sangeeta and HC Ankit Rathi won gold medals in Shooting, Judo (60 kg), Boxing (54 kg), Pole Vault and Javelin Throw respectively. Jina Devi, ASI Himani and HC Sangeeta won silver medal in Judo (78 kg), Discuss Throw and High Jump respectively.



The World Police and Fire Games are an Olympic-style competition with 10,000 athletes representing law enforcement, firefighters, and officers from 70+ countries across the world.

29. Sreesanth's Life Ban on cricket reduced to 7 Years

According to an order passed by BCCI Ombudsman, Justice (Retd) DK Jain, the life ban for alleged spot-fixing in IPL games of former India paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth has been reduced to seven years. The ban, that began on 13.09.2013, will now end in 2020.



Sreesanth along with his Rajasthan Royals team mates Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan were arrested by Delhi police on suspicion of spot-fixing during the sixth edition of the IPL in May 2013.

30. India win gold at Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team championship in Kazakhstan

India won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title.



The final was a tie of three matches - 2 singles and one doubles. India won both the singles matches while lost the doubles encounter. Manas Dhamme and Pranav Rethin won their singles matches. However, the doubles team of Manas Dhamme and Arnav Paprakar lost their match.

31. Hima Das and Mohammad Anas win gold at Athleticky Mitink Reiter event

Top Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold each in the women's and men's 300m races respectively at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in Czech Republic. This was Hima's sixth gold in 2019 in European races since July 2019.



Mohammad Anas won the gold clocking 32.41 seconds. India's Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in the same event by clocking a timing of 33.03 seconds. National record holder Anas has already qualified for 400m event for the World Championships to be held in Doha in September-October.

32. India's junior women boxers win 4 gold medals at Serbian tourney

India's junior women boxers clinched 12 medals at the third Nation's Cup in Vrbas, Serbia. The team won four gold, four silver and four bronze medals and claimed the runners-up trophy. Tamanna (48kg), Ambeshori Devi (57kg), Preeti Dahiya (60kg) Priyanka (66kg) notched up the gold medals.



Tamanna was adjudged Best Foreign Boxer. Over 160 boxers from 20 countries participated in this tournament, for which India sent a 13-member squad.

33. Marnus Labuschagne becomes first concussion substitute

Marnus Labuschagne became the first concussion substitute in the history of Test cricket as he replaced Steve Smith in the second Ashes Test at Lord's. Smith was hit with a bouncer by Jofra Archer.



The International Cricket Council (ICC) had approved a like-for-like concussion substitute in men's and women's international cricket and first-class cricket worldwide from August 1. The decision was taken after a two-year trial of concussion replacements in Australia's domestic cricket competition, the Sheffield Shield.

34. Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion

India's Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships held in Madrid, Spain. She defeated higher-ranked Sonoda Waka of Japan 7-3 in the final and earned India's second gold on the final day of the Championships.



India also won a gold in the compound junior mixed pair event and a bronze in the compound junior men's team event. The 17-year-old Komalika is now India's second recurve cadet world champion (under-18) after Deepika Kumari who won the title in 2009.

35. Gokulam Kerala FC won Durand Cup

Gokulam Kerala FC won the 129th Durand Cup, defeating Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Gokulam captain Marcus Joseph scored both the goals. With this victory, Joseph's tally in the current 5 match campaign stood at 11 goals. Gokulam Kerala became the first club from the state in 22 years to clinch the tournament.



The Durand Football Tournament or Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia and third oldest football tournament in the world, is a football competition in India which was first held in 1888.

36. Constable Monali Jadhav won 3 medals at World Police Games

Constable Monali Jadhav from Maharashtra won three medals, including two golds, at World Police and Fire Games International Championship held in Chengdu, China. Jadhav is attached to the Jalamb police station in Buldhana district of Maharashtra.



Representing the Indian police force, Jadhav also made a new record with a score of 716 out of 720 points in the game. She won the gold in target and field archery while settled for a bronze medal in the '3D Archery'. She had previously secured a ninth position at the World Championships in Shanghai held in May.

37. P.V. Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Badminton World Championships gold

PV Sindhu became the first Indian to win the BWF World Championships after she defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7 in the final. Sai Praneeth won a bronze in men's singles category.



Sindhu had reached the finals of the World Championship in 2017 and 2018. Apart from the two silvers Sindhu won in the last two editions, she had also won the bronze in 2013 and 2014. It was Sindhu's fifth World Championships medal - joint most for a woman singles player with former Olympics and world champion Zhang Ning of China.

38. Alex Rins bagged British Grand Prix

Team SUZUKI ECSTAR motorcycle racer Alex Rin won British Grand Prix by defeating MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez by 0.013 seconds. With this victory, Alex won his second MotoGP victory after bagging his first in the Austin GP in the beginning of 2019. Yamaha's Maverick Vinales came third at 0.620s behind the lead riders followed by Valentino Rossi at 4th place with 11.439s behind top racers.



Spain's Alex Rin has won 2011 Championship of the Spanish 125GP series and 2019 Grand Prix of the Americas.

39. Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium

DDCA President Rajat Sharma announced to rename Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi as Arun Jaitley Stadium in memory of its former president Arun Jaitley who passed away recently. The Stadium will be named Arun Jaitley Stadium but the name of the ground will remain as Ferozeshah Kotla Ground.



During Arun Jaitley's tenure at DDCA, he is credited with renovating Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium into a modern facility, increasing its capacity to accommodate more fans besides constructing world-class dressing rooms.

40. Virgil Van Dijk and Lucy Bronze won UEFA Player of the Year awards

Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk won the UEFA Men's Player of the Year award while England's Lucy Bronze has been named the UEFA Women's Player of the Year. Van Dijk is the first defender to win the award since the inaugural edition in 2010-11.



Dutch defender Van Dijk helped Liverpool beat Tottenham 2-0 in the Champions League final in Madrid in June. He edged out Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo for the prestigious prize. Van Dijk also won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award and BBC Sport website's player of the year for 2018-19.

41. Arunachal Pradesh to host 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship

The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship will be held in Arunachal Pradesh for the first time in September 2019. A total of 30 teams from across the country, representing various States, Union Territories and Indian Railways will participate in the tournament.



The teams have been divided into eight groups---A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H. Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Telangana is in group H. The inaugural match will be played between Railways and Mizoram.

42. Eric Cantona honoured with UEFA President's Award

UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin honored former Manchester United forward Eric Cantona with the 2019 UEFA President's Award. Eric scored 64 goals in 143 appearances for Manchester United and helped the club win their first English league title in 26 years in 1993.



The President's Award recognises outstanding achievements and professional excellence in football career. Previous winners of the UEFA President's Award include former players such as Alfredo Di Stéfano, Sir Bobby Charlton, Eusébio, Raymond Kopa, Johan Cruyff, Francesco Totti and David Beckham.