

CURRENT AFFAIRS

July 2019



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions



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Current Affairs – July 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 **July 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. Ram Vilas Paswan took oath as Rajya Sabha member

Union Minister and LJP Chief Ram Vilas Paswan took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha. He has been elected to the Upper House from Bihar. Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu administered the oath. Newly elected BJP MP Ashwini Baishnab also took the oath.



Ram Vilas Paswan is current Cabinet Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Paswan is also the president of the Lok Janshakti Party, eight-time Lok Sabha member and former Rajya Sabha MP.

2. K. Natarajan sworn in as Director-General of Coast Guard

K. Natarajan was sworn in as the Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). He is the 23rd chief of ICG and replaced Rajendra Singh. Prior to his appointment as D-G, Mr. Natarajan was the Coast Guard Commander, Western Seaboard.



Mr. Natarajan was commissioned into the ICG in 1984. The flag officer has held various important command and staff appointments, both afloat and ashore. He also served as the Commander Coast Guard District No.5 (Tamil Nadu), the Commanding Officer Indian Coast Guard Ship Mandapam.

3. Manoj Kumar Nambiar elected as Chairman of MFIN

Manoj Kumar Nambiar has been elected as the Chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN). Mr Nambiar is Managing Director of Arohan Financial Services. Vineet Chattree of Svatantra Microfin was appointed as the Vice-Chairman.



MFIN comprises 56 NBFC-MFIs and 40 associates including banks, small finance banks and NBFCs. The microfinance industry saw a 38% growth in its gross loan portfolio at Rs 1.87 lakh crore in the financial year 2018-19 as compared to Rs 1.35 lakh crore in 2017-18.

4. P. K. Purwar appointed as CMD (BSNL)

The government has appointed MTNL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Pravin Kumar Purwar as the CMD of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) for a period of three months starting July 1 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post or until further orders, whichever is earliest. The appointment is subject to the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).



Purwar was selected through the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) in January 2019. He replaced Anupam Shrivastava on his superannuation.

5. Nalin Shinghal selected as CMD of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Dr Nalin Shinghal has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited. Prior to joining BHEL, he was the Chairman and Managing Director of Central Electronics Limited (CEL). He has also worked with Public Sector Units like CONCOR, IRCTC and CEL.



Nalin Shinghal has also experience of working with the Long Range Decision Support group of the Ministry of Railways. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited owned and founded by the Government of India, is an engineering and manufacturing company.

6. Harideesh Kumar appointed as Director of IBPS

Former Executive Director of Canara Bank, Harideesh Kumar, was selected as Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) for a period of three years. He has immense domain related experience in the banking sector. He started his career with Vijaya Bank in the year 1978.



The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) is a recruitment body that was started with an aim to encourage the recruitment and placement of young graduates in public sector banks in India, other than the State Bank of India.

7. Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India appointed as Force Commander, United Nations Mission in South Sudan

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India as new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He succeeds Lieutenant General Frank Kamanzi of Rwanda who will complete his assignment on 26 May 2019.



Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar has had a long and distinguished career with the Indian Armed Forces spanning over thirty-four years. He graduated from the Indian Military Academy in 1983 and is currently Commandant of The Infantry School since July 2018.

8. Arun Kumar appointed as DGCA chief in the Ministry of Civil Aviation

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Kumar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation as Director General in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Kumar was heading the DGCA as an additional charge between May 31 and July 9 this year.



Kumar is an IAS officer of 1989 batch of Haryana cadre. He replaced B S Bhullar who was heading the DGCA as additional charge along with main role of additional secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

9. Vikas Swarup appointed Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs

According to the Department of Personnel and Training, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, has approved the appointment of Vikas Swarup, as Secretary in the Consular, Passport, Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs division, in the Ministry of External Affairs with effect from 1st Aug, 2019.



Vikas Swarup, Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch, is India's current High Commissioner to Canada. He takes over from Sanjiv Arora. Swarup is author of the bestselling "Q&A", which was made into a hit film "Slumdog Millionaire".

10. LinkedIn appointed Ashutosh Gupta as Country Manager for India

LinkedIn has appointed Ashutosh Gupta as the new Country Manager for India operations. Gupta has worked with Google, Cognizant, and Infosys and joined LinkedIn's Marketing Solutions (LMS) in 2013.



Gupta will replace Mahesh Narayanan. Gupta will report to Olivier Legrand, LinkedIn's managing director for Asia Pacific. LinkedIn is a Microsoft-owned social networking site for professionals. It has over 630 million global users and more than 57 million members in India.

11. Swatantra Dev Singh appointed as new BJP chief of UP

Uttar Pradesh BJP has appointed Mr. Swatantra Dev Singh as party's state President. He replaced Mahendra Nath Pandey, who was elevated to the Union Cabinet as Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



Mr. Singh is a two-time MLC and since 2004 has also held the posts of State general secretary and U.P. vice-president. He currently holds the post of MoS (Independent) in U.P. with the Transport, Protocol and Energy department portfolios. The journey of Swatantra Dev Singh started in 1986 when he joined RSS as a Pracharak.

12. President appoints Governor of eight states

President Ram Nath Kovind appointed six new Governors in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh.



1. Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon
2. Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
3. West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar
4. Bihar: Phagu Chauhan
5. Nagaland: RN Ravi
6. Tripura: Ramesh Bais
7. Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey
8. Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bushan Harichandan

13. Kalraj Mishra appointed Himachal Pradesh Governor

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kalraj Mishra as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He replaced Acharya Devvrat, who has been transferred and appointed as the Governor of Gujarat. Mr. Devvrat will replace Governor of Gujarat O.P. Kohli on his retirement after he completed his 5-year term.



Mr. Mishra had resigned from the Narendra Modi-led government as Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in 2017. He was a Member of Parliament from Deoria constituency in Uttar Pradesh from 2014 to 2019.

14. Anshula Kant appointed World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer

World Bank has appointed Anshula Kant as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank Group. She will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group.



Kant is currently a Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI), where she previously served as Chief Financial Officer. She is a graduate in Economic Honours from Lady Shri Ram College for Women and a Post-Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.

15. Ursula von der Leyen elected first female European commission president

Ursula von der Leyen has been appointed as the new European Commission Chief. She is the first German to occupy the post in over 50 years and also the first female president of the commission.



Ursula von der Leyen won the support of 383 MEPs, nine votes more than required to secure an absolute majority. She will replace Jean-Claude Juncker. von der Leyen served in the federal government of Germany from 2005 to 2019 as the longest-serving member of Angela Merkel's cabinet.

16. Sarvita Sethi appointed as VP M&A and New Ventures for India & South West Asia of Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola has appointed Sarvita Sethi as Vice-President-M&A and New Ventures in its India and South West Asia unit. The global beverages major also appointed Harsh Bhutani as Vice President - Finance (CFO).



Sethi was VP Finance India and South West Asia prior to her promotion to the new role. Bhutani is currently heading Finance and Business Services verticals for its bottling arm Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages as its Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer for over three years.

17. Vivek Kumar appointed as Private Secretary to PM

According to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Vivek Kumar as the Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Mr. Kumar is a 2004 batch IFS officer. He is currently working as the Director in the Prime Minister's Office. He was appointed in PMO as Deputy Secretary in 2014. Vivek replaced Sanjeev Kumar Singla who has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Israel.

18. Radha Mohan Singh appointed National Election Officer for BJP's organizational polls

BJP President Amit Shah appointed senior party leader Radha Mohan Singh as the National Election Officer to oversee the organisational elections in the party. Three other party leaders: Lok Sabha member Vinod Sonkar, former MP Hansraj Ahir and Karnataka MLA CT Ravi, will assist Mr Singh.



Former Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh is presently a Lok Sabha MP from Bihar. An election officer is an official responsible for the proper and orderly voting at polling stations.

19. Sanjeev Kumar Singla appointed as Indian Ambassador to Israel

Senior diplomat Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as the next Indian Ambassador to Israel. Mr. Singla who is a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was serving as Private Secretary to Prime Minister. He was also previously posted at the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv. He has replaced Pavan Kapoor, who assumed charge as the Ambassador to Israel in 2016.



In another appointment, Upender Singh Rawat has been named as the Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Panama.

20. Center appointed key functionaries in seven ministries, organizations

The government appointed key functionaries in 7 ministries and organizations:

- Bharat Lal: Additional Secretary in the Drinking Water and Sanitation department
- Amita Prasad: Chairperson of the Inland Waterways Authority of India
- Jyoti Arora: Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Electronics and IT Ministry
- Rajesh Verma: Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Indevar Pandey: Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Development of NE Region
- Arun Kumar Jha: Director General National Productivity Council
- Shashank Priya: Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in the Commerce Ministry



21. Government made key appointments in several ministries

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved following key appointments in several ministries:.

- Ajay Kumar Bhalla: Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Subhash Chandra Garg: Power Secretary
- Atanu Chakraborty: Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs
- Anshu Prakash: Secretary in Department of Telecommunications
- RS Shukla: Secretary in Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- GV Venugopala: Member Secretary in National Disaster Management Authority



22. M. M. Naravane appointed as new Vice-Chief of Army Staff

Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has been selected as the new vice-chief of the Army Staff replacing Lt. Gen. D. Anbu on his retirement. Mukund Naravane has been awardee of Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2019, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2017, Sena Medal and Vishist Seva Medal in 2015.



Some other reshuffling in the Indian Army are as given below:

- Lt.Gen. Anil Chauhan: Eastern Command. Director-General, Military Training
- Lt.Gen. A.S. Kler: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South-Western Command
- Lt.Gen. I.S. Ghuman: Lucknow-based Central Command
- Lt.Gen. R.P. Singh: General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Army Command

Awards

1. NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR in social development

Odisha-based Navaratna Company NALCO has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development. NALCO started a scheme "Aliali Jhia" in 2015 to adapt and promote the poor and talented girls for education.



Under this scheme, 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages of Anugul, Damanjodi and Potangi area in Anugul and Koraput districts have been adopted by the Company. These girls are studying in 45 different schools.

2. Sports Journalists Federation of India awards 2019

The Sports Journalists Federation of India honoured the Indian sports-persons for their contribution at national and international scene through SJFI Awards 2019. The list of awards and winners:



1. SJFI Medal (Highest Honour): Prakash Padukone (Badminton)
2. Sportsperson of the Year Award: Pankaj Advani (Billiards and Snooker) and Bajrang Punia (Wrestling)
3. Emerging Talent of the Year Award: Saurabh Choudhary (Shooting)
4. Team of the Year Award: Vidarbha Cricket Team

3. USISPF honoured Ajay Banga and Azim Premji with Global Excellence Award

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) honoured Mastercard CEO and President, Ajay Banga, and Wipro Chairman, Azim Premji, with the 2019 Global Excellence Awards at the USISPF Second Annual Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.



The summit highlighted bilateral cooperation, trade and investment, strategic energy ties, manufacturing and innovation partnership. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum is committed to creating the most powerful strategic partnership between the U.S. and India.

4. Gully Boy' wins NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at BIFAN

Indian movie, Gully Boy, has won the NETPAC (Network for The Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award at the 23rd Bucheon International Film Festival in South Korea. Directed by Zoya Akhtar, the film starred Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt and is based on the lives of street rappers. The trophy is presented by the jury.



Zoya Akhtar recently joined the list of new members of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that organises annual Oscar awards.

5. Northeast Frontier Railway's Plan Bee wins 'Best Innovation Award'

A unique strategy adopted by the Northeast Frontier Railway to keep wild elephants away from train tracks has won the 'Best Innovation Award' by the Indian Railways. The award comprises of a citation and a cash award of Rs 3 lakh.



NORTHEAST FRONTIER
RAILWAY

Plan Bee is an amplifying system that imitates the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks. NFR now has 46 such devices installed at vulnerable points.

6. Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards 2018

The Sangeet Natak Akademi unanimously elected four eminent personalities in the field of performing arts namely, Zakir Hussain, Sonal Mansingh, Jatin Goswami and K.Kalyanasundaram Pillai for Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna).



The academy also selected forty-four artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2018. The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a prize money of Rs.3,00,000/- and Akademi Award carries Rs 1,00,000/-, besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

7. Sangeet Natak Akademi announced Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskars for the Year 2018

The Sangeet Natak Akademi has selected 32 (Including one joint Awards) artists of India who have made a mark as young talents in their respective fields of the performing arts for Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2018. It carries a purse money of Rs 25,000/-.

The recipients were as follows:

Field	Number of recipients	Eminent winners
Music	8	Sameehan Kashalkar, Ruchira Kedar, Dhruv Bedi and various
Dance	8	Vijna Rani Vasudevan & Rajith Babu, Durgesh Gangani and various
Theatre	7	Chavan Pramod, Namrata Sharma, Preeti Jha and various
Traditional music and Puppetry	8	Dinesh Kumar, P.Rajkumar, Madhushree Haital and various

8. 'Nagarkirtan' won 4 awards at SAARC film festival

Bengali film, 'Nagarkirtan', bagged four awards at the 9th edition of SAARC film festival held in Colombo. The film won the 'Best Feature Film', 'Best Director', 'Best Actor' and 'Best Original Score' awards.



The film had won four National awards in 2018. The movie directed by Kaushik Ganguly is a love story of a transwoman and a flautist starring Riddhi Sen and Ritwik Chakraborty. 'Na Bole Wo Haram', a 20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patankar, bagged the 'Best Short Film' award, while 'Walking With the Wind' by Praveen Morchhale received the Special Jury award for direction and story.

9. Smriti Mandhana and Rohan Bopanna awarded with Arjuna Awards

Smriti Mandhana and Rohan Bopanna were awarded with Arjuna Awards 2018 for their outstanding achievements in the sports disciplines of Cricket and Tennis respectively.

Smriti Mandhana is first Indian woman to achieve a double-hundred in a one-day game. She was given Best International Cricketer (Women) Award by BCCI for 2017-18. Rohan Bopanna is fourth Indian Player to win a Grand Slam (French Open) Title in Mixed Doubles in 2017. He won gold Medal in Men's Doubles in Asian Games 2018.



10. Indian Government's "Find the Incredible You" campaign won PATA award

The "Find the Incredible You" campaign of the Tourism Ministry, has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019. The campaign focused on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country. The campaign won the award under the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category.



The campaign strategy was to shift the focus from the external experience of tourist destinations to the internal experience of travelers themselves. PATA Gold Awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding contribution throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

11. Veteran Carnatic Vocalist S Sowmya selected for Sangita Kalanidhi award

Carnatic vocalist Vidushi S. Sowmya has been selected for Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy. Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalists Seetha Narayanan and M.S. Sheela. Aarti N. Rao will get the Musicologist Award.



Nagaswaram player Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman and vocalist Rajkumar Bharathi will get the TTK awards. The Nritya Kalanidhi award for Dance will be conferred on Priyadarshini Govind. Sangita Kalanidhi is the title awarded yearly to a Carnatic Musician by the Madras Music Academy.

12. Sudarsan Pattnaik honored with Peoples Choice Award in the U.S.

Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik was honored with People's Choice Awards 2019 at the Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival held in Boston, Massachusetts. He designed a turtle caught in plastic bag and a fish having plastic thrash inside its body, being consumed by a human on the other end. Sudarshan gave a message that showed how human activities are destroying oceans and how humans are getting affected by consuming polluted sea food.



The People's Choice Award, is an American awards show, recognizing people in entertainment, voted online by the general public and fans.

13. Keshav Dutt, Prasun Banerjee chosen for Mohun Bagan Ratna

Two-time Olympic gold medallist Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee were conferred the 'Mohun Bagan Ratna' at its annual celebrations. Mohun Bagan also felicitated pacer Mohammed Shami, India's hat-trick hero of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, while Ashok Chatterjee was given the Lifetime Achievement award. The Mariners gave Life Memberships to Sourav Ganguly, Chuni Goswami, Dr Vece Paes, Prasenjit Chatterjee and Deb Shankar Halder.



July 29 is celebrated as the 'Mohun Bagan Day' because on this day in 1911, the Mariners became the first club to defeat a British club, East Yorkshire Regiment, and lift the IFA Shield.

14. Nishagandhi Sangeetha Awards conferred by Kerala Tourism

The inaugural Nishagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram was given to musicians Parassala B. Ponnammal and T V. Gopalakrishnan at the five-day music festival Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas at Nishagandhi Auditorium. The award carries a cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh, citation and memento.



The award is instituted by Kerala Tourism. Parassala B. Ponnammal has made immense contribution in classical music as an artist and as a teacher. She is the first lady principal of R.L.V. College of Music and Fine Arts. Mridangam Maestro T V. Gopalakrishnan is a first to get doctorate for his research in 'Layathwam in Carnatic music'.

15. CSR Journal Excellence Awards third edition honored 6 firms

The third edition of 'The CSR Journal Excellence Awards' was organized in New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'India First' with a focus on 'Women Empowerment'. It honored top initiatives undertaken by India Inc. as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. The awardees are:

Category of award	Awardee
Education & Skill Training	Tata Power
Women Empowerment & Child Welfare	ReNew Power
Health & Sanitation	YES Bank Ltd
Environment	Mahindra & Mahindra
Agriculture & Rural Development	Hindustan Zinc
Sports	Aditya Birla Capital Ltd

Bills and Acts

1. Parliament passed Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Parliament has passed the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill seeks to extend the period for reconstitution of the council from existing period of one year to two years. This would allow the tenure of the board of governors of the council to be extended for a further period of one year with effect from 17th of May this year.



The legislation will ensure promotion of quality education and research in the field of Homoeopathy. The legislation will put a check on flourishing of fake colleges.

2. Cabinet approved The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to introduce The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. The Bill provides a mechanism for their social, economic and educational empowerment.



The Bill will lead to inclusiveness and will make the transgender persons productive members of the society. Transgender community is among one of the most marginalized communities facing problems ranging from social exclusion to discrimination, lack of education facilities, unemployment, lack of medical facilities and so on.

3. Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed five important bills

Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed five important bills:

1. Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2019 - seeks to amend the AP Lokayukta Act, 2014 (Act No 7 of 2014).
2. Arunachal Pradesh Goods and Service Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2019 - seeks to amend the AP Goods and Service tax Act, 2017 (Act No 7 of 2017).
3. Arunachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Bill, 2019 - provides for making a legal framework for establishment of Municipal Corporation.



4. Arunachal Pradesh State Higher Education Council Bill, 2019 - provides for setting up of AP State Higher Education Council functional.
5. Arunachal Pradesh Protection of Medical Service Personnel and Medical Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss of Property) Bill, 2019 - seeks to prevent violence against doctors and other medical staff and damages to properties of medical institutions.

4. Parliament passed Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill

Parliament has passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha. The bill seeks to amend Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 and to further amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.



The Act provides for the use of Aadhaar number as proof of identity of a person, subject to authentication. The Bill also makes provision that an individual may voluntarily use his Aadhaar number to establish his identity, by authentication or offline verification.

5. Parliament passed Dentists Amendment Bill, 2019

The Parliament has passed the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2019 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill seeks to make the Dental Council of India more effective and make changes in clauses relating to its membership and that of State Councils.



The representation of Central Government members and elected members would no longer be made mandatory in the Dental Councils as per the new legislation. It will help reduce redundancy by restructuring the Dental Councils.

6. Cabinet approved PMGSY phase III, amendments to POCSO Act

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the launch of the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Under the third phase of the PMGSY, it is proposed to consolidate 1,25,000 km road length in the states at an estimated cost of Rs 80,250 crore out of which central share will be Rs 53,800 crore and the state would invest Rs 26,450 crore.



Cabinet has approved the Amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, POCSO, Act, 2012. It will make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children including the death penalty.

7. Lok Sabha passes National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill was passed after 278 members of Parliament (MPs) supported it, with only 6 opposing it during voting.



The bill will empower the investigating agency, seek speedy trials and convictions. It will give more teeth to the NIA in probing terror cases in India and abroad. The NIA was set up in 2009 in the wake of the Mumbai terror attack.

8. Lok Sabha passed Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha has passed The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013. It aims to tighten Corporate Social Responsibility compliance, transfer certain responsibilities to National Company Law Tribunal and re-categorise certain offences as civil offences.



Under the Bill, any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act like Prime Minister's Relief Fund within six months of the financial year. The bill also seeks to empower Registrar of Companies to initiate action for removal of a company's name if the latter is not carrying out business activities as per the Act.

9. Rajya Sabha passed RTI Amendment Bill, 2019

The Rajya Sabha passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Lok Sabha had passed the Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 22nd July.



In this amendment, it is proposed to amend the Right to Information Act, 2005 so as to provide that the term of office, and the salaries, allowances and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners and the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners, shall be as prescribed by the Central Government.

10. Parliament passed Finance Bill 2019

The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2019 was passed in the parliament that gives effect to the proposals of the Central Government for the year 2019-2020. The Finance Bill 2019 contains tax proposals for the current fiscal year.



The Union Budget 2019 proposed:

- imposition of 1% TDS on cash withdrawal beyond Rs 1 crore
- raising tax on petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre each
- 10% import duty on newsprint
- to increase surcharge from 15% to 25% on taxable income between Rs 2-5 crore and from 15% to 37% for taxable income above Rs 5 crore
- reduce corporate tax to 25%

11. Parliament passed NDIAC Bill, 2019

Parliament passed the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019. It seeks to provide for the establishment and incorporation of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre, NDIAC for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalized arbitration.



The Bill also seeks to acquire and transfer the undertakings of International Centre For Alternative Dispute Resolution (ICADR) to New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC). The NDIAC will be headed by a Chairperson, who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or a Judge of a High Court or an eminent person, to be appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

12. Cabinet approved National Medical Commission Bill

The Union Cabinet has approved National Medical Commission Bill, 2019. The bill provides for setting up of a National Medical Commission in place of Medical Council of India and repeal the Indian Medical Council Act 1956.



The features of the bill include, the Common final year MBBS Exams will be known as National Exit Test (NEXT) which would serve as Licentiate Exam, for entrance to Post Graduate medical course and as screening test of foreign medical graduates. The Bill also puts a cap fees on 50% of the seats in MBBS and PG colleges.

13. Telangana Legislative Assembly passed three bills

Telangana Legislative Assembly passed three Bills replacing ordinances relating to Municipal Laws, Regulation of Age of Superannuation, and State Commission for Debt Relief.



The bills are meant for facilitating more divisions in Municipalities, increasing the retirement age of professors in Medical Colleges to 65 years. The bill aimed at improving transparency and answerability of the Urban Local Bodies besides consolidate and provide constitution of Municipalities other than Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation in the state.

14. Parliament passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019

The Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 unanimously. The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2019 aims to accelerate the process of appointment of chairperson and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019, inter alia, provides:

- that a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court is also made eligible to be appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in addition to the person who has been the Chief Justice of India
- to increase the Members of the Commission from two to three of which, one shall be a woman.

15. Rajya Sabha passed POCSO Amendment Bill with provision of death penalty

Rajya Sabha passed the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2019. The bill seeks to enhance punishment, including a provision for death penalty, for committing sexual crimes against children. The Bill defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a child including photograph, video or digital indistinguishable from an actual child.



According to the amendment bill, those committing penetrative sexual assaults on a child below 16 years of age would be punished with imprisonment up to 20 years, which might extend to life imprisonment as well as fine. In case of aggravated penetrative sexual assault, maximum punishment to death penalty.

16. Madhya Pradesh assembly passed bill raising OBC quota to 27%

The MP Assembly passed the MP Public Service (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Bill 2019 raising reservation in government jobs and education for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 14% to 27%. It is pending for the Governor's and President's approval.



With this amendment, reservation in MP will touch 73 per cent, including 10 per cent quota for the Economically Weaker Section from the general category. Reservation for SCs in MP is 16% and for STs stands at 20%.

Books & Authors

1. "Vivekadeepini" book released by the Vice President of India

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book 'Vivekadeepini' in ten languages, a concise book of aphorisms that contains glimpses of India's wisdom, published by Vedanta Bharati, in New Delhi. The book will enable a wider audience to appreciate the classic work, 'Prashnottara Ratnamalika' written by one of India's greatest spiritual and literary geniuses, Sri Adi Sankaracharya.



Drawn from the 67 verses of Prashnottara Ratnamalika written by Adi Shankaracharya, the Vivekadeepini is a compilation of select 36 verses which are in the question-answer format. These pieces of wisdom have universal relevance irrespective of religion or community.

2. Union HRD Minister released Deeksharambh

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme – "Deeksharambh" in New Delhi.

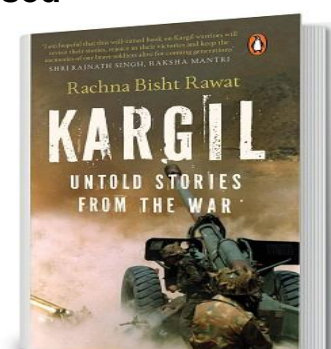


The Student Induction Programme is intended to empower the aspirant learners to face the Competitive world with confidence, open new horizons of life leading to character building based on Universal Human Values such as Truth, Righteous conduct, Love, Non-violence, Peace and assist in developing self awareness, compassion and oneness.

3. "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" Book released

On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War, author Rachna Bisht Rawat's book, published by Penguin Random House, titled - "Kargil: Untold stories from the War" was released.

The book features stories of "extraordinary human courage" of not just the men in uniform, but of their families too. The Kargil war lasted for nearly three months, initiated in May of 1999 in an effort to displace Pakistani soldiers from the peaks they had occupied on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC).



4. Aditya Birla World Academy featured in book ‘The Commonwealth At 70: From Westminster’

London’s famous publisher featured India’s ‘Aditya Birla World Academy’ in its book titled as ‘The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World’. The announcement was made at an event celebrating 70 years of the Commonwealth on 25th June 2019. With this, Aditya Birla World Academy became the only Indian school to be featured in ‘The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World’ book.



‘The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World’ book details the founding of the Commonwealth in its modern form in 1949. Aditya Birla World Academy is India’s leading International school based in Mumbai.

5. ‘Whispers of Time’ book launched by Minister of Women Smriti Irani

Minister of Textiles and Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, launched new book “Whispers of Time” authored by Dr. Krishna Saksena. 91 years aged Dr. Krishna Saksena is the first woman candidate from Uttar Pradesh to get a Ph.D. degree in English Literature in 1955.



“Whispers of Time” is ninth book written by Krishna Saksena based on true facts and events of her life experience. The book inspires to bring change in our Indian value system from one generation to the other.

6. PM Modi released book on former PM Chandra Shekhar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released book titled ‘Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics’ written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai. Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the families of all former Prime Ministers to share the important aspects of their lives to be put on display at the museum on Prime Ministers of India. The museum is being built at the Teen Murti Bhavan complex in Delhi.



Chandra Shekhar served as the eighth Prime Minister of India. Shri Chandra Sekhar always favoured politics of ideology and social change.

7. Lt Gn. Ranbir Singh released a book on Fire and Fury Warriors

On the occasion of 20th anniversary celebrations of Kargil Vijay Divas, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh released a coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps -- Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice'. The book envisages the history and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors, which courageously protects the Line of Control (LoC), and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. It describes the rich heritage history of Indian Army.



Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh is the current General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command of the Indian Army.

Committees

1. Centre constituted chief ministers' panel for agriculture reforms

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set up a High Powered Committee of Chief Ministers for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be the convenor of the committee, while the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members.



NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been named the Member Secretary. The Committee has been asked to submit its report in two months. The Committee will discuss measures for the transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income.

2. RBI constituted working group to review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies

The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a working group that will review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CICs). Mr Tapan Ray has been appointed as Chairperson. The Working Group shall submit its report by October 31, 2019.



The terms of reference of the working group include examination of the current regulatory framework for CICs in terms of adequacy, efficacy and effectiveness of every component thereof and suggest changes therein. CICs are non-banking financial companies with asset size of ₹100 crore and above which carry on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.

3. Government reconstituted GoM on sexual harassment at workplace

The government reconstituted the Group of Ministers on sexual harassment at workplace and to strengthen legal frameworks. Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani are members of the group.



The GoM was set up to examine and give recommendations for strengthening the legal and institutional framework to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at workplace in October 2018.

4. Inter-Ministerial Committee recommended ban on crypto-currencies in India

An inter-ministerial committee headed by finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has proposed a draft bill "Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019". The committee has proposed banning of private cryptocurrencies in India by enacting a law and imposing fines and penalties for carrying out activities related to such cryptocurrencies.



The committee has suggested the use of distributed-ledger technology (DLT) or blockchain in India, especially in financial services that will help reduce administration and transaction costs.

Deaths

1. Ducati Rider Carlin Dunne passed away

Professional motorcycle racer Carlin Dunne passed away after a high-speed fatal crash just 20 yards from the finish line in the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb race. He was 36 years old.

He was titled "King of the Mountain" after becoming the first motorcycle rider in the history of the race to achieve a sub-10-minute time in 2012. Dunne was also the fastest rider last year, where he set a winning time of 9:59.102 min on a 2018 Multistrada 1260 Pikes Peak. Dunne was riding the Ducati Streetfighter V4 Prototype.



2. US auto legend Lee Iacocca passed away

US auto legend Lee Iacocca died at the age of 94 years. He led the turnaround of Chrysler and was closely associated with at least three iconic vehicles, including the Ford Mustang, the K-Car, and minivans.

Iacocca became President of Ford Motor in December 1970. He has been widely credited as the father of the Ford Mustang, as well as the K-Car. He became famous for his tag line, "If you can find a better car, buy it" as a TV pitchman for Chrysler.



3. Famous Indian industrialist BK Birla passed away

Birla Group patriarch and a doyen of the Indian industry Basant Kumar Birla passed away at the age of 98 years. He worked as a Chairman of Century Textiles and Industries. B K Birla group includes Century Textiles, Century Enka, Jayshree Tea and Kesoram Industries.

BK Birla was financier of nearly 25 educational institutions across the country - from BITS Pilani and Birla Institute of Liberal Arts and Management Science to B K Birla Centre for Education in Pune and Ashok Hall Girls' High School in Kolkata.



4. Veteran Indian goalkeeper Celestine passed away

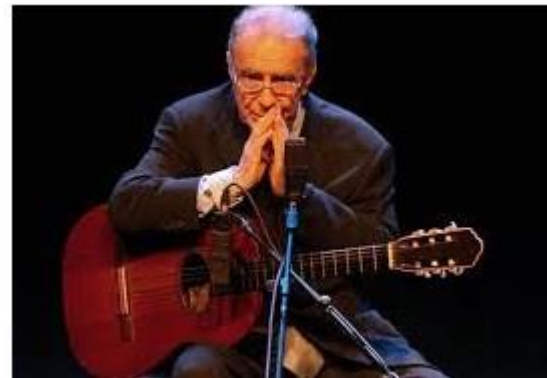
Former Indian goalkeeper A. U. Celestine passed away at the age of 73 years. He played for the Tamil Nadu men's team in the senior Nationals as a 'keeper in the 1965 and '69 National championships and represented India in 1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia. He also headed as member in-charge for the Reserve Bank FC.



A. U. Celestine worked as coach for the Tamil Nadu State of junior, sub-junior and women's teams.

5. Legendary Brazilian musician Joao Gilberto died

Veteran Brazilian musician and songwriter Joao Gilberto passed away at the age of 88 years. He was known for his legendary work in musical genre of Bossa Nova in the late 1950s. He was often referred as "father of bossa nova"; in his native Brazil. He was the one who created first band in Juazeiro called as "Enamorados do Ritmo".



Gilberto won the Best World Music Album category award in the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards for his work in the album João Voz e Violão. He was inducted in International Latin Music Hall of Fame.

6. Former Railway leg-spinner Soumendranath Kundu died

Former Railways leg-spinner Soumendranath Kundu passed away at the age of 77 years. He played first-class cricket for Bengal and Railways. During his entire career, he took 127 wickets in 30 First Class matches between 1958-59 and 1968-69.



Kandu was known for his personal best of eight wicket hauls in an innings and taking 10 wickets in a match three times. He was honored with CAB Kartick Bose life-time Achievement Award 2014.

7. H.M. Ershad, Former President of Bangladesh, passed away

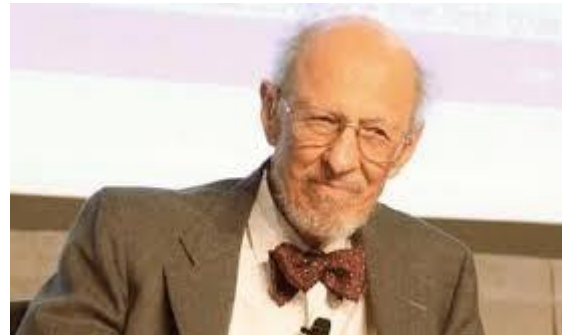
Former Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, also known as Pallibandhu, passed away at the age of 89 years. During the 1982 bloodless coup, he took over as the chief martial law administrator by removing the elected government of President Abdus Sattar. In December 1983, he became the president of Bangladesh and continued until 1990



Ershad was known as Palli Bandhu by his admirers because of making significant reforms in local government in between 1984 to 1985. He made Islam as the state religion in 1988 by amending the constitution.

8. Computer password inventor Fernando Corbato passed away

Fernando Corbato, credited with inventing the computer password, passed away at the age of 93 years.



Dr. Corbato introduced the basic security measure while developing methods that let more people use a computer at the same time. He developed a technique, called time-sharing, that divided up the processing power of a computer so it could serve more than one person at once. The work on sharing a computer was done at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

9. 1971 war hero Lt Gen Gharaya passes away

Lt Gen JS Gharaya (retd), one of the highly decorated Indian generals, passed away at the age of 93 years. He was commissioned into the Frontier Force Regiment in 1945 when he joined 1 Bihar. He was awarded with Kirti Chaka in the 1947 Hyderabad operations.



Gen Gharaya was awarded the Vashisht Sewa Medal for distinguished services when he was with 9 Bihar, which was moved to Mizoram to handle insurgency. He was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He served as the Chief of Staff, Central Command, before retiring in August 1984.

10. Boxing legend Pernell Whitaker passed away

Former Olympic boxing gold medallist and four-weight world champion Pernell Whitaker passed away at the age of 55 years. Whitaker won gold at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics Games. Ring magazine named him its boxer of the year in 1989.

Whitaker was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2006. He was a champion in four weight classes: lightweight, junior welterweight, welterweight and junior middleweight. He retired in 2001.



11. Former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit passed away

Former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit passed away at the age of 81 years. The three-time chief minister was the longest-serving chief minister of Delhi, serving between 1998 and 2013. She also served as the Governor of Kerala.

Sheila Dikshit was President of Delhi Congress. She represented New Delhi constituency in Delhi Vidhan Sabha. She became an MP for the first time from Kannauj Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh in 1984. She was also a close associate of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and a minister in his cabinet.



12. IAEA chief Yukiya Amano passed away

Former Japanese diplomat and International Atomic Energy Agency Chief Yukiya Amano passed away at the age of 72 years. Amano had been Chief of the IAEA since 2009. He was deeply involved in the landmark Iran nuclear deal. He also contributed to the 1995, 2000 and 2005 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conferences, and chaired the 2007 Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference.



Mary Alice Hayward, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Management, is now the acting Director General of IAEA.

13. Former Chinese premier Li Peng passed away

Former Chinese premier and Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee Li Peng passed away at the age of 90 years. He was called as "Butcher of Beijing" for his role in week long protests and demonstrations at Tiananmen square of Central Beijing.

Li served as the fourth Premier of the People's Republic of China from 1987 to 1998, and as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Li was ranked second in the Communist Party of China (CPC) hierarchy.



14. Australian grand slam winner Peter McNamara passed away

Former Australian Davis Cup tennis icon Peter McNamara passed away at the age of 64 years. He was winner of three-time Grand Slam doubles championship, five singles titles and 19 in doubles titles. With the wonderful partnership of Paul McNamee, the duos won Wimbledon doubles title in 1980 and 1982 and were famously known as "Super Macs".

Peter McNamara worked as a coach of professionals Mark Philippoussis, Grigor Dimitrov, Matthew Ebden and Wang Qiang.



Defence

1. Indo-French joint air exercise 'Garuda-VI' held in France

The Indian Air Force participated in a bilateral exercise with French Air Force named Exercise 'Garuda-VI'. It was held at French Air Force Base, Mont-de-Marsan in France from 1st July to 12th of July and was the sixth edition of the Exercise.



While the Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprised of 120 air-warriors and four Sukhoi 30 MKI along with an IL-78 flight refuelling aircraft, French Air Force units comprised the likes of Rafale, Alpha Jet, Mirage 2000, C135, E3F, C130, and Casa. The last exercise, 'Garuda V' was held at Air Force Station Jodhpur in 2014.

2. DRDO successfully tested armour-piercing Nag missiles in Pokhran

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has carried out three successful test firings of the Nag anti-tank guided missiles in the Pokhran firing ranges. The missile is in the final stages of being inducted into the Army.



The Defence Acquisition Council in 2018 had approved the procurement of DRDO-designed-and-developed NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at a cost of Rs 524 crore. The system includes a third-generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile, the NAG, along with the Missile Carrier Vehicle (NAMICA).

3. BSF launched operation 'Sudarshan'

The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched operation 'Sudarshan', to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu. The operation was launched on 1 July and will cover the entire over the 1,000-km length of the India-Pakistan International Border.



A huge assortment of heavy machinery, communication interceptors and mobile bulletproof bunkers has been mobilized to the borders. The BSF is the primary force guarding this frontier as the 'first line of defence'.

4. Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived in Morocco for a 3 day visit

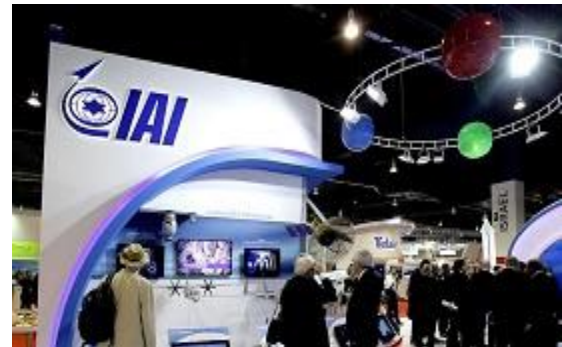
Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived at Tangier, Morocco on a 3-day visit. The visit is part of an ongoing Overseas Deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe. The visit seeks to strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Morocco.



INS Tarkash, commanded by Captain Sathish Vasudev, is a state-of-the-art stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors capable of addressing threats in all three dimensions. INS Tarkash will carry out a Passage Exercise at sea with ships of the Royal Moroccan Navy.

5. Indian Navy signed \$50 Million follow-up deal with Israel Aerospace

State-owned defense contractor Israel Aerospace Industries signed a \$50 million follow-up contract to provide complementary missile systems to the Indian navy and India's MDL Shipyard.



The agreement involves a range of maintenance and other services for sub-systems of Israel Aerospace's naval medium range surface-to-air missile. The MRSAM family is an operational air-defense system used by the Israeli Navy as well as by India's naval, air and ground forces.

6. INS Sagardhwani Flagged Off for 'Sagar Maitri'

INS Sagardhwani, a Marine Acoustic Research Ship (MARS) of the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi and operated by the Indian Navy has set sail from Kochi for a scientific venture called 'Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative (MAITRI)'.



The prime objectives of the SAGAR MAITRI mission are data collection from the entire North Indian Ocean, focusing on the Andaman Sea and adjoining seas and establishing long term collaboration with eight IOR countries in the field of 'Ocean Research and Development'.

7. India, China to carry out military exercise ‘Hand in Hand’

India and China will be carrying out a joint military exercise called ‘Hand-in-Hand’ at Umroi in Meghalaya in December 2019. 100-200 infantry troops of both nations will participate in the exercise. It will be based on counter-terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.



The exercise was held in December 2018 at Chengdu, China. The exercise didn't take place in 2017 due to the 72-days long standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam.

8. Lucknow for the first time to host DefExpo India-2020

The 11th edition of biennial DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Lucknow in February 2020. The main theme of the DefExpo India 2020 will be ‘India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub’ and it will focus on ‘Digital Transformation of Defence’.



The DefExpo will provide an opportunity to the major foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to collaborate with the Indian defence industry and help promote ‘Make in India’ initiative. The previous edition of DefExpo took place in Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai in 2018.

9. Indian Navy Commissioned Dornier Squadron INAS 313 at Chennai

Admiral Karambir Singh commissioned Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313, the fifth Dornier aircraft squadron, into the Indian Navy. The Squadron will be operating from Chennai International Airport. With the commissioning of INAS 313, the State of Tamil Nadu will have three naval air bases; which is the highest number for any Coastal State.



Dornier aircraft is a multi-role Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft manufactured by HAL. The Dornier aircraft is used for maritime surveillance, Search and Rescue Operations and to provide targeting data to weapon platforms.

1. Milk production reported 176.35 million tonnes during 2017-18

The total estimated milk production in the country has been reported at 176.35 million tonnes during 2017-18. The National Action Plan for Dairy Development envisages milk production target of 254.55 million tonnes by 2022. The first five highest milk producing States during Summer Season 2017-18 are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.



The National Action Plan for Dairy Development is supplementing efforts of the state governments to develop dairy infrastructure across the country by providing financial support through dairy development schemes.

2. Eight core sectors recorded growth of 5.1% in May

The eight core sectors in the country have recorded a growth of 5.1% in May on the back of healthy output in steel and electricity. These sectors are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity. They had grown by 4.1% in May 2018.



The growth rate for the eight key sectors for April 2019 has been revised upward to 6.3% from 2.6% reported earlier mainly due to upward revisions in production of coal, crude oil, steel, cement and electricity.

3. Ola Electric gets \$250m SoftBank funding

Ola Electric Mobility (OEM) has secured a funding of about \$250 million (Rs 1,725 crore) from SoftBank Vision Fund. OEM is the electric vehicle arm of ride-hailing giant Ola and is now valued at more than \$1 billion. The company plans to deploy 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs), a mix of two and three-wheelers, in India by March 2020.



The Indian government had asked Ola and Uber to start working on electrifying their existing fleet with the target of becoming fully electric by 2030.

4. Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2018-19

The key highlights of Economic Survey 2018-19 are:

1. Sustained real GDP growth rate of 8% needed for a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
2. Growth of GDP moderated to 6.8% in 2018-19 from 7.2% in 2017-18.
3. FY 2018-19 ended with fiscal deficit at 3.4% of GDP and debt to GDP ratio of 44.5%.
4. Banking system improved as non-performing accounts (NPA) ratios declined and credit growth accelerated. As per RBI reports, Rs 50,000 crore recovered by banks from previous NPAs.
5. Forex earnings from tourism stood at US\$ 27.7 billion in 2018-19.
6. India's **External Debt** was US\$ 521.1 billion at end-December 2018.
7. Inflation contained at 3.4% in 2018-19.

For Details: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191213>



5. Economic Survey outlined strategic blueprint to achieve prime minister's vision for \$5 trillion economy

The Economic Survey laid down the strategic blueprint for fructifying the Prime Minister's vision of India becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 (#Economy@5trillion). The theme of the Survey was enabling a "shifting of gears" to sustained economic growth for objective of US \$5 trillion by 2024-25 which meant India needs to shift its gears to accelerate and sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8%.



Economic Survey also utilized advances in Behavioural Economics to address issues of gender equality, a healthy and a beautiful India, savings, tax compliance and credit quality.

6. India's share of renewables in total electricity generation increased to 10%

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs tabled the Economic Survey 2018-19. It stated that India has been undertaking one of the world's largest renewable energy expansion programmes. As per the Economic Survey, the share of renewable (excluding hydro above 25 MW) in total generation was around 10% in the year 2018-19 compared to around 6% in 2014-15.



The Survey estimates that additional investments in renewable plants up to year 2022 would be about USD 80 billion and an investment of around USD 250 billion would be required for the period, 2023-2030.

7. Ola gets license for London taxi business

Indian ride-hailing company Ola received approval to start its private hire vehicles (PHV) in the city of London. With this initiative, Ola will be the first ever platform to offer both PHVs and black cabs in the UK. Ola also started its services in Australia in February 2019.



Ola Cabs, is an Indian transportation network company offering services that include peer-to-peer ridesharing, ride service hailing, taxi and food delivery. The company is based in Bangalore, India and was developed by ANI Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

8. Reliance Jio launched "Digital Udaan" in partnership with Facebook

Reliance Jio has launched a digital literacy initiative for the first-time for Internet users of India in partnership with Facebook. As a part of the initiative, Jio will engage with its users every Saturday to help them learn about JioPhone features, use of various apps and Internet safety including use of Facebook.



The programme is being launched in nearly 200 different locations across 13 states. It will have audio-visual training in 10 regional languages.

9. Tata Steel Kalinganagar joined the World Economic Forum

Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) has been included in the list of the World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Global Lighthouse Network, a community of manufacturers that are showing leadership in applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to drive financial and operational impact. TSK is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.



The factories join a network of 16 existing lighthouses across multiple geographies and industries. Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant at Netherlands is already a member of this network.

10. Inflation rose marginally to 3.18% in June

Retail inflation increased marginally to 3.18% in June 2019 over previous month due to the rise in food prices. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.05% in May and 4.92% in June 2018. The food inflation was 2.17% in June 2019, up from 1.83% in May 2019.



Inflation in protein-rich food items, like egg, meat and fish, was higher. However, the rate of price rise in vegetables and fruits was slower.

11. IBM acquired American software company Red Hat Inc

IBM has acquired all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Red Hat for \$190.00 per share in cash, representing a total equity value of approximately \$34 billion.



The acquisition redefines the cloud market for business. Red Hat's open hybrid cloud technologies are now paired with the unmatched scale and depth of IBM's innovation and industry expertise, and sales leadership in more than 175 countries. Red Hat will continue to be led by Jim Whitehurst and its current management team.

12. India and Italy set up Fast-Track Mechanism to Facilitate investors and Companies

India and Italy have decided to establish fast-track system for companies and investors of both the countries. The key objectives of the fast-track system in India will be to pave the way, and identify and solve problems faced by Italian companies and investors with their operations in India.



Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in close cooperation with Invest India will represent the India side in this system in India. The Italian Embassy in India in close cooperation with the Italian Trade Agency will represent the Italian side of this system in India.

13. ADB cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY20

Asian Development Outlook 2019, released by Asian Development Bank, lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for the FY 19-20 on the back of fiscal shortfall concerns. India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020. ADB, in April 2019, had lowered India's growth forecast for 2019 to 7.2% from 7.6% due to moderation in global demand and likely shortfall in revenue on the domestic front.



For the south Asian region, ADB said the outlook remains robust, with growth projected at 6.6% in 2019 and 6.7% in 2020.

14. India permitted 1,239 tonnes raw sugar export to US

The government permitted the export of 1,239 tonnes of raw sugar under its tariff-rate quota (TRQ) to the US, which enables shipments to enjoy relatively low tariff. TRQ is a quota for a volume of exports that enter the US at relatively low tariffs. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies on additional imports.



India enjoys duty-free sugar exports to the US up to 10,000 tonnes annually under preferential quota arrangement.

15. Ebix signed agreement to acquire Yatra Online Inc. for \$337.8 million

Ebix Inc. acquired Yatra Online Inc., for an enterprise value of US\$ 337.8 million in an all-stock transaction. Ebix is a leading international supplier of On-Demand software and E-commerce services to the insurance, financial, healthcare and e-learning industries. Yatra Online is the parent company of Yatra Online Pvt. Ltd., India's leading Corporate Travel services provider and one of India's leading online travel companies.



The acquisition of Yatra would lend itself to significant synergies and the emergence of EbixCash as India's largest and the most profitable travel service company.

16. India's forex reserves fell by USD 1.113 bn to USD 428.797 bn

The foreign exchange reserves of India declined by USD 1.113 billion to USD 428.797 billion. It was first fall after four consecutive weeks of gains - due to a fall in foreign currency assets. The Foreign currency assets, which are a major component of the overall reserves, slipped by USD 1.11 billion to USD 399.697 billion.



The country's gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 24.304 billion. The Special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund fell by USD 1.2 million to USD 1.450 billion. India's reserve position with the fund also declined by USD 1.5 million to USD 3.345 billion.

17. Qualcomm fined \$271 million for 'predatory' pricing

The European Union Antitrust Commissioner Margrethe Vestager has fined chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million, accusing it of "predatory pricing" to drive a competitor out of the market. Qualcomm was abusing its market dominance in 3G baseband chipsets.



The EU said that Qualcomm sold the chipsets to Chinese giants Huawei and ZTE, strategic Qualcomm customers, "with the intention of eliminating Icera, its main rival at the time". Icera was acquired in May 2011 by the US technology company Nvidia.

18. IMF lowered India's GDP to 7% for FY20

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered India's growth rate by 0.3% to 7% for the year 2019-20 and 7.2% for 2020-21 on account of weaker domestic demand, slow investment and rising trade tensions. Even then, India will still be the fastest growing major economy worldwide.



**INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY
FUND**

Global economic growth is also projected downwards to 3.2% in 2019 and 3.5% in 2020.

The International Monetary Fund is an international organization consisting of 189 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation.

Environment

1. Tamil Nadu declares Tamil yeoman as its state butterfly

Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) butterfly species has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. The butterfly is endemic to Western Ghats. They are also known as Tamil Maravan. The butterfly is orange in colour with a dark brown outer ring.



Tamil Nadu is now the fifth state in the country to declare state butterfly. Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

2. Centre asked all Urban Local bodies to set up cell for monitoring Rain Water Harvesting

The Centre has asked all Urban Local Bodies across the country to set up a cell each for effective monitoring of Rain Water Harvesting and revival of at least one water body in their areas. The cell should monitor the extent of groundwater extraction and groundwater aquifer recharge. This information should be displayed at prominent locations for public awareness.



The guidelines have been issued as part of the first phase of Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Jal Shakti Abhiyaan is a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign.

3. Tropical Storm Barry hits Louisiana in US

Tropical Storm Barry hit the US state of Louisiana as a Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds clocking in at more than 81 miles per hour. It quickly weakened to a tropical storm, however, with winds dropping to 70 miles per hour.



Tropical Storm Barry created big flooding risks in inland areas like greater Baton Rouge and possible rains of up to 25 inches in parts of southern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi due to which President Donald Trump announced state of emergency in Louisiana.

4. NGT sets 3-month deadline to shut polluting industries across India

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, to shut down polluting industries coming under "critically polluted" and "severely polluted" areas within three months. The bench was headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.



The bench directed the CPCB to assess the quantum of compensation to be recovered from polluting units for the period of last five years. CPCB in joint study with state pollution control boards in 2009-10 had notified industrial clusters as Polluted Industrial Areas (PIAs) and they were ranked depending upon the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index scores.

5. SC constituted a committee for protection of Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican

After the alarming extinction of two Indian birds, Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican, the Supreme Court has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of these species.



The 3-member panel consists of: Deepak Apte-Director of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Asad R Rahmani- former Director of BNHS and member of governing body of Wetlands International South Asia and Dhananjai Mohan- Chief Conservator of Forests of Uttarakhand.

6. IUCN adds more than 7,000 to its Red List

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has added more than 7,000 animals, fish and plants to its endangered Red List. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species included assessments for 105,732 species, of which 28,338 species are threatened with extinction.



The Red list shows that every 5th species is threatened with extinction. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is world's most comprehensive inventory of global conservation status of plants and animal species.

7. Researchers discovered India's first dragon blood-oozing tree

Dracaena cambodiana, a dragon tree species, discovered in Assam's west Karbi Anglong district became India's first dragon blood-oozing tree. A plant that provides dragon's blood is meant to use as bright red resin in medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye. A team of researchers led by Assam forest officer Jatindra Sarma discovered the tree species.



Dracaena cambodiana seeds have high value importance in medicinal, ornamental and ecological use such as antifungal and antibacterial compounds, antioxidants released by parts of plant.

Finance

1. Government extended Kisan Credit Card facility to fisheries and animal husbandry sector

Government has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs. Under Kisan Credit Card facility, for the existing KCC holders, the credit limit is three lakh rupees to meet their working capital requirements.



Under KCC, interest subvention is available for animal husbandry and fisheries farmers at the rate of 2% per annum at the time of disbursement of loan and additional interest subvention of 3% per annum in case of prompt repayment.

2. SBI signed MoU with NIIF

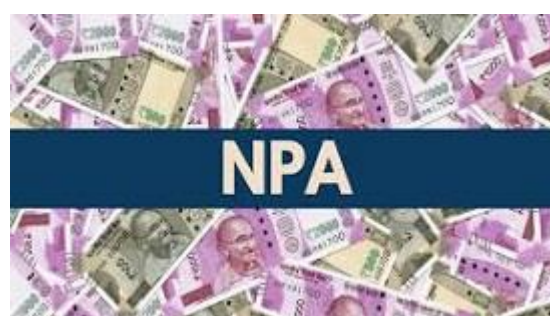
State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects. The scope of the agreement includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets.



During the financial year 2018-19, SBI through its specialised Project Finance & Structuring Business Unit has extended financial assistance of about Rs 51,000 crore to 47 infrastructure projects.

3. Economic Survey observed decline in banks' NPA ratios

The Economic Survey 2018-19 stated that performance of the banking system has improved as Non- Performing Asset (NPA) ratios declined and credit growth accelerated. As per RBI reports, Rs 50,000 crore has been received by banks from previously non-performing accounts. RBI also reported that additional Rs 50,000 crore has been "upgraded" from non-standard to standard assets.



The Gross NPA ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks decreased from 11.5% to 10.1% between March 2018 and December 2018.

4. ICICI Bank and IndoStar Capital joined hands to finance commercial vehicles

ICICI Bank has partnered with IndoStar Capital Finance Limited (IndoStar), a systemically important Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), to finance small and medium fleet owners to purchase used and new commercial vehicles (CV). This is a first-of-its-kind lending programme in the country between a commercial bank and an NBFC to finance commercial vehicles.



Under this partnership, IndoStar will originate and service the customers through the entire loan life-cycle including sourcing, documentation, collection and loan servicing. ICICI Bank will provide funding to these customers, who have so far limited access to organised credit.

5. Airtel Payments Bank tied up with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer Bharti AXA Life insurance products

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer the Bharti AXA Life POS Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana through its extensive network of banking points across the country.



Bharti AXA Life POS (Point of Sale) Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana is a pure life term insurance plan which is aimed at the underinsured segments in India for policy cover of either 3 lakh or 5 lakh. Any individual between the ages of 18 and 55 can enroll for this product without the need to undergo a medical examination.

6. Karnataka Bank launched web tool for NPA recovery process

Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched the web tool – 'Vasool So-Ft' (Vasool So-Fast) – for digitalising the NPA (non-performing asset) recovery process of the bank. The tool will provide an end-to-end solution through an easier and faster process, enhanced transparency and real time information.



With this tool, Karnataka Bank can get all the steps related to recovery from identifying the account as NPA till its resolution in digitized format. A Non-performing asset (NPA) is defined as a credit facility in respect of which the interest and/or installment of principal has remained 'past due' for a specified period of time.

7. Punjab & Sind Bank set up centralised MSME & Retail Group ‘Cen-MARG’

In order to improve better efficiency for processing retail and MSME loans, Punjab & Sind Bank has set up a centralised hub known as "Centralised MSME & Retail Group 'Cen-MARG'". The Centralised MSME & Retail Group (Cen-MARG) will be head quartered in New Delhi. All MSME and retail credit approvals will be performed at this centralised set up.



Cen-MARG will ease in credit appraisal, improved turnaround time, uniform documentation, and quick efficient monitoring. Punjab & Sind Bank is a government-owned bank, with headquarters in New Delhi.

8. RBI board finalized roadmap for ‘Utkarsh 2022’

The Reserve Bank of India has launched Utkarsh 2022, a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision. All central banks in the world have formulated a long-term plan and a medium-term plan. RBI has hence formulated this programme to outline what is to be achieved in the next three years.



The vision statements are mutually reinforcing and will guide RBI during the medium-term period (2019-22) through various strategies. The IL&FS debt default issue and the crisis of confidence the non-banking financial sector faced in the aftermath were some of the precursor of this roadmap.

9. RBI released Draft Report of the Internal Working Group on Review of Market Timings

The Reserve Bank of India released the draft report of the Internal Working Group on "Comprehensive Review of Market Timings". Since market has mixed views on the benefits of extension of market timing, IWG has recommended to revise market timings of 9 am - 9 pm instead of existing 9 am to 5 pm for forex market.



IWG has recommended timings for collateralized money market segments may be extended till 4:00 pm. RBI has invited feedback from market participants before coming to a decision.

10. Wholesale Price Index inflation declined to 2.02% in June

Wholesale price-based inflation declined for the second consecutive month to its 23-month low of 2.02% in June, helped by a decline in prices of vegetables as well as fuel and power items. Vegetable inflation softened to 24.76 per cent in June. Inflation in the fuel and power category cooled to minus 2.20% while in manufactured items inflation was 0.94% in June.



WPI inflation was 2.45% in May 2019 and 5.68% in June 2018. WPI inflation data for April has been revised upwards to 3.24% from provisional 3.07%.

11. Government announced consolidation of PSU Insurance Companies

The three PSU General Insurance Companies - Oriental India Insurance Company Limited, National Insurance Company Limited, and United India Assurance Company Limited is announced to be merged into a single insurance entity so as to create synergy and unlock value. The government has to infuse Rs 12,000-13,000 crore in the three companies to improve their solvency before merger.



The government has been planning the merger of all entities into one followed by dilution of its stake in the broader entity. E&Y has been appointed as consultant to see through the completion of the merger process.

12. Bimal Jalan panel report on surplus RBI reserves 'finalised'

Bimal Jalan panel, which is looking into the size of capital reserve that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) holds, has finalised the report on Economic Capital Framework (ECF). The panel has decided to recommend transfer of surplus reserves to the government in a staggered manner over three-five years based on a predetermined formula.



The transfer of surplus capital may help the government meet its fiscal deficit target. The transfer of excess reserves includes both contingency and revaluation funds. The currency and gold revaluation reserves of RBI was ₹6.92 trillion in 2017-18 and contingency fund for the period was ₹2.32 trillion.

Important Days

1. 1st July celebrated as "GST DAY"

With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) having completed a year, the Ministry of Finance has declared July 1 as 'GST Day'.

The GST bill consists of the CGST Act for the Centre, SGST Act for the states, UTGST Act for Union Territories and IGST Act as Integrated GST Act for the inter-state supply of goods or services. GST aimed at bringing all taxes into a single window along the lines of the 'One Nation - One Tax - One Market' objective.



2. International Day of Parliamentarism 2019 observed

The International Day of Parliamentarism was observed across the globe on 30th June, 2019. The date was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 72/278 as it coincides with the day in 1889, close to 130 years ago, that the IPU-the global organization of parliaments-was founded.



The day is an opportunity to celebrate parliaments, as the cornerstone of democracy, and as institutions designed to improve the lives of the people they represent.

3. National Doctors' Day observed on July 1

The National Doctors' Day was celebrated across India on 1st July to honour the legendary physician, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who was honoured with the Bharat Ratna on 4 February 1961. The day pays tribute to all those in the medical profession.



This day provides great opportunities to all to get aware about the roles, importance and responsibilities of the doctors as well as promote medical professionals to come closer and follow the responsibilities of their profession very dedicatedly.

4. International Asteroid Day observed on 30 June

The International Asteroid Day is observed annually on June 30 to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard."



International Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.

5. Army Chief released Kargil Tribute Song

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans. The song was released at a function organized in New Delhi as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26th July.



The song, a tribute to the soldiers has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir.

6. International Day of Cooperatives observed on 6th July

The 2019 International Day of Cooperatives was celebrated on 6 July 2019 (the actual day falls on the first Saturday of July). It was the 25th United Nations International Day of Cooperatives and the 96th International Cooperative day. The theme was COOPS 4 DECENT WORK.



Cooperatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of their community and nation.

7. West Bengal observed Save Water Day

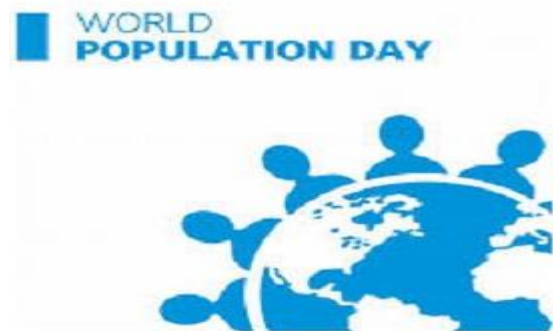
West Bengal government observed Save Water Day on 12th July, 2019. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and eminent persons of different fields, school students took part in a 'Padayatra in Kolkata to spread the message of water conservation. A pledge for conservation of water was also taken on the occasion.



Since 2011, a programme of digging ponds throughout the state for conservation of water has been under process. About 3 lakhs ponds have been dug from 2011 to 2019 to deal with the water scarcity. The Day will be observed in the state each year to create awareness among people.

8. World Population Day 2019

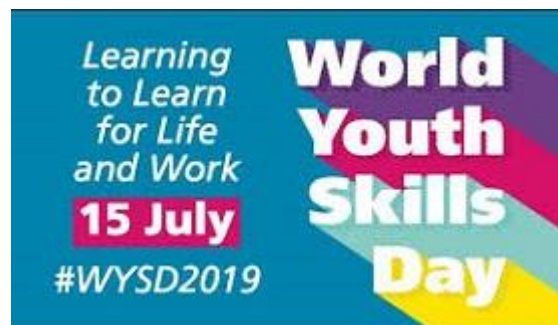
The 2019 World Population Day was observed across the globe on 11th July. This year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. Twenty-five years have passed since that landmark conference, where 179 governments recognized that reproductive health and gender equality are essential for achieving sustainable development.



World Population Day seeks to draw attention on the urgency and importance of population issues such as education, population control, sustainable growth, etc.

9. World Youth Skills Day observed

The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was observed across the world on 15th July. The theme for the year 2019 was "Learning to learn for life and work". The day is observed to create more awareness and a discussion on training and development of skills for the youth in order to create a better opportunity for them when it comes to employment.



United Nations in union with WorldSkills.org organised campaigns #SkillsChangeLives and #WYSD, to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.

10. Nelson Mandela International Day

The Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day, is observed on July 18 annually. This day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace, and reconciliation. On this day, UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day.

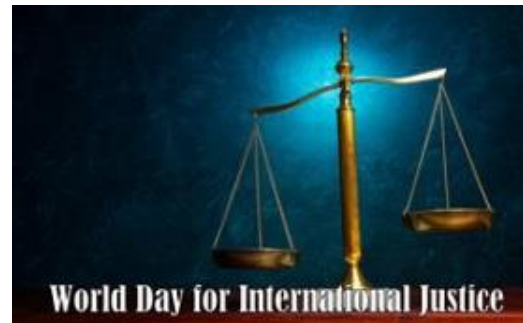


Mandela Day also celebrates a campaign known as "46664", in reference to Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prison number. The campaign was originally launched to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. However, its focus expanded to broader humanitarian work.

11. World Day for International Justice observed

The World Day for International Justice also known as International Criminal Justice Day or International Justice Day is observed annually on 17 July to recognise the strengthening system of international justice.

The day marks the anniversary of adoption of Rome Statute in 1998, the treaty that helped establish International Criminal Court (ICC). The aim of this day is to unite everyone who wants to support justice as well as promote victims' rights.



12. World Hepatitis Day observed on 28 July

World Health Organization observed "World Hepatitis Day" on 28 July based on theme "Invest in eliminating hepatitis". The host country for World Hepatitis Day 2019 was Pakistan. The global events were held in Islamabad, Pakistan. The theme focused on investing in diagnostic tests and medicines for treating hepatitis B and C now, so that countries can save lives and reduce costs related to long-term care of cirrhosis and liver cancer that result from untreated hepatitis.



World Hepatitis Day is observed on birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed and vaccine for the virus.

13. Income Tax Day observed on July 24th

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and all field offices observed the 159th Income Tax Day i.e. AaykarDiwas on 24th July, 2019. Several outreach programmes have been organized across the country to promote payment of taxes as a value norm.



Income Tax Department
Celebrates Income Tax Day
24th JULY

It was on 24th July, 1860 that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during the first war of independence against British Rule. This is why 24th July is observed as the Income Tax Day.

14. National Broadcasting day observed on 23rd July

India observed July 23 as "National Broadcasting day". On this day in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in India went on the air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. Since then, All India Radio has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses, living up to its motto - Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya.



All India Radio has 414 stations in 23 languages and broadcasts in 179 dialects.

International

1. United States designated Baloch Liberation Army as terror group

The United States has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs). Balochistan Liberation Army is an armed separatist group which is fighting Pakistani rule in Balochistan province. It targets security forces and civilians, mainly in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan.



People or entities are designated as "Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGT)s" under Executive Order 13224 by the United States Department of State or the US Department of the Treasury.

2. Hungary passed controversial science sector reform bill

The Hungarian parliament passed a bill enabling the takeover of research institutes by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government. The bill gave Mr Orban's nationalist, anti-migration government control of a vast network of research institutes currently run by the two-century-old Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA).



Under the legislation, a new institution with board members appointed by Mr Orban will allocate funding for research. This body would also use the MTA's properties and part of its administration.

3. India pledged to contribute USD 5 million in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency

India has pledged to contribute 5 million US Dollars in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency. Government has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the UNRWA core budget, from 1.25 million dollars in 2016 to 5 million in 2018.



The Indian Government is assisting 150 Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme. Under an India-Palestine development partnership, agreements have been signed including in agriculture, healthcare and youth affairs in the last five years.

4. US Senate passed legislative provision to give India NATO ally-like status

The United States Senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO allies and countries like Israel and South Korea for increasing defence cooperation. The amendment provides increased US-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in areas of humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism, counter-piracy and maritime security. The bill would be signed into law after both chambers of the US Congress pass it.



The National Defense Authorisation Act or NDAA for the fiscal year 2020, was introduced by Senate India Caucus Co-Chair Senator John Cornyn.

5. New Zealand banned single-use plastic shopping bags

New Zealand banned single-use plastic shopping bags as a green initiative. Under the new rules, thin plastic single-use shopping bags can no longer be supplied, but reusable carriers are allowed. Companies that break the ban will face heavy penalties, including fines of up to 100,000 New Zealand dollars (USD 67,000).



More than 80 countries have already introduced similar bans, according to the UN Environment Programme. It will help in saving million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals by becoming entangled in packaging or ingesting it through the food chain.

6. ISALEX19 Exercise kicked-off in Abu Dhabi

The International Security Alliance's First Joint Exercise (ISALEX19) started in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It was hosted by the UAE Ministry of Interior (MoI). 50 representatives from law enforcement agencies from the International Security Alliance (ISA) countries participated in the exercise.



ISALEX19 is based on unexpected scenarios where the teams of the ISA countries will operate according to different security theories and strategies in order to test the readiness of the international teams in facing security threats.

7. Saudi Arabia adopted Digital India, equality of women in Haj 2019

Indian Haj mission in Saudi Arabia has adopted digital technology to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of the Government of India's initiative of Digital India. The App - Indian Haj Information System- developed by the consulate is to receive feedback, a grievance from Hajis.



Additionally, health status and medical history of pilgrims is being stored at online "e-MASIHA" (Medical Assistance System for Indian Hajis Abroad). E-MASIHA would retrieve pilgrims' health information to apply appropriate treatment whenever he or she visits Indian medical facilities during Haj.

8. French lawmakers approved 3% tax on online giants

In France, the lower house of parliament approved a small, pioneering tax on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook. The bill foresees a 3% tax on the French revenues of digital companies with global revenue of more than 750 million Euros.



At present, the companies pay nearly no tax in countries where they have large sales like France. The bill adopted by the National Assembly will be sent to the Senate where it is expected to win final approval.

9. US Dept of Homeland Security requests 1,000 soldiers to manage migrant crisis in Texas

The US Department of Homeland Security, DHS has requested 1,000 additional soldiers to help manage the migrant crisis in Texas. The request comes amid growing outcry over conditions in migrant detention facilities.



The US Department of Homeland Security, DHS had been asked to authorize the Texas National Guard to lend support to Customs and Border Protection. Thousands of active duty and National Guard troops have already been deployed for months along the US-Mexico border to support immigration officials.

10. US State Dept approved potential 2.2 billion arms sale to Taiwan

The US State Department has approved the potential sale of 2.2 billion US dollars worth of arms to Taiwan that includes Abrams tanks and Stinger missiles. The current President of Taipei is Tsai Ing-wen elected in 2016.

China has registered its opposition to the possible sale. Taiwan has been ruled separately since the end of a civil war in 1949, but China maintains it is a part of its territory to be retaken, by force if necessary.



11. India handed over over 250 pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar

India handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar in Maung Daw for use of displaced returnees under India's 'Rakhine State Development Programme' (RSDP) for \$25 Million for a period of 5 years. The location of the pre-fabricated houses is: Shwe Zar - 148 units, Kyein Chaung Taung - 60 units and Nant Thar Taung - 42 units.

India and Myanmar had signed an MoU in 2017 to contribute to the socio-economic development of the area. Another 22 proposals which includes solar power related projects, construction-related projects, agriculture mechanization projects and capacity building projects are presently under consideration.



12. Iran exceeds uranium enrichment cap set by nuclear deal

Iran has breached a uranium enrichment cap set by a troubled 2015 nuclear deal and warned Europe against taking retaliatory measures. It has surpassed the cap and reached 4.5% enrichment. The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), confirmed that Iran had enriched uranium above 3.67% U-235.

The IAEA also confirmed that Iran has exceeded a 300-kilogramme limit on enriched uranium reserves, another cap that was imposed by the deal.



13. US imposed new duties on steel from China and Mexico

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) has made a preliminary decision to impose new penalties on fabricated structural steel imports from China and Mexico. Exporters of fabricated structural steel in China benefited from subsidies ranging between about 30% and 177%, while those in Mexico received subsidies of up to 74%.



In 2018, the US imported \$897.5 million worth of fabricated structured steel from China, and \$622.4 million worth from Mexico. US President Donald Trump imposed tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum imports from several countries in March 2018.

14. Kyriakos Mitsotakis sworn in as new Prime Minister of Greece

Kyriakos Mitsotakis has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Greece after his centre-right New Democracy party won elections with 39.85% votes against 31.53% for Syriza, led by outgoing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.



New Democracy secured an outright majority with 158 seats in the 300-member Greek parliament. The country's public debt last year stood at 335 billion euros (\$376 billion), or 180 percent of GDP. Mitsotakis is the son of former prime minister Constantine Mitsotakis.

15. Sri Lanka inaugurated model village built with Indian assistance

Sri Lanka inaugurated its first model village built with Indian assistance at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan ministry of housing and construction and cultural affairs had partnered with India to build 100 model villages consisting of a total of 2,400 houses all across Sri Lanka.



India has granted financial support of Rs 1,200 million (USD 17.5 million) for this development. The model villages are developed for war affected people in the east and north Sri Lanka and estate workers. The fully constructed houses were handed over to beneficiaries.

16. Sharjah issues first golden card visa to Indian expat, Lalu Samuel

Sharjah has granted its first golden visa to Indian businessman Lalu Samuel, chairman of the Sharjah-based Kingston Group, one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of



electrical products in the Middle East. He has lived in the UAE for past 37 years and Forbes Middle East named him one of the “top 100 most influential Indian business leaders in the Arab world” several times.

The Golden Card holders are entitled to a host of privileges and facilities including a residency visa without a sponsor to them and their families (spouse and children).

17. France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020

French government has planned to implement green tax up to €18 on plane tickets from 2020. The eco tax collected by French government will be invested in eco-friendly transport infrastructure projects.



The eco tax will be imposed only on outgoing flights and not on those flights coming into France. Sweden was first country to impose such tax. The eco tax is expected to have collection of €180 million a year.

18. WHO declares Sri Lanka measles-free

The World Health Organization announced Sri Lanka has eliminated measles, interrupting transmission of the indigenous virus that causes the killer childhood disease. The country reported its last case of measles caused by an indigenous virus in May 2016.



With Sri Lanka’s recent achievement, five countries of the Region have now eliminated measles. In 2017-18 Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste eliminated measles. Last year Sri Lanka achieved rubella control, along with five other countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Timor-Leste.

19. Vihaan Networks Ltd inked pact with Vietnam to develop digital villages

In response to India’s announcement to develop Digital Villages in remote areas of CLMV countries, Vihaan Networks Ltd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam, to provide solutions for advancing rural connectivity by creating Digital Villages in Vietnam’s underserved areas. Vietnam wants to digitize its villages through solar-based Cellular and Broadband solution – a similar model developed by VNL in its model digital village – Karenda.



MoU would help in skill development and local entrepreneurship in rural areas to create e-governance, e-health, e-education in rural communities of Vietnam.

20. USD 5 billion US fine set for Facebook on privacy probe

United States regulators, Federal Trade Commission (FTC), have approved a five billion dollar penalty to be levied on Facebook to settle a probe into the social network's privacy and data protection lapses. The deal would be the largest penalty ever imposed by the FTC for privacy violations, still needs approval from the Justice Department before it is finalized.



The FTC reopened its investigation into a 2011 privacy settlement with Facebook after revelations that personal data on tens of millions of users was hijacked by the political consultancy Cambridge Analytica, which was working on the Donald Trump campaign in 2016.

21. US House of Representatives passed bill removing country cap on Green Card

The US House of Representatives has passed a bill aimed at lifting the present 7% country-cap on issuing Green Cards. The move will benefit thousands of highly-skilled Indian IT professionals. A Green Card allows a person to live and work permanently in the US.



This bill increases the per-country cap on family-based immigrant visas from 7% of the total number of such visas available that year to 15% and eliminates the 7% cap for employment-based immigrant visas.

22. World's largest metal dome inaugurated by Ukraine

Ukraine created history by inaugurating world's largest metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl plant. This gigantic metal dome of 108 mtr height is created at the cost of 1.5bn euro. It weighs 36000 tonnes. It is branded as the world's largest movable metal structure.



The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant is a closed nuclear power plant near the abandoned city of Pripyat in northern Ukraine. It witnessed the world's worst civilian nuclear accident on April 26, 1986.

23. London hosted first Global Conference for Media Freedom

Chrystia Freeland, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Jeremy Hunt, the UK Foreign Secretary co-hosted world's first Global Conference for Media Freedom in London, U.K. The conference was based on four themes, i.e., protection and prosecution of media journalists, building trust in media, national frameworks and legislation and media sustainability.



The conference was attended by media industry, journalists, civil society and Commonwealth Foreign Ministers. Indian delegation included Prasar Bharati Chairman A.Surya Prakash, Rajya Sabha MP and journalist Swapan Dasgupta, and journalist and political analyst Kanchan Gupta.

24. 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting held in London

London hosted 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting. The 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth was celebrated when Foreign Ministers representing the governments of its member countries met in London and reaffirmed their commitment to the "core values and principles" of the Commonwealth Charter.



The Commonwealth comprises 53 countries, across all continents. The chief institutions of the organisation are the Commonwealth Secretariat, which focuses on intergovernmental aspects, and the Commonwealth Foundation, which focuses on non-governmental relations between member states.

25. China's economic growth slowed to 6.2% in Q2

China's economic growth slowed to a record low of 6.2% in the second quarter of 2019. This is the weakest growth rate in nearly three decades for the world's second-largest economy, in the midst of a trade war with the United States and weakening global demand.



China's GDP expanded 6.3 per cent year-on-year in the first half of 2019 to about 6.56 trillion US Dollars. The growth, however, was in line with the government's annual target range of 6.0-6.5 per cent for the whole year.

26. France celebrated 14th July as its "National day"

France celebrated its national day on the 14th July, Bastille Day. The French National Day is the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789. This is the 230th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison.

Celebrations are held throughout France. The oldest and largest regular military parade in Europe is held on the Champs-Élysées in Paris in front of the President of the Republic, along with other French officials and foreign guests.



27. China 'gifts' warship to Sri Lanka

China has gifted a warship, frigate — 'P625', to Sri Lanka. The frigate was commissioned into the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy as Tongling in 1994 and decommissioned in 2015. The warship was refit before gifting to Colombo. The 'P625' frigate will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats.



India in 2018 had gifted a coast guard off shore patrol vessel (OPV) to the Lankan navy in addition to providing two OPVs in 2006 and 2008.

28. UN signed agreement with Yemen rebels to resume food aid

The World Food Programme (WFP) reached an agreement with Yemen's Houthi rebels to resume food aid to areas under their control. The new agreement with the rebels will allow food to be quickly delivered to the rebel-held capital Sanaa.



Malnutrition is widespread in Yemen after four years of civil war. The civil war in Yemen has killed tens of thousands of people. United Nations previously had suspended deliveries of food aid to rebel-held areas last month following accusations of diversion of food.

29. G7 Finance Ministers agreed plan for taxing digital companies

G7 Finance Ministers, in a meeting held in France, agreed for a plan to tax digital companies such as Facebook and Google that will set a minimum level of taxation for them. The ministers fully supported a two-pillar solution to be adopted by 2020 and discussed that new rules should be developed to address new business models allowing companies to do business in a territory without any physical presence.



Ministers agreed that a minimum level of effective taxation would contribute to ensuring that companies pay their fair share of tax.

30. Ebola outbreak declared global health emergency in DR Congo

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The virus was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border. Ebola virus disease is a viral hemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebolaviruses.



This is fifth such declaration in the history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio.

31. Palau became 76th country to join International Solar Alliance

Palau became the 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance. President of the Republic of Palau H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA. The agreement was opened for signature during the COP22 at Marrakech on November 15, 2016. Palau is an archipelago of over 500 islands in Oceania.



The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India. The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030.

32. China allowed more foreign investment in financial sector

China has lifted some restrictions on foreign investment in the financial sector. China removed shareholding limits on foreign ownership of securities, insurance and fund management firms in 2020, a year earlier than originally planned. The foreign investors will also be encouraged to set up wealth management firms, currency brokerages and pension management companies.



The foreign-owned credit rating agencies will also be allowed to evaluate a greater number

of bond and debt types. Additional measures include scrapping entry barriers for foreign insurance companies like a requirement of 30 years of business operations and cancelling a 25% equity cap on foreign ownership of insurance asset management firms.

33. US to increase surveillance in Middle East waterways

The United States announced that the US Central Command (CENTCOM) is developing a multinational maritime effort to increase surveillance of and security in key waterways in the Middle East. The effort has been named as Operation Sentinel.



The goal of Operation Sentinel is to promote maritime stability, ensure safe passage and de-escalate tensions in international waters throughout the Arabian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (BAM) and the Gulf of Oman.

34. Joint working group formed to probe fund disbursal for Chinese projects in Bangladesh

Bangladesh and China have formed a joint working group to probe the extremely low level of fund disbursal for ongoing Chinese projects in Bangladesh. China has so far disbursed less than 5 per cent of the promised 20 billion US Dollars for 27 projects for which agreements were signed during President Xi Jinping's Dhaka visit in 2016.



The working committee will review the projects and assess whether the projects for which loan agreements are yet to be signed still need Chinese funding. Projects like Padma Bridge rail link, Karnaphuli river tunnel are in the implementation stage.

35. Bulgarian lawmakers ratified US 1.3-bn deal to buy eight F-16 fighter jets from US

Bulgarian President Rumen Radev approved a deal to buy eight new Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets from USA for a hefty 1.256-billion US Dollar. It is the country's biggest military purchase since the fall of Communism three decades ago.



The F-16s will replace Bulgaria's ageing Soviet-made MiG-29s and improve compliance with NATO standards. Defence Minister Krasimir Karakachanov informed that six single-seat and

two two-seat F-16s would be delivered by 2023. Bulgaria joined NATO in 2004 and the European Union three years later. Its Prime Minister is Boyko Borissov.

36. Bangladesh Scientists develop method to convert Jute fibre into bio-degradable cellulose sheets

Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali' which can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag. The physical qualities of the invented jute fibre and plastic are quite similar. The Eco-friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work and they are not harmful for human health.



The new technology has been developed by the team of scientists working for state-run Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). The commercial production of these bags is likely to start by the end of 2019.

37. Indian origin Priti Patel appointed as Britain's Home Secretary

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Indian origin Priti Patel as the country's Home Secretary. She replaced Sajid Javid who moved to the Treasury department as the first ethnic minority Chancellor of the Exchequer. Priti Patel was first elected as a Conservative MP in 2010 and gained prominence in the then David Cameron led Tory government as his Indian Diaspora Champion.



Rishi Sunak and Alok Sharma are the other two Indian-origin ministers inducted into the UK government.

38. Boris Johnson selected as British Prime Minister

Conservative leader Boris Johnson took over the charge as British Prime Minister after Theresa May handed in her resignation to the Queen. Boris Johnson won by 66% of the votes – 92,153, victory over Jeremy Hunt's 46,656 votes.



Boris Johnson is expected to use the opportunity to increase the number of women in full cabinet positions and boost the representation of ethnic minorities. Johnson also served as Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and as Foreign Secretary from 2016 to 2018.

39. Universities UK International launched UKEIRI Mobility Programme

Universities UK International (UUKI) and British Council India launched UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India. Around 200 opportunities will be provided to undergraduate students of United Kingdom universities to come and study in India by March 2021. The programme will be funded by the UK and Indian governments as part of Phase 3 of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI).



The Study in India programme will support national and institutional-level objectives to increase the levels of outward student mobility from the UK to 13% by 2020, as set out in UUKI's "Go International: Stand Out" campaign.

40. Non Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting held in Venezuela

The Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial meeting was held in Caracas, Venezuela. 120 member nations, 7 observer countries, 10 multilateral international organizations and 14 specially invited nations participated in the meeting.



Participant countries signed declaration that condemned US-led sanctions and supported NAM members to initiate cases of "economic aggression" to the UN's International Court of Justice. The meeting encouraged to create a peaceful world which is without dominant empires.

Other themes discussed in meeting were climate change, create peace, end war and control of chemical weapons.

41. India to honor scholarships to heirs of Muktiyodhas of Bangladesh

India to honor scholarships to beneficiaries of liberation war fighters of Bangladesh termed as 'Muktiyodhas'. The scholarships will be provided for the next 5 years under 'Nutan India-Bangladesh Maitree Muktiyodha Sontan Scholarship Scheme' of one-time amount Taka 50,000 to Undergraduate students and Taka 20,000 to Higher Secondary students.



This Muktiyodha scheme was announced in 2017-18 under partnership of High commission of India in Dhaka and Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, Government of Bangladesh to select eligible students from all districts of Bangladesh.

Miscellaneous

1. In Jammu and Kashmir, a campaign has been launched in Rajouri, a border district of Jammu division called "Operation Khumaar" to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free.
2. Defending champions India lost to Pakistan in the final of IBSF Snooker World Cup by 1-3.
3. The National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) have seen a hike in allocations from Rs. 135 crores (Budget Estimates 2018-19) to Rs. Rs. 150 crores (Budget Estimates 2019-20) in the Union Budget 2019-20.
4. BJP National President and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has formally launched the party membership drive in Telangana by handing over membership to Soni Nayak, a tribal woman of Ranganayakula Tanda near Samshabad.
5. The net cross-border infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced by 43% in 2019 as compared to the previous year.
6. Uttar Pradesh government has set the target to become one trillion-dollar economy in coming years so that the state can contribute in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of expanding country's economy to 5 trillion dollars.
7. BJP is carrying out Booth Chalo Abhiyan under membership campaign in Uttar Pradesh.
8. National Stock Exchange has signed a pact with the Haryana government to help boost the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises sector in the state.
9. Madhya Pradesh government decided to impose the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on those adulterating milk and dairy products.
10. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar forecasts India will achieve economic growth of 8% plus from the fiscal year 2020-21 onwards as structural reforms such as GST, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code are set to produce the benefits.
11. Ashleigh Barty of Australia placed at top position in latest Tennis Women's world rankings.
12. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow increased during the last six years from 36.05 billion US Dollars in 2013-14 to 64.38 billion US Dollars in 2018-19, registering a growth of 79%.
13. Ajay Bhadoo appointed as Joint Secretary to the President.
14. Rajya Sabha MP D Raja was appointed as the General Secretary of CPI.
15. Chengalpet and Tenkasi carved out as new districts in Tamil Nadu. Tenkasi district from Tirunelveli district and Chengalpet district from Kancheepuram district will become the 34th and 35th districts of Tamil Nadu.
16. Manny Pacquiao won WBA welterweight championship defeating Keith Thurman.
17. Delhi hosted International Police Expo 2019 under the theme 'Challenges to strengthen peace and security'.
18. Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medalist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the final but Zakir walked out of the fight due to injury.
19. LJP leader and MP from Bihar's Samastipur, Ramchandra Paswan, passed away at the age of 57 years.
20. Max Verstappen won the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim.
21. Chandigarh received affiliation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India, thus providing an opportunity for the city cricketers to play in BCCI tournament.
22. The third edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati in 2020.

23. Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu and Asian Games medallist Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in the sixth Bengal Open squash tournament in Kolkata.
24. CRPF celebrated its 81st Raising Day on 27th July.
25. Kaiga Atomic Energy station (Karnataka) created a World Record by continuously operating Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) for 962 days among other nuclear power plants of all technologies.
26. Gujarat state topped the list of installation of rooftop solar projects with an installed capacity of 261.97 megawatts, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
27. BS Yeddyurappa sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka
28. The 5th international Dharma-Dhamma conference was hosted by Rajgir, Bihar.
29. Ranjan Chowdhury was appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.
30. Kristof Milak broke Michael Phelps' world record in the 200 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju.
31. Egan Bernal clinched Tour de France title and became first Colombian to achieve this title.
32. India's lightest bullet-proof jacket weighing 9.2 kgs 'Bhabha Kavach', launched at International Police Expo 2019.
33. Veteran swimmer Caeleb Dressel broke Michael Phelps's World record in the men's 100 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships 2019 by completing his swim in just 49.50 seconds.
34. Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu and Asian Games medallist Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in the sixth Bengal Open squash tournament in Kolkata.
35. Government has set a target for installation of Rooftop Solar projects (RTS) of 40,000 MegaWatt (MW) by 2022 including installation of RTS on rooftop of houses.
36. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched a Dashboard of Department Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence, to help in effective monitoring of various initiatives and schemes of the department.
37. Sports Authority of India has selected Canada's Dejan Papic as the head coach of the Indian table tennis team, on a one year contract till 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
38. Reserve Bank of India has assigned monetary policy portfolio and forecasting department responsibilities to deputy governor B.P. Kanungo who replaced Viral Acharya who resigned from his duties.
39. NASA is planning to send "first woman and next man" on Moon in 2024 with the ambitious Artemis programme.
40. Legendry Dutch film actor Rutger Hauer passed away.

National

1. Government to raise health services expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025

The central government has set a target to raise health services expenditure to 2.5% of the country's GDP by 2025 (from the current 1.15%) in line to the objective set by the government in its National Health Policy 2017. The policy also recommends that State governments should spend more than 8% of their budget on the health sector by 2020.



The government has also launched "LaQshya" Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative, a Safe Delivery Mobile Application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries.

2. Government to revive five closed fertilizer plants to reduce Urea import

Government is reviving five closed fertilizer plants at a cost of around 38 thousand crore rupees to reduce import of Urea. These five fertilizer plants are Talcher in Odisha, Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh, Fertilizer Corporation of India limited in Gorakhpur and Sindri and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited in Bihar.



The average total production of urea in the country in the last three years is around 241 lakh metric tonne and the total consumption is over 305 lakh metric tonne.

3. New Delhi to host first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair, IICTF

The First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) is going to be held at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi from 11th till 13th October, 2019. The Trade Fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.



The initiative is a part of the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 which aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains.

4. UGC approved new initiative STRIDE to boost research culture

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a new initiative - Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) to boost research culture in the country. It will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges and Universities.



The objectives are:

1. To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.
2. To fund multi institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.

5. Jal Shakti Abhiyan for water conservation launched

The Union Government has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security. The campaign will run through citizen participation during the monsoon season, from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019. An additional Phase 2 will be run from 1st October, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 for States receiving the North East retreating monsoons.



The focus of the campaign will be on water stressed districts and blocks. There will be five important water conservation interventions such as water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, reuse, bore well recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

6. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Maldives for Shipping

The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for the MoU between India and Maldives for the establishment of passenger and cargo services by sea. It is signed with a view to harness the potential opportunity that lies in passenger and cargo transportation by sea between the two countries. The proposed ferry service would contribute in a big way to promote people to people contact and to boost bilateral trade.



Currently, India has provided US \$100 million Stand-by Credit facility (SCF) to Maldives, including long-term loans and revolving credit for trade.

7. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Maldives in Health Sector

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post-facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives on cooperation in the field of Health.



The Memorandum of Understanding covers the following areas of cooperation:

1. Exchange & Training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts;
2. Medical and health research development;
3. Regulation of medicines and medical products, and exchange of information thereon;
4. Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases;
5. E-Health and Telemedicine; and
6. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

8. Cabinet approved MoU of Cooperation between India and Morocco

The Union Cabinet approved the MoU between India and Morocco for developing, promoting and strengthening mutual cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries. The approval will promote cooperation between India and Morocco in judicial and other legal areas and enable exchange of knowledge in infrastructure and information technology.



The MoU envisages establishing a Joint Working Committee to review, monitor and discuss matters relation to areas of cooperation. The MoU aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information.

9. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched 'Go Tribal Campaign'

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment launched the "Go Tribal Campaign" of Tribes India in New Delhi. The campaign has been launched to widely promote the use of tribal products. The Ministry also launched 'Tribes India' globally through Amazon Global Selling.



With the joint collaboration between TRIFED and Amazon, the tribal products will be available in about 190 countries and will help in establishing export market of tribal products worldwide.

10. Implementation of One Nation-One Ration Card Scheme

The Union Government has given states and Union Territories time till June 30, 2020, to roll out the 'one nation, one ration card' system. The scheme will be available across the country from July 1, 2020. It will allow portability of food security benefits to poor migrant workers who will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country, so long as their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.



The national portability under 'One Nation One Ration Card' system shall be applicable only to the ration card holders under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA).

11. NCC conducted Mega Pollution Awareness Pakhwada

National Cadet Corps (NCC) undertook a pan-India Mega Pollution Awareness Pakhwada from July 01-11, 2019 (fortnight). The *pakhwada* aimed to sensitise the people against various kinds of pollution and their effects. It aims to mobilise all NCC cadets spread across 17 different directorates covering all districts of the country in this civic awareness campaign. The problems of air, water, soil and noise pollution was addressed in eleven-day long campaign.



As part of the mega drive, all Directorates conducted various activities like lectures, seminars, awareness rallies and pledge taking ceremonies.

12. Economic Survey outlined the progress made in the Swachh Bharat Mission

The Economic Survey outlined the progress made in the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). Since October 2014, over 9.5 crore toilets have been built all over the country and 564,658 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF).



Under SBM, an incentive of Rs 12,000 is being provided for construction of individual Household Latrines (IHHL) to eligible beneficiaries in rural areas and covers for provision of water storage. Around 98.9% of India has been covered under SBM.

13. Union Minister for Minority Affairs flagged off first batch of Haj pilgrims

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi flagged off the first batch of Haj 2019 pilgrims from Indira Gandhi International Airport. A record of 2 lakh Indian Muslims left for Haj through more than 500 flights from 21 embarkation points across the country.



The Minority Affairs Ministry made arrangement to send women without 'Mehram' (male companion) on Haj without lottery system. 2 lakh Indian Haj pilgrims include about 48% women.

14. Fertiliser subsidy gets a hike of around Rs 10,000 crore in Union Budget

The government has hiked the allocation on fertilizer subsidy by around 10,000 crore rupees in the Union Budget. The allocation has been increased from 70,090 crore rupees in 2018-19 to 79,996 crore rupees in 2019-20. Out of this, 53,629 crore rupees is towards Urea subsidy and 26,367 crore rupees for Nutrient-based subsidies. The increased allocation towards the Fertilizer Subsidy would further help in increasing the efficiency of subsidy transfers to the farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer.



A total of over 610 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers have been sold under DBT scheme from March 2018 to May 2019.

15. Center announced to invest 50 lakh crore rupees in railways by 2030

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the government will make investment of Rs 50 lakh crore in railways by the year 2030 to make it the best in the world. This investment involves electrification of the entire Konkan Railway route from Mumbai to Mangaluru via Goa at the cost of 11,000 crore rupees.



Electrification of railways will improve speed and reduce pollution on the scenic Konkan railway route. The railway connectivity in Goa will also be improved as the state is an important tourist destination.

16. Allocation for agriculture increased by over 78%

The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to increase budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare by over 78% to 1.39 lakh crore rupees for the current fiscal. Out of the total amount, Rs 75,000 crore rupees will be for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.



The government has proposed to increase the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to 14,000 crore rupees. The Fertilizer

Subsidy allocations have seen a hike of around 10,000 crore rupees.

17. Rural sanitation coverage jumped to 99% from 38% in 2014

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), 9 crore 62 lakh individual household toilets have been constructed so far. The sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country has increased to more than 99%, which was over 38% on 2nd October 2014.



Around 632 Districts, 30 States, over 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats and 5 lakh 67 thousand 498 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free.

18. Railways to install CCTV cameras in over 7,000 train coaches by 2021

The railways has set a target to install CCTV cameras in more than 7,000 coaches of mainline passenger trains by March 2021. CCTV cameras have already been installed in coaches of premium, mail, express and suburban trains. The cameras have also been installed in 1, 300 coaches of mainline passenger trains. The provision of CCTV cameras in the remaining coaches will be taken up thereafter.



The work is planned to be done in two phases. This is done to ensure safety and transparency in railways.

19. South Central Railway zone commissioned the longest electrified tunnel

South Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel in India. The tunnel is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations and is part of the new Obulavaripalli-Venkatachalam railway line. It is 6.6 kms long.



For the construction, New Australian Tunneling Method (NATM) has been used and a cost Rs 460 crore has been incurred. It will help goods train by reducing the travel time from Krishnapatnam Port to Obulavaripalli from 10 hours to 5 hours.

20. CCMB sign MoU with CDFD to address the Genetic Disease burden of Indian population

CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) signed MoU to maximize the potential of both the institutes in human disease diagnostics.



The objectives of the MoU include provision of quality DNA based diagnostic services to the public at lower costs, to develop newer diagnostic methods and to engage in scientific research to improve understanding of human genetic disorders. The institutes have also mutually agreed to undertake training and educational activities in the field of Genetic Diagnostics.

21. Nasscom and NSDC launched Global Cloud Computing challenge

Nasscom organised 'WorldSkills India's International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019' in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). The four-day competition was held from July 2 to July 6. India, New Zealand, Belgium, Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Oman and Ireland were the participating countries.



The finalists would further compete in the 45th "WorldSkills International Competition 2019", to be held in Kazan, Russia in August 2019. "WorldSkills India" is an NSDC initiative launched in 2011.

22. NEMMP 2020 sets target to achieve 6-7 million sales of hybrid and electric vehicles by 2020

Under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020, there is an ambitious target to achieve 6-7 million sales of hybrid and electric vehicles by the year 2020. NEMMP) 2020 is a National Mission document providing the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.



The Phase-I of this Scheme - Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme was formulated in 2015. The Phase-II of the scheme was notified in April 2019 with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore.

23. NHAI signed MoU with NIIF for funding highway projects

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). The MoU is related to co-operation in formation of SPVs to execute the fund arrangement for large size road projects particularly green field projects to be executed by NHAI in future.



The MoU is expected to provide innovative financial models including for the 24,000 km 7.5 lakh crore Bharatmala Pariyojana. NIIF is a fund promoted by Government of India to give boost to the infrastructure sector in the country.

24. More than 1.64 crore farmers have registered on e-NAM platform

According to recent government data, more than 1.64 crore farmers and 1.24 Lakhs traders have been registered on e-NAM platform. Further trade transactions having total volume of 2,58,76,016 MT with total value of Rs. 71,069 crore, have been recorded on e-NAM platform till 30.06.2019.



National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), an online trading portal, was launched by Govt. of India on 14th April, 2016. In all, 585 wholesale regulated markets of 16 States and two Union Territories have been integrated with the e-NAM platform.

25. India, Myanmar to exchange crucial information on drug trafficking

The 4th Director General Level Talks between Narcotics Control Bureau, India and Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. (CCDAC), Myanmar on drug trafficking and related matters were held in new Delhi. The two-day bilateral meeting from 9th to 10th July , 2019 was organized to take coordinated and concerted actions against drug trafficking between the two countries.



The issues such as the trend of illicit poppy cultivation and heroin production in Myanmar, information on drug trafficking routes, controlled delivery operations, and sharing of best practices and training needs were also discussed.

26. Parliament adopts resolution levying 200% duty on Pakistani goods

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha approved the amendment in the first schedule of the Custom Tariff Act to levy 200% duty on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. India had notified the basic custom duty to 200% on all goods exported from Pakistan with effect from 16th of February, 2019.



As a part of the resolution, the duty on lentils, boric acid and diagnostic and laboratory reagents had been increased by 10% each to 50%, 27.5% and 30% respectively.

27. Centre decided to extend ESI Act to entire country by 2022

The Union Government has decided to extend the ESI Act to the entire country by 2022. Out of the total 722 districts, the ESI scheme has been extended to 541 districts. Under the ESIC 2.0 programme, ESI scheme was extended in newly implemented areas. Around 3 crores 60 lakh employees across the country are likely to be benefited by the measure.



Health Reforms Agenda of ESIC includes, online availability of Electronic Health Record of ESI Beneficiaries, Abhiyan Indradhanush, Medical Helpline No. 1800 11 3839 etc. These reforms are part of a series of "2nd Generation Reforms Agenda" named as 'ESIC-2.0'.

28. RPF launched “Operation Thirst”, to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water

The Railway Protection Force has launched “Operation Thirst” to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW (PACKAGED DRINKING WATER) in Railway premises.



During the drive, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands under different sections i.e. 144 & 153 of Rly. Act. Total 69294 bottles of PDW have been seized. Total fine amount of Rs. 6,80,855/- have been realized from these offenders. 4 Pantry car managers involved in selling of the same were also arrested.

29. CPWD to erect water conservation structures in 136 govt colonies across India

The Central Public Works Department will erect water conservation structures, including rainwater harvesting systems, in 136 residential areas across the country. In a major exercise to increase water table in government colonies, the CPWD will dig pits to conserve water through which water table will be recharged in these colonies. CPWD has a target of erecting water conservation structures in 100 colonies under the 100-day agenda.



The agency will carry out the major exercise in 136 colonies, including 74 in Delhi, which are maintained by it.

30. Women Ministry launched scheme for setting up fast track courts for quick trial and disposal of rape cases

Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani launched a scheme for setting up fast track special courts for expeditious trial and disposal of rape cases with the help of the Ministry of Law and Justice.



Empowered Committee of Officers under Nirbhaya Fund has appraised the project for setting up of 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts to dispose of cases pending trial for rape and POCSO Act across the country. The project has a total financial implication of over 767 crore rupees.

31. India, EU held high-level talks on migration

India and the European Union (EU) held the fifth high-level dialogue on migration and mobility (HLDMM) and discussed steps aimed at realizing the full potential of "further strengthening" cooperation in the key areas. It was held in New Delhi and co-chaired by Sanjiv Arora, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) and Paraskevi MICHOU, Director General (Migration and Home Affairs), European Commission.



The programme was held under the Technical Support Project for undertaking collaborative activities in the framework of the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMP) between India and the EU and its member states, signed on March 29, 2016.

32. 3502 projects sanctioned under PMGSY-Phases I to XII in J&K

Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 3502 projects with a total length of 19700 Kms to connect 2214 habitations has been sanctioned under PMGSY-Phases I to XII in Jammu and Kashmir State. A road length of 10,550 Kms has been completed connecting 1772 habitations in the State. State's Public Works (R&B) department has set a target of 5500 Kms for completion during this financial Year 2019-20.



PMGSY is a flagship programme of Government of India to provide connectivity to the rural habitations having population of 250 plus.

33. Govt preparing Rs 14,000 crore project to identify accident black spots

The union Government has prepared a Rs 14,000 crore project to identify accident black spots and plug gaps in highways to reduce casualties. While the Ministry of Finance has given its in- principle approval to the project, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approached the World Bank to implement it.



According to a report of the National Crime Control Bureau, a total of 4,80,652 road accidents took place in India in 2016 resulting in a loss of 1,50,785 lives and inflicting serious injuries on 4,94,624 persons.

34. ICSI launched Unique Document Identification Number for corporate governance

In an attempt to pursue heightened sense of self-governance and strengthen the practising side of the profession of Company Secretaries, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has rolled out a unique initiative in the form of Unique Document Identification Number or UDIN.



Under the mechanism, an alpha numeric number shall be generated for the identification of every document attested by Practising Company Secretaries which shall act as a trust that the document is genuinely signed by a Company Secretary in Practice. The ICSI UDIN will be mandatory for every document except an e-form, signed or certified by a CS with effect from 1st October, 2019.

35. 36th Central Apprenticeship Council meeting held

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the 36th Meeting of the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC) to discuss the new reforms to be introduced in apprenticeship training through amendments to Apprenticeship Rules, 1992. The 36th Central Apprenticeship Council aims to meet the aspirations of the Indian youth who strive to gain on-the-job training and secure better opportunities for employment.



A proposal was passed in the Council to raise the upper limit of engagement of apprentices from the existing 10% to 15%. A decision was taken to amend the period of apprenticeship training for optional trades from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 36 months.

36. High-level committee proposed to set up National Digital Health Mission

A high-level committee formed by the government has proposed setting up of a National Digital Health Mission. The report of the committee entitled 'National Digital Health Blueprint' was released by Health Minister Dr Harshavardhan.



The report proposes to set up a National Digital Health Mission, Personal Health Identifier (PHI), Health Master Directories and Registries. A combination of GST-N and UIDAI models of the institutional structure has been proposed. The access and delivery will be made by a combination of web (India Health Portal), mobile (MyHealth App) and call centres besides social media platforms.

37. DoT and ICRIER signed MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index

The Department of Telecom (DoT) and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and Union Territories (UT). The first estimate will be made in 2019 and subsequently every year until 2022.



BRI will appraise the condition of the underlying digital infrastructure and related factors at the State/UT level. Such an exercise will provide useful insights into strategic choices made by States for investment allocations in ICT programmes.

38. Health Ministry launched Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in Delhi

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a special campaign in Delhi to sensitize and mobilise the community on measures for prevention and control of Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) like Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya. The three-day campaign started from 17th July, 2019, aimed at making the community a partner for checking vector/mosquito breeding across Delhi.



A total of 286 ward-wise teams (in all 272 Municipal wards and 14 locations of NDMC) were constituted with 20-25 members per team including officers of the Municipal Corporation along with officers from Central Government and Government of NCTD.

39. Projects worth Rs. 380.12 crore sanctioned for development of Tribal Circuit under Swadesh Darshan Scheme

The Ministry of Tourism, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, has identified tribal circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development of tourism infrastructure in the country with the objective of showcasing tribal culture, art, handicrafts and providing livelihood and enhance employment opportunities for tribal populations.



The list of projects sanctioned are:

S.No	State/UT and Year	Name of the Project	Amt. Sanctioned (Rs. Cr)
1	Nagaland (2015-16)	Development of Tribal Circuit Peren-Kohima- Wokha	97.36

2	Chhattisgarh (2015-16)	Development of Tribal Tourism Circuit in Jashpur-Kunkuri-Mainpat- Ambikapur- Maheshpur -Ratanpur-Kurdar-Sarodadadar Gangrel- Kondagaon –Nathyanawagaon - Jagdalpur Chitrakoot -Tirthgarh	99.21
3	Telangana (2016-17)	Integrated Development of Mulugu- Laknavaram-Medavaram-Tadvai- Damaravi –Mallur - Bogatha Waterfalls as Tribal Circuit	83.88
4	Nagaland (2016-17)	Development of Tribal circuit (Mokokchung- Tuensang-Mon) in Nagaland	99.67
Total			380.12

40. Cabinet approved Inter-Institutional Agreement between India and USA for cooperation in the field of medicine

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Inter-Institutional Agreement between India and the USA in the areas of regenerative medicine and 3D bioprinting, new technologies, exchange of scientific ideas/information and technologies, and joint use of scientific infrastructure.



Salient features:

1. Exchange of faculty members and students for training, study and research especially in the areas on 3D Bioprinting
2. Execution of joint research projects
3. Exchange of information and academic publications

41. Over 30 lakh persons enrolled under PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme

A total of 30 lakh 85 thousand 205 persons have been enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme, PM-SYM, till 10th July, 2019. PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the benefit of unorganized workers of the country.



The scheme assures the minimum monthly pension of three thousand rupees to the beneficiaries after attaining the age of 60 years. The subscriber is required to pay the prescribed contribution amount and the Central Government provides the equal matching contribution.

42. Health Ministry signs MoUs with three Ministries to eradicate TB by 2025

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and efforts towards Tuberculosis-free India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.



TB is the leading infectious killer in India. There were an estimated 28 lakh new cases of TB in 2016, with over 4 lakh deaths every year. The Union Government has also implemented a national strategic plan (NSP) to end TB by 2025 with funding of over Rs 12,000 crore for the next three years.

43. Indian waterway used to transport cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh for the first time

In the first ever use of an Indian waterway to transport cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh via India, a shipment of stone aggregates was formally received at Narayangunj by the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguli Das, along with Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh Sonam T. Rabgye.



The stone aggregates were transported by trucks from Phuentsholing in Bhutan which is 160 kms from Dhubri jetty in Assam before being shipped to Bangladesh through Brahmaputra. The transport of cargo through this route will cut short travel time and reduce transportation cost by 30% and transport time by 50%.

44. India, Sri Lanka signed USD 91.26 mn agreement to upgrade rail track located between Colombo and Jaffna

Sri Lankan government signed an agreement with IRCON International for upgrading of a railway track with Indian concessional financing of around 91.26 million US dollars.



The agreement is for up gradation of over century old track of 130 km located between Colombo and Jaffna in Tamil-majority Northern Province. India has so far committed Line of Credit worth around 1.3 billion USD for development of railway sector in Sri Lanka. India has so far upgraded around 300 km of railway track and provided modern signaling & telecommunication system for around 330 km in Sri Lanka.

45. Centre approved proposal for early regulatory approval of transmission schemes identified for 66.5 GW Renewable Energy projects

In a major decision to fast track the deployment of Renewable Energy in the country, the Center has approved a proposal for early regulatory approval by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for transmission schemes identified for 66.5 Giga Watt National Renewable Energy Mission projects.



The Government has decided to set up 175 GW of Renewable Energy capacities in the country by the year 2022. About 80 Giga Watt of renewable energy generation has already been commissioned and the balance 95 Giga Watt has to come up in the next 3 years.

46. NDRF deploys 124 teams across nation to respond to emergency disaster

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has deployed 124 teams in the various parts of the country to respond to any type of disaster emergency, natural or man-made. NDRF teams have evacuated nearly 11,800 people in various flood prone areas of the country during this monsoon season.



In view of monsoon season and as a part of proactive measures, 84 teams have been pre-positioned in 23 states at 71 locations as per the flood vulnerability profile of the states. NDRF said, 40 teams have been permanently deployed in 27 Regional Response Centers (RRCs) for prompt response to any eventuality.

47. Union Culture Minister inaugurated architectural illumination of Safdarjung Tomb

Union Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi. A total of 213 technologically advanced LED lights have been used to highlight the 17th century monument. The consumption of LED lights is approximately 62% less than conventional light fixtures.



Archaeological Survey of India has taken up the project to illuminate the important monuments of Delhi. It has previously undertaken similar initiatives at the Red Fort, the

Humayun’s Tomb, and the Purana Qila. Qutub Minar and Tughlaqabad Fort are also expected to be upgraded.

48. Flight operations started on 8 more routes under regional connectivity scheme UDAAN

Eight more routes have started operations under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN. The routes are Mysore - Hyderabad, Mysore - Goa, Mysore - Cochin and Kolkata - Shillong. With this, the total UDAN routes that are now operational has increased to 194.

UDAN (which stands for 'UdeDeshKaAamNagrik') is a Regional Connectivity Scheme launched by the government with the objective of "letting the common citizen of the country fly", aimed at making air travel affordable and widespread. The scheme seeks to boost regional air connectivity and provides various incentives to airlines.



49. India and Mozambique signed MoU in field of Hydrography

India and Mozambique signed two Memorandum of Understanding on sharing white shipping information and co-operation in the field of Hydrography. The agreement will further strengthen the ongoing Indo-Mozambican Defence co-operation and India Mozambique relations in general.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s 3-day visit to South African country, Mozambique witnessed the growing defence co-operation between the two countries and the potential

such collaboration offers for enhancing security in the Indian Ocean Region.

50. India, Myanmar signed MoU on defence co-operation

India and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence co-operation. It aimed at enhancing defence co-operation, review joint exercises and training provided to Myanmar Defence Services. The main objective was to strengthen maritime security by joint surveillance and capacity building, medical co-operation, pollution response and for developing new infrastructure.



Myanmar is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy towards prioritising relations with its East Asian neighbours. India has steadily increased defence co-operation with Myanmar in recent years.

51. India and Benin signed MoUs in various fields

India and Benin signed four MoUs on education, health and e-visa facilities. The signing of the agreement was on mutual exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic and official passports and agreement on the fresh line of credit of 100 million US dollars by India to finance development projects in Benin.



Two more MoUs were signed on tele education program e-vidyabharati and Tele medicine initiative e-Arogyabharati. Under these programmes, India will be extending free tele-education courses to 15,000 students and telemedicine courses to 1000 doctors and paramedics in Africa.

52. Cabinet approved merger of National Institute of Miners' Health with ICMR-NIOH

The Union Cabinet has approved to dissolve National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH) and merge with ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH). The merger/amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH will prove beneficial to both the Institutes in terms of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides the efficient management of public money.



NIMH was set up by Government of India in 1990. It specializes in providing technical support services to mining and mineral based industry. The focus areas of NIOH include a vast array of areas related to occupational health which also includes, occupational medicine and occupational hygiene.

53. Virtual Museum software designed for digitization of archaeological museums

Human Centres Design and Computing Group has developed JATAN: Virtual Museum software which is used for creating the digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing the National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums. It is part of MoU between Ministry of Culture, Government of India and C-DAC.



JATAN is National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums which will include 48 Archaeological Site Museums under

Archaeological Survey of India, out of which 2 have been already digitized. The portal works through the website - <http://museumsfindia.gov.in/>.

54. LIC offers Rs 1.25 trillion by 2024 for highway projects

As part of arranging source of funds to meet India's huge infrastructure Bharatmala project, insurance giant LIC has agreed to offer Rs 1.25 trillion line of credit by 2024, to fund highway projects. Rs 8.41 trillion ambitious Bharatmala project that aims to lay a grid of 83,677 km highways pan-India has been looking to trapping various sources of funds including pension and insurance funds.



Bharatmala project will be funded through taxes, cess, toll revenue, market borrowings, private sector participation, insurance fund, pension funds, masala bonds.

Persons in News

1. ITBP DIG Aparna Kumar became first civil servant to summit Mount Denali

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Aparna Kumar has become the first civil servant to scale Mount Denali, the highest peak in North America. She got her success in her third attempt. Aparna Kumar is a 2002 batch IPS officer from UP cadre. This was her 7th summit in her '7 Summits' challenge.

Aparna is also the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition.



2. Delhi's Isha Kanth bagged internship at International Court of Justice

Out of the two interns selected worldwide for internship programme at International Court of Justice, India's Isha Kanth is one of the two interns selected for such programme in Hague. Isha Kanth is pursuing her graduation in Law from Queen Mary University of London.

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The ICJ is meant to settle international legal disputes submitted by states and give advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by the UN.



INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE

3. Chandrakant Kavlekar to be the new Deputy CM of Goa

Chandrakant Kavlekar was sworn in as deputy chief minister of Goa. He will replace Vijai Sardesai. He along with 10 Congress MLAs had joined the BJP. Prior to joining BJP, he was the former leader of opposition.

Former Deputy Speaker of the Goa Assembly, Michael Lobo was also sworn in as minister in the cabinet. The other two new inductees of the cabinet were Jeniffer Monserratte and Philip Neri Rodrigues.



4. ICJ ruled in favour of India and stayed Kulbushan Jadhav's execution

International Court of Justice, ICJ, ruled in favour of India and stayed Kulbushan Jadhav's death sentence. In its verdict, the Court has directed Pakistan to provide effective review and reconsideration of his conviction and sentences. Court affirmed Jadhav's right to consular access and notification and directed Pakistan to give him consular access.



A retired Indian Navy officer, Jadhav, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the Hague based-ICJ in May 2017 against Pakistan for denying consular access to Jadhav.

5. Sachin Tendulkar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South Africa's Allan Donald and Australia's Cathryn Fitzpatrick. Tendulkar, the most prolific batsman in history, was inducted immediately after becoming eligible for induction, which requires that a player should have played his last international match at least five years before.



Tendulkar, who retired in November 2013, scored 15,921 runs in Tests and 18,426 in ODIs, both of which remain records. He is the sixth Indian to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame after Bishan Singh Bedi, Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid.

6. Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Malik clinched Mr South Asia title

Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik clinched Mr. South Asia title at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu. Malik, the winner of 80 kg category, was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories. Afghanistan won team championship by securing a top position with 535 points. Host Nepal finished second with 445 points, while India remained third with 380 points.



A total of 91 bodybuilders participated in the championship organised by South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation under the auspices of Nepal Bodybuilding and Fitness Association.

Places in News

1. PM Modi launched plantation drive in Varanasi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a tree plantation drive in Varanasi. Under the drive, Uttar Pradesh government will plant 22 crore trees in the state. Mr Modi also launched Bharatiya Janata Party's nationwide membership drive in Varanasi coinciding with the birth anniversary of Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.



Prime Minister also unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at Babatpur airport in Varanasi. Varanasi is one of the world's oldest continually inhabited cities, and one of the holiest in Hinduism.

2. UNESCO names ancient Babylon city a World Heritage Site

The ancient Mesopotamian city of Babylon has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Iraq has been lobbying since 1983 for the 4,000-year-old site to be added to the UN's prestigious list. According to UNESCO, the seat of successive empires, under rulers such as Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon represents the expression of the creativity of the Neo-Babylonian Empire at its height.



The city was famous for its Hanging Gardens, which were among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

3. Jaipur listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site

43rd session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO was held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. UNESCO named 29 new World Heritage sites for 2019. The Walled City of Jaipur, known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, made an official entry into UNESCO World Heritage Site list.



The fortified city of Jaipur, in India's north-western state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. The city's urban planning shows an exchange of ideas from ancient Hindu and modern Mughal as well as Western cultures.

4. India's first Design Development Centre launched in Surat

India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in Surat to promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector. It is done with an aim to explore business needs from co-working space, bring technicians, expert advises to cognitive workshops and enhance exposure to the industry.



Fashionova has been named in the Start-up scheme of the Government. The new center will fulfill the needs of new designs of the city and all types of brands will be able to connect with emerging designers of the country.

5. Italy's Prosecco hills added to UNESCO World Heritage list

Italy's Prosecco hills northeast of Venice, which have been cultivated for centuries, were added to the World Heritage list by the UN cultural organisation. The Conegliano and Valdobbiadene hills are known for the grapes grown on hills that produce the famous prosecco sparkling wine.



The region became Italy's 55th World Heritage site. The prosecco sparkling white, which has the highest classification available to Italian wine, is produced in a territory spread over nine provinces in Italy's northeast. The landscape is characterised by hogback hills, ciglioni -- small plots of vines on narrow grassy terraces.

6. Bi-cycle sharing scheme introduced in Puducherry

A bicycle sharing scheme was introduced in Puducherry for smart city development plan. The registered users or customers can use bicycles to hop from one place to another within the boulevard area. The bicycles can be left at any of the docking stations after use. 100 spots have been identified for such cycle docking stations.



Puducherians will be highly relieved of the traffic congestion and pollution problems. This scheme is one among the 22 prioritised schemes of the Puducherry Smart City Project for which about 194 crore rupees would be spent.

7. India USTR talks held in New Delhi

A delegation led by Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) Christopher Wilson visited India to explore potential for enhanced bilateral trade and economic engagement with India under the new Government. The delegation held bilateral talks with the Indian delegation led by Sanjay Chadha, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce. The meeting aimed at providing a new impetus to bilateral trade and commercial ties.



Both sides discussed the broad contours of bilateral trade and commercial ties and agreed to continue their discussions for achieving mutually beneficial outcomes aimed at further growing the economic relationship and addressing mutual trade concerns.

8. UK Joint Economic Trade Committee held in London

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal participated in the 13th meeting of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) on 15th July 2019. The key themes that were discussed included- Future of the UK-India Financial Services Relationship, opportunities in India’s growing economy, innovation in financial services (FinTech), investing in stressed assets, opportunities in green infrastructure financing, investing in innovation (private equity/venture capital) and future of insurance.



The India – UK JETCO was established in 2005, to further develop a strategic economic relationship and develop business led vehicles to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

9. Film Divisions to launch documentary film club in Mumbai

Film Divisions will launch KSHITIJ, a documentary film club in Mumbai. An acclaimed documentary film “Secret Life of Frogs” by Ajay and Vijay Bedi will be screened as the inaugural film. The screenings will be held at Films Division Complex. Public screenings will begin at 5:30 PM on the second and fourth Friday of every month.



The initiative, being launched in association with Indian Documentary Producer’s Association, will give movie lovers, an opportunity to watch acclaimed documentary films and also to interact with the film’s director.

10. 10th Jagran Film festival inaugurated in New Delhi

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 10th Jagran Film festival at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi. He highlighted the recent steps taken by the Ministry to promote India as a filming destination through single window clearance mechanism created through film facilitation office.



Jagran Film Festival, JFF, is an initiative by the Jagran Prakashan Group towards creating a culture of cinema appreciation and an honest and sincere attempt **to** create a platform that connects great content with audiences across the country.

Regional

1. West Bengal Government announced 10% reservation to economically backward section

The West Bengal Cabinet has announced to provide 10% reservation in Education and Employment to the economically backward section general category people of the state. However people getting reservations under caste system will not get the benefit. With this, West Bengal became fourth state to cross the 50% quota cap fixed by the Supreme Court after Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Telangana.



Economically Weaker Section in India is a subcategory of people belonging to the General Category having an annual family income less than ₹8 lakhs.

2. Assam CM flagged off first international flight connecting Guwahati and Dhaka

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the first international flight connecting Guwahati and Dhaka at Borjhar airport in Guwahati. The state government aims to have direct air connectivity of Assam with all the capitals of South East Asian countries. The Assam Government has committed 100 crore rupees per year for three years under viability gap funding.



Another flight connecting Guwahati-Bangkok is also likely to be started in the next few months along with flights to Kathmandu, Yangon, Hanoi and Kuala Lumpur.

3. Parliament approved resolution to extend President's Rule in J&K

The Parliament has given its nod to the resolution seeking extension of President rule in Jammu and Kashmir for further period of six months with effect from 3rd July 2019. Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was also passed by Parliament. The reservation bill proposes to give 3% reservation in educational institutions and government jobs to people living within 10 km of the International Border in Jammu.



J-K Governor Satypal Malik had on November 21, 2018 dissolved the 87-member assembly. On December 20, 2018 President's rule was imposed.

4. West Bengal introduced legislation for ensuring journalists' job security

The West Bengal government has decided to bring legislation in the Assembly for ensuring the job security of Journalists in the State. The legislation aims at social security of Journalist and deal with the issues of retrenchment of Journalists and closure of TV channels and Newspapers publication houses.



Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee announced sanctioning of land for housing complex of Journalists besides 2nd campus of the Press club in the city. The Chief Minister handed over pension papers to the Journalists instituted by the State government and felicitated senior workers of the club.

5. UP Government launched campaign to eradicate AES and JE

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a large scale campaign called "DASTAK" to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease. The campaign ran from 1st to 31st July. This campaign is part of a comprehensive Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy embraced by state government.



Under this state-wide campaign teams will go door to door in every village of the 75 districts of the state to create awareness about the communicable diseases as well as JE and AES.

6. Assam state to develop over three hundred tourist spots

Assam government has taken a step to develop 316 tourists spots in the state so as to generate employment opportunities in the tourism sector. The government will spend Rs 150 crore to develop these locations under Axom Darshan. Various other facilities such as toilet, waste management, drinking water and waiting shades to be built or developed across the state in important locations.



River tourism is one of the sought after sectors in Assam and the state government will utilise the mighty Brahmaputra to develop the sector.

7. J&K state government approved Aadhaar-linked payment mode for disbursal of pension

State Administrative Council (SAC) of Jammu and Kashmir government approved Aadhaar-linked payment mode for disbursal of pension to beneficiaries under various central and state-sponsored schemes in order to ensure transparency and avoid delays in disbursement of pension to eligible old-aged, widows and physically challenged persons.



The SAC directed Deputy Commissioners (DC) to undertake rigorous re-scrutinisation of all the pending pension cases in their respective districts. All eligible cases duly supported by Aadhaar numbers will be forwarded by the DCs to the respective directorates of social welfare.

8. UP government launched toll-free CM helpline 1076

The Uttar Pradesh State government has launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline 1076 that will enable people from across the state to register their complaints and will ensure a time-bound action on the complaints. Chief Minister will review the complaints every month and if a department gets more than 100 complaints in a month, action will be taken against the concerned officials.



When the complainant calls the helpline, he/she will get an SMS informing that the complaint has been sent to the department concerned.

9. Jagannath Rath Yatra festival began

The world famous nine-day long Jagannath Rath Yatra festival began in the temple town of Puri in Odisha. The festival is also celebrated in other parts of India and abroad. In West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee flagged off Rath Yatra of ISKCON in Kolkata. Rath Yatra festival is also celebrated in Bangladesh with religious fervour and gaiety.



Lakhs of people gathered for a glimpse of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra as they travelled from Jagannath temple to Shree Gundicha temple.

10. Delhi Police inked pact with SECI for rooftop solar energy systems

Delhi Police has signed an agreement with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to implement *rooftop solar energy systems*. Under the project, grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic systems will be optimally implemented in the 200 buildings and complexes available with Delhi Police across the city.



The environment friendly initiative will help to reduce the electricity bill payments of the Delhi Police. Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission.

11. Centre sanctions Rs 358 crore to Tripura for road projects

The Union Government has sanctioned an additional amount of Rs 358 crore for construction of new roads in rural areas of Tripura. The funds were allocated as a special assistance to Tripura.



The government also approved World Bank taking up Rs 299.96 crore worth of the state government's projects aimed at construction of 42 roads spanning over 307.23 kilometres. The state government would contribute Rs 33.32 crore.

12. Hong Kong approved over \$9 million relief fund for cyclone-hit Odisha

The Hong Kong government has approved over \$900,000 for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Odisha. The relief fund will benefit around 45,100 cyclone victims and will be used to provide hygiene kits, kitchen kits, water, education, household items and shelter kits.



In order to monitor disbursement of funds for designated purpose, agencies will be asked to submit evaluation reports and audited accounts on the use of the grants after the relief projects have been completed.

13. Centre announced to support Rs 358 crore hospital in Sikkim

The Centre will support the construction of 300-bed hospital in Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 358.29 crore. A clearance has already been given by the NITI Aayog and the Union Ministry of Health for the hospital proposed to be built at Namchi, the district headquarter of South Sikkim district.



There has been proposal for 100 bed hospital at Mangan, North Sikkim, another 100 bed hospital at Simgtem in East Sikkim and the upgradation of Pakyong Primary Health Centre.

14. Madhya Pradesh announced to produce its own seeds soon

The Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Seed Federation plans to produce seeds along with distribution and marketing of certified and high quality seeds to farmers. The brand name of seeds will be 'Sah-Beej'. A large number of seed committees are present in the state which will be linked to the seed federation and these committees will help in the marketing of seeds.



The federation has planned to produce seeds from the next Rabi season. Seed quality plays an important role in the production of agronomic and horticultural crops.

15. Meghalaya fined Rs 100 cr by Supreme Court for illegal coal mining

The Supreme Court has directed the Meghalaya government to deposit the fine of Rs 100 crore imposed by the NGT for having failed to curb illegal coal mining. The court has asked to deposit the funds with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).



The court also asked to hand over the illegally extracted coal to Coal India Limited (CIL) which will auction it and deposit the funds with the state government. National Green Tribunal had earlier banned four mining plants of Meghalaya after a flooding in a mine led to several deaths.

16. Bonalu festival kicked off at Golconda Fort in Telangana

The annually celebrated Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu festival kicked off at the Jagadamba temple in historic Golconda Fort, Telangana. It is celebrated to express thanksgiving to Goddess for fulfilment of vows. The term 'Bonalu' refers to decorated pots containing food that is carried to the temples for offering them to the Goddess.



Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana. It is celebrated in the month of Ashada Masam, in July/August. Special pujas are performed for Yellamma on the first and last day of the festival.

17. Odisha announced Rs 10,000 monthly allowance for Padma Shri Awardees

The Odisha government decided to provide Rs 10,000 per month to Padma award winners of the state facing financial problem and belonging to economically weaker section (EWS). Four Padma Shri winners of the state - Haladhar Nag, Daitari Naik, Kamala Pujari and Jitendra Haripal - were in the news for their poor financial conditions.



Daitari Naik was felicitated with the Padma Shri for single-handedly carving out a 3-km-long canal from a mountain stream with a hoe and a crowbar to irrigate agricultural land in his village.

18. Agri-Business Incubation Centre started in Chhattisgarh

The Union Agriculture Ministry has set up an Agri Business Incubation Centre in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur, Chhattisgarh. It is set up under the National Agriculture Development Scheme-RAFTAAR. Under the scheme, guidance, technology and infrastructure will be provided to youth and entrepreneurs for start-ups in different areas of agriculture.



The Agri Business Incubation Centre in Raipur with focus on innovations, skill building and entrepreneurs' development in agriculture and allied sectors will act as catalyst for developing an ecosystem conducive for growth of agripreneurship in the state and foster a "start-up" culture.

19. Meghalaya becomes first state to come up with Water Policy to ensure Water Conservation

Meghalaya has become the first Indian state to ensure water conservation, having its own water conservation policy after the state cabinet approved the draft State Water Policy.



The state will constitute a 'Water Sanitation Village Council' at the village level for smooth implementation of the policy. Meghalaya Water Policy aims to provide safe and hygienic water for various purposes like drinking, domestic, sanitation and livelihood development. It also aims at ensuring protection and conservation of catchment areas of all water sources to prevent degradation of the quantity and quality of water sources.

20. IT Dept announced to honour old, first time tax-payers of MP & Chhattisgarh

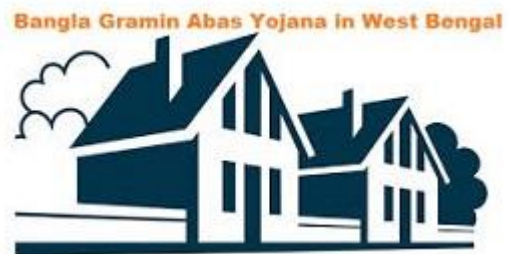
In Madhya Pradesh, the Income Tax Department will honour old and first time tax-payers of the Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring Chhattisgarh. These two states have more than 45 lakh tax payers. Principal Chief Income Tax Commissioner (MP and CG) Ajay Kumar Chouhan informed that as part of 159th Income Tax Day, cleanliness and plantation drives was carried out in all districts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.



The department has asked students to give written declarations that they would ensure their parents deposit Income Tax Returns honestly and around 35,000 students have filled the declaration.

21. West Bengal to construct 8.3 Lakh houses under Bangla Abas Yojana

The West Bengal Government has decided to construct 8 lakh 30 thousand houses under Bangla Abas Yojana for the people belonging to economically weaker sections during the current financial year.



Under the scheme, the Rural Development Department has constructed more than 14 lakh houses at different places in the last three years. Over Rs 17000 crore have been spent for this purpose so far. The centre is giving 60% of the fund while the State Government is bearing 40%. As per the Socio-Economic Census, 38 lakhs houses will be built under the scheme for eligible beneficiaries.

22. Madhya Pradesh state budget announced

MP State Finance Minister Tarun Bhanot presented a Budget of over Rs 2.33 lakh crore in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly with an expected fiscal deficit of 3.34% and revenue surplus of Rs 732 crore. The budget also raised the allocation for farmer welfare and agri-development sector by 6%. An amount of Rs 1,000 ha been allotted for Right to Water.



The Budget proposed to allocate Rs 132 crore for the welfare of bovines, while hiked grant to the state Waqf Board and Haj committee. The state also proposed budgetary allocation of Rs 8,000 crore to waive off remaining loans of around 20 lakh farmers in the state.

23. Google India's 'Internet Saathi' programme expands to Punjab and Odisha

Internet Saathi programme, a digital literacy initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts, aimed at empowering women in rural India, will expand to cover two new states: Punjab & Odisha. While it will cover around 5,000 villages in Punjab, it will cover 16,000-plus villages in Odisha.



The programme has reached 2.6 lakh villages across the country. It was launched as a pilot in Rajasthan in July 2015. The programme has contributed towards bridging the digital gender divide in rural India (female to male ratio from 1 in 10 in 2015 to 4 in 10 in 2018).

24. IFFI will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Year at Goa

The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from 20-28 November 2019 in Panaji, Goa. John Bailey, the President of Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has confirmed his participation for this year's IFFI.



This year's Festival will pay tribute to Ex Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar, who was instrumental in making Goa the permanent venue for IFFI. Russia will be IFFI's partner this year.

25. World Bank to offer \$250 million to Kerala for disaster management

The first tranche of \$250 million of the \$500 million fund set aside by the World Bank for the Resilient Kerala Programme (RKP). The project is aimed at enhancing the state's resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change in the wake of last year's floods.



THE WORLD BANK

Kerala has become the first Indian state to get this fund. The fund will be utilized for specific programmes, like improving the Ariver basin planning, sustainable agriculture besides improving resilience of the core road network.

26. Cabinet approved 2880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for Dibang Multipurpose Project (MPP) in Arunachal Pradesh for an amount of Rs. 1600 crore.



The estimated total cost of Project is Rs. 28080.35 including IDC & FC of Rs 3974.95 crore at Jun'18 price level. The estimated completion period for the project shall be nine years from receipt of Government sanction.

The project shall generate 2880MW (12x240MW) power to produce 11223MU of energy in a 90% dependable year. This is the largest ever Hydro Electric Projects to be constructed in India.

27. WEF Centre and Telangana govt announced to send medical supplies via drones

Telangana Government and the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced that they are set to launch an innovative project to deliver emergency medical supplies such as blood and vaccines via drones. The pilot project, called Medicine from the Sky, will run in partnership with the State Government and HealthNet Global Limited.



It will help facilitate decision-making in healthcare supply chains, focus on last-mile deliveries and address issues that affect the medical distribution system.

28. West Bengal signed MoU with British Council to brush up spoken English skills of polytechnic students

The West Bengal government signed an MOU with the British Council for brushing up the English Speaking skills of the students studying in Polytechnic Colleges in the state. The move is aimed to improve English speaking capacity for job seekers students.



An enquiry to assess job readiness of students was conducted recently and communication in English was found as a major hurdle. At present, there are 148 Polytechnic Colleges across the state.

29. Maharashtra increased financial aid to kin of Martyred Jawans

In order to provide financial support to families of jawans martyred in war or war-like situations or conflict related to national security, Maharashtra state government increased financial aid from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The financial aid will be provided depending on the severity of their injury.



Previously, jawans were granted ₹5 lakh for 1% to 25% injuries, ₹8.50 lakh for 26% to 50% injuries and ₹15 lakh for 51% to 100% injuries. This same has now increased to ₹20 lakh, ₹34 lakh and ₹60 lakh respectively.

30. First ever Himalayan states conclave to be organized in Uttarakhand

The first ever Himalayan states conclave will be hosted by Uttarakhand. The Chief Ministers of the Himalayan states such as Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland will be part of the conclave.



The main aim of conclave is to focus on sustainable goals, environmental protection, Himalayan culture, solving Himalayan state issues and economic development. Since NITI Aayog will also be part of this conclave, the key points adopted at the Himalayan conclave would be presented as a draft to the NITI Aayog for formation of policies for the region's development.

31. New e-challan system, e-payment gateway launched for use of Delhi Traffic Police

Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik launched the new e-challan system and the e-payment gateway for the use of Delhi Traffic Police. The E-challan devices are enabled with active GPS where the challan officer and the violator, both can be logged and tracked to a particular geo-location. This is an important tool for evidence to establish the credibility of the prosecution.



The payment gateway will help the citizens with the flexibility to login securely at their convenience and settle the pending violation notices with proof of payment.

32. Virtual court for online payment of traffic challan launched in Delhi

Delhi's first 'virtual court' has been launched at Tiz Hazari courts in order to facilitate online payments of traffic challans. The Delhi District Courts under the aegis of the E-Committee, Supreme Court of India launched the virtual court's web portal for online payment of traffic challans.



The portal will cater to traffic challans digitally generated by the Delhi Traffic Police via the E-Challan application developed by the NIC. Ruchi Aggarwal Asrani, Metropolitan Magistrate, will preside over the virtual court.

33. Nearly 9,725 houses will be built by the end of 2019 under PMAY-U in Manipur

The Manipur state government has kept a target to obtain approval for 46,360 numbers of beneficiaries for construction of houses in 27 towns of the state under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban(PMAY-U). The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has, till now, approved 26,348 beneficiaries for 24 towns.



PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA

The state government plans to build nearly 9725 houses by the end of 2019 under the scheme. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an initiative by Government of India in which 20 million affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor by 2022.

34. Defence Minister inaugurated Ujh and Basantar Bridges in J&K

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the One-kilometre-long Ujh bridge in Kathua district and 617.40 Metre long Basantar bridge in Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir. Ujh bridge is the longest bridge constructed by BRO and is constructed at a cost of approxRs 50 crore.



Basantar bridge has been constructed at a total cost of approxRs 41.7 crore. Both the bridges are vital for the Army for deployment on border areas and have been constructed under 69 RCC/13 BRTF of Project Sampark.

35. 7th Economic Census began from Tripura

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) kicked off 7th Economic Census from Tripura. The data will be collected through door to door survey of each household and commercial establishment under the provisions of Collection of Statistics Act 2008. The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December 2019 and the results to be available by March 2020.



The economic census is the only source of information on the significantly large unorganized sector in the country. As per the last Economic Census conducted in 2013, there were 58.5 million establishments employing around 131 million workers.

36. J&K: District Administration Udhampur launched helpline “Jeene Do”

Jammu and Kashmir, District Administration Udhampur launched a helpline, “Jeene Do”. The objective is to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques or PCPNDT Act under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.



People can lodge complaints regarding illegal sex detection. A Mobile Number — 9469793363 — has been dedicated to the Public to register complaints regarding sex determination during pre-natal checkups.

37. Himachal signed MoUs for 228 projects with investment of over Rs 27, 515 cr

Himachal Pradesh signed memorandum of understanding (MoUs) for 228 projects with investment of over Rs. 27, 515 crores for various developmental projects. This is for the first time in the history of Himachal Pradesh that entrepreneurs have come forward in such a big number to invest in the state.



The government has launched special campaign to attract investors and it is expected that the state would be able to achieve the target of attracting investment of Rs. 85 thousand crores after the forthcoming global investors meet.

38. ADB sanctioned about Rs 2000 Cr for power projects in Tripura

Asian Development Bank has sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for upgradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura. The project has been sanctioned for upgrading capacity of 63 MW Rokhia Project to 120 MW at an estimated cost of Rs 699 crore and modernising Gumti Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 1225 crore.



Rokhia project is located at West Tripura district whereas Gumti project is in Gomati district.

39. Arunachal CM launched statewide tree plantation programme

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the statewide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar.



The campaign is being held as a part of Van Mahotsav celebration and has set the target of planting 1 crore tree within the next five years. Under this campaign, the forest department has come up with a vision to preserve this intricate link and to enable the tribal people to reap economic benefit from the forest in a sustainable way. Arunachal is known globally for its huge forest cover and is considered one of the eighteen 'biodiversity hotspots' in the world.

40. Jammu & Kashmir to transform Anganwadi Centres into Model Community facilities

Jammu and Kashmir Government rolled out a plan to transform the Anganwadi Centres into state-of-the-art Model Community Facilities for children and mothers in the State. As a part of this programme in the first phase, 50 existing Anganwadi Centres in each district would be transformed through convergence with MGNREGA into Model Anganwadi Centres.



They will be equipped with upgraded infrastructure and improved amenities like toilets, drinking water and hygiene. It will be then replicated at other Anganwadi Centres in the State for efficient delivery of Integrated Child Development Scheme, ICDS.

Reports

1. India ranked at 74th place among nations with money in Swiss banks

India has been ranked at 74th place in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with Swiss banks as per data released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The UK tops the list. India was ranked 73rd last year.

India accounts for just about 0.07 per cent of the aggregate funds parked by all foreign clients of Switzerland-based banks. UK is followed by the US, West Indies, France and Hong Kong in the top five.



2. Maharashtra scored top position in NITI Aayog's AMFFR Index

Maharashtra scored top position in NITI Aayog's AMFFR (Agricultural Marketing & Farm Friendly Reforms) Index. AMFFR Index ranks States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act, joining eNAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis. It has a score which can have minimum value "0" implying no reforms and maximum value "100" implying complete reforms.



The state of Maharashtra has implemented most of the marketing reforms and it offers best environment for doing agribusiness among all the states and UTs.

3. Henley Passport Index 2019 placed India at 86th position

The latest Henley Passport Index 2019 ranks the Indian passport on the 86th position with a mobility score of 58. The score points out that Indian Passport holders can access 58 countries around the world without a prior visa.

Japan and Singapore hold onto the top spot with a visa-free or visa-on-arrival score of 189. South Korea is placed 2nd on the index along with Finland and Germany. Afghanistan at 109th is last on the list with a visa-free/visa-on-arrival score of just 25.



4. UNESCO Education Report presented to the Vice-President of India

A UNESCO delegation led by Mr. Eric Falt, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi presented 'State of the Education Report for India 2019-Children with Disabilities', to the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.



The report contains 10 recommendations, including amendments to Right to Education Act to align with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act by incorporating specific concerns of children with disabilities.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is based in Paris. The current head of UNESCO is Audrey Azoulay.

5. US-India bilateral trade could reach USD 238 billion by 2025

According to a recent report titled "US India Bilateral Trade Report" released by the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), the bilateral trade between India and the US could reach USD 238 billion by 2025 from the current USD 143 billion. This growth will occur if trade grows by 7.5% each year.



The report also projected that by 2025, bilateral trade could range between USD 283 billion to USD 327 billion, at an annual average growth rate of 10%-12.5%.

6. 2019 Forbes' list of the world's 100 highest paid celebrities

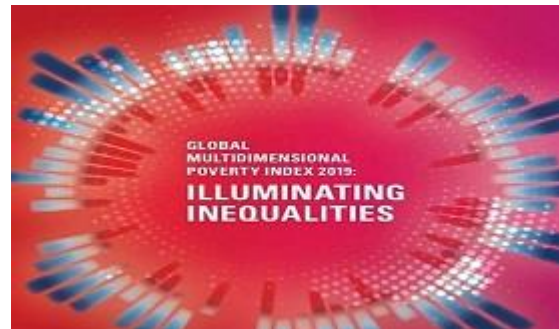
Forbes has released the "Highest paid Forbes Celebrity 100" for year 2019 list. The list was topped by singer Taylor Swift with pretax income of \$185 million followed by Kylie Jenner with \$170 mn earnings.



The other celebrities who were in top ten list were sports person Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and American rapper Kanye West. There were only 16 women who made it to the list of the top 100. Indian star Akshay Kumar was placed at 33rd position in top 100 list with \$65mn earnings.

7. 2019 Multidimensional Poverty Index released

United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) released the 2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index data and publication "Illuminating Inequalities". The MPI provides in-depth picture of global poverty in all its dimensions and monitors progress towards Sustainable Development Goal to end poverty.



MPI results show that across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people, 23.1% are multidimensionally poor and around 886 million people live in middle-income countries. 1.3 billion poor people are children under age 18. India and Cambodia reduced their MPI values the fastest and they did not leave the poorest groups behind.

8. New UN report reveals over 820 million people suffering from hunger

According to a UN report named 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World', more than 821 million people suffered from hunger worldwide in 2018, the third year in a row that the number has risen.

Key facts and figures:

1. Number of hungry people in the world in 2018: 821.6 million (or 1 in 9 people)
 - in Asia: 513.9 million
 - in Africa: 256.1million
 - in Latin America and the Caribbean: 42.5 million
2. Number of moderately or severely food insecure: 2 billion (26.4%)
3. Babies born with low birth weight: 20.5 million (one in seven)



9. PM released results of 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018

On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the results of the fourth cycle of All India Tiger Estimation – 2018 in New Delhi. According to survey, the count of tigers in India has risen to 2967 in 2018. The survey is conducted once in 4 years. It was 4th tiger survey since 2006.



The key findings were:

- Madhya Pradesh has highest tiger population at 526, followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).
- Chhattisgarh and Mizoram showed decline in population.
- Best managed tiger reserves are Pench sanctuary (MP) and Periyar sanctuary of Kerala.
- Pench Tiger Reserve has highest number of tigers.

10. India moves 5 places up in the Global Innovation Index 2019

India moved up in the Global Innovation Index, 2019 by five notches to 52nd position. The Index prepared is by World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It ranks innovative performances of 129 economies around the world on 80 indicators including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.



Switzerland retained its top spot. The theme this year is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, which aims to explore the role of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare.

11. Fortune Global list of top 500 companies unveiled

US giant Walmart remained on top of the Fortune 500 list followed by Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group. The third in the list is Dutch company Royal Dutch Shell followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid in the top five respectively.



Reliance Industries became the highest-ranked Indian firm in the list at 106th position leaving behind State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) at 117. ONGC, SBI, Tata Motors, BPCL and Rajesh Exports are the other Indian companies to feature on the list.

Resignations & Retirements

1. Shoaib Malik announced retirement from ODIs

Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik announced his retirement from ODI format. Malik made his ODI debut in 1999 against West Indies. He played 287 ODIs for Pakistan and scored 7,534 runs that included 9 hundreds and 44 fifties. He also picked 158 wickets in ODIs for his country. The 37-year-old played his last ODI against India in Manchester.



Shoaib has also played 35 Tests and 111 T20Is. He has 3 test hundreds in his name with a total of 1,898 runs. He has scored 2,263 runs in the T20Is.

2. Ambati Rayudu announced retirement from international cricket

India batsman Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from international cricket. Rayudu played 55 ODIs for India and scored 1694 runs at an average of 47.05. He scored 3 centuries and 10 fifties. He also played 6 T20Is for India. He also played 97 first-class games and scored 6151 runs.



Rayudu, who made his ODI debut against Zimbabwe in 2013 played his last ODI against Australia in Ranchi in 2019.

3. Milind Deora resigned as Mumbai Congress President

Mumbai Congress President Milind Deora announced his resignation from the post. He recommended setting up of a provisional collective leadership comprising three senior Congress leaders to oversee the city party unit till the Maharashtra Assembly polls which are due.



Milind Deora was appointed the president of the Mumbai Congress on the eve of the Lok Sabha polls. He was a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament of India, from the Mumbai South constituency.

4. Dutch great Arjen Robben announced retirement from football

Former Bayern Munich and Netherlands forward, Arjen Robben, announced his retirement from football. He won two Premier League titles at Chelsea in 2005 and 2006. He also won a La Liga winner's medal with Real Madrid.



Robben played 96 international matches for the Netherlands, scoring 37 goals. He will be best remembered for his time at German club Bayern Munich. He helped the club to eight Bundesliga crowns, five German Cups and the 2013 Champions League title, scoring 144 goals in 309 matches.

5. Christine Lagarde resigned as managing director of IMF

Christine Lagarde has submitted her resignation from her role of managing director of the International Monetary Fund after she was nominated to be the next president of the European Central Bank.



Christine, a former French cabinet minister, has been heading the IMF since 2011. As managing director, she coordinated large bailout loans for Greece in concert with the ECB and European Union. She was nominated to be the first woman president of the ECB and if so happens, she will replace Mario Draghi.

6. Navjot Singh Sidhu resigned as cabinet minister in Punjab

Navjot Singh Sidhu submitted his resignation as Punjab Cabinet Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy Sources. Chief Minister Amrinder Singh had divested Sidhu of his Local Bodies and Tourism and Culture Affairs department citing non-performance and given him the power ministry.



Punjab Governor V.P.S. Badnore formally accepted the resignation after it was approved by the Chief Minister, Captain Amrinder Singh. Navjot Singh Sidhu is an Indian politician, television personality and former cricketer.

Science & Technology

1. Study reveals electronic cigarettes damage brain stem cells

A research team at the University of California has found that electronic cigarettes produce a stress response in brain stem cells. Stem cells are those that become specialised cells with more specific functions, such as brain cells, blood cells. ECs are harmful nicotine-delivery devices that aerosolize nicotine and flavour chemicals through heating.



Even short-term exposure can stress cells in a manner that may lead, with chronic use, to cell death or disease. The youth and pregnant women are most affected.

2. Russia successfully launched Soyuz-2.1a with 33 satellites

Russia successfully launched its Soyuz rocket sending the Meteor M2-2 weather satellite and 32 other smaller satellites into orbit. The mission lifted off from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in eastern Russia.



The Meteor M2-2 weather satellite will provide Russian meteorologists with images of clouds, the surface of the Earth, ice cover, as well as humidity and temperature.

The rest of the satellites that launched on the rocket belong to 12 other countries such as the U.S., Germany, France and Sweden, in addition to three Russian cubesats.

3. NASA announced launch of Dragonfly to search for life on Titan

NASA announced launch of Dragonfly to search for life on Saturn's largest moon Titan. The Dragonfly mission will fly multiple sorties to sample and examine sites around Saturn's icy moon. Dragonfly will launch in 2026 and arrive in 2034. The rotorcraft will fly to dozens of promising locations on Titan looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and Earth.



Dragonfly marks the first time NASA will fly a multi-rotor vehicle for science on another planet. Titan can provide clues to how life may have arisen on our planet. Titan is the second largest moon in our solar system.

4. Creation of Gaganyaan National Advisory Council

A Gaganyaan National Advisory Council has been created with members from different institutions and industries to monitor planning and preparation for the manned mission. The Gaganyaan project is on track to be realized by the 75th Independence day or earlier.



The design and configuration of major subsystems are finalised. The qualification tests pertaining to human rating of flight systems has commenced and Cryogenic Engine tests are in progress. The crew training plan is finalised and the crew selection process has commenced.

5. India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) to be set up at Pottipuram, Tamil Nadu

The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram of Tamil Nadu. The project aims to set up a 51000-ton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector to observe naturally occurring atmospheric neutrinos in a cavern at the end of an approximately 2 km long tunnel in a mountain.



This project will help to reduce the noise from cosmic rays that is ever present over-ground and which would outnumber the rare neutrino interactions even in a detector as large as ICAL. ICAL at INO would be the first of its type to be set up in India.

6. India and Russia held talks on space cooperation

India and Russia have held high-level talks in New Delhi to elevate bilateral co-operation to the next level in the field of space, including assistance in India's maiden human space flight mission 'Gaganyaan'. The possibilities for the production of space systems in India were an important part of the discussions.



Co-operation in futuristic technologies including new space systems, rocket engines, propellants and propulsion systems, spacecrafts and launch vehicle technology were also discussed. Gaganyaan Mission, will carry Indian astronaut to space in 2022, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Independence.

7. Russia launched powerful space X-ray telescope to map cosmos

Russia launched a Powerful X-ray space telescope called Spektr-RG from cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The project is a joint venture with Germany that will map X-rays across the entire sky in unprecedented detail.



Spektr-RG stands for Spectrum – Roentgen Gamma. It will provide fresh insights on the accelerating behaviour of cosmic expansion. It should also identify a staggering number of new X-ray sources, such as the colossal black holes that reside at the centre of galaxies.

8. Chandrayaan-2 successfully launched

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launched the 3840 kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into an earth orbit. GSLV MkIII-M1 vehicle lifted off from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota.



Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon. It comprises a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan). The mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface.

9. China launched first private rocket capable of carrying satellites

China based start-up "I-Space " became the first Chinese company to launch China's first commercial rocket that can send a satellite into orbit. iSpace is also known as Interstellar Glory Space Technology Ltd or StarCraft Glory. It launched 66-foot Hyperbola-1 named rocket that carried 2 satellites and reached orbit at an altitude of 186 miles.



I-Space is a three-year-old company that develops solid fuel small satellite orbital launchers. Morgan Stanley has estimated it to be worth about \$1 trillion by 2040.

1. Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav wins WBC Asia title

Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand. The fight was conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the WBC.



WBA Asia is an organisation for professional boxing in the Central Asia, Oceania, Pan Pacific, Eurasia and Southeast and Far East nations. The Asian Boxing Council, commonly known as the WBC Asia, is a boxing federation operating under the umbrella of the World Boxing Council.

2. Veer Chotrani won U-19 Asian Squash title

India won a gold in the Under-19 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Macau, China after Veer Chotrani beat compatriot Yash Fadte in the final. With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to win the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar.



India also bagged two silver medals through Neel Joshi in the boys Under-17 category and Yuvna Gupta in the girls Under-15 section. India finished the tournament with one gold, three silver and three bronze.

3. Shakib Al Hasan becomes third batsman to score over 600 runs in a World Cup

Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan has become the third cricketer in the world to score more than 600 runs in a World Cup series. He scored 606 runs. Sachin had scored 673 runs during the 2003 World Cup while Mathew Hayden had scored 659 runs during the 2007 Cricket World Cup.



However, Rohit Sharma of India ended to become the highest run-getter in WC 2019 after he scored 648 runs, thus becoming the 4th batsmen to score more than 600 runs in a WC. David Warner of Australia became the fifth batsman after he scored a total of 647 runs in the WC 2019.

4. Hima Das won 5th international gold in the month

Indian sprinter Hima Das won her fifth gold of the month after she won the 400m competition in the Nove Mesto nad Metuji Grand Prix in Czech Republic.

She won her first gold on July 2 in the 200m race at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland. She then won her second 200m gold at the Kutno Athletics Meet, also in Poland, on July 7. She won her third 200m gold at the Kladno Athletics Meet in Czech Republic on July 13. Her fourth gold came at the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic on 17th.



5. Rahul Dravid appointed as head of cricket at NCA

The BCCI has appointed former India captain Rahul Dravid as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will oversee all cricket related activities at NCA and will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and support staff at the NCA.

Dravid will also work closely with the National Men's and Women's Head Coaches and Cricket Coaches for India Developmental teams – including India A, India Under 19, India Under 23 teams, in the identification of key training and development objectives.



6. India to host ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

India will host ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. It will be the 13th edition of the men's Cricket World Cup. The event will be held from February 9-March 26, 2023. 10 teams will participate in the WC.

India has co-hosted the World Cup three times in the past, 1987 with Pakistan, 1996 with Pakistan and Sri Lanka and 2011 with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The Cricket World Cup has been hosted most number of times, 5 times, by England.



7. Dutee Chand becomes first Indian to win 100m Gold in World Universiade

Indian sprinter, Dutee Chand, won the 100m gold medal in the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy and became the first Indian to achieve the feat. She won the race in 11.32 seconds. She also holds the 100m national record with 11.24 seconds.



Del Ponte of Switzerland won the Silver medal while Lisa KwaYie of Germany took the bronze. The Universiade is an international multi-sport event, organized for university athletes by the International University Sports Federation (FISU). It is also referred to as the World University Games or World Student Games.

8. Max Verstappen won Austrian Grand Prix

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix 2019. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was second in the race followed by Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas. Verstappen and Leclerc, at 21 years of age, became the youngest top-two finishers in Formula One history.



Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes is leading the driver's points table this year with 223 points followed by his teammate Valtteri Bottas at 184 points. Max Verstappen is placed third with 136 points.

9. Indian athletes win six medals on 1st day of Qasanov Memorial Meet

Indian track and field athletes won six medals, including three golds, on the first day of the Qasanov Memorial Meet at Almaty in Kazakhstan. Mohammed Afsal won the men's 800m gold. Gagandeep Singh won gold in men's discus throw. Senthil Kumar Mithravarun took the silver with a 49.54m throw.



Navjeet Kaur Dhillon won the third gold for India recording discus throw covering 54.80m. In women's hammer throw, Jyoti Jakhar Ran (58.69m) bagged silver and Anita (55.38m) got bronze.

10. Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2019

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship 2019 was held in Apia, Samoa across three categories — senior, junior and youth. India topped the medals tally in both senior and junior age groups. India won 35 medals (22 golds, 10 silvers and 3 bronze medals) across 3 age groups.



Mirabai Chanu, gold medalist at 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Khel Ratna awardee, won gold in women's 49 kg with a total lift of 191 kg. Ajay Singh created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category by lifting more than double his body weight (190kg).

11. Odisha hosted 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

The 21st edition of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship began at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. The tournament was held from 17th to 22nd July, 2019. 12 Nations participated in the event. It was inaugurated by Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal.



Indian paddlers made most of the 'home' advantage and grabbed all the 7 gold medals. In the final analysis, India won seven gold—the best ever haul—five silver and three bronze medals to be the table toppers.

12. U.S. bagged FIFA Women's World Cup 2019

Defending champions USA won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 after defeating the Netherlands 2-0 in the final held in France. USA won the title for a fourth time. Sweden claimed a top-three finish for the fourth time. The United States qualified for the 2019 Women's World Cup by winning the 2018 CONCACAF Women's Championship.



The important awards:

1. Golden Boot Award: Megan Rapinoe (USA)
2. Silver Boot Award: Alex Morgan (USA)
3. Golden Glove Award: Sari van Veenendaal (NED)
4. Golden Ball Award: Megan Rapinoe (USA)
5. Silver Ball: Lucy Bronze (ENG)
6. Bronze Ball Award: Rose Lavelle (USA)

13. Rohit Sharma created history by scoring maximum hundreds in the single World Cup

India's Rohit Sharma created world record by scoring five centuries in a single World Cup and break the record of former Sri Lankan skipper Kumar Sangakkara who had scored four centuries in 2015 edition. Rohit also equalled Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar in the total number of World Cup hundreds. Both the Indians have six hundreds to their names.



Rohit Sharma is the only third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to win Golden Bat for most runs in ICC Cricket World Cup. Rohit Sharma is the only player in the cricket history to score three double hundreds in ODIs.

14. Canada Open Super 100, 2019

China's Li Shi Feng won the Canada Open Super 100 tournament by defeating India's former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap. Kashyap lost to Feng in a three-game thriller by 22-20 14-21 17-21 in the men's singles summit clash in Calgary.



Other winners of the tournament:

1. Women's Singles: An Se-young (South Korea)
2. Men's Doubles: Mathias Boe and Mads Conrad-Petersen (Denmark)
3. Women's Doubles: Setyana Mapasa and Gronya Somerville (Australia)
4. Mixed Doubles: Ko Sung-hyun and Eom Hye-won (South Korea)

15. Brazil won title of Copa America 2019

Brazil became the new CONMEBOL Copa América champion, after beating Peru 3-1 in a match played at Rio de Janeiro. Everton, Gabriel Jesús and Richarlison scored for Brazil while Paolo Guerrero scored for Peru. It was the 9th Copa America title win for Brazil. Argentina took third place by beating Chile. Brazil was also the host nation of the tournament.



The important awards of the tournament:

1. Golden Ball Award: Dani Alves (Brazil)
2. Golden Boot Award: Everton (3 goals) (Brazil)
3. Golden Glove Award: Alisson (Brazil)
4. Fair Play Award: Brazil

16. Arinjeeta Dey wins silver medal in World Youth Cup

10-year-old Arinjeeta Dey has won silver medal in the World Youth Cup. She won the medal in the under-12 age group category. A total of 35 countries participated in this competition. Arinjeeta Dey is a national champion of junior level category. She is trained under Hanshi Premjit Sen, who is the president of Premjit Sen Martial Art Academy in West Bengal.



World Karate Federation at Umag, Croatia organized the tournament. The World Karate Federation is the largest international governing body of sport karate with 191 member countries and is affiliated to the International Olympic Association.

17. Magnus Carlsen won 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title

Magnus Carlsen won the Croatia Grand Chess Tour with a score 8/11 after a final round victory over Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. This marks the World Champion's seventh consecutive tournament win this year, bringing his rating to 2882 - the peak rating he achieved in 2014.



The 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour tournament was hosted by Grand Chess Tour and Chess Club from Zagreb and witnessed 12 full tour participants compete over 11 rounds of classical chess for a prize fund of \$325,000.

18. Vinesh Phogat won Gold at Grand Prix of Spain

Vinesh Phogat and Divya Kakran won Gold medals at the Grand Prix of Spain Women's Wrestling in the 53kg and 68 kg category respectively. The tournament was held in Madrid, Spain. India finished second with 130 points in team championship behind Russia who scored 165.



It was the first gold medal for Vinesh Phogat after shifting to 53kg category. She defeated Dutch rival Jessica Blaszka in the final. Divya defeated Poland's Agnieszka Wieszczyk-Kordus in the final.

19. India Football Federation’s AIFF Awards 2018-19 announced

The All India Football Federation announced National team striker Sunil Chhetri as the AIFF Men’s Footballer of the Year 2018-19, a record 6th time.



Other awardees:

1. AIFF Men’s Emerging Footballer of the Year: Abdul Sahal
2. AIFF Women’s Footballer of the Year: Ashalata Devi
3. AIFF Emerging Women’s Footballer of the Year: Dangmei Grace
4. AIFF Award for the Best Referee: R Venkatesh
5. Best Grassroots Development Programme: Jammu & Kashmir Football Association

20. Pardeep Singh created new Commonwealth record in clean & jerk category

Pardeep Singh created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category on the way to a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships in Apia (Samoa). Pardeep, who is competing in the 109 kg category, smashed the record in the clean and jerk event by lifting 202 kg. His earlier successful attempt of 148 kg took his total to 350 kg.



Two-time Commonwealth Games medalist Vikas Thakur clinched the silver medal in the men's 96 kg event. India ended their campaign with a rich tally of 35 medals in various categories.

21. G. Sathiyam, Anthony Amalraj won bronze at World Tour Platinum Australian Open

The Indian pair of G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open after they went down 12-14, 9-11, 8-11 to top seed Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu in Geelong near Melbourne, Australia. This was India's first ever medal in the Australian Open, which is a Platinum event.



The 2019 ITTF World Tour is 24th edition of International Table Tennis Federation’s professional table tennis world tour. It is scheduled from 17 January 2019 to 15 December 2019. It is divided into two categories: World Tour and World Tour Platinum.

22. Mexico bagged CONCACAF Gold Cup final

Mexico bagged CONCACAF Gold Cup 2019 title by beating the United States. Mexico player Jonathan Dos Santos scored the only winning goal in the 73rd minute. With this victory, Mexico tallied total of eight Gold Cup titles. Christian Pulisic of the United States won the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup's best young player award while GK Guillermo Ochoa of Mexico won the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup Golden Glove Award.



The CONCACAF Gold Cup is the main association football competition of the men's national football teams governed by CONCACAF. The Gold Cup is held every two years.

23. India tops medals tally at ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany

India has topped the medals tally in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany. India finished the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) tournament with 24 medals that includes 10 Gold, 9 Silver and 5 Bronze.



The list of key Gold medal winners is:

1. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar: 50m Rifle 3 Positions Men Junior
2. Sarabjot Singh: 10m Air Pistol Men Junior
3. Anish: 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior
4. Udhayveer Sidhu: 25m Standard Pistol Men Junior
5. Gaurav Rana: 50m Pistol Men Junior
6. Elavenil Valarivan: 10-metre Air Rifle Women

24. Indian youth boxers clinched 4 silver medals at Serbian Tourney

Indian youth boxers clinched four Silver and a bronze medal at the 37th Golden Glove of Vojvodina International Tournament held in Serbia. Selay Soy, Bilotson L Singh, Ajay Kumar and Vijaydeep fetched silver medals. Harsh Gill (91kg) lost to Turkey's Topaloglu Abuzer to settle for a bronze medal.



The tournament featured 22 countries, including India, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, and Kazakhstan.

25. England won ICC Cricket World Cup 2019

England won their maiden ICC World Cup cricket trophy after they beat New Zealand in a Super Over in the final played at Lord's on 14 July 2019. England's Ben Stokes was named player of the match and New Zealand's skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged player of the tournament for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership.



The 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup was the 12th Cricket World Cup. It was the most watched cricket competition ever as of 2019 with approximately 2.6 billion people around the world having watched the tournament.

26. Lewis Hamilton won sixth British Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won his sixth British Grand Prix. He has now won more British GPs than any other driver. With this win, Hamilton extend his championship lead to 39 points. It was an 80th career win for him, of which 7 have come in the 10 races this season.



Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas was second in the race while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was third. The 2019 British Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held at Silverstone, United Kingdom.

27. Vinesh Phogat won gold at Yasar Dogu International

India wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won gold in the 53kg category at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul by beating her Russian opponent Ekaterina Poleshchuk 9-5 in the final. Vinesh had won her first gold medal after shifting to 53kg category at the Grand Prix of Spain.



Seema and Manju Kumari also won a gold medal each in the 50kg and 59kg category respectively. In men's wrestling, Rahul Aware won gold in the 61kg freestyle category while Utkarsh clinched the bronze in the same weight division.

28. Djokovic defeated Federer to win fifth Wimbledon title

Defending champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, 4-6, 13-12. The match lasted for 4 hours and 57 minutes, to be the longest ever final to be played so far.



This was Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam moving him closer to the only men ahead of him in tennis history: Federer with 20 and Rafael Nadal with 18. Federer has won Wimbledon eight times since 2003.

29. Djokovic remained at world number one in ATP rankings

Novak Djokovic's successful defence of his Wimbledon crown ensured that the Serb remained at world number one in the latest ATP rankings with 12,415 points. He collected his fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major title with a thrilling five-set win over Roger Federer.



Djokovic is now 4,500 points clear of second-ranked Rafael Nadal who is just 485 points ahead of Federer. Top five ATP rankings as of July 15:

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 12,415 pts
2. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 7,945
3. Roger Federer (SUI) 7,460
4. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 4,595
5. Alexander Zverev (GER) 4,325

30. Kiran More appointed as interim coach of USA cricket team

Former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman, Kiran More, has been named as the interim coach of the USA cricket team. He will take over from the former coach Pubudu Dassanayake. The USA Cricket has also appointed former India spinner Sunil Joshi as spin bowling advisor, and Pravin Amre and Kieran Powell as advisors for the batting department.



More played for India in 49 Tests and 94 ODIs. He also served as the Chairman of the Indian selection committee. He was also the wicketkeeping-consultant of Mumbai Indians in the IPL.

31. Sreeshankar wins gold at Tatyana Kolpakova International Athletics

M. Sreeshankar of India produced his season's best performance (7.97m) to win the long jump gold at the 22nd Tatyana Kolpakova Memorial International Athletics Meet at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Tunlai Narzary of Assam, India clinched gold in the women's shot-put with a 13.83m throw.



Mohammed Salahuddin also earned gold for India after he won the men's triple jump with 16.53m jump. The other gold winners are:

1. Inderjeet Singh: shot put gold with 18.67m
2. Gajanand Mistry: 200m, 21.50s
3. Mohammed Afsal: 800m, 1:51.39s
4. Vipin Kasana: men's javelin with 82.51m
5. Hima Das: women's 200m

32. Wimbledon 2019: List of Winners

Sl. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	R. Federer (Switzerland)
2.	Women's Singles	S. Halep (Romania)	Serena Williams (USA)
3.	Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia)	Nicolas Mahut (France) and Edouard Roger Vasselin (France)
4.	Women's Doubles	S. W. Hsieh (Taiwan) and B. Strycova (Czech Republic)	G. Dabrowski (Canada) and Y. Xu (China)
5.	Mixed Doubles	I. Dodig (Croatia) and L. Chan (Taiwan)	R. Lindstedt (Sweden) and J. Ostapenko (Latvia)

33. Amir Khan becomes WBC international welterweight champion

Britain boxer of Pakistan-origin Amir Khan won against Australia's Billy Dib to claim WBC international welterweight title at King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Amir is a British professional boxer. Before turning pro, Khan won a silver medal in the lightweight division at the 2004 Olympics at the age of 17 to become Britain's youngest boxing Olympic medalist. In 2007, he was named ESPN prospect of the year.



34. Anahat Singh and Neel Joshi wins Dutch Junior Open squash

Anahat Singh won the girls U-13 title of Dutch Junior Open Squash while Neel Joshi won the boys' U-17 crown. The championship was held in Amsterdam. Paarth Ambani finished runners-up in the under 15 competitions.

Anahat won against France's Lauren Baltayan in the final battle. Joshi won against Hassan Khalil of England in the final. The Dutch Junior Open squash championship is one of the largest individual junior squash tournaments in the world.



35. India to host ISSF World Cup in March 2020

International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages. It will be held at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020. The WC in India will have rifle, pistol and shot gun events. It will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus.



The last edition of ISSF World Cup was held in Munich, Germany. The ISSF World Cup is carried out in four competitions per year in each event. For the best shooters there is a World Cup Final.

36. ICC suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect

The International Cricket Council suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.

The current elected members of Zimbabwe Board were suspended by government agency Sports and Recreation Committee (SRC) which was a violation of relevant articles of ICC Constitution. ICC funding to Zimbabwe Cricket will be frozen and representative teams from Zimbabwe will not be allowed to participate in any ICC events. The Croatia, Morocco and Zambia Cricket Union have also been suspended for continuing to be non-compliant.



37. Deepika Kumari clinched silver at 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event

India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari clinched silver at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event. Ranked fourth in the qualification round, Deepika went down to Korean An San in straight sets. The second seed San produced fine shooting including a flawless third set to clinch the match 6-0 in her favour.



This was Deepika's first individual final in a world event since she won a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Salt Lake City in June 2019.

38. Kohli, Bumrah retained top spots in ICC ODI rankings

Indian skipper Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah retained their number one position in the ICC batsmen and bowlers' rankings for the One-Day Internationals. Rohit Sharma was no. 2 in the batsmen's list and Trent Boult was no. 2 bowler in the list.



In the all-rounder rankings, Shakib Alasan remains at the top followed by England's Ben Stokes and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi. England has regained the first position in the ICC ODI Team Rankings followed by India at number 2. New Zealand is on the third position.

39. Maharashtra sports department sought one crore rupees' funds for shooter Rahi

The Maharashtra sports department has sought funds of over Rs one crore for ace shooter Rahi Sarnobat. He has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Sarnobat made a request through social media to send the government proposal for financial assistances immediately so that the government can expedite the process.



It is a financial assistance to emerging players for their training and other expenditure. The players who can seek funds need to have resided in Maharashtra for 15 years, and should have won at least one medal in junior or senior national competitions.

40. Sports Minister Kiren Rijju launched AIFF Golden Baby Leagues handbook

Sports Minister Kiren Rijju launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20 on the sidelines of the Intercontinental Cup in Ahmedabad. The launch marked the renaming of the 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to under 12 both for girls and boys.



The handbook is a guide to help the stakeholder to organise the Golden Baby League. The Leagues aim to provide access to football in localities irrespective of gender, religion, economic background, or ethnic origin.

41. Sanjivani Yadav received two-year suspension for doping violation

The IAAF's Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for a doping violation has handed India's long-distance runner Sanjivani Yadav a two-year suspension. The 23-year-old won the 10,000m bronze at the 2019 Asian Championships and 5000m bronze in the 2017 edition. The athlete admitted to her first violation resulting in disqualification of all past results since June 29, 2018.



India's National Anti-Doping body NADA has the right to appeal against the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.

42. India's Asian Games silver in mixed relay event to be upgraded to gold

India are in line to get the Asian Games gold in 4x400 mixed relay as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain, who was part of the gold winning team, has been handed a four-year ban for failing a dope test. The silver won by India's mixed relay team of Mohammad Anas, Hima Das, Arokia Rajiv and M R Poovamma at the Asian Games in Jakarta last year is set to be upgraded to gold.



India had officially lodged a complaint against Bahrain for obstruction, but it was turned down.

43. North Korea win Intercontinental Cup title

North Korea won the second edition of Intercontinental Cup football tournament beating Tajikistan in the final at the EKA Arena, Ahmedabad. Pak Hyon Il scored the goal for the Koreans. The other participants of the tournament were host India and Syria. The champions were rewarded with USD 50000 and the runner-ups with USD 25000.



India was the highest ranked team among all teams in the tournament. India was the champion of the first edition of the tournament held in 2018.

44. P T Usha nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin

India's track and field legend PT Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) 'Veteran Pin' for her outstanding service to the sport.



Usha had won five gold medals - 100 metres (m), 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles and the 4x400 m relay -- besides a bronze in the Asian Games which were held at Jakarta in 1985. She is known as the "queen of track and field". She became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

45. Sharath Kamal voted IOC Sportsperson of the Year

Sharath Kamal was voted the Sportsperson of the Year in the annual Indian Oil Sports Conclave held in New Delhi. The other nominees were cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, Grandmaster B, Adhiban, hockey player Simranjeet Singh and table tennis player Manika Batra.



Sharath Kamal is the first Indian table tennis player ever to become nine times Senior National Champion hence breaking the record of eight times National Champion Kamlesh Mehta. Recently he received the fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri.

46. Adam Peaty breaks world record of 57 seconds barrier in 100m Breaststroke

World champion British swimmer Adam Peaty broke his own world record in the men's 100 metre breaststroke by completing his swim in 56.88 seconds at the World Championships held in Gwangju, South Korea. His previous record was of 57.10 seconds. With this, Adam became the first man to break the 57-second barrier in the 100 metre breaststroke event.



Adam is the current holder of the world record in 50 and 100m breaststroke. He won the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke at the 2016 Olympics, the first by a male British Swimmer in 24 years.

47. Shane Lowry bagged British Open title

Ireland's Shane Lowry bagged British Open title and lifted the Claret Jug. With this victory, Shane Lowry became second player from Ireland to win this title after Padraig Harrington in 2007 and 2008. Englishman Tommy Fleetwood was placed at second position.



The British Open made a historic come back after 68 years to Northern Ireland in 2019. Golf's oldest and most international championship was played among world's greatest players competing for the Claret Jug over the Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush.

48. Indonesia Open 2019

The 2019 Indonesia Open took place at Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Jakarta, Indonesia. It is officially called BLIBLI Indonesia Open 2019. Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won the Women's singles title against India's P. V. Sindhu.



The winners in other categories are:

- Men's singles: Chou Tien-chen (Chinese Taipei)
- Men's doubles: Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)
- Women's doubles: Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota (Japan)
- Mixed Doubles: Zheng Siwei and China Huang Yaqiong (China)

49. ICC launched World Test Championship

The International Cricket Council launched the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC). It will start from 1 August 2019. The top nine Test teams in the world – Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies will compete in 71 Test matches across 27 series played over two years.



The top two teams will contest the ICC World Test Championship Final in June 2021 in UK.

Every series in the championship will be worth 120 points, irrespective of the number of Tests. Therefore, a team can score a maximum of 720 points in a cycle.

50. Mary Kom, Simranjit Kaur won gold in President's Cup Boxing Tournament

India's Mary Kom and Simranjit Kaur won gold in the 23rd President's Cup Boxing Tournament in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. The Indian contingent finished their campaign in the Tournament with nine medals (seven gold and two silver). Mary Kom defeated Australia's April Franks and Simranjit won against Indonesia's Asian Games bronze medallist Hasanah Huswaton.



The women team won all the four gold medals on offer and the men's team won three gold including two silver medals.

51. Virat Kohli retained top spot in ICC Test Rankings

India skipper Virat Kohli has retained his number one position in the latest ICC Test batsmen's rankings. Kohli, who last featured in India's 2-1 Test series win over Australia, is sitting on 922 points. New Zealand's Kane Williamson (913) is second and Cheteshwar Pujara (881) third in the rankings. Pat Cummins of Australia topped the bowler's list followed by James Anderson and Kagiso Rabada respectively.



India continued to dominate the team ranking followed by New Zealand (2) and South Africa (3) with England (4) and Australia (5) rounding up the top five.

52. Ehsan Mani named Chief of ICC Finance and Commercial Affairs committee

Pakistan Cricket Board's Chairman, Ehsan Mani, has been selected as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council's Finance and Commercial Affairs committee. Additionally, Ehsan Mani is also member of ICC Audit Committee that involves major decisions on media rights deal and finalizing venues of World Cup matches.



Finance and Commercial Affairs committee is responsible for allotment of budgets for ICC events and distributing money to its member countries. Prior to this appointment, Ehsan Mani has also held the same position in F&CA between 1996 and 2002.

53. John Isner wins Hall of Fame Tennis Championships

Veteran American tennis player John Isner won 'Hall of Fame Tennis Championships' title in the singles category for the fourth time, held in Newport, Rhode Island. He made victory by 7-6(2), 6-3 scores over Kazakh Alexander Bublik. With this victory, John Isner won 250 ATP Rankings points and \$100,600 as prize money. The Association of Tennis Professionals has ranked John Isner No. 8 in men's singles. Marcel Granollers and Sergiy Stakhovsky won doubles category in Hall of Fame Tennis Championships' title.



The Hall of Fame Open is an international tennis tournament that has been held every year in July at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.