

Monthly GK Digest

October 2019



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Important Days

1. The **International Day of Older Persons** is observed every year on **1st October**.
Note: The day raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. The theme of the 2019 commemoration is 'The Journey to Age Equality'.
2. The **Military Nursing Service** celebrating its **94th Raising Day**.
Note: On the occasion, **nursing officers** will re-dedicate themselves to render high quality, selfless nursing care to their patients by reading the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The Military Nursing Service (MNS) came into on 28th March 1888 with the arrival of the first batch of 10 qualified British Nurses in Bombay, to organize nursing in Military hospitals in India.
3. The **150th birth anniversary** of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated across the country on **2nd October**.
Note: Every year on 2 October, the birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is observed with prayer services and tributes across the nation. Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. This day is also celebrated as World Non-Violence Day. Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead by Nathuram Godse on 30th January, 1948.
4. **World Teachers' Day** or International Teachers' Days is being celebrated across the world on **5th October**.
Note: It is being held annually since 1994 to commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 Recommendation by covering teaching and research personnel in higher education.
5. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has celebrated its **87th anniversary** across India -- **8th October**.
Note: The Indian Air Force has displayed various Aircraft at Air Force Station Hindan airbase near Delhi with a parade and air display. The highlight of the event was Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman leading a MiG formation and flying a MiG Bison Aircraft. It was officially established on 8 October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire and the prefix Royal was added in 1945 in recognition of its services during World War II.
6. **World Post Day** is being celebrated each year on **9th October**.
Note: It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries around the world participate annually in the celebrations. Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.
7. The **World Mental Health Day** is observed every year on **10th October**.
Note: The day raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The theme for this year World Mental Health Day is 'Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention.'
8. October Month is observed as **Brest Cancer Awareness Month**
Note: The Breast Cancer Awareness Month helps to increase attention and support for awareness. This month creates awareness about the importance of early detection and treatment of breast cancer. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) breast cancer is by far the most common cancer in women worldwide, both in developed and developing countries. Breast cancer is cancer that forms in the cells of the breasts.
9. The **International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC)** is observed every year across the world on **11th October**.
Note: The day recognize girls' rights and challenges girls face around the world. The theme of 2019 is "GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable".
10. **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD)** 2019 is being observed on **12th October** (second Saturday of October).
Note: The WMBD is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The theme for 2019: Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!
11. International Day for Disaster Reduction is being observed annually on **13th October**.
Note: The day encourage every citizen and government to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities and nations. The 2019 Theme: 'Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services'. The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989, after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.

12. The **'World Food Day'** is observed every year on **16th October**.

Note: The day mark the foundation of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. The theme of World Food Day 2019 is "Our Actions Are Our Future. Healthy Diets for A #ZeroHunger World". Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that works towards defeating hunger via international efforts.

13. The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is an international observance celebrated on **17th October**.

Note: The main objective of this day is to raise awareness about the efforts being made to eradicate poverty in the world community. The theme of 2019 is 'Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty'.

14. The National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on **21st October**.

Note: The day remember the brave policemen who sacrificed their lives while discharging their duties. The day commemorates the sacrifices of ten policemen while defending the borders with China in 1959. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **saluted the police forces**, their families and remembers those brave police personnel martyred in the line of duty, on Police.

15. The United Nations Day (UN) is being observed globally on **24th October**.

Note: The day make people aware of the aims and achievements of the United Nations Organization. United Nations will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020.

16. The World Development Information Day is being observed every year on **24th October**

Note: In 1973, The United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on 24th October

17. Government of India is celebrating 4th Ayurveda Day (Dhanvantari Jayanti) on **25th October 2019**.

Note: The Ministry of Ayush has distributed "National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award" on National Ayurveda Day. The award comprises of trophy and cash reward of Rs 5 lakhs. Ayurveda Day is being celebrated as a part of the mission's role in creating awareness about the medicines. Government has also upgraded a lot of Ayurvedic institutions as a part of AYUSH Mission

18. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from **28th October to 2nd November 2019**.

Note: The theme of Vigilance Awareness Week was "Integrity- a way of life". Vigilance Awareness Week will commence with the administration of 'Integrity Pledge' to the officers/staff of the Ministry by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, to fight against corruption and commit to highest standards of honesty and integrity.

19. International Artist's Day is being observed every year on **25th October**.

Note: The day also celebrates one of the most famous artists, Pablo Picasso. The Spanish artist was born on October 25th, 1881. Artists work hard to create their work. They add beauty to the world around us. Most artists work with many different mediums.

20. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage being observed by the United Nations on **27th October**.

Note: The Theme of 2019 is 'Engage the Past Through Sound and Images'.

21. Every year World Internet Day is celebrated across the world **29th October**.

Note: It was on this day, the first electronic mail (email) was sent from one computer to another in 1969. This was the year of 1969 when Charley Kline, a student programmer at the UCLA transmitted the first-ever message on 29th of October in 1969.

22. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2019 (National Unity Day) was celebrated all across the country on **31st October**.

Note: Sardar Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India.

New Appointments

1. An Indian Information Service (IIS) officer **Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia** has been appointed as the **28th principal spokesperson** of the Union government.

Note: He has replaced **Sitanshu Kar**. Mr. Dhatwalia has been posted as the new principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), the publicity wing of the central government. Currently, **Mr Dhatwalia** was

serving as the **Director-General (DG)** Training and Research in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, besides holding the charge of the DG of the Indian Institute Mass Communication (IIMC).

2. The government has appointed an eminent economist as the Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-- **Surjit S Bhalla**.

- Note:** Surjit S Bhalla will succeed former RBI deputy governor **Subir Gokarn** who died in the US on July 30 after a brief illness. In December last year, he resigned as a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
3. **Air Marshal SK Ghotia** has been appointed as the chief of South Western Air Command.
Note: He replaced Air Marshal H S Arora, who moved to Air Headquarters as the Vice-Chief of Air Staff. Prior to assuming the present appointment, Air Marshal Ghotia was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Training Command.
 4. Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** flagged off the **Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express** from the New Delhi Railway Station to **Katra**.
Note: Train number 22439 New Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express will depart from the New Delhi Railway Station at 6 am to reach Katra at 2 pm. En route, the train will halt at Ambala Cantt, Ludhiana and Jammu Tawi for two minutes each. This is the second Vande Bharat Express, the first runs between Delhi and Varanasi.
 5. Former India captain **Kapil Dev** resigned from the Cricket Advisory Committee of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
Note: Kapil Dev resigned as the chief of the CAC days after Shanta Rangaswamy stepped down from the 3-member committee. Kapil did not reveal the reason for his resignation but wrote an email to the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA), informing them about his decision. The CAC was tasked with the role of picking the head coaches of India women's and men's cricket teams. Kapil-led CAC had conducted interviews and re-appointed Ravi Shastri as head coach of the senior national team.
 6. **SS Mallikarjuna Rao** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Punjab National Bank.
Note: Presently, Mr. Rao is the chief executive of Allahabad Bank, which is going to be merged with the Indian Bank. Mr Rao will head the Delhi-based PNB till September 18, 2021. He will replace Sunil Mehta in PNB, which is currently under a process of three-way amalgamation with the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and the United Bank of India.
 7. **Amur Lakshminarayanan** has been named as **Managing Director** (MD) and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) designate of the Tata Communications.
Note: Lakshminarayanan comes with 35 years of experience in a broad range of leadership roles across industries and regions across the world, the company said in a statement.
 8. **Oil India Limited** has appointed new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) -- **Sushil Chandra Mishra**.
Note: He played a key role in framing and implementing procurement policies and procedures for inventory management, vendor development, framework agreement and its related strategies. He acquired significant Board level exposure at corporate office at the time of launch of OIL's IPO in 2009 and developing the Strategic Plan 2020.
 9. Justice **Lingappa Narayana Swamy** was sworn in as the 25th Chief Justice of the **Himachal Pradesh High Court**.
Note: Justice Swamy served as the acting Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court (18th January 2019 to 9th May 2019). He was administered the oath of office by Governor Bandaru Dattatraya in a ceremony held at Darbar Hall of Raj Bhawan in Shimla.
 10. Justice Indrajit Mohanty was sworn in as the 37th Chief Justice of the **Rajasthan High Court**.
Note: He was administered the oath of office by Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra in a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan. Justice Mohanty is the former Judge of Bombay High Court.
 11. **Shri J.P.S. Chawla**. has been appointed as the new **Controller General of Accounts** (CGA).
Note: He will replace **Girraj Prasad Gupta**. CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The responsibility of establishing and maintaining a technically sound management accounting system rests with the CGA.
 12. A former **professor of constitutional law** has been elected new President of Tunisia -- **Kais Saied**.
Note: He will succeed Mohamed Ennaceur who is currently the interim President of Tunisia since July 2019 following the death of President Beji Caid Essebsi. Mr. Saied will assume the office on 30th October 2019 as the 6th President of Tunisia.
 13. Former Indian cricket Captain **Saurabh Ganguly** unanimously nominated as the new President of the Board of control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

- Note: Jay Shah** (son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah) has been unanimously selected as Secretary and Arun Dhumal (younger brother of MoS Finance Anurag Thakur) as Treasurer. All these candidates are expected to be elected unopposed at the Board's Annual General Meeting to be held on 23rd October 2019. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is the national governing body for cricket in India.
- 14. Senior IPS officer Anup Kumar Singh** has been appointed as Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
Note: He succeeds Sudeep Lakhtakia. NSG was raised in 1984 as a federal contingency force with a specific aim to undertake counter-terror and counter-hijack operations and it was later tasked to protect
- 15. State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Rajnish Kumar** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for 2019-20.
Note: He will succeed Sunil Mehta, who was the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB). Rakesh Sharma (MD & CEO of IDBI Bank) will be honorary secretary of IBA.
- 16. Sudhaker Shukla has been** appointed as a Whole-Time Member (WTM) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for a period of 5 years.
Note: With this appointment, the Governing Board of IBBI is complete, which can have a total strength of 10. The Governing Board Members of IBBI consists of a Chairman, 3 WTM, four ex officio members and two part-time members.
- 17. IFS officer Upender Singh Rawat** has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua.
Note: He will be succeeding Yogeshwar Varma. The Republic of Nicaragua is the largest country in the Central American isthmus.
- 18. Indonesia's President Joko Widodo** has been sworn into office for his second and final five-year term.
Note: He was sworn into office along with vice president Maruf Amin (76-year-old), who replaces Widodo's vice president in his first term, Jusuf Kalla. Widodo clinched victory with 55.5% of the vote in the 17th April 2019 presidential election. The President of the Republic of Indonesia is the head of government of the Republic of Indonesia.
- 19. Justin Trudeau** has won the **second term** as the Prime Minister of Canada.
- Note:** The 'Conservative Party' led by Andrew Scheer has won 121 seats and remained the Official Opposition. The New Democratic Party led by 'Jagmeet Singh' has won 24 seats.
- 20. Pankaj Kumar** has been appointed as CEO of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.
Note: Braj Raj Sharma (1984 batch officer) has been appointed Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC). Tuhin Kanta Pandey (Odisha cadre IAS officer) Secretary Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. Sanjeev Nandan Sahai (1986 batch officer) will be the new Power Secretary. Pramod Kumar Das (and Madhya Pradesh Cadre IAS) has been appointed Minority Affairs Secretary.
- 21. Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** has appointed Navnita Gautam as their Sports Massage Therapist.
Note: Navnita Gautam became the first Indian Premier League (IPL) team to have a woman in the support staff. Navnita will work with Evan Speechly, the Head Physiotherapist and Basu Shanker, Strength and Conditioning Coach.
- 22. Tunisia's new President -- Kais Saied.**
Note: Saied won just over 72% of the votes, with about 27% of ballots cast for his media-mogul opponent Nabil Karoui. The President of Tunisia is directly elected by universal suffrage using the two-round system.
- 23. Senior IAS officer Arvind Singh** has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI).
Note: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Senior IAS officer Sukhbir Singh Sandhu (1988-batch: Uttarakhand cadre) will head the National Highways Authority of India.
- 24. Ambassadors for Prime Minister Modi's new initiative 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' movement-- Deepika Padukone & P V Sindhu.**
Note: 'Bharat Ki Laxmi' movement is a campaign to honour Indian women who have made a mark with their achievements in various fields for the public good.
- 25. Girish Chander Murmu** has been appointed as the first **Lt Governor** of Jammu and Kashmir.
Note: He has administered the oath of office on October 31 in Srinagar after which he will be the administrative head of Kashmir and Jammu provinces. The state's third province -- Ladakh-- has been carved out as a separate Union Territory.

26. Radha Krishna Mathur has been appointed the Lieutenant Governor of the union territory of Ladakh.
Note: The reorganization of Ladakh as UT will take effect from October 31, 2019. Radha Krishna Mathur was given the charge as the Chief Information Commissioner of India (CIC) in 2016 and he retired as CIC in November 2018. He has also served as the Development Commissioner in the Ministry of Textiles and the Chief Enforcement Officer in the Ministry of Textiles in the Central government.
27. **Satya Pal Malik** has appointed as Governor of Goa.
Note: He was appointed as the governor of undivided Jammu & Kashmir in August last year. In September 2017, he was appointed the governor of Bihar. Earlier, he was a member of the 9th Lok Sabha and represented Aligarh Constituency from 1989 to 1991.
28. The chief minister of Haryana for a second consecutive term: **Manohar Lal Khattar**
Note: The swearing in ceremony took place a day after Khattar was elected as the legislative party leader of BJP. Along with Khattar, Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) leader Dushyant Chautala also took oath, he will become the deputy chief minister of the state. The crucial support to BJP came from five independent Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and 10 members of JJP.
29. The senior-most judge **Justice Sharad Arvind Bodbe** in the Supreme Court has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI).
Note: He will be the 47th CJI and will take oath on November 18, 2019. He will hold office till April 23, 2021. Being a senior-most judge in Supreme Court his name was recommended by incumbent Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi for appointment as the next CJI.
30. **Sophie Wilmes** has become the first female Prime Minister of Belgian.
Note: She was named as the head of the country's next caretaker government. She was sworn in by King Philippe. She succeeded in the liberal leader Charles Michel. She will become the president of the European Council on 1 December.
31. **Rafael Mariano Grossi** has been elected as the new Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
Note: He succeeds Yukiya Amano of Japan, who passed away in July this year. The Board envisages that he will assume office no later than 1 January 2020.

Important News – India

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched the website of **11th edition** of DefEXpo, to be held in **Lucknow**.
Note: The website 'defexpo.gov.in' provides online services to exhibitors, besides hosting informative content about the product profile of Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories. Exhibitors can avail early **bird discounts** by booking space on the website before the 31st of next month. The **website enables exhibitors** to register and book space online as per their requirements on the **first-come-first-serve basis**, make online payments, book conference.
- Country's **first corporate sector train 'Tejas'** will provide **compensation to the passengers** on late arrival.
Note: Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will pay compensation of 100 rupees if the train is late for more than one hour and 250 rupees for more than two hours. The Railway Board also issued an order of compensation on 1st October. This will be the first time that the railway will compensate passengers on the delay of the train.
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** is organizing India Economic Summit (IES) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has organized a two-day **India Economic Summit (IES)** from 3rd - 4th October 2019 in New Delhi. The summit is being hosted in collaboration with **Industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**. The summit will be co-chair by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat. Tennis star **Sania Mirza** representing UN Women in the Summit.
- New book titled '**The Tech Whisperer**' written by **Jaspreet Bindra**.
Note: A new book titled "The Tec Whisperer" which features chapters on **Artificial Intelligence** is released. The book will describe and simplify "emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, Internet of things, virtual reality," and talk about how companies can employ these to drive their digital transformation

5. A book authored by **Venu Rajamony** titled 'India and the Netherlands - Past, Present and Future,' was released in Amsterdam.
Note: The book gives an insight into the cross-cultural legacy between the two countries and was released at a function attended by the king and queen of the Netherlands. The seminar, jointly organized by the Embassy of India and the Royal Asian Art Society, was held at the Rijksmuseum (National Museum), Amsterdam. The book highlights the significant place India occupied in the Dutch worldview and the relationship between the two nations secured by strong economic ties and vibrant exchanges in culture, sports, and yoga.
6. According to the data released by the Central Pollution Control Board, most polluted city -- **Varanasi**.
Note: In a major health concern for the state, four UP cities were among the five most polluted in the country
7. The Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman released a special commemorative coin to mark 125th birth anniversary of -- **Paramahansa Yogananda**.
Note: Yogananda was the founder of the Yogoda Satsanga Society(YSS) of India and Self-Realisation Fellowship(SRF) organizations.
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10. **DRDO** successfully test-fired a land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Chandipur coast in Odisha's Balasore district.
Note: BrahMos is the world's fastest supersonic missile, which can fly at almost three times the speed of sound. It has been fitted with increased indigenous equipment and is a version used by the Army. The BrahMos is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.
11. **Ministry of Tourism** launched Audio Guide facility App "Audio Odigos" for 12 sites of India.
Note: On occasion of "Paryatan Parv 2019" Ministry of Tourism has launched the Audio Guide facility Audio Odigos for 12 sites of India (including Iconic Sites). Audio Guide: Audio Odigos, offers Government of India verified content, with visuals & voice over support. With Audio Odigos, tourists will now enjoy a more enriching experience and take back historical insights into the Indian culture and heritage.
12. On 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** declared India as **Open Defecation Free (ODF)**.
Note: On 02nd October, the 'Swachh Bharat Divas' program was organized in Sabarmati, Ahmedabad where PM Modi announced the country to be open defecation free. During the event, the PM Modi released commemorative Rs 150 coins on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
13. The Union government has launched a portal for better coordination among the ministries of power, coal and Indian Railways for coal supply to power plants --- **PRAKASH**.
Note: The Prakash portal will enable all stakeholders to monitor coal right from mines to transportation. This is a laudable project in ensuring adequate availability optimum utilisation of coal at thermal power plants. The Portal is designed to help in mapping and monitoring the entire coal supply chain for power plants.
14. The Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)-2019 was inaugurated at **Goa**.
Note: The Conclave was conducted by Naval War College. The 31st edition of the Naval War College Journal was also released by the NSA on the occasion. The theme for the conclave is "Common Maritime Priorities in IOR and need for Regional Maritime Strategy". The sub-theme for the first session was "Opportunities and Challenges in IOR".
15. The **20th National Health Informatics conference** will be held on February 7 and 8 2020 in **Kochi**.
Note: The conference will be jointly organised by the Health Informatics and Information Management Association (HIIMA), Kerala, and the Health Records Association of India
16. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** India jointly launched **Youth Co:Lab**.
Note: To mark the launch, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between AIM, NITI Aayog and UNDP India. Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a chance to connect with governments, mentors, incubators and investors, who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills.
17. The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** is all set to have a permanent deployment of more than 300

- highly trained personnel at Baglihar Hydro Electric Power Plant in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: This Hydroelectric Power Project is one of the most sensitive hydroelectric plants. Recently, the security forces gunned down two militants along with a top Hizbul Mujahideen commander. Baglihar Dam also known as Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project, is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River in the Ramban district of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
18. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the '**Trans-Fat Free logo**'.
Note: The logo can be used by the Food establishments which use trans-fat free fats/oil and do not have industrial trans-fat more than 0.2g/100g of food, in compliance with the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. The logo can be voluntarily used by food business operators in their outlets and also on food products.
19. A three-day **International Cooperative Trade Fair** held in New Delhi.
Note: The first-ever such fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to 'enhanced rural and farm prosperity. According to Agriculture **Minister Narendra Singh Tomer**, Representatives from over **150 cooperative societies** and **35 countries** including, Australia, Japan, China, Brazil, US, UK, Germany and Iran are going to participate in the fair. This will be India's first and the largest international cooperatives trade fair promising to usher in a new era of cooperative excellence.
20. Finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has inaugurated the National e- Assessment Centre (MeAC) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The income Tax Department's (NeAC) will reduce face to face interaction between taxpayers and tax officials. They will also receive real-time alerts by way of SMS on their registered mobile number, specifying the issues for which their cases have been selected for scrutiny. This is another initiative by CBDT in the field of ease of compliance for the taxpayers.
21. The AIIMS in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry has launched the first-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness -- **eDantSeva**.
Note: The digital platform '**eDantSeva**' will provide **oral health information** gathered from authentic scientific resources and connect the people to **timely advice** for managing any dental emergency or oral health problem. The website also provides GPRS route and satellite images of the facility for easier access to the people. It also constitutes a unique feature called the 'Symptom Checker'. A Braille booklet and voice-over on oral health education for visually impaired were also released on the occasion.
22. The 50th **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**-2019 will be held in **Goa**.
Note: Over 200 best films from 76 countries, 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian Panorama section will be screened at the film festival. Around 10 thousand people and film lovers are expected to participate in the Golden Jubilee edition of the festival. 12 prominent films in different languages that have completed 50 years this year, will also be showcased.
23. President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the prestigious **President's colours** to the Army Aviation Corps at **Nashik**.
Note: The presentation of colour is an acknowledgement of the meritorious service rendered by the Army Aviation Corps over the years by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Army Aviation Corps is a component of the Indian Army formed on 1st November 1986.
24. Union Minister of HRD **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated the ambitious **Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme (PMILP)** -- **DHRUV**.
Note: The objective of the program is to allow talented students to realize their full potential and contribute to society. It will conclude on 24th of this month at IIT (Indian Institutes of Technology), Delhi. Sixty brightest and talented students from Science, Mathematics and Performing Arts (Class 9 to Class 12) have been chosen for the programme.
25. The Union government set up a high-level **inter-ministerial committee** chaired by **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.
Note: The 19-member Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) has five secretaries, including from ministries of finance and external affairs, and chiefs of various regulatory authorities. The committee would also work on the development and implementing policies on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.
26. PM Modi and Xi Jinping attend cultural event in **Mamallapuram**.
Note: Mr. Xi Jinping hold the Second Informal Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Mahabalipuram (a UNESCO world heritage town) in Tamil Nadu. At Mamallapuram, Prime Minister Modi will personally guide Mr Xi Jinping through the ancient monuments like the Arjun's Penance, Ganesh Rath, Krishna butter ball before the two leaders drive to the Panch Rathas or the five chariots of the Pandavas.
27. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has launched **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** initiative in **New Delhi**.
Note: The initiative was launched during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare in New Delhi. The aim of the initiative is to

- provide dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services for every woman and new-born public health facility in order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths. The initiative also provides a positive birth experience to both mother and infant.
28. The first National Hindi Science writers conference begins today in **Lucknow**.
Note: The Objective of the **National Hindi Science writers conference** is to bring all Hindi and vernacular language science writers at one platform and promote the use of Hindi in the field of science writing. More than one **thousand science writers across** the country are expected to take part in this 2-day long conference. A dedicated website '**VIGYANLEKHAN.COM**' has been prepared for this event.
29. The India Carpet Expo (38th) was held in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The India Carpet Expo is organized twice in a year in Delhi and Varanasi. The expo (largest handmade carpet fairs in Asia) has been organized by the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC). The India Carpet Expo aims to promote the cultural heritage and weaving skills of Indian hand-made carpets and other floor coverings for the visiting overseas carpet buyers.
30. Home Minister **Amit Shah** has inaugurated the **14th annual convention of the Central Information Commission (CIC)** in **New Delhi**.
Note: All the present and former Chief Information Commissioners, Information Commissioners of the Central Information Commission, State Information Commission, RTI activists and NGOs associated with the implementation of the RTI Act will attend the Convention.
31. Union Minister **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated the first-ever '**India International Cooperatives Trade Fair**' (IICTF) at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.
Note: This unique three-day forum aims to promote cooperative-to-cooperative trade within India and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity. It also provides an opportunity for participating countries to showcase their products in the Indian market.
32. Union Minister **Nityanand Rai** has launched a **Railway Police's mobile application -- Sahyatri**.
Note: The database of criminals, including their photographs, active in railways' jurisdiction all over India would be uploaded on the Railway police's website. It will also have the facility to scan and read QR codes and make an emergency call. The 'Sahyatri' app will help railway passengers find out the jurisdiction of a police station and the details of GRP officials by geotagging with Google Maps.
33. The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** announced its partnership with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore to launch --- **Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship**.
Note: The **two-year Fellowship programme** will be delivered by IIMB's **Centre of Public Policy (CPP)**. The programme will be launched on a pilot basis in Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Those who have a graduate degree from a **recognized university** and are citizens of India in the **age group of 21-30 years** will be eligible to apply for it.
34. **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board** has organized a month-long **City Walk Festival** in 11 cities.
Note: The **City Walk Festival** organized in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Panna, Vidisha, Khajuraho, Chanderi, Jabalpur, Burhanpur and Orchha. In a unique way to promote tourism, local, national and international tourists of all age groups is participating in the festival. More than 100 city walks organized during the festival on subjects including art, culture, heritage, food, textile, photography and spiritualism.
35. The Netherlands King **Willem-Alexander** arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India.
Note: King Willem-Alexander's trip will be his first state visit to India, following his ascension to the throne in 2013. The King and Queen will visit New Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala during their visit. The visit is expected to boost economic and political cooperation between the two countries.
36. **India** ranked **102th in Global Hunger Index 2019**.
Note: India ranked **102th position** among **117 countries** on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019 report released by Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). India is ranked below many neighboring countries, including **China** (25th spot), **Nepal** (73th), **Myanmar** (69th), **Sri Lanka** (66th), **Bangladesh** (88th) and **Pakistan** (94th). The report warned that the progress towards a **2030 zero hunger target** that was agreed upon by leaders across the words was "under threat".
37. **Nobel 2019 Laureates Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo** have penned a book together titled 'Good Economics for Hard Times – Better Answers to our Biggest Problems'.
Note: The book talks about the pressing issues of our times and tries to find solutions to these questions. The book is published by Juggernaut and set to release on November 2019,
38. **FSSAI** has introduced a new scheme '**Food Safety Mitra (FSM)**' to engage motivated individuals with the food safety ecosystem at ground level.
Note: The 'FSM' scheme has been launched by Dr Harsh Vardhan (Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare).

- Food Safety Mitra (FSM) is an individual professional certified by FSSAI who assists in compliances related to FSS Act, Rules & Regulations. They will be available in three avatars- Digital Mitra, Trainer Mitra and Hygiene Mitra depending upon their respective roles and responsibilities.
39. Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda has announced the 2nd phase of programme GOAL (Going online as leaders) for **Tribal women**.
Note: The objective of this GOAL program is to digitally mentor 5000 young women in India's tribal-dominated districts. Ministry of Tribal Affairs partners with Facebook and Niti Aayog are running GOAL for tribal women. The GOAL program will give technical support to the socially and economically marginalized women for their needs to succeed, using the technology they may otherwise have not had access to.
40. The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has unveiled its **next-generation space suits** for upcoming **Artemis programme**.
Note: **Artemis programme** aims to land the first woman and next man on the moon by 2024. The garment, known as the exploration extravehicular mobility unit (xEMU). The xEMU suits will allow astronauts to move more freely on the moon and during spacewalks. The suit has been designed for exploring the lunar surface, specifically the south pole – the target for Nasa's next crewed lunar landing.
41. The **48th edition of the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF)** held at **Greater Noida**.
Note: Overseas buyers from 110 countries are in India to source home, lifestyle, fashion, furniture and textiles products, around 3200 Indian exhibitors are participating in the Fair. IHGF Delhi Fair (Autumn) 2019 endeavours to focus on 'Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' this year to encourage sustainable development and preservation of the environment.
42. The 1st Robot Restaurant opened at the Infocity DLF tower of **Bhubaneswar**.
Note: Two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged. This restaurant has been started by one Odiya Engineer 'Jeet Basha'. Earlier, Chennai and Bengaluru had introduced smart restaurants with Robots machines imported from China.
43. Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in a Bilateral Joint Exercise with Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) named **'EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V'**.
Note: For the first time, **MiG-29 fighter aircraft** will be participating in an International Exercise outside India. The last exercise, **'EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-IV'** was held in 2017 at Jamnagar. This exercise will enhance **inter-operability** during mutual operations between the two
- Air Forces**. It will provide an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices.
44. India will gift 75,000 metric tonnes of wheat to **Afghanistan**.
Note: The Indian envoy made these announcements while speaking at the 37th anniversary of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's (ARCS) Special Week. In October 2017, India sent its maiden cargo of wheat to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port in Iran, bypassing Pakistan. The Indian government has supplied 1.1 million tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on a grant basis.
45. The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying** released the 20th **Livestock Census -2019**.
Note: As per Livestock Census -2019, India's livestock population has increased to over 535 million, showing an increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012. The share of cattle is around 36%, the goat (over 27%), buffaloes (over 20%), cow 18% (population - over 145 million), sheep (around 14%) and pigs (around 2%). The livestock census is conducted across the country periodically since 1919. The 20th Livestock Census was carried out in about 6.6 lakh villages and 89 thousand urban wards across the country.
46. The Union Railways Minister **Piyush Goyal** flagged off nine **'Sewa Service' trains**.
Note: These trains are connecting small towns to major cities and one of those, the 'Vadnagar-Mehsana train', railways' gift to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PM Modi sold tea at the Vadnagar station during his younger days. The 9 "Sewa Service" trains were launched without any additional investment by the railways.
47. India's rank **82nd** among the 128 countries surveyed in the **2019 World Giving Index (WGI)**.
Note: It is an aggregate of trends for each country that emerged in surveys conducted by CAF over the past decade (2009 to 2018) and 1.3 million people worldwide. According to the WGI, the USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia Ireland, Canada, UK, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. The average figures for India over the past decade show that 34%, people helped a stranger, 24% donated money and 19% volunteered or donated their time.
48. Indian Chess player **Viswanathan Anand** has authored a book titled **Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life**.
Note: The book is based on the experience he had in the game of Chess. In the book, he revisits his greatest games and worst losses, his unique experiences of playing against the best minds. The methods he employs to prepare for wins, cope with disappointments and, simply, stay in the game.

- 49. Fifteen films** will compete for the Golden Peacock Award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
Note: The selection of the films has been made from over 700 entries. Mr. John Bailey, Cinematographer and Ex. President of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences will chair the International Jury of 50th International Film Festival of India. Eminent Filmmaker, Mr. Ramesh Sippy is the Indian member in the International Jury.
- 50. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has approved a proposal for admission of girl children in **Sainik Schools**
Note: The decision has been taken following the success of the pilot project started by the Ministry for admission of girl children in Sainik School Chhingchhip in Mizoram (2-years ago). The decision is in line with the objective of the government towards greater inclusiveness, gender equality, enabling greater participation of women in Armed Forces and strengthening the motto of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.
- 51. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated 'Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu' in **Ladakh**.
Note: Col. Chewang Rinchen Setu has been constructed at an altitude of 14,650 feet in the forward area of Ladakh region. This bridge (1400 feet span) has been built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is named in honour of Colonel Chewang Rinchan (2 times Maha Vir Chakara awardee) who was one of the highly decorated officers in the Indian Army from Ladakh. This Bridge is built on the strategically important road Durbuk Shyok Daulat Beg Oldie in sub-sector north in eastern Ladakh.
- 52. PM Narendra Modi** has released a book titled 'Bridgital Nation: Solving Technology's People Problem' in New Delhi.
Note: Mr. Modi presented books' first copy to eminent industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata. The book has been authored by N Chandrasekaran (Chairman, Tata Sons) and Roopa Purushothaman. The book 'Bridgital Nation' presents a powerful vision of future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem.
- 53. The World's highest battlefield** opens for tourism -- **Siachen glacier**.
Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that the Siachen Glacier (the world's highest battlefield) is now open for tourism. The decision comes months after declaring Ladakh as a Union Territory. The Siachen glacier (around 20,000 feet) is a bone of contention between India and Pakistan and the Indian Army had gained control of it in 1984 (called Operation Meghdoot).
- 54. American multinational ridesharing company 'Uber'** has launched its public transport service in Delhi.
Note: With this feature, Uber users in Delhi would be able to use the public transport option that will appear on the app. Once the users use this option, Uber will show the best three routes for using metro or bus in the city.
- 55. India-Bangladesh Stakeholders' Meet** held in **Guwahati**.
Note: A 70-member delegation from Bangladesh, including two Central ministers and two advisors of the Prime Minister, are participating in the meet. The idea of the meet is to put Assam at the centre point of India's trade expansion with ASEAN and Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal or BBN countries.
- 56. The Union government** will set up **one lakhs digital villages** in the country in the next few years.
Note: These villages will be the centres for promoting entrepreneurship. The Minister also stressed on the need for digital mapping of all enterprise and entrepreneurship happening in the far corner of the country. The MSH has been envisioned as an overarching collaborative platform to act as national coordination facilitation and inter-connected centre for all activities in the tech start-up ecosystem.
- 57. Diversified group 'ITC'** launched the world's most expensive chocolate priced at approximately -- **Rs 4.3 lakh per kilogram**
Note: ITC's luxury chocolate brand Fabelle Exquisite Chocolates has introduced its range chocolate 'Trinity - Truffles Extraordinaire' - which entered into Guinness World Records to become the world's most expensive chocolate. The limited-edition containing 15 truffles, each weighing approximately 15 grams. The made-to-order box will be available at an indulgent price of Rs one lakh inclusive of taxes
- 58. Government hikes minimum support price** of Rabi crops for **2020-21**.
Note: MSP of wheat has been increased by 85 rupees per quintal to 1,925 rupees per quintal. While MSP of Gram has been increased by 255 rupees, barley 85 rupees, mustard oil 225 rupees and sunflower 270 rupees per quintal. The minimum support price (MSP) is an agricultural product price set by the government of India to purchase directly from the farmer.
- 59. The Union Cabinet** has approved a revival plan and gave in-principle approval for the merger of BSNL and **MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)**.
Note: Under the revival plan, 15 thousand crore rupees sovereign bonds will be raised & 38 thousand crore rupees assets monetised. Attractive voluntary retirement scheme packages will be offered to the employees of the company.
- 60. The first-ever Global Bio-India 2019 Summit** will be held in **New Delhi**.

- Note:** It is for the first time that India will host a mega event for the biotech community to attract investments, showcase our indigenous strengths and more importantly fuel the hopes and aspirations of the indigenous talent pool. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India along with its Public Sector Undertaking, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is organizing this event.
- 61. An Indian historian Kashi Nath Pandit's new book --- Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics.**
Note: The book has been published by Academic Foundation. Book looks at the riveting history of Jammu and Kashmir from the time of its political and geographic consolidation to the abrogation of the state's special status. The book, which comes after the scrapping of Article 370 provisions (in August 2019), will shed light on the happenings from 1947 till the revocation of the special status of the state.
- 62. Union Health Ministry will launch the Mission Indradhanush 2.0.**
Note: It will carry out a massive immunization program in 271 districts across the nation and 652 blocks located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It will cover the areas identified as "low immunisation pockets". Total vaccination program is dedicated for children up to 2 years of age and for all pregnant women.
- 63. The Union Govt sets up panel to resolve contention between MeitY and Niti over AI -- K Vijay Raghavan**
Note: The committee is tasked with rooting out duplication of work between various government arms, while clearly specifying the role of different agencies to fast-track the implementation of the AI mission.
- 64. As per 'The Global Health Security Index 2019', Among the 195 countries, India got 57th position.**
Note: This is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, with research by The Economist Intelligence Unit.
- 65. Indo-French joint military exercise has been will be conducted in Rajasthan Ex-Shakti-2019.**
Note: The joint exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain under the United Nations mandate.
- 66. The Indian government has accorded 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Power Grid Corporation Limited.**
Note: It will give both the enterprise greater operational and financial autonomy because the grant of Maharatna status will impart enhanced powers to their Boards to take financial decisions.
- 67. Indian Army to conduct 2019 "Sindhu Sudarshan" exercise in Rajasthan**
Note: The Indian Army will conduct exercise codenamed "Sindhu Sudarshan" for the year 2019 in the deserts of Rajasthan (29th November to 4th December 2019). The aim of this exercise is to evaluate the capability of the defence services in an integrated air-land battle. Over 40,000 troops to participate in Army's exercise 'Sindhu Sudarshan'.
- 68. CBSE and NCERT to launches 'Tamanna' aptitude test for Class 9 & 10 students**
Note: Education board the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have launched an online aptitude test called as 'Tamanna' (Try and Measure Aptitude and Natural Abilities). This will help students of class 9th and 10th make a better choice of subjects, eventually helping them in making an informed decision while choosing subjects in Class 11 and 12.
- 69. Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC) has secured the 17th rank globally in the 'Financial Times Masters in Management Rankings 2019'.**
Note: The list was topped by the University of St.Gallen in Switzerland followed by HEC Paris, France and London Business School, UK. The IIMC got the ranking for its 2-Year Masters in Business Administration (formerly Post Graduate Programme in Management).
- 70. A new book titled "The Unquiet River: A biography of the Brahmaputra", written by – Arupjyoti Saikia**
Note: The book published by Oxford University Press (OUP). The book describes the river's long lineage and its centrality in Assam's environment. It is the intertwined story of the river and floodplains, water and land, human and non-humans, which continue to converge.

Important News – State

- 1. A Gandhi film festival** is being organized by **Films Division in association** with India Tourism in **Mumbai**.
Note: This film festival (Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary) will focus on Gandhiji's message of non-violence and Swachh Bharat. The select documentaries and feature films will be screened at the Films Division Complex, including, The Making of Mahatma, Gandhi, Gandhi My Father and Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara.
- 2. The Meghalaya government** has signed an agreement with **Dalmia Cement a cement company** to make the state plastic-free by 2022.

- Note:** The objective of this agreement is to turn plastic waste into fuel for their cement plants and at the same time ensure that all the environmental standards are maintained. The agreement was signed during an official programme in Shillong to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
3. The **Rajasthan government** has announced a **ban on Paan masala** containing magnesium carbonate, nicotine, tobacco, **mineral oil** and flavored 'supari' in the state.
Note: All such products will now be banned in the State under the Food Safety Act. This is an important decision taken to curb addiction among youth. Production, storage, distribution and sale of these products will not be allowed in the State.
 4. India's largest charkha or **spinning wheel**, made of used plastic waste was inaugurated in **Noida**.
Note: The 1,650-kg spinning wheel has been installed in Sector 94 near the Mahamaya flyover. According to officials, the charkha, which symbolises Mahatma Gandhi's dream of Swadeshi (self-sufficing and self-reliance), measures 14 ft by 20 ft by 8 ft and is made of 1,250 kg of used plastic. The charkha has been recognized as the largest made of used plastic waste in the country by India Book of Records.
 5. Odisha chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** has formally launched the **governance people-centric initiative -- Mo Sarkar programme**.
Note: The objective of the programme is to provide service to people, coming to government offices, with dignity. All the departments dealing with the delivery of public services will implement the Mo Sarkar programme by March 5, 2020. As part of the initiative, the government will collect feedback on the behaviour and professionalism of government officers.
 6. Andhra Pradesh CM, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the **YSR Vahana Mitra scheme**.
Note: Under this scheme, the government will provide Rs 10,000 allowance to self-employed drivers of autos, taxis and taxi cabs. The amount of Rs 10,000 is for the recurring expenses like insurance and maintenance of the vehicle to procure fitness certificate. The allowance of Rs 10,000 would be given every year and the amount will be credited into the bank accounts directly.
 7. The **Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC)** and the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** have joined hands to set up the country's first e-waste clinic in **Bhopal**.
Note: It would enable segregation, processing, and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units. The clinic is a three-month pilot project, if successful, would be replicated elsewhere in the country. Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.
 8. **Punjab government** has appointed Justice **Vinod Kumar Sharma** as **Punjab Lokpal**.
Note: Justice Satish Kumar Mittal resigned from the post of Lokpal in April 2018 and became the **chairman of Haryana Human Rights Commission**, since then this post was lying vacant. Justice Sharma had worked as an advocate in Punjab and Haryana High Court from 1974 till his elevation as Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court on March 2006.
 9. The first-of-its-kind '**Garbage Cafe**' in Ambikapur city of **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: In this unique 'Café, poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe. The café is being run by the Ambikapur municipal corporation. The collected plastic waste would further be turned into granules and will then be used in the construction of roads in the city.
 10. The **Telangana Police** have made it compulsory to link its '**Hawk-Eye**' app.
Note: It contains an "emergency button" to every company or individual offering Internet-based cab service. When a commuter in distress presses the button, the message will be transmitted to Telangana police's Hawk-Eye app through a back-end operational workflow that will pass on location and other details of the cab to the police. The emergency button will be integrated in such a way as to alert police patrol system.
 11. Tripura Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb** has inaugurated a campaign for the state -- **AngiKaar**.
Note: The objective of the 'AngiKaar' campaign is to bring the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) under one-fold of other central government implemented scheme. The state's target of making 26 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards by March 2020.
 12. Union Minister of **State Shri RK Singh** has inaugurated the two-day '**Conference of Power and Renewable Energy Ministers of States and UTs**' at **Tent City, Narmada**.
Note: The Conference is being attended by the Energy Ministers and top officials of energy departments of the States. The Conference will see deliberation over a range of issues pertaining to power and renewable energy sector such as – 24/7 power supply for all, Ease of doing business, Sanctity of contracts, regulatory issues, implementation of various schemes. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) a PSU under the Ministry of Power has appointed ICRA and CARE as the designated

- credit rating agencies for carrying out the rating exercise.
- 13.** India and **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed 190-Million-dollar loan agreement for improving road connectivity in **Rajasthan**.
Note: According to the Finance Ministry, the agreement was signed to upgrade 754 kilometres of state highways which will benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan. The project provides for constructing more than 200 bus stops and 2 kilometres of raised sidewalk on project roads for the benefit of commuters and pedestrians, particularly women and children.
- 14.** The SARAS Aajeevika Mela (organised by the Ministry of Rural Development) is underway at **India Gate Lawns, New Delhi**.
Note: The objective of this Mela to bring the rural women Self Help Groups formed with the support of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission, under one platform to showcase their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.
- 15.** Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs **Shri Hardeep S Puri** has launched the mobile app 'mHariyali'.
Note: Now, People can upload information/photos of any plantation done by them, which is linked to the app and will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in. The App provides for automatic geotagging of plants. This app will also enable nodal officers to periodically monitor the plantation.
- 16.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a commemorative stamp in honour of Marshal of the Indian Air Force -- **late Arjan Singh**.
Note: Arjan Singh (Chief of Air Staff - August 1964 to July 1969) is an icon of Indian military history and the best remembered for providing excellent leadership to a young IAF during the 1965 war. In January 2002, Government of India designated him as the Marshal of the Air Force. Mr. Singh remains the only officer of the IAF to be given a Five-Star rank.
- 17.** Delhi LG **Anil Baijal** launched an online module for sanction of **Building plans**.
Note: Anil Baijal (Delhi Lieutenant Governor) has launched an online module for sanctioning building plans for plots up to 500 square metres on self-certification basis by municipal corporations. The process will require an architect to file the case online for obtaining the sanction of a building plan certificate. The submitted case will be scrutinised automatically by the rule engine of the Online Building Plan System (OBPS) module. Thereafter, in case of any shortcoming, an error report will be generated by the system.
- 18.** **Chenani- Nashri Tunnel** on NH 44 (in Jammu & Kashmir) will be named after **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee**.
Note: According to Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, it is the humble homage to Mukherjee whose battle for Kashmir, One Nation One Flag. Syama Prasad Mukherjee was an Indian politician, barrister and academician, who served as the Minister for Industry and Supply in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.
- 19.** Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated '2019 Shirui Lily Festival' (3rd) at Shiru Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in **Manipur**.
Note: The festival featured demonstrations of the age-old traditions and culture of the inhabitants of the district of Ukhrul. This initiative will provide an opportunity to youth outside the region to develop a positive perception of North-East. Mr Patel along with N. Biren Singh (Manipur Chief Minister) jointly inaugurated the Strength of Unity Statue as a mark of opening the third edition of the four-day state festival.
- 20.** Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **YS Jaganmohan Reddy** has launched 'YSR Rytu Bharosa - PM KISAN' in **Nellore**.
Note: Under the scheme, farmers will get financial assistance of Rs 13,500 per annum in three instalments. The State Government contributing Rs 7,500 and the Centre Rs 6,000. Andhra Pradesh Government allocated budget of Rs 5,500 crore for the scheme and the number of beneficiaries is initially put at roughly Rs 40 lakh.
- 21.** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath inaugurated the two-day Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference in **Indore**.
Note: CM Kamal Nath also inaugurated the Global Trade Exhibition at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore. Many well-known industrialists are attending this conference. Foreign investment proposals worth 4,385 crore rupees are in the process of consideration or final stage in Madhya Pradesh.
- 22.** Nitin Gadkari has announced the naming of new **National Highway No. 703AA** as '**Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg**'.
Note: The road starting from Kapurthala connecting Goindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in Punjab has been declared as new National Highway '703 AA' (effective from next month). The decision has been taken to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev.
- 23.** The **Kerala Govt.** has extended **maternity leave** benefits to teachers and other staff of private educational institutions, including those in the unaided sector.

- Note:** The Union Government has approved the Kerala Government's decision to bring these teachers and employees under the Maternity Benefit Act. After the amendment to the Act comes into force, Kerala would become the first state in the country to provide maternity benefits in the private educational sector.
24. Odisha's biggest trade fair 'Bali Jatra' is scheduled to begin on **12th November**.
Note: According to the Odia Calendar, the festival is celebrated every year from the day of (full moon day of the month of Kartika). 'Bali Jatra' will be jointly organized by the Cuttack District Administration, District Cultural Council, and the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).
➤ The trade fair will continue for eight days.
25. The **West Bengal Government** has decided to invest Rs 540 Cr for **infrastructural development** of Calcutta Leather Complex (renamed as Karmadiganta) situated at **Bantala, 24 Parganas District**.
Note: The Karmadiganta complex is considered Asia's first integrated leather complex. The West Bengal Government is aiming to raise the target to Rs 30,000 Cr in the next five years.
26. No government jobs for those with more than two kids from 2021 in **Assam Govt**.
Note: The Assam state cabinet has decided that no government jobs will be given to persons having more than two children after 1st January 2021, as per the small family norm. The policy specified that job candidates with two children only would be eligible for government employment.
27. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated day long golden jubilee celebrations of Vishwa Shanti Stupa in Rajgir, Bihar.
Note: More than 300 Buddhist monks, devotees and eminent personalities from Japan, Thailand, Srilanka, Bhutan, Nepal, US and other countries have arrived to take part in the function.
28. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched its flagship scheme '**Kanya Sumangla Yojna**'.
- Note:** The scheme will provide an amount of 15 thousand rupees in a phased manner to every family in which a girl child takes birth. The scheme has been designed in a way that parents have to take care of girl child's health and education to get the benefit.
71. World Bank has signed a tripartite loan agreement worth USD 165 million with the Government of India and **Odisha government**.
Note: Under this loan agreement, the project "**The Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture**" will be implemented in Odisha's rural areas which are vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture. This project will diversify and improve the marketing of their produce, for increased income by managing 128,000 ha of agricultural land in Odisha.
29. Ladakh Administration is organizing first ever 3-Day Ladakh Literature Festival from **29th to 31st October**.
Note: The Ladakh Literature Festival aims to celebrate the uniqueness of the region in the fields of Art, Culture and Literature.
30. The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has launched a social service initiative '**Odisha Mo Parivar**'.
Note: Under the 'Odisha Mo Parivar' (Odisha, my family) programme, party leaders will dedicate themselves to protect the environment and undertake extensive planting of trees, and create awareness among the public.
31. '**Hori Habba**' is a popular bull-catching celebration in **Karnataka**.
Note: It is celebrated during the harvest season. It is an ancient folk game native to Haveri district of Karnataka and played on the lines of Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and Kambala in Dakshina Kannada district.
32. The Goura-Gauri festival was celebrated in **Chhattisgarh**.
Note: It is celebrated on the day after Diwali. The festival celebrates the pastoral life of the people of Chhattisgarh.

Important News - World

1. India and Kazakhstan conducted Joint Military Exercise 'KAZIND-2019' at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.
Note: The exercise will comprise of nearly **100 soldiers** from both Indian and **Kazakhstan Army**. Exercise '**KAZIND-2019**' is the fourth edition of an **annual event** which is conducted alternatively in Kazakhstan and India. The **aim of this exercise** is to conduct company level joint training with the **emphasis on counter-terrorism** operations in mountainous terrain.
2. China unveiled the **DF-41 intercontinental-range ballistic missile**, touted to be the most powerful missile on the planet at the National Day parade in **Beijing**.
Note: DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometers), more than any missile on Earth. According to the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic

- and International Studies, the missile is capable of carrying 10 independently targeted nuclear warheads and could theoretically, hit the United States in 30 minutes. The DF-41 was unveiled during the National Day parade, as China observed its 70th anniversary of Communist rule.
3. According to the **IMD Smart City Index Singapore** is the smartest city in the world.
Note: The first edition of the IMD Smart City Index 2019 ranks 102 cities worldwide. Zurich ranked second and Oslo is the third smartest city in the world. The other smartest cities in the list are Geneva (4th), Copenhagen (5th), Auckland (6th), Taipei City (7th), Helsinki (8th), Bilbao (9th) and Dusseldorf (10th). The index assesses a city's efforts and success in embracing smart technologies to improve the lives of its citizens, thus being able to rate each city on a certain level of 'smartness'. Indian city Hyderabad ranked 67 in the list, while the capital of India, New Delhi is the 68th smart city in the world.
 4. **Palestine** issued a commemorative **postage stamp** on the occasion of the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** with an aim of honoring Gandhi's "heritage and values".
Note: The Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology of the Palestine Authority (PA), Ishaq Sadar, released the ticket in the presence of Sunil Kumar, India's representative in the PA.
 5. In the Global Firepower's 2019 Military Strength Ranking, the Indian military has been ranked as the strongest military power in **South Asia**.
Note: Pakistan has been ranked second and Bangladesh is ranked the third most powerful military power in South Asia. In the world ranking, the United States has topped the list, followed by Russia, and China. The military strengths of 137 countries in total have been considered in the GFP.
 6. **Japan** has launched an **unmanned spacecraft** towards the International Space Station.
Note: The **H-2B rocket** lifted off at 1:05 am local time (1605 GMT Tuesday) with cargo vessel Kounotori8. The launch took place from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan. Kounotori8, meaning "white stork" in Japanese, intends to deliver about 5.3 tonnes of supplies to astronauts at the ISS, including fresh food and water as well as batteries and devices needed for experiments.
 7. The festival of **Fulpati is being celebrated with gaiety and religious fervor in Nepal**.
Note: Fulpati is observed on the seventh day of the Dashain festival. In Nepali, "Ful" means flower and "Pati" means leaves and plants. There is a tradition in Nepal to bring nine types of Fulpati into homes on the seventh day of Navaratri.
 8. The 14th edition of Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise Nomadic Elephant–XIV started on **5th October**.
Note: The exercise will be conducted from 05 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh. In this exercise, the Indian Army is being represented by a battalion of the RAJPUTANA RIFLES Regiment. Nomadic Elephant – XIV is the fourteenth edition between the two nations aimed at training troops in counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate. The joint exercise will enhance defence co-operation and military relations between the two nations.
 9. The fifth round of **Foreign office consultation** between **India and Mexico** held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation, including political, trade and economic cooperation. Both sides underscored the need to hold a regular dialogue in these areas through the established bilateral mechanisms.
 10. The **first-ever World Cotton Day (WCD)** was hosted by the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** in **Geneva**.
Note: This event stems from the application by the **Cotton-4 countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali) to the **United Nations General Assembly** for its official recognition of a World Cotton Day, reflecting the importance of cotton as a global commodity. As one of the **world's largest producers** and consumers of cotton, India supports the **World Cotton Day** as an opportunity to recognize the significance of cotton as a global commodity.
 11. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** received the first of the 36 long-awaited **Rafale fighter jets** on behalf of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in France.
Note: The first batch of four combat jets is expected to be ferried to India by May 2020. The fighters to be armed with the SCALP ground attack missiles that have a range well over 300 km. It will be flown by IAF pilots in France for at least 1,500 hours as part of the testing and acceptance process before they come to their home base in Ambala.
 12. According to the **Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)**, who is the **world's most competitive economy** in the world in 2019 is **Singapore**.
Note: Singapore scored 84.8 out of a possible 100, pushing the United States to the top spot in the ranking of 141 economies. The US ranked on the 2nd place which is followed by Hong Kong at third place and Netherlands (4th) & Switzerland (5th). This year, India has moved down 10 places to rank 68th (2018- 58th position) in the global competitiveness index.

13. **NASA** launched a satellite called 'Icon' to explore the mysterious, dynamic region where air meets space.
Note: The satellite 'Icon' is short for Ionospheric Connection Explorer- rocketed into orbit following a two-year delay. **NASA**.It was dropped from a plane flying over the Atlantic off the Florida coast.Five seconds after the satellite's release, the attached Pegasus rocket ignited, sending Icon on its way.
14. 'Typhoon' triggered floods and landslides as it battered Japan with wind speeds of 225km/h -- **Hagibis**
Note: More than 100 people were injured across the country after typhoon Hagibis made landfall on Japan's main island of Honshu. Bullet trains were also seen engulfed by floodwater at East Japan Railway Co's Railyard near Nagano Station. Now, the typhoon has weakened to an extra-tropical cyclone off Japan's northeastern coast.
15. **Sheikh Hasina** has announced that **all the rail links** with India closed after the 1965 war will be reopened.
Note: Trains from Bangladesh to Darjeeling via Siliguri operated till 1965. Earlier, PM Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the first intercity train between Dhaka and Kurigram. The first rail line between India and Dhaka was opened in 2008 when Maitree express between Dhaka and Kolkata was started. In 2017 Bandhan express was also started between Kolkata and Khulna.
16. **Indian artists** performed **Mahatma Gandhi's favorite** Bhajan on occasion of 150th birth anniversary celebrations in Sharjah -- **Raghupati Raghav Rajaram**.
Note: The function, which was organised by the Indian Association in Sharjah, was attended by Minister of State for External Affairs V Murleedharan among others. Mr Murleedharan is on a two-day visit to the UAE to attend the 5th Abu Dhabi Dialogue
17. The **Indian Air Force** and **Japanese Air Self Defence Force** (JASDF) has carried out the **annual joint military exercise** -- **Shinyuu Maitri**.
Note: C-130 J aircraft of the Special Operations Squadron of IAF and C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron of JASDF is participating in the exercise. The focus of the exercise, to undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among the two forces.
18. **UAE** has announced the establishment of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI).
Note: It will be first graduate-level, research-based AI university in the world. MBZUAI will enable graduate students, businesses and governments to advance the artificial intelligence field. The University is named after Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.MBZUAI will provide all admitted students with a full scholarship, plus benefits such as a monthly allowance, health insurance, and accommodation.
19. Interpol to hold the general assembly in India in **2022**.
Note: India will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022 after a proposal received the overwhelming support of member countries at this year's congregation at Santinago in Chile. The general assembly of Interpol is an annual exercise hosted by member countries. The organization has 90-million records spread across 17 databases.
20. Two Female Astronauts of the United States of America have become the first all-female to carry out a spacewalk -- **Christina Koch and Jessica Meir**
Note: Earlier this year, the mission was aborted following a spacesuit flub.They began their mission making standard safety checks on their suits and tethers.The US sent its first female astronaut into space in 1983 and has now had more women astronauts than any other country.
21. The oldest known natural pearl in the world has been discovered by Abu Dhabi archaeologists working at a Neolithic site on -- **Marawah Island**.
Note: Dubbed the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl', it was found in layers that have been radiocarbon dated to 5,800-5,600 BCE, during the Neolithic period. The discovery is proof that pearls and oysters were being used in the UAE nearly 8,000 years ago and represents the earliest known evidence for pearling yet discovered anywhere in the world. Prior to the Abu Dhabi Pearl discovery, the earliest known pearl in the UAE came from a Neolithic site in Umm Al Qaiwain.
22. A **China** has signed an agreement to lease an **entire island** in the Solomon Islands -- **Tulagi**.
Note: Tulagi, an island about two square kilometres (0.8 square miles) with a population of 1,200. It is the site of a former Japanese naval base and was the scene of fierce fighting in World War II. The agreement with China Sam mentions developing a refinery on the island, but its potential for dual use as a Chinese military base is certain to raise concerns with the United States and Australia.
23. The United Nations **World Food Programme** (WFP) has launched a cinema advertisement campaign titled --- **Feed Our Future**.
Note: The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India. Headquarters of UN World Food Programme (WFP): Rome, Italy
24. President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone for Sri Sathya Sai Sanathana Samskruti Project at **Sai no Sato, Kakegawa, Japan**.
25. The 18th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit held at **Baku, Azerbaijan**.
Note: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 developing world states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.

26. The 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change was held in **Beijing, China**.
Note: The meeting was chaired by E. Mr. Li Ganjie, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.
27. Worlds' first blockchain-based carbon trading exchange was launched by **AirCarbon Pte**.
Note: The AirCarbon Exchange will finance the registration costs of some carbon-mitigation projects at no charge to developers to help generate credits to trade.

Honor & Awards

- Infosys** has won the prestigious **United Nations Global Climate Action Award** in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category.
Note: Infosys is the only corporate from India to earn the recognition for its efforts to combat climate change. The award will be presented to Infosys at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Santiago, Chile (December 2019). Infosys began its action to combat climate change in 2008 with an assessment of its carbon footprint.
- President Ram Nath Kovind honored **veteran cricketer Sachin Tendulkar** with the most effective Swachhta Ambassador Award.
Note: The award was presented to the master blaster Sachin for utilizing his popularity and fame to ensure India achieves its goal of a Swachh Bharat. The award was presented during the President at the India Today Safaigiri Summit in New Delhi. In 2014, **Sachin Tendulkar** was honoured with Bharat Ratna becoming the youngest recipient of the highest civilian award in the country.
- Kyrgyz human rights lawyer** wins UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award -- **Azizbek Ashurov**.
Note: A Kyrgyz human rights lawyer whose work has supported the efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic in becoming the first country in the world to end statelessness has been selected as the 2019 winner of the UN Refugee Agency's Nansen Refugee Award. The award includes a commemorative medal and a US\$150,000 monetary prize generously donated by the governments of Switzerland and Norway.
- According to the '**Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019**' report, **Jaipur station** topped the list of the **cleanest railway station** in India.
Note: Three railway stations of Rajasthan have been included in the list of top clean railway stations in the country. In the Railway Cleanliness Survey conducted by the Ministry of Railways, Jaipur Junction has come first, Jodhpur railway station ranked second and Durgapura railway station ranked at the third spot. A total of 720 stations and were included in the survey.
- The **UNESCO** has named **Mexican actress** as a **UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador** for Indigenous Peoples -- **Yalitza Aparicio**.
Note: Ms. Aparicio is committed to the fight against racism and for the rights of women and indigenous peoples. She was chosen to play in Alfonso Cuarón's film Roma while studying to be a teacher. TIME magazine (USA) listed her as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2019.
- Three scientists** have won the **Nobel Prize 2019 in Physics** for their contribution to the understanding of the evolution of the universe and earth's place in the cosmos -- **James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz**.
Note: One half of the award was given to James Peebles for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology and the other half jointly to Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star. The award is presented in Stockholm at an annual ceremony on 10th December (the anniversary of Nobel's death).
- Pioneers of lithium-ion battery win 2019 Nobel Chemistry prize -- **John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino**.
Note: **Lithium-ion batteries** have revolutionized our lives since **they first entered** the market in 1991. The batteries power everyday products such as smartphones, laptops and even electric vehicles. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded 110 times to 180 individuals between 1901 and 2018. Mr Goodenough is the oldest ever winner of a Nobel prize at the age of 97-years. Malala Yousafzai (17-years) is the youngest ever winner of a Nobel prize (Nobel Peace Prize 2014).
- Senior **Indian Forest Service officer Ramesh Pandey** has been selected for the prestigious **Asia Environmental Enforcement Award** by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
Note: Mr Pandey posted as Chief Conservator Forests in Lucknow & Secretary (UP State Bio-diversity Board) is known for his investigation and intelligence gathering on poachers. Mr. Ramesh Pandey will receive the award on 13th November at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2019 was awarded to Austrian writer **Handke**.

- Note:** The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2019 was awarded for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human experience'.
10. The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 was awarded to Polish author **Olga Tokarczuk**.
Note: For 'a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.' Tokarczuk is only the **15th woman** to win the Nobel literature prize in more than a century.
 11. **U.S. astronaut** has been awarded Russia's top state honour '**Russian Order of Courage**' award **Nick Hague**.
Note: The award was presented by the Russian President Vladimir Putin to Nick Hague for his effort to survive an emergency on board a Russian spacecraft a year ago. In October 2018, Nick Hague, along with Alexei Ovchinin (Russian cosmonaut), made a dramatic emergency landing in the steppes of Kazakhstan when a booster rocket on their Soyuz launch vehicle failed (the first such accident in post-Soviet history).
 12. The **Nobel Peace Prize 2019** was awarded to **Abiy Ahmed Ali**.
Note: He has been awarded "for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea. Current, Abiy Ahmed Ali is the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (since 2 April 2018). The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five Nobel Prizes (Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, and Literature) established by the will of Swedish industrialist, inventor, and armaments manufacturer Alfred Nobel.
 13. **Ashleigh Barty** has been awarded Australian sport's highest individual honour 'The Don' Award.
Note: Now, she has joined legends like Cathy Freeman and Ian Thorpe in lifting the prestigious prize. Barty was the first Australian to win the French Open in 46 years and is now aiming to become the first Australian woman to end the season with the No.1 ranking since Margaret Court in 1973.
 28. **Chandi Prasad Bhatt** will get 31st **Indira Gandhi award** for national integration.
Note: The 31st **Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration** for the years 2017 & 2018 will be awarded to **Chandi Prasad Bhatt** (85-years), the pioneer of the 'Chipko Movement'. The award will be presented to Mr. Bhatt for his services in promoting and preserving the national integration. **Chandi Prasad Bhatt** has received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1982), Padma Shri (in 1986), Padma Bhushan (2005) and the Gandhi Peace Prize (in 2013). The award will be given to Mr. Bhatt by the Congress President Sonia Gandhi on 31st October 2019 (death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) in a function at Jawahar Bhawan.
 29. **Indian nun Mariam Thresia (from Kerala)** was **declared Saints** by Pope Francis.
Note: Mariam Thresia was canonised along with John Henry Newman (English Cardinal), Marguerite Bays (Swiss laywoman), Dulce Lopes (Brazilian Sister) and Giuseppina Vannini (Italian Sister). Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan led the Indian delegation at the ceremony. Mariam Thresia founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Thrissur in May 1914.
 14. **Four** awards bagged by Indian in 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
Note: UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019 has been announced at a ceremony in Penang, Malaysia. Indian bagged four awards in three categories. India's Flora Fountain and three other landmarks in Mumbai are among the four sites that have been chosen from India.
 15. **Shiv Nadar** has achieved the top rank in the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2019.
Note: Mr Nadar ((HCL founder and chairman) made the highest contribution of Rs 826 crore (between April 2018 and March 2019) towards philanthropic causes. Azim Premji (Wipro) has been ranked second with total donations worth Rs 453 crore during the qualifying period. Mukesh Ambani (Chairman, Reliance Industries) came third with a total contribution of Rs 402 crore.
 16. 'Friends' star **Jennifer Aniston** to receive the People's Icon Award at the 2019 People's Choice Awards.
Note: The actress would be the second-ever recipient of the title. Last year, Melissa McCarthy accepted the trophy for the inaugural award. Aniston has played the most iconic, unforgettable characters and has conquered comedy and drama on both the small and big screen.
 17. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award to **former Attorney General K. Parasaran**
Note: Mr Parasaran was honoured with the award on the Elder's Day celebration of Age Care India, an organization working for the welfare of the elderly. The Award is a fitting recognition of Mr Parasaran's exceptional contribution to the field of law and justice as well as his extraordinary personality. He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2003 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011
 18. The European Parliament has awarded the Sakharov Prize to Uighur intellectual -- **Ilham Tohti**.
Note: He has been awarded the Sakharov Prize for his attempts to "foster dialogue" between Chinese people and the Uighur. Sakharov prize is named after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov. It was created in 1988 to

honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms.

19. Indian Fast bowler, and bats woman won the 7th edition of the Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award 2019 -- **Jaspri Bumrah & Smriti Mandhana**.
Note: Bumrah and Mandhana were the two winners from India among five who won the award. The other winners from Asia were Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne, and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.

20. **The Gandhi Mandela Foundation** has constituted India's first International Award, the Gandhi Mandela Award in 2019.

Note: The award was announced on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, 2019, and will be organized in India in December 2019.

21. Nepali mountaineer **Nirmal Purja** created new record for by climbing the world's 14 highest peaks in 7 months.
Note: Nepali mountaineer, Nirmal Purja created a new speed by climbing the world's 14 highest peaks over 8,000 meters (26,250 feet) in just 7 months.

Sports News

1. Jamaican sprint legend **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** won a gold medal in 100m race of 2019 IAAF World Championships in Doha.

Note: This was her 4th women's 100 metres world title. She defeated Britain's European champion Dina Asher-Smith who took silver medal while Marie-Josée Ta Lou finished 3rd.

2. **N Wilson Singh & Satish Kumar Prajapati** has won a gold medal in 10 metres platform synchronized event at **10th Asian Age Group Championships** in Bengaluru.

Note: The duo scored 290.19 scores to beat Uzbekistan's Zaynetdinov Marsel and Khasanov Botir (280.53 points). Thus, India extended their total tally to 60 medals (17 gold, 23 silver and 20 bronze) in the prestigious championships, which is the largest aquatic event in Asia

3. **Javelin thrower Annu Rani** has become the **first Indian** to qualify for **Women's Javelin Throw** final at World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Note: She smashed her own **national record** during the qualification round of the Championships with the best attempt of 62.43 metres. Annu Rani is the current national record holder, with a record of 62.34m in March 2019. Those who touch the automatic qualifying mark of 63.50m or 12 best performers from Group A and Group B taken together will qualify for the final round.

4. England allrounder **Ben Stokes** has been named as the players' player of the year at the Professional Cricketers' Association Awards.

Note: All-rounder Stokes played a starring role in England's maiden ICC World Cup 2019. He also played a heroic role to help salvage an Ashes draw with Australia. Somerset's Tom Banton picked up the PCA Young Player of the Year, while England bowler Sophie Ecclestone collected the Women's Player of the Summer.

5. The **National Basketball Association** installed India's first-ever floating **basketball court** in **Mumbai**.

Note: The basketball court set up in the **Arabian Sea** near the Bandra-Worli Sealink. India's first NBA Game to be held in October. The first NBA game is scheduled to host from **October 4 to October 5** in the SVP Stadium at Dome, NSCI, in Mumbai. The matches will be played under the Reliance Foundation Junior NBA program. Under this, the match will be played between the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers.

6. **Ravindra Jadeja** became the second Indian bowler to take the **fastest 200 wickets** in Test cricket.

Note: Jadeja achieved the feat when he dismissed centurion **Dean Elgar** (160) during South Africa's first innings on the third day, in reply to India's 502 for 7 declared. R Ashwin is the fastest **Indian bowler to take 200 wickets** in Tests cricket. He took 200 wickets in 37 Tests. Whereas, Jadeja took 44 Tests to reach the milestone.

7. Novak Djokovic has won Japan Open title 2019,

Note: It was the 10th time Novak Djokovic had won a title on his tournament debut. Djokovic has already qualified for next month's season-ending ATP Finals in London.

8. **Naomi Osaka** has won the 2019 china open tennis tournament.

Note: Naomi Osaka won the china open tennis tournament by defeating world number one Ashleigh Barty of Australia. Two-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka emerged victorious after 110 minutes in chilly Beijing, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. This was the third title of 2019 for Osaka and fifth in her short career.

9. **Christine Wolf** has won the Hero Indian Women's Open golf title.

Note: Austria's **Christine Wolf** clinched her maiden Indian Women's Open golf title on 6th October 2019 in Gurugram, Haryana. It was **Christine's first title** after six years on the Ladies European Tour. Norway's Marianne Skarpnord finished as runner-up while

- England's Meghan MacLaren finished third in the competition.
- 10.** Indian women cricketer **Harmanpreet Kaur** has become the first Indian to play 100 T20 International matches.
Note: She achieves this feat in the sixth T20I against South Africa in Surat. Harmanpreet Kaur is among 10 female players who have reached the three-figure mark in terms of appearances. New Zealand's Suzie Bates and Australia's Ellyse Perry top the list with 111 appearances.
- 11.** American artistic gymnast **Simone Biles** has clinched a record-extending 15th World Gymnastics Championship title in Stuttgart, Germany.
Note: She collected her 25th medal at the championships to become the most decorated women's gymnast. Biles played a key role in a commanding performance by the USA, earning the most points in three of the four disciplines: the vault, balance beam and floor.
- 12.** **Surender Singh** created three world records at the ongoing World Powerlifting Championship in Berlin, Germany.
Note: Surender bagged the gold medal in 110 kg category, Classic Raw and the Best Lifter Award in Classic Raw and Single Ply. Three-time World Champion Mukesh Singh went on to add another feather to his cap by winning yet another gold only to be known as 4-time World Champion.
- 13.** India's women cricket captain became the **first female player** to last more than 20 years in international cricket **Mithali Raj**.
Note: She achieved the feat while leading India to an emphatic eight-wicket win over South Africa Women in the first ODI at **Vadodara**. **Mithali** (ODI debut against Ireland on June 26, 1999) completed 20 years and 106 days in the 50-over format. On 1 February 2019, during India's series against New Zealand Women, Raj became the first woman to play in 200 ODI matches.
- 14.** Germany and **Manchester United** midfielder **Bastian Schweinsteiger** has announced his retirement from football.
Note: Schweinsteiger spent 17 seasons at Bayern Munich, playing in exactly 500 matches across all competitions and scoring 68 goals. In the international stage, his 121 appearances make him Germany's fourth-most capped player of all time. In 2014, He won the World Cup with Germany.
- 15.** **Mary Kom** settles for bronze medal at World Women's Boxing Championships 2019.
Note: **Mary Kom Settles for Bronze** (in 51-kg division) medal after **Losing Intense Semi-final** at Women's World Boxing Championships 2019 in Russia.
- She lost her semi-final bout against Turkey's **Buse naz Cakiroglu**. The 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships are held in Ulan-Ude, Russia.
- 16.** **Eliud Kipchoge** has successfully completed the **first-ever marathon** under two hours in Vienna.
Note: Eliud Kipchoge (Olympic marathon champion and world record holder) completed a course around Vienna's Prater Park in 1 hour 59 minutes and 40 seconds (42- kilometres). During the race, Kipchoge followed behind a car and was assisted by an army of 30 pacemakers. Kipchoge has won 10 of his 11 marathons, holds the official world record of 2:01:39 since shattering the previous best mark by 78 seconds in Berlin last year.
- 17.** Former **India leg-spinner Anil Kumble** has been appointed the head coach of the **Indian Premier League** (IPL) franchise **Kings XI Punjab** for the 2020 edition.
Note: Kumble is also being put in charge of "all cricket-related affairs" of the team for the foreseeable future, co-owner of the franchise Mohit Burman has confirmed. The appointment makes Kumble the only Indian coach in the IPL. Earlier, Kumble served as a mentor for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), whom he also led to the IPL final in 2009, as captain.
- 18.** **Manju Rani** settled for silver medal in **World Women's Boxing Championships** at Ulan-Ude in Russia.
Note: Russian Ekaterina Paltceva defeated Rani 4 -1 in 48 kilograms category in the final match of the tournament.
- 19.** Star sprinter **Dutee Chand** smashed her own national record in the women's **100 m semi-finals** at the National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi.
Note: She surpassed her previous timing of 11.26 second (clocking -11.22 seconds) which she had set at the Asian Championships in April this year. Dutee clocked 11.25 seconds in the final to claim the gold, leaving Archana Suseendran and Himashree Roy behind.
- 20.** American **artistic gymnast Simone Biles** captures all-time medal record at the World Gymnastics Championship.
Note: Biles surpassed Belarusian Vitaly Scherbo's record 23 world medals (won in the 1990s), winning "her 24th and 25th world medals (both gold) at the World Championship competition in Stuttgart. Now, Simone Biles holds the record for the most World Championship medals (25), as well as the most gold medals (19) in World Championship history for an athlete of any gender.

21. Rising Indian shuttler **Lakshya Sen** clinched his maiden **BMF World Tour title** by winning the 2019 Dutch Open men's singles at Almere.
Note: Lakshya defeated Japan's Yusuke Onodera 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in the final. The Dutch Open is a BWF World Tour Super 100 tournament. Earlier, Lakshya had won the Belgian Open, Asian Junior Championships, a silver medal at Youth Olympic Gamers and a bronze medal at the world Junior Championship 2018.
22. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has readmitted countries as ICC members -- **Zimbabwe and Nepal**.
Note: Zimbabwe Cricket had been suspended from membership of the International Cricket Council (ICC) with immediate effect in July this year. In 2016, Nepal had been banned for "governmental interference".
23. Mumbai teenager **Yashasvi Jaiswal** has become the **youngest cricketer** in the world to score a **double century** in One Day Cricket.
Note: Playing in his debut Vijay Hazare season, Yashasvi Jaiswal (left-handed batsman) scored 203 runs (in 154 balls-12 sixes and 17 fours) against Jharkhand at Alur, Karnataka. Yashasvi Jaiswal became the seventh Indian batsman to score a double century in List A cricket and fourth to achieve it in the domestic circuit. Riding on Jaiswal's quickfire double hundred, Mumbai posted 358 for 3 in 50 overs and bowled out the opposition for 319.
24. Argentine **footballer player Lionel Messi** received his sixth **Golden Shoe award** at a ceremony at Antiga Fabrica Estrella Damm in Barcelona.
Note: The award is won by the player to score the highest number of goals (36 goals) in Europe's top divisions in a 2018-19 season. Messi has taken the honours in 2009/2010 (34-goals), 2011/12 (50 goals), 2012/13 (46 goals) and 2016/17 (37 goals), 2017/18 (34 goals), 2018/19 (36 goals). The award is given to the player who scores the most league goals from the top division of every European national league.
25. Mercedes' **racing driver Valtteri Bottas** has won the 2019 Japanese Grand Prix.
Note: Ferrari's driver Sebastian Vettel (Germany) and Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) were ranked at the 2nd and 3rd respectively. The 2019 Japanese Grand Prix was a Formula One racing event held at the Suzuka International Racing Course in Suzuka in the Mie Prefecture, Japan
26. **Sarfraz Ahmed** was sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20 captain.
Note: According to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Batsman Azhar Ali would lead the Test side in the two Tests in Australia. While, Babar Azam (25-years) would be the captain in the three T20 matches. Sarfraz has been captain in all three formats of the game since the last two years and led Pakistan to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy title.
27. In badminton, **Kuhoo Garg and Dhruv Rawat** won the mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo.
Note: The Garg and Rawat held their nerves for a tight 21-16, 22-20 victory over the Utkarsh Arora and Karishma Wadkar in an all-Indian final. Garg, however, failed to have double delight as she later went down in the women's doubles final with Sanyogita Ghorpade.
28. Indian cyclist **Ronaldo Singh** has won a gold medal in the men's junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships in South Korea.
Note: Earlier, Ronaldo Singh had created a Junior Asian record during the Track Asia Cup in September this year in New Delhi. Apart from Ronaldo, James Singh clinched a bronze medal in the event.
29. Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise **Rajasthan Royals** have appointed Australian coach Andrew Barry McDonald as new head coach.
Note: The former Australian all-rounder has outstanding credentials and has coached Leicestershire, Victoria, and the Melbourne Renegades. Earlier, McDonald has played for Delhi Daredevils in 2009 IPL before being signed up by Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2012-2013.
30. Former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** took over as the BCCI's (Board of control for Cricket in India) 39th president.
Note: Mahim Verma of Uttarakhand became the new vice-president. Jay Shah (son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah) has been selected as Secretary and Arun Dhimal (younger brother of MoS Finance Anurag Thakur) as Treasurer.
31. **Graeme Smith and Tim May** has been awarded life membership of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
Note: Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is a cricket club in London, founded in 1787.
32. **Rohit Sharma** has become the third Indian batsman to reach the top 10 in all three formats (Test, ODIs & T20).
Note: The 'Hitman' has held a career-high ranking of second in ODIs in February 2018 and seventh in T20 in November 2018. Rohit's player of the series effort of 529 runs helped him make huge strides from 44th place before the series. He remains the third-best Indian batsman in terms of Test rankings after Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara
33. **Praveen Kumar** has become the first Indian man to win a Wushu World Championships gold in the 48kg category in Shanghai.

- Note:** Wushu is a Chinese martial art which combines full-contact kickboxing, including close-range punches and kicks, with wrestling, takedowns, throws, sweeps and kicks catch.
34. Veteran all-rounder **Abhishek Nayar** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: Abhishek Nayar represented India in 3 One Day Internationals (ODI). He played 103 first-class games, most of them for Mumbai, and scored 5749 runs with 13 centuries and 32 fifties while taking 173 wickets in a career spanning a decade and a half. He also played 99 List-A games in which he amassed 2145 runs and picked 79 wickets
35. **China** will host the inaugural edition of the expanded 24-team Club World Cup.
Note: Gianni Infantino (FIFA president) made the announcement after a meeting in Shanghai of the FIFA Council, the decision-making unit of football's world governing body. The FIFA Council has decided, unanimously, to appoint China as the host of the new FIFA World Cup for Clubs. Qatar will host the competition this year and in 2020.
36. **Karnataka** won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2019-20 in Bengaluru.
- Note:** This was Karnataka's fourth Vijay Hazare Trophy title with a dominant display against Tamil Nadu. Mayank Agarwal 69 and K L Rahul 52 not out and Abhimanyu Mithun 5/34 starred for Karnataka in the final in Bengaluru
37. **Prithavi Sekhar** has won the World Deaf Tennis Championship 2019.
38. The 13th edition of ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2020 will be hosted by **South Africa**.
Note: A total of 16 teams will participate in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2020, including the hosts South Africa.
39. India's top men's doubles pair **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** won the silver medal in Badminton French Open 2019.
Note: Satwik and Chirag had won their maiden Super 500 title at the Thailand Open earlier in August this year. It was the first time that an Indian men's doubles pair reached a World Tour 750 final.
40. Mexico Grand Prix title for 2019 Winner --- **Lewis Hamilton**.
Note: This was his 10th win of the season for Mercedes. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, a German racing driver, and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas, a Finnish racing driver, finished second and third respectively.

Banking & Financial Awareness

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced two contests to promote innovations and ideas in the payment and settlement systems.
Note: Shortlisted participants will get an opportunity to present their ideas before a jury of eminent persons while outstanding innovators will be awarded prizes and citations. The contest will be organised through the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad.
- PNB MetLife India Insurance Co. Ltd.** has tied-up with **Religare Health Insurance** to offer a product which covers health, death and illness.
Note: The tie-up will offer the additional earning opportunity for the life insurer's distribution channel partners. The product will be a seamless integration exercise to ensure that it comes as a single policy to a customer.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed Jai Bhagwan Bhorla as the PMC bank's **administrator**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the Board of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Limited, Mumbai. According to an official release, the amount of withdrawal from the bank allowed to depositors has been increased from one thousand to ten thousand rupees. The RBI's directives will remain in force for a period of six months.
- Bank of Baroda** has signed a MoU with the **Indian Army**, under which the bank will offer customized services, along with a host of facilities to account holders.
Note: The MoU includes free personal accident insurance cover, free air accident insurance cover of ₹15 lakh to ₹50 lakh, and an overdraft facility up to three times the monthly salary. The features are also applicable for pensioners of the Indian Army up to the age of 70 years.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has launched a computer-generated **Document Identification Number (DIN)** to ensure greater transparency and accountability in tax administration.

Note: According to the CBDT, the DIN system becomes operative from 1 October 2019. This system will apply to all kinds of communications from the income tax department, whether it is related to assessment, appeals, investigation, penalty, and rectification among other things.

6. India's private sector bank 'Axis Bank' has announced the launch a digital fixed deposit (FD) product -- **Express FD.**

Note: It allows the customer to open an FD account in three minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank. 'Express FD' offers attractive interest rates, zero issuance fees and no penalty on pre-mature withdrawal of up to 25% of the amount. A customer can open an Express FD account by investing a minimum Rs 5,000 up to Rs 90,000, for a tenure of 6 to 12 months.

7. **Public sector lender 'Uco Bank'** has launched three new digital products namely **UCash, Digilocker.**

Note: UCash enables customers to withdraw money from ATMs through mobile banking without using debit card. Digilocker aims to eliminate the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents.

8. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a reduction in its marginal cost of **fund-based lending (MCLR)** rate by 10 basis points across all tenors.

Note: This is the sixth time that the country's largest lender has cut its MCLR or minimum lending rate in the current financial year. The rate reduction is not applicable to the repo-linked loans. With this reduction, the one-year MCLR, to which all the lending rates are linked to, is set at 8.05% as against 8.15% earlier.

9. **Reliance Mutual Fund** has been renamed as **Nippon India Mutual Fund.**

Note: The organization was renamed following the purchase of 75% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management by Nippon Life Insurance. Now, Nippon India Mutual Fund has become the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company in India. In Reliance Mutual Fund, both Reliance Capital and Nippon Life (Japan's largest life insurance company) held 42.88% stake each, while the rest was with public shareholders.

10. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its final approval to the **Kerala Government** for the formation of the **Kerala Bank.**

Note: With its formation, the proposed Kerala Bank will be the largest banking network in the state. The objective of the formation of the Kerala Bank was to strengthen the cooperative sector, while the Opposition had alleged that it would destroy the traditional cooperative sector.

11. Auto **component manufacturer Minda Industries** is acquiring **100% equity** capital of Germany-based Delvis Group for 21 million euros.

Note: The Delvis Group is engaged in automotive lighting design and engineering. It comprises of Delvis GmbH and its two wholly owned subsidiaries Delvis Products and Delvis Solutions. Minda has a diversified product portfolio that encompasses safety, security and restraint systems.

12. The **Union Government** has constituted a committee of officers to **suggest measures to augment -- GST revenue.**

Note: The panel comprises **state-level GST** commissioners of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab besides central government officials including Principal Commissioner of GST and Joint Secretary (Revenue). The **committee** has been asked to suggest urgent measures to arrest the fall in tax revenues and suggest steps to be taken to improve revenue collection. The move came in the backdrop of a decrease in **GST collections** in September 2019.

13. US-based Major credit rating agency **Moody's Investors Service** estimated that the Indian economy expected in the financial year 2020 -- **5.8%.**

Note: It stated that the Indian economy is experiencing a pronounced slowdown partly due to long-lasting factors

14. As per reports on South Asia, The **World Bank (WB)** has sharply lowered **India's economic growth projection** for FY 20 -- **6%.**

Note: The report identified softening consumption due to slow growth in rural incomes, domestic demand and credit from NBFCs as a key challenge. Structural factors behind the weak investment were the other concern flagged by the World Bank. Bangladesh (this fiscal year- 7.2%) has become the second-fastest growing economy in South Asia after Bhutan.

15. ICICI Bank has announced to launch a new **Fixed Deposit (FD)** scheme with free health insurance -- **FD Health.**

Note: It will offer the dual benefit of an FD along with free critical illness coverage with a sum assured of Rs 1

lakh. The customers will be offered the insurance cover free of cost for the first year and thereafter, they can renew it. This first-of-its-kind offering in the industry provides the customer with a complimentary critical illness cover of Rs. 1 lakh from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on opening an FD of Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs for the tenure of at least two years.

- 16.** As per the **World Economic Outlook**, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) cut its forecast for GDP growth for the financial year 2019-20 to **6.1%**.
Note: IMF revises **GDP growth rate** prediction for 2019 at 6.1% and for 2020 at 7.0%. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. IMF consisting **189 countries** working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world while periodically depending on World Bank for its resources.
- 17. Reserve bank Of India** has issued some instructions and guidelines '**on tap**' authorization of payment systems.
Note: The RBI has been decided to offer on-tap authorization for Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU), Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) and White Label ATMs (WLAs). The payment system operators should ensure interoperability among different retail payment systems. As per the guidelines, interested entities should have a minimum of 100 crore rupees net worth and should always be maintained. TReDS scheme is to facilitate the financing of invoices and bills of MSMEs drawn on corporate buyers by way of discounting by financiers.
- 18.** Mastercard has tied up with M.S. Dhoni to launch a nationwide initiative to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments in India -- **Team Cashless India**.
Note: The objective of this initiative to bring consumers and merchants to the “forefront of the digital payments dialogue”. Mastercard will work together with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), acquirer banks and financial technology companies to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.
- 19.** US has slapped tariffs on a record **7.5-billion Dollars**-worth of European goods.

Note: Airbus, French wine and Scottish whiskies are among the high-profile targets. The tariffs were imposed despite pleas from European officials for a last-minute reprieve and French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire warning of retaliation.

- 20.** The India arm of Netherlands-based Home Credit Group has tied up with a Bank for joint lending to tap the large unbanked customer base across the country -- **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB)**.
Note: It has a total business of about Rs 1.1 lakh crore with a deposit base of Rs 60,000 crore and a loan book of Rs 50,000 crore. Home Credit India (entry in 2012) has spread its operations over 179 cities across 20 states and emerged with the largest penetration is below Rs 10,000 category with a customer base of one crore. Karur Vysya Bank is a 103-year-old scheduled commercial bank headquartered at Karur in Tamil Nadu.
- 21.** **IRDAI** has imposed penalties of Rs 1.01 crore on Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.
Note: The insurer was penalised for violations observed during an inspection. The penalty of Rs 1 crore is for violation of Clause 15 of Schedule I of IRDA (Health Insurance) Regulations, 2013 which clearly specifies that no commission shall be payable to any intermediary on the acceptance of a ported policy. The other penalty of Rs 1 lakh is for motor insurance and was for violating the outsourcing guidelines by agreeing to payment terms not in the interests of the insurer.
- 22.** **Vreedhi Financial Services (VFS)** has secured a non-banking finance company licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
Note: The objective of the licence is to provide credit and other services to micro-enterprises operating in tier two-three cities and small towns. The company will create a digital lending model by the next financial year. As per the study conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), It will address the gap between the addressable and viable credit in the micro-enterprises space which is USD 123 billion.
- 23.** As per CSRI's (Credit Suisse Research Institute) Global Wealth Report (10th edition), the global wealth is **USD 360 trillion**.
Note: India has made contribution of USD 625 billion (nearly 7% of total) to global wealth. The biggest contribution has come from the US at USD 4 trillion (45% of total) and China at USD 1.9 trillion (21% of total).

Wealth per adult for India at USD 14,569 (globally USD 70,849) is nearly 80% below the global average.

24. The Vijaya Bank Heritage Museum has been inaugurated at **Bengaluru**.

Note: The museum has a rare collection of photos through which the growth of the bank is showcased. Now, the memories of the erstwhile Vijaya Bank can be refreshed at a museum dedicated to its history. On 1st April 2019, the erstwhile Vijaya Bank, along with the erstwhile Dena Bank, was amalgamated with Bank of Baroda.

25. The Union Government **e-Marketplace** (GeM) signed a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with **Federal Bank** to offer number of services.

Note: These serviced including the transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to the registered users on the portal. The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities.

26. **Indian Overseas Bank** unveiled a healthcare insurance policy through an online platform in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Ltd.

Note: The policy offered on a real-time basis to customers at the branches of Indian Overseas Bank through the integration of technology of the two institutions. The co-branded healthcare policy designed by Universal Sompo General Insurance is offered with a sum insured from Rs 50,000 to Rs 15 lakh.

27. Insurance regulatory body IRDAI has set up an 8-member committee to evaluate applications filed under the -- **Regulatory Sandbox approach**.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	4.90 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.40%
Bank Rate	5.40%
CRR	4 %
SLR	18.75%

Note: The committee will be headed by International Institute of Information Technology (Bengaluru) Director, S Sadagopan. Regulatory Sandbox (RS) usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of testing.

28. India signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia to launch a card in the country_ **RuPay card**.

Note: RuPay is a highly secure network that protects against cyber hacks and is India's version of Master Card and Visa.

29. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 35 lakh on **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank**

Note: The bank has been penalized for "non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016". The headquarters of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank is located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.

30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review, reduced the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by **25 basis points**.

Note: The Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) reduced by 25 basis points to 5.15 percent from 5.40 percent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands reduced to 4.90 percent. The Bank Rate and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate are reduced to 5.40 percent. Reserve Bank of India has also reduced the Real GDP Growth for 2019-20 from 6.9% to 6.1%

Obituaries

1. **Legendary Mexican singer Jose Jose** passed away at a hospital in Florida.
Note: Jose Jose was often called 'El Principe de la Cancion' or 'The Prince of Song'. His most successful album, Secretos was released in 1984. In a career of more than four-decade, the singer sold millions of albums and picked by 6 Grammy nominations.
2. Renowned international opera star **Jessye Norman** passed away at New York hospital in the USA.
Note: She established herself in Europe in the 1970s and made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1983. Norman earned many prestigious Kennedy Center Honor (in 1997), a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (in 2006); a National Medal of Arts (in 2009) and France's Legion d'Honneur.
3. The doyen of nutrition research in India **Colathur Gopalan** passed away in Chennai.
Note: Gopalan was a recipient of the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan. Dr Gopalan held eminent positions, including being the Director of the National Institute of a Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, and the Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) from 1973-79.
4. Centenarian philatelist and coin collector **Krishna Gopalkrishna Kadekodi** passed away at his residence.
Note: He started his career as a revenue inspector and retired as a special deputy commissioner at the Regional Commissioner's Office in Belagavi. He was the first tahsildar of Panaji after the liberation of Goa from Portuguese occupation. He was a recipient of a gold medal from the Government of India for having a unique collection of stamps of Mahatama Gandhi released by 64 countries.
5. Eminent **Saxophone master Kadri Gopalnath** passed away in Mangalore.
Note: Kadri had been credited with introducing the Western wind instrument Saxophone to the Carnatic music world with great technical finesse and artistic sensitivity.
6. Indian-Origin Journalist in South Africa **Farook Khan** passed away.
Note: A prominent Indian-origin journalist in South Africa and cultural activist passed away in his hometown Durban after battling cancer. He was famous for his investigative reporting during apartheid. Farook Khan started the Miss India South Africa Pageant as part of the Miss India Worldwide Pageant.
7. **Veteran journalist Kanwar Sain Jolly** passed away following a prolonged illness.
Note: Mr. Jolly retired as Deputy General Manager of PTI news agency in 1993. He served at various positions for 40 years at India's premier news agency PTI.
8. Bangladeshi artist **Kalidas Karmakar** passed away in Dhaka.
Note: He was specialized in viscosity printing. He was awarded Shilpakala Padak (2016) and the Ekushey Padak (2018) by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution to fine arts.
9. Oracle co-CEO (until last month) **Mark Hurd** passed away.
Note: Mr. Hurd made his name as a strong-willed leader who helped revive the fortunes of two companies, including Hewlett Packard (HP), where he was CEO last decade. Earlier, Hurd had taken a leave of absence last month to focus on his health.
10. Wrestling legend **Dadu Chougule** passed away due to heart attack in Kolhapur in Maharashtra.
Note: Chougule won several prestigious titles such as Maharashtra Kesari, Rustam Hind Kesari, Mahan Bharat Kesari in the 1970s. He won a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand (in 1974). Dadu Chougule was a recipient of the prestigious Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement in sports.
11. Former Chief Minister of Gujarat **Dilip Parikh** passed away in Ahmedabad.
Note: He served as the 13th Chief Minister of Gujarat during 1997-98 when he was with Rashtriya Janata Party - RJP, floated by Shankersinh Vaghela. Parikh started his political career as a BJP MLA. Industrialist by profession, he also served as President of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
12. Yoga grandma **Nanammal** passed away at her residence near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
Note: She was conferred the Padma Shri in 2018 and had bagged the Nari Shakti Puraskar and Yoga Ratna

awards in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Nanammal had trained over 10 lakh students over 45 years, with

nearly 100 students daily.

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