



# LIC Asst. Main 2019

## GK Tornado



## GK Tornado for LIC Assistant Main 2019 Exam

**Dear Aspirants,**

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in last 6 months (**1st June 2019 – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019**). This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like Banking, **Insurance**, SSC and UPSC Exams.

### News related to RBI December

**1. RBI Unveils Guidelines on Small Finance Banks:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released 'Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks (SFB) in the Private Sector'. The on-tap facility allows RBI to accept applications and grant licence for banks throughout the year. Minimum paid-up voting equity capital/ net worth requirement shall be Rs.200 crore. For Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs), aspiring to voluntarily transit into SFBs, initial requirement of net worth shall be at Rs.100 crores that will have to be increased to Rs.200 crores within 5 years from date of commencement of business. Payments Banks like Paytm an IndiaPost and Fino can apply for conversion into SFB after 5 years of operations, if they are otherwise eligible as per these guidelines. As of now, the RBI has issued licences to 10 SFBs.

**2. RBI released fifth bi-monthly Monetary Policy review:**

The Reserve Bank of India on December 5, 2019, released its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for the year 2019-20. In this RBI decided to keep key policy rate unchanged.

**Key rates are as below:**

**Note:** The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) left unchanged to 5.15%. The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands same i.e. 4.90%.

**Current Policy Rates:**

Policy Repo Rate	5.15%
Reverse Repo Rate	4.90 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.40%
Bank Rate	5.40%

**3. NEFT transactions to be made 24x7 from 16<sup>th</sup>**

**December 2019:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that all bank customers will be able to transfer funds through

NEFT around the clock on all days including weekends and holidays from December 16, 2019. These transactions after the usual banking hours are set to be automated initiated using 'Straight Through Processing (STP)' modes by the banks. The existing discipline for crediting the beneficiary's account or returning the transaction **within 2 hours of settlement** to the originating bank will also continue.

**4. RBI Imposes Rs 1.50 crore penalty on Corporation Bank:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 1.50 crore on Corporation Bank** for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions. The penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and 51 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

**5. Reserve Bank expressed concern over rising bad assets from Mudra loans:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expressed concern over rising bad loans **from Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**. This scheme was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015**, which offers faster credit, with ticket sizes starting from ₹50,000 and going up to ₹10 lakh, to small businesses. According to RBI, the percentage of **MUDRA loans were at 2.52% in 2017-18**, It has now raised to 2.89% in 2018-19. It also says that the number of loans being sanctioned under the scheme has increased greatly.

**6. RBI Enhances Scope of Non-Resident Rupee Accounts:**

**Note:** The RBI expanded the scope of Special Non-Resident Rupee Accounts (SNRR account) by permitting non-residents to open such accounts for rupee-denominated overseas borrowings, trade credit and trade invoicing for popularising cross-border transactions in the domestic currency. Any person resident outside India, having a business interest in India, can open a non-interest bearing Special Non-Resident Rupee Account (SNRR account) with a bank for bona fide transactions in rupees. The restriction on the tenure of SNRR account, which is currently 7 years, has also been removed. RBI has also modified norms regarding re-export of unsold rough diamonds from the special notified zone of Customs without export declaration form (EDF) formality.

**7. RBI excluded Vijaya Bank, Dena bank from 2nd schedule of RBI Act, 1934:**

**Note:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has excluded Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank from the second schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 with effect from April 1, 2019, as they have ceased to carry on banking business. Because, these public sector banks (PSBs) were merged into Bank of Baroda on April 1, 2019, hence, they were ceased to operate as banking companies separately. It should be noted that those banks included in this schedule are known as scheduled banks in India while banks not under this schedule are called non-scheduled banks.

**8. RBI raises P2P lending limit five-fold:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a big step to promote the peer-2-peer (P2P) sector by increasing the total loan limit among such lenders from 10 lakh to Rs. 50 lakhs. Presently, the aggregate limit is 10 lakh rupees for all borrowers and lenders on all P2P platforms. Apart from this, a single borrower can only take up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 from a lender on all NBFC (Non-Banking Financial Company)-P2P platforms.

**9. RBI revises framework on SAARC currency swap arrangement:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) currency swap arrangement framework for a period of November 14, 2019, to November 13, 2022. As per the new framework, RBI continues to offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion. The drawal can be made in US Dollars, Euro or Indian Rupee. There are certain concessions for swap drawal in Indian Rupee.

**10. RBI disclosed major wilful defaulter details under RTI act 2005:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed list of 30 major wilful defaulters of India. The list was disclosed by RBI in response to Right to Information (RTI) application of the RTI act 2005, filed by Indian news website 'The Wire' in May 2019. 3 companies of fugitive diamond manufacturer & businessman Mehul Choksi, were among the 30 major wilful defaulters. These 30 companies added up to over Rs 50,000 crores of total outstanding advances. Some of the companies that has been added to the list include Gitanjali Gems, Rotomac Global, Zoom Developers, Deccan Chronicle Holdings, Winsome Diamonds, REI Agro, Siddhi Vinayak Logistics and Kudos Chemie.

**11. RBI constitutes a three-member advisory committee for DHFL:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a 3-member committee consisting of IDFC First Bank non-executive chairman Rajiv Lall, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance chief executive NS Kannan and the mutual funds body AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India) chief executive NS Venkatesh, before formally sending the case of the troubled deposit-taking housing finance company- Dewan Housing Finance Limited (DHFL) for bankruptcy proceedings. This committee will serve as advisor to the DHFL administrator.

**12. RBI supersedes DHFL board to initiate insolvency proceedings:**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India superseded the board of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) as it intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the insolvency and bankruptcy rules. The company is all set to become India's first financier to land up in bankruptcy courts. The central bank superseded the board "owing to governance concerns and defaults by DHFL in meeting various payment obligations. R Subramaniakumar, ex-MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank has been appointed as the administrator.

**13. RBI tightens norms for acquisition of financial assets by ARCs from sponsors and lenders**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) by barring them to bilaterally buy assets from banks /financial institutions (FIs) which is its sponsor, lender or has subscribed to the fund raised by the ARC for its

operations or an entity in the group to which the ARC belongs. However, RBI allowed ARCs to participate in auctions of the financial assets, that should be conducted

in a transparent manner, on arm's length basis and the prices are set by market forces only.

## November

### 1. RBI Enhances Scope of Non-Resident Rupee Accounts:

- To popularise cross-border transactions in Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India has enhanced the scope of 'Special Non-resident Rupee' (SNRR) account.
- It allows the persons residing outside India to open such accounts for purposes like external commercial borrowing and trade credit in Indian rupee.
- Any person resident outside India, having a business interest in India, can open a non-interest-bearing Special Non-Resident Rupee Account (SNRR account) with a bank for bona fide transactions in rupees.
- The restriction on the tenure of SNRR account, which is currently 7 years, has also been removed.
- RBI has also modified norms regarding re-export of unsold rough diamonds from the special notified zone of Customs without export declaration form (EDF) formality.

### 2. Banks cannot charge on NEFT transactions from January 2020:

- On the third anniversary of demonetisation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a report titled "Furthering Digital Payments".
- In the report with a view to promoting digital transactions RBI proposed that from January 2020, banks can no longer charge savings bank account holders for online transactions in the NEFT system.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now mandated banks to do this.

### 3. RBI supersedes DHFL board to initiate insolvency proceedings:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has superseded the board of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) as it "intends to shortly" initiate the process of insolvency.
- In January, a web portal accused the DHFL promoters of committing financial frauds by creating shell companies.
- A total of 32 Indian and foreign banks lent Rs 97,000 crore to DHFL Group companies with many borrower companies having the same addresses, directors, and auditors.
- DHFL is the fourth-largest Indian housing finance company based on loans outstanding as of March.

### 4. RBI imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on Oxigen Services

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on prepaid payment instrument Oxigen Services.
- The move was taken in exercise of powers vested under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
- The fine comes through a speaking order dated September 17, 2019.
- Oxigen Services facilitates payment processing and money transfer services.

## October

### 1. Rs 35 lakh penalty on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank:

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 35 lakh on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for violating norms on fraud classification and notification.
- The bank has been penalized for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on fraud classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs directions 2016.

### 2. NBFC licence for Vreedhi Financial Services:

- The RBI has given a non-banking finance company licence to Vreedhi Financial Services (VFS).

- Vreedhi Financial Services objective is to provide credit and other services to micro-enterprises operating in tier two-three cities and small towns.
- It will address the gap between the addressable and viable credit in the micro-enterprises space which is \$123 billion as per the study conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

### 3. RBI approves merger of DCBs to form 'Kerala Bank':

- The Reserve Bank of India approved the amalgamation of 13 district cooperative banks (DCBs) with the Kerala State Cooperative Bank to form the proposed "Kerala Bank".

- Except the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank, all district banks had approved the scheme of amalgamation proposed by the State government at their respective general body meetings.
- RBI also insisted that the State government would have to consistently infuse additional capital and also put in place a well-defined governance structure by amending the KSCS Act.

#### 4. RBI released Consumer Confidence Survey (September 2019):

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the data of the September 2019 round of its Consumer Confidence Survey.
- The survey was conducted in 13 major cities: Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna and Thiruvananthapuram.

##### Key Highlights:

- Consumer confidence weakened in September with both the current situation index and the future expectations index recording declines.
- Households' sentiments on the general economic situation and the employment scenario declined. They were less optimistic on their income over the year ahead than in July 2019.

- Respondents perceived an increase in the price level over the last 1 year and a majority of them expect prices to rise further in the coming year.

#### 5. Indiabulls Housing & Lakshmi Vilas Bank merger rejected by RBI:

- The Reserve Bank of India has rejected the merger proposal of Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.
- RBI has rejected the application for voluntary amalgamation of Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. and Indiabulls Commercial Credit Ltd. with the Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
- The merger was crucial for Lakshmi Vilas Bank as it is now under the prompt corrective action framework of the RBI due to a high level of bad loans and insufficient capital.

#### 6. RBI Consumer Confidence Survey, 2019 – According to RBI Consumer Confidence Survey, the consumer confidence dipped to a six-year low.

- The federal bank says that this is mainly due to decline in employment, income and discretionary spending.
- The CSI – Current Situation Index fell to 89.4 whereas it was recorded as 95.7 in July. Previously the index hit its low in 2013, when it reached 88.

### September

#### 1. RBI placed restrictions on PMC Bank – The Reserve Bank of India has imposed caps on withdrawals made by customers of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Banks for 6 months.

- The imposition was invoked by the central bank under **Section 35 A** of India's Banking Regulation act, 1949.
- PMC is spread across 6 states and has a network of 137 branches.

##### Section 35 A of India's Banking Regulation act, 1949

- Section 35A of the Banking Regulation act provides powers to RBI to give directions to banks.
- It enables RBI with the power to take action in order to prevent a banking company acting detrimental to the interests of the depositors.

#### 2. RBI expands coverage of Bharat Bill Payment System – In a consumer friendly initiative, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope and coverage of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to include all categories of billers who raise recurring bills and payments (except prepaid recharges) as eligible participants, on a voluntary basis.

- At present, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS is available only in five segments i.e. direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, water and telecom.

#### 3. Harsh Vardhan committee submitted its report to RBI Governor - A panel set up by the central bank to suggest measures to make the housing finance securitization market more attractive has recommended that the National Housing Bank (NHB) set up an intermediary with 51% government ownership.

##### Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India had constituted a Committee on the Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market, on May 29, 2019, with Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Senior Advisor, Bain & Co. as the Chairperson.

#### 4. T.N. Manoharan committee submitted its report – A task force set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) submitted its report on the development of a secondary market for corporate loans.

- The task force headed by **Canara Bank chairman T.N. Manoharan** recommended setting up of a self-regulatory body (SRB), which will oversee the proposed secondary market.

Other recommendations of the Task Force include –

- linking the pricing of all loans to an external benchmark as the current Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) may not be comparable across banks.
- recommended setting up of an online loan sales platform to conduct auctions of secondary market loans.

**5. RBI orders banks to link lending rate to external interest rate benchmark**

– The Reserve Bank of India has made mandatory for banks to link retail and MSME loans to external interest rate benchmarks.

- This new norm will be effective from 1st of October. Under this norm, banks have to link all of their new loan products, be it personal, housing or auto to an external benchmark rate.
- Banks have been allowed to choose any benchmark market interest rate published by the Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL).
- Banks can choose RBI's repo rate, government of India's three-month treasury bill yield published by the FBIL, government's six-month treasury bill yield published by the FBIL or any other market interest rate published by the FBIL.

**6. RBI has clarified that non-cash withdrawal transactions from ATMs such as balance enquiry cannot be part of free transactions**

**Key points –**

- Banks offers their savings account customers a certain number of free transactions at ATMs every month and beyond that they levy charges.
- Now, the Reserve Bank of India or RBI has clarified the list of transactions at ATMs for which banks cannot charge their customers.

**Banks cannot charge for these ATM transactions:**

**(i)** ATM transactions that fail due to technical reasons like hardware, software, communication issues will not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer.

**(ii)** Other ATM transactions that failed due to non-availability of currency notes, invalid PIN/validations, and other transaction declines directly attributable to the bank or services provider will not be counted as valid transactions and cannot be charged.

**(iii)** Non-cash withdrawal transactions from ATMs such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes and funds transfer - which is part of 'on-us' transactions - shall also not be part of the number of free ATM transactions.

Note: At the end of March 2019, the number of ATMs stood at 2.22 lakh, down from 2.21 lakh in the previous year, according to the RBI's latest report.

**7. RBI selected Daffodil Software Pvt Ltd for developing mobile app for visually impaired** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) selected **Daffodil Software Pvt Ltd** to develop a mobile phone-based application for visually impaired people to identify currency notes. It informed the Bombay High Court that an internet connection would not be required for its proposed mobile application.

**8. Deposit insurance in India covers 92% of accounts, 28% of banking deposits: RBI**

- According to the Reserve Bank of India data, Deposit insurance in India covers 92% of the total number of accounts but only 28% of the total banking deposits.
- At the current level, this insurance cover works out to 0.8 times of per capita income in 2018-19.
- RBI in its annual report said that - "With the current limit of deposit insurance in India at Rs 1 lakh, the number of fully protected accounts stood at 200 crores at the of end-March 2019, which constituted 92% of the total number of accounts, as against the international benchmark of 80%.
- In terms of amount, the total insured deposits of **Rs 33.7 lakh crore** as at end-March 2019 constituted 28% of assessable deposits of Rs 120 lakh crore, against the international benchmark of 20% to 30%.
- In August last year, the government scrapped the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill which had argued a higher share of deposit insurance for depositors.

**Important points to note:**

- The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) provides insurance cover to deposits in all commercial banks.
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.
- It was established on July 15, 1978 under Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961, for the purpose of providing insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities.
- DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring deposits for up to the limit of Rs. 1 lakh of each deposit in a bank.

- 1. RBI board accepts Jalan panel report, approves surplus transfer of Rs 1.76 lakh cr to govt** – Central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) accepted Bimal Jalan committee's recommendations and approved a surplus transfer of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government.
  - The surplus comprises Rs 1,23,414 crore for 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
  - The surplus transfer is 1.25 per cent of the GDP (2018-19).

Note:

- The central bank, in consultation with the government, had constituted a committee chaired by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan to review the extant economic capital framework of the RBI.
- 2. RBI says currency in circulation soars 17 per cent to Rs 21.1 lakh crore in FY19** – Despite the many an effort to shift to digital payments and usher in a digital payment economy, the currency in circulation has jumped by a hefty **17 percent to Rs 21.10 lakh crore** as of March 2019, the Reserve Bank says in its annual report for 2019.
    - The demand for the Rs 500 bill, which is the second highest denomination after the Rs 2,000 note, has soared the highest and now accounts for over 51 percent of the value of currency in circulation.
    - The annual report notes a 59 percent increase in retail electronic payment transactions to 23.3 billion.
  - 3. RBI announces modalities for 2 pc interest subvention for fisheries farmers** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced modalities for providing 2 per cent interest subsidy on short-term loans of up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers engaged in fisheries and animal husbandry through Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
    - With this interest subvention, such farmers will get short-term loan of up to Rs 2 lakh at a concessional rate of 7 per cent. The interest subsidy scheme is applicable for loans taken during 2018-19 and 2019-20.
  - 4. RBI allows e-mandate for cards for recurring transactions** – The Reserve Bank of India has permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments).
    - The maximum limit for such a transaction will be Rs 2,000. While processing the first transaction in e-mandate-based recurring transaction series,

additional factor authentication (AFA) validation should be performed.

- 5. NEFT to be available 24x7 from December 2019: RBI**
  - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 07th August announced that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) systems would be available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.
  - At present, the NEFT payment system operated by the Reserve Bank as a retail payment system is available to customers from 8am to 7pm on all working days of the week (except 2nd and 4th Saturdays, and all Sundays of the month).
- 6. RBI to set up “Central Payment Fraud Registry”**
  - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 07<sup>th</sup> August proposed to set up a **central payment fraud registry (CPFR)**, which will monitor digital payment frauds in real-time.
  - The move is expected to boost customer confidence in the payments systems.
  - At present, banks report all frauds in the system to the central fraud monitoring cell of the RBI.
  - According to an RBI report, instant payment systems such as immediate payment service (IMPS) and unified payments interface (UPI) are expected to have annual growth of over 100%, while national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) will witness 40% growth by 2021.
  - Besides, the number of digital transactions is expected to increase fourfold to ₹8,707 crore by December 2021.
  - The central fraud registry was proposed earlier both in the Nandan Nilekani committee report and RBI's payments vision document 2019 to 2021.
- 7. RBI alltargetednk of China to offer regular banking services in India**
  - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country.
  - Banks falling under this schedule have to adhere to the norms of the RBI.
- 8. Atanu Chakraborty nominated on central board of RBI**
  - The Union Government has nominated Atanu Chakraborty as a Director on the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
  - Currently, he is a Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

- Shri Rajiv Kumar (new Finance Secretary) is also a Director on the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India.

Note:

- The central board of directors is the main committee of the central bank.
- The RBI has four regional representations: North in New Delhi, South in Chennai, East in Kolkata and West in Mumbai.
- The headquarters of RBI is in Mumbai.
- Current Governor of RBI is Shaktikanta Das

#### 9. Banks not to charge for failed transactions, balance enquiry: RBI

- Every month banks provide certain number of free transactions at ATMs to their customers and exceeding which charges are imposed.

According to the Reserve Bank of India, the following transactions should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer as the 'free ATM transactions':

- Transactions failed at ATMs due to technical reasons like hardware and software issues.
- Transactions failed due to non-availability of currency in ATMs.
- Use of ATMs for non-cash withdrawal transactions such as balance enquiry, cheque book request, payment of taxes, funds transfer.

#### 10. RBI releases the final Regulatory Sandbox Framework for Fintech Companies – On August 13, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the final draft 'enabling framework for regulatory sandbox (RS)', for the startups, banks and financial institutions aims at enabling innovations in the financial technology space.

- **Criteria:** RBI will launch the sandbox for companies/banks that meet the criteria of the minimum net worth of Rs.25 lakh and the promoter/director of the entity should meet fit and proper framework.
- **Regulatory Sandbox (RS):** It refers to live testing of new products/services in a secure & controlled regulatory environment, where the regulators can allow certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
- **Background:** The concept of Regulatory Sandbox was proposed by a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen, former executive director of RBI.

#### 11. Bank Retail loan growth slips to 5-year low in the first half of 2019 at 7.3 %: RBI

- According to the latest monthly data of RBI (Reserve Bank of India), the retail personal

credit disbursement growth in the first half of 2019 (January -June) was 7.3%, which is the slowest rate of disbursement by banks in 5 years.

#### 12. RBI Expands biller categories for Bharat Bill Payment System

- On August 7, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted all categories of billers (except prepaid recharges), who provide for recurring bill payments to participate in BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)) on a voluntary basis.
- RBI also decided to offer 'on tap' authorization to entities wishing to function as / provide platforms for
- Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)
- Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)
- White Label ATMs (WLAs).

#### 13. RBI's Task Force on Offshore Rupee Markets headed by Usha Thorat recommends extension of onshore market hours – The Task Force formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Offshore Rupee Markets headed by Usha Thorat has recommended the extension of onshore market hours to 9 am to 9 pm, from 9 am to 5 pm, to improve access of overseas users and allow Indian banks to freely offer prices to global clients around the clock.

#### 14. HFCs will be treated as one category under NBFCs: RBI

- On August 13, 2019, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that, for regulatory purposes, Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) will be treated as one of the categories of NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) & it will come under RBI's supervision.

#### 15. Residential Asset Price Monitoring Survey – RBI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) survey has said that housing has become less affordable over the last four years.
- According to the report, Mumbai remains the least affordable city in India, while Bhubaneswar has the cheapest real estate among the 13 cities that were studied by RBI.
- As per the findings of the survey, the median loan-to-value (LTV) ratio moved from 67.7% to 69.6% between March 2015 and March 2019 showing that banks have become increasingly risk tolerant.
- The movement of median loan to income (LTI) ratio also confirms worsening housing affordability as it moved from 3.0 in March 2015 to 3.4 in March 2019.



**Note:**

- The Reserve Bank has been conducting a quarterly residential asset price monitoring survey (RAPMS) since July 2010 on housing loans disbursed by select

banks/ housing finance companies (HFCs) across 13 cities, viz., Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar.

**July**

**1. B.P. Kanungo to run the monetary policy portfolio - RBI**

- Reserve Bank of India has assigned deputy governor B.P. Kanungo to run the monetary policy portfolio and forecasting department. After the exit of Viral Acharya, Kanungo has become the 6th member of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee.
- Now, all the three deputy governors N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain have been made responsible for 12 departments each.

**2. RBI fines Mobikwik & Hip Bar for violating norms –** The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty on two online payment solutions providers Mobikwik Systems and Hip Bar for non compliance of regulatory guidelines.

- Mobikwik Systems Private Limited has been slapped a fine of Rs 15 lakh while Hip Bar Pvt Ltd faced a fine of Rs 10.85 lakh.

**3. RBI's Working Group recommends extension of market hours-** An Internal Working Group of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Comprehensive Review of Market Timings has suggested calibrated extension of Currency Market (Foreign Exchange Market) hours, from 9 am to 9 pm for both **Over the Counter (OTC)** and Exchange Traded. At present the markets close at 5 pm.

**Key Recommendations**

- **Bond Market:** On account of lack of demand from participants group recommended that the government bond market timing can be retained and the market be closed at 5 pm.
- **Call Market:** Its timings could be extended till 6 pm. As Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system is operational till such time.
- **G-Sec Trading:** Currently there have been no requests from any market participants seeking extension of market hours for G-sec trading.

**Note:**

- Exchange Traded Derivatives (ETD) are traded via central exchange with publicly visible prices i.e. on a centralized exchange.
- Over the Counter (OTC) derivatives are for companies that are not listed on a formal exchange and traded between two parties (bilateral negotiation) without

going through an exchange or any other intermediaries.

**4. RBI liberalises ECB norms by relaxing end-use restrictions**

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms for corporates, non-banking lenders by relaxing end-use restrictions with regard to working capital, general corporate purpose and repayment of rupee loans.
- It also allows ECBs to raise with minimum average maturity period of 7 years for repayment of rupee loans availed domestically for capital expenditure.

**About External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)**

- It is instrument used in India to facilitate Indian companies to raise money outside the country in foreign currency.
- It may be commercial loans which can be in form of bank loans, bonds, securitized instruments, buyers' and supplier's credit availed from non-resident lenders with minimum average maturity of 3 years.
- In India, ECBs availed of by residents are governed by Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 along with Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) Regulations, 2000, as amended from time to time.

**5. RBI fines Union Bank, SBI for flouting norms**

- The Reserve Bank of India has penalised State Bank of India and Union Bank of India for violating certain regulatory guidelines.
- SBI was fined Rs 7 crore for non-compliance on Income Recognition and Asset Classification norms, code of conduct for opening and operating current accounts and reporting of data on Central Repository of Information on Large Credits, and fraud risk management and classification and reporting of frauds.
- The central bank also imposed a Rs 10 lakh fine on Union Bank of India for non compliance with

the directions on the cyber security framework in banks.

6. **RBI panel for hike in collateral free lending, MUDRA loan limit to Rs 20 lakh** – A committee constituted by the RBI has recommended increase in the collateral free lending limit to Rs 20 lakh for MSMEs and self-help groups.

- The committee has also recommended revision of loan limit sanctioned under MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for MSMEs, said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
- In an another reply to the Lower House, he said, 22.83 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were registered on Udyog Aadhaar Portal in the country during March, 2018 to March 2019.
- The MSME ministry facilitates access to finance through its schemes / programmes namely Prime Minister's Employment Generation programme (PMEGP), Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme.

7. **Maharashtra tops in ATM frauds: RBI** - According to the data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), accessed by the Times of India (TOI), Maharashtra registered the highest number of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) frauds in India for the FY 2018-19.

- It was followed by Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Amounts of less than Rs 1 lakh were not considered for the data.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Tripura were the only three states which did not report a single incident.

8. **RBI opens third office of Banking Ombudsman in New Delhi** – The Reserve Bank said it has opened third office of the Banking Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Digital Transactions (ODT) at its New Delhi office.

- RBI said the third office has been opened with a view to meet the growing demand for resolution under the two schemes.
- With this, now there are 22 functional banking ombudsman offices in the country.
- These offices were established under Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006

**Note:**

- The Banking Ombudsman scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum for bank

customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.

- The scheme is introduced under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by RBI with effect from 1995.

**Banking Ombudsman scheme**

- Banking Ombudsman is a person to whom the customer can approach for redressal of their grievances. He is appointed by RBI to redress customer complaints against certain deficiency in banking services.
  - All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006.
  - One can file a complaint before the Banking Ombudsman if the reply is not received from the bank within a period of **one month** after the bank concerned has received one's representation, or the bank rejects the complaint, or if the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank.
  - The Banking Ombudsman does not charge any fee for filing and resolving customers' complaints.
  - The appellate authority for the Banking Ombudsman Scheme is the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India.
9. **RBI to regulate housing finance companies**– In the Union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will now be given power to take over as the regulator of Housing Finance Firms (HFFs) instead of NHB (National Housing Bank).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act will be amended to give the RBI powers to regulate the HFC sector.
  - NHB was part of the RBI till April this year when the government decided to take it over.
10. **No charges on NEFT, RTGS money transfers from 1 July** – As per Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20, the Reserve Bank of India will stop imposing additional charges on Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems from 1st July, 2019.
- National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) – There is no limit – either minimum or maximum limit.
  - However, maximum amount per transaction is limited to ₹ 50,000/- for cash-based remittances within India and also for remittances to Nepal

under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme.

- RTGS - Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)
- Maximum limit – **No upper limit**
- Minimum limit – **Rs. 2 lakhs**

11. **Utkarsh 2022: finalized by RBI board** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has finalised Three Year Roadmap to

improve supervision and regulation, among other functions of central bank. This medium term strategy is **named as Utkarsh 2022.**

**Note:**

- An internal committee to identify issues that needed to be addressed over next 3 years was formed, which was anchored by Viral Acharya outgoing Deputy Governor of RBI.

## June

1. **RBI: Payments related Data to be stored only in India** – Reserve Bank of India recently clarified that all Payment System Operators (PSOs) shall store entire payment data in systems located only in India.

- It means that the data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India.

2. **RBI permits ARC to buy financial assets from Peers** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to acquire financial assets from peers i.e. other such entities.

- However, RBI, the apex banking regulator cleared that all such transactions have to be settled in cash.
- The ARCs have been allowed to acquire financial assets from other ARCs, in the view of amendment to the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

3. **UK Sinha panel on MSMEs suggests Rs 20 lakh collateral-free loan under Mudra** – A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expert committee on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) has recommended doubling the cap on collateral-free loans to **Rs 20 lakh from the current Rs 10 lakh**. This will be extended to borrowers falling under the Mudra scheme, self-help groups, and MSME.

**Note:**

- Distressed asset fund: It also recommends the creation of a distressed asset fund of Rs 5,000 crore for small enterprises.
- It stated the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which is responsible for the development of the MSME sector.
- The government has notified a procurement policy wherein PSUs (Public Sector Units) & government departments have to make **25 percent** of their procurement from MSMEs through government e-marketplace (GeM) portal.

- The proposal is part of a report prepared by the eight-member RBI committee tasked with reviewing the current framework for the MSME sector.
- The panel, headed by former Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman **U K Sinha**, submitted its report to the RBI.

4. **RBI advises commercial banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme** – The Reserve Bank of India has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme, formulated by Indian Banks Association.

**Salient features of the Scheme includes:**

- Loan upto **Rs 10 lakh for study in India** and upto **Rs 20 lakh for study abroad.**
- Collateral free loans upto Rs 7.5 Lakh under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL).
- No Margin for loan up to Rs 7.50 Lakh.
- Repayment period of 15 years.
- One Year Moratorium for repayment after completion of studies in all cases.
- Moratorium taking into account spells of unemployment/under employment, say two or three times during the life cycle of the loan.
- Moratorium for the incubation period if the student wants to take up a start-up venture after graduation.

5. **RBI launches Complaint Management System** – The Complaint Management System (CMS) is a software application launched by Reserve Bank of India on its website.

- It will be used for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.
- Customers can lodge complaints against any regulated entity on the platform. These complaints will be directed to the appropriate

office of the Ombudsman/Regional Office of the RBI.

**6. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigns** – Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has quit six months before the scheduled end of his term. He had joined RBI on January 23, 2017.

**RBI Deputy Governor -**

- BP Kanungo, N. S. Vishwanathan, and Mahesh Kumar Jain are present RBI Deputy Governor.

**7.** On June 24, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has launched a **Complaint Management System** (CMS) for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) on its website.

**8. CAD increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the GDP in FY19** - On June 28, 2019, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY19 as against 1.8% of 2018 which stood at \$48.7 billion.

- It was the highest in 6 years on due to higher trade deficit caused by high crude oil imports.
- The Centre has pegged fiscal deficit—the difference between the government's revenue and expenditure—at 3.4% of the GDP for this fiscal year, the same as in 2018-19.

**Note:**

- Current account deficit (CAD) is one of the key indicators of an economy's health and measures the difference between the value of the goods and services a country imports and the value of its exports.

**9. RBI relaxes leverage ratio for banks** – The Reserve Bank relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks. This has been done to help them boost their lending activities.

- The reduced leverage ratio will be effective from the quarter commencing October 1, 2019.
- The leverage ratio, as defined under Basel-III norms, is Tier-I capital as a percentage of the bank's exposures.

**10. RBI sets average base rate at 9.18% for NBFC-MFI borrowers for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019**

- On June 28, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India set an average base rate of 9.18% for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to be charged from their

customers. It will be charged for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019.

**11. RBI issued Guidelines for Setting up of an FBAs for administering "Significant Benchmarks"** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a regulatory framework for setting up of **financial benchmark administrator** (FBA) for administering 'significant benchmarks' in the markets for financial instruments.

- FBAs: It will be incorporated in India as a company that will maintain a minimum net worth of **Rs 1crore at all times**.

**Function of FBAs:**

- It ensures significant benchmark' is designed to be an accurate and reliable representation of the referenced (specified) financial instrument and data used for the administration based on an active market involving transactions then it submits the report to RBI.
- The guidelines are based on the report by RBI's executive director P Vijaya Bhaskar.

**12. RBI has promoted Rabi N. Mishra as executive director (ED).**

- He was earlier holding the position of the Principal Chief General Manager at the central bank's Risk Management Department.

**13. RBI conducted Financial Literacy Week**

- Financial Literacy Week 2019 observed from June 3-7, 2019.
- The theme of "**Farmers**" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.
- Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness of key topics every year through a focused campaign.

**14. RBI releases report on 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems'** – The report on 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems' which was released mentions that the country is "strong" in areas like having necessary laws and cash in circulation per capita.

**15. RBI to infuse Rs 12,500 crore into the financial system through bond purchase** – The Reserve Bank of India will infuse **Rs 12,500 crore** into the financial system through bond purchases under the Open Market Operation (OMO).

- The RBI uses open market operations (OMO) for injecting liquidity into the system through the purchase of government bonds (G-Sec).

## Ranking/Indexes

### 1. Global prosperity index 2019:

- The first-ever Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index, released in the Basque Country capital of Bilbao in northern Spain.
- Bangalore emerged as India's highest-ranked city at No. 83 in a new index of the world's 113 cities in terms of economic and social inclusivity.
- Delhi at 101 and Mumbai at 107 are the other Indian cities to make at the index,
- with the top 20 awarded a PICSA Seal as the world's highest-ranked cities building inclusive prosperity.
- Zurich in Switzerland topped the list while Austrian capital, Vienna in second place. Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Helsinki complete the top five.

### 2. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella tops Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list

- India-born Satya Nadella (Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft) has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list.
- The list also includes Ajay Banga (Mastercard CEO) and Jayshree Ullal (Arista head).
- Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".
- Top five Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 are here:
  1. Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft);
  2. Elizabeth Gaines (CEO, Fortescue Metals Group);
  3. Brian Niccol (CEO, Chipotle Mexican Grill)
  4. Margaret Keane (CEO, Synchrony Financial)
  5. Bjorn Gulden (CEO, Puma)

### 3. India ranks 59th on IMD World Talent Ranking Report

- The International Institute of Management Development's (IMD) World Talent Ranking (WTR) report for the year 2019 was released.
- In the released report, India was ranked at 59th position, a slip by 6 places on a global annual list of 63 countries. The list was topped by Switzerland.
- The top 10 countries that followed Switzerland were Denmark(2nd), Sweden(3rd), Austria(4th), Luxembourg (5th), Norway(6th), Iceland(7th), Finland (8th), Netherlands (9th) and Singapore(10th).

### 4. Bangladesh tops business bribery risk in South Asia

- According to the latest Global Bribery Risk Index, Bangladesh has been identified as the "country with the highest risk" in terms of bribery threats in South Asia.

- India has been ranked at 78th in the Global Bribery Risk Index out of 178 countries.
- In South Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the bribery risk is "high".
- Except for Bhutan, which has a "low" risk of bribery demands, the risk level of other countries in the region is "medium". Bhutan, which has the lowest risk score of 41, was placed ranked 52nd.
- The five countries with the lowest bribery risk in the world are New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.
- The countries with the highest risk are Venezuela, Yemen, North Korea, South Sudan and Somalia.

### 5. India Justice Report 2019: Maharashtra holds top, UP ranks bottom

- According to 'India Justice Report 2019', Maharashtra is the top state in delivering justice to its citizens followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana in the first-ever ranking of states on their capacity to deliver justice to citizens.
- The list of seven small states (population less than one crore each) was topped by Goa, followed by Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. In this classification, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom.
- The ranking is part of the India Justice Report (IJR) 2019, an initiative of Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS- Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

### 1. Singapore is the world's smartest city: IMD Smart City Index

- According to the IMD Smart City Index, Singapore is the smartest city in the world.
- 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.

### Indian cities in the index

- Indian city Hyderabad ranked 67 in the list, while the capital of India, New Delhi is the 68th smart city in the world.
- On the other hand, Mumbai is the 78th and Bengaluru is the 79th smart city in the world.
- The index is released by the IMD World Competitiveness Center's Smart City Observatory in partnership with Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

## 2. World Digital Competitiveness Rankings – India was ranked 44th in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking.

- In 2018, India was ranked at the 48th position.
- Top 3 countries – (1) United States (2) Singapore (3) Sweden
- The report is published by the Swiss based International Institute for Management Development.

### The Index ranks the countries based on the following three factors:

- Knowledge: The capacity to understand and learn new technologies.
- Technology: The competence to develop new digital innovations.
- Future readiness: The preparedness for the coming developments.

## 3. NITI Aayog's School Education Quality Index – Kerala has topped the "School Education Quality Index" launched by NITI Aayog.

- The School Education Quality Index assesses States on the basis of learning outcomes, access, equity and infrastructure and facilities, using survey data, self-reported data from States and third-party verification.

### Key points of the report

- **Uttar Pradesh** was ranked at the bottom of the list.
- **Chandigarh** has topped the list of Union Territories.
- Tamil Nadu was the top performer in access and equity outcomes, while Karnataka led in learning outcomes. Haryana had the best infrastructure and facilities.
- Among smaller States, Manipur emerged as the best performer.

## 4. Times Higher Education released "World University Rankings 2020" – World University Rankings 2020, published by the United Kingdom (UK) based Times Higher Education (THE).

- The **University of Oxford** is the number one university in the world for the fourth time in a row.
- **The California Institute of Technology** stands at the second place and the **University of Cambridge** fell to the third rank this year.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore** were ranked number 1 among the 56 Indian institutes on the list of the best universities of the world.

## 5. Global Firepower Index: Indian military strongest in South Asia

- In the Global Firepower's 2019 Military Strength Ranking, the Indian military has been ranked as the strongest military power in South Asia.
- While Pakistan has been ranked the 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.
- India has been ranked at 4th position in the world ranking.

## 6. India ranked at 34th position on world travel and tourism competitiveness index

- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report, **India has jumped 6 places to claim 34th spot** on world Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019.
- The WEF report shows, over 1.5 crore international tourists arrived in India while the share of travel and tourism industry was 3.6 per cent and that of industry employment was 5.1 per cent.
- **Spain tops the ranking index followed by France and Germany.**
- Other countries in the top 10 include Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Canada, and Switzerland.

## 7. India among top 10 nations in gold reserves –

- India has surpassed the Netherlands to move into the list of top10 countries in terms of total gold reserves.
- According to the World Gold Council, India has gold reserves totalling 618.2 tonnes, which is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.
- According to the World Gold Council, the U.S. leads the country list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.
- In terms of individual countries, India actually ranks 9th since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) occupies the third position after the U.S. and Germany.

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

- The 597-ft tall 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and Mumbai's Soho House have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the 2019 World's greatest places, in a compilation of 100 new and newly "noteworthy destinations.
- The 'Statue of Unity', the world's tallest statue, is a tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, independent

India's first home minister as well as deputy prime minister.

- Soho House Mumbai is Asia's first Soho House that puts a local spin on the "formula that has allowed Nick Jones' members--only clubs to blossom across the US and Europe".

#### 9. India ranks 9th on "Global Happiness Survey" by Ipsos

- According to a "Global Happiness Survey" by Ipsos, Indian has been ranked 9th on the happiness index among 28 global markets.
- For India, there has been a six per cent drop (from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent in 2019).
- Australia and Canada at the top spot (at 86 per cent) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world, While Russia (47 per cent) emerged at the bottom of the heap, among the 28 markets.

#### 10. Delhi, Mumbai fall in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019

- Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2019, released with both Delhi and Mumbai sliding down ranks.
- New Delhi dropped 6 places to 118, from 112 last year and Mumbai also fell in this year's index, by two places to 119, from 117 last year.
- **Vienna in Austria, Melbourne** and Sydney in Australia make the top three cities.
- The survey ranks countries across indicators including stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, culture and environment.

#### 11. Mumbai at 45th spot and Delhi at 52nd in World Safe Cities Index 2019

- According to a report of Economist Intelligence Unit, Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019, while Delhi stood at the 52nd position.
- **Tokyo** taking the top spot, while **Singapore and Osaka** came 2nd and 3rd in the list.

#### 12. Karnataka tops the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index –

- The State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL was launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities.
- Karnataka has topped the index which evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.
- SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF),

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

#### 13. Akshay Kumar in 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019

- Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the 4th position on the Forbes magazine's Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019 list.
- Akshay has raked in \$65 million. Hollywood star Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.

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

- According to the World Bank, India has been pushed to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the 6th largest economy.
- The US remains the top economy with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion in 2018.
- China was the 2nd largest economy with \$13.6 trillion, while Japan took the 3rd place with \$5 trillion.
- India's GDP was at \$2.7 trillion in 2018, while UK and France were at \$2.8 trillion.
- India still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

#### 15. London named the world's best city for students -

- London has named the world's best city for students for the 2nd consecutive year, beating Tokyo and Melbourne that came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, on a new worldwide ranking.
- According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113th and Chennai at 115th, out of a total of 120th cities in the list.
- The QS Best Student Cities Ranking compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds highlights each city's performance across different categories.

#### 16. India is the 46th highest risk country in the world: Water Stress Index 2019

- According to the Water Stress Index 2019, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world.
- 11 out of India's 20 largest cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress and 7 are in the 'high risk' category. Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Nashik, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Indore are among the cities facing 'extreme risk'.

- Chennai is the “tip of the iceberg” for India’s water-stressed cities.

**17. Global Innovation Index 2019** – On July 24, 2019, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal launched the 12th Edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) for the year 2019 in New Delhi.

- The theme of the 2019 GI is “Creating Healthy Lives – The Future of Medical Innovation”.
- Global Index is published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD (Institut Européen d’Administration des Affaires) and the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GI Knowledge Partners.
- It ranked 129 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.
- The headquarters of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Ranking

- India was ranked **52nd in 2019** with the score 36.58 out of 100 from 57th position in 2018.
- Top 3 countries – Switzerland, Sweden and United States of America.

**18. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index -**

- The MPI provides a comprehensive and in-depth picture of global poverty – in all its dimensions – and monitors progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 – to end poverty in all its forms.
- The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is published by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)

#### Key findings

- Across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people—23.1 percent—are multidimensionally poor.
- Two-thirds of multidimensionally poor people live in middle-income countries.
- One in every three children (under the age of 10) and every second child below the age of 18 years is multidimensionally poor in the world.
- About 34% of the world’s children and 17.5% adults covered under MPI survey are multidimensionally poor.
- One adult in six is multidimensionally poor compared with one child in three, hence children are more prone to multidimensional poverty than adults.

#### Indian Scenario

- India’s MPI value reduced from **0.283 in 2005-06 to 0.123 in 2015-16**.
- India has lifted **271 million people** out of poverty between 2006 and 2016, recording the fastest reductions in the multidimensional poverty index.
- India and Cambodia has reduced their MPI values the fastest among the 10 selected countries for which changes over time were analysed.
- Jharkhand has reduced the incidence of poverty at a faster pace than other regions (reduced the incidence of multidimensional poverty from 74.9% in 2005-06 to 46.5% in 2015-16).
- India (along with Ethiopia and Peru) significantly reduced deprivations in all 10 indicators, namely nutrition, sanitation, child mortality, drinking water, years of schooling, electricity, school attendance, housing, cooking fuel and assets.
- MPI reduced from 640 million people (55.1%) in 2005-2006 to 369 million people (27.9%) in 2015-16.

**19. Singapore tops Asia in Dell Global Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019**

- According to the latest “Women Entrepreneur Cities Index 2019”, sponsored by Dell and conducted by London-based global information provider, IHS Markit, San Francisco Bay Area has topped the list with 63.7 points followed by New York (62.9 points) and London(3rd ).
- Singapore tops in Asian city ranked at 21st position, while Indian cities Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Delhi were ranked 43rd (7th in Asia) and 50th (10th in Asia) respectively.

**20. Chandigarh best performing state in the field of education in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18**

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) informed that in the Performance Grading Index 2017-18, Chandigarh was ranked best among States and Union territories (UTs) in the field of education.
- The Index ranked the states on the basis of 5 parameters including learning outcomes and quality, access, infrastructure and facilities, equity and governance process. 36 States/ UTs were ranked in the Index.
- Other Rankings: Kerala was ranked second followed by Gujarat (3), Haryana (4), Tamil Nadu (5), Punjab (7), Rajasthan (8), Delhi(9).
- Least Rankings: Arunachal Pradesh (36), Nagaland (35) and Meghalaya (34) were the least performing states.



- Literacy: Kerala had the highest literacy rate followed by Lakshadweep and Mizoram.

**21. Public Affairs Index 2018: Kerala Best Governed State, Bihar Worst**

- Kerala is the best governed state in the country, according to a survey released by a Bengaluru think-tank, Public Affairs Centre.
- As per the report, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat are among the top five states delivering good governance.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha ranked the lowest on the index, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.
- Among smaller states – with the population less than two crore – Himachal Pradesh topped the list of states with good governance, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura.
- Meghalaya performed the worst in this list. Manipur, Nagaland, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir were the other poor performers.
- This year’s index also measured how child-friendly each state is. Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram topped this index.

**22. India ranked 86th in the Henley Passport Index 2019**

- The Henley Passport Index 2019 have ranked the Indian passport on the **86th position** with a mobility score of 58.
- Japan and Singapore hold the top spot with a score of 189.
- The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations including micro-states and territories.

**23. Global Peace Index 2019: India Ranks 141**

- India’s ranked 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019.
- **Iceland** remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation.
- New Zealand has been ranked the second most peaceful country.
- Portugal was ranked third, and Austria fourth and Denmark was fifth most peaceful country in the world.
- The report is prepared by Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace.

**24. Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog’s AMFFRI Index – Maharashtra achieves first rank in NITI Aayog launched “Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)”.**

- Gujarat secured the second rank with a score of 71.5 out of 100, followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- AMFFRI has a score that can have minimum value “0” implying no reforms and maximum value “100” implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

**25. NITI Aayog’s Health Index 2019 - Kerala took the top spot among larger states for overall performance on health indicators in a NITI Aayog report, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.**

- Uttar Pradesh is the worst state in the index.

**Key points**

- **Gujarat, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh** stood at fourth, fifth and sixth spots.
- The ranking was done under three categories -- larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs) -- to ensure comparison among similar entities.
- In terms of annual incremental performance among the larger states, **Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are the top-three states.**
- Among the smaller states, Mizoram ranked first in overall performance, while Tripura and Manipur were the top-two states in terms of incremental performance.
- Among the UTs, **Chandigarh** ranked first in overall performance, while Dadra and Nagar Haveli improved the most.
- Niti Aayog member Vinod Kumar Paul said the Union government should spend **2.5 per cent of gross domestic product on health.**
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already reached the 2030 SDG target for neonatal mortality rate (NMR), which is 12 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The report has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical assistance from the World Bank.
- The second round of the Health Index took into account the period 2015-16 (base year) to 2017-18 (reference year).

**26. Global Gender Equality Index Released: India Ranks 95**

- India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.

- The list was topped by **Denmark** followed by Finland and Sweden.
- Chad was placed at bottom most position (129th).
- The Index is developed by Equal Measures 2030, a partnership effort of regional and global organisations.
- Indicators: It includes 51 indicators across 14 of 17 official Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

**27. IIT Bombay has emerged the country's best university: QS Rankings**

- IIT Bombay has emerged the country's best university for the second consecutive year in the 2019 QS World University Ranking.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was named the world's best for a record eighth consecutive year.
- Twenty-three Indian institutes feature in the sixteenth edition of the QS World University Ranking in which **IIT Bombay (152), IIT Delhi (182) and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (184)** are ranked in the global top 200.
- The ranking is produced by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds, QS ranks the world's top 1,000 universities.

**28. IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019**

- India ranked at 43rd position in the most competitive economy in the world.
- In 2018 India was ranked at 44<sup>th</sup> place.
- Singapore has grabbed the top position.
- Hong Kong SAR is in second position and US has slipped to the third place in 2019.
- The ranking is compiled by International Institute for Management Development (IMD).

**29. India Ranks 140th In World Press Freedom Index –**

- India ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2019.
- Index is released by Reporters Without Borders.
- The index is topped by Norway followed by Finland and Sweden.

**30. WEF Global Energy Transition Index – India rank 76th on a global energy transition index.**

- The report stated that India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.
- Sweden remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.

- The index is compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

**31. World Happiness Report 2019 – India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations.**

- The World Happiness Report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations.
- For the second consecutive year, Finland topped the list.
- Denmark ranked second followed by Norway.
- Pakistan ranked 67th, Bhutan 95th, China 93rd, Bangladesh 125th, and Sri Lanka 130th while South Sudan ranked last in the World Happiness Report.

**32. Inclusive Internet Index 2019 – India has been ranked 47th.**

- **Sweden** has topped the rankings followed by **Singapore and the US.**
- The Inclusive Internet Index 2019 was prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- The 'Inclusive Internet' score was based on the scores of availability, affordability, relevance and readiness categories.

**33. International IP index 2019**

- India has jumped eight places to **36th position** on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index.
- The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the intellectual property index in 2019
- In 2018, India was ranked at 44<sup>th</sup> position.

**34. Corruption Perception Index 2018**

- India has improved its ranking by 3 points by moving onto **78th position** in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2018 published by Transparency International.
- China and Pakistan, in a list of 180 countries, lagged far behind than India at 87th and 117th position respectively.

**35. India ranks 54th in 'Bloomberg Innovation Index' of 60 economies**

- India has grabbed the 54th spot among 60 countries in the Bloomberg Innovation Index with a score of 47.93 out of 100.
- South Korea has topped the Bloomberg Innovation Index for the sixth time in a row with a total score of 87.38.
- Germany ranked second, Finland stood on the third spot.

**36. Global Talent Competitive Index 2019:**

- India ranked at **80th positions** on the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2019.
- The index is released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.
- Switzerland topped the index which is followed by Singapore and the US.
- Last year in 2018, India was ranked at 81<sup>st</sup> position.

**37. Democracy Index 2019:** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Democracy Index which ranks 167 countries by 60 indicators across five broad categories.

- Top 3 countries in the list are – **Norway, Iceland and Sweden.**
- Australia and New Zealand are the only “full democracies” in the entire Asia-Pacific region
- India was at the **41st place** with a score of 7.23/10 and was placed in the flawed democracies category.

**38. Three Indian origin CEOs in the top 10 best performing CEOs of the world:**

- Among the top 10 chief executives on the list, 3 spots have been occupied by the Indian-origin CEOs.. in the Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019’ list compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).
- Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen was ranked 6th, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga ranked at 7th and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella ranked at 9th spot.
- The list also features India-born CEO of DBS Bank Piyush Gupta on the 89th spot. Apple CEO Tim Cook was ranked 62nd in the list.
- The 2019 list has 4 female CEOs in the top 50 of the rankings.
- The List features 100 CEOs which has been topped by the American technology company NVIDIA’s CEO Jensen Huang.

**39. Bill Gates regains world’s richest person title:**

- Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates overtook Jeff Bezos to become the world’s richest person.
- Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos lost the title to Bill Gates, after losing nearly \$7 billion in stock value leaving his net worth to \$103.9 billion.
- Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is currently worth \$105.7 billion.
- Bezos ended Gates’ 24-year run as the richest man in 2018 and became the first man on earth with a net worth of \$160 billion.

- Bill Gates debuted on Forbes’ first ever billionaire list in 1987 with a net worth of \$1.25 billion.

**40. World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Ranking, India ranked at 63rd:**

- World Bank has released Ease of Doing business Rankings which includes 190 countries.
- India has jumped 14 places and has been ranked at 63<sup>rd</sup>.
- New Zealand and Somalia retained their 1st and 190th spot respectively.
- From 2020, the World Bank has expanded its ease of doing business survey to 2 more cities: **Bengaluru** and **Kolkata** in addition to Delhi and Mumbai that are currently surveyed.
- The World Bank has decided to have four cities from every country with a population above 100 million.

**41. IIT-Bombay again tops this year’s QS India University Rankings 2020**

- The latest 2 edition of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) India University Rankings 2020 released.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) has again topped all Indian Institutes in the list with an overall score of 88.5 followed by IISc- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (ranked 2 with 84.7 score) & Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), which has improved a notch to rank 3 with 82.2 scores.

**42. 2019 World Giving Index:**

- India ranked 82 spots among the 128 countries surveyed in the World Giving Index (WGI).
- The average figures for India over the past decade show that 34 per cent people helped a stranger, 24 per cent donated money and 19 per cent volunteered or donated their time.
- According to the WGI, the USA stood at the top followed Myanmar, New Zealand and Australia.

**43. India ranked 102 in Global Hunger Index 2019:**

- As per the 2019 Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2019, India has slipped from 95th ranks in 2010 to 102nd out of 117 qualifying countries, with a score of 30.3.
- Seventeen countries, including Belarus, Ukraine, Turkey, Cuba and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI scores less than 5.
- There were only four countries in the alarming hunger category are Madagascar, Chad, Yemen and the Central African Republic in the extremely alarming hunger category.

- The report warned that climate change was causing alarming levels of hunger and making it more difficult to feed people in the world's most vulnerable regions.
- The Global Hunger Index is a peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger around the world.

#### 44. Global Competitiveness Index by WEF; India Ranks at 68<sup>th</sup>:

- World Economic Forum has released the Global Competitiveness Index report 2019.
- As per the WEF's released report, India has moved down 10 places to rank 68th on an annual global competitiveness index which was topped by Singapore.
- India is among the worst-performing BRICS nations along with Brazil which is ranked 71st this year.

### Economy News

#### Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2018-19

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2018-19 in the Parliament on 04<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

#### The Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2018-19 are as follows:

- This is the first survey by the new chief economic advisor **Krishnamurthy V Subramanian**.
- The theme of Economic Survey, 2018-19 is "**Shifting Gears towards a \$5 trillion Indian economy by 2024-25**".
- Sustained real GDP growth rate of 8% needed for a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- "Virtuous Cycle" of savings, investment and exports catalyzed and supported by a favorable demographic phase required for sustainable growth.

#### Key ingredients for a self-sustaining virtuous cycle:

- Presenting data as a public good.
- Emphasizing legal reforms.
- Ensuring policy consistency.
- Encouraging behavior change using principles of behavioral economics.
- Nourishing MSMEs to create more jobs and become more productive.
- Reducing the cost of capital.
- Rationalizing the risk-return trade-off for investments.

#### Behavioural Economics for Social Change

- The survey has drawn on Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory to lay out an "ambitious agenda" for behavior change that will bring in social change, which in turn, will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- Decisions by real people deviate from impractical robots theorized in classical economics. Behavioral

economics provides insights to 'nudge' people towards desirable behavior.

#### Using insights from behavioral economics to create an aspirational agenda for social change:

- From '**Beti Baco Beti Padhao**' to '**BADLAV**' (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi).
- From '**Swachh Bharat**' to '**Sundar Bharat**'.
- From 'Give it up' for the LPG subsidy to 'Think about the Subsidy'.
- From 'Tax evasion' to 'Tax compliance'.

#### Nudge Theory

- American economist **Richard Thaler** has won the 2017 Nobel Prize in economics for his contributions to behavioural economics.
- According to Nudge theory, people, rather than being forced, can be encouraged and influenced to pursue or desist from certain actions through nudges.
- It does not talk about penalizing people if they do not behave in a particular manner, rather it encourages them to make desirable decisions.
- It believes that Humans are not-so-rational and often need encouragement or intervention — a nudge — to get going and do what's best for the country or society at large.

#### Policies for MSME Growth

- The survey highlights the importance of intervention in the case of "Dwarfs".
- **Dwarfs are the firms with less than 100 workers** despite being more than 10 years old.
- They account for more than 50% of all organized firms in manufacturing by number.

- Contribution of dwarfs to employment is only 14% and to the productivity is a mere 8%.
- Large firms (more than 100 employees) account for 75% employment and close to 90% of productivity despite accounting for about 15% by number.

### Minimum Wage System & Inclusive Growth

- Survey proposes a well-designed minimum wage system as a potent tool for protecting workers and alleviating poverty.
- The survey supports rationalization of minimum wages as proposed under the Code on Wages Bill. Minimum wages to all employments/workers.

Current Scenario:

- Present minimum wage system in India has 1,915 minimum wages for various scheduled job categories across states.
- 1 in every 3 wage worker in India is not protected by the minimum wage law.

#### Setting a National Floor Level Minimum Wage:.

- The Survey now suggests that the Central Government should notify a national floor minimum wage that can vary **across five geographical regions**.

#### Criteria for setting minimum wage:

- The Survey suggests that the Code on Wages Bill should consider fixing minimum wages based on either of two factors: (a) the skill category i.e. unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled; and (b) the geographical region, or else both.
- For instance, **Madhya Pradesh** has notified minimum wages based on just four skill levels of unskilled, semiskilled, skilled and highly skilled across occupations and regions. The state has just four basic minimum wages for the four skill categories."

### Enabling Inclusive Growth through Affordable, Reliable and Sustainable Energy

- India now stands at 4th in wind power, 5th in solar power and 5th in renewable power installed capacity.
- Market share of electric cars only 0.06% in India while it is 2% in China and 39% in Norway.
- Thermal power still plays a dominant role at 60% share.

### State of the Economy in 2018-19:

- India still the fastest growing major economy in 2018-19.
- Growth of GDP moderated to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 from 7.2 per cent in 2017-18.

- Inflation contained at 3.4 per cent in 2018-19.
- Non-Performing Assets as percentage of Gross Advances reduced to 10.1 per cent at end December 2018 from 11.5 per cent at end March 2018.
- Current account deficit manageable at 2.1 percent of GDP.
- Fiscal deficit of Central Government declined from 3.5 percent of GDP in 2017-18 to 3.4 percent in 2018-19.

### Fiscal Developments

- FY 2018-19 ended with fiscal deficit at 3.4 per cent of GDP and debt to GDP ratio of 44.5 per cent (Provisional).

### Sustainable Development and Climate Change

- India's SDG Index Score ranges between 42 and 69 for States and between 57 and 68 for UTs:
- Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the front runners with a score of 69 amongst states.
- Chandigarh and Puducherry are the front runners with a score of 68 and 65 respectively among the UTs.
- Namami Gange Mission launched as a key policy priority towards achieving the SDG 6, with a budget outlay of INR. **20,000 crore for the period 2015-2020**.

### External Sector

- As per WTO, World trade growth slowed down to 3 per cent in 2018 from 4.6 per cent in 2017.
- Top export items continue to be Petroleum products, precious stones, drug formulations, gold and other precious metals.
- Top import items continue to be Crude petroleum, pearl, precious, semi-precious stones and gold.
- India's main trading partners continue to be the US, China, Hong Kong, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

### Agriculture and Food Management

- Dairying as India is the largest producer of milk.
- Fisheries sector, as India is the second largest producer.
- 89% of groundwater extracted is used for irrigation.
- Organic and natural farming techniques including Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) can improve both water use efficiency and soil fertility.

### About Zero Budget Natural Farming

- Zero Budget Natural Farming, as the name implies, is a method of farming where the cost of growing and harvesting plants is zero.
- This means that farmers need not purchase fertilizers and pesticides in order to ensure the healthy growth of crops.
- It is, basically, a natural farming technique that uses biological pesticides instead of chemical-based fertilizers. Farmers use earthworms, cow dung,

urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers for crop protection. It reduces farmers' investment. It also protects the soil from degradation.

- Zero budget natural farming requires only 10 per cent water and 10 per cent electricity than what is required under chemical and organic farming.

### Industry and Infrastructure

- Overall Index of Eight Core Industries registered a growth rate of 4.3 percent in 2018-19.
- India's ranking improved by 23 to 77th position in 2018 among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank Doing Business (DB) Report, 2019.
- Total telephone connections in India touched 118.34 crore in 2018-19

### Services Sector

- Services sector (excluding construction) has a share of 54.3 per cent in India's GVA and contributed more than half of GVA growth in 2018-19.
- Services share in employment is 34 per cent in 2017.

### Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

Government expenditure (Centre plus States) as a percentage of GDP on

- Health: increased to 1.5 per cent in 2018-19 from 1.2 per cent in 2014-15.
- Education: increased from 2.8 per cent to 3 per cent during this period.

## December

### 1. NSIC & ARAMCO Asia signs MoU for development in Oil & Gas Sector:

**Note:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Saudi Aramco (Asia) for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector. The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out a space as vendors in Global space.

### 2. United States shuts down WTO appeal court:

**Note:** The Appeal Court of the World Trade Organization that acts as trade dispute settlement body for the members was shut down by the United States on December 9, 2019. The seven-member body that was cut down to a 3-member body in 2018 is now completely blocked by the United States. Without WTO's appellate body, the dispute settlement will return to pre-1995 GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) status quo.

### 3. Alliance Air flags off Guwahati-Dimapur-Imphal flight under UDAN-RCS

**Note:** Air India owned Alliance Air has flagged-off its first flight operations between Guwahati in Assam to Dimapur (largest city of Nagaland) and Imphal (capital of Manipur), under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). This direct 50-minute-long flights connecting Guwahati-Dimapur-Imphal is under a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), part of government's Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) programme.

### 4. Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station becomes country's 5500th station to get free wifi facility

**Note:** Jharkhand's Mahuamilan station which comes under East Central Railway (ECZ) zone has become 5500th station to get free wifi facility. The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL), the digital arm of Indian Railways, has thus provided free WiFi at 5,500 stations across country. RailTel is a 'Miniratna' enterprise that focuses on providing broadband and VPN services.

### 5. Foreign Exchange reserve touches a new high of 451.08 billion USD

**Note:** According to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the foreign exchange reserve touched a new high of 451.08 billion USD. The foreign exchange currency assets include the depreciation or appreciation of the non-US currency like pound, Euro and Yen as well. The increase is mainly due to the rise in foreign currency assets. The Gold reserves of India also declined by 148 million USD.

### 6. Artificial Intelligence introduced as a subject in CBSE schools

**Note:** The Ministry of Human Resource and Development has introduced Artificial Intelligence in classes VIII, IX and X in CBSE schools. The study materials have already been provided to the schools through official CBSE website. The CBSE has collaborated with several organization like Microsoft, Intel, IBM and so on in order to create the module of Artificial Intelligence.

### 7. CSIR, BHEL signs MoU to push 'Make in India' initiative

**Note:** The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on promotion of honey production Khadi outlets to also display CSIR products. MoU is signed to leverage expertise available in CSIR with effort of KVIC for promotion of honey production as well as to enable wider outreach of CSIR technologies and products.

**8. Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant inaugurated in Uttarakhand**

**Note:** King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden inaugurated Sarai Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Uttarakhand. The Swedish King and Queen are on a five-day visit to India to strengthen bilateral ties. It is the first STP to be completed under Hybrid Annuity (HAM) Based Public Private Partnership Model (PPPM).

**9. Cabinet approves Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund**

**Note:** The union cabinet has approved the launch of Bharat Bond Exchange Traded Fund (BBETF) in order to allow the investors to buy government debts. The fund will allow easy and low-cost access with the smallest amount of Rs 1000. The BBETF at its initial stages will hold basket of bonds that are issued by the public sector undertakings and other government organization bonds. It will have a maturity period of 3 to 10 years and are permitted to be traded on stock exchanges.

**10. National Public Procurement Conclave held in New Delhi**

**Note:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) in New Delhi. The two-day conclave was organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). NPPC will be held from 5-6 December 2019.

**11. Cabinet apprised of Indo-German strategic collaboration on Railways**

**Note:** Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was notified of Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany regarding strategic cooperation on Railways projects. The Joint Declaration of Intent was signed by Union Ministry of Railways with Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Federal Republic of Germany in November 2019. Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) will provide a platform to Indian Railways to interact and share latest developments and knowledge in field of Railways.

**12. Aditya Birla Finance becomes first company to list commercial papers on stock exchanges**

**Note:** Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL), the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) arm of Aditya Birla Capital, has now become the first company to list its commercial papers (CPs) on stock exchanges. The move comes after stock exchanges- the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and NSE (National Stock Exchange), came out with a framework for listing of commercial papers (CPs), in a bid to broaden investors' participation in such securities.

**13. Cabinet approves extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials**

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has accorded its approval for mandatory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute material for Jute Year 2019-20. The scope of mandatory packaging norms under Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987 has been retained by Union Government as per 2018. Cabinet decision mandates that 100% of food grains and 20% of sugar shall be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

**14. Authorised capital of Food Corporation of India increased to Rs.10000 crore**

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved increasing authorized capital of Food Corporation of India (FCI) from existing Rs.3,500 crore to Rs.10,000 crore. CCEA was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. FCI's operations require maintaining perpetual stock of foodgrains which needs to be funded by government of India through equity or via long term loan. Therefore, Centre government is providing equity to FCI for maintaining stocks.

**15. Cabinet approves loan waiver of worth Rs.4 Cr against Sikkim Mining Corporation**

**Note:** Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved waiver of repayment of loan and interest thereon, of nearly worth Rs. 4 crore outstanding against Sikkim Mining Corporation (SMC) including interest accrued on total amount from 1 April 2019, till this approval outstanding against SMC. CCEA is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**16. Indian Railways sets up Institute of Financial Management in Hyderabad**

**Note:** The Indian Railway Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) has been set up in Hyderabad, Telangana. This new entity is set up to impart

professional training in management of railway finances. The project was conceived and constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at a cost of Rs 85 crore. IRIFM institution is based on a 14-acre campus at Moula-Ali, Secunderabad.

**17. CBDT inaugurates Web Portal for exchange of information on Income Tax**

**Note:** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has inaugurated the Web Portal for Exchange of Information on Income Tax which will consolidate all relevant Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) related information at one place. This portal will help in convenient access by public, financial institutions as well as departmental officers at large.

**18. Government to launch first fixed income ETF of bluechip PSUs**

**Note:** Union Government will launch India's first fixed income Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) comprising debt securities of large central public sector enterprises (PSUs) by mid-December 2019. It will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies. It is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore. It is expected to improve liquidity in corporate bond market, smoothen borrowing plans of the participating state-owned companies and enhance investor base.

**19. UKIBC launched Aerospace and Defence Industry Group**

**Note:** In order to boost the bilateral cooperation in the field of aerospace and defence between India and UK the United Kingdom India Business Council (UKIBC) announced the establishment of Aerospace and Defence Industry Group. The group will advance India's defence acquisition process and also foster long-term technology and hardware transfers. The Aerospace and Defence Industry Group has been formed after suggestions of the Defence and Security Organisation of UK defence solution centre.

**20. ADB approves \$206 million loans to develop water supply, sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of Tamil Nadu**

**Note:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed \$206 million loan agreement with Government of India (GoI) to develop water supply, sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities (Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Madurai and Vellore) of Tamil Nadu (TN) and also enhances capacities of urban local bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery. It is the 2nd project loan for the ADB-assisted \$500 million multi-tranche financing for TN Urban Flagship Investment Program, granted in earlier September 2018, that will develop climate-resilient water supply, sewerage, and drainage infrastructure in at least 10 cities in Tamil Nadu.

**21. CRISIL lowers India's GDP growth rate estimate for FY 20 to 5.1% from 6.3%**

**Note:** The CRISIL formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited has lowered its estimate of India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate to 5.1 % for the current financial year – FY20 from an earlier estimate of 6.3 %. Growth in the second half of 2019-20 will go up to 5.5%, up from 4.75% in the first half. Crisil's revision is the lowest since Japan's brokerage company Nomura's 4.7 % estimate, comes within days of the government figures showing the economic growth rate in the second quarter (July-September, 2019) of the current financial year came down to 4.5 %.

**22. Fiscal deficit for April-Oct hit at 102.4%, crosses full-year target-CGA**

**Note:** According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), India's fiscal deficit for April-October, 2019 hit at 102.4% of 2019-20 Budget Estimate (BE) as on October 31, 2019. The fiscal deficit or the gap between expenditure and revenue was at Rs 7,20,445 crore. In comparison with 2018-19 (last year), the deficit is lower, as it was at 103.9 percent of 2018-19 BE. In budget, government has estimated the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at Rs 7.03 lakh crore, aiming to restrict the deficit at 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

**November**

**1. Government to launch first fixed income ETF of bluechip PSUs:**

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- It will comprise only AAA-rated papers of the PSU companies.
- It is expected to have a size of Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore.



- It is expected to improve liquidity in corporate bond market, smoothen borrowing plans of the participating state-owned companies and enhance investor base.
  - Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has appointed Edelweiss Asset Management as the asset manager for this proposed debt ETF.
  - The tax treatment of this debt ETF will be same as that of debt mutual funds.
- 2. IRCTC Revenue doubles; 14% increase in profits**
- The earnings from internet ticketing services of IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) increased by 80.8% between the period April, 2019 and September, 2019.
  - IRCTC is an exclusive e-ticketing partner of the Indian Railways.
  - This is the first time IRCTC is releasing its revenue after it entered the stock market in October, 14, 2019. Also, the sector has earned huge success in India's path of Digitization.
- 3. Gol merges three Insurance PSUs:**
- The Gol will merge 3 public Sector Insurance Companies as announced in budget 2019-20.
  - The merger includes United India Insurance Limited, National Insurance Co Limited and Oriental Insurance Company Limited.
  - The Budget 2019-2020 did not make provision of funds for insurers and the Department of Financial Services. Therefore, the government institutions in the financial sector are forced to seek supplementary demands to fulfil their purposes. The Budget allocated Rs 12,000 crore for this.
  - The General Insurance Companies have sought Rs 500 crore to Rs 3000 crore each to avoid falling below solvency ratio. However, the three companies that are to be merged are struggling to maintain minimum solvency ratio of 1.5
- 4. World Bank's 300 million USD plan to Develop Kolkata:**
- The World Bank has submitted a master plan to develop logistics infrastructure of Kolkata metropolitan area. The bank is to invest 300 million USD in the project. The Government entities participating in the deal includes CII and the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation.
  - The focus of the project is to be on construction of rail, road, industrial parks. The aim of the project is to improve competitiveness, increase employment.
  - The Inland Water Transport World Bank Project, Asian High way project, Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor are the current prominent infrastructural developments in the region
- 5. AIIB to invest 100 million USD in solar and wind projects in India:**
- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which is headquartered at Beijing expects an investment of 100 million USD in India in a year. The foreign investment is to enter India through the bank in Wind and solar projects.
  - AIIB approves 500 million USD for MUTP 3
  - On November 16, 2019, the bank approved a loan of 500 million USD in three suburban rail infrastructure projects.
  - The projects are being executed under MUTP-Mumbai Urban Transport Project
  - The project curbs trespass deaths by including mid-section trespasses. It is the first of its kind in the country.
- 6. Indo-French collaboration: Largest FDI project of Indian Railways:**
- The Indian Railways and Alstom came together in the intention of transforming the freight transportation of India.
  - In line with the collaboration, the MELPM-Madhepura Electric Locomotive Private Limited has been established.
  - MELPM will now manufacture 800 electric locomotives for freight services with the foreign investment of 3.5 billion Euros.
- 7. BHIM UPI goes global: Demonstrated at Singapore FinTech Festival:**
- As a first step towards internationalization, a global pilot demo of BHIM UPI QR-based payments began on 13 November 2019 with a live transaction at merchant terminal at the **Singapore FinTech Festival 2019**. The Indian contingent with participation of 43 companies and start-ups was one of the largest at Singapore FinTech Festival 2019 being held between 11 and 15 November.
- In May 2018 Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested the launch of BHIM UPI QR code-based payments internationally after launching RuPay International card and SBI's UPI based remittance app in Singapore, as an achievement for fintech cooperation between India and Singapore.
- 8. Central Electricity Authority Data: India's Electricity Demand fell to a 12-year low**
- According to the data released by the Central electricity Authority (CEA), the electricity demand of the country fell by 13% in October 2019 as compared to October 2018. This is the lowest in 12 years.

- Sharp reduction in the industrialized states like Maharashtra and Gujarat indicating an economic slowdown is the major reason for the decline in demand.
- Electricity demand of the country was 98 billion units in October 2019 as against 112 billion units in October 2018.
- Power demand in Madhya Pradesh declined by 26%, Karnataka declined by 25%, Maharashtra declined by 22%, Gujarat by 19%, Telangana by 16% and Andhra Pradesh by 16%.

#### 9. World's first CNG port terminal to be built in Gujarat:

- Gujarat government has given its approval to a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal facility at Bhavnagar port. This would be the world's first CNG port terminal. The approval for this was given by Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board headed by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.
- **World's first CNG port terminal**
- The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK-based Foresight Group to set up this port terminal at Bhavnagar in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January 2019. The existing port at Bhavnagar is administered by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB).
- The terminal will be jointly built by Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group. The consortium of company will invest Rs.1,900 crore out of which Rs.1,300 crore will be invested in 1st phase and Rs.600 crore in 2nd phase.

#### 10. Finance Minister: Rs 25,000 crore Fund for stuck Housing Projects

- On November 7, 2019, Government of India announced the establishment of Rs 25,000 crore fund for home buyers whose money is stuck in stalled projects. According to the Ministry of Finance, there are over 1600 such projects comprising of 4.58 lakh housing units across the country. The "Special Window" will prioritize debt financing in the Affordable and middle-income housing sector.
- Rs 10,000 crore is to be provided by GoI towards the fund. Other firms like LIC and SBI along with

sovereign wealth funds and pension funds will contribute Rs 15,000 crore

- The fund is to be set up as Category II Alternate Investment Fund.
- The fund is to be registered with SEBI as an escrow account.

#### 11. India withdraws from RCEP

- On November 4, 2019, India decided against joining Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal as India did not receive any credible assurance on market access and non-tariff barriers. This paved way for the other 15-members to go ahead and sign the deal keeping the door open for India to join at later date.
- Reasons of Withdrawal
- Trade Deficit
- India has trade deficit with at least 11 of 15 RCEP countries. It has doubled in the last five years from 54 billion USD in 2013-14 to 105 billion USD in 2018-19. Of this China alone accounts to 53 billion USD. Signing the RCEP will widen trade deficit and will empty foreign exchange reserve of India at a faster rate.

#### 12. ADB to give \$451Mn for Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor power links

- The Asian Development Bank will provide a \$451 million (appx. Rs.3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- As per ADB, the Manila-headquartered multilateral agency the total cost of the project is \$653.5 million, of which the government will provide \$202.5 million.

#### 13. IIT Delhi launches Global Alumni Endowment Fund

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has formally launched its Global Alumni Endowment Fund with an initial commitment of Rs 250.crore from nearly 20 corporate leaders and alumni of institution.
- The Endowment Fund was launched by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 31 October 2019.

### October

1. **SEBI new rule to impact foreign funds** – The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified that only FPIs – Foreign Portfolio Investors located in FATF countries or

managed by an enterprise based under FATF jurisdiction can deal in Participatory Notes.

Note:

- **HR Khan Committee** - The new rule is based on the **HR Khan Committee's recommendation**. HR Khan Committee was formed by SEBI under chairmanship of former deputy governor of RBI to streamline FPI.
  - **Participatory Notes** are financial instruments required by investors to invest in Indian stock markets without being registered with SEBI.
2. **Govt constituted Ajay Bhushan Pandey panel to check money laundering activities** – On 07th October the government set up a high-level inter-ministerial committee chaired by **the Ajay Bhushan Pandey** (Revenue Secretary) for better coordination among various departments and law enforcement agencies to prevent money laundering activities.
  3. **S&P lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3% for 2019-20** - The S&P Global Ratings lowered India's growth projection for 2019-20 to 6.3% from 7.1%.
  4. **CBDT launches Documentation Identification Number** – The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a computer-generated **Document Identification Number (DIN)** to ensure greater transparency and accountability in tax administration.
    - Thus, from now onwards, every CBDT communication will have to have a documentation identification number.
  5. **Finance Minister launches two IT initiatives ICEDASH and ATITHI**
    - The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled two new IT Initiatives 'ICEDASH' and 'ATITHI' for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods and facilitating arriving international passengers.
    - ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.
- The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.
6. **Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY20**
    - US Rating agency, Moody has lowered the India GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 to 5.8% from 6.2%.
    - It stated that the Indian economy is experiencing a pronounced slowdown partly due to long-lasting factors.
  7. **IMF cuts World and India growth rates**
    - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has downgrade the global growth in 2019 to 3%, the slowest since the global financial crisis.
    - India's growth projections have also been downgraded to 6.1% and 7.0% in 2019 and 2020 respectively, down by 1.2 percentage points and 0.5 percentage points relative to April projection.
    - The IMF projected the U.S. would grow at 2.4% and 2.1% in 2019 and 2020 respectively. For China, growth was projected to grow at 6.1% and 5.8% in 2019 and 2020.
  8. **Reliance MF renamed as "Nippon India Mutual Fund"**
    - Reliance Mutual Fund has been renamed as "Nippon India Mutual Fund".
    - The organization was renamed following the purchase of 75% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management by Nippon Life Insurance.
    - Nippon India Mutual Fund has become the largest foreign-owned Asset Management Company in India. Sundeep Sikka will continue to lead company as the CEO.

## September

1. **Economic Advisory Council to PM reconstituted under Bibek Debroy** – Government of India has reconstituted **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** under existing Chairman Bibek Debroy.
  - The reconstitution is for a period of two years, with effect from 26 September 2019.

Note:

- **Bibek Debroy** is the Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (PMEAC) as of February 2018.

### About Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) –

- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Prime Minister.
2. **ADB cuts India growth forecast to 6.5% for 2019-20** – The Asian Development Bank has slashed its growth forecast for India for fiscal year 2019-20 to **6.5% from 7%**.

3. **GSTN makes Aadhaar verification mandatory for new dealers from Jan 2020** – The Goods and Services Tax Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020.
  - The announcement in this regard was made by Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Kumar Modi, who heads the Group of Ministers of GST Network.
4. **NIRVIK scheme:** Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has introduced 'NIRVIK' scheme to ease the lending process and enhance loan availability for exporters.
 

**Note:**

  - **Under the new 'NIRVIK' scheme**, which is also called the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS), the insurance cover guaranteed will cover up to 90 percent of the principal and interest.
  - The insurance cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) currently provides credit guarantee of up to 60 percent loss.
5. **Centre cuts Corporate Tax Rate for domestic investors** – Corporate Tax Rate has been cut to 22 per cent from 30 per cent earlier.
  - It is one of the lowest tax rates among the Developed and Developing economies in South Asian and South-East Asia Regions for the manufacturing units globally.

**Note:**

  - **Corporate Tax Rate after surcharge will now stand at 25.17%** for domestic companies (inclusive of all cess and surcharges).
  - New domestic manufacturing companies incorporated after October 1, 2019, will now be required to pay income tax at **15%, which stands at 17.01%** including the surcharge and cess.
6. **India among top 10 nations in gold reserves** – According to the World Gold Council, India ranked at the 10th positions in terms of total gold reserves.
  - India has surpassed the Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves.
  - India with total gold reserves of 618.2 tonnes is marginally higher than the Netherlands' reserves of 612.5 tonnes.
  - The U.S. topped the list with total gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes.
  - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is ranked third with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes.
- The other countries in the list are - Italy (4th), France (5th), Russia (6th), China (7th), Switzerland (8th) and Japan (9th) before India at the 10th spot.
7. **TN Manoharan committee** recommends for creating a loan contract registry – The six-member task force headed by Canara Bank chairman TN Manoharan submitted its report to Governor of RBI Shaktikanta Das on September 3.
  - The Reserve Bank of India constituted the task force.
  - It has recommended for creating a loan contract registry to remove information asymmetries between buyers and sellers.
  - The report also recommends setting up of an online loan sales platform to conduct auctions/sale process of secondary market loans.
8. **Modi launches Act Far East Policy for Russia; announces \$1 bn support** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Act Far East' policy and asserted that India will walk shoulder-to-shoulder with Russia in its development of the Far East.
  - **Narendra Modi** announced a **\$ one billion line** of credit for the development of the resource-rich region.
9. **'Ashok Leyland's heavy-duty trucks becomes 1st to get BS-VI certification** – Commercial vehicle major Ashok Leyland announced that its entire range of heavy duty trucks has been upgraded to meet BS-VI emission norms, which come into force from 1 April 2020.
10. **FM sets up a task force to implement Rs 100 lakh crore infrastructure projects** –
  - Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the setting up of 6 member task force to implement Rs 100 lakh crore over the next five years in the infrastructure projects in the country.
  - The task force would be headed by the **department of economic affairs (DEA) secretary** and will have the CEO of a government think tank or his nominee as one of the members.
11. **Ind-Ra cuts GDP growthforecast in FY20 to 6.7%** - India Ratings and Research has revised its projection of the India's GDP growth in financial year 2019-20 to 6.7%. It has reduced the GDP growth rate from 7.3% to 6.7%. It expects GDP growth to recover to 7.4% in the second half of financial year 2019-20.
12. **Growth of eight core sectors slows to 2.1% in July 2019** – According to official data released by Government, Growth of eight core industries (Index of Eight Core Industries) dropped to 2.1% in July 2019. It was mainly due to contraction in coal, crude oil, natural gas and refinery products.

- 13. CRISIL revises India's GDP growth to 6.3% in fiscal 2020 –**  
Rating agency CRISIL has revised India's fiscal year 2020 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%. CRISIL has lowered the GDP growth forecast from 6.9% to 6.3%. The growth was revised as the first-quarter growth rate of India reduced to a 25-quarter low of 5%.
- 14. Centre to infuse Rs 12,000 crore in state general insurance firms –** Following the recapitalisation of public sector banks

(PSBs), now public sector insurance companies -- National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance -- are going to be infused with funds worth Rs 12,000 crore to boost their capital base and meet regulatory norms, sources said.

- Last year's Budget announced plans to merge these three insurance companies, and thereafter list the combined entity.

## August

- 1. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has announced the creation of a five-member special cell "Startup Cell" for startups.**
- The "Startup Cell" will address the grievances of the startups with relation to angel tax and other tax-related issues. Startup entities can approach the cell for speedy resolution of their grievances.
  - The 'startup cell' will be headed by the member (Income Tax and Computerisation) of the board.

**Start-up Cell has been constituted by CBDT with the following ex-officio members:**

- Member (Income Tax and Computerisation): Chairman
- Joint Secretary (tax policy and legislation-II): Member
- Commissioner of I-T (ITA): Member
- Director (ITA-I): Member Secretary
- Under Secretary (ITA-I): Member

- 2. SEBI announces Rs 1 crore reward for insider trading informants –** The Securities and Exchange Board of India has announced a new mechanism to reward insider trading informants to uncover insider trading cases.

- The reward would be 10 per cent of the money collected, subject to a maximum amount of Rs 1 crore.
- The above announcement is a part of the detailed set of rules for the new 'Informant Mechanism' under Prohibition of Insider Trading Regulations that has been approved by the SEBI board.

- 3. GST collections drop below Rs 1 lakh cr to Rs 98,202 cr in August –** India's gross GST collections slipped below Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 98,202 crore in August, according to official data released on Sunday. Gross revenue collections from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July stood at Rs 1.02 lakh crore.

- 4. 33% of India's skilled youth jobless: official survey**
- An analysis of the unit-level data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), found that 33% of India's skilled youth are jobless.

- 4 out of 10 youth who received vocational training are out of the labour force.
- Three fifth young skilled young women out of labour force.
- The unemployment rate among freshly trained youth, who completed training during the previous year, was even higher at 40%.
- The bulk of the training received by younger population were in the fields of IT, electronics, mechanical sectors.
- Coverage was another challenge, with just 1.8% of the population getting formal training in 2017-18.

## Note:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
  - The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- 5. ANZ lowers India's GDP growth in FY20 to 6.2% -** According to a recent report of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth expected to grow by 6.2 % in 2019 (FY-Fiscal Year 2020).
- It also downgraded its forecast for the year to March 2021 to 6.5% from 7.1%.
- 6. India's GDP to grow at 6.2% in FY 2019-20: NCAER –** As per the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), an economic think-tank, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will be 6.2% in FY 2019-20, down from 6.8% in 2018-19.
- 7. WTO likely to set up panel to decide on India's sugar sops –** Brazil, Australia and Guatemala have requested the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to set up dispute panels to rule on India's sugar subsidies the second time round after India

rejected the request at the last meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) last month.

8. **India to conduct 1st National Time Release Study for efficient trade flow** – The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance conducted India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) from August 1-7, 2019.
  - It will be conducted on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter.
  - It is lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC).
  - TRS: It is an internationally recognized tool advocated by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
9. **Sebi to relax norms to allow smart cities issue funds through 'Muni Bonds'** – Capital market regulator Sebi is planning to ease its norms for 'Muni Bonds' to help smart cities and other registered entities working in areas of city planning and urban development work, like municipalities, raise funds through issuance and listing of their debt securities.
  - The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued its Issue and Listing of Debt Securities by Municipalities (ILDM) Regulations nearly five years ago and since then seven municipalities have raised nearly **₹1,400 crore** by issuing their debt securities, which are commonly known as 'Muni Bonds'.
10. **NSE, SGX get SEBI's nod to operate jointly in GIFT City** - The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) received permission from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to operate jointly in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City under the proposed programme 'Connect'.
  - Nifty index, which is trading on SGX in Singapore, will be traded on a joint platform between the NSE and SGX in GIFT City.
11. **Akhilesh Ranjan committee** - On August 19, 2019 a group of experts panel headed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) legislative member Akhilesh Ranjan who was appointed as the convener of the task force in November 2018 by the finance ministry, submitted a report to Nirmala
1. **ADB cuts India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for FY20** – Asian Development Bank lowered India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for the current fiscal year.
  - India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020, slightly slower than projected in April, ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019.

Sitharaman(Finance Minister), to **replace the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code(DTC)**.

12. **MSCI added HDFC Life Insurance to its Global Standard Index** - MSCI Inc ( Morgan Stanley Capital International), One of the world's biggest index compilers, has added HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd. to its Global Standard Index and removed Union Bank of India(UBI) from its India Smallcap Index.
  - The changes in the MSCI Index will be implemented as of the closing hours of August 27, 2019.
13. **448 entities withdrew over Rs 100 crore each, prompting TDS levy** – As many as 448 firms have withdrawn more than Rs 100 crore in cash cumulatively withdrawing Rs 5.56 lakh crore during fiscal 2017-18.
  - Almost 2 lakh individuals and business entities withdrew more than Rs 1 crore in cash from bank accounts in 2017-18, official data showed.
  - These entities had cumulatively withdrawn over Rs 11.31 lakh crore.
  - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech said "To discourage the practice of making business payments in cash, I propose to levy TDS of 2 per cent on cash withdrawal exceeding Rs 1 crore in a year from a bank account".
14. **Crisil cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9% for FY 2019-20** – Ratings agency CRISIL has cut its forecast for India's GDP growth by 20 basis points for FY 2019-20. It has lowered India's GDP growth to 6.9% from 7.1%.
15. Union government has constituted a 12-member high-level committee to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative. The panel will be headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions).
16. **Injeti Srinivas Committee** - A high level steering committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) headed by Injeti Srinivas, Corporate Affairs Secretary has recommended to make CSR expenditure tax-deductible and that non-compliance of CSR norms be treated as a civil offence.
  - The committee also recommends companies may be exempted from constituting a CSR committee, if its CSR prescribed amount below **Rs 50 lakh**.

## July

2. **IMF lowers India's growth outlook for FY20** – The International Monetary Fund has lowered its annual growth forecast for India from 7.3% to 7% in financial year 2019-20.
3. **Cars24 gets RBI NBFC license to offer loans against used cars**
  - On July 26, 2019, CARS24, an online marketplace for buying and selling used cars has received a license of a Non-banking Finance Company (NBFC)

from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and will be venturing into the consumer lending business as a separate entity within the Cars24 group.

**4. Parliament passed Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019**

- On July 8, 2019, Parliament passed Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as proof of identity for users to open bank accounts and get a mobile phone connection.
- **Aadhaar is a 12 digit** individual identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India on behalf of the Government of India. This number will serve as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India.

**Key Points:**

- If private entities violate provisions on Aadhaar data, they will be imposed Rs 1 crore penalty and a jail term.
- The Bill provides the use of Aadhaar number for KYC (Know Your Customer) authentication on voluntary basis under the Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

**5. DCC imposes penalty of Rs.3050 crore on Airtel, Vodafone Idea on recommendations by TRAI –** The Digital Communications Commission (DCC), on recommendations by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), approved the penalty of Rs.3050 crore to be imposed on Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea for not providing points of interconnection to Reliance as TRAI recommended imposing a total penalty to those network operators for allegedly denying interconnectivity to Reliance Jio in October 2016.

- The DCC, which is an apex decision-making body of the Department of Telecom (DoT), last month approved imposing a penalty.

**6. India will be the first recipient of AIIB local currency funding –** India will be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB). The objective of local currency financing is to provide more options to borrowers.

- India is the second-largest shareholder of AIIB with a 7.5% stake. It has received about \$2-billion funding for various projects so far.
- China holds 20.06% and Russia holds 5.92%.
- Headquarters: Beijing, China

**7. 36th Goods & Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting was held in New Delhi –** The GST Council made the following changes

in the GST rate on supply of goods and services which will be effective from August 1, 2019:

- The GST rate on all Electric Vehicles (EVs) was reduced from 12% to 5%.
- The GST rate on charger or charging stations for EVs was reduced from 18% to 5%.
- Hiring of electric buses (of carrying capacity of more than 12 passengers) by local authorities was exempted from GST.

**Note:**

- GST Council is the governing body of GST, chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and assisted by the finance ministers of all the states of India.

**8. India's current account balance deficit shoots up to \$68 billion in 2018-19: IMF**

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's current account (CA) balance deficit rose to \$68 billion in 2018-19 from \$49 billion in 2017-18.

**9. SIDBI introduced web-based application system for contribution from FFS**

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) introduced a web-based application system for contribution from the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS). The objective of the new web-based application system is to improve the turnaround time and increase transparency.

**10. Reliance Jio is India's largest telecom company –** Reliance Jio becomes the largest telecom company of India with 331.3 million subscribers overtaking Vodafone Idea whose customer base stood at 320 million in the quarter ended June 30, 2019.

- Airtel moved to the third position and the state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) stood at the fourth position.

**11. Centre cuts interest on GPF by 10 bps –** Finance Ministry has cut the rate of General provident fund (GPF) by 10 basis points from 8% to 7.9%.

- During the year 2019-2020, accumulations at the credit of subscribers to the GPF and other similar funds shall carry interest at the rate of 7.9% with effect from July 1, 2019 to 30th September 2019.

**12. LIC offers Rs 1.25 trillion by 2024 for highway projects –** Life Insurance Corporation of India has agreed to offer Rs 1.25 trillion Line of Credit by 2024, to fund highway projects.

- LIC has offered Rs 25,000 crore in a year and Rs 1.25 trillion in five years. The borrowings will be in

the form of bonds to be issued by the National Highways Authority of India.

- The Line of Credit will be used to fund the ambitious Bharatmala project.

**13. Average Monthly Income per Agricultural Household has estimated Rs. 6426: Agriculture ministry** – On July 26, 2019, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar stated that the average monthly income per agricultural household from all sources is Rs. 6,426 in the country based on the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) during its 70th round (January 2013-December 2013).

**14. Kerala Govt. to set up Non-Resident Keralites Investment company** – Kerala Government decided to form a Non-Resident Keralites Investment company with 74% stake to be held by expatriate (or expat) to channelize investments from overseas Keralites for major infrastructure development in the state.

- Decision in this regard was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

**15. Promoters get 90 days to retake company after insolvency proceedings begin: IBBI**

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has notified that the promoters and other stakeholders will be given 90 days after the commencement of insolvency proceedings to retake control of the company through agreements with creditors.
- It was proposed under Section 230 of the Companies Act 1956.
- Limit of 1 year was specified for the liquidation from the date of commencement of insolvency proceeding.
- Section 230 of the Companies Act 1956 allows for promoters or any class of creditors of the company to reach a compromise or arrangement with other stakeholders of the company to take control of the company.

**16. Health Ministry bans Colistin in Animal Food Industry** – Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of antibiotic, Colistin as well as its formulations for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.

- The ban is announced in a bid to preserve drug's efficacy in humans.
- Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units. It is effective

against most Gram-negative bacilli. It is also known as polymyxin E.

**17. Subhash Chandra Garg panel submitted its report on Virtual Currencies**– Inter-Ministerial Committee on Virtual Currencies headed by finance secretary **Subhash Chandra Garg** has submitted its report to the government.

- The committee set up by Centre has also proposed a draft bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019'.

Note:

- All private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency issued by the state, be banned in India.
- It has also drafted a law, the 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019', which mandates a fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years for offences.
- Report submitted by group highlights positive aspect of **distributed-ledger technology (DLT)**.
- It suggested various applications for use of DLT in India, especially in financial services.
- DLT-based systems for instance can be used by banks or other financial firms for processes like tracking of loan-issuance, fraud detection, claims management in insurance, collateral management as well as reconciliation systems in securities market.

**18. India's first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dashboard launched** - Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched India's first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dashboard in a bid to effectively track country's progress on Agenda 2030 adopted by UN.

- It was launched on occasion of National Statistics Day (on June 29) which marks birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis.
- It is a unique, searchable platform, which provides data and insights on how India is progressing on SDGs.
- SDG Dashboard is developed in partnership with United Nation in India, Department for International Development (DFID) India and data intelligence firm Social Cops.

**19. Govt sets a target to raise health services expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025** – Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan stated that the Government sets target is to raise health services expenditure to **2.5 percent**



of the country's GDP (Gross domestic product) by 2025 due to the increment of expenditure over the last 10 years.

20. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, think tank of the government, has proposed that only Electric Vehicles (EVs) **should be sold after 2030**.

- This is proposed in order to expand the scope of the clean fuel technology beyond two and three-wheelers.
- The panel headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant had suggested earlier that only EV (three-wheelers and two-wheelers) with an engine capacity of up to 150 cc should be sold from 2025 onwards.

21. **India could lose the equivalent of 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming: ILO**

- The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work.'
- According to the report, India will be the most affected country due to global warming because of its large population.

**Key highlights of the report:**

- By 2030 the 2.2 per cent of total working hours worldwide is projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace.
- The global productivity losses would be around 80 million full-time jobs (equivalent to an economic loss of US\$ 2,400 billion).
- The accumulated global financial loss due to heat stress is expected to reach USD 2,400 billion by 2030.
- In agriculture – 60% of working hours will be lost due to heat stress by 2030.
- In construction – 19% of global working hours to be lost.

**Projections for India**

- India is expected to lose an equivalent of 34 million jobs as a result of global warming and heat stress by the year 2030.
- The country most affected by heat stress in India, which lost 4.3 per cent of working hours in 1995 and is projected to lose 8 per cent of working hours in 2030.

1. **NPAs under PM Modi's Mudra scheme jumped 126% in FY19, shows RTI** – The Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) saw a jump of **126% in just one year**.

About ILO

- The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards.
- It was founded on 29 October 1919 with Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

22. **Budget 2019: Rs 3.18 lakh crore allocated to the defence budget** – An allocation of **Rs 3.18 lakh crore** was made in the Union Budget to the defence sector for 2019-20 as against last year's Rs 2.98 lakh crore.

23. **Budget 2019: To help marginal cultivators government proposes 10,000 FPOs** – The government plans to form 10,000 farmer producer organisations (FPOs) in the next five years.

- This is expected to help small and marginal cultivators team up to get lower rates for inputs and sell produce at higher rates.

24. **India's turnover ratio fell by 60% in 10 years – World Bank** – As per the data of the World Bank for the year 2018, the turnover ratio of Indian stock market fell significantly by **60% in the past 10 years**.

- A turnover ratio of Indian stock market fell from 143 in 2008 to 58 in 2018.
- It was the highest among the most leading markets of the world, except the United States (US) and European Union (EU).

25. **Tata Steel Kalinganagar included in WEF's Global Lighthouse Network** – **Tata Steel Kalinganagar** becomes the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant that has been included in prestigious Lighthouse Network of the World Economic Forum.

- TSK in Odisha's Jajpur district commissioned at May 2016.

26. **Airtel completed the merger of Tata Tele's consumer mobile business** – Bharti Airtel Limited and Bharti Hexacom Limited announced the merger of the consumer mobile businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited (TTML) with the two Bharti Group companies.

June

- The NPAs of loans issued under the programme is increased by **Rs 9,204.14 crore** in FY 19 from Rs 7,277.31 crore in March 2018 to Rs 16,481.45 crore in March 2019.

- This information was obtained as a response to an RTI filed by The Wire.
- 2,313 frauds reported in Mudra loan accounts** – As many as **2,313 Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** accounts with the public sector banks reported instances of fraud since the financial year 2016-17.
    - Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
    - As per information compiled from public sector banks (PSBs), instances of alleged frauds reported during the last three years and the current year so far is in 2,313 accounts.
    - The highest number of frauds were reported from Tamil Nadu (344), followed by Chandigarh (275) and Andhra Pradesh (241).
  - Govt cuts interest rate on small savings schemes** – The Govt has reduced interest rates for small savings schemes by 10 basis points for the July-September quarter of the 2019-20 financial year.
    - Some schemes that will fetch lower interest rates are Kisan Vikas Patra (7.6%), Public Provident Fund (7.9%), Sukanya Samridhi Account (8.4%).
  - India's Forex reserves rise to a record high of \$426.42 billion** – As per the data revealed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserve rose to a life-time high of \$426.42 billion (in week to 21 June 2019) after it surged by \$4.215 billion boosted by higher foreign portfolio investments (FPI) and a stable rupee.
  - Government to constitute working group for revision of Wholesale Price Index** – Central Government has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
    - It will be chaired by **Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog**. Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade will be nodal office for Working Group.
    - It will process report / recommendation of this Working Group for further necessary action.
  - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 35th GST council meeting in Delhi**
    - The 35th Goods and Service Tax (GST) council meeting was held in New Delhi.
    - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting for the first time after assuming the office.
- Key points
- The Council extended the tenure of the anti-profiteering authority by two years till **November 2021**.
  - The Council has decided to use **Aadhaar as the identity and address proof** required for registration for GST. No other documents will be required, and authentication can be done using a one-time password.
  - The Council decided to extend the deadline for the filing of the annual return forms GSTR 9, 9A and 9C to August 30, 2019. The earlier deadline was June 30, 2019.
  - The council also approved the rollout of the **single-return filing system for all by January 1, 2020**.
  - The council also approved imposing a penalty of up to **10 per cent of the profiteered amount on entities for not passing on benefits of GST rate cuts** to consumers, as against the current norm of levying a maximum fine of Rs 25,000.
  - The Council also approved the rollout of an **electronic invoicing system** on a pilot basis from January 1, 2020, made it mandatory for GST-registered multiplexes to issue e-tickets.
  - According to the proposal, entities with a turnover of more than Rs 50 crore will be required to generate **electronic invoices** on a government portal for B2B sales.
- SEBI sets up panel for reviewing Margins on Derivatives** – The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the capital markets regulator has set up a panel, to review current framework of margins in the futures and options (F&O) derivative segment.
    - The working group set up by SEBI is headed by the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) Clearing Ltd**.
  - EAC-PM releases a detailed analysis on robustness of India's GDP estimation methodology** – The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released a detailed note titled '**GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts**'.
    - The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements,
    - a) Incorporation of MCA21 database, and
    - b) Incorporation of the Recommendations of System of National Accounts (SNA), 2008.
  - World Investment Report 2019: UNCTAD**
    - According to the World Investment Report 2019, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to India grew by 6% to USD 42 billion in 2018. India was ranked among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
    - The report is published by United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
  - FDI in services sector up 37 per cent in 2018-19**

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in services sector grew 36.5 per cent to \$9.15 billion in 2018-19, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- The sector attracted FDI worth \$6.7 billion in 2017-18.
- Services sector contributes over 60 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP).

**11. India accounts for 6.3% of global fish production: Fisheries department**

- According to the Fisheries Department, India is the **second largest** fish producing country in the world as it accounts for 6.3 per cent of the global fish production.
- China is the largest producer of fish in the world.

**12. Electoral bond scheme –**

- The central government had on January 29, 2018, notified the electoral bond scheme.
- An Indian citizen or body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond.
- Electoral bonds can be used for making a donation only to the political parties registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or a Legislative Assembly.
- These bonds will not carry the name of the payee.
- **Authorised centre** - It can be purchased only from specified branches of **State Bank of India**.
- **Denomination** - Electoral bonds can be bought for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore.
- Validity - Electoral bonds will be **valid for 15 days** from the date of purchase.

**13. Bangladesh's first iron ore mine discovered**

- For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at **Isabpur village in Dinajpur**.

- The announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh following extensive drilling over two months in the area.

**14. DCC approves levy of penalty on Airtel, Vodafone Idea -**

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the highest decision-making body of Department of Telecom (DoT), has approved levying of penalty on Bharti Airtel Ltd. and Vodafone Idea Ltd. for denial of interconnection to Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. when the latter had entered market in 2016.

- The telecom regulator while recommended a fine for Airtel and Vodafone amounting to ₹1,050 crore each.

**Digital Communications Commission**

- DCC was formerly called 'Telecom Commission'. It is the top decision-making body in Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

**15. CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian appointed part-time member in IBBI –**

Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) and B. Sriram, former managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank) were appointed part-time members of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**

- IBBI, an insolvency regulatory agency was established on 1 October 2016.
- The IBC 2016 established Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), to oversee insolvency proceedings in India and to regulate entities registered under it.

**16. ONGC overtakes India Oil Corp as Most Profitable PSU –**

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) overtook India Oil Corporation (IOC) by regaining crown of being India's most profitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSU).

- It is a state owned multinational oil and gas company now headquartered in Vasant Kunj, Delhi.

**Banking & Financial Awareness  
December**

**1. ZestMoney joins hands with Xiaomi to launch 'Mi Credit' personal loan service in the Indian market**

- On December 7, 2019, ZestMoney, an AI (Artificial Intelligence) -driven EMI(Equated Monthly Instalment) financing platform based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, has partnered with Chinese smartphone

company, Xiaomi, to launch new loan service app called "MiCredit" in the Indian market.

- Through this, customers can get an instant loan ranging from Rs 7,000 – Rs 1,00,000.

**2. Loans worth over Rs10 lakh cr sanctioned under PMMY**

- The Union Government has informed that loans worth over 10 lakh crore rupees have been

sanctioned till 1st November this year under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, PMMY.

- As per the findings of the PMMY survey, around five crore persons were working in the establishments for which MUDRA loans were availed between April 2015 to March 2018.
- The survey reveals that these loans enabled beneficiaries to sustain the economic activities they were engaged in.

### 3. Exim Bank provided \$500 million Line of Credit to Bangladesh:

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has provided \$500 million (Rs 3561 crore) Line of Credit to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement in the neighbouring country.
- In this regard the Exim bank has entered into an agreement with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division (AFD) in April 11, 2019.
- The agreement became effective from November 7, 2019, and the utilisation period of the loan is 10 years from the date of signing the agreement.

### 4. IEPFA inks MoU with Bank of Baroda (BoB) for investor awareness

- The Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to spread customer awareness and investor education and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.
- As per the agreement, 9,456 BoB branches will exhibit IEPFA posters on investor protection & 3,115 ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) and Cash Recyclers supported by self-service channels will feature digital banners on IEPFA.
- The IEPFA works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

### 5. Mastercard joins hands with Thailand Tourism Authority (TAT) to tap more tourists from India

- American multinational financial service corporation, Mastercard on December 5, 2019 has partnered with Thailand Tourism Authority (TAT) to tap more tourists from India & enable digital payments for a more experiential visit for them.
- As per Mastercard data, there is 20% increase in the amount of spends done by Indians via cashless transactions in Thailand & TAT witnessed a growth of nearly 25% in arrivals from India, taking the total to 1.60 million in 2018-19.

- Airports of Mumbai & Delhi account for more than 50 % of departures to Thailand.
- Bangkok (Thailand's capital) has ranked No.1 in Mastercard's Global Destination Cities Index 2019 as the world's best travel destination. Cardholders spent more than 88% in Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket and Krabi cities.

### 6. HDFC ERGO general insurance launches 'my:health woman suraksha policy'

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has launched "my:health Woman Suraksha policy", a comprehensive medical insurance scheme specially designed for women.
- Under this scheme women aged 18–65 years are eligible for the policy & they offered a sum insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to 1 crore.
- The policy is designed to provide financial support during medical emergencies and sicknesses in women's lives.

### 7. KVGB inks MoU with Canara HSBC OBC for bancassurance

- On 2nd December 2019 the Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has entered into an MoU with Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance Company Ltd. for bancassurance business.
- Under the MoU KVGB will market wide range insurance products of the Canara HSBC through its 636 branches in 9 districts of Karnataka.

### 8. World Bank arm IFC to invest \$ 200 million in Mahindra finance

- On December 2, 2019, The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has anchored an investment round of \$ 200 million in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) with the objective to create a 'pool' specifically for financing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in low income states.
- In a regulatory filing, IFC has invested \$ 75 million out of this in its account. The remaining \$ 125 million is being raised in parallel loans. At the same time, Mahindra Finance has committed to invest \$225 million in this fund.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is a unit of the World Bank Group.

### 9. 78% account holders withdraw all their money from PMC Bank: Nirmala Sitharaman

- As per the Union Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman, nearly 78% depositors of the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank have been allowed to withdraw their entire deposits

even though the ceiling of Rs 50,000 on withdrawal continues.

## November

### 1. SEBI slaps Rs 40.5 lakh fine on 7 firms for fraudulent trading

- The Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a total fine of Rs 40.5 lakh on 7 companies for indulging in fraudulent trading in the illiquid stock options segment on the BSE.
- The total fine levied on the firms, Rs 10.5 lakh was levied on Green Venture Securities Management Pvt Ltd while Morgan Financial Services, Niranjana Housing, Navrang Tradelinks, Niranjana Metallic, Nishu Leasing and Finance and Midpoint Tradelink faced a fine of Rs 5 lakh each.
- The reversal trades executed by the Notice were non-genuine in nature and created an impression of genuine trading volumes in respective contracts.

### 2. BlackBuck joins hands with IDFC & Yes Bank to provide free FASTags to truckers

- On November 28, 2019, India's largest online trucking platform, BlackBuck has partnered with leading private sector banks IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to offer FASTags to truck fleet owners free of cost.
- Under this partnership, truck owners can order FASTags on BlackBuck's Boss app.
- It will be given free at their doorstep till 31st December 2019.

### 3. SBI's economic research team revised India's GDP forecast to 5% for FY 2020:

- The economic research team from the State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 5% from its earlier estimate of 6.1% for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).
- This downgrade was due to global slowdown in the index of industrial production (IIP).
- The SBI economic research team group has projected the second quarter (July-September) GDP growth at 4.2% in their report titled "EcoWrap". It expects the growth rate to pick up in FY2021 to 6.2%.

### 4. Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates 'mobile ATMs' in rural areas

- The Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) has launched 'mobile ATMs' in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka.

- Also account holders are allowed to withdraw up to Rs 1 lakh in case of medical emergency, marriage and other serious situations.

- The special vehicle includes an ATM and a screen to show videos of different banking schemes.
- The mobile ATMs will go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make them aware of the banking schemes and digital operating systems.
- A bank official would be present in the van, who will provide information regarding the digital operating systems and schemes.

### 5. DHFL becomes 1st financial services firm to be taken to NCLT

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has referred Dewan Housing Finance Corp. Ltd (DHFL) to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for insolvency proceedings, making it the first financial services player to go NCLT for a possible debt resolution.
- DHFL has a debt of Rs. 83,873 crore. As per the statutory inspection of DHFL conducted by the National Housing Bank, the DHFL showed a serious deterioration in its finances.

#### 1. Muthoot Finance to acquire IDBI Mutual Fund for Rs 215 crore

- Muthoot Finance Ltd, the largest gold loan non-banking finance company in the country, entered into a definitive agreement to acquire IDBI Asset Management Ltd and IDBI Mutual Fund Trustee Company Ltd.
- Muthoot Finance will purchase 100 per cent equity shares of IDBI Asset Management and IDBI MF Trustee for a total consideration of Rs 215 crore.
- The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of February 2020. The deal is subject to receipt of approval from regulators including the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

#### 2. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches Instant Digital Savings and Instant FD Account

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) has launched an instant digital savings account (SA) along with Fixed Deposit (FD) and Privilege Savings Account to offer distinctive banking and digital services to its customers.
- The Instant Digital SA account has the restriction of Rs 1 lakh deposit & has the unlimited free transactions on the bank's own ATM (automated teller machine) and 6 free transactions for other bank ATMs per month.

- The Instant Fixed Deposit (FD) will fetch interest rate ranging from 5.5% (7days to 29 days) & up to 8.3% (799 days), the customers can invest in this account up to a maximum of Rs. 1 Lakh without a Savings Account.
  - The Privilege SA account comes with the eligibility for a monthly salary of Rs. 30,000 or above /on maintaining a Monthly Average Balance of Rs 25,000 / opening a Fixed Deposit of Rs. 10 Lakh. It provides a higher accidental insurance cover of Rs. 2 Lakh.
- 3. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launches 'Farmitra' mobile app for farmers**
- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched a new mobile app called 'Farmitra' to help the farmers needs and address their worries.
  - It also resolves with relevant information, which they can use in optimizing their farming practices.
  - The app 'Farmitra' provides services for even those who are not customers of Bajaj Allianz.
- 4. Karnataka Gramin Bank initiates 'mobile ATMs' in rural areas**
- The Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) has launched 'mobile ATMs' in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka.
  - The special vehicle includes an ATM and a screen to show videos of different banking schemes.
  - The mobile ATMs will go to the doorsteps of the farmers and make them aware of the banking schemes and digital operating systems.
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- 5. SBI's economic research team revised India's FY20 GDP forecast to 5%**
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- This downgrade was due to global slowdown in the index of industrial production (IIP).
  - The SBI economic research team group has projected the second quarter (July-September) GDP growth at 4.2% in their report titled "EcoWrap". It expects the growth rate to pick up in FY2021 to 6.2%.
- 6. New rules framed under IBC for rescue of non-bank lenders**
- The Government of India has issued fresh rules under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to govern the rescue of non-bank lenders.
  - The new rules are likely to help out distressed shadow banks and housing financiers, which have been battling a liquidity crunch for a year.
  - These entities will be covered by a special window under the bankruptcy code, which will be notified from time to time.
  - Reserve Bank of India has been given the authority to decide which companies will be taken up to a bankruptcy tribunal under these rules.
  - The bankruptcy tribunal will appoint an administrator who will be nominated by the regulator, will try to stitch together a turnaround plan. In case a turnaround of the financial institution is not possible, the tribunal will gather the views of the regulator before deciding to liquidate it.
- 7. Exim Bank grants \$30 million line of credit to Ghana**
- The Export-Import (Exim) Bank has provided a USD 30 million (about Rs 210 crore) line of credit to Ghana for a potable water project in the country.
  - Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods, works and services from India would be allowed subject to their being eligible for export under the Foreign Trade Policy of India and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by the Exim Bank.
  - As per the agreement, the terminal utilisation time is 60 months period after the scheduled completion date of the project.

## October

- 1. T.L. Alamelu committee** - The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted a 12-member working group (WG) chaired by T.L. Alamelu to review the product structure of title insurance, which covers any loss caused due to a defect in the 'title' of the property arising out of third-party challenges.
- 2. Axis Bank launches short-term online fixed deposits "Express FD"** – Axis Bank has launched the 'Express FD', a digital fixed deposit (FD) product that allows a customer to open an FD account in 3 minutes through the digital mode without opening a savings account with the bank.

- 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.
- 3. SBI becomes first Indian bank to have office in Australia's Victoria** – The State Bank of India opened its Melbourne office and becoming the first Indian bank to have a branch in the Australian state of Victoria.
  - 4. UCO Bank launches UCash, Digilocker and an App** – UCO Bank has launched three new digital products called, UCash, Digilocker and an app in Kolkata, West Bengal.
  - 5. Grant Thornton to investigate Rs 4,355-crore PMC Bank fraud** – The government has roped in **Grant Thornton** to carry out forensic investigations into the fraud hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank.
    - Grant Thornton LLP is the sixth largest U.S. accounting and advisory organization.

**Note:**

- The PMC Bank scam came into the limelight after a whistle-blower informed the RBI to look into the books of the cooperative bank.
  - Acting swiftly, the RBI on September 23 placed PMC Bank under an administrator, suspended the management, and placed curbs on deposit withdrawals.
  - The former Managing Director of the bank, Joy Thomas, has been arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW).
  - Thomas confessed that the loans granted by the bank were not classified as non-performing assets (NPAs) in the bank's books deliberately so as to avoid RBI scrutiny.
  - PMC Bank has given loans of Rs 6,500 crore, which accounts for 73 per cent of the bank's loan book of Rs 8,880 crore.
- 6. SBI Card launches contactless mobile phone payments facility:**
    - SBI Card has launched 'SBI Card Pay', a feature which allows contactless payment using mobile phones at PoS terminals.
    - Using SBI Card Pay, customers can make contactless payments at near field communication (NFC) enabled point of sale terminals with just one tap of their mobiles, without using the physical credit card or entering any PIN.
    - SBI Card Pay is a payment feature based on Host Card Emulation (HCE) technology for faster, convenient and more secure card payments using mobile phones.

- 7. India Post launches mobile banking facility for savings accounts**

- The Department of Post announced that it has launched mobile banking for its savings account customers.
- The facility will be available all the post office savings account holders of the CBS (core banking solutions) post offices.
- The launch of the mobile banking facility comes almost a year after the Department of Post launched Internet banking facility for its savings account holders.

- 8. ICICI Bank launches new FD scheme "FD health"**

- ICICI Bank has launched a fixed deposit scheme called FD Health, that comes with an in-built critical insurance policy.
- The FD Health – Critical illness Cover will be provided to only the primary holder of the FD account. Anyone in the age bracket of 18-50 years, gets this complimentary insurance cover for a year on 33 critical illnesses.
- For the first year, free of cost insurance cover will be provided which can be renewed later.
- The new FD scheme from ICICI bank offers a complimentary critical illness cover of Rs. 1 lakh from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on opening an FD of Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for a tenure of at least two years.
- The critical illness cover will be available on Cumulative FDs opened for a period of a minimum of 2 years.

- 9. UCO Bank launches UCash, Digilocker and an App**

- UCO Bank has launched three new digital products called, UCash, Digilocker and an app in Kolkata, West Bengal. A new current account facility has also been launched by the bank.
- UCash enables customers to withdraw money from ATMs through mobile banking without using a debit card.
- Digilocker aims to eliminate the use of physical documents and enables sharing of verified electronic documents.
- The third product, the new mobile app, integrates four existing apps of the bank – UCO Mbanking, UCO UPI, UCO Mpassbook and UCO Secure- in a single interface.

September

1. **Airtel Payments Bank launches 'Bharosa' savings account –** Airtel Payments Bank launched “Bharosa savings account” services, designed for deepening the financial inclusion in the country.
  - **Bharosa savings account** would offer Rs 5 lakh personal accident insurance on maintaining the balance of Rs 500 along with one debit transaction per month.
2. **Preventive Vigilance portal: launched by PNB –** Punjab National Bank launched a Preventive **Vigilance (PV) portal** to facilitate its staff members to check procedural lapses as well as promote good practices.
  - To promote vigilance awareness in the banking system, PNB introduced the first of its kind technology based solutions through Preventive Vigilance portal.
3. **SBI launches mobile app YONO in the UK –** State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its digital banking app YONO in the UK, marking its global launch.
  - The app is unveiled by SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar in coordination with the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) in London on 23rd September.

Note:

  - In 2017, SBI launched the ‘YONO’ (You Only Need One) app in India.
  - It is an integrated digital banking platform to enable users to access a variety of financial and other services such as taxi bookings, online shopping, or medical bill payments.
4. **EPFO to credit 8.65% interest in over 6 crore accounts –** Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to pay 8.65% interest on the deposits of more than 6 crore subscribers for the period of 2018-19.
5. **IDBI Bank introduces repo-linked home and auto loans –**
  - IDBI Bank will introduce two Repo Linked Products –Suidha Plus Home Loan and Suidha Plus Auto Loan from September 10.
  - The new Home Loan and Auto Loan products will be offered to new customers having good credit score and minimum income of Rs. 6 lakh per annum.
  - The Suidha Plus Home Loan will be offered for up to Rs. 75 Lakh with a tenor of up to 35 years. The Suidha Plus Auto loan will be offered for up to Rs. 25 lakh covering the on-road price with a tenor of up to 7 years.
6. **ECL Finance and Central bank of India ink pact to co-lend to MSMEs –** ECL Finance Ltd, a subsidiary of Edelweiss Financial Services, and Central Bank of India have signed an agreement for priority sector lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME's) customers.
7. **Cabinet approves Rs 4,557 crore capital infusion into IDBI Bank –** The Cabinet has approved a capital infusion of Rs 4,557 crore into IDBI Bank.
  - The capital infusion process will be done through recapitalisation bonds under which The government will infuse the capital into the bank and the bank will buy the recapitalisation bonds from the government on the same day.
8. **Standard Chartered Bank launches “DigiSmart” credit card –** Standard Chartered Bank, a British multinational banking and financial services company has launched a DigiSmart credit card.
  - The primary focus of the Bank on the ever-growing segment of millennials.

## August

1. **Government announces Mega Merger of Public Sector Banks –**
  - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a big consolidation of public sector banks.
  - Under the scheme of amalgamation, **10 public sector banks are to be merged into four banks.**
  - After the amalgamation, the total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 from 27 banks in 2017

The amalgamation of banks will be in the following manner:

  - **Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India** to be merged into one single bank, with business of Rs 17.95 lakh crore to make India's 2nd largest bank.
  - **Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank** are to be merged to become the 4th largest public sector bank with business of Rs 15.2 lakh crore.
  - Union Bank of India, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be merged to become the 5th largest public sector bank with business of Rs 14.6 lakh crore.
  - Indian Bank will be merged with Allahabad Bank to become the 7th largest public sector bank with business of Rs 8.08 lakh crore.
  - The government has also announced capital infusion of over Rs 55,000 crore into public sector



banks: PNB (Rs 16,000 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 11,700 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 7000 crore), Indian Bank (Rs 2500 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 3800 crore), Central Bank (Rs 3300 crore), UCO Bank (Rs 2100 crore), United Bank (Rs 1600 crore) and Punjab and Sind Bank (Rs 750 crore).

## 2. Canara Bank introduced OTP facility for ATM withdrawal –

Canara Bank has launched India's first OTP facility for ATM withdrawals. This additional factor of authentication protects from unauthorized ATM cash withdrawals for cardholders.

- Now Canara Bank ATMs get safer and more secured with OTP facility on cash withdrawals above ₹10,000 in a day.

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

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

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

## 4. Bandhan Bank launches co-branded credit card with Standard Chartered

– Bandhan Bank launched a co-branded credit card in association with Standard Chartered bank. This credit card would be offered to 40 lakh savings bank account holders across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank.

## 5. EnKash launches India's first corporate credit card for SMEs

- EnKash, a card focused Fin-tech startup, has launched the EnKash "**Freedom Card**", **India's FIRST** Corporate Credit Card for SMEs / MSMEs and Startups.
- The Freedom Card would give SMEs and startups the freedom to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.

## 6. AePS crosses 200 million transactions in July: NPCI

- National Payments Corporation of India has announced that Aadhaar enabled Payment System has crossed the milestone of over 200 million transactions during July 2019.
- The transaction count of AePS stood at 220 million in July 2019.

- According to NPCI, in July, the transaction count of AePS stood at 220.18 million with transaction value ₹9,685.35 crore compared with a transaction count of 194.33 million and a transaction value of ₹8,867.33 crore in June.

## 7. Mastercard launches identity check express to secure online transactions

- Mastercard announced the launch of **Identity Check Express**, a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution that aims to redefine the e-commerce journey for Indian consumers.
- Mastercard Identity Check Express combines the latest technology, including device intelligence and behavioural biometrics, with the latest EMV 3-D Secure and FIDO authentication standards to deliver an uninterrupted mobile payment experience.

## 8. RBL Bank launches India's first health-focused credit card

- Private sector bank, RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo have partnered to launch an industry-first co-branded health credit card. This credit card is powered by Mastercard.
- RBL Bank's new credit card offers benefits like online consultations with doctors and a free health check-up.

## 9. SBI, Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS

- The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch is now connected to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS).
- SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency and also inducted to the CNAPS by the People's Bank of China (PBOC).
- SBI Shanghai can also offer the real-time transfer of local funds within China by routing them through the PBOC.
- The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments.

## 10. India Post Payments Bank to be converted into SFB

- The postal department has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers.
- This bank will provide micro credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's. The postal department has also target the milestone of 1 crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.

- India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments etc at post offices.
- 11. NHB to provide Rs.10,000 cr liquidity infusion facility to HFCs** – The housing sector regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) opened a liquidity infusion facility of Rs.10000 crore for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to improve liquidity in sector. The move is taken to unveil measures to boost lending and accelerate growth.
- Note:**
- National Housing Bank (NHB) was established in 1988, under National Housing Bank Act, 1987. It is an All India Financial Institution (AIFI).
- 12. Standard Chartered to be first foreign bank to launch ops at GIFT IFSC** – UK-based Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- Standard Chartered has received in-principle regulatory approvals to set up its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- 13. New insurance plan “Jeevan Amar” launched by LIC** – LIC has launched a new term-insurance plan called Jeevan Amar.
- It is a non-linked, without profit, pure protection plan, and is available for sale offline.
  - It offers the flexibility to choose from two death benefit options – level sum assured and increasing sum assured.
  - The minimum sum assured under the plan is ₹25 lakh with no maximum limit.
  - People of ages 18-65 years are eligible. The maximum maturity age is 80yrs offering policy terms from 10 years to a maximum of 40 years.
  - The insurance premium can be paid only once for a limited premium paid regularly.
- 14. Deutsche Bank to set up 50 billion euro bad bank in revamp** – Deutsche Bank is planning to overhaul its trading operations by creating a so-called bad bank to hold tens of billions of euros of non-core assets.
- Deutsche Bank AG is a German multinational investment bank.
- 15. SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank signed a Bancassurance agreement** – , Indian Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with the leading private life insurer, SBI (State Bank of India) Life Insurance to provide SBI's suite of insurance products to its customers.
- 16. Scheduled bank status is given to Jana Small Finance Bank** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave the status to Jana Small Finance Bank to operate as a Scheduled Bank.
- Headquarters- Bengaluru.
- 17. Axis Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance signed bancassurance pact** –
- The 3rd -largest of the private-sector lender, Axis Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with stand alone health insurer, Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL) to provide Aditya Birla's suite of insurance products to its customers.
- 18. Aditya Puri, CEO of HDFC bank, is the top-paid bank CEO in FY19**
- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri, who led the bank since its inception 25 years ago, is the highest-paid bank chief executive in India with a monthly basic salary of Rs 89 lakh in FY19.
- 19. Denmark's Jyske Bank unveiled world's first negative interest rate home loan** – Denmark's third-largest bank, Jyske Bank has launched the world's first negative interest rate mortgage – handing out loans to homeowners where the charge is minus 0.5% a year. It has begun offering borrowers a 10-year deal at -0.5%.

## July

- 1. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank to close operations** – Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited announced to close its business on account of "unanticipated developments" that made its economic model "unviable".
- In less than 18 months after its commencement, Aditya Birla Payments Bank announced that it will shut down operations.
  - The bank's customers have been informed that they can transfer the balance in their accounts to any other bank account and that the bank would restrict any further credits (add money) from July 26, 2019.
  - Aditya Birla Payments Bank is promoted by Grasim Industries Limited and Vodafone Idea Limited with 51 and 49 per cent shareholdings respectively.
  - According to the filing, ABIPBL incurred a loss of Rs 24 crore at the end of 2017-18.

- Total deposits with Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank stand at about Rs 20 crore.

## 2. India Post Payments Bank to be converted into Small Finance Bank

- The postal department will convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers, with an aim to open one crore accounts in the first 100 days.
- India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments etc at post offices, the statement said.

### Note:

- India Post Payments Bank headquarters is in New Delhi.
- Suresh Sethi (MD & CEO)

## Other Key guidelines and other conditions to set Small Finance Bank:

- The small bank shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- Capital requirement - The minimum paid-up capital requirement for small banks is Rs. 100 crore.
- Can provide basic banking activities – The small banks accept deposits as well as can offer loan products. Small banks can accept fixed deposits (FDs), term deposits, recurring deposits (RDs) and any non-resident Indian deposits.
- Promoter's contribution: **Promoter contribution would be at least 40 percent** for the first five years. Excess shareholding should be brought down to 40 percent by the end of the fifth year, to 30 percent by the end of 10th year and to 26 percent in 12 years from the date of commencement of business
- Foreign shareholding: The foreign shareholding in the small finance bank would be as per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.
- They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.
- The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single/group borrowers/issuers would be restricted to 15 percent of total capital funds.
- Loans and advances of up to Rs 25 lakhs, primarily to micro enterprises, should constitute at least 50 percent of the loan portfolio.

- For the first three years, 25 percent of branches should be in unbanked rural areas.
- For the initial three years, prior approval will be required for branch expansion.
- The small finance banks will be required to extend 75 percent of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by the Reserve Bank.

### Payment Banks

- Payments Bank cannot lend money to the people.
- Payments banks can't accept fixed deposits (FDs), term deposits, recurring deposits (RDs) and any non-resident Indian deposits.
- Payment Banks will provide banking services to migrant labor workforce, low-income households, small businesses, other unorganized sector entities and other users.
- Payments banks can open small savings accounts and accept deposits of up to Rs.1 lakh per individual.
- Payments banks can issue debit cards but they are not eligible to provide credit card facilities.
- Payments Banks are allowed to set up their own ATMs (automated teller machines).

### 3. "Sahamati" introduced to Solve Fintech's Data Problem

– Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani has introduced a new platform "Sahamati" based on a new class of non-banking financial institutions called the account aggregator (NBFC-AA) model. This will work as consent brokers, which will take users permission to access their financial accounts, aggregate and organize all their financial information in one place.

### 4. NPCI ties up with JCB for global RuPay card

– National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and JCB International have launched RuPay JCB Global Cards.

- RuPay JCB Global Cards can be used at all point of sales terminals which accept RuPay cards and terminals outside India which accept JCB.

### 5. Deposits in Jan Dhan Yojana accounts crosses Rs 1 lakh crore

– Deposits in bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan scheme have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 36.06 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts was at Rs 1,00,495.94 crore as on July 3.

- The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014, with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.

### 6. ICICI Bank unveils digital platform InstaBIZ for MSMEs

- ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) launched a new digital platform called 'InstaBIZ'.
  - It targeted at micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed customers, enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly.
  - It is a new comprehensive digital platform for businesses enables MSMEs to experience the convenience of a range of services digitally includes instant overdraft (OD) facility of up to Rs.15 lakh.
- 7. HDFC Bank, CSC launch credit card for VLEs and small traders** – HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres launched a co-branded 'Small Business Money Back Credit Card' for small traders and village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- The credit card is specifically designed for VLEs and VLE-sourced customers. It will give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses.
- 8. HDFC Bank terminated & delisted its GDRs from Luxembourg Stock Exchange** – HDFC Bank has terminated and de-listed its 22 outstanding global depository receipts (GDRs) from the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The action has been taken due to low trading volume of GDRs.
- Note:**
- A global depository receipt (GDR) is a bank certificate issued in more than one country for shares in a foreign company. The shares are held by a foreign branch of an international bank. The shares trade as domestic shares but are offered for sale globally through the various bank branches.
- 9. ICICI Bank to buy stake in BSE subsidiary INX for Rs 31 crore** – ICICI Bank said it has entered into an agreement with the BSE to buy stake in its subsidiary INX - located at GIFT City Gujarat - for nearly Rs 31 crore.
- India International Exchange (INX) - a wholly owned subsidiary of the BSE - is India's first international exchange at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City.
- 10. Andhra Bank rolls-out AI chatbot "ABHi" in Telangana** – A medium-sized public sector bank in India, Andhra Bank

launched its AI (Artificial Intelligence) interactive assistant called "ABHi" at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- 11. Repco MFI wins an award from NABARD for SHG linkage in TN for 2018-19** - Repco Micro Finance, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institution (MFI) promoted by Repco Bank, was awarded for outstanding performance in terms of Self-Help Group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for 2018-19 from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- 12. PayPal opens third Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad** – On July 23, 2019, an online payment solutions provider PayPal Holdings, Inc has opened a 3rd Global Technology Centre at Western Aqua at Kondapur in Hyderabad, Telangana after Bengaluru and Chennai.
- 13. YES Bank acquires 9.47% stake in Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares** – YES Bank has acquired a **9.47 % stake** in dry cell battery maker, Eveready Industries India by invoking shares pledged by McLeod Russel.
- 14. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde** was nominated as the president of the European Central Bank.

**About the European Central Bank**

- European Central Bank was established on 1 June 1998.
  - ECB headquarters is located in Ostend district, Frankfurt, Germany.
  - It is the central bank of 19 European Union (EU) countries which have adopted Euro.
- 15. Punjab & Sind Bank sets up Cen-MARG** – Punjab & Sind Bank has set up a centralised hub "Centralised MSME & Retail Group".
- It will process retail and MSME loans for the better efficiency of branches in business acquisition.
  - The Cen-MARG has been envisioned to ensure qualitative improvement in credit appraisal, improved turnaround time, uniform documentation, and efficient monitoring.
- 16. 'Vasool So-Ft' launched to digitize NPA recovery process** – Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched the web tool 'Vasool So-Ft' (Vasool So-Fast) for digitalising the Non-Performing Asset recovery process of the bank.
- 17. ICICI Bank tied up with IndoStar Capital**, a non-banking financial company, for vehicle financing for small and medium fleet owners to buy new and old commercial vehicles.

June

**1. Number of wilful defaulters has risen by 60% in five years -**

On June 24, 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the number of wilful defaulters in nationalized banks has risen by 60% in five years to March 2019.

**Key points:**

- In PSBs (public sector banks), out of 9856 wilful defaulters, 960 accounts from Punjab National bank followed by Union Bank of India and Central Bank Of India.
- In Private sector banks, Axis Bank reported the maximum number of defaulters.
- As of March 2019, PSBs filed suits for recovery in 8,121 cases however it recovered about Rs.3.59-lakh crore over four fiscal years (FY16 to FY19).

**2. Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company** a mutual fund company has launched WhatsApp transaction platform for new as well as existing investors.

**3. State Bank of India (SBI)** has organised a nationwide customer meet to understand their grievances and enhance services.

**4. Canara Bank updates rules for cash deposits of up to Rs 50,000** – From July 1, Canara Bank customers can deposit cash of up to Rs 50,000 for free only thrice a month.

- From the fourth transaction or for cash deposits of over Rs 50,000, there will be a service charge of Rs 1 per thousand, with a minimum of Rs 50 and a maximum of Rs 5,000 plus GST.

**5. Jammu and Kashmir Bank now under RTI, CVC guidelines –**

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank will now come under the purview of Right to Information Act and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines as per the decisions taken by the Board of Directors of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

- J&K Bank Interim Chairman: R K Chibber
- Headquarters: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

**6. IndusInd Bank-Bharat Financial merger to be effective from July 4**

- IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL) said their merger will be effective from July 4.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of private sector lender IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL), a microfinance company.
- Now Bharat Financial will become a subsidiary of IndusInd Bank.

**Note:**

- IndusInd Bank Headquarter: Mumbai, CEO: Romesh Sobti.
- NCLT Headquarter: New Delhi.

**Banking & Financial terms**

- 1. AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
- 2. APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
- 3. ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
- 4. ALM** - Asset Liability Management
- 5. AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- 6. AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
- 7. BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
- 8. BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
- 9. BCA** -Baseline Credit Assessment
- 10. BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
- 11. BLRA:** Bank Led Resolution Approach
- 12. CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
- 13. CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- 14. CBS** – Core Banking System
- 15. CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
- 16. CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
- 17. CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
- 18. CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
- 19. CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
- 20. CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
- 21. CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
- 22. ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
- 23. DNS** - Domain Name System
- 24. DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
- 25. EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
- 26. EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
- 27. FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
- 28. LGD** - Loss Given Default
- 29. LTV**- Loan To Value
- 30. LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
- 31. LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
- 32. GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
- 33. SFTs:** Securities financing transactions
- 34. HCE** - Host Card Emulation
- 35. PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
- 36. IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
- 37. IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
- 38. IFC** - International Finance Corporation
- 39. IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
- 40. Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
- 41. ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
- 42. IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
- 43. IMPS** – Immediate Payment Service

44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** – Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** – National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** – National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** – National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** – Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund
98. **NSC** - National Savings Certificate
99. **CbC** - Country-by-Country
100. **WEF** - World Economic Forum
101. **MPI** - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
103. **UPI** - Unified Payments Interface
104. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India
105. **CII** - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. **NBCC** - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. **NSSO** - National Sample Survey Office
108. **EMV** - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. **FATF** - Financial Action Task Force

### Important Committees

1. **Tapan Ray committee** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CICs).
2. **Ramesh Chand (Member, NITI Aayog) committee** – Central Government has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
3. **Devendra Fadnavis (CM of Maharashtra)** - PM Narendra Modi has constituted a high-powered Committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) for 'Transformation of Indian Agriculture'.
4. **P K Sinha (Cabinet Secretary) panel** - Central Government has formed a committee for coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the state governments after a tug of war between the two ministries. The panel formation will help in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.
7. **Aruna Sundararajan Committee** - Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had constituted a committee chaired by Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan to spell out revival plans for Telecom sector.

5. **Nandan Nilekani committee** – To encourage digital payments, the committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round-the-clock RTGS and NEFT facility, and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.
6. **V G Kannan committee** - The Reserve Bank of India constituted a six-member committee to review the **ATM interchange fee structure** with a “view to increase the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas”.
  - The committee will be led by V G Kannan, Chief Executive, Indian Banks Association.
7. **Anil Kakodkar & Sidharth Pradhan committee** - to discuss research-related synergies and tax issues for state-run oil companies. The committee has recommended strategies to reduce import dependency.
8. **TN Manoharan committee (Chairman Canara Bank)**- on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.
9. **Kasturirangan committee** - Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
10. **Amitabh Kant (Niti Aayog CEO) committee** - National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.
11. **Suresh Mathur committee** – to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
12. **Bimal Jalan Panel** - to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.
13. **Anoop Satpathy Committee** - Recommends Rs 9,750 Monthly National Minimum Wage
 

**Note:**

  - submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government.
  - It recommended the fixation of need-based National Minimum Wage (NMW) for India at Rs 375 per day or Rs 9,750 per month irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption units.
  - The Present NMW is Rs. 4,576.
14. **Sanjeev Sharma (income tax commissioner) Committee** - to look into the matter of taxation related pain points and submit its final report and recommendations by mid-March.
15. **CPWD Constitutes 8-member Committee to Chart Out Design Policy** - The Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has constituted an expert committee to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development.
  - The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of CPWD’s Additional Director General M K Sharma.
16. **Environment Ministry Constitutes Committee to Implement National Clean Air Programme** - The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.
  - The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry. It would be headquartered in New Delhi.
17. **B V R Mohan Reddy committee** - not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.
 

**Note:**

  - The Panel headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy has suggested All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.
18. **Nandan Nilekani committee** - to boost digital payments and enhance financial inclusion.
19. **U.K. Sinha committee** - to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
20. **Committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health)** - The Union government has constituted a high-power committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health) to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products.
21. **Praveen Kutumbe committee** - Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a panel headed by Praveen Kutumbe, to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard.
22. **Akhilesh Ranjan Committee** – for drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law)
23. **Dr. Bibek Debroy (The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) Committee** - to assess key challenges and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce.
24. **Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman) Committee** – to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.

## Agreement & Deals

December

### 1. Dell Technologies tie up with UNESCO to boost quality of education:

- Dell Technologies has partnered with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace (MGIEP) to enable school teachers to adopt technology in classrooms by using ICT tools.
- The information and communication technology (ICT) tools have been developed by Dell Aarambh and FramerSpace platform.
- The partnership would enable achieving the UN Sustainable Goal 4.7 towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies and also UNESCO MGIEP in its mission of building social and emotional learning, innovative digital pedagogies and empowering youth.

### 2. MoU signed Between NSIC & ARAMCO Asia for development in Oil & Gas Sectors

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Saudi Aramco (Asia) for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.
- The MoU will pave a way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out space as vendors in Global space.

### 3. NTPC signed Agreement with SBI for Rs. 5,000 crores:

- National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has signed a term loan agreement of Rs. 5,000 crores with State Bank of India (SBI).
- The loan facility has been extended at an interest rate linked to 3 Months MCLR of the bank and has a door to door tenure of 15 years. The loan will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

### 4. IEPFA signs MoU with Bank of Baroda (BOB) for Investor Awareness

- Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to spread customer awareness and investor education and reaching out to investors and stakeholders.
- As per the agreement, 9,456 BoB branches will exhibit IEPFA posters on investor protection & 3,115 ATMs (Automated Teller Machine) and Cash Recyclers supported by self-service channels will feature digital banners on IEPFA.

- Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs,

### 5. India-Bangladesh ties transcend strategic partnership

- The ties between India and Bangladesh for transcend strategic partnership. The multidimensional relationship between the two countries covers not only traditional areas like trade, commerce, security and border management but also new areas such as IT, space and nuclear science among others.
- India is a committed development partner of Bangladesh with a credit line worth 8 billion US dollars of which 80% is earmarked for infrastructure and connectivity sector.

### 6. BlackBuck partners with IDFC Bank, Yes Bank to offer free FASTags to truck Owners:

- The Online trucking platform BlackBuck has partnered with private lenders IDFC Bank and Yes Bank to provide FASTags to truck owners free of cost.
- Truck owners can order FASTags on BlackBuck's Boss App, a digital services platform exclusively for truck fleet owners, and it will be delivered at their doorstep free of cost until December 31, 2019.
- The initiative is expected to help over 3 million trucks in India become FASTag compliant.

### 7. CPPIB to invest \$600 million in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund:

- The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) have agreed for CPPIB to invest up to \$600 million through the NIIF Master Fund.
- The agreement includes a commitment of \$150 million in the NIIF Master Fund and co-investment rights of up to \$450 million in future opportunities to invest alongside the NIIF Master Fund.
- The NIIF Master Fund invests equity capital in core infrastructure sectors in India, with a focus on transportation, energy and urban infrastructure.

### 8. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank signs MoU for bancassurance:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) and Canara, HSBC, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Life Insurance Company Ltd. signed an MoU for bancassurance (for selling life insurance products through the branches of KVGB).



- As per the pact, KVGB will market wide range insurance products of the Canara HSBC through its 636 branches in 9 districts of Karnataka.
- 9. ZestMoney partnered with Xiaomi to launch 'Mi Credit' personal loan service in India:**
- Bengaluru based EMI financing platform, ZestMoney has partnered with Chinese smartphone company, Xiaomi, to launch new loan service app called "MiCredit" in the Indian market.
  - Through this app customers can get an instant loan ranging from Rs 7,000 – Rs 1,00,000.
  - Application process for loans can be completed within 5 minutes, and the repayment can be done over a period from 3 months – 3 years in easy EMIs.
- 10. National Museum of Indian Cinema signs MoU with Films Division and BookMyShow:**
- Films Division of India and BookMyShow (BMS) signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for online ticketing of National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) in New Delhi.
  - With this MoU, booking a ticket to visit NMIC will be a click away as it will now be available on BookMyShow, thus benefiting film lovers in India and abroad.
  - The MoU has been part of Museum outreach initiatives aimed at increasing footfalls to NMIC.
- 11. Walmart India ties-up with HDFC to launch co-branded credit card for Best price stores**
- In a first, Walmart India has partnered with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
  - The new co-branded credit card is available exclusively for members of Best Price Modern Wholesale B2B (business to business) cash & carry Stores, owned and operated by Walmart India .
  - In this, the facility of free credit will be available for up to 50 days without any interest.

### November

- 1. ADB, India sign \$451 million loan to strengthen Power Connectivity in Tamil Nadu**
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$451 million loan for strengthening power connectivity between northern and southern parts of Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) which is part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).
  - ECEC is India's first coastal economic corridor.
  - It will help establish extra-high-voltage transmission link between Coimbatore and Virudhunagar. It will meet increased power demand in CKIC by transferring additional generation capacity of 9,000 megawatt (MW), including 6,000 MW from renewables by 2025. This will help reliably evacuate power from these new power plants in southern CKIC.
- 2. SBI & U-GRO signed loan co-origination agreement**
- U-GRO Capital has signed an SME loan co-origination agreement with State Bank of India to facilitate broader credit outreach and faster disbursal.
  - The alliance to leverage U GRO Capital's proprietary technology platform 'GRO-Xstream' to provide in-principle loan approval within 60 minutes.
  - U GRO Capital, a BSE listed, technology-enabled small business lending platform entered into a loan co-origination.
- 3. India-Uzbekistan sign pact on counter-terror cooperation**
- India and Uzbekistan have signed a pact for further strengthening of cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism and organised crime.
  - The agreement was signed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his Uzbekistan counterpart Pulat Bobojonov here to further increase cooperation between India and Uzbekistan in diverse fields including counter-terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking.
  - The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, capacity building and training for Uzbek security personnel in Indian institutions, border guarding and disaster management.

### October

- 1. NHA and Google tie up for Ayushman Bharat Implementation** – The National Health Authority (NHA) has joined hands with international giant Google to collaborate

as well as strengthen the implementation of government's flagship health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

**2. Sports Ministry inks MoU with NBCC to develop National Sports University at Imphal** – State-owned construction firm NBCC (India) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Sports under Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) to provide Project Management Consultancy for development of National Sports University at Imphal, Manipur. The approximate cost of project would be Rs.400 crore.

**3. Indian & Bangladesh signed 7 agreements** – The seven pacts and three projects that were signed and finalised during the visit of Bangladesh’s Prime Minister Sheikh to India.

**The key agreements signed between India & Bangladesh –**

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for Movement of goods to and from India
- withdrawal of 1.82 cusec of water from Feni river by India for drinking water supply, scheme for Sabroom town, Tripura, India
- MoU on providing Coastal Surveillance System - Delhi to set up a coastal surveillance system radar in Bangladesh
- Inauguration of BIPSDI – Bangladesh – India Professional Skill Development Institute
- Inauguration of Vivekananda Bhaban, students hostel at Ramakrishna mission in Dhaka.

**4. Bank of Baroda signs MoU with Indian Army for customised services** – Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army under which the bank would offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders.

- The MoU includes handsome free personal accident insurance cover, free air accident insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh to Rs 50 lakh and an overdraft facility up to three times of monthly net salary.

**5. Siemens signs MoUs with NTPC, TERI on decarbonisation, energy transition**

- German multinational conglomerate company, Siemens Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTPC Limited to identify, evaluate and set up reference use cases of hydrogen sector-coupling for various upstream and downstream applications.
- The collaboration is aimed at developing innovative technologies, solutions and techniques to reduce the dependence on Hydrocarbons in India.

- Siemens has also inked a separate MoU with TERI for collaboration on technologies to support the energy transition in India including sector-coupling.

**6. GeM signs MoU with Indian Bank and Canara Bank for payment related service**

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has signed MoU with Indian Bank and Canara Bank.
- The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities.
- Through this partnership, both the banks will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts (GPA), advising of Performance Bank Guarantees (e-PBG), Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Payment Gateway to the registered users on the portal.

**7. IOB launches health care plus insurance policy**

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in association with Universal Sompo General Insurance Co Ltd. has launched upgraded health care plus insurance policy.
- It is a co-branded insurance scheme exclusively designed for IOB customers with a sum insured starting from ₹50,000 and going up to ₹15 lakh.
- The policy issuance will be made on a real-time basis at the IOB branches to its customers. Self, spouse, dependent children, dependent parents can be covered under the policy.

**8. USD 165 mn loan agreement for Odisha’s Integrated Irrigation Project**

- The Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank have signed a USD 165 million loan agreement.
- The agreement is signed for Odisha’s Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture.
- The project will be implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rainfed agriculture.
- The \$165 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Member of World Bank Group), has a 6-year grace period, and a maturity of 24 years.

**9. GeM and Federal Bank sign MoU for payment related services**

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

#### **10. Grasim partnered with German's MR to produce insulators**

- Grasim Industries Limited has signed a definitive agreement to form a joint venture company in India with Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen GmbH (MR) of Germany.
- The joint venture is for the manufacturing and sale of Composite Hollow Core Insulators to serve the power transmission and distribution (T&D) industry globally.
- This joint venture will bring together Aditya Birla Insulators (a unit of Grasim) and Reinhausen Power Composites (a unit of MR).
- ABPCL will build a fully integrated CHCI plant at Halol, bringing the latest technology for Composite Hollow Insulators from Europe.
- It will serve the insulator requirements of Indian and global OEMs in the power equipment industry.

#### **11. AYUSH, Defence ministries ink MoU to provide traditional medicine services:**

- The AYUSH ministry has signed an MoU with the Defence Ministry to provide traditional medicine services at the armed forces' hospitals and dispensaries.
- Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik inaugurated an Ayurveda Palliative Care Unit at the Base Hospital in the Delhi Cantonment.
- Under the MoU, Ayurveda units will also be established at palliative care centres at the Army Research and Referral Hospital, Air Force Hospital, Hindon in Ghaziabad and five identified ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics in Delhi-NCR.

#### **12. Home Credit India join hand with Karur Vysya Bank for joint lending:**

- Home Credit India (HCIN), a local arm of the international consumer finance provider, has tied-up with Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) for joint lending using end-to-end automated processing which will help the customer get real-time approval and disbursement.

- Under the agreement, HCIN and KVB will disburse loans in a single amount to customers. With this partnership and by leveraging the lower cost of funds of KVB, Home Credit India will be able to reach out to a new segment of customer. Home Credit India has operations spread over 179 cities across 20 States in India.

#### **13. Mastercard and MS Dhoni partner to build 'Team Cashless India':**

- Mastercard, along with cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, launched a nationwide initiative 'Team Cashless India' to accelerate the acceptance and adoption of digital payments.
- The initiative 'Team Cashless India' brings consumers and merchants to the forefront of the digital payments dialogue.
- The campaign encourages all Indians to nominate one or more merchants who currently do not accept digital payments.
- Mastercard will work together with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), acquirer banks and fintech companies to support nominated merchants to deploy digital payments acceptance infrastructure.

#### **14. ADB & India signs \$190 million loan for projects in Rajasthan:**

- The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India has signed a \$190 Million loan. The amount will be used to upgrade 754 km of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) to benefit about 26 million people in 14 districts of Rajasthan. For the benefit of commuters and pedestrians, particularly women and children, the project provides for constructing more than 200 bus stops, 70 km of hard shoulder, and 2 km of raised sidewalk on project roads.

#### **15. GeM signs MOU with Union Bank of India**

- Government e-Marketplace signed an MoU with Union Bank of India. As per the MoU, UBI will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts, advising of Performance Bank Guarantees and Earnest Money Deposit to the registered users on the GeM portal.
- The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and will create an efficient procurement system for government entities.

### 16. NHA ties with Google to strengthen the implementation of PMJAY

- National Health Authority signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with Google to collaborate and strengthen the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- The two organizations will now work together to increase process efficiencies in day-to-day applications. Google will support NHA in improving

digital presence of PMJAY and showcasing relevant content to the 50 crore entitled beneficiaries.

- Google will also help provide training and support to NHA personnel to build on digital skills. NHA is the nodal agency for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

## September

- 1. DRDO and CUJ sign MoU to set up Kalam Centre for Science and Technology** – Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence and Central University of Jammu (CUJ) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) at the university.
- 2. India, ADB sign \$200-million loan agreement for upgrading rural roads in Maharashtra**
  - India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed 200-million dollar loan agreement for upgrading rural roads in 34 districts of Maharashtra with the objective of improving road safety and better connecting rural areas with markets and services.
- 3. Facebook bags digital content rights for ICC matches in South Asia** – The International Cricket Council has inked an agreement with Facebook, under which the social media platform will get exclusive digital content rights for select cricket matches in the Indian subcontinent including the Women's T20 World Cup 2020-22, Men's T20 World Cup 2020-21 and the Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.
- 4. DSCI, MeitY and Google India join hands for 'Digital Payment Abhiyan** – Nasscom's Data Security Council of India (DSCI) collaborated with the electronics and IT ministry (MeitY) and Google India to launch a nationwide awareness campaign 'Digital Payment Abhiyan'.
- 5. ISRO, DRDO sign MoUs to provide technologies for Human Space Mission** – The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) joined hands with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the development of human-centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate its human space flight capabilities.
- 6. Skill India sign agreement with IBM for Train-the-Trainer programme in AI** – The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the skill development and entrepreneurship ministry, has signed an agreement with IT major IBM to carry out a nationwide Train-the-Trainer programme in basic artificial intelligence.
- 7. Niti Aayog, McKinsey to launch First Digital Capability Centre** – National Institution for Transforming India (Niti Aayog) has selected McKinsey & Company to set up India's first Digital Capability Centre (DCC).
- 8. Gurugram Police ties up with tech giant Google** – The Gurugram traffic police have tied up with Google maps for real time traffic updates.
- 9. World Bank to sanction Rs 3,000 crore for food parks** – The World Bank will provide Rs 3,000 crore assistance to finance mini and mega food parks across India.
  - The announcement was made by Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries during the 15th Indo-US Economic Summit held in New Delhi.
- 10. Gujarat Govt, Delaware State of America sign MoU for sister state** – Gujarat Government and the Delaware State of America signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sister state. This is the first sister-state MoU signed by Gujarat with any state of America.
- 11. ESIC Signs an Agreement with SBI** – Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with State Bank of India for direct transfer of benefits electronically into bank accounts of all stakeholders.
- 12. IIT-Kharagpur and Amazon Web Services join hands to develop AI portal** – IIT Kharagpur has collaborated with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to develop a National Artificial Intelligence resource platform (NAIRP) to promote learning and development in artificial intelligence (AI).
- 13. UNESCO & Rajasthan partners to promote the state's intangible cultural heritage** – UNESCO and Rajasthan government partners to promote music, art and craft forms, and other intangible cultural heritage of the state to spur socio-economic growth of several artist communities.
  - It is a partnership agreement to promote community-based responsible tourism based on the rich intangible cultural heritage of Rajasthan.
  - The project will be implemented in Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts.

Note:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations based in Paris, France.
- 14. Microsoft & CBSE partners to build AI learning for schools** – Microsoft India and the Central Board of Secondary Education have partnered to build AI learning for schools.
    - They will conduct capacity building programmes for high school teachers with an aim to integrate cloud-powered technology in K12 teaching.
  - 15. Wipro bags \$300-million deal from ICICI Bank** – Wipro Limited has bagged a strategic contract valued at \$300 million from the ICICI Bank.
    - Under the contract, Wipro will offer a comprehensive suite of services to ICICI Bank for the next seven years, starting September 2019.
  - 16. Bangladesh partners with Reliance Power for gas-based power plant** – The Bangladesh government has signed an agreement with Reliance Power of India. As per the

agreement, they will set up a 750 MW gas based power plant in Meghnahat near Dhaka.

- The construction of the plant will be completed by 2022.
  - Reliance Power has also signed an MoU with Petro Bangla to set up 500 mmscfd (Million standard cubic feet per day) LNG terminal at Kutubdia Island near Chittagong in Bangladesh.
- 17. MeitY and Google signed a Sol to roll out “Build for Digital India” – Google and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** have signed a statement of intent to roll-out ‘Build for Digital India’.
    - It is a programme which will provide engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.
    - Under this program, the applicants will participate in online and offline learning opportunities on key technologies like machine learning, cloud and android.

## August

- 1. BSE and SUFI join hands to launch steel futures** – The Steel Users Federation of India has signed a MoU with the Bombay Stock Exchange to launch trading in steel futures.
- 2. ADB to provide \$200 Million loan for improving road infrastructure in Maharashtra** – Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved US \$200 million loan for Road Infrastructure Improving project in Maharashtra’s 34 districts for better connecting rural areas with markets and services.
- 3. ADB signs USD 500 million loan agreement with Pakistan** – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD 500-million loan agreement with cash-strapped Pakistan to support the country’s trade competitiveness and exports.
- 4. India signs UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements** – India signed United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation.
  - It was signed by India’s High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf, representing Government of India (GoI).
  - So far 46 countries have signed this international treaty on settlement agreements.

### About UN Convention on International Settlement Agreement (UNISA)

- It is also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation. In December 2018 UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted The United Nations Convention on

International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation.

- 5. UP Govt extends bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024** – The Uttar Pradesh government has extended bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024.
  - The previously inked MoUs sought cooperation and exchange of the knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management including restoration of water bodies and mobility planning.
- 6. OYO Hotels partners with ACKO General Insurance will launch complimentary insurance cover up to Rs.10 lakh for guests**
  - On August 12, 2019, Budget hotel chain Oyo Hotels and Homes have partnered with ACKO General Insurance to provide a complimentary insurance cover as part of the booking price for guests at its hotels across India.
- 7. Chennai City FC ties up with German company “uhlsport”** – I-League champion Chennai City FC has announced a strategic partnership with German sports goods supplier “uhlsport”.
  - The partnership aims to support a sustainable growth of football education in India.
- 8. UNIDO and NISE to partner for skill development program** – The National Institute of Solar Energy and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have signed an agreement to initiate a skill development programme for

different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.

- NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material.

**9. Rel Jio & Microsoft partners to offer cloud infrastructure for businesses** – Reliance Jio and Microsoft announced a partnership to accelerate the digital transformation in India.

- Under this deal, Microsoft will bring in the Azure Cloud on Jio Network and target the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift.

**10. India & Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum use of water resources** – India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum use of Ganges water.

- The river Ganga’s water is being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.
- Both the countries have also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for 8 rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta.

**11. Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia** -

Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).

- The deal was signed in Dhaka between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).
- Under this deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle.

**July**

**1. India, UK launch Innovating for Clean Air initiative in Bengaluru** – India and United Kingdom launched two-year joint initiative- Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka.

- It is aimed at providing unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India’s transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).

**2. President Ram Nath Kovind Visit to Benin** – President Ram Nath Kovind visited Benin at Cardinal Bernadine de Cotonou International Airport in Cotonou, the largest city in the West African country.

- This is first visit by either a head of state or head of government to three West African countries.

**Note:**

- Both countries showed commitment towards taking development partnership forward by signing of country agreement for Benin to avail various initiatives by India such as tele-medicine initiative– e-Arogyabharati and tele-education programme– e-Vidyabharati.
- India also extended free tele-education courses to over 15,000 Beninese students and tele-medicine courses to 1,000 doctors and paramedics in Africa.

**Note:**

- Benin, a French-speaking West African nation
- Porto-Novo is the capital of Benin.
- Franc is the currency of Benin.

**3. Deputy CM of Tripura, Jishnu Dev Varma announces projects worth Rs.1925 crore by ADB** - Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, Jishnu Dev Varma announced that Rs.1,925 crore worth of amount is sanctioned by the Asian

Development Bank (ADB) for power generation up-gradation and distribution projects in the state.

**4. NTPC & BHEL ink pact to set up 800 MW TDP in Sipat, Chhattisgarh** – On July 24, 2019, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) signed a pact, forming a joint venture (JV) company, to set up an 800 MW Technology Demonstration Plant (TDP) at NTPC’s existing power plant in Sipat, Chhattisgarh. It will be the world’s most efficient and environment-friendly coal-fired power plant.

**5. NITI Aayog and WhatsApp partners to promote women entrepreneurs** – A partnership between NITI Aayog and WhatsApp has been announced to support the growth of the ecosystem to promote women entrepreneurs in India under the aegis of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).

- A coffee table book was launched by WhatsApp in New Delhi named “Gateway To A Billion Opportunities” which is a collection of impactful stories from across India.

**6. WB govt will sign MoU with British Council to improve the spoken English skills** - The technical education department of West Bengal (WB) will sign an MoU (memorandum of understanding) with the British Council to improve the English- speaking skills of the students studying in Polytechnic Colleges in the state.

**7. AIIB provides \$100 million to L&T Finance arm for wind and solar infrastructure projects**

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide \$100-million loan to L&T(Larsen & Toubro) Infrastructure Finance Company(LTIF) for wind and solar infrastructure projects. This is the first time

AiIB is extending loan to a non-banking finance company(NBFC).

**8. Exim Bank signs Loan Pact worth \$124 Mn For Infra, Health Projects In Papua New Guinea, Senegal**

- The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has signed a loan agreement of providing \$124 million (over Rs 850 crore) to Papua New Guinea and Senegal governments to finance infrastructure and health care projects.

**9. India extends \$500,000 assistance to Gambia –** During the President Ram Nath Kovind’s visit to Gambia, India has promised to extend an assistance of USD 500,000 to Gambia.

- The assistance will contribute in supporting the skill development and cottage industry projects in the West African country.
- The two countries has also signed a MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

**Note:**

- President of: Adama Barrow
- Capital: Banjul.
- The **dalasi** is the currency of the Gambia.

**10. BCC signs MoU with BRICS chamber to promote trade –** The Bharat Chamber of Commerce and the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, signed an MoU for promoting trade and investments between the BRICS countries and the eastern part of India.

**Note:**

- BRICS Headquarters: Shanghai, China; President of BRICS: K V Kamath.
- Members of the BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

**11. Byju's replaces Oppo as Team India's official sponsor: BCCI**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that Bengaluru-based education and learning app Byju’s, which is owned by Think and Learn Private Limited, has replaced Oppo India as the official Team India sponsor.
- The deal period will begin from **5 September, 2019 until 31 March, 2022.**
- Byju Raveendran, founder and chief executive of Byju’s.

**12. India hands over pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar -** India handed over 250 pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar in Maung Daw for use of displaced returnees from Bangladesh.

- The Indian government had taken up the project under its Rakhine State Development Programme for \$ 25M for a period of five years.

**Note:**

- Capital of Myanmar: Naypyitaw
- Currency of Myanmar: Burmese Kyat.

**13. Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti –** The aim of Raksha Gyan Shakti is to inculcate Intellectual Property culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

- Defence Ministry has signed an MOU with the Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell and National Research Development Corporation in connection to the **mission Raksha Gyan Shakti.**
- The MoU will bridge the capacity shortfall and provide a major fillip to the ongoing efforts of the Defence Ministry towards promoting a culture of Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights in the Defence industry.

**14. Union Ministry signs MoU with Ministries of Ayush, Defence and Railways –** Union Health Ministry has signed an MoU with Ministries of Ayush, Defence and Railways to strengthen the efforts towards a TB-Free India by 2025.

- Around 28 lakh people contract the disease every year in the country and four lakh people die every year.

**15. Sri Lanka signs agreement with India to upgrade railway lines –** Sri Lanka has signed an agreement with India to upgrade tracks in a key railway segment connecting the north and south at a cost of \$ 91.26 million.

- This is the first time in 100 years that the 130 km-long-tracks, running from Maho town in the North Western Province to Omanthai in the Northern Province, are being upgraded.
- The contract agreement for concessional financing was signed in Colombo between the Government of Sri Lanka and IRCON International Ltd (India).

**16. India, Italy to set up fast-track mechanism –** India and Italy have decided to set up a fast track mechanism to facilitate investors and companies.

- The meeting was attended by Ambassador of Italy to India, Lorenzo Angeloni and Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ramesh Abhishek.

**17. OYO Hotels & Homes acquires co-working firm Innov8 –**

- OYO Hotels & Homes has formally announced its acquisition of co-working venture Innov8. OYO will operate the firm Innov8 as an independent brand, and along-side its existing co-working operations.

18. **Israel Aerospace signs \$50 million deal with Indian navy** – Israel Aerospace signs \$50 million follow-up deal with Indian navy.
  - Under the deal, Israel Aerospace Industries will provide complementary missile systems to the Indian navy and India’s MDL Shipyard.
  - The agreement also involves a range of maintenance and other services for sub-systems of Israel Aerospace’s naval medium range surface-to-air missile.
19. **Reliance Jio ties up with Facebook for ‘Digital Udaan’** – Reliance Jio ties up with Facebook for digital literacy initiative ‘Digital Udaan’. The initiative will have audio-visual training in 10 regional languages.
20. **ISRO ties up with Russian agency to select, train Indian astronauts** – Indian Space Research Organisation has signed a contract with Russia’s **Glavkosmos** for selection support, medical examination and space training of Indian astronauts.
  - ISRO has planned to send two unmanned missions before the mission ‘Gaganyaan-1’.
21. **Govt ropes in IBM for a pilot study on using AI, weather tech in agriculture** – The Centre on 03rd July 2019 inked pact with IBM India for undertaking a pilot study to utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and weather technology solutions in agriculture in one district each in three states.
  - The pilot study will be conducted for the Kharif crop season 2019 in three districts - Bhopal, Rajkot and Nanded - in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, respectively.
22. **Hong Kong to provide over \$9 million aid for Cyclone Fani victims** - The Hong Kong government has approved over \$900,000 for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Odisha that could benefit around 45,100 victims.
  - Cyclone Fani, an extremely severe cyclonic storm, made a landfall in Odisha’s Puri in May 2019.
23. **India sign Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka** – India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF).
24. **MoU between India and Maldives** in the Health Sector.
25. **Cabinet approves India-Maldives MoU for passenger, cargo services** – The Union Cabinet has approved the pact signed between India and Maldives to start passenger and cargo services via sea route. The MoU will pave way for ferry services between Maldives and India.
26. **SBI, NIIIF in pact for funding infrastructure projects** – The State Bank of India has signed a memorandum of understanding with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects.
27. **Airtel Payments Bank to sell Bharti AXA Life’s term insurance** – Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer a life term insurance plan.
  - The product, Bharti AXA Life (Point of Sale) Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana, is a pure life term insurance plan which is aimed at the under insured and uninsured segments in India.

## June

1. **First Resilient Kerala Program** – The Government of Kerala and the World Bank have signed the Loan Agreement of **USD 250 million** for the First Resilient Kerala Program.
  - The New Program is part of ‘Rebuild Kerala Development Programme’ aimed at building a green and resilient Kerala.
2. **India signs USD 400M loan agreement with World Bank to eliminate TB by 2025**– India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.
  - The World Bank supported program will cover nine States and it will support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025.
3. **Max Bupa partners with MobiKwik for health insurance** – Max Bupa partners with fintech platform MobiKwik to promote bite sized group health insurance products for MobiKwik’s 107 million customers across the country.
4. **NTPC, PGCIL ink MoU to enter national electricity distribution business** – National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited have signed an agreement to set up National Electricity Distribution Company Ltd.
  - NEDCL will be a joint venture company on 50:50 equity basis.
  - The main aim of the initiative is to enter the electricity distribution business on a pan India basis.
5. **India signs \$250 million World Bank loan** to develop Rajasthan’s Roads and Highways.
6. **India & World Bank signed a loan agreement worth of \$328 million** for improving health services of Andhra Pradesh.
7. **World Bank commits \$31.58 mn loan** for Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project



8. **Tech Mahindra signed a contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering** - Tech Mahindra, an information technology firm, entered into a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.
  - The contract is aimed to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.
9. **Airbnb has invested \$100mn in Indian hotel startup OYO** - Airbnb has invested \$100 million in hospitality chain
  - Oyo Hotels & Homes, making it the third successive strategic investor to buy a stake in the Gurgaon-based company.
  - Airbnb, Inc. is an American online marketplace and hospitality service brokerage company based in San Francisco, California, United States. Members can use the service to arrange or offer lodging, primarily homestays, or tourism experiences.
  - As part of the deal, Oyo is also likely to list its properties on the San Francisco-headquartered company's platform.
10. **India scrapped \$500 mn arms deal with Israel** - India scrapped \$500 million arms deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
11. **Maruti Suzuki inks partnership with BOB for dealer financing** - Automobile manufacturer in India, Maruti Suzuki signed 'Preferred Financier' MoU (Memorandum of understanding) with public sector Bank, Bank of Baroda (BOB) to improve credit for dealership inventory financing.
12. **World Bank approves \$147 Million Loan to the Government of Jharkhand** – The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed a \$147 Million Loan Agreement.
  - Jharkhand will invest the amount to provide urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage and urban road.
13. **India & Portugal to set up National Maritime Heritage Museum** - India and Portugal will cooperate in setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat.
  - Lothal (literally means the mound of dead) was one of port cities of Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Civilization).
  - The proposed maritime museum in Indian is likely to come up on lines of similar museum at Lisbon, which is administered by Portuguese Navy.
14. **DD India to be available in Bangladesh, South Korea**
  - The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry said that India has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to make DD (Doordarshan) India available to viewers in the two countries respectively.
    - Under this agreement, Bangladesh's BTV World and South Korea's KBS World will also be made available on DD Free Dish, which has nearly 35 million subscribers across the country.
15. **India extends \$15 Million assistance to Niger for holding AU summit** – India has for the first time extended \$15 Million financial support to Niger as a support for organising African Union (AU) summit scheduled to be held in 7-8 July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger).
  - This will be the 1st time that Niger will be hosting an AU summit.
  - India is also establishing the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey under grant assistance.
  - African Union (AU), international organization established in 2002 by the nations of the former Organization of African Unity (OAU).
  - There are 54-member nations; the only African country that is not a member is Morocco.
  - The AU's headquarters are at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
16. India extended a financial aid of 1.6 billion Nepalese Rupees (NPR) to Nepal government for rebuilding earthquake-hit houses in two district that were most hit.
17. **ICANN partners NASSCOM to develop tech, standards for IoT devices** – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Indian IT industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) collaborated to develop identifier technology to manage devices and infrastructure using internet.
18. **Tamil Nadu gets \$287 million World Bank Loan for Healthcare Reform** – The Centre, the Tamil Nadu Government and the World Bank have signed a \$287-million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP).
19. **IndianOil, BPCL And HPCL Ink JV For Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline Project** – IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had signed a joint venture in New Delhi for Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline Project.
  - They will be laying the world's longest LPG pipeline from Kandla (Gujarat) to Gorakhpur (UP).
20. **Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered a Tripartite Agreement with French Railways** (SNCF) & AFD, a French Agency which will finance up to 7,00,000 EURO, through French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC to

support the Railway Station Development Program in India, so there will be no financial liability on IRSDC or Indian Railways.

## Reports/Survey

### December

- 1. UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) 2019:**
  - The United Nations Development Programme released the Human Development Index for 189 countries on December 9, 2019.
  - India was **ranked 129** out of 189 countries on the 2019 Human Development Index (HDI) improving from the 130th position in 2018.
  - HDI is part of the Human Development Report that is published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
  - HDI emphasizes that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.
  - **Norway, Switzerland, Ireland** occupied the top three positions in that order in the Human Development Index 2019.
- 2. India among top 10 countries with higher climate performance**
  - The 2019 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) has been presented at the ongoing COP25 climate summit in Madrid, Spain.
  - For the first time, India has emerged among the top 10 countries with higher climate performance.
  - India has been ranked at 9th spot in the index for its Climate Policy performance among 57 countries and the European Union.
  - However, the first three places of the ranking remain unoccupied, Sweden (4th) and Denmark (5th).
- 3. SIPRI Report: Arms sales increased by 5% in 2018**
  - As per the report published by the 'Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)', arms sales rose by 5% throughout the world in 2018.
  - The report said that the turnover of 100 biggest arms manufacturers came to 420 billion USD.
  - Amongst arms manufacturers, US manufacturers accounted for 59% of global weapon market.
  - Next to the US, Russia ranked second in arms production contributing 8.6% of the weapon market.
- UK and France ranked third and fourth contributing 8.4% and 5.5% respectively.
- 4. Global Climate Risk Index 2020**
  - The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' has recently released the Global Climate Risk Index 2019.
  - The index analyses the extent to which countries and regions have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)
  - As per the report Japan to be the most vulnerable country to climate change, followed by Philippines, Germany, Madagascar and India.
  - Globally India is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change. India also recorded highest number of fatalities due to climate change and 2nd highest monetary losses from its impact in 2018.
- 5. Delhi enters list of top 10 most popular destinations in the world**
  - The National Capital has been witnessing soaring popularity and wellness tourism across the world.
  - According to Euro Monitor International, Delhi currently ranks 11th in the list of world's top 100 destinations and is to gain 8th rank in 2019.
  - The ranking was released by the organization on December 3, 2019 under the title "Top 100 city destination ranking"
- 6. Skymet Report: Kharif crop production to dip by 12%**
  - On December 3, 2019, a private weather monitoring company, Skymet released a report on Kharif Crop outlook.
  - According to the report, barring cotton the Kharif crops are expected to witness a drop-in production by 4.5% to 12% as compared to 2018-19.
  - Several crops such as groundnut, soybean, cotton, tur and urad were adversely affected all over the country and especially in Maharashtra.

### November

- 1. UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2019**

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released 'Emissions Gap Report-2019'
- The report warns that the Earth's average temperature may rise by 3.2 degrees Celsius by 2100.
- Moreover, despite all scientific warnings and political commitments emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) couldn't decrease globally.
- The report was released prior to United Nations Climate Conference (COP-25) to be held in Spain from 2 December 2019.
- It states that GHG emissions have increased by 1.5% since last decade and that carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions have reached an all-time high figure of 55.3 gigatons.

## 2. India Corruption Survey 2019

- India Corruption Survey 2019 was carried out by Local Circles, a social media firm and the Transparency International India.
- As per the survey, Rajasthan and Bihar fared the worst in country with 78% and 75% of respondents admitting to paying bribes, while Telangana topped the list in south India.
- As compared to 2018, India's overall ranking in Corruption Perception Index has risen 3 places to 78 out of 180 countries.

## 3. Global Diplomacy Index 2019

- The 2019 Global Diplomacy Index was released by Sydney-based Lowy Institute. The index gives the latest statistics and marking about how the world's diplomatic networks are expanding and, in certain cases, shrinking. The index ranked 61 countries across the world.
- China now has more diplomatic posts across the world than United States in 2019. China has overtaken United States with 276 embassies and consulates worldwide, which is 3 more than US (both countries have an equal number of embassies but China has 3 more consulates). This signifies a marker of its growing international clout and ambition.

## 4. CRY Report on Crime against Children in India

- The Child Rights and You recently released a report "How Vulnerable are Children in India to crime?" The report was based on the analysis of National Crime Records Bureau for 2016-17.

## 1. 300 mn Indians lifted above the poverty line in the last 14 years: NITI Aayog

- According to the NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, as many as 300 million Indians were lifted above the poverty line between 2004 and 2018.

- The report says that the states of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh topped the list of states for crimes against children. There were over 19,000 cases in both the states.

## 5. NSO Survey on Household Health Expenditure

- The National Statistical Office on November 23, 2019 released its survey on Household Social Consumption related to health.
- The survey was conducted between July 2017 and June 2018. It was a part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey.
- The main objective of the survey was to collect data on expenditure on medicines, expenditure in hospitalization, investigation, expenditure, maternity, childbirth, etc.
- The data for the survey was collected from 1.13,823 households

## 6. NSS releases report on disability

- The National Statistical Office conducted survey of Persons with disabilities in the country between the period July 2018 and December 2018.
- The main objective of the survey is to estimate indicators of incidence and prevalence of disability, facilities available to persons with disability, age at onset of disability, arrangement of regular care giver, difficulties faced by the persons with disabilities, out of pocket expenses.
- The survey carried out in the year 2018 was the 76th round. It included all the disabilities that were included in The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

## 7. NSO report: Rural India yet to become Open Defecation Free

- The NSO under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation conducted survey on drinking water, hygiene, sanitation and housing condition between the period July 2018 and December 2018.
- According to the survey one fourth of the households had no access to toilets.
- The main objective of this survey was to gather information about sanitation along with housing facilities available to the households and micro environment surrounding the houses.
- The survey is important as the GoI is currently working on a set target of Drinking Water for all by 2024.

## October

### 2.

## 3. India has the second-highest number of Internet users after China –

- According to a report by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), India has the second-highest number of internet users after China.
- As per the report, India has 451 million monthly active internet users at the end of the financial year 2019.

**4. Indian diaspora largest in the world at 17.5 million: UN Report**

- India was the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora.
- Migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million).
- In India, the highest number of international migrants came from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.
- The International Migrant Stock 2019 was released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).
- The report provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.

**5. National Nutrition Survey – The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized first National Nutrition Survey.**

- The ministry took help from **UNICEF** to complete the survey.
- The survey was conducted between 2016 and 2018.

**Key points –**

- Around 10% of children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and adolescents in the age group 10 to 19 years are pre – diabetic. 5% of them were overweight and 5% suffered from blood pressure.
- Tamil Nadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.

**6. Mukesh Ambani richest Indian with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore: Report**

- According to the latest IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, Reliance Industries' Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the list of richest Indians for the eighth consecutive year, with a net worth of Rs 3,80,700 crore.
- The second spot was retained by the London-based SP Hinduja & family, with assets worth Rs 1,86,500 crore which is followed by Wipro founder Azim Premji at the third place with a wealth of Rs 1,17,100 crore.

**7. Global Nutrition Report, 2018 – The Global Nutrition Report 2018, prepared by WHO, states that India is home to 46.6 million stunted children out of 150.8 million stunted children all over the world.**

The report also says that

- Out of 50.5 million children who are wasted globally, 25.5 million are in India.
- India is the third most obese nation in the world. WHO states India as Diabetes capital with 69.2 million suffering from diabetes.

**8. Mumbai most preferred city for co-living in India: Knight Frank**

- According to the report of property consultant Knight Frank Mumbai ranks 5th among 20 cities in the Asia Pacific that can emerge as a co-living destination.
- Whereas, India capital city New Delhi ranked at 11th and Bengaluru at 19th rank in the list, according to Knight Frank's report 'Insights on Co-living: An Asia-Pacific Perspective.'
- **Beijing, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong** are the top four cities in the list.

**9. Earth has lost 53% of its Wildlife since 1970: WWF Report**

- According to the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity, "Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations" by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the number of forest wildlife populations have declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.
- The report has been produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) & The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) co-led the analysis and modelling for this report.

**10. MSME Pulse Report: Gujarat tops –**

- According to TransUnion Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) – Small Industries Development Bank of India's (SIDBI) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Pulse Report, Gujarat was ranked first in terms of performance and credit growth potential for MSME Corporate Lending in India.
- It has maintained the top position since the past 4 years. MSME corporate entities are borrowers with aggregate credit exposure of up to Rs 50 crore. The market size of this category is Rs 17.6 lakh crore as of March 31, 2019.

- Gujarat was followed by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Delhi. Maharashtra, one among the most industrialized states, was ranked 9th.

#### 11. "Tata" becomes India's most valuable brand for 2019:

##### Brand Finance India 100 2019 report

- According to the London-based consultancy Brand Finance annual report, "Brand Finance India 100 2019", "Tata" has become India's most valuable brand for the second straight year in 2019 with the brand value of \$19.6 billion followed by LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) (2nd )with \$7.3 billion and Infosys (3rd )\$6.5 billion.

#### 12. UN Report: Over 820 million people suffering from hunger

- A UN report has said, more **than 821 million people** suffered from hunger worldwide last year. It is the third year in a row that the number has risen.
- The report named, 'The **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**', produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies, including WHO, was released.
- The report is part of tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goal to Zero Hunger, which aims to end hunger, promote food security and end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Number of hungry people in the world in 2018: 821.6 million (or 1 in 9 people)

- Asia: 513.9 million.
- Africa: 256.1million.
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 42.5 million.

#### 13. India stays lower-middle-income nation while Sri Lanka gets richer: World Bank Report

- According to the World Bank's classification of countries by income levels, released on July 1, 2019, India continues to be a lower-middle-income country along with 46 others, while Sri Lanka has climbed to the upper-middle-income group for the fiscal year (FY) 2020.
- India became a lower-middle-income nation from low-income in FY 2009.
- Sri Lanka entered the lower-middle-income group in FY 1999, from the low-income category and continued for over two decades, before moving to the upper-middle-income group this year.
- The World Bank classifies economies based on gross national income (GNI) per capita (current US\$) calculated using what is **called the Atlas method**.

- Argentina is the only country that slipped from the high-income to upper-middle-income group.

#### Classifications are determined:

- A country's GNI per capita, which can change with economic growth, inflation, exchange rates, and population. Revisions to national accounts methods and data can also influence GNI per capita.

#### 14. WHO has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health –

- As per an estimate by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers.
- Currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.
- The International Self Care Day (ISD) is observed annually on July 24.

#### 15. 75% of children with disabilities don't attend schools in India: UNESCO - The 2019 "State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities" took into account the 2011 census, according to which there are 78,64,636 children with disability in India constituting 1.7 percent of the total child population.

##### Key points of the report -

- India is home to **8 million** children with disabilities.
- Nearly 75% of 5 year olds who have certain disabilities, do not go to any educational institution.
- There are more than 78 lakh children aged under 19 lived with disabilities.
- **Three-fourths** of the children with disabilities at the age of five years and **one-fourth** between 5-19 years do not go to any educational institution.
- SDG: The report is in sync with the **Sustainable Development Goal 4(SDG)** which aims to ensure **"inclusive and equitable quality education"**.
- The report was commissioned by UNESCO and was prepared by the Tata Institute of Social Science.

#### 16. World Food Programme (WFP) report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) – The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that **31.4% of Indian** children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

##### Key Highlights:

- The stunting in children under 5years of age is the highest in Bihar (48%), Uttar Pradesh (46%), Jharkhand (45%), and Meghalaya (44%).
- Only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each) are stunted.

- Reduction: Stunting in children in India under the age of five has reduced at a rate of about 1% per year in the last decade.
- India must double its rate of progress to reach the target of 25% by 2022 set by the National Nutrition Mission.

#### About Stunting:

- Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

**17. WHO - E-2020 initiative: 2019 progress report** – According to the World Health Organization (WHO) - four countries from Asia — **China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste** — and one from **Central America** — **El Salvador** — reported no indigenous cases of malaria in 2018.

Note:

- Earlier in May 2019, the WHO declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free. The last case of indigenous malaria was reported from Algeria in 2013 and Argentina in 2010.
- Algeria became the second E-2020 country to achieve certification, after Paraguay was certified malaria-free by WHO last year.

**18. Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey** –

- Mumbai was considered as India's most expensive city.
- Costliest city in the world **was Hong Kong** for the second consecutive year.
- It was followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.
- iLeast Expensive Cities: The world's least expensive cities for expatriates were Tunis (209), Tashkent (208), and Karachi (207).
- Indian Cities: Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked 67th position.
- New Delhi stood at 118th place, Chennai was ranked 154th position, Bengaluru at 179th position and Kolkata at 189th place.

**19. India to cross China's population by 2027: United Nations**

- As per a United Nations report, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050.

#### Key highlights of the report

- India is expected to add nearly **273 million people between 2019 and 2050** and remain the most populated country through the end of the current century.

- China, with 1.43 billion people in 2019, and India, with 1.37 billion, have long been the two most populous countries of the world,

#### World Population

- The UN report 'The World Population Prospects 2019' added that the world's population is expected to increase by two billion people in the next 30 years -- from **7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion** in 2050.

#### Population Growing Older

- **By 2050**, one in six people in the world will be over age **65 (16 per cent)**, up from one in 11 in 2019 (9 per cent).
- The number of persons aged 80 years or over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.

#### Average life expectancy

- The report also projected people would survive longer in the future, with global average life expectancy expected to reach 77.1 years in 2050 against 72.6 years currently.
- In 1990, the average life expectancy worldwide was 64.2 years.

**20. At 9.8 GB per month, India has the highest data usage per smartphone**

- According to a new study by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson, India has the highest average data usage per smartphone, reaching 9.8 GB per month at the end of 2018.
- The report, released on 19<sup>th</sup> June, also forecasts that this figure is likely to double to 18 GB per month per smartphone by 2024.
- The 'Ericsson Mobility Report' added that total smartphone subscriptions in the region is likely to reach 1.1 billion by 2024, growing at 11% CAGR.
- The total mobile broadband subscriptions in India are expected to grow from about 610 million in 2018 to 1.25 billion in 2024.

**21. Dell has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019: TRA**

- According to a report released by brand analytics firm TRA Research, "Dell" has emerged as the most trusted brand in India in 2019.
- IC and Amazon are ranked on the third and fourth spots and Apple iPhone emerged as India's fifth most trusted brand.

**22. Amazon top global brand: 100 Top BrandZ report**

- According to global market research agency Kantar in its 2019's '100 Top BrandZ Report', US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple

and Google to become the world's most valuable brand.

- The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, hence jumping from third to first place to replace Google.

### 23. Arunachal has highest 35% of India's Graphite Deposits: GSI Report

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves are found in Arunachal Pradesh. This is the highest found in the country.

### 24. BPRD releases "Data on Police Organizations (DoPO 2018)"

- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy has released the Bureau of Police Research and Development's flagship publication "Data on Police Organizations" (DoPO 2018) in New Delhi.
- There has been an increase of 19,686 Police personnel in the sanctioned strength of the State Police and 16,051 in the strength of CAPFs
- There has been 20.95% increase in the strength of Woman Police which brings the total percentage of women in the Indian Police to 8.73%.
- The overall Police Population Ratio at the state level stood at 192.95 policemen per lakh population.
- Police Stations have increased from 15579 to 16422. This includes Cyber Police Stations whose number has risen from 84 to 120.
- Electronic surveillance has improved with addition of 2,10,278 CCTV Cameras.

### 25. NCRB releases Crime in India Report 2017

- National Crime Records Bureau has released the annual "Crime in India Report 2017" after a delay of 2 years.
- 3.59 lakh cases of crime against women were reported in the country. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra with 31,979 cases and West Bengal 30,002 in cases of crime against women.
- Majority of cases under crimes against women were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives' (27.9%) followed by 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (21.7%), 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (20.5%) and 'Rape' (7.0%).
- The NCRB report also cited 58,880 incidents of rioting in 2017. Maximum incidents of rioting were

reported from Bihar (11,698), followed by Uttar Pradesh (8,990) and Maharashtra (7,743).

- The incidents registered under the Scheduled Caste Prevention of Atrocities Act saw an increase from 5,082 incidents reported in 2016 to 5,775 in 2017.
- Incidents of crime related to Scheduled Tribes dipped from 844 in 2016 to 720 in 2017.

### 26. Narendra Modi becomes most followed leader on Instagram:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the most-followed elected world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram.
- He is ahead of US President Donald Trump, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and former president Barack Obama.
- With 30 million followers, PM Modi leads the list of world leaders on Instagram, with Joko Widodo coming in a close second with 25.6 million followers on the popular app.
- Barack Obama comes in third with 24.8 million followers while, Donald Trump, trails behind with 14.9 million followers.

### 27. Forbes India Rich List 2019

- The US business magazine Forbes has released "The Forbes India Rich List 2019" which has been topped by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani with net worth of \$51.4 billion.
- Industrialist Gautam Adani jumped 8 spots on the list to become the 2nd richest Indian with net worth of \$15.7 billion.
- Hinduja Brothers, Pallonji Mistry and Uday Kotak are at 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> position respectively with net worth of \$15.6 billion, \$15 billion and \$14.8 billion

### 28. 2019 Global Report on Food Crises –

- The report is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key points –

- More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced "acute hunger" last year because of wars and climate disasters, with Africa the worst-hit region.
- Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Syria were among the eight nations accounting for two-thirds of the total number of people worldwide exposed to the risk of famine.
- African Nations were "disproportionally" affected as close to 72 million people on the continent suffered acute hunger.

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Founded: 16 October 1945

## Government Schemes

### December

#### 1. **Draj Bridge for all-weather connectivity inaugurated in Rajouri (J&K)**

**Note:** Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu, inaugurated all weather Draj Bridge in Rajouri, J&K. It is an important bridge for the military as well as for socio-economic development of J&K's Rajouri District as a whole. It is a 72-metre-long Multi Cell Box Type Load Class 70 bridge.

#### 2. **GoI Notified that only Aadhar authenticated bank accounts to get PM-Kisan payments**

**Note:** Union Government has notified that the fourth instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) income support scheme due in December 2019 will be transferred only to Aadhar-authenticated bank accounts of more than 50 million beneficiaries. This will be the first time since the launch of this scheme on 24 February 2019, that the government is insisting on mandatory condition of Aadhar seeding.

#### 3. **100 days of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana**

**Note:** The National programme driven by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY), completed 100 days under Ministry of Tribal Affairs on December 7, 2019. The programme aims at empowering the tribal community.

#### 4. **Fourth Phase of UDAN scheme launched**

**Note:** The Union Government of India has launched the fourth round of UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) to enhance the connectivity to regional areas of the country. This phase is to focus on Hilly states, North East Region, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir and Islands.

#### 5. **Bharatiya Poshan Anthem launched by Vice President M Venkaiah**

**Note:** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the 'Bharatiya Poshan Anthem' in New Delhi, which aims towards taking message of making India malnutrition free to all corners of country. While launching, Vice president hoped that the 'poshan anthem' will lead to a nutrition revolution to transform India into a malnutrition-free country by 2022. The anthem was conceptualised by Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and has been penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.

#### 6. **Intensified Mission Indra Dhanush 2.0 begins**

**Note:** Government has launched its flagship scheme 'Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0' to focus on full immunization coverage of 272 districts spread over 27 states and 652 blocks of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar among hard-to-reach and tribal populations. The Mission Indradhanush 2.0 will be carried out between December 2019 and March 2020.

### November

#### 1. **HRD Ministry launches Kartavya Portal:** On the occasion of 70th Constitution Day also known as Samvidhan Divas observed on 26 November 2019, Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the [kartavya.ugc.ac.in](http://kartavya.ugc.ac.in) portal for holding monthly essay competitions for students. The portal was launched as part of year-long 'Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan' being observed throughout the country.

#### 2. **Food Processing Scheme: 271 crores cleared by IMAC:**

**Note:** The Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee chaired by Minister of Food Processing Shri Harsimrat Kaur has sanctioned Rs 271 crores for the CEFPPC scheme (Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities) scheme. The focus was given to projects that

emphasized on linking agriculture and marketing food processing technologies.

#### 3. **CLAP: Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awaz Portal launched by government**

**Note:** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched the Credit Link Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) Awaz Portal (CLAP). Along with portal, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA) also launched Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)-India to accomplish 'Housing for All Mission'. MHUA also signed agreements with certain state governments for the construction of LightHouse projects under GHTC-India.

#### 4. **J&K achieves highest road length in country under PMGSY in 2019**



**Note:** During the current fiscal year so far, the Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in country under Centre's rural roads' programme of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It is a centrally-sponsored scheme under the Union Ministry of Rural Development. This significant accomplishment involves completion of around 11,400 kilometres of different road projects covering 1,838 habitations against the total sanctioned length of 19,700 kilometres against sanctioned 2,214 habitations.

## 5. Assam Government to launch Arundhati Swarna Yojana

**Note:** Assam Government has announced to launch 'Arundhati Swarna Yojana' on 1 January 2020. Under this scheme, state government will give each beneficiary bride fixed amount to buy 10 grams (one tola) of gold during her marriage if the marriage is registered. Under this scheme, State government will not give the gold directly to beneficiary bride but will provide Rs. 30,000 to purchase 10 gms of gold. The scheme will cost around Rs 800 crore annually on the state government exchequer.

### October

- 1. Faceless e-Assessment scheme launched by the Income Tax Department** – On 07th October, the Income-Tax Department launched a faceless e-assessment scheme to eliminate interface between an assessing officer and a taxpayer.
  - The scheme was launched by the Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey in New Delhi.
  - With the launch of the scheme, the Income Tax Department begin with, 58,322 cases for the faceless e-Assessment scheme.
  - The National e-Assessment Center (NeAC) will facilitate the faceless e-assessment scheme across the country and benefit taxpayers.
- 2. 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme launched by the Delhi Government** – On 07th October Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Farishtey Dilli Ke' scheme to honour good samaritans who take accident victims to the hospital.

- 3. YSR Vahana Mitra scheme launched by Andhra Pradesh state** – The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

- The scheme will provide Rs.10,000 allowance to self-employed drivers of the state.

#### About YSR Vahana Mitra Scheme

- Under the scheme an allowance of Rs.10000 would be given every year to the beneficiaries.
- It will provide Rs.50,000 to self-employed drivers in 5 years.

- 4. 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children** - On the occasion of 150th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and UNICEF India, including Generation Unlimited, launched 'The Gandhian Challenge' for school children.

- This innovation challenge provides a platform for every child across India to ideate innovative solutions for a sustainable India of their dreams, using Gandhi's principles.

### September

- 1. Government launches UMMID initiative** – To tackle the menace of genetic diseases in newborn babies.
    - This initiative was launched by Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- Key points –
- **UMMID** stands for - The Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders.
  - **Aim** - to tackle inherited genetic diseases of newborn babies.

**National Inherited Diseases Administration (NIDAN)** – The NIDAN kendras are to be established under the UMMID initiative. These centres will provide counselling, prenatal testing / diagnosis and management in government hospitals of the country.

- 2. Haryana launches two insurance schemes for traders** – The State government of Haryana has launched two insurance schemes for registered small and medium traders. Traders registered under the Haryana Goods and Service Tax (HGST) Act, 2017 would be covered under these schemes.

**(i) "Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana"** – An insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh would be provided under this scheme.

**(ii) Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana** – An insurance cover ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh would be provided under this scheme.

- 3. 'Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana' launched in Uttarakhand** – 'Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana' launched in Uttarakhand. The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

- **Aim** - Yojana' to provide state ration card holders two kilograms of two different varieties of pulses available at prices much lower than the market rate.
- Under the scheme State government will offer a subsidy of Rs.15 per kilogram on variety of pulses identified, including chana, malika and masur.
- Each eligible beneficiary and ration card holders in state will get 2 kgs of pulses at subsidised rates every month under the scheme.

**4. Assam Govt launches "Aponar Apon Ghar" scheme** – The Assam Government has launched a housing loan subsidy scheme "Aponar Apon Ghar".

- The scheme was launched to provide financial assistance on purchase or construction of the first house for a family.
- The subsidy of up to Rs 250000 will be provided for loan amounts from Rs 5,00,000 to Rs 40,00,000.

**5. Scheme "Nirvik" to ease the lending process** – Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme called NIRVIK.

- Under the new scheme NIRVIK, up to 90 per cent of the principal amount and interest will be covered through insurance.

**6. PM Narendra Modi launches National Animal Disease Control Programme** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura.

**Key points** –

- The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 Million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against foot and mouth disease.
- The programme also aims at vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against Brucellosis disease.
- The government will fund the programme for Rs 12,652 crore for a period of 5 years till 2024.
- The programme has two components; to control the diseases by 2025 and eradication by 2030.

**7. PM Modi launched 3 schemes launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand**

**(i) 'Kisan Maan-dhan Yojana', pension scheme for small and marginal farmers** – Prime Minister Narendra

Modi launched 'Kisan Maan-dhan Yojana' or PM-KMY in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

**Key points of the scheme** –

- **Minimum pension** - Under this scheme, small and marginal farmers, who have attained the age of 60, will get a minimum pension of **Rs 3,000 per month**.
- **Age limit** - All small and marginal farmers, who are currently aged between **18 and 40 years**, are eligible to avail the benefits.
- **Outlay of the scheme** - The scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,774 crore for the next three years.
- **Monthly contribution** - The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs 55 to Rs 200, depending on their age of entry in the pension fund till they reach the retirement date.

**(ii) Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyaparik Mandhan Yojana** - For small traders and shopkeepers -

- **Minimum pension** - Under this scheme, small and marginal farmers, who have attained the age of 60, will get a minimum pension of **Rs 3,000 per month**.
- **Age limit** - All small and marginal farmers, who are currently aged between **18 and 40 years**, are eligible to avail the benefits.
- Government has earmarked **Rs 750 crore** for the scheme in the Union Budget 2019-20.
- The benefit of the scheme will be available to all those businesses whose annual turnover under GST is less than **Rs 1.5 crore**.

**(iii) Ekalavya Model residential schools** - The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of 462 Eklavya Model Residential Schools online in tribal areas.

- In this, 69 Eklavya schools are being opened in 13 districts of Jharkhand.
- Each school will have 480 tribal students. The students will be trained in four different sports.

**8. Ayushman Bharat scheme completes one year of its launch** – Ayushman Bharat - the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has completed one year of its launch on 23rd September 2019.

- Indu Bhushan is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre's ambitious Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM).

Note:

- On 23rd September 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the scheme from Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- The scheme is renamed as PM Jan Arogya Yojana.
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, popularly known as Ayushman Bharat, looks to provide cashless hospitalisation for 1,354 procedures to 10 crore poor families for Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- The Indian insurance regulator has partnered with the National Health Authority to study the prime minister's health insurance scheme (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) and suggest measures to streamline its implementation.
- Union Minister re-Launched the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) web portal during the 2-day workshop on 'Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Delayed Payment of MSMEs' held at New Delhi.
- During the course of workshop Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) was also signed by office of Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME with 11 Nodal Banks.
- It provides 15% subsidy for additional investment up to Rs.1cr. for technology upgradation by MSMEs in the specified 51 sub-sectors.
- Now in relaunched scheme there is an additional 10% subsidy to SC-ST entrepreneurs while special provisions have been made for 117 'aspirational' districts, northeastern region and hill states.

- 9. National Artificial Insemination Programme** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme at Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Aim – To eradicate **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis in the livestock.**
  - The programme 100% funding from Central Government, of Rs.12,652 Crores for a period of 5 years till 2024.

- 10. Govt. launches updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme** – Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari launched the updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) to allow micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) access to capital.

- 11. SATHI: IIT Kharagpur to assist academic institutes in neighbouring region** – Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has been selected for setting up a **Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI)**, a Department of Science and Technology (DST) initiative of Centre.
- Centre has allotted an amount of Rs.125 crore over a period of financial years (starting from 2019-20) for the purpose.
  - SATHI is a state-of-the-art, professionally managed science and technology infrastructure facility. Its primary objective will be to extend help to academic institutes in neighbouring regions.

## August

- 1. Punjab govt. launches 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' health insurance scheme** – State government of Punjab launched a mega health insurance scheme title 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' (MGSSBY) for poor by clubbing Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) plan with its own.
- The PMJAY was unveiled in September 2018 by the Centre and kept on hold so far by Punjab government.
  - The scheme was launched by Punjab's Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to mark 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
  - With launch of this scheme, Punjab has become 1st state to offer medical insurance for such a large proportion of its population.

- It incorporates Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Centre's health insurance scheme for poor.
- By clubbing Centre's Ayushman Bharat plan with its MGSSBY, it is expected to benefit 46 lakh families covering 76% of state's population.

**Insurance Coverage:** Like PMJAY, this Punjab government's scheme will also provide cashless health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh/year.

- 2. PM announces Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme for households** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households.
- The announcement was made during his 6th Independence Day (August 15) address from Red Fort.

### About Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana

**Concerned Authority:** Under Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

**Objective:** It seeks to converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across India.

**3. Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana** – Vice President launches Jharkhand government’s financial assistance program for its farmers

- Under the Jharkhand state’s scheme, Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana launched by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, farmers/ beneficiaries having farmlands of less than 1 acre to 5 acres will be provided financial assistance of Rs5,000-25,000. The launching ceremony was held in 23 districts apart from Ranchi.
- This scheme would benefit approximately 35 lakh farmers and by september/october this year. The outlay is Rs 3000 crore.
- This scheme is apart from the benefits that the farmers are getting under Pratan Mantri Kisan yojana.

**4. SAMARTH Scheme: 16 states ink MoU with Textiles**

**Ministry** – 16 states out of 18 selected states have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Ministry of Textiles for skilling about 4 lakh workers as part of Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH).

- 16 states that have signed MoUs include Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Karnataka, Manipur, Haryana, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha earlier had agreed to be on board, but did not sign MoU.

**Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH)**

- It is skill development scheme of Union Ministry of Textiles, covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in December 2017.

**5. Government of Odisha launched Small Savings Incentive**

**Scheme** – Odisha government unveiled the ‘Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme’ for the calendar year 2019 under the notation “AQ” series. The aim of the scheme is to stop people from transacting with ‘suspicious’ non-banking private financial institutions.

**6. Union HRD Minister to launch ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive** – Union HRD Minister will launch ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.

- So that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens of our nation.

Five Major Objectives of the scheme -

- To educate students learn about conservation of water.
- To sensitize students about the impact of scarcity of water.
- To empower students to learn to protect the natural sources of water.
- To help every Student to save at least one litre of water per day.
- To encourage Students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level.

Target under the drive -

- 1 Student – 1 Day – Save One Litre Water
- 1 Student – 1 Year – Save 365 Litres Water
- 1 Student – 10 Years – Save 3650 Litres Water

**7. One Nation, One Ration Card’ to be rolled out in India by June 1, 2020** – “One Nation One Ration Card” scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020.

- To implement the scheme successfully, the centre has kick started inter state portability of ration card pairing two states each.
- The pairs are made between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.
- This means that beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the states.

**8. KVIC launches “Leather Mission” on World Tribal Day** – The Khadi and Village Industry Commission has launched “Leather Mission” on World Tribal Day.

- Under this mission, the commission will give leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- World Tribal Day observed on 9<sup>th</sup> August every year.
- The 2019 theme is ‘Indigenous Languages’.

July

**1. FAME II scheme** – aims to encourage faster adoption of electric vehicles by right incentives and charging infra.

**Key points**

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country.
- Only advanced-battery-operated and registered e-vehicles to be incentivized under FAME Scheme.

**Financial Implications:**

- Total fund requirement for this scheme is **Rs. 10,000 crores** over three years from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

**Note:**

- This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled '**FAME India1**' which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.

**2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** – The Economic Survey 2019 has proposed a change in the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

- The campaign, to be labelled **BADLAV** (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi), will be used to represent the change towards gender equality.

**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme:**

- BBBP scheme was launched on 22 January 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The budget of Rs 280 crore allocated to BBBP scheme in the current financial year.

**3. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** – In the Union Budget 2019-20, the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a maternity benefit programme, was **Rs 2,500 crore**.

**Key points**

- Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY).

**4. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:** A new scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector.

- While presenting Union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a new

scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector.

- The new scheme, Pradhan **Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, will be established under the Department of Fisheries for a robust fisheries management framework.
- She also announced the creation of a new ministry for fisheries sector **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- The new ministry was formed in order to promote the allied farm sector that has huge potential to help achieve the government's target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- The budget allocated for the newly carved out Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is **Rs 3,737 crore**.

**5. Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi Maandhan Scheme – Monthly Pension Scheme for Traders**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved **Rs.3000 monthly pension scheme** for small retail traders and shopkeepers after they attain the age of 60 years.

**Key points of Scheme**

- Under the scheme all small shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum of Rs.3,000 monthly pension after attaining 60 years of 60 years.
- The new pension scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community will cover 3 crore small retail traders and shop keepers.
- **Eligibility:** All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between **18-40 years** and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below **Rs.1.5 crore** can enrol for pension scheme.

**6. National Common Mobility Card** – India's first indigenously developed payment ecosystem for transport, based on National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) standards, launched in March 2019.

- This will enable people to pay multiple transport charges across India.
- This card runs on RuPay card and allows users to pay bus charges, parking charges, etc.

**Note:**

- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) developed One Nation One Card.

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ministry formulates the concept of One Nation One Card.
- 7. One Nation, One Grid** – for power availability to states at affordable rates.
- 8. MUDRA scheme** – According to the Union Budget 2019-20, the overdraft of Rs. 5,000 to be allowed for every verified women SHG member having a Jan Dhan Bank Account.
- One woman per SHG to be eligible for a loan up to **Rs. 1 lakh** under **MUDRA Scheme**.

**Note:**

- Prime Minister Modi had launched **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana** (PMMY) in April 2015.
  - The objective was to provide non-corporate and non-agricultural small businesses with loans up to **Rs 10 lakh**, which are called Mudra loans.
  - Mudra loans are divided into three categories: Shishu (loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishor (loans between Rs. 50,001 and Rs. 5 lakh), and Tarun (loans between Rs. 5,00,001 and Rs. 10 lakh).
  - Maximum loan amount under MUDRA scheme is – Rs 10 lakh and the minimum loan amount is Rs. 50,000.
  - MUDRA stands for - Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd.
- 9. Jal Jeevan Mission** – Jal Shakti Mantralaya will work with states to ensure Har Ghar Jal for all rural houses by 2024, under JalJeevan Mission.
- To all rural households by 2024, water will be supplied.
- 10. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan** - Over 2 crore Indian made digitally literate under PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan).
- Under Digital India Programme would cover **6 crore households** in rural areas to make them digitally literate.
  - The Scheme is applicable only for rural areas of the country.

**Entry criteria**

- The beneficiary should be Digitally Illiterate
- Only one person per eligible household would be considered for training
- Age Group: 14 - 60 years

- 1. Over 30 lakh persons enrolled under “PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme”** - Under “Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme”, total 30,85,205 persons have been enrolled.

- 11. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** – Under phase three of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, **1.25 lakh kms** of road to be built in the next five years. Project cost estimated cost of nearly **Rs 80,200 crore**.

- 12. ASPIRE scheme** - Under ASPIRE to develop, 80 Livelihood business incubators and 20 technology business incubators to be set up in 2019-20

**ASPIRE Scheme -**

- The ASPIRE-A scheme runs under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and aims to promote innovation, rural industry and entrepreneurship in India.
- This scheme was launched in March 2015.
- Objective - To set up a network of technology centres, incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote start-ups for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and agriculture based industry with a fund of Rs. 200 crores.

- 13. MNREGA** – According to the budget document, for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGA) the budget was allocated to **Rs 60,000 crore** for 2019-20.

- 14. National Rural Livelihood Mission** – In the Union Budget 2019-20, this year, the allocation has been increased to **Rs 9,024 crore**.

**Note:** Originally called as Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the programme was renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) in 2015.

- 15. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)** - Under PMAY Garmin, in the 2nd phase 1.95 crore houses are proposed to be provide to eligible beneficiary with facilities like toilet and LPG connection.

- Urban, over 80 lakh houses have been sanctioned under PMAY.
- The completion of houses that required 314 days in 2015-16, it has now come down to 114 days since 2017.
- The budget allocated for PMAY for 2019-20 fiscal is **Rs 19,000 crore**.

**July**

- This voluntary and contributory pension scheme is benefited for unorganized workers. Under this scheme assures the minimum monthly pension of

3000 rupees to the beneficiaries after attaining the age of 60 years.

**2. Under PMKSNY, more than 7 crore 32 lakh farmer families received first two instalments of Rs 2000 each**

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKSNY), more than 7 crores 32 lakh farmer families across India received the first and second installments of Rs 2000 each amounting to 14 thousand 646 crore rupees.
- The list was topped by Uttar Pradesh with over two crores twenty lakh farmer families followed by Andhra Pradesh with 72 lakh and Maharashtra 50 lakh farmers.

**3. HRD Ministry launches new UGC Scheme “Paramarsh” For Higher Education** - On July 19, 2019, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) launched a Scheme called “Paramarsh” of University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.

- This scheme aims at mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions to develop quality assurance in Higher Education.
- Under the scheme, the prime Mentoring institutions will provide regular mentoring to colleges to help achieve high-quality standards. For mentoring they will get the financial assistance & also the option of appointing an expert, who can be paid a fellowship amount of Rs 31,000 per month.

**4. India to give scholarships to heirs of Muktijodhas –** Government of India will provide 10,000 scholarships for heirs of the liberation war fighters of Bangladesh called ‘Muktijodhas’ over the next five years under the Nutan India-Bangladesh Maitree Muktijodha Sontan Scholarship Scheme.

**5. UKIERI Mobility Programme: Study in India –** India and UK have joined hands together for UKIERI Mobility Programme: Study in India which will allow UK students to visit India for higher studies.

- The British Council of India and Universities UK International have joined hands together for the launch of **UKIERI Mobility Programme**.
- It aims to generate up to 200 opportunities for undergraduate students at UK universities to visit India by March 2021.
- The programme will be funded by the UK and Indian governments as part of Phase 3 of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI).

**6. Union HRD Minister launches “Deeksharambh” –** Union Minister of Human Resource Development released UGC

Guide to Student Induction Programme “Deeksharambh” in New Delhi.

- The guide to Student Induction Programme is to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.

**7. Internet Saathi’ programme to be expanded to Punjab, Odisha –** Google India and Tata Trusts initiative is aimed at facilitating digital literacy among women in rural India named “Internet Saathi”. This initiative will be expanded to villages in Punjab and Odisha.

- This programme has now reached 2.6 lakh villages in 20 states. In Punjab, the programme will cover around 5,000 villages. In Odisha, it will cover over 16,000 villages.

**8. Bangla Abas Yojana** - The West Bengal Government has decided to construct 8 lakh 30 thousand houses under Bangla Abas Yojana for the people belonging to Economically Weaker Section.

- Under the scheme, the Rural Development Department has constructed more than 14 lakh houses.

**9. Health Ministry launches Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi –** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have launched a 3 day special campaign called Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi.

**10. UDAN Scheme: 8 more air routes added –** Civil Aviation Ministry announced addition of 8 more air routes under UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik), the regional air connectivity scheme. These air routes have become functional and started operations.

- With the addition of 8 new routes the total UDAN routes that are now operational in country has increased to 194.

**About UDAN**

- UDAN or Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik is a regional connectivity scheme (RCS). It was scheme on 21 October 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable to masses.
- It aims to make flying affordable besides connecting underserved and unserved airports across India.

**11. PENCIL Portal –** Union Minister for Labour & Employment informed Lok Sabha that 361 Complaints of Child Labour have been resolved via PENCIL (**Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour**) Portal ([pencil.gov.in](http://pencil.gov.in)).

#### About PENCIL Portal

- It is a separate online portal Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) launched on 26 September 2017 to ensure effective enforcement of provisions of Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

#### 12. YouTube Introduces 'Learning Playlists' for Educational Videos

– YouTube is bringing a new education feature “Learning Playlists” with dedicated landing pages for educational videos on topics like math, science, music and language.

- YouTube was investing \$20 million to fund resources for educational creators and organisations through a Learning Fund initiative.

#### 13. PM-LVMY Yojana launched by Labour ministry

- Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-LVMY) was launched by the Union labour and Employment ministry for retailers and small traders.
- This scheme provides a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3000/month to small shopkeepers, retail traders, and the self-employed people after they attain 60years of age.
- It is an extension of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM).

#### Eligibility

- Self-employed people, small shopkeepers and retail traders aged between 18-40 years and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs 1.5 crore can avail the scheme.

**14. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana** – On July 23,2019, Union Minister for Rural Development, Narendra Singh Tomar stated that the ministry is implementing Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) across the country.

- The aim of the schme is to organized the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously supporting them to take economic activities till they come out of poverty and reach an good-level of increase in income to improve their quality of life.

#### Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission

- It is a poverty alleviation scheme launched in 2011 as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and was succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana in 2016.

**15. Kaushal Yuva Samwaad”** – To commemorate World Youth Skills Day (July 15) and celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) launched ‘Kaushal Yuva Samwaad’ (A Youth Dialogue) in New Delhi.

- It aimed at creating an open dialogue with youth across all skill training centres to hear their views, ideas, opportunities, and recommendations help the Ministry of Skill Development scaling up existing programs and improve the overall efficiency of the on-going projects.

#### 16. WCD implements a Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances called “Swadhar Greh”

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD), Government of India is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for the rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity.

**17. Govt signs MoU with NATHEALTH to streamline delivery of services under PMJAY** – National Health Authority (NHA) implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat, Centre’s flagship healthcare scheme has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) to streamline delivery of services under Ayushman Bharat.

#### About Ayushman Bharat

- Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS) launched by PM Shri Narendra Modi on Independence Day 2018.
- The scheme is renamed as PM Jan Arogya Yojana
- The aim of the scheme is to provide cashless hospitalisation for 1,354 procedures to 10 crore poor families for Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- It covers both preventive and promotive health.

**18. Meri Fasal Mera Byora’ portal for farmers launched by Haryana** – The Chief Minister of Haryana Government Manohar Lal Khattar has launched online portal named “Meri Fasal Mera Byora” for farmers to directly avail crop related benefits of state government schemes after self - reporting their land and crop-related details.

**19. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme** – Government of India has fixed the price at **Rs.3,443 per gram** for the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) opening July 8.

- Union Finance Ministry recently announced that Centre in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow a discount of **Rs. 50 per gram** from issue price to those investors who apply online and payment which is made via digital mode.



### Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- It was launched by Government of India in November 2015 with the goal of reducing the demand for physical gold and shifting a part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
- Under the SGB scheme, bonds are denominated in units of 1 gram of gold and multiples thereof.
- **Minimum Investment:** in bonds is 1 gram and a maximum limit of subscription of 500 gram/person/fiscal year (April-March).
- **Maximum Limit:** of subscription is 4 kg for an individual and Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg maximum subscription limit for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March).

20. **UGC approves a scheme “STRIDE” to boost research culture in India** – University Grants Commission has approved a ‘Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy’ to boost research culture in India.

- STRIDE stands for **Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy**.

#### Key points

- It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- An advisory **Bhushan Patwardhan committee** set up by UGC under chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman, UGC will oversee entire scheme.

21. **‘One nation one ration card’ scheme from July 1, 2020** – ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ scheme will be available across the country from July 1, 2020.

- The scheme will allow portability of food security benefits according to which the poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country as long as their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.

1. **Union Cabinet approves extension of PM-KISAN scheme** – The government has extended the extension of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to all the farmers in the country.

- Earlier the benefit of the scheme was applicable to **farmers having two hectares of land**.
- PM-KISAN scheme was launched in Uttar Pradesh’s Gorakhpur on 24th February 2019.

22. **Jal Shakti Abhiyan** – Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan- a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.

- It is a collaborative effort of various Union Ministries and State Governments, being coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).

23. **UP launches Dastak Campaign to eradicate AES & JE** – Uttar Pradesh government has launched a massive campaign called ‘Dastak’ to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.

24. **West Bengal introduces free crop insurance scheme Bangla Shashya Bima for farmers**

- On June 28, 2019, West Bengal Government launched a crop insurance scheme, Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) for the 2019 ‘Kharif’ season to protect farmers from losses due to natural disasters and provide a steady income in case of unstable market prices.

25. **‘Go Tribal’ campaign launched** – Go Tribal campaign, was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global.

- Amazon, an e-commerce giant company will market ‘Tribes India’ collections under sections of ‘Tribes of India Heritage Collection.
- Objective is to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as help in socio-economic welfare of more than 700 Indian tribes.

#### TRIFED

- TRIFED is an organization that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name of TRIBES INDIA.

### June

#### Key points of the scheme

- **Aim** - to provide to provide income support to all small and Marginal landholding farmer.
- **Objective** - The main objective of the government to launch this scheme is the development of farmers by the provision of financial assistance which can utilize by the

farmer to increase the crop production every year.

### Benefits of the Scheme

- As per government norms, the farmers will get the benefit of Direct Income support of **Rs. 6,000 per year** (500 Rs per month)
- This fund will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers through 3 equal instalments of **Rs. 2000** every four months into the Aadhar ceded bank accounts of eligible landholding SMFs families.
- 2 per cent interest subvention to farmers pursuing animal husbandry and fisheries.
- All farmers severely affected by severe natural calamities will get 2% interest subvention who avail loan through Kisan Credit Card and additional 3% interest subvention upon timely repayment of crop loans.

### Fund allocation

- The government has allocated **Rs 75,000 crore** towards the scheme for financial year 2020.

**2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana** - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana, a new Central Sector Scheme (CSS), to provide pension cover to farmers.

### Key Features of Scheme

- It is voluntary and contributory pension scheme for all Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) across the country.
- Eligibility: Entry age of 18 to 40 years with provision of minimum fixed pension of Rs.3,000 on attaining the age of 60 years.
- Contribution: Beneficiary farmer of this scheme is required to contribute Rs 100 per month at median entry age of 29 years.

**3. Government launches DBT Tribal web portal** - Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched DBT Tribal web portal to streamline and expedite the process of releasing scholarship grants directly into bank accounts of beneficiary students.

- The portal provide single common platform to states to upload data related to beneficiaries, raise queries and give feedback.

**4. E-Governance Initiatives for ST Welfare Schemes** - Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the “e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes” at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- These e-governance initiatives will serve their purpose of the betterment of tribal communities across the nation.

### 5. Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income

**Augmentation (Kalia) scheme** - Odisha government has allocated an additional Rs 3,234 crore for covering more farmers under the Kalia scheme during 2019-20.

- Under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme, farmers get Rs 5,000 financial assistance per crop.
- A farm household is entitled to get Rs 10,000 per year for two crops (Kharif and Rabi),

### 6. PM Modi hikes National Defence Fund scholarship

**assistance** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved changes to the Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme for wards of deceased defence personnel under the National Defence Fund.

### Key points:

- **Scholarship Rate:** The rates of scholarship have been increased from Rs.2000pm (per month) to Rs.2500pm for boys and from **Rs. 2250pm to Rs.3000pm for girls.**
- **Scholarship Extended:** The ambit of Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme is now extended to include the wards of State Police officials who are or were martyred during terror or naxal attacks. The new scholarships quota for wards of state police officials will be 500 in one year.
- **Nodal ministry** - For the implementation of it the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will be the nodal Ministry.

### About National Defence Fund

- NDF was set up in 1962.
- It was meant to take charge of voluntary donations (in cash and kind) received for promotion of national defence effort, and also to decide on their utilisation.
- National Defence Fund also accepts online voluntary contributions.
- NDF is used for welfare of members of Armed Forces, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force, and their dependents.
- Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme’ (PMSS) is implemented under NDF.
- The National Defence Fund is administered by an executive committee that has the Prime Minister as the chairperson and the Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as members.

7. **Cabinet approved new initiative to control FMD and Brucellosis** - Union Cabinet has approved new initiative (scheme) to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers and improve the health of animals.
  - This initiative aims to fully control these diseases amongst livestock in the country in next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.
  - Cabinet has cleared a total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores for this scheme and entire cost will be now borne by Central Government.
8. **'Aapki Beti' scheme** – Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the 'Aapki Beti' scheme.
  - Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died to get annual financial assistance in the state.
  - The amount has been increased to **Rs 2,100 from Rs 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8** and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500.
9. **Telangana enhances Rythu Bandhu scheme to Rs 5000 per acre per season** - The Telangana Government has issued a notification to extend the Rythu Bandhu scheme for 2019-20, while enhancing the amount from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.
 

About Scheme

  - The scheme aimed at providing income support to the agriculturists directly to back their crops.
  - Now the scheme provides Initial Investment support to agriculture and horticulture crops through a grant of Rs 5000 per acre per farmer each season towards purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour and other field operation.
  - The amount would be paid through electronic transfer to all the pattadars and title holders through e-Kuber, the RBI payment platform.
  - In 2018, scheme was launched by Telangana CM K Chandrasekar Rao.

## Summits & Conference

### December

1. **International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems begins in New Delhi**  
**Note:** BIMSTEC countries' 'International Seminar on Climate Smart Farming Systems' was held in New Delhi. The objective of this International Seminar is to have experience sharing to enable improvement of tropical smallholder farming systems for greater productivity and resilience to climate change through ecological approaches.
2. **Switzerland to be the country partner of BioAsia 2020**  
**Note:** Switzerland will be the country partner at the 17th edition of BioAsia2020 scheduled to be held from February 17-19, 2020 in Hyderabad, Telangana. The theme of the summit is "Today For Tomorrow". Switzerland is making innovations in the world of medical healthcare and that many pharmaceutical companies have emerged as the center of Switzerland.
3. **54th DGSP/IGSP Conference held in Pune**  
**Note:** 54<sup>th</sup> DGSP/IGSP conference was held in Pune. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory session of the Conference. President's police medals were also awarded to officers of the Intelligence Bureau for their distinguished services.
4. **Goa to host 2nd edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019**  
**Note:** The 2nd edition of Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit was held in Goa on 6-7 December 2019 for Fund Managers and Limited Partners of Top Global Venture Capital (VC) Firms. The summit is being organized by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Goa Government. Theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 is- 'India Opportunity- Investing in tomorrow together'.
5. **NATO Summit 2019 in Watford, United Kingdom:**  
**Note:** 2019 NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Summit was held in London, United Kingdom (UK). The year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the summit. It was attended by NATO leaders and chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. The purpose of the summit was to make the heads of state and heads of government of NATO member countries to evaluate and provide strategic direction for Alliance activities.
6. **3rd edition of National Public Procurement Conclave held in New Delhi**  
**Note:** It was inaugurated by the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace, GeM in association with Confederation of Indian Industry. GeM epitomizes the speed, skill and scale which is essential in an e-

marketplace platform. GeM rests on the three pillars of openness, fairness and inclusiveness and is a symbol of a truly transparent e-marketplace.

7. **Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 held in Pearl Harbor:**  
**Note:** Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 (PACS 2019) was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Chief of the Air Staff of India participated in the conclave. The theme for this year's symposium is 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'. The conference will bring together Air Chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region who will provide perspectives on common challenges faced and on shared mutual interests while focusing on relevant topics like 'Regional Security', 'Domain

Awareness', 'Multi-Domain Awareness', 'Interoperability' and 'HADR'.

8. **Defence Minister addresses Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave:**  
**Note:** Defence Minister addresses the Armed Forces Flag Day-CSR Conclave in New Delhi. He has expressed confidence that the corporate sector will contribute generously to the welfare of ex-servicemen. He said common people had generously contributed to 'Bharat Ke Veer' Fund for the bereaved families of soldiers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. 'Bharat Ke Veer' Fund was established with the help of the corporate sector that assisted the families of martyred Central Armed Police Forces personnel.

## November

1. **1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" held in New Delhi:**  
**Note:** Minister of State for Home Affairs, inaugurated the 1st International Conference on "Landslides Risk Reduction and Resilience" in New Delhi. The Conference called for developing technology to anticipate disasters like landslides and develop infrastructure to quickly respond to minimise the damage. The landslides have attracted global attention as they may cause huge havoc on communities, livestock, environment leading to huge loss of lives. This conference will go a long way in finding long term solutions to natural disasters.
2. **8th Water Technology and Environment Control Conference 2019**  
**Note:** Union Minister of Jal Shakti, represented India at the 8 WATEC (Water Technology and Environment Control) Conference 2019. The theme of the conference is "Water Stewardship and Innovation—driving global leadership in the responsible planning management, and protection of water". The conference held at David Intercontinental in Tel Aviv, Israel.
3. **DEFCOM India 2019:**  
**Note:** The DEFCOM INDIA 2019 seminar was held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The theme for the seminar is, "Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness". The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness
1. The 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting held in -- **Bangkok, Thailand.**  
**Note:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has represented India in the meeting.
2. State Power Ministers' Conference held in --- **Gujarat.**  
**Note:** The 2-day conference discussed on policies related to emerging technologies in sustainable and renewable energy sector.
3. The 1st India Sports Summit 2019 held in -- **New Delhi.**

between the three services.**47th All India Police Science Congress held in Lucknow**

- Note:** The 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) was held in Lucknow. The event was inaugurated by Puducherry Lieutenant Governor and retired IPS officer Kiran Bedi. Uttar Pradesh Police in association with the Home Ministry and the Bureau of Police Research and Development has organised the event at the police headquarters in Lucknow.
4. **India to host SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020**  
**Note:** India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020. The 5th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation concluded in Moscow, Russia.
5. **NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 being held in Haryana**  
**Note:** Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated NuGen Mobility Summit-2019 at International Center of Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana. This three-day conference was held from 27 to 29 November 2019. The conference is the largest automotive technology event in country so far. The event is being organized by ICAT on relevant topics of Alternate Fuel Systems and e-Mobility.  
**Note:** According to Minister of State for Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju, 'Fit India' mission office would be set up, with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), to promote the aforementioned goals.
4. The 2nd "India-China Informal Summit" held at **Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.**  
**Note:**The first summit held in Wuhan in the wake of the Doklam crisis in April, 2018.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting on 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme in -- **Delhi.**

- Note:** Under the initiative, the government plans to hold people-to-people exchange between states to enhance knowledge about each-others culture. 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' highlights India's diversity and furthers national unity.
6. The first National Hindi Science writers conference 2019 held in -- **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**  
**Note:** A dedicated website WWW.VIGYANLEKHAN.COM has been prepared for this event.
  7. Union minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated a conference on -- 'One Nation One Tag – FASTag'.  
**Note:** Under this system the same FASTag affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle can be used to pay toll across all toll plazas in the country.
  8. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 41st DRDO Directors Conference in -- New Delhi.
  9. Who will host the 91st Interpol General Assembly in 2022 -- **India.**  
**Note:** All major decisions affecting general policy, the resources needed for international cooperation, working methods and finances are deliberated and discussed by representatives.
  10. Dr **Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the 11th Edition of Nuclear Energy Conclave 2019 in -- New Delhi.  
**Note:** The theme of the Conclave: "Economics of Nuclear Power- Innovation towards Safer & Cost-Effective Technologies". It was organized by India Energy Forum (IEF). A "Hall of Nuclear Energy" was opened to educate the students and the general public about the applications of nuclear energy, in Pragati Maidan in Delhi.
  11. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit held in -- **Baku, Azerbaijan.**  
**Note:** The Non-Alignment Movement was founded in 1961. India is a founding member of the NAM summit.
  12. The first **India-Bangladesh Stakeholders'** meet was held in - **Guwahati.**  
**Note:** A **70-member delegation** from Bangladesh is participating in the meet, while a similar **top-level team** will represent the host nation.
  13. The **Global Bio-India 2019** held for the first time in India -- **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** A brochure of GlobalBio-India 2019 was also released at the Curtain Raiser ceremony.
  14. The 9th edition of **Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue** will be held at -- **Cox Bazar, Bangladesh.**  
**Note:** The dialogue aims to draw from learning and experiences in these sectors between India and Bangladesh.
  15. The 35th ASEAN Summit began in --- **Bangkok, Thailand.**  
**Note:** 10 ASEAN member countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar (Burma), Laos. The theme of the summit for this year is "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability".
  16. The 6th parliamentary summit of G20 countries, held in --- **Tokyo, Japan.**  
**Note:** Lok sabha speaker Om Birla composed the Indian Parliament delegation.
  17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 11th BRICS Summit in -- Brasilia, Brazil.  
**Note:** The theme of the Summit this year is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future".
  18. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurating 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in -- New Delhi.  
**Note:** The **Government of India** has made it mandatory for all medical college hospitals to have full-fledged Emergency Departments by 2022 with an aim to improve trauma care
  19. National Capital Region -2041" conclave held in --- **Delhi**  
**Note:** This conclave is organized by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB). The theme of the conclave was "Planning for Tomorrow's Greatest Capital Region".
  20. 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation 2020 will be held in -- **India.**
  21. The 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) held in -- **Kolkata.**  
**Note:** The theme of this conference was "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" which highlights the actions taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for a strong observing mechanism for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  22. India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Summit 2019 held in --- **New Delhi.**
  23. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020 will be hosted by -- **India**
  24. Global Bio-India Summit 2019 held in -- **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** It will bring academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.
  25. 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics will be held in -- **India.**  
**Note:** The conference will be held with the theme of 'Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.
  26. The **Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** addressed the **2nd edition** of South Asia Safety Summit in - **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The summit was joined by over 100 organisations from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and India.

### October

1. **C40 Summit will be held in Copenhagen** – The C40 Summit is to take place in Copenhagen between 9th October and

12th October, 2019. The aim of the summit is to show how cities are delivering their strong commitments for healthier, sustainable, resilient and inclusive future.

## 2. Second edition of informal summit between India and China – Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who would be visiting Mamallapuram for the second edition of the informal summit between India and China.
- The summit will be held from October 11-October 12.

Note:

- Mamallapuram is also known as Seven Pagodas or Mahabalipuram. Marco Polo and other Europeans named it Seven Pagodas

## 3. Kochi to host national health informatics meet in 2020 –

The 20th National Health Informatics conference will be held in Kochi on February 7 and 8 next year.

- The conference will be jointly organised by the Health Informatics and Information Management Association (HIIMA), Kerala, and the Health Records Association of India (HERAI).
- The theme of the conference – Medrecon 2020 – is ‘Value of Data in Health Care Ecosystem’.

## 4. India Economic Summit was held in New Delhi.

Note:

- The World Economic Forum is organizing India Economic Summit on October 3 – 4, 2019 in New Delhi.
- It is hosted in collaboration with CII – Confederation of Indian Industry.

## September

### 1. UN Climate Change Summit 2020 – Glasgow, UK

- The COP26 meeting, under the auspices of the UN, will take place in Glasgow in December 2020.

### 2. UN Climate Action Summit 2019 – New York

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 which was held on 23 September in New York.
- Sweden's 16-year-old environmental activist Greta Thunberg shook world leaders with her speech at the United Nations, accusing world leaders of failing to take action on climate change.

### 3. International Conference on Sindh held in London – The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) hosted a 31st international conference on Sindh in London.

### 4. 7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 held in Mumbai – 7th World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) 2019 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The theme of (WHEF) 2019 “Prosperous Society: Stronger Society”.

### 5. International conference ‘ANGAN’ organized in New Delhi – International conference ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) for Energy Efficiency in the Building Sector is being organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in New Delhi.

### 6. 24th World Energy Congress commence in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- The theme of this World Energy Congress is “Energy for Prosperity”.
- It was held under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE.

### 7. The 1st conference on military medicine for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states held in Delhi.

### 8. The 9th India-China Financial dialogue was held in New Delhi.

### 9. First India-Caribbean Summit – 2019 was held in New York.

Note:

- Prime Minister Modi met the leaders of the Caribbean Community on 25th September, 2019, in New York.
- At the meeting, PM Modi announced 14 million USD grant for community development projects in the region. He also extended 150 million USD of line of credit for renewable energy, solar and climate change related projects.

### 10. SAARC Council of Ministers meeting – The SAARC Council of Ministers meeting was held on New York on 26th September 2019.

- The 2020 SAARC Summit will take place in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- The last and the 18th SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

#### About SAARC

- SAARC is South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
- The 8 member nations of the grouping are - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.
- Headquarters of SAARC is in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

**11. Fourth Indian Ocean Conference 2019 held in Male –**

Fourth Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was recently held in Male, capital of Maldives.

- The two-day conference was held from 3-4 September 2019.
- Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was one of the speakers at Indian Ocean Conference 2019 event.

**12. India’s first-ever helicopter summit held in Dehradun –**

Union Ministry of Civil Aviation organised country’s first ever helicopter summit at Sahastradhara heliport in Dehradun, capital of Uttarakhand. The summit was based on theme of expanding connectivity through helicopters.

**13. Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh co-chaired the Japan–India Defence Ministerial Meeting with Defence Minister of Japan Takeshi Iwaya in Tokyo, Japan.**

**14. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses 8th Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019 –** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered a keynote address at ‘Seoul Defence Dialogue 2019’ during his visit to South Korea.

- The theme of Defence Dialogue was- ‘Building Peace Together: Challenges and Vision’. Defence Minister is on a 3-day visit to Seoul.

**15. India hosts 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue –** India is hosting 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) in New Delhi.

- The three-day Dialogue was held from 7-9 September 2019.
- It was chaired by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Rajiv Kumar and Chinese side will be led by chairman, National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC).

**16. 20th India-Russia Summit talks conclude in Vladivostok**

- The 20th India-Russia annual summit held in Vladivostok, Russia.
- During the summit, India and Russia have signed 15 agreements in several areas in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin.

**17. For the first time, India is hosting COP14 of UNCCD**

- For the first time, India is hosting the Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD).

- The 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of UNCCD began at the India Mart and Expo, in Greater Noida.
- The conference began on September 2 and will end on September 13, 2019.

Note:

- The current Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is **Prakash Javadekar**.

**18. 4th General Assembly of A-WEB held at Bengaluru**

- The Election Commission of India hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) at Bengaluru on 3rd September 2019.
- India will take over as A-WEB’s Chair for the 2019-21 term.

**19. 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi -** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia held in New Delhi.

- The committee is the highest decision making and governing body of WHO in the region.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan was unanimously elected as Chair of the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia.

**20. National Conference on ‘India-Africa Partnership in a Changing Global Order: Priorities, Prospects and Challenges’ held in New Delhi.**

- It was organized by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).

**21. India-New Development Bank Workshop held in New Delhi –** A joint India- New Development Bank workshop was held in New Delhi. The workshop was organized to enhance the NDB’s engagement with the India’s private and public sector.

Note:

- The NDB is the first Multilateral Development Bank established by developing countries and emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

**22. Japan–India Defence Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan –** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the Japan–India Defence Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan.

- Japan’s delegation was represented by Defence Minister of Japan Mr Takeshi Iwaya.

**August**

**1. 45th G7 Summit held in Biarritz, France –** The 45<sup>th</sup> edition of the G7 Summit was held in Biarritz, France from 24-26<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

- It is an informal meeting between France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany,

Japan, Italy and Canada as well as the European Union.

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

Note:

- The 46th G7 summit will be held in 2020 in the United States.
- 2. 4th edition of Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019**
  - The 4th edition of India's largest confluence of digital technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
  - Theme is - 'Mainstreaming the Internet of Things'.
- 3. 2019 Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Conference** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**
  - The theme for the conference is "**Collaboration in a free and Open Indo – Pacific**".
- 4. 7th 'Community Radio Sammelan' held in New Delhi**
  - The theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'.
5. First World Youth Conference held in **New Delhi**.
  - President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first-ever World Youth Conference. Which was organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) at Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi.
  - The theme of the conference was 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 6. CoP18 of CITES held in Geneva** - The 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was recently held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 7. 12th India Security Summit held in New Delhi**
  - The 12th India Security Summit was held in New Delhi.
  - The theme of the summit was "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy".
- 8. 28th BASIC Ministerial meeting on Climate Change held in Brazil** – BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- In this meeting, India was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.

- 9. 5th BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil**
  - The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
- 10. Udaipur to host India's Largest Education Brainstorm** – The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will held in the city of lakes, Udaipur.
  - The theme for fest is Education for Sustainability: Moving on from Conformity to Creativity'.
- 11. 3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave held in Manesar** – The 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave was inaugurated at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana.
- 12. 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation in Bangkok** – External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) in Thailand's Bangkok.
- 13. HRD Minister inaugurates Technology Expo at IIT Delhi** – Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated Technology Expo at IIT Delhi to showcase the latest innovation in the field of science and technology.
- 14. Global Investors Summit 2019 will be held in Srinagar, J&K**
  - A 3-day Global Investors Summit 2019 starting from October 12, 2019, will be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) which will provide the state an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies, and potential.
- 15. Foreign Ministers from South East Asia attend 52nd ASEAN summit** – Foreign Ministers from South East Asia are attending the 52nd ASEAN summit in Bangkok.
  - The annual meeting opened with a call from the host Thailand for deeper integration to expand trade and bolster prosperity in the region amid rising global challenges.
- 16. 22nd National Conference on e-Governance** - Shillong, Meghalaya
  - The theme of the conference is 'Digital India: Success to Excellence'.

July

- 1. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial meeting** was held in Caracas, **Venezuela**

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin represented India in the meeting.



- The movement had 125 members and 25 observer countries.
  - The headquarters of NAM is in Central Jakarta, Indonesia
2. **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2019 held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil**
    - India was represented by Gen. (retd) VK Singh who is the Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.
    - **BRICS member countries** - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
  3. **44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020**
    - The city of Fuzhou (China) will host the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020
    - In the event of 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan( June 30 to July 10,2019), the UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) announced that the Chinese city of Fuzhou will host the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.
  4. **Lucknow to host DefExpo 2020**
    - Lucknow will host the 11th biennial edition of DefExpo from February 5 to 8, 2020.
    - The focus of the Expo will be on “Digital transformation of defence”.
    - The main theme of DefExpo India-2020 will be “India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub”
  5. The International Police Expo 2019 was held at **Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.**
    - Theme ‘Challenges to strengthen peace and security’
  6. The 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting was held in London, UK.
    - India External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the meeting.
  7. **14th conference of Parties to be hosted by India** - India will host the 14th conference of the parties from September 02 to 13, 2019 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
    - Three crucial issues in this conference are desertification, land degradation and drought.
  8. First Global Conference for Media Freedom was held in London.
    - The conference was co-hosted by the UK and Canada.
  9. The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum 2nd annual leadership summit held in **Washington, US.**
  10. **India-Nepal Logistics Summit organised in Kathmandu** – India-Nepal Logistics Summit was organised in Kathmandu,

Nepal on 28 July 2019. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli. Theme for Summit was: Transforming Logistics Landscape.

11. **G20 Summit 2019** – was held in **Osaka, Japan** from 28 – 29 June 2019.

#### Highlights

- Prime Minister’s sherpa for the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meeting at Osaka in Japan.
- Sister City Partnership: Lol shared between Ahmedabad and Kobe – A Letter of Intent (Lol) was exchanged between Ahmedabad and Japanese city of Kobe for a sister city partnership.
- Osaka Track” - India, South Africa, and Indonesia boycotted the “Osaka Track” on the “digital economy”.
- **PM Modi outlined 5 I vision in G-20 meet at Osaka** to maximize digital technology for social benefit.
- The 5 ‘I’s (5I Vision) are — Inclusiveness, Indigenisation, Innovation, Investment in infrastructure & International cooperation.
- Over the next five years, India aims to become a 5 trillion dollar economy and setting up of 50,000 start-ups in 5 years was the goal.
- India is also planning to run its first bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad with Japan’s help.

#### Participants

- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and European Union.
12. **Women Startup Summit** - Kerala Startup Mission to host Women Startup Summit in Kochi on August 1
  13. **The 3rd edition of International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019** will be held in Mumbai
    - India will be hosting the 3rd edition of International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 in Maharashtra, Mumbai (on July 19-20).
  14. **G-7 Summit to be held in France in August 2019.**
    - India has received an invitation from France to attend the outreach Session at the G-7 Summit to be held in France in August 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee.

15. **First ever IICTF to be held in India** – The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) to be held in New Delhi, India.

- It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to the global trade arena which will be held from 11th till 13th October 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

## June

1. **G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting** – Fukuoka, Japan
  - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors in Japan.
2. **G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy** – Tsukuba, Japan.
  - Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal represented the Indian delegation.

Note:

### Japan will host the G20 summit for the first time in 2019

- Japan is going to host this year G20 Summit in the city of Osaka.
- The G20 Osaka Summit will be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 in Japan.
- The summit under Japanese presidency is centered around the theme "**Human centered future society**".

### 3. Saudi Arabia to host G20 Summit in 2020

Note:

- Saudi Arabia (first G20 meeting in the Arab world) will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020 in its capital Riyadh.
- Italy will host the G20 Summit in 2021.
- India will host the G20 Summit in 2022 when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.

### 4. The Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) was held in Mumbai.

Note:

- India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.
- At present, KPCS has 55 members representing 82 countries including EU with 28 members.
- The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, international diamond industry and civil society to stem the flow of **Conflict Diamonds**.

- Conflict Diamonds means rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
- It is also described in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

### 5. G-7 Summit 2019 will be held in France in August 2019.

Note:

- The 45th G7 summit will be held on August 25–27, 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.
- G7 member countries – China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US.
- The President of the European Commission has been a permanent welcome participant at all meetings and decision-making since 1981.
- The 44th G7 summit was held on 8–9 June 2018, in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada.

### 6. 2nd Global Disability Summit - Buenos Aires, Argentina was held from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

- India a delegation headed by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- '1st Global Disability Summit' held at London, UK in July 2018.

### 7. 14th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Summit was held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

### 8. Fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi.

- The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

### 9. World Food India to be held in New Delhi

- The second edition of World Food India to be held from 1st to 4th November 2019 in New Delhi, which will position India as Food Processing Destination of the World.
- The tagline of the event will be "Forging Partnerships for Growth".

## Books & Author

1. Former Australian cricket umpire **Simon Taufel** released his book titled Finding The Gaps.

2. Note: Simon Taufel (retired in 2012) is a five-time ICC Umpire of the Year (between 2004 and 2008) and part of

- ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires. The Australian stood in his first One-Day International in 1999, and his first Test in 2000.
3. A book titled "Hemant Karkare -A Daughter's Memoir" by his daughter Jui Karkare Navare.
  4. Note: The book portrays former Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) chief Hemant Karkare's life as a father to Jui Karkare Navare. The book has been published by The Write Place. 18 security personnel lost their lives in the 26/11 terror attacks (11th anniversary).
  5. Mr. 'Nishank' also launched three books which are a collection of stories for Children namely Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition).
  6. Note: Books has been authored by a popular writer of children's books and travelogues Dr Anita Bhatnagar Jain (IAS-1985 batch). The three books are a collection of stories for children and have brought out environmental issues and topics like socio-cultural unity & cultural heritage in a very simple and interesting manner.
  7. English author Tony Joseph has won the 12th 'Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize' for his book, --- Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From.  
Note: The book tells the tale of the people of South Asia through research in six disciplines, including path-breaking new DNA evidence. The award was instituted in 2008 and it carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh along with a trophy. Last year, the prize was awarded to Sujatha Gidla for her Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family And The Making Of Modern India.
  8. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released the monograph, the **Musical Excellence of Mridangam** in Chennai.  
**Note:** The book was authored by mridangam maestro and Padma Vibhushan awardee Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman and former scientists T. Ramasami (former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology) and M.D. Naresh.
  9. CJI **Ranjan Gogoi** releases Assamese version of book -- '**Courts of India: Past to Present**'.  
**Note:** Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has inaugurated the Assamese version of the book Courts of India: Past to Present' in Guwahati. The book has captured the historical developments which took place in the history of the nation's courts.
  10. Writer and columnist, **Harish Bhat's** new novel was launched in Mumbai -- **An Extreme Love of Coffee**.  
**Note:** The novel is published by Penguin Random House India with the collaboration of Tata Starbucks. This is his third book but the first fiction and it took Bhat about 8 months to complete. The book is a story about two young people, Rahul, and Neha who follow their passion for coffee.
  11. **Jal Shakti Minister** releases short documentary film -- **SHIKHAR SE PUKAR**.
  12. 'Hemant Karkare: A Daughters Memoir', book written by -- **Jui Karkare Navare**.
  13. Former cricket umpire and author of 'Finding The Gaps' is -- **Simon Taufel**.
  14. Book titled "150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy", -- written by **Fakir Hassen**  
**Note:** This book released on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
  15. Bill Gates' Book titled "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" will be released -- **June 2020**.  
**Note:**
  16. Book titled "India in a Warming world: Integrating Climate Change and Development" will be published by --**Oxford University Press(OUP)**.
  17. Book titled "Mind Master: Winning Lessons from a Champion's Life" - written by **Viswanathan Anand**.  
**Note:** The book is based on the experience he had in the game of Chess.
  18. Book titled 'Bridgital Nation' -- written by N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons and Roopa Purushothaman Eminent industrialist.  
**Note:** The book presents a powerful vision of the future where technology and human beings co-exist in a mutually beneficial ecosystem.
  19. "Ten Studies in Kashmir: History and Politics" - written by **Kashi Nath Pandit**.  
**Note:** A new 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.
  20. Book titled "**The Tech Whisperer**" written by - **Jaspreet Bindra**
  21. Book titled '**Reset: Regaining India's Economic Legacy**' - written by **Subramanian Swamy** (BJP MP)
  22. '**Professor Ayushman**' a comic book released by **Ayush Ministry in New Delhi**
  23. Book titled "**Being Gandhi**" authored by **Paro Anand**
  24. Book titled "**The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas**" written by the journalist **Dhaval Kulkarni**

25. Book titled **“Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924”** written by Bengaluru-based historian **Vikram Sampath**
26. Book titled ‘Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India To Glory’ written by - Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj.  
Note: The book on India’s 4 spin legends: Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrashekhar and S. Venkataraghavan.
27. Book titled ‘A Short History of Indian Railways’ written by **Rajendra B Aklekar**
28. Book titled ‘Big Billion Startup’: The Untold Flipkart Story - written by **Mihir Dalal**
29. The Book titled **‘Kashmir’s untold story: Declassification’**- author of the book is Delhi- based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defense analyst Maroof Raza.
30. Book **‘Resurgent India’** – Book authored by former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Bimal Jalan
31. The book, titled **‘Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar’** authored by screenwriter **Satyarth Nayak**.
32. Vice President’s book titled **“Listening, Learning & Leading” released** – Home Minister Amit Shah released a Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu’s book titled “Listening, Learning & Leading”.
33. **PM Modi releases book on former PM Chandra Shekhar** – PM Narendra Modi releases book **“Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics”** is written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai in New Delhi.
34. **Book ‘Who Stole My Job’ authored by Sunil Mishra**
35. **The coffee table book titled ‘Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice’**, was released by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh.  
Note: This book showcases the courage and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army.
36. Book titled ‘Vivekadeepini’ – authored by **Adi Shankaracharya**
37. Book titled **“A Prime Minister to Remember,”** – authored by former Navy Chief **Admiral Sushil Kumar**
38. Book titled **‘The New Delhi Conspiracy’** – authored by 5. BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi
39. Book titled ‘War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960’ authored by **Devika Sethi**
40. Book titled ‘Whispers of Time’ authored by **Dr. Krishna Saksena**
41. Autobiography titled **‘Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly’** - autobiography of veteran Bollywood actor **Anupam Kher**
42. Autobiography titled- **‘My Life, My Mission’** – autobiography of **Yoga guru Baba Ramdev**
43. Book titled **‘Function of Data Sovereignty: The Pursuit of Supremacy’** authored by - **Vinit Goenka**
44. Book titled **‘Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge’** – authored by - Ashis Ray
45. Book titled - Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook - Journalist Saba Naqvi
46. **Book titled ‘Darkness to light’** - Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom.
47. Book titled **“No Presents Please’** is authored by - Jayant Kaikini
48. **Book titled “Game Changer” autobiography** of - Shahid Afridi (Pakistan’s former Cricket team captain). The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.
49. Book titled **“Indian Fiscal Federalism”** authored by - Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India (The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission of India, N.K. Singh launched the book)
50. Book titled ‘Saffron Swords’ authored by - Manoshi Sinha Rawal
51. Book titled **“The Third Pillar - How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind”** authored by –Raghuram Rajan (Former Governor of RBI)
52. Book titled ‘Every Vote Counts: The Story of India’s Elections’ authored by - former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla. Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched the book.
53. Book titled **“India Positive”** authored by - Chetan Bhagat
54. Book titled ‘Simplicity & Wisdom’ authored by - Mr. Dinesh Shahra
55. Book titled **‘ Khooni Vaisakhi’** authored by -- Nanak Singh (Jallianwala Bagh survivor)  
Note: A poem on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, ‘Khooni Vaisakhi’, by Punjabi writer Nanak Singh has now been translated into English.
  - It was banned by the British in 1920. Singh was present at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919, and was 22 years old at the time.
  - A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, ‘Khooni Vaisakhi’ has been released in Abu Dhabi.
  - India’s Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri commended the launch of the book.
  - It will be published by Harper Collins India in March to mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh.
56. Book titled **“Quality, Accreditation & Ranking”** authored by - Dr. H Chaturvedi
57. Book titled **‘Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio’**

58. Arun Jaitley releases book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio' authored by - BlueKraft Digital Foundation
59. Book titled '**Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office**' - Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
60. Book titled "Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India" authored by - **P Chidambaram** (former Finance Minister)

61. Book titled 'We are Displaced' authored by - **Malala Yousafzai**
62. A book titled 'Changing India' written by – **Former PM Manmohan Singh**

### Obituaries December

1. **Shelley Morrison:** Former **Hollywood actress** passed away at **Cedars-Sinai Medical Center** in Los Angeles.  
**Note:** Morrison played Rosario Salazar, a maid from El Salvador, in the original run of 'Will & Grace' from 1999 to 2006, becoming part of a cast that won a Screen Actors Guild award for best ensemble in a comedy series.
2. Former England **fast bowler Bob Willis** passed away after a short illness.  
**Note:** Bob Willis took 325 wickets in 90 Tests and 80 wickets in 64 ODIs in his career. He also captained England in 18 Tests and 29 ODIs.
3. **DC Fontana:** The first female writer for '**Star Trek**' passed away.

**Note:** The writer penned numerous stories for the original 'Star Trek' TV series and developed one of its signature characters, Spock. She wrote 1967's 'Journey to Babel', which introduced Spock's father Sarek and mother, Amanda.

4. Braj Bihari Kumar: Chairman of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) passed away.  
**Note:** He was appointed as the chairman of the ICSSR in May 2017.
5. The inventor of Universal Product Code (UPC)/Barcode **George Joseph Laurer** passed away.

### November

1. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister & **Bharatiya Janata Party** (BJP) leader **Kailash Joshi** passed away.  
**Note:** Mr. Joshi was called as the 'saint of politics', served as the Madhya Pradesh 9th chief minister (from June 1977 to January 1978). He was MLA for eight terms and served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
2. Tamil television and film actor **Bala Singh** passed away in a private hospital in Chennai.  
**Note:** Bala Singh was known for playing villainous roles with much aplomb. He played notable characters in Kamal Haasan's Indian, Ullaasam, Simmarasi, Dheena, Virumaandi, Saamy, Kannathil Muthamittal, Pudhupettai and many more films. Bala was last seen in the serial Aathira as Rajarajan in the year 2016
3. Cartoonist Sudhir Dar passed away due to cardiac arrest in Noida.  
**Note:** Sudhir Dar began his career with The Statesman (in 1961), after which he moved to the Hindustan Times. Dar's cartoons were often political in nature, often taking direct shots at the bureaucracy and the general corruption in Indian politics
4. Former Indian Navy Chief Admiral **Sushil Kumar** passed away in New Delhi.

**Note:** Sushil Kumar was Navy Chief from 1998-2001. He authored a book named "A Prime Minister to Remember-Memories of a Military Chief" which highlighted the key defence-related decisions taken by late former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Kumar had credited Vajpayee for turning the strategic tactical loss into a massive victory

5. Australian writer and broadcaster **Clive James** passed away at home in Cambridge.  
**Note:** Clive James moved to England in 1961 and rose to prominence as a literary critic and TV columnist. He went on to deliver wry commentary on international programming in such shows as Clive James On Television.
6. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor **Kiran Bedi** has inaugurated the 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) in Lucknow.  
**Note:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest at the valedictory function tomorrow evening. During 6 sessions of the event, police officers, academicians, researchers, judicial and scientific experts will present their papers.
7. Lokpal Chairman Justice (retired) **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** has launched the new logo and motto for the apex anti-corruption ombudsman **Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam**.

- Note:** Earlier, an open competition was conducted, inviting entries for the logo and the motto. A total of 2,236 entries for the logo and 4,705 entries for the motto were received. A logo designed by Prashant Mishra, a resident of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, was finally selected.
8. world-renowned rock climber **Brad Gobright** fell to his death while climbing a sheer rock face in northern Mexico. **Note:** Witnesses said the men had finished climbing the 900-meter (2,300-foot) summit and were rappelling back down when the accident occurred. US national Gobright (31-years) and fellow American Aidan Jacobson (26-years) were climbing a route known as the Shining Path in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.
  9. Japan Former Prime Minister **Yasuhiro Nakasone** passed away. **Note:** Nakasone also broke an unwritten rule on limiting the annual defence budget to 1% of Gross National Product. In 1983, he became the first Japanese Premier to officially visit South Korea, mending fences with a country that Japan had brutally colonized from 1910 to 1945.
  10. Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka Venkatachala passed away. **Note:** Venkatachala was known for bringing to light the existence of Karnataka's autonomous anti-corruption wing as the Lokayukta by conducting raids on public servants and disclosing their names and particulars of seized assets. He was Lokayukta from July 3, 2001, to July 2, 2006.
  11. **Geetanjali Ramakrishna:** Vetrean Telugu actress passed away **Note:** She had an illustrious career spanning nearly six decades by doing movies not just in Telugu, but also in other South Indian languages. Some of her popular works include Seetharama Kalyanam, Deivathin Deivam, Swapnangal, Parasmani, Gudachari 116 and Bobbili Yuddham.
  12. **Gurudas Dasgupta:** Veteran communist leader and trade unionist passed away. **Note:** Dasgupta became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1985. He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Panskura and Ghatal constituencies of West Bengal in 2004 and 2009 respectively.
  13. **Krishnan Kumar Modi:** Noted industrialist & Chairman of Modi Enterprises passed away. **Note:** Mr. Modi served as the chairman of Modi Enterprises, which includes companies like Godfrey Phillips, Indofil Industries and Modicare. He was the eldest son of late Rai Bahadur Gujarmal Modi (founder of the city of Modi Nagar).
  14. **Babasaheb Dhabekar:** Senior Congress party leader & former Maharashtra minister passed away in Mumbai **Note:** Mr. Dhabekar was water resources minister when the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government came to power for the first time in the 1990s.
  15. **TN Seshan:** Former **Chief Election Commissioner** (CEC) **Note:** Mr Seshan (IAS Officer: 1955 batch) was appointed CEC on 12th December 1990 during the P V Narasimha Rao led Congress government. He is widely credited for bringing in electoral reforms that changed the face of Indian elections.
  16. **Ramakant Gundecha:** Padma Shri-awardee **Dhrupad vocalist** passed away. **Note:** He was awarded the Padma Shri for 2012 in the field of Art – Indian Classical Music – Vocal along with his brother Umakant Gundecha. Dhrupad is a genre in Hindustani classical music from the Indian subcontinent and is related to the South Indian Carnatic tradition.
  17. **Sahitya Akademi awardee** writer **Nabaneeta Dev Sen** passed away. **Note:** She was also the recipient of the **Padma Shri in 2000**. She is the founder and president of the **West Bengal Women Writers' Association**.
  18. **Kailash Joshi:** Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister. **Note:** He was MLA for eight terms and also served as a member of both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha
  19. **Vashishth Narayan Singh:** Famous Indian mathematician passed away. **Note:** The 77-year old had been suffering from Schizophrenia for 40 years. Vashishth Narayan Singh was famous for his extraordinary skills of calculation, challenged Einstein's theory of relativity.
  20. **Kshiti Goswami:** former West Bengal Minister & The General Secretary of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP). **Note:** Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State.
  21. Veteran actor **Shaukat Kaifi** passed away. **Note:** Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, **Kaifi Azmi**. Kaifi and Shaukat were leaders of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA).
  22. Famous Indian mathematician **Vashishth Narayan Singh** passed away. **Note:** Vashishth Narayan Singh was famous for his extraordinary skills of calculation, challenged Einstein's theory of relativity.

## October

1. **Ramu, Satyapriya Mohathero:** The second highest **Buddhist leader** of Bangladesh and head of Sima Bihar of Ramu, Satyapriya Mohathero passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
2. **Diahann Carroll:** American actress, singer, and model.
3. **Kadri Gopalnath:** Legendary saxophonist and the Padma Shri awardee. The Carnatic music maestro won multiple awards in his illustrious career, including the Kendra Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award and Karnataka Kalashree
4. **Sara Danius:** She was the first female head of Nobel's Literature Award Body. She also served as the first female permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy between 2015 and 2018.
5. **Alexei Leonov:** He was the legendary Soviet cosmonaut who became the first human to walk in space 54 years ago.
6. Renowned painter **Kalidas Karmakar** passes away in Dhaka.
7. **Alicia Alonso:** Cuban ballet dancer considered one of the greatest 20th Century ballerinas. In 1948, she founded the Alicia Alonso Ballet Company in Cuba's capital.
8. **Mark Hurd:** Former Co-Chief executive Officer (CEO) of Oracle
9. Writer and philosopher **K.B. Siddaiah** passed away.  
**Note:** He was one of the founder members of Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi (DSS) during the '80s and co-authored many songs to inspire the movement.
10. **Dadu Chougule:** wrestler and recipient of Major Dhyanchand award passed away.  
**Note:**
  - In 1973, Chougule had won the titles 'Rustum-e-Hind' and 'Mahan Bharat Kesari' in national-level tournaments.
11. **Marieke Vervoort:** Belgian Paralympic athlete has ended her life at the age of 40 through euthanasia.
12. **Dilip Parikh:** Former Gujarat Chief Minister (13th) passed away. He was an industrialist and also served as president of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
13. India's oldest Yoga teacher **Nanammal** passed away at 99 years.  
**Note:**
  - She had bagged 150 awards, 6 national-level gold medals and Yoga Ratna award of the Government of Karnataka in 2014.
  - She was also conferred the Padma Shri in January 2019 for her efforts to make people lead a healthy life.
14. First female **UN refugee chief** passed away-- **Sadako Ogata**
15. **John Witherspoon** passed away -- Actor and comedian  
**Note:**
  - He was best known best known for the hit Friday franchise and The Wayan Brothers.
16. **N. Venkatachala:** Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka

## September

1. **Viju Khote** - Famous Bollywood actor Viju Khote passed away at the age of 77 on 30th September.
  - He is known for his 'Kalia' role in the film 'Sholay'.
2. **Jacques Chirac** - Former President Jacques Chirac who dominated French politics for decades in roles ranging from mayor of Paris to the second-longest serving leader of the nation passed away on 26th September. He was 86.
3. **Bhagat Ram Vats** – A former senior correspondent (journalist) of the country's leading news agency 'Press Trust of India', passed away.
  - He had covered the first Lok Sabha election of the country in April 1952.
  - He had also written a book called 'Foreign Intrigue Against India'.
4. **Madhav Apte** – Former Indian cricketer
5. **KPS Menon (junior)** - Former Foreign Secretary
6. **Boman Rashid Kohinoor** – co-owner of Mumbai's iconic eatery Britannia & Co.
7. **S.K. Padmadevi** - Veteran actor and multi-faceted artiste
8. **Shyam Ramsay** – Bollywood's famous horror film producer
9. Sanjib Kumar Datta – Film editor
10. Sivaraman Cheriyanad - **renowned writer of Kerala**
11. **B.N. Yugandhar** - **Former bureaucrat and Secretary to the PMO**  
Note: B.N. Yugandhar was the father of Microsoft's present Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella.
12. **Veeru Krishnan** - Actor, Kathak Dancer
13. **Ram Jethmalani** - One of India's finest lawyers and a former union minister has passed away.

- Mr. Jethmalani had also served as the chairman of the Bar Council of India.
- 14. Abdul Qadir** - Pakistan's master leg-spinner, passes away
    - Abdul Qadir played cricket for Pakistan for 16 years and took 236 wickets in 67 Test matches and 132 wickets in 104 ODIs.
    - He was known as '**Dancing Bowler**' in the cricket world due to his interesting bowling action.
  - 15. Sukhdev Singh Libra** - Veteran congress leader and former MP.
    - He was the member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha.

- 16. Robert Mugabe** - Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe passed away.
  - He was the country's first post-independence leader and also considered as Zimbabwe's founding father.
- 17. Kiran Nagarkar** - Sahitya Akademi Award-winning writer
  - He began his career as an educationist, a journalist and then later as a screenplay writer in the advertising industry.
  - His novel "Cuckold" (1997) won him the 2001 Sahitya Akademi award.

### August

- 1. Nimu Bhowmik** - Veteran Bengali actor
- 2. Arun Jaitley** - Former Union finance minister and senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley passed away. He was a lawyer by profession.
  - He held the portfolios of Finance Ministry, Corporate Affairs Ministry, Defence Ministry, and Minister of Information and Broadcasting.
- 3. Kanchan Chaudhary** – India's first woman Director General of Police (DGP), Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away.
  - She was a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of Uttarakhand.
  - She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country.
- 4. Noel Kelman** – Naval war hero and Kirti Chakra awardee Commander Noel Kelman passed away.
  - Commander Kelman was awarded the Kirti Chakra for valour during the liberation of Goa in 1961.
- 5. Navnitbhai Shah** – Socialist leader and former MLA of Palghar Navnitbhai Shah passed away.
  - He took part in the freedom struggle in 1942 at the Gowalia Tank maidan in Mumbai.
- 6. Sushma Swaraj** – Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away.
  - She was the 1st full time woman external affairs minister of India.
  - She was also the youngest cabinet minister at 25 when she joined the Haryana government in 1977 and the first woman chief minister of Delhi.
- 7. Neelum (Neelam) Sharma** – Doordarshan News Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner
- 8. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi** – Veteran music composer Mohammed Zahur Hashmi, popularly known as Khayyam passed away.
- 9. Niranjana Singh Tasneem** - Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi winner
- 10. Jagannath Mishra** – Former Bihar Chief Minister
- 11. Babulal Gaur** – Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh
- 12. J Om Prakash** – Veteran director
- 13. Rizia Rahman** - Renowned Bangladeshi novelist
- 14. Vidya Sinha** – Veteran Bollywood actress
- 15. VB Chandrasekhar** - Former Indian cricketer
- 16. Damodar Ganesh Bapat** - a noted social worker from Chhattisgarh and Padma Shri award winner
- 17. Dayanidhi Nayak** – Freedom fighter
- 18. Kanti Bhatt** – Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist
- 19. Toni Morrison** – Toni Morrison, the 1993 Nobel laureate in literature passed away.
  - She was the 1st African American woman to win the Nobel in literature.
- 20. Anant Setalvad** – Cricket commentator Anant Setalvad, who used to draw pictures of the game's progress on airwaves with his fine command of the English language, from the mid 1960s through to the 1980s, passed away .
- 21. Malcolm Nash** - Former cricketer
  - He was Glamorgan's legendary left-arm bowler who took 993 first-class wickets in a 17-year career between 1966 and 1983. He became famous after Garfield Sobers hit him for six sixes in an over.
- 22. Russi Taylor** - Veteran actor Russi Taylor, who voiced Disney's Minnie Mouse for more than 30 years,
- 23. Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy** – Former Padma Shri award winner and educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passed away.



1. **Sheila Dikshit** – Three-time Delhi Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Sheila Dixit passed away in New Delhi.
2. **Subir Gokarn** - Former RBI Deputy Governor and Noted economist Subir Vithal Gokarn passed away.
  - He had the distinction of being the youngest RBI Governor at the time.
3. **Lt Gen Joginder Singh Gharaya** - Retired Lt Gen Joginder Singh Gharaya, who was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra in the 1971 Indo-Pak war and Kirti Chakra in the 1947 Hyderabad operations, passed away.
4. **M. K. Seetharam Kulal** - Veteran poet and lyricist and former president of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy
5. **Ram Chandra Paswan** – Lok Janshakti Party MP from Bihar’s Samastipur Ram Chandra Paswan passed away.
  - He was the younger brother of Union minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan.
6. **S. Jaipal Reddy** – Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader
7. **Donkumar Roy** – Meghalaya Assembly Speaker and former Meghalaya Chief Minister Donkumar Roy passed away. He was head of the United Democratic Party (UDP).
8. **Mukesh Goud** - Former Andhra Pradesh state Minister

### July

9. **Fernando Corbató** - American computer scientist, known for computer passwords
10. **Yukiya Amano** – Chief of International Atomic Energy Agency. He was extensively involved in negotiations over Iran’s nuclear program.
11. **Attoor Ravi Varma** - Renowned Malayalam poet, translator
12. **A. U. Celestine** - Former India football goalkeeper from Tamil Nadu A. U. Celestine passed away. He played for the Tamil Nadu men’s team in the senior Nationals as a keeper in the 1965 and 69 National championships.
  - He represented India in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in 1969.
13. **Lee Iacocca** - Automobile industry legend from USA
14. **BK Birla** – Veteran industrialist, businessman and Indian industry stalwart
  - He wrote several books including an autobiography titled ‘Svantah Sukhaya’.
15. **Barun Haldar** - veteran newsreader of All India Radio (AIR)
16. **Rakesh Shukla** - former leg-spinner of India
17. **Sudershan Agarwal** - former Uttarakhand Governor

### June

1. **Babu Narayanan** – Malayalam director
2. **Abhuri Chaya Devi** – Telugu story writer and the Sahitya Akademi award winner
3. **Jharna Dhara Chowdhury** – an Eminent Social Activist and secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Trust in Jayag, Noakhali, Bangladesh passes away in Dhaka.
4. **Shyam Sundar Mitra** – Former Bengal cricketer Shyam Sundar Mitra passes away . He was awarded the Karthick Bose Lifetime Achievement Award by Cricket Association of Bengal.
5. **Vijaya Nirmala** – Veteran actor-filmmaker
6. **Mohan Ranade** – Veteran freedom fighter from Goa and Padmashri winner
7. **Mohammed Baji** - Noted freedom fighter
8. **Rajnath Singh Surya** - Former BJP Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist

9. **Mohamed Morsy** - Former Egyptian President
10. **Dinyar Contractor** - Veteran comedian, film and theatre actor
11. **Girish Karnad** - Noted actor, filmmaker and playwright
12. **Crazy Mohan** - Tamil writer, comedian and actor
13. **R V Janakiraman** - Former Puducherry Chief Minister between 1996 and 2000
14. **Pazhavila Ramesan** - Poet and lyricist
15. **Ruma Guha Thakurta** - Actor-singer Ruma Guha Thakurta, who featured in films such as Jwar Bhata, Ganga and 36 Chowringhee Lane.

### National Appointments

#### LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS & CONSTITUENCY 2019

Portfolio (Department)	Minister Name	Constituency
Prime Minister and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of	Narendra Modi	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All-important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.		
Ministry of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	-
Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Karnataka, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Nagpur, Maharashtra
Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Ramvilas Paswan	--
Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Jharkhand, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad, Karnataka
Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Prakash Javadekar	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Food Processing Industries	Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Bathinda, Punjab
Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena, Madhya Pradesh
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti, Jharkhand
Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai, Bihar
Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of Human Resource Development	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Prakash Javadekar	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Shekhawat	Jodhpur, Rajasthan

## New Appointments

### December

1. The News Broadcasters Federation (NBF) has elected editor-in-chief of Republic TV as the President of its governing board -- **Arnab Goswami**.  
**Note:** The country's largest association of over 78 news channels, The body of 78 news channels in 14 languages, representing broadcasters from 25 states.
2. The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) new chairman-- **Girish Chandra Chaturvedi**.  
**Note:** The appointment was approved by **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)**. Currently, he is on the board of ICICI Bank and the member of the government appointed board of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS).
3. Senior security advisor in the Union Home Ministry – **K Vijay Kumar**.  
**Note:** IPS officer **K Vijay Kumar** will “advise the ministry on security-related matters of Union Territory of J&K and Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States.

### November

1. New **Prime minister of Sri Lanka** -- **Mahinda Rajapaksa**.  
**Note:** Mr. Rajapaksa was sworn in by **President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** (his younger brother). Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa served as two-term President from 2005 to 2015 and was barred from contesting Presidential elections because of the two-term limit.
2. Chairman of the **Zee Entertainment Enterprises'** board has resigned -- **Subhash Chandra**.  
**Note:** Mr. Chandra will continue as a non-executive director, which he founded in 1992. Subhash Chandra resigns to comply with a rule mandating that Chairman can't be related to MD & CEO. Zee board appoints six independent directors; all the appointments will have to be approved by the shareholders.
3. The Chief minister (18th) of Maharashtra state -- **Uddhav Thackeray**.  
**Note:** Mr. Thackeray is the third Shiv Sena leader to hold the post after Manohar Joshi (1995–1999) and Narayan Rane (1 Feb- 17 Oct1999).
4. **Soma Roy Burman** took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA).  
**Note:** Soma Roy Burman (1986-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service officer) is the 24th CGA and the 7th woman to hold this coveted position. CGA works under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
5. **H R Khan** has been appointed as the **first chairman** of the **steering committee** of the **Code for Responsible Lending (CRL)** in micro-credit.  
**Note:** The CRL is a self-regulatory step for the micro-credit industry making diverse entities like banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFCs adhere to standards of customer protection.
6. Speaker of **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly** --. **Nana Patole**.  
**Note:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate **Kisan Kathore** withdrew his nomination. Maharashtra BJP legislature party leader Devendra Fadnavis was named Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly.
7. **Ursula von der Leyen** took charge as the **first female President** of the European Commission (EC).  
**Note:** Von der Leyen served in the federal government of Germany (from 2005 to 2019) as the longest-serving Ms Leyen invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Brussels for the next India-EU Summit.  
member of Angela Merkel's cabinet.
8. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** new President -- **Masatsugu Asakawa**.  
**Note:** Currently, he is the Special Advisor to Japan's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Masatsugu Asakawa will succeed Takehiko Nakao. Mr. Asakawa will assume office as ADB's 10th President on 17th January 2020.
9. **India's** first woman pilot of the Indian Navy -- **Sub Lieutenant Shivangi**.  
**Note:** Shivangi was inducted into the Indian Navy under the Short Service Commission Pilot entry scheme. She was commissioned into the Navy in June 2018.

- 10. Director-General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and chairman of the **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** -- **Shri Hari Mohan.**  
**Note:** He has made significant contributions in improving the production of Armoured Fighting Vehicles like Ajeya Tanks, MBT Arjun, Bridge Layer and Trawls Tanks.
- 11. Indian American business executive promoted as Alphabet Inc. CEO** -- **Sundar Pichai**  
**Note:** Sundar Pichai will replace Larry Page. Earlier, Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin have announced that they are stepping down from the leadership role of the parent company Alphabet.
- 12. Pritivirajsing Roopun** has been elected as **new President** of Mauritius by parliament.  
**Note:** He was the former arts and culture minister of Mauritius. The motion for his election as new President was presented by Prime Minister, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity.
- 13. New Ambassador of India** to the Republic of Costa Rica -- **Upender Singh Rawat.**  
**Note:** Presently Mr Rawat is Ambassador of India to the Republic of Panama. Shri Anjani Kumar (IFS:2003) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.
- 14. The first Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh UT** -- **Radha Krishna Mathur.**
- 15. The first Lieutenant Governor of J&K** - **Girish Chandra Murmu.**
- 16. Argentina's new President:** Alberto Fernandez.  
**Note:** Fernandez, a 60-year-old law professor, got 47.36 per cent votes crossing the threshold for outright victory.
- 17. Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad Hariri** has resigned from the portfolio amid anti-government protests.  
**Note:** He resigned bowing to one of the central demands of anti-government demonstrators shortly after baton-wielding Hezbollah supporters rampaged through the main protest camp in Beirut.
- 18. The Government of India** has appointment of new **Chief Justices to the High Courts.**  
**Note:**
- Chief Justice of the Madras High Court -- **Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi**
  - Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court -- **Justice AK Mittal**
  - Chief Justice of the Patna High Court ---- **Justice Sanjay Karol.**
- The Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court -- **Justice Muhammad Raffiq.**
  - Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court -- **Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan.**
  - Chief Justice of Tripura High Court -- **Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi**
- 19. The new Ambassador to UAE** -- **Pavan Kapoor.**
- 20. chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** -- **Aditya Mishra.**
- 21. Speaker of Haryana Assembly** -- Gian Chand Gupta.
- 22. Governor of Mizoram** - **P.S Sreedharan Pillai.**  
**Note:** P.S Sreedharan Pillai replaced Governor of Assam Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge- Mizoram).
- 23. The two-day 'BIMSTEC Conclave' held in Visakhapatnam.**  
**Note:** Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya has inaugurated the two-day BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal initiative multi-sector technical and economic cooperation) Conclave at Visakhapatnam.
- 24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated two-day mega global investors meet 'Rising Himachal 2019' at **Dharamshala.**  
**Note:** The event has been graced by the presence of top heads of Indian industry and business besides foreign delegations and Union minister and senior government officials.
- 25. Re-elected President of UAE** -- Sheikh Khalifa bin **Zayed Al Nahyan.**  
**Note:** The UAE's Supreme Council of the Union has re-elected His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan as its President for a fourth five-year term.
- 26. Prime Minister of Mauritius** -- **Pravind Jugnauth.**
- 27. Manmohan Singh** has been nominated to the parliamentary standing committee on finance.  
**Note:** In August 2019, Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.
- 28. Additional charge of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** --- **Minister Prakash Javadekar.**  
**Note:** President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of the Union Council of Ministers **Arvind Ganpat Sawant (Shiv Sena MP).**
- 29. Suranga Bawadi in Bijapur (Karnataka)** has been selected as the World Monument Watch List for 2020.  
**Note:** Suranga Bawadi was selected under the category of "Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau" along with 24 monuments across the world. It was built in the 16th century of Adil Shahi-I in Vijayapura.

- 30.** The new Chairman and Managing Director of **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) - G Kamala Vardhana Rao.**  
**Note:** He has also served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15.
- 31.** The new Chairman of Unilever -- **Nils Andersen.**  
**Note:** Nil Andersen replaced Marijn Dekkers. Unilever is a British-Dutch transnational consumer goods company co-headquartered in London, United Kingdom, and Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 32. First woman Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh -- Nilam Sawhney.**  
**Note:** She will replace Neerabh Kumar, who has been holding additional charge as the CS, following the sudden transfer of LV Subramanyam, a week ago.
- 33. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde** sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.  
**Note:** Justice SA Bobde succeeds Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- 34.** The new President of Sri Lanka -- **Gotabaya Rajapakasa.**

- Note:** Gotabaya is the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa (now Prime minister) and served as defence secretary during the end of LTTE war.
- 35.** President of Gymnastics Federation of India -- **Sudhir Mital.**
- 36.** FIFA's Chief of global football development - **Arsene Wenger.**
- 37.** Bangladesh High Commissioner to India -- **Mohammad Imran.**  
**Note:** Currently, he is Bangladesh's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.
- 38.** Next ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali - **Anjani Kumar.**
- 39.** First Indian to be elected to the position of General Vice President (GVP), International Organisation Development Association (IODA) -- Dr Vinaya Shetty
- 40.** MD and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndusInd Bank -- **Suman Kathpalia**
- 41.** Dhanlaxmi Bank's managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) **T. Latha** has resigned.

### October

- Surjit Bhalla:** The executive director of the International Monetary Fund for a period of three years.
- Amrit Lugun:** Ambassador of India to Greece.
- Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi:** High Commissioner of India to Niue.
- Sushil Chandra:** MD & CEO of Oil India Limited.
- J. P. S. Chawla:** the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA). He will replace **Girraj Prasad Gupta.**
- Anup Kumar Singh:** Director-General of NSG.
- Pankaj Kumar:** CEO of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India)
- Sourav Ganguly:** New BCCI President
- Rajnish Kumar** (SBI chairman): new chairman of IBA.
- Manohar Lal Khattar** sworn in as CM of Haryana for a second term.
- Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde:** 47th Chief Justice of India.
- G C Murmu:** Lt Governors of J&K
- R K Mathur:** Lt Governors of Ladakh.  
**Note:** Satya Pal Malik has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Goa, succeeding Mridula Sinha
- P S Sreedharan Pillai:** the **15th governor of Mizoram** succeeding Jagdish Mukhi.
- New Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF) - Rakesh Kumar Bhadauria.** He is the 26th Chief of the Air Force.
  - He succeeds Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.

- 19. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Chief Justices to 7 high courts –**
- New Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court - **Lingappa Narayana Swamy**
  - New Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court - **Ravi Shankar Jha**
  - New Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court - **Indrajit Mohanty**
  - New Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court - **J.K. Maheshwari**
  - New Chief Justice of Kerala High Court - **S. Manikumar**
  - New Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court - **Arup K. Goswami**
  - New Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court - **Ajai Lamba**
- 20. Vice-Chief of Air Force - Air Marshal HS Arora.** He succeeds Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria
- 21. New chief of PIB - Kuldeep Singh Dhatwalia** has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). He becomes the 28th DG of the PIB.
  - He succeeds incumbent Sitanshu Ranjan Kar.
- 22. New Lokpal of Punjab - Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma**
- 23. New MD & CEO of Oil India Limited – Sushil Chandra Mishra**
- 24. Surjit Bhalla Appointed as Executive Director for India at IMF -** The government has appointed an eminent economist

Surjit S Bhalla as the Executive Director for India on the board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Note:** Surjit S Bhalla succeeds former RBI deputy governor Subir Gokarn who died in the US on July 30 after a brief illness.

25. **President of Mumbai Cricket Association** – Vijay Patil (son of former Governor of Bihar Dr DY Patil)
26. New MD & CEO of Tata Communications - Amur Lakshminarayanan

27. New MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank - SS Mallikarjuna Rao. He will replace Sunil Mehta.
28. New chief of South Western Air Command - **Air Marshal S K Ghotia**
29. **New administrator for PMC Bank** – Jai Bhagwan Bhorla
30. International Egg Commission chief – Suresh Chitturi
31. Former Indian cricketer, Kapil Dev resigned as chairman of Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of BCCI.

## September

1. **Four new judges appointed as judge in the Supreme Court** - Justice Krishna Murari, Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Justice V Ramasubramanian and Justice Hrishikesh appointed as judge in the Supreme Court.
  - With this, the number of judges in the court has increased to 34.
2. **Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee** – Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat
3. New chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations – **Madhukar Kamat**
4. **First woman Lieutenant Colonel from Arunachal Pradesh** – Army officer **Ponung Doming** became the first woman officer from Arunachal Pradesh state to be elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army.
5. **Visa appoints PV Sindhu as brand ambassador** - Payment technology company Visa announced that it has signed up world badminton champion Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu) as its brand ambassador.
6. Election Commission appoints **Madhuri Dixit** as goodwill ambassador for Maharashtra Assembly polls.
7. **Telangana Governor Tamilisai becomes the youngest governor** - Tamilisai Soundararajan who was sworn in as the first woman governor of Telangana became the youngest state governor at the age of 58 among all the current governors.
  - She is the only governor who is under 60 years of age.
  - The second youngest governor is Acharya Devvrat, 60, who is serving as the governor of Gujarat since July this year.
  - She replaces E.S.L. Narasimhan.
8. **Vijay Kumar Chopra elected PTI Chairman** - Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers Vijay Kumar Chopra has been elected as the Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
  - Vijay Kumar Chopra succeeds N Ravi, Publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu.

9. Vineet Jain, Managing Director of Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited (BCCL), has been elected as the Vice-Chairman of PTI.
10. New Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) - Madhukar Kamath
11. New chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) - Nilesh Shah
12. New Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of IDBI Bank - Samuel Joseph Jebaraj
13. India's first female military diplomat – **Wing Commander Anjali Singh**

**Note:**

  - She has joined the Indian Embassy in Russia as India's first female military diplomat to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad.
  - She has joined her new assignment as the Deputy Air Attache.
14. First Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh - Justice P Lakshmana Reddy
15. First chancellor of Rai Sports University – The Haryana Government has appointed cricket legend Kapil Dev as the first Chancellor of Sports University, Rai (Sonapat).
16. Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court – **Justice Vikram Nath**
17. New Principal Secretary to PM Modi - Pramod Kumar Mishra
18. New Principal Advisor to PM Modi - Pradeep Kumar Sinha
19. **New Press Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind** - Ajay Kumar Singh
20. New MD of Microsoft India (R&D) - Rajiv Kumar
21. First Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax of NeAC - Krishna Mohan Prasad
 

**Note:** Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT) has newly set up National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC) in Delhi.
22. New Director General (DG) of BSF - **Vivek Kumar Johri**
23. Vice Chief of Army Staff - **Lt. Gen. Mukund Naravane**
24. New Chairman of Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) - Sunil Arora

## August

1. New Home Secretary - Ajay Kumar Bhalla (He replaces Rajiv Gauba)
2. New Defence Secretary - Ajay Kumar (He replaces Sanjay Mitra)
3. New Cabinet Secretary - Rajiv Gauba (He replaces P.K. Sinha)
4. New Chairman of Coal India - **Pramod Agarwal** (He will replace present chairman A K Jha who retires in January 2020)
5. **P.K. Sinha** appointed as "Officer on Special Duty" in the office of the Prime Minister.
6. India's 1st female flight commander - **Wing Commander Shalija Dhani**
7. Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes - **Pramod Chandra Mody**
8. **First woman president of INSA** – Chandrima Shaha became the 1st woman president of the Indian National Science Academy.
9. New MD-CEO of Vodafone Idea – **Ravinder Takkar**
10. **Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare** - Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as the director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.
11. **P.T. Usha has been appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission.** This is the 2nd time P.T. Usha has been appointed a member of the Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission
12. **New President of Paytm** - Madhur Deora
13. **New MD and CEO of Mindtree** – Debashis Chatterjee
14. Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as the director of **National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.**
15. **New CMD of Power Grid Corporation** – State-owned Power Grid Corporation Director (Finance) Kandikuppa Sreekant

assumed the charge of the chairman and managing director of Power Grid Corporation of India.

16. **Giriraj Prasad Gupta appointed as new CGA** – Giriraj Prasad Gupta, Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, took over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
  - He succeeds Anthony Lianzuala as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Finance Ministry.
17. **IFSG appoints Justice A.K. Sikri as ombudsman** – The Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG), country's self-regulatory industry body for the online fantasy sports gaming sector, announced the appointment of Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri as its ombudsman and ethics officer.
  - Justice A.K. Sikri will be responsible for investigating queries/complaints raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms.
18. **Rakesh Asthana given additional charge of NCB** – The Appointments Committee on Cabinet has given the additional charge of the post of Director General Narcotics Control Bureau to Rakesh Asthana.
  - He is presently serving as the Director General of Civil Aviation Security.
19. **New DPIIT secretary** – Guruprasad Mohapatra assumed charge as the secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
20. **Secretary, Ministry of Textiles** – Ravi Capoor, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, assumed charge of the office of Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi.

## July

1. New Finance Secretary - Rajiv Kumar. He replaces Subhash Chandra Garg.
2. New Home Secretary - Ajay Kumar Bhalla
3. New PAC Chairman - The leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** was appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
4. New BSF Director General - V.K. Johri
5. New chairman of the "Estimates Committee" - Girish Bapat
6. New Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army - **Lt Gen Paramjit Singh**
7. New MTNL Chief - Sunil Kumar  
Note: He is currently Director (Human Resources and Enterprise Business) at MTNL and takes over from P K Purwar who was recently appointed chairman and managing Director of BSNL.

8. **Vikas Swarup** appointed as Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs
9. New Deputy Chief Minister of Goa - **Chandrakant Kavlekar**
10. **Kiran More** (former India wicket keeper-batsman) appointed USA cricket team's interim coach
11. **Vivek Kumar** appointed as private secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
12. Joint Secretary to the President - **Ajay Bhadoo**
13. Next Vice-Chief of Army Staff - M.M. Naravane
14. New India's table tennis coach - Dejan Papic (Canadian)
15. New Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) - **B Harideesh Kumar**
16. **N S Vishwanathan** gets extension by one year as RBI deputy governor

17. New Chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network - Manoj Kumar Nambiar
18. New CMD of BSNL - P.K. Purwar
19. LinkedIn chooses Ashutosh Gupta as country manager for India
20. Additional director on Board of Directors (BOD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank - AK Misra

21. New Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) – **K. Natarajan**
  - He has become the 23rd chief of India’s coastal security force.
22. New CMD of BHEL - Nalin Shinghal
23. He will replace Atul Sobti.

## June

1. **New Governor of Manipur** – Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya sworn in as Governor of Manipur.
2. Amitabh Kant gets two-year extension as NITI Aayog CEO - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Amitabh Kant’s tenure as the CEO of NITI Aayog beyond June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2021.
3. New Chief of RAW - **Samant Goel**
4. New Chief of Intelligence Bureau - **Arvind Kumar**
5. New director general of Indian Coast Guard – **Krishnaswamy Natarajan**
6. New President of FIEO – Exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected Sharad Kumar Saraf as its new president.
7. New MD of National Housing Bank - **Sarada Kumar Hota**
8. Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh.

9. Speaker of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha - Om Birla (MP from Kota, Rajasthan)
10. New executive director at RBI - Rabi N. Mishra
11. New Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court - Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel
12. New interim Chief of J&K Bank - RK Chibber
13. New acting Central Vigilance Commissioner - Sharad Kumar
14. New Chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD) - Mrutyunjay Mohapatra (Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist)
15. Principal Secretary to PM Modi - Nripendra Mishra
16. New Chairman of Axis Bank - Rakesh Makhija
17. New independent director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank - Sachin Bansal
18. New National Security Adviser (NSA) - Ajit Doval
19. New Advocate General of Chhattisgarh - Satish Chandra Verma

## International Appointment

1. **Next High Commissioner of India to Niue** – Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi  
**Note:** Capital of Niue: Alofi; Currency: Niue dollar, New Zealand dollar.
2. **Next Ambassador of India to Greece** - Amrit Lugun
3. **Christine Lagarde:** Head of European Central Bank.
4. **Rafael Mariano Grossi:** New Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
5. New **President** of Tunisia: **Kais Saied**.  
**Note:** The Independent law professor Kais Saied won against his rival, Nabil Karoui. He won Tunisia’s presidential election with 73% of votes. The elections followed the death of President Beji Caid Essebsi in July 2019.
6. Prime Minister of Portugal: **Antonio Costa**.
7. Bulgaria’s economist **Kristalina Georgieva** (66-year-old) has been elected the new head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
8. **Next Indian Ambassador to Guinea Bissau** - Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas

**Note: Capital of Guinea Bissau: Bissau, Currency of Guinea Bissau: West African CFA franc.**

9. National Security Adviser of US – Robert O’Brien
10. **ADB president Takehiko Nakao resigns** - Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao has announced his resignation. He became the president of ADB on April 28, 2013.  
**Note:** Headquarters of ADB: Manila, Philippines; Founded:19 December 1966.
11. Head of Hodeidah mission – Lieutenant General (Retired) **Abhijit Guha** as the head of the UN mission in Hodeidah, Yemen
12. **First female Chief of Royal Bank of Scotland** - Alison Rose. She will replace Ross McEwan on November 1.
13. Next Indian Ambassador to Norway - **B Bala Bhaskar**
14. Next High Commissioner of India to Lesotho - **Jaideep Sarkar**
15. Youngest-ever Prime Minister of Ukraine - Oleksiy Honcharuk



- President Donald Trump has nominated **Indian American Shireen Mathews** as a judge of the US District Court for the Southern District of California.

### August

- New India's Ambassador to UAE - **Pavan Kapoor**
- New Prime Minister of Sudan - **Abdalla Hamdok**
- New President of Nauru - **Lionel Aingimea** (Capital of Nauru: Yaren; Currency of Nauru: Australian dollar)
- Guatemala's new president** – Alejandro Giammattei
- New director of ICTP** – Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India, has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.
  - He will succeed Fernando Quevedo, who has led the centre since 2009.
- New CEO of HSBC** – Noel Quinn has been appointed as the interim CEO of HSBC's Global Commercial Banking unit.
- India's next Ambassador to Republic of Congo** – Ghotu Ram Meena has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Congo.
- Former SC judge Madan Lokur sworn in as Fiji's SC judge** - On August 12, 2019, the President of Fiji Major General(Retd) Jioji Konrote has appointed Justice Madan Lokur from India as the new Supreme Court (SC) judge of Fiji.

### July

- New Britain's Home Secretary - **Priti Patel** has been appointed as Britain's Home Secretary in the newly-unveiled Boris Johnson Cabinet.
  - She has become the Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary.
- New US Secretary of Defence - **Mark Esper**
- Anshula Kant** appointed World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer
  - She is currently a Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI).
  - She will be the first woman CFO of the Bank.
- Supreme Court judge, **Justice AK Sikri**, has been appointed as an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial court (SICC).
- New India's Ambassador to Israel - **Sanjeev Kumar Singla**
- India's next Ambassador to Panama - **Upender Singh Rawat**
- New chief of ICC committee - **Ehsan Mani** (Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman)
- New Prime Minister of Greece - **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**
- New head of European Central bank (ECB) – **Christine Lagarde** (MD of IMF)
- Economist David Lipton appointed as IMF interim leader** – International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed American economist David Lipton as its interim leader. He replaces Christine Lagarde who was nominated to head the European Central Bank.
- New President of European Commission – **Ursula von der Leyen (German politician)**
  - She will replace Jean Claude Juncker.
  - She has become the first woman to be elected to lead the EU's executive arm.

### June

- Shefali Juneja appointed India's representative to ICAO** – Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja is appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body.
  - She will replace the senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar.
  - Presently, Shefali Juneja is serving as the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- First female CEO of Warner Bros** – WarnerMedia, part of AT&T Inc, has appointed Ann Sarnoff as the chief executive officer of Warner Bros.
  - Ann Sarnoff has become the first female CEO of Warner Bros. She will be replacing Kevin Tsujihara.
- Qu Dongyu becomes first Chinese to head FAO** - Qu Dongyu becomes the first Chinese national to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.
  - He will replace Brazil's Jose Graziano da Silva.
- External Auditor for WHO - CAG Rajiv Mehrishi chosen External Auditor for WHO
- New PM of Thailand - Prayuth Chan-ocha
- New Pakistan ISI Chief - Lt General Faiz Hameed
- UN Deputy Executive Director - Anita Bhatia
  - Indian-origin Anita Bhatia has been appointed as the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

## Honours & Awards

### December

- 1. Greta Thunberg:** Swedish **teen activist** awarded the International Children's Peace Prize 2019.  
**Note:** She has been awarded for her work in the struggle against climate change which has resonated with schoolchildren across the world. Cameroonian peace activist **Divina Maloum** (15-years) also received the International Children's Peace Prize, awarded for her "peaceful struggle" against the Boko Haram jihadist group.
- 2. Satya Nadella** has occupied the top spot in Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list.  
**Note:** The list also includes Ajay Banga (Mastercard CEO) and Jayshree Ullal (Arista head). Fortune's annual Businessperson of the Year list features 20 business leaders "who tackled audacious goals, overcame impossible odds, found creative solutions".
- 3. Best Performance by an Actor Award** at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards -- **Manoj Bajpayee**  
**Note:** He has been awarded for his role in **Bhonsle**. The Hindi feature 'Bhonsle' narrates the story of a police constable (Bajpayee), who tries to fight the struggles of migrants and their battles with the local politicians. The movie was directed by Devashish Makhija.
- 4. Chitahresh Natesan:** Former **Hockey player turned bodybuilder** has been crowned Mr Universe 2019  
**Note:** India secured the second position in the team championship category at the same event. Chitahresh Natesan (5 ft 7 inches tall) has become the first Indian to win Mr Universe (Pro) 2019 in the 90kg category.
- Bangladesh's **Floating school project** (in South Kanarchor) wins the Aga Khan Architecture Award **for the The Arcadia Education Project**.  
**Note:** The project involved the construction of a school in an area which is underwater during the monsoon months. The architect (Saif Ul Haque) designed this school which remains on the ground during the dry season and floats on water when the area is submerged in water during monsoon. The school also serves as a shelter, a daycare centre and a vocational training centre for the local people
- 6. Billboard's 2019 Woman of the Year -- Singer Billie Eilish.**  
**Note:** Billie Eilish is the youngest artist ever to be named Billboard's Woman of the Year. Pop star Taylor Swift will be honoured at Billboard's event, receiving the inaugural Woman of the Decade award. Eilish gets her crown during the Billboard Women in Music event on 12th December this year
- 7. Jhilli Dalabehera:** Odia women weightlifter receive the 27th Ekalabya Award for 2019.  
**Note:** Jhilli Dalabehera has brought laurels for both the State and the country in several national and international events. She has won two gold, three silver and a bronze medal in different International weightlifting events.
- 8. The 28th Bihari Puraskar for 2018** for her novel 'Swapnapash -- **Manisha Kulshreshtha**.  
**Note:** The award is presented annually to writers of Rajasthani origin by the KK Birla Foundation for their outstanding work in Hindi or Rajasthani published in the past 10 years. The award named after famous Hindi poet Bihari (Bihari Lal Chaudhary), and carries a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.
- 9. Neha Dixit:** Indian journalist is one of **several recipients of the 2019 International Press Freedom Awards**.  
**Note:** Ms. Dixit is a Delhi-based journalist who reports on politics, social justice and gender in South Asia. The award is presented by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a non-profit organization whose aim is to enable journalists to work without the fear of reprisal.
- 10. French film 'Particles'** has won the coveted **Golden Peacock Award** at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.  
**Note:** Particles is a 2019 French-Swiss co-produced drama film directed by Blaise Harrison and produced by Estelle Fialon. The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs 40 lakhs to be shared equally between the Director and the Producer, Trophy and the citation. The IFFI 2019 'Best Director Award' was conferred to Lijo Jose Pellissery for his Malayalam film 'Jallikattu'. The Best Director award carries a Silver Peacock trophy, a citation and a cash prize worth Rs 15 lakh.
- 11. Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri:** Noted Malayalam poet has been declared the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019.  
**Note:** His work includes Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, or the legend of the 20th century, which is considered to have brought modernism into Malayalam poetry.
- 12. Arun Jaitley:** He was bestowed with the Economic Times (ET) Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service 2019.  
**Note:** The award was received by Arun Jaitley's spouse Sangeeta Jaitley.
- 13. Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra** has been awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award from UNICEF at the Snowflake Ball in New York.

**Note:** Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg (UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador) handed over the award to the actor. Priyanka Chopra has been associated with UNICEF for the past 15 years as a Goodwill Ambassador.

14. Bollywood actor fitness and wellness application has been awarded Google Play's Best Apps of 2019 in the 'Personal Growth' category **Shilpa Shetty App**.

**Note:** Google has announced the winners of Google Play's Best of 2019 awards selecting the best across apps, games, ebooks, movies, and audiobooks of the year.

- Best App of 2019 - Ablo
- Best Game of 2019 - Call of Duty: Mobile
- Google Play User's Choice 2019 Awards
- App: Video Editor - Glitch Video Effects
- Game: Call of Duty: Mobile
- Movie: Marvel Studios' Avengers Endgame
- Ebook: Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

15. **Roger Federer:** The first living person in Switzerland to have a coin minted in his honour.

**Note:** Swiss mint has announced that it would honour Roger Federer by releasing 20 Swiss francs (USD 20.06) silver commemorative coin in January 2020. This would be for the first time in its history of Swiss mint that it is

dedicating a Swiss commemorative coin to a living person. This year's commemorative Swiss coins included the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, the Furka Pass and the roe deer.

16. **Aberdeen Police station:** Ranks first in the best police station in the Country.

**Note:** Balasinor police station in Gujarat secured the second rank while and Ajk Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh got the 3rd position. The ranking of police stations came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the DGPs conference in 2015 in Kutch of Gujarat, had directed that parameters should be laid down for grading police stations and assessing their performance based on feedback.

17. **Ripu Daman Bevli:** He will be the Plogging Ambassador of India on 50th Fit India Plogging Run.

**Note:** The minister also launched the nation-wide Plogging Ambassador Mission under which, Indians who have been running and cleaning their cities, towns or districts, will be nominated as Plogging Ambassadors of their region. Fit India Plogging Run was launched on October 2 which is a unique way of picking up garbage while jogging and was added to the Fit India Movement as a unique way of combining cleanliness and fitness.

## November

1. The **28th Vyas Samman** for the year 2018 was conferred to Hindi writer **Leeladhar Jagoori**.

**Note:** The prestigious award was presented to him by renowned author Govind Mishra. Mr Jagoori has been chosen for the prestigious award for his poetry collection- Jitne Log Utne Prem.

2. **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has been honored with the **prestigious Golden Dragon Award**.

**Note:** The Gangs of Wasseypur actor was presented the award by counsel general of Wales, UK, Mick Antoniw, at an event in Cardiff. The actor has made a mark internationally with Netflix's Sacred Games, Ritesh Batra's Photograph and BBC UK's McMafia.

3. Indian Film star **Rajinikanth** will be honoured with first **"Icon of Golden Jubilee Award"** at IFFI.

**Note:** The IFFI will also confer with the Lifetime Achievement Award for a Foreign Artiste to French Actress Isabelle Huppert. The Icon of Golden Jubilee Award is a special award constituted by the Government of India in the year 2019.

4. Noted writer **Anand** has been selected for the 27th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.

**Note:** This award is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award and the Government of Kerala. His one of the famous Novel is Aalkoottam which portrays the unique crises that the nation had witnessed with a rare finesse. His Govardhante Yatrakal had won the Kendra Sahitya Akademi

award, Veedum Thadavum and Jaina Manushyan Kerala Sahitya Akademi award and Marubhoomikal Undakunnath, Vayalar award.

5. **Neeraj Sharma:** winner of the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year Award-2019' (Physical Sciences).

**Note:** The Award has been given by the Australian government for his work in lithium-ion batteries found in electronic devices, electric vehicles and the grid.

6. **Sudarsan Pattnaik** has been chosen for the Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019.

**Note:** He will be felicitated during the International Scorrana Sand Nativity fete in Italy which will be held between 13th and 18th November 2019.

7. U.S. based-Indian author Madhuri Vijay's debut novel, "The Far Field" has won 2019 JCB prize for **Literature**.

**Note:** She also received the Rs 25 lakh as the prize money, a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra entitled Mirror Melting.

8. **Shripad Naik** inaugurated the DRDO Igniter Complex at **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)** in **Pune**.

**Note:** HEMRL (a premier laboratory of DRDO) is primarily engaged in developing rocket and gun propellants, pyrotechnic devices, high-explosive systems and synthesis of high-energy molecules.

9. **Sara Damjanovic** has been crowned 'Miss Asia Global 2019' (5th Edition) at Gokulam Convention centre in Kochi, Kerala.  
**Note:** Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Yen Trang was crowned 'Miss Asia', while Samiksha Singh (India) won the sub-title of 'Miss Beautiful Face'. Miss Asia Global aims to find the most beautiful and talented women from all over the globe.
10. West Bengal based writer **Abhisek Sarkar** has won an award at Dhaka Lit-fest.  
**Note:** West Bengal-based writer Abhisek Sarkar and Bangladeshi poet Rofiquzzaman Rony were given the Gemcon Young Literature Award and Gemcon Young Poetry Award. Abhisek and Rofiquzzaman won the awards for their manus, "Nishiddho" and "Dhoashar Tamate Rong," respectively.
11. The Raja Ram Mohan Roy award will be presented to Rajasthan Patrika group chairman **Gulab Kothari**.  
**Note:** Mr Kothari was selected for the prestigious award by the Press Council of India for his outstanding contribution in the field of journalism.
12. TVS Motor Chairman **Srinivasan** conferred with Deming award.  
**Note:** Venu Srinivasan (Chairman of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram Clayton) was conferred with the prestigious Deming Distinguished Service Award For Dissemination and Promotion Overseas. Srinivasan becomes the first industrialist from India to be bestowed this prestigious award for his contributions in the field of total quality management (TQM).
13. **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** will be honoured with **Lesley Ho Asian Film Talent Award** at the Singapore International Film Festival (SIFF).  
**Note:** He will be awarded for his Netflix's Emmy-nominated original series Sacred Games. Earlier, Nawazuddin Siddiqui was honoured by the Golden Dragon Award at the Cardiff International Film Festival for his excellence in cinema in the International market.
14. Wildlife biologist **K. Ullas Karanth** was awarded the Wildlife Conservation Society's George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science.  
**Note:** K. Ullas Karanth has been awarded for his contribution to the field of conservation. His research is described as pioneering and groundbreaking with focus on the ecology of tigers, predator-prey population ecology, sympatric predators and other large mammals, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts. The award is instituted by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), New York.
15. Writer, translator and film critic **Shanta Gokhale** has been conferred with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.  
**Note:** Poet K Satchidanandan was named the Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate for 2019. Recently, Gokhale published her memoir One Foot on the Ground: A Life Told Through the Body.
16. **Dr Debabhuson Borah: winner of Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018** in Assam.  
**Note:** He has been awarded for his book on literary criticism titled 'Nirbochon'. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000 along with with a citation and a plaque. The Munin Barkotoki Memorial Trust announced the annual Award instituted to encourage young and promising writers in Assamese.
17. An **Indian Ph.D. Scholar** has won BRICS-Young Innovator Prize -- **Ravi Prakash**.  
**Note:** India won 1st prize of #BRICS -Young scientist forum's (YSF) conclave during 6-8 Nov 2019 in Brazil. The theme for the 4th BRICS-YSF was "Cybersecurity and Bio-economy".
18. Tobacco Board got '**Golden Leaf Award**' Tab Expo 2019 in the **Netherlands**.  
**Note:** The Tobacco Board of India was awarded the 'Golden Leaf award 2019' at the Tab Expo 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
19. **Manoj Bajpayee** starrer won two awards at Asian Film Festival Barcelona -- **Bhonsle**.  
**Note:** Manoj Bajpayee-starrer and critically acclaimed movie "Bhonsle" has won the 'Best Screenplay' and 'Best Director' awards at the 'Asian Film Festival' in Barcelona, Spain.
20. Renowned **Rabindra Sangeet** exponent from Bangladesh **Rezwana Choudhury Bannya** has conferred the ICCR distinguished alumni award in Dhaka.  
**Note:** The award was given away by the Riva Ganguly Das (High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh) in a musical function organized by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC).
21. **Late actor Sridevi Sridevi & actor Rekha** conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019 respectively.  
**Note:** The award was presented by Chiranjeevi (Telugu actor). The award is instituted by the Akkineni International Foundation and honours those who have made a lasting impact on Indian cinema.
22. **Bajrang Punia** has been conferred the **Indian Personality of the Year Award (Sports)** at the Indo Arab Leaders Summit & Awards 2019.  
**Note:** World powerlifting champion Mahant Gaurav Sharma was honoured with Visionary Leaders of the Year (Sports) award. Gaurav was conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in London.
23. **Sir David Attenborough.**: 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.  
**Note:** He will receive the award for his tireless work to preserve and protect biodiversity. This prestigious award (named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) has been accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Trust since 1986.

**24. Virat Kohli:** Named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India’s Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.

an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is an American animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Note:** Virat Kohli’s efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter to officials asking for the release of

**October**

**Complete list of the winners of Nobel Prize 2019:**

S.No.	Field	Winners	Description
1	Physiology or Medicine	William G. Kaelin (USA)	for their discoveries of how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability
		Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe (United Kingdom)	
		Gregg L. Semenza (USA)	
2	Physics	James Peebles (Canada)	for theoretical discoveries in physical cosmology
		Michel Mayor (Switzerland)	for the discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a solar-type star
		Didier Queloz (Switzerland)	
3	Chemistry	John B. Goodenough (Germany)	for the development of lithium-ion batteries
		M. Stanley Whittingham (United Kingdom)	
		Akira Yoshino (Japan)	
4	Literature (2018)	Olga Tokarczuk (Poland)	for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life
	Literature (2019)	Peter Handke (Austria)	for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the

			periphery and the specificity of human experience
5	Peace	Abiy Ahmed Ali (Ethiopia)	for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation
6	Economics	Abhijit Banerjee (India)	for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty
		Esther Duflo (France)	
		Michael Kremer (USA)	

1. **Swachhata ambassador award** – President Ram Nath Kovind presented the most effective Swachhata Ambassador award to Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. **Azizbek Ashurov wins 2019** – Human rights lawyer from Kyrgyzstan Azizbek Ashurov was awarded the 2019 UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prestigious Nansen Award.
3. **National Tourism Award** – Odisha’s Tapan Kumar Mishra has been honoured with the National Tourism Award for the Category of “Best Tourist Guide” for the year 2017-18 during celebration of the World Tourism Day.
  - He is a freelance Tourist Guide approved by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
4. **Golden Dragon Award** for his works in Hindi cinema - **Nawazuddin Siddiqui**.
5. The **Mohun Bagan Athletic Club** has conferred life membership to Nobel laureate **Abhijit Banerjee**.
6. The Sakharov Prize to Uighur intellectual -- **Ilham Tohti**.
7. The Asian Academy Creative Awards – ‘**Gully Boy**’ & ‘**Delhi Crime**’.
8. People’s Icon Award 2019: **Jennifer Aniston**.
9. “Most Eminent Senior Citizen Award”: **K Parasaran** (former Attorney General of India).
10. Orchestra of the year award 2019: **Philharmonic Orchestra**
11. **2019 Booker Prize**: Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo.
12. Golden Shoe as top scorer in European Leagues: **Leo Messi**  
**Note:** Messi won the trophy for a 3rd straight year after scoring 36 goals, 3 more than his closest challenger, Kylian Mbappe of Paris Saint-Germain.
13. **Madhya Pradesh government’s** National Kishore Kumar Samman for 2018-19 – Priyadarshan.
14. The **31st Indira Gandhi Award** for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018: Chandi Prasad Bhatt.
15. **Asia Environmental Enforcement Award** by the United Nations Environment Programme -- Ramesh Pandey.
16. **The Don’ Award** -- **Ashleigh Barty**.
17. Russia’s highest honours, “The Order of Courage”-- **Nick Hague** (NASA astronaut).
18. People’s Choice Award at My Rode Reel film competition -- **Spirit Of Kerala**.

### September

1. **Pandit Jasraj becomes first Indian musician to have minor planet named after him** – The IAU – International

Astronomical Union has named a minor planet between Mars and Jupiter after an Indian classical singer Pandit Jasraj.

- The number given to Pandit Jasraj planet was 300128 which is a reverse order of his date of birth 28/01/30.
- He is the first Indian musician to receive this honor.
- The planet was discovered on November 11, 2006.

### About IAU

- International Astronomical Union was founded in 1919.
- The objective of the organization was to promote and safeguard astronomical science in every aspect.
- The headquarters of IAU is located in **Paris, France**.

2. **India's Most Powerful Women in Media** – Kallie Puri has been awarded with "India's Most Powerful Women in Media" award at the famed Confluence Excellence Awards.
  - She received the prestigious award at the British Parliament. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the India Today Group.
3. **MP Birla Memorial Award** – Thanu Padmanabhan (62-year-old) a well-known Physicist and Cosmologist was conferred the prestigious M P Birla Memorial Award 2019 for his contributions to the world of cosmology.
4. **Punyabhushan Award** – Eminent archaeologist Dr. G.B. Deglurkar has been awarded with the prestigious Punyabhushan Award.
  - The award was presented him for his long-standing contribution to the field of Indian Archaeology through renowned Deccan College Post graduate & Research Institute.
5. **Real Kashmir FC nominated for BAFTA Awards** – A documentary on Srinagar-based football club Real Kashmir FC has nominated in the prestigious British Academy Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards.
6. **Cochin International Airport wins award for passenger satisfaction** – Airport Council International has recognised Cochin International Airport Limited as the best airport in terms of services offered to passengers.
7. **Infosys Bags UN Global Climate Action Award** – IT major Infosys has received the **United Nations Global Climate Action Award** in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category.
  - The award will be presented to Infosys at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Santiago, Chile (December 2019).
8. **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes 2019** – Kolkata-based mathematician **Neena Gupta** has bagged the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award**, the most prestigious award of the country for maths, this year.

- She has also been recognised as the youngest ever to win it. She is yet to be 35.
- President of India Ram Nath Kovind, presented Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes 2019, for outstanding contributions in science and technology at a function held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The awards were presented on the occasion of the 78th Foundation Day of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

### List of winners –

- **For Biological Sciences:** Dr. Kayarat Sai Krishnan (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune); Dr. Soumen Basak (National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi)
  - **For Chemical Sciences:** Dr. Raghavan B Sunoj (IIT, Bombay); Dr. Tapas Kumar Maji (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru)
  - **For Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences:** Dr. Subimal Ghosh (IIT, Bombay)
  - **For Engineering Sciences:** Manik Varma (Microsoft Research India, Bengaluru)
  - **For Mathematical Sciences:** Dr. Dishant Mayur Bhai Pancholi (Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai), Dr. Neena Gupta (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata)
  - **For Medical Sciences:** Dr. Dheeraj Kumar (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi), Dr. Mohammad Javed Ali (LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad)
  - **For Physical Sciences:** Dr. Aninda Sinha (IISc, Bengaluru), Dr. Shankar Ghosh (TIFR, Mumbai)
9. **21st Century Icon Awards** – Playback singer Sonu Nigam has been honoured with the Magnificent Performing Arts Award at the annual 21st Century Icon Awards in London.
  10. **Vaccine Hero' award** – Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with prestigious 'Vaccine Hero' award of Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisations (GAVI) in recognition of Bangladesh's outstanding success in vaccination to immunise children.
  11. **Right Livelihood Award 2019** – Swedish climate activist **Greta Thunberg** has been named for Right Livelihood Award 2019.
    - Right Livelihood Award also known as 'Alternative Nobel Prize'.

### List of winners –

- Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg– for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts

- Sahrawi human rights activist Aminatou Haidar- for her steadfast nonviolent action, despite imprisonment and torture, in pursuit of justice and self-determination for people of Western Sahara
  - Chinese women’s rights lawyer Guo Jianmei– for her pioneering and persistent work in securing women’s rights in China.
  - Hutukara Yanomami Association (Brazil) and its indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa– for their courageous determination to protect the forests and biodiversity of Amazon, and the lands and culture of its indigenous peoples
- 12. Changemaker Award 2019** – Rajasthan’s **Payal Jangid**, aged 17, became the first Indian to receive the Changemaker Award 2019 at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards 2019.
- The Award was presented by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at a ceremony held in New York, United States.
  - She was awarded for her work towards the abolition of child marriage in her village and other neighbouring areas.
- 13. Global Goalkeeper Award** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the 2019 Global Goalkeeper Award.
- He received the award for Swachh Bharat Mission from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- 14. Dada Saheb Phalke award** – Veteran Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan has been selected for the 66th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2018.
- The Award is given by the Government of India for Lifetime Contribution to Indian Cinema.
  - The first Dadasaheb Phalke award was given to Devika Rani in 1969.
- 15. Documentary film Moti Bagh’ nominated for Oscars** – A documentary film 'Moti Bagh' has been nominated for the Oscars which is based on the life struggle of farmer 'Vidya Dutt Sharma'.
- He is a resident of Sanguda in Kaljikhil block of Pauri Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.
  - 'Moti Bagh' is directed by **Nirmal Chander Dandriyal**.
- 16. 2017-18 National Tourism Awards** – National Tourism Awards for 2017-18 were presented by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on 27 September 2019 on occasion of World Tourism Day.
- Andhra Pradesh state won the first prize for **Best State** for Comprehensive Development of Tourism.
  - Goa and Madhya Pradesh: Both states were announced as joint winners in Adventure Tourism category.
- Uttarakhand state won the **best film promotion** friendly state.
  - Telangana won the best **state in innovative** use of IT category.
- 17. SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019** – The SASTRA Ramanujan prize for 2019 will be awarded to **Adam Harper**.
- Mathematician Adam Harper is an Assistant Professor with the University of Warwick, England.
  - The award was instituted in 2005 and awarded by SASTRA University on its campus near **Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu**.
- 18.** Senior journalist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee, Ravish Kumar has received the 1st Gauri Lankesh National Award for Journalism.
- 19. Gully Boy’ India’s official entry to Oscars 2020** – The Film Federation of India (FFI) has chosen ‘Gully Boy’ as India’s official entry to the Oscars. “Gully Boy”, produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar and directed by Zoya Akhtar.
- Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt was in a lead role in film Gully Boy.
- 20. IIFA Awards 2019** –
- Best Film – Raazi
  - Best Actor (Female) - Alia Bhatt (Raazi)
  - Best Actor (Male) - Ranveer Singh (Padmaavat)
  - Best Director - Sriram Raghavan (Andhadhun)
  - Lifetime Achievement Award - Jagdeep Jaffery (actor & comedian)
  - 20 Years Best Actor (Female) - Deepika Padukone
  - Outstanding performance by a director in the last 20 years - Rajkumar Hirani (Sanju)
  - 20 Years Best Actor (Male) - Ranbir Kapoor
  - Best music in the last 20 years – Pritam
  - Best film of the past 20 years - Kaho Na Pyaar Hai
- 21. Education Excellence Award 2019** – Super 30 founder and noted mathematician Anand Kumar has been felicitated in the US with a prestigious Education Excellence Award 2019.
- 22. Boston Film Festival** – Bollywood actress Neena Gupta has won 2 awards at Indian International Film Festival of Boston.
- The actress won the Best Actress award for ‘**Badhaai Ho’** and her film ‘**The Last Color**’ emerged victorious in Best Feature Film category.
  - ‘The Last Color’ was directed by chef Vikas Khanna. The film deals with taboo surrounding widows in Vrindavan and Varanasi in India.
- 23. Eminent Engineers Award** – Vinod Kumar Yadav (Chairman of Railway Board)
- The Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey



presented the award to Vinod Kumar Yadav for his outstanding contributions in the field of engineering.

- The award was presented on 52nd Engineers' Day. The theme of 52nd Engineers' Day was "Engineering for change".

**24. Aga Khan Architecture Award – Arcadia Education Project** which involves construction of floating school for marginalised children in South Kanarchor of Bangladesh, has been awarded the prestigious Aga Khan Architecture Award 2019.

**25. Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award –** Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka.

**26. 11th International Hrant Dink Award -** Meghalaya-based rights activist Agnes Kharshiing, who survived an assault by the coal mafia almost a year ago, received the 11th International Hrant Dink Award.

- She received the award along with Turkish activist against male violence, Nebahat Akkoc.

**27. First Class Order of Zayed II –** Navdeep Singh Suri, India's envoy to United Arab Emirates, has been honoured with the First Class Order of Zayed II award.

**28. Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame –** Managing Director and Chairman of Hero MotoCorp, Pawan Munjal will be inducted into the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame. He will be inducted for his support to "Golf" in India and around the world.

**29. Knighthoods award -** England cricket greats Geoffrey Boycott and Andrew Strauss have been honoured with "Knighthoods" by Theresa May in her resignation honours list.

- Both the former cricketers have received the honour for their services to sport after outstanding careers for England.

**30. Sarala Puraskar –** Noted Odia writer Pradeep Dash will be conferred with the 40th edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work Charu Chibar O Charjya.

**31. "Oscars of science"** awarded to Event Horizon Telescope Team –

- On 5th September the team from the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration project won the 'Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics' an award considered the 'Oscars of Science'.
- The team won a prize of \$3 million for their work.
- On April 10, 2019, the team had published the image of black hole circled by a flame-orange halo of white-hot plasma on the Messier 87 (M87) galaxy.

**32. Odisha bags award for using IT in disaster management -** Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has won the IT Excellence Award, 2019.

- The award was presented to the Odisha state for its innovative conception by using information technology in the field of disaster management.
- The "SATARK" (System for Assessing, Tracking and Alerting Disaster Risk Information based on Dynamic Risk Knowledge) has been chosen for the award,

**33. 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' Award conferred on Muhammad Yunus –** The Vatican has honoured Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus with the 'Lamp of Peace of Saint Francis' award.

- The award aims to honour those who work towards promoting peace and harmony.
- Dr. Muhammad Yunus is known as the father of the microcredit concept.
- He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering the concepts of microcredit and microfinance.

**34. Indian Railways wins Best Ministry for Implementation of Swachhata Action Plan for 2018-19 –** On occasion of Swachh Mahotsav 2019 held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi (on 6 September 2019).

- President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented an award to Indian Railways as Best Ministries for Implementation of Swachhata Action Plan for 2018-19.
- Best Swachh iconic Place award to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus** (CSMT) Mumbai under Swachh Bharat Mission initiative.
- The 3 best stations as per Cleanliness Ranking Survey for 2018 i.e. Jaipur, Jodhpur and Tirupati were also awarded.

Note:

#### Swachhata Action Plan (SAP)?

- It is one of flagship initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards making Swachh Bharat everyone's business.
- SAP was formally launched on 1 April 2017, with active participation of 72 Ministries and Departments.
- It has brought all Ministries and Departments under one umbrella and contributed towards achieving Swachh Bharat by 2019.
- Nodal agency: for SAP is Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

**35. Global Goalkeeper Awards** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the prestigious ‘Global Goalkeeper Award’.

**Note:**

- He will be given this honour for his commitment and leadership towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- The award will be presented by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which is owned by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda Gates.
- According to this foundation, this award is to a leader to show commitment towards working effectively for the global goal in his country or globally.

**About Global Goalkeeper Awards**

- The Global Goalkeeper Awards are presented to leaders and individuals for their efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in five categories.
- The categories are Progress, Changemaker, Campaign, Goalkeepers Voice and the Global Goalkeeper.

**About Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** is one of the ambitious projects that was introduced by PM Modi on Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary 2nd October 2014.
- The ambitious mission aims at accelerating the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage in the country

by this year as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.

- As per the reports, till now 90 million toilets have been built to eliminate open defecation by October 2, 2019, and currently, 98 per cent of India's villages have rural sanitation coverage instead of 38 per cent four years ago.

**36. CSIR Young Scientist Award 2019** – Scientist John Mondal receives the CSIR Young Scientist Award 2019 in the field of Chemical Sciences.

**Note**

- Currently, he is working as a scientist at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology in Hyderabad.
- The CSIR Young Scientist Award given to those people who are under 35 years old. The award carries a cash prize of ₹50,000 and a plaque.

**37. Best Swachh Iconic Place - Vaishno Devi shrine**

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir tops the list of the Best Swachh Iconic place in the country in the ‘Swachh Iconic Places’.
- The Shrine has been adjudged based on the overall improvement in sanitation.
- The list is list released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on September 3.

**August**

**National Sports Awards 2019** - National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29th August 2019.

- Para-athlete Deepa Malik and wrestler Bajrang Punia will be conferred with the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- Khel Ratna is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of four year.
- Arjuna Award is given for consistently outstanding performance for four years.
- Dronacharya Award for coaches is given for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.
- Dhyana Chand Award for lifetime contribution to sports development.

**List of all winners**

**Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna**

- Bajrang Punia – Wrestling
- Deepa Malik - Para Athletics

**Dronacharya Award (regular category for coaches)**

- Vimal Kumar – Badminton

- Sandeep Gupta - Table tennis
- Mohinder Singh Dhillon – Athletics

#### Dronacharya Award (lifetime category)

- Sanjay Bhardwaj - cricket
- Rambir Singh Khokar - kabaddi
- Mezban Patel – hockey

#### Dhyan Chand Award

- Manoj Kumar (wrestling),
- C Lalremsanga (archery),
- Arup Basak (table tennis),
- Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and
- Manuel Fredricks (hockey).

#### Arjuna Awards

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

#### 66th National Film Awards

- Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal shared the Best Actor national film award and Uri Director Aditya Dhar won the Best Director award.
- The 66th National Film awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the Jury for feature films.

#### List of winners –

- Best Director: Aditya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Feature Film: Hellaro a Gujarati film directed by Abhishek Shah
- Best Actor: Ayushmann Khuranna for Anhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati

- Best Supporting Actor - Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
- Best supporting actress - Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
- Best Action Direction: KGF Chapter I
- Best Choreography: Padmaavat for Goomar
- Best Film for National Integration - Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
- Best Popular Film: Badhaai Ho
- Best film on Environment issues - Paani
- Best Debut Film of a Director: Naal (Marathi)
- Best film on Social Issues: Padman
- Best Children's Film: Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod
- Special Jury Award: Award shared by Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachood Rai

### Other Awards

- 1. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has been conferred King Hamad Order of the Renaissance by Bahrain's King **Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa** in Manama, capital of Bahrain.
  - He was conferred this prestigious honour in recognition of his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain.
  - PM Modi is the 1st Indian prime minister to visit Bahrain.
- 2. Order of Zayed** - Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was honoured with prestigious 'Order of Zayed', United Arab Emirates' (UAE) highest civilian award.
 

**Note:** The award in name of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of UAE.
- 3. Eminent Engineer Award 2019 - Prabhakar Singh**, Director General, Central Public Works Department has been chosen for the 'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019'.
 

Note: This award will be given by the Institution of Engineers (India) for his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology.
- 4. UEFA President's Award** – Former Manchester United forward player Eric Cantona honoured with the award.
- 5. SKOCH Governance Gold Award – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**, has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Governance Gold Award.
  - It has been conferred the award for its initiative "Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access (PAISA)". DAY-NULM is a flagship mission under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Indian documentary film **I'm Jeeja** has won the award at the 14th edition of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues'.
- 7. Pushkin Medal 2019** - JNU Professor Meeta Narain was conferred the 'Pushkin Medal – 2019'. This award is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the Russian government.
 

**Note:** Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.
- 8. South Asian Spelling Bee competition 2019 – Navneeth Murali**, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, has won the 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest.
- 9. Bharat Ratna Award 2019**
  - President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
  - Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika were conferred the award posthumously.
  - The Bharat Ratna has been conferred after a gap of four years.
  - Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya were given the award by the government in 2015.

#### About Nanaji Deshmukh

- Nanaji Deshmukh was born in 1916 in a Marathi family in Parbhani, Maharashtra. As a child, he was inspired by freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Nanaji established India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950.
- Nanaji Deshmukh had won in the 1977 Lok Sabha election from Balrampur.

#### About Bhupen Hazarika

- Bhupen Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926 in Sadiya, Assam.
- He was also one of the leading author-poets of Assam with more than 1,000 lyrics and several short stories, essays and travelogues to his credit.
- Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the 'Bard of Brahmaputra',.
- In May 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge (9.15 kms), which runs over the Lohit river in Assam. Modi named the Dhola-Sadia bridge after Bhupen Hazarika.

#### About Pranab Mukherjee

- Pranab Mukherjee was born in Mirati in Birbhum District of West Bengal on December 11, 1935 to freedom fighters.
- He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.

#### About Bharat Ratna

- It is highest civilian award of Republic of India. It was instituted in 2 January 1954.
- First recipients of Bharat Ratna award (1954)- C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.
- Limits: Maximum of 3 nominees can be awarded per year.

#### 10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be honoured with

**"Order of Zayed"** – The United Arab Emirates will honour the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the "Order of Zayed", the highest civilian award of the country.

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

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

- K. Sivan is currently serving as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

#### 12. CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship –

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

- He was given this fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.
- The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology.

#### 13. Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman honoured with Vir Chakra

– Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, has been

honoured with the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest war time gallantry medal.

Note:

- From the Army, **Sapper Prakash Jadhav of the Rashtriya Rifles** posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, who played a key role as flight controller during the aerial combat between India and Pakistan on February 27, has been awarded Yudh Seva medal.

#### 14. Arun Lal awarded CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award –

Former India cricketer Arun Lal conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) in Kolkata.

- Former Bengal captain Raju Mukherjee was also considered for 2019 Lifetime Achievement but CAB eventually picked Lal.

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

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

- The "100 Years of Chrysostom" is based on the life of Philipose Mar Chrysostom, scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy.
- The 48-hour and 8 minutes documentary has broken the record of the 21-hour Saudi Arabian documentary "World of Snakes".

#### 16. Rajasthan bags award at World Education Summit 2019 –

Rajasthan wins the "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.

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

– Priyam Chatterjee became the 1st Indian chef to be awarded the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto' by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.

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

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

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

#### 19. ISRO announces Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award 2019 -

As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO institutes two categories of awards in journalism.

- ISRO has announced its "**Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology**

and Research” to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.

**20. BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award** - Actor Steve Coogan will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy’s Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honour during the 2019 Britannia Awards.

**21. President Kovind honoured with the highest award of Republic of Guinea** – President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea.

- The award is bestowed for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea.

Note:

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

**22. India’s transsexual woman Naaz Joshi was crowned Miss World Diversity 2019.** This event was held in Port Louis, Mauritius.

**23. Miss England 2019** - Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor was crowned Miss England 2019.

**24. Ramon Magsaysay award 2019** – Ravish Kumar has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless”.

**The other winners of the award are:**

- Ko Swe Win (Myanmar): He is a human rights defender and the chief editor of Myanmar Now news agency.
- Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand) is human rights activist and a leading human rights defender in Southern Thailand.

**1. Sachin Tendulkar 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame** – International Cricket Council has inducted India’s batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, South African pace legend Allan Donald and two-times World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick into the ICC’s Hall of Fame.

- Other Indians on the list are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid.

**2. Sudarsan Pattnaik wins People’s Choice Award in U.S.** – Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won

- Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) is a musician who has served in the music faculty of the University of the Philippines and has conducted free workshops for thousands of students all across the country.
- Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth and a South Korean agrarian movement leader who pioneered wasteland cultivation, and strove to demonstrate through his work that life as a farmer can be fulfilling and productive.

Note:

- The Magsaysay award was started in 1957 and celebrates the memory and leadership example of the former Philippine president Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

**25. Kapil Dev honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award** – East Bengal club awarded former Indian Cricket captain Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav.

**26. 2019 Prem Bhatia Award** – Veteran journalist and consulting editor at India Today TV (television), Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai was awarded the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for his Outstanding Political Reporting with a career spanning over three decades.

**27. Ruhan Rajput honoured with ‘Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019’** –

- Ruhan Rajput, a renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfoolge Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019 at New Delhi.
- Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.
- His company, is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry.

## July

People’s Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in United States (US).

- 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival was held in Boston.

**3. Mohun Bagan Ratna Award** - Keshav Dutt, Prasun Banerjee to be honoured with Mohun Bagan Ratna

**4. P T Usha nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin** – Former Olympic track and field athlete P T Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federations Veteran Pin for her ‘long and meritorious service to the cause of World Athletics’.

**5. CSR Journal Excellence Awards** – The 3rd Edition of the CSR Journal Excellence Awards honoured 6 firms for the best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility. The theme of the event was ‘India First’.

The winners of the awards are:

- YES Bank Ltd. won in the category “Health & Sanitation”.
- Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. won in the category “Sports”.
- Tata Power won in the category “Education & Skill Training”.
- ReNew Power won in the category “Women Empowerment & Child Welfare”.
- Mahindra & Mahindra won in the category “Environment”.
- Hindustan Zinc won in the category “Agriculture & Rural Development”.

**6. Miss Deaf World 2019 title** – Vidisha Baliyan, a 21-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh’s Muzaffarnagar city, was crowned the Miss Deaf World 2019 title.

- The international beauty pageant was held in Mbombela, South Africa.
- She is a former international tennis player who represented India in the Deaflympics and also won a silver medal.

**7. Pata Gold Award 2019** – Union Tourism Ministry’s Incredible India ‘Find the Incredible You’ campaign has won PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019.

- It won the award in ‘Marketing – Primary Government Destination’ category.

**8. Indian Woman of Influence’ award** – Eminent fashionista, social entrepreneur and philanthropist Priya Priyadarshini Jain has been felicitated with the prestigious ‘Indian Woman of Influence’ award at the House of Lords, the United Kingdom Parliament, London.

- Priyadarshini Jain for it also marked the grand launch of coffee table book on ‘50 most influential Indian women worldwide’ featuring her as one of the most prominent personalities from India.

**9. 2019 Sangita Kalanidhi award** – Noted Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya won the 2019 Sangita Kalanidhi award of Music Academy.

**10. Tribute Actor award** – Veteran actor Meryl Streep (American) will be honoured with Tribute Actor award at 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

**11. Nagarkirtan’ wins Best Feature Film’ at SAARC film fest** – Bengali film ‘Nagarkirtan’, has won 4 awards in SAARC film festival.

- The movie was honoured with ‘Best Feature Film’, ‘Best Director’, ‘Best Actor’ and ‘Best Original Score’ awards.
- The movie was directed by Kaushik Ganguly.
- Best Short Film’ award– Na Bole Wo Haram, a 20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patan
- Special Jury Award for Direction and Story– Walking With the Wind, by Praveen Morchhale

About SAARC Film Festival

- The 9th edition of SAARC film fest took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**12. Isha Kanth bags ICJ internship programme** – Indian girl, Isha Kanth is one of the two persons in the world to have bagged an internship programme at the International Court of Justice.

- She has earlier worked in rural Bihar spreading awareness on the right to education and women empowerment among children belonging to the marginalised sections.

**13. Shah Rukh Khan to be conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by Melbourne’s La Trobe University**

- Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood actor, will be felicitated with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Melbourne-based La Trobe University at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) at Bundoora, Australia.

**14. IOC Sportsperson of the Year** – Sharath Kamal was voted the Sportsperson of the Year in the annual Indian Oil Sports Conclave.

- Sharath Kamal is a professional table tennis player from Tamil Nadu, India.

**15. Best Innovation Award’** - Northeast Frontier Railway has won the ‘Best Innovation Award’ for unique strategy adopted to keep wild elephants away from train tracks.

- The **Plan Bee** initiative of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has won the Best Innovation Award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal.
- The initiative helps in preventing trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.

**16. Gully Boy’ wins NETPAC award in Bucheon film festival** – Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar’s directorial ‘Gully Boy’ has won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award at the 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.

**17. 2019 Global Excellence Awards** - The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum has announced that Mastercard CEO and **President Ajay Banga** and **Wipro Chairman Azim Premji** will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards.

**18. NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR –**  
National Aluminium Company Limited has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility fund in social development.

- NALCO started a scheme "Aliali Jhia" in 2015 to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. NALCO is an Odisha based Navaratna Company.

## June

### 1. UK-India Awards 2019: Mark Tully gets Lifetime

**Achievement Award** – Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was conferred with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at UK-India Awards in London for his contributions to UK-India relationship.

#### Other awards –

- **Start-up of the Year Award**- Maanch, a new platform that matches up funders and receivers to accelerate global sustainable development
  - Global Indian Icon of the Year– **Kunal Nayyar**, best known for his role as Rajesh Koothrappali on US sitcom The Big Bang Theory
  - Market Entrant of the Year category– Oyo, Indian hospitality start-up
  - Social Impact category– British Telecom (BT)
- 2. IIT Kanpur honours Gopichand with honorary doctorate** – IIT Kanpur honours India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand with honorary doctorate on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
- 3. RedInk Award** – The Tribune's reporter wins the 'Journalist of the Year' RedInk Award.
- **Rachna Khaira of The Tribune** has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year'. She won it for exposing the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.
  - Two retired senior journalists **Dinu Ranadive from the Maharashtra Times, and Sebastian D'Souza**, from the Mumbai Mirror, have jointly received the Lifetime Achievement Award for this year.
  - The RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism are conferred to encourage good quality reporting and analysis, fair play and high ethical standards in Indian journalism.
- 4. Indian engineer wins Innovation Award in UK** – Nitesh Kumar Jangir, an Indian engineer has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in the "People" category in London.
- Nitesh Kumar Jangir created Saans, a breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from respiratory distress syndrome.

- 5. Award for Malayalam film at 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival** – Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun) have become the first Indian film to win 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award at the Shanghai International Film Festival. The film is directed by Bijukumar Damodaran.
- 6. Indian woman crowned Miss Universe Australia** – India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019.
- 7. Kapil Sharma is the most viewed Stand-up Comedian in India and Abroad** – Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World book of Records London.
- 8. Maldives to confer its highest award 'Nishan Izzuddin' on PM Modi** - Maldives will confer 'Nishan Izzuddin' award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals.
- 9. Miss India 2019** - Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star-studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh clinched Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker from Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title during the grand finale of the beauty pageant.
- 10. Ex-President Pratibha Patil awarded with Mexico's Highest Civilian Award** - Former President Pratibha Patil was bestowed on the highest civilian award of Mexico for foreigners.
- 11. Chinese President Xi Jinping was conferred with highest national award of Kyrgyzstan titled Manas Order of the First Degree in Bishkek (capital of Kyrgyzstan).**  
**Note:** Kyrgyzstan hosted 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.
- 12. Indian engineer wins Innovation for Sustainable Development Award** - An Indian engineer named Nitesh Kumar Jangir won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom (UK). He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called 'Saans' for premature babies.
- 13. Amitav Ghosh becomes first English writer to get 54<sup>th</sup> Jnanpith award** - Renowned author **Amitav Ghosh** was



awarded the 54th Jnanpith Award for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian Literature in English. He was conferred the award by former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi.

14. **Man Booker International Prize** - An author from **Oman, Jokha Alharthi** has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for “**Celestial Bodies**”, the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
15. **Priyanka Chopra to be honoured with humanitarian award by UNICEF** - Priyanka Chopra, a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights is going to be honoured with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF at the UNICEF SNOWFLAKE BALL.
16. **WHO award for Rajasthan Health Department** - The World Health Organization has selected the Rajasthan government’s Medical & Health Department for its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.
  - The department’s Additional Chief Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh has received the award at a function to mark World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi.
  - The Health Department of the State is the only government body in the country which will be awarded for its tobacco-free initiatives.
17. **J.C. Daniel Award** - Malayalam Actor Sheela J.C. has won the J.C. Daniel Award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema. She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnamma in 2005.
18. **Akshaya Patra wins BBC award** - Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organisation, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award. It runs one of the world’s largest school meals project in India.
19. **2019 Global Leadership Award** - Google’s India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019.
20. **Automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in South Africa** for fairing on various indicators, including level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.
21. **UN Sasakawa Award 2019**: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred ‘Sasakawa Award 2019’ for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.
22. **Former US President Jimmy Carter receives Statesmanship Award** - Jimmy Carter, Ex-President of United States of America (USA) won the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in recognition of his contributions to relations between U.S. and China.
23. **Teen Climate activist Greta Thunberg wins Amnesty prize** - The 16-year old climate activist, Greta Thunberg of Sweden won Amnesty International’s ‘Ambassador of Conscience’ Award 2019 for mobilising world public opinion global warming.
24. **I&B Ministry institutes Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman** - The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted a new award called Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from year 2019 to recognise contribution made by media in spreading awareness about Yoga and for promotion and commemoration of International Yoga Day, held every year on 21 June.

## February

1. **Oscar Awards 2019 announced**: The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars) has been announced at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, the USA.
 

**Complete list of winners**

  - Best Picture - **Green Book**, directed by - **Peter Farrelly**
  - Best Actress in a Leading Role - Olivia Colman for film - The Favourite
  - Best Actor in a Leading Role - Rami Malek for film - Bohemian Rhapsody
  - Best Director - Alfonso Cuarón for Roma
  - Best Foreign Language – Roma (Alfonso Cuaron's Roma from Mexico has won Best Foreign language)
  - Best Documentary Short film - Period. End of Sentence Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton

Note:

  - India-based Period End of Sentence has won Documentary Short at 91stOscars Academy Awards.
  - The film talks about the stigma of menstruation in India.
  - It is directed by Rakya Zehtabchi.

## National Affairs

1. The **Union Government** has launched the **Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 2.0** across the country.  
**Note:** The government's flagship scheme is aimed at immunizing children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women against eight vaccine-preventable diseases. The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) covers vaccines for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, measles, meningitis and Hepatitis B. Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and Hemophilus influenzae are also being provided in selected areas. The IMI 2.0 aims to achieve targets of full immunization coverage in 272 districts spread over 27 States between December 2019 and March 2020.
2. **India** has become the **first country** to make the entire process for pilgrims going on Haj completely digital.  
**Note:** This came after the minister signed the bilateral agreement for the pilgrimage with the Saudi Haj Minister in Jeddah. The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city for Muslims.
3. India-Sri Lanka joint exercise "MITRA SHAKTI" (7th edition) begins at Aundh Military Station **Pune**.  
**Note:** It aims to build and promote positive relations between armies of both the countries focusing subunit level training on counter insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in the urban and rural environment.
4. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has revamped **mobile number portability (MNP)** rules, making the entire process faster and simpler.  
**Note:** The TRAI has prescribed three working days timeline for port out requests within a service area. Similarly, the timeline of **five working days** has been prescribed for requests for port out from one circle to another. The validity of the **Unique Porting Code (UPC)** has also been brought down to four days instead of a fortnight earlier.
5. The Union Government has launched the 4th round of Regional Connectivity Scheme **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)**.  
**Note:** The focus in this round will be North East Region, Hilly States, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Islands. The Civil Aviation Ministry aims to operationalize one thousand routes and more than 100 airports in the next five years.
6. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has launched the **Bharatiya Poshan Anthem**.  
**Note:** The anthem has been conceptualised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It has been written by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi and sung by Shankar Mahadevan.
7. India and Sweden signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for India-Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The objective of the innovation Centre is to develop an ecosystem of open innovation to which start-ups and the healthcare delivery stakeholders can use to collaborate and address current and future challenges in the healthcare sector. 22 new AIIMS soon to become fully operational, and 157 new Medical Colleges are at the development stage.
8. The **Mumbai Central station of Railways** was conferred with the **'Eat Right Station'** certification with **four stars** rating by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.  
**Note:** The Mumbai Central Railway Station is the country's first "Eat Right Station". The focus of the movement is on improving the health and well-being of people by ensuring they eat healthily. 'Eat Right India' movement is built on two broad pillars of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.
9. India's **first maritime museum** coming up at **Lothal, Gujarat**.  
**Note:** Government of India (GoI) & Portugal has decided to cooperate in the setting up of an India's 1st National Maritime Heritage Museum at Lothal in Gujarat. The objective of the museum to boost the underwater or marine archaeology.
10. India gifted a **'Made in India'** Patrol Vessel to the **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) -- KAAMIYAAB**.  
**Note:** It will be net security provider in the region amid China's increasing forays in the Indian Ocean Region. Meanwhile, 2500 LED streetlights donated by India were installed in Male recently. These streetlights save 80% energy and will result in cost savings of approx. 8.35 lakh MVR per year for Male city.
11. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has set-up a **Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)** at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) **Tiruchirappalli**.  
**Note:** The centre will work with ISRO on the technical problems at hand related to the future Space programmes and shall provide solutions. This S-TIC will cater to the southern region of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Telangana, the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
12. A 3-day annual **national conference** of DGPs and IGP held in **Pune**.  
**Note:** The conference is to be held at two venues - Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research in Baner and the Centre for Police Research in Pashan.
13. The Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the **3<sup>rd</sup> edition of National Public Procurement Conclave** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The two-day conclave has been organized by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in association with Confederation of Indian Industry. GeM rests on the three pillars of openness, fairness and inclusiveness and is a symbol of a truly transparent e-marketplace.
14. India's first Ganga centralized aqua lab at **Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.

**Note:** The aqua labs will be set up under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Tributaries of river Ganga such as Gomti, Betwa, Kosi will be scientifically studied and their biological components will be preserved in the lab.

15. **India-China joint training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019'** has begun at Umroi, Meghalaya.

**Note:** The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain. The theme of the exercise is 'counter-terrorism under United Nations mandate'. It is a 14-day-long training

exercise and will see the participation of around 260 military personals

16. **Election Commission Set to implement 'Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System' from January 2020.**

**Note:** The Election Commission of India has decided to implement the "Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System" (PPRTMS) to help the applicants, applying for party registration, to track the progress of his /her application. The new guidelines will be effective from 1 January 2020.

## November

1. **Census 2021**(16th) will be conducted in **two phases** (House-listing & Housing Census) during **April to September 2020**.

**Note:** The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has recommended an amount of Rs. 8754.23 crore for conducting Census 2021 in 16 languages. The reference date for the census will be 1 March 2021. It will be 1st October 2020 for Snow-bound Jammu and Kashmir, some areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

2. Union Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated an **Agro-based Exhibition 'Agro-Vision-2019'** in **Nagpur**.

**Note:** Agro-Vision exhibition comprises of National Agri-Exhibition Workshop for farmers and seminars. Small entrepreneurs who are engaged in the production of Agricultural machinery and components will be displaying their products at the stalls.

3. **India's two lakhs Gram Panchayats** will be connected with internet, broadband by March 2020.

**Note:** The union Govt. has set a target to provide internet and broadband connectivity to two lakh Gram Panchayats by March 2019. BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband and internet connectivity to all 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats in the country.

4. The **Film Bazaar** has been inaugurated by the **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** on the sidelines of the golden jubilee edition of the **International Film Festival of India**.

**Note:** It has been organised by the **National Film Development Corporation**. The Film Bazaar encourages creative and financial collaboration between the South Asian and International film communities. Over the years, films such as Lunch Box, Margarita with A Straw, Chauthi Koot, Qissa, Miss Lovely, Dum Lagake Haisha and Thithi have been through one or more programmes of the Bazaar.

5. The **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** has delivered '**ICGS Amrit Kaur**', third in the series of five fast patrol vessels (FPV) to **Indian Coast Guard**.

**Note:** ICGS Priyadarshini and ICGS Annie Besant are the first two FPV in the series which has already been delivered to

ICGS. The last two FPVs namely ICGS Kamla Devi and ICGS Kanaklata Barua will be commissioned shortly, after successful sea trials.

6. The three-day Global Bio-India Summit 2019 held at Aerocity, **New Delhi**.

**Note:** It will be one of the largest biotechnology stakeholder conglomerates held in India for the first time. It will bring academia, innovators, researchers, start-ups, medium and large companies together on the same platform.

7. As per Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards, top-ranked state in the list is **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:** Top-ranked district is Peddapalli (Telangana)

8. The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** will operate and **manage luxury train**, Golden Chariot from **March 2020**.

**Note:** The Golden Chariot Train (commenced operations in 2008) travels through one of the famous tourists and picturesque destinations of Karnataka, and Hamp (UNESCO world heritage site). It has 18 coaches with 44 guest rooms having a capacity for 84 guests. The train promises to offer world-class comfort, state-of-the-art amenities and enhanced and unforgettable experience to passengers.

9. The two days **Conference of Governors and Lieutenant Governors (50th)** held in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** The Conference discussed important thematic issues in various sessions. It includes tribal issues, reforms in agriculture, Jal Jeevan Mission, new education policy for higher education and governance for ease of living.

10. The **2019 NuGen Mobility Summit** held at **Manesar, Haryana**.

**Note:** The Theme of 2019 is "**Smart & Green Mobility**". The objective of the summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technologies trends for the faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced Automotive Technologies for a smarter and greener future.

11. Union Minister for **Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has released a short documentary film on Water Conservation named '**SHIKHAR SE PUKAR**'.

- Note:** The film has been made to promote 'Jalshakti Abhiyan' and is based on the Journey of an IAS Officer Ravindra Kumar. Mr Ravindra Kumar climbed Everest this year to attract the attention of people from the top of the Everest on the serious issue of Water Conservation and stopping Water Pollution. It also picturizes the difficulties and challenges in climbing the highest peak in the world.
12. The world's **biggest Islamic Congregation** 'Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima' held at **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** More than one million people from 54 countries are expected to attend the congregation which will continue till 25th November. It is a forum for delivering some important religious-spiritual messages to Muslims around the world. The first Alami Tablighi Ijtima took place in Bhopal in 1944 and only 14 people attended it then.
  13. Nitin Gadkari has released a booklet titled 'Convergence of National Highway improvement/construction with water conservation and groundwater recharge' at **Agro Vision-2019, Nagpur**.  
**Note:** The agriculture exhibition, Agro Vision show (4-Day) highlight the scope where the Indian agricultural sector can achieve new height of success. The theme of the 11th Agrovision has been aptly chosen as "Smart Technologies for Sustainable Development
  14. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the **two-day Air Force Commanders' Conference** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Top commanders of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in it. They will discuss the operational, maintenance and administrative matters related to Air Force.
  15. The **US State Department** cleared the sale of **sophisticated naval guns worth USD 1 billion to India**.  
**Note:** The MK-45 guns will enhance India's naval capabilities, particularly in the Arabian Sea. The Gun System will provide the capability to conduct anti-surface warfare and anti-air defence missions while enhancing interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces.
  16. **Oxford Dictionaries** has named '**climate emergency**' as 2019 Word of the Year.  
**Note:** It also included 'climate action', 'climate denial', 'eco-anxiety', 'extinction' and 'flight shame'. The word is selected because it shows the increase in usage since 2018. Climate emergency defines as "a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change.
  17. **Hardeep Singh Puri** has launched **Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awaz Portal (CLAP)** in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The portal provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for credit-linked Subsidy Services (CLSS) beneficiaries. Using the portal, a beneficiary can track his application status in real-time. The initiative would also benefit other stakeholders to work in synergy to release subsidy to beneficiaries on time.
  18. The **Indian Railways** has decided to introduce an **automatic train protection system** in its entire network of **68,000 km route**.  
**Note:** As a pilot project, the system would be implemented on **650 route km** of the golden quadrilateral corridor connecting the four metros - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
  19. **ISRO** has launched India's most **sophisticated Earth observation satellite** Cartosat-3 and 13 US nanosatellites from Sri harikota in Andhra Pradesh.  
**Note:** The launch enhanced India's ability in high-resolution imaging and also reinforce India as a global launch destination for small satellites using its workhorse rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. According to ISRO, the 1,625 kg Cartosat-3 is an advanced agile satellite to obtain panchromatic and multispectral imagery with an operational life of five years.
  20. Minister of State for Defence **Shripad Naik** has inaugurated a two-day seminar "DEFCON INDIA 2019' in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of 'DEFCON INDIA 2019' is 'Communications: A Decisive Catalyst for Jointness'. The seminar is devoted to the seminal theme of leveraging communications for achieving jointness between the three services.
  21. The Indian Navy will host military drill '**Milan 2020**' in March.  
**Note:** MILAN stands for 'Multilateral Naval Exercise'. 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
  22. The Indian Railways has set up the Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) at **Secunderabad, Telangana**.  
**Note:** The institute was formally inaugurated by Vinod Kumar Yadav (Chairman, Railway Board. The new entity (IRIFM) will impart professional training in the management of railway finances). Rail Vikas Nigam Limited conceived and constructed the project, on a 14-acre campus at a cost of Rs 85 crore.
  23. The Centre for **Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM)** has launched the **Water 4 Change**.  
**Note:** Under the project, six prominent institutions from the Netherlands will perform long-term research and field-level action on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists. The project will bring solutions for water problems in the cities of Kozhikode, Shimla, Bhuj and Bhopal. The CWRDM was established by the Government of Kerala to cater to the needs of research and development in water management of the state.
  24. Union Minister **Piyush Goyal** has inaugurated the 2019 Global Exhibition on Services (5th edition) in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.  
**Note:** The inaugural function was also attended by Chief Minister of Karnataka B. S. Yediyurappa. GES is an annual event established by the Department of Commerce, Union

Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

25. **G Satheesh Reddy** has been awarded honorary fellowship by **Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)** of United Kingdom (UK).

**Note:** He is the first Indian recipient of the prestigious award in more than 100 years. It is one of the world's highest distinctions for aerospace achievement awarded for only most exceptional contributions to the aerospace profession. It is considered as equivalent to Nobel Prize in the aerospace domain.

26. The **sixth Dornier aircraft squadron** has been commissioned at Naval Air Enclave- Porbandar on Gujarat coast **Indian Naval Air Squadron 314**.

**Note:** This squadron will operate the Dornier aircraft, a multi-role SRMR aircraft, with twin turboprop engine manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited, Kanpur.

27. The **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL)** became the first company to list its commercial papers on the stock exchanges.

**Note:** The value date of the commercial paper is November 28 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.

28. Union Government has extended the date for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on National Highways to **15th December 2019**.

**Note:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has equipped all Fee Plazas with Electronic Toll Collection System and to ease in availability of FASTag. It has also launched MyFASTag APP whereby all information regarding FASTag can be obtained.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a 400 million-dollar Line of Credit of to **Sri Lanka**.

**Note:** India gives priority to its relations with Sri Lanka under its Neighbour hood First' Policy.

30. Hallmarking for Gold jewellery and artefacts will be mandatory from **15th January 2021**.

**Note:** More than 26 thousand jewellers have taken the Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS (Hallmarking) registration till now. If anyone is found violating the set rules after 15th January 2021, they may attract a fine of minimum one lakh rupees or five times the value of the items or a jail term of one year.

31. As per **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope** on Financial Inclusion report:

**Note:** India placed among the top nations with the most conducive environment for financial inclusion in terms of allowing non-banks to issue e-money. The overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico have the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.

32. **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **National symposium** to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** The theme of the symposium was "United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis". During the symposium, Dr. Harsh Vardhan signed a 'Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021'. The Lymphatic Filariasis is a disease caused by a human parasitic worm called Wuchereria Bancrofti and spread by Culex Mosquitoes.

33. 5th Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations held in -- **New Delhi**.

**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel co-chaired the 5th Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations to strengthen the "very close" relationship between the two countries. The two leaders also discuss bilateral issues including agriculture economic partnership, trade and investment.

34. **Telecom Regulatory Authority of Indian (TRAI)** fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds on mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones.

**Note:** The time duration of alert for an incoming voice call, which is neither answered nor rejected by the called party, shall be thirty seconds for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and sixty seconds for Basic Telephone Service. Telecom operators on their own were reducing incoming call ring time to attract reverse calls from the subscriber of other networks.

35. According to a new academic paper- written by Santosh Mehrotra and Jajati K Parida, The total employment during 2011-12 and 2017-18 declined by - **9 million**.

**Note:** It has been published by the Centre of Sustainable Employment at the **Azim Premji University**. The paper is based on both the recent "Employment and Unemployment" and "Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprise" survey data of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

36. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** is collaborating with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a space technology cell at the campus.

**Note:** The cell will work for carrying out focused research projects in the space technology domain with specific deliverables. The IIT Delhi celebrating 50th Convocation on 2 November where Dr. K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO will be the chief guest.

37. **Siemens Limited** has signed a MoU with NTPC Limited to identify, evaluate and set up reference use cases of hydrogen sector-coupling for various upstream and downstream applications.

**Note:** The collaboration is aimed at developing **innovative technologies**, solutions and techniques to reduce the dependence on Hydrocarbons in India. Siemens has also inked a separate MoU with TERI for collaboration on technologies to support the energy transition in India including sector-coupling.

38. **AYUSH Ministry** has Inaugurated **National Research Institute of Unani Medicine** for Skin Disorders.

- Note:** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders (NRIUMSD) in Hyderabad. It is upgraded institutions from the Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM).
39. German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** pledged to invest **1 billion euros over the next five years** on environmentally friendly urban mobility in **India**.  
**Note:** Merkel, whose visit to the country coincided with one of the worst spells of air pollution in Delhi/NCR, also emphasized on the need to replace diesel-run public transport with electric vehicles. Germany would also put in 200 million euros to reform the bus sector in Tamil Nadu.
40. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **5th India International Science Festival (IISF)** through video conference.  
**Note:** The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India - Research, Innovation and Science Empowering the Nation.
41. The Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** unveiled two new IT Initiatives (**ICEDASH and ATITHI**) for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods.  
**Note:** ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports. The ATITHI app will facilitate hassle-free and faster clearance by Customs at the airports and enhance the experience of international tourists and other visitors at the airports.
42. The first-ever **containerized cargo movement** via the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route and Brahmaputra river will start from **Haldia (West Bengal)**.  
**Note:** The vessel MV Maheshwari, carrying 53 containers of petrochemicals, edible oil and beverage will take 12-15 days to reach the IWAI terminal at Pandu in Assam's Guwahati. National Waterway 2 (NW-2) is a section of the Brahmaputra River having a length of 891 km between the Bangladesh border near Dhubri and Sadiya in Assam.
43. Punjab Chief Minister **Amarinder Singh** has launched a first of its kind job **helpline number (76260-76260)** for the unemployed youth of the state under **Ghar Ghar Rozgar' programme**.  
**Note:** The objective of this helpline is to reach every house in Punjab. In this process, a 110-seat call centre of Punjab Job Helpline has also been created for the data to be prepared.
44. The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'Dustlik-2019' has begun at Chirchiq Training Area near **Tashkent**.  
**Note:** The exercise enabled the sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and will lead to greater operational effectiveness.
45. The **Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson** (45 minutes) and assembly of spectrosopes was successfully achieved at the **Science City, Kolkata (IISF-2019)**  
**Note:** Over 1,598 students has participated in the event.
46. **Union Minister Prakash Javadekar** has attended the 15th meeting of the Governing Council of **South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)** in **Dhaka**.  
**Note:** The SACEP is an inter-governmental organization which was established in 1982. Its member countries Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka aim to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
47. Italian movie **Despite the Fog** is the opening movie at the 50th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019.  
**Note:** The 100-minute film directed by Goran Paskaljevic narrates the tale of a child whose parents drown while trying to migrate to Italy in a rubber boat. The 50th edition of IFFI witnessed the screening of over 200 best films from 76 countries.
48. Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Sanjay Dhotre has launched the Shala Darpan Portal of **Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti**.  
**Note:** Shala Darpan provides an integrated platform to meet the educational and administrative needs of all stakeholders-students, teachers and parents. This will integrate all Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas with a common standard which includes around 636 schools and 2.67 million students.
49. Agriculture Minister **Narendra Singh Tomar** has released the fifth edition of **Wastelands Atlas - 2019**.  
**Note:** The Atlas, published jointly by Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.
50. **India** has decided not to be part of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** agreement in the national interest.  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his speech at the RCEP Summit in Bangkok. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its six FTA partners (China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand).
51. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Within Asia, EM was first recognized in Singapore in 1984, followed by the Philippines, Turkey, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand and India.
52. The union minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** inaugurated state of **art railway station in Sultanpur Lodhi**. Punjab.

- Note:** The railway station modelled on Sikh architecture has been engineered to facilitate pilgrims visiting the holy city. The Minister also released a book on the life and teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji to commemorate Guru Sahab's 550th Prakash Purb.
- 53.** The Eleventh edition of **Bal Sangam** has begun in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The four-day festival will showcase enthralling folk and traditional performing arts and folk theatre dedicated to children. As many as twelve States including Assam, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat are participating in the event.
- 54.** A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by **Supreme Court Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi** paved the way for the construction of a Ram Temple at **Ayodhya**.  
**Note:** It also directed the Centre to allot an alternative five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque at a prominent place in the holy town.
- 55.** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the Integrated check post of **Kartarpur Corridor** at Dera Baba Nanak in **Punjab**.  
**Note:** Mr. Modi flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims led by Akal Takhat Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the corridor. The corridor connects 'Dera Baba Nanak' (in Gurdaspur district-India) to the 'Gurdwara Darbar Sahib' (in Kartarpur in Narowal district of Pakistan). The Kartarpur Gurudwara (Darbar Sahib Kartarpur) is situated on the banks of river 'Ravi', considered to be the first gurdwara ever built.
- 56. Indian Coast Guard** conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019).  
**Note:** It conducted this exercise to check the preparedness and response measures for search and rescue at sea in a coordinated manner. The two days event organised by the Coast Guard District Headquarters - 11 (Goa) comprised of search and rescue workshop and tabletop exercise followed by search and rescue exercise at sea.
- 57.** India will be the host nation for the 'No Money For Terror' Conference to be held in **2020**.  
**Note:** The 'No Money For Terror' conference is organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of over 100 countries, jointly known as the Egmont Group.
- 58.** The 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (eight-day) held at the Netaji Indoor Stadium **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan inaugurated the festival at a glittering function at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in the city in presence of a galaxy of cine personalities and dignitaries of cultural and sports field. Noted film director Mahesh Bhatt referred the contribution of Bengal's Movies in the national perspective. 213 feature films and 152 short and documentary films from 76 countries will be screened in 17 venues during the film extravaganza.
- 59.** The Golden Jubilee of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019** will screen three films for **differently abled**.  
**Note:** International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019 will have the screening of Accessible India Films. This is a collaboration between IFFI, Saksham Bharat and UNESCO with the aim to promote the creation of inclusive spaces for the differently abled to access the joy of cinema through Audio Deion. This unique film section will witness the screening of three films, two in Hindi - Lage Raho Munna Bhai and M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story and one in Konkani- Questao De Confusao in Konkani.
- 60.** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has organized the **27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO)** in **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** The theme of this year's Conference "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
- 61.** National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has launched its **first all-electric experimental aircraft** named-- **X-57 'Maxwell'**.  
**Note:** The first delivery of the all-electric experimental aircraft was taken from Empirical Systems Aerospace (ESAero) in California, United States (US). Due to current battery limitations, Maxwell's design is envisioned for use in short-haul flights as an air-taxi or commuter plane for a small number of passengers.
- 62.** The **Union government of India** has given **approval for setting up Four medical device** parks.  
**Note:** The **four parks** will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, **Telangana**, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. These parks will provide the necessary infrastructure, where companies can easily plug and play. The project of Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone for creation of Common Facility Centre (CFC) for Superconducting Magnetic Coil Testing and Research was given in-principle approval recently.
- 63.** The 50th- edition of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** showcase **Eight** movies from Russia.  
**Note:** 'Andrei Tarkovsky: A Cinema Prayer', is one of the movies to be featured among these Russian movies. The documentary by Tarkovsky is considered one of his masterpieces. It recounts the director's life and works told by himself. In the film, he shares his memories, view of art and reflections on the destiny of the artist and the meaning of human existence.
- 64.** Newly **discovered species** of spider named after **Sachin Tendulkar**.  
**Note:** Mr. Dhruv Prajapati is a research scholar from the Gujarat Ecological Education & Research (GEER) Foundation. One spider species was named after Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as "Marengo Sachin Tendulkar". The other was named as "Indomarengo chavarapater" after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who played a key role in creating awareness on education in the state of Kerala.

65. The defence ministry is organizing Def-Connect to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative in New Delhi.  
**Note:** The conference aims to bring together all stakeholders of the iDEX ecosystem, Ministry of defence, iDEX selected startups, Partner Incubators, Defence Innovation Organisation, Nodal agencies (Indian Army, Navy, Airforce), Defence Research
66. The 39th edition of **India International Trade Fair (IITF-2019)** started at **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme for the 39th edition of the fair is 'Ease of Doing Business' inspired by India's unique achievement of rising to 63rd rank on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index from 142nd rank in the year 2014. Several countries, including Australia, Iran, UK, and Vietnam will participate in the 14-day IITF-2019. This year the status of 'Partner Country' has been accorded to 'The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan' and 'The Republic of Korea' will be the 'Focus Country'. Bihar and Jharkhand will be the focus states in this edition of the fair.
67. Air Chief Marshal **RKS Bhadauria** has inaugurated the **58th Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine (ISAM) Annual Conference** at **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** The objective of the conference to address contemporary issues and applications in the subject of aerospace medicine. The theme for this year's conference is 'Changing Paradigms in Aerospace Healthcare'.
68. Brazilian **President Jair Bolsonaro** will be the **Chief Guest** at the **Republic Day Parade 2020**.  
**Note:** The year 2018 was historic when leaders from the 10 ASEAN nations – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei – were the chief guests at Republic Day celebration. On 26th January 2020, India will celebrate its 71st Republic Day.
69. India gets **USD 43 million** from Green Climate Fund to boost climate resilience.  
**Note:** India kicked-off a USD 43 million project to boost climate resilience in three coastal states in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund, established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist developing countries.
70. **Mangala Mani** is the first woman scientist to spend 403 days in Antarctica.  
**Note:** Mani was part of an expedition team that went to Bharati – India's research station in Antarctica – in November 2016. She was the only woman in the 23-member-team that went to the freezing continent this time.
71. The **Union Water Resources Ministry** has set up a Committee to draft a new **National Water Policy (NWP)**. The Committee will be chaired by **Mihir Shah**.  
**Note:** The committee has **10 principal members**, including Shashi Shekhar, a **former secretary of Water Resources**, and A.B. Pandya, former chairman of the Central Ground Water Board. The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987
72. The Supreme Court has held that the office of the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is a public authority under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005**.  
**Note:** The judgment in this regard was made by a five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi on November 13, 2019.
73. The first woman Assistant Naval Attache and second woman defence personnel to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment in Russia --- **Gogoi**
74. The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It was jointly hosted by the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
75. India-U.S. tri-services amphibious exercise Tiger Triumph has begun at **Vishakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The training events will enhance U.S.-India military-to-military relations and hone individual and small-unit skills in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The exercise will include staff-planning events as well as field training that simulates moving a humanitarian assistance/disaster relief force from ship to shore.
76. **CSIR- IMTECH, Chandigarh** has signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay to promote collaborative research.  
**Note:** The objective of this collaboration is to carry out state of the art research in areas of healthcare especially in projects and missions where both the institutes can significantly complement each other.
77. Two-day **Regional Conference** on the theme: "**Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh**" has begun in **Jammu**.  
**Note:** The Conference is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
78. National Initiative for **School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)** was launched in **Jammu and Kashmir**.  
**Note:** The event was attended by around **300 teachers, Key Resource Persons (KRPs)** and **Chief Education Officers, DIET Principals** and Educational Administrators. NISHTHA is a National Mission aimed at improving learning outcomes at Elementary level through integrated Teacher Training
79. **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit at headquarter in New Delhi.



- Note:** It has been set up to counter the growing menace of child porn on the internet. The new specialized unit under the Special Crime Investigation Wing of the agency will collect intelligence on those who are allegedly creating and transmitting such material on the internet.
80. Smriti Irani Inaugurates Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK) to Tackle **Malnutrition**.  
**Note:** The Poshan Atlas was inaugurated by Smriti Zubin Irani along with Bill Gates in New Delhi. The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones to help enable better nutritional outcomes. The Kosh aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children across the country, through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture
81. President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the prestigious President's Colour to the Indian Naval Academy at **Kannur, Kerala**.  
**Note:** President's Colour is a visible symbol of excellence and is earned through worthy contribution both during war and peace.
82. **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC)** has launched a special winter-grade diesel that remains unfrozen up to minus 33 degree Celsius.
- Note:** The fuel would help provide year-round access to snow-capped border regions and is part of India's efforts to speed up strategic road connectivity.
83. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) has released a 28-page booklet called '**From uttapam to sprouted dal parantha**'.  
**Note:** It explains that nutritious food prepared at less than 20 rupees will help in dealing with problems like underweight, obesity and Anaemia in children. The book gives a detailed break-up of protein, carbohydrate, fat, total fibre, iron, vitamin C and calcium content of the recipe.
84. The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) in **Leh**.  
**Note:** The setting up of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) would provide an impetus for the revival of Sowa-Rigpa in the Indian Sub-continent. It will be an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH.
85. RSS Chief **Dr. Mohan Bhagwat** has inaugurated the International Principal's Education Conference (IPEC) at **Nagpur**.  
**Note:** Noted mathematician Anand Kumar (Super 30 founder) was honoured with Nachiketa Sarvottama Award on the occasion. Mr. Kumar dedicated this award to all the teachers who are working for the upliftment of underprivileged children.

## October

- Aarambh:** The Centre's first-ever common foundation course for the 2019 batch probationer civil servants at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat.  
**Note:** The theme this year is 'How to achieve the goal of making India a 5 trillion Dollar economy.'
- '**Maharatna**' status has been granted by the Government to state-owned --- **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited & Power Grid Corporation of India Limited**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of loss-making telecom firms **BSNL and MTNL**
- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** observed the **Vigilance Awareness Week** -- 28th October to 2nd November 2019.
- IIM Kozhikode and Mangalore Refineries and Petrochemicals Ltd. have announced a special drive to support women entrepreneurs in the country -- "La Eve (meaning The Woman)"
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** has launched a cinema advertisement campaign to raise awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India -- **Feed Our Future**.
- Union Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched the postal stamp under the '**Corporate My Stamp**' scheme of India Posts.
- NITI Aayog with Institute for Competitiveness as the knowledge partner released the -- **India Innovation Index (III) 2019**.  
**Note:**
  - Karnataka is the most innovative major state in India.
  - Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh form the remaining top ten major states respectively.
- National Highway No. 703AA renamed as -- **Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Marg**.  
**Note:** The road starting from Kapurthala connecting Goindwal Sahib and terminating near Taran Taran in Punjab.
- India's longest Tunnel Chenani- Nashri on NH 44, in Jammu and Kashmir will be named after --- Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Bhartiya Jansangh Founder).

- 11.** Railways Minister Piyush Goyal flagged off 'Sewa Service' trains -- 9.
- Note:** The trains are – Delhi to Shamli, Bhubaneswar to Nayagarh town, Murkongselek to Dibrugarh, Coimbatore to Palani, Coimbatore to Pollachi, Vadnagar to Mehsana, Asarya to Himmatnagar, Karur to Salem, Yesvantpur to Tumkur.

- 12.** The All India Institute of Medical Sciences in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry launched the 1st-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness – **eDantSeva**.

**13. Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a four-day official visit to India –**

- On 03<sup>rd</sup> October, Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a four-day official visit to India.

**33rd India Economic Summit in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was invited as the **Chief Guest at the 33rd edition of the India Economic Summit which was held in New Delhi**.
- The summit was organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The theme for the 2019 summit was 'Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World'.

- 14. India's first private train Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express flagged off –** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off country's first private train Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express started its maiden journey from Lucknow.

- It will be the first train of Indian Railways that will be entirely run by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).
- All passengers travelling by Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express will be provided free insurance of up to **₹25 lakh by IRCTC**.

**Note:**

- In a first, IRCTC will offer a refund to travellers if the train gets delayed.
- If the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express delays for over an hour, passengers will get a compensation of ₹100.
- For delay of two hours and more, the passengers will receive ₹250.

**15. Jaipur topped the list of cleanest railway stations in the country - 'Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019**

- According to the 'Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat 2019' report, Jaipur topped the list of the cleanest railway station in India.

- 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.
- Since 2016, cleanliness survey is carried out by the Quality Council of India (QCI), an independent body.

Key points of the report - Top 10 cleanest railway station - The top ten railway stations include seven cities of Rajasthan.

- Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
- Durgapura (Rajasthan)
- Jammu Tawi
- Gandhinagar (Jaipur district)
- Suratgarh (Rajasthan)
- Vijayawada
- Udaipur (Rajasthan)
- Ajmer (Rajasthan)
- Haridwar

**Suburban stations** - Suburban stations were included for the first time in this survey.

- Andheri, Virar and Naigaon railway stations were the top three among 109 suburban stations.

**Best railway zone**

- The North Western Railway (NWR), headquartered in Jaipur, has been ranked the best among the 17 railway zones in the country.
- South Eastern Railway ranked at second place was and East Central Railway ranked at the third spot in the list.

**16. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declares India open defecation-free –** On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi,

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared India as Open Defecation Free (ODF).
- On 02nd October, '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.

- According to the PM Modi, under the massive, Swachh Bharat Mission India has built almost 11 crore toilets for about 60 crore people in just a period of 60 months.

**17. Titan MD Bhaskar Bhat retires** - The Managing Director (MD) of Titan company Bhaskar Bhat has retired after 33 years of service in the company on 30th September.

**Note: C.K. Venkataraman appointed new MD of Titan** - C.K. Venkataraman has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Titan company with immediate effect from October 1.

**18. CISF to set up permanent deployment at Baglihar**

**Hydro Electric Power plant** – According to sources, 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:

- 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.

**19. India's largest 'Charkha' made of waste plastic inaugurated in Noida** – Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated India's largest 'Charkha' made of Waste Plastic in Noida.

Note:

- This 'charkha' (spinning wheel) made of used plastic waste was inaugurated the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
- The 'charkha', which symbolises Gandhi's dream of Swadeshi (self-sufficing and self-reliance), measures 14ft, 20ft and 8ft and is made of 1,250 kg of used plastic.

**20. Amit Shah flags off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express** – Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express from the New Delhi Railway Station.

- This is the second Vande Bharat Express. The first one runs in between Delhi and Varanasi.

Note:

- Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is an Indian semi-high speed intercity electric multiple unit.
- It was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory Chennai under the Indian government's Make in India initiative over a span of 18 months.

**21. Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary on 02<sup>nd</sup> October 2019**

- The Nation pays homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary today i.e. 2nd October 2019.
- The nation also remembers Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 115th birth anniversary.

**22. India will shift to Bharat Stage Six (BS-VI) vehicular emission norms from BS IV by April 2020** in order to curb vehicular pollution. This announcement was made by the Environment and Forest Minister Mr Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi.

**23. Government launches eDant Seva** – On October 7, 2019, the eDant Seva was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family welfare. It is an initiative under the National Oral Health Program.

**24. Ganga Aamantran initiative launched by Jal Shakti Minister** – Ganga Aamantran is an initiative to connect stakeholders of the Ganga river. It is the first effort of National Mission for Clean Ganga.

**25. Govt. launches PRAKASH Portal** – To bring better coordination for coal supplies among all stakeholders, PRAKASH portal was launched by Union Power Minister (Independent charge) Raj Kumar Singh and Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi.

- PRAKASH stands for - Power Rail Koyla Availability through Supply Harmony Portal

**26. Sarbat Da Bhala Express:** Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Harsh Vardhan and Harsimrat Kaur Badal flagged off 'Sarbat Da Bhala Express' train at New Delhi railway station.

- The 'New Delhi-Lohian Khas-New Delhi Intercity Express' was recently renamed as 'Sarbat da Bhala Express' by Indian Railways.
- The renamed train will run from New Delhi to Lohian Khas via holy city Sultanpur Lodhi.

**27. Kartarpur corridor:** Former PM Manmohan Singh has accepted Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's invitation to join the inaugural event of Kartarpur corridor.

September

### 1. **First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR**

**Foundation Day** – The President of India Ramnath Kovind unveiled the first Indigenous High-Temperature Fuel Cell System.

- This system is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship program named "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)" on the occasion of CSIR Foundation Day in New Delhi.

Note:

- The 77<sup>th</sup> foundation day of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was observed on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

2. **NTPC to build India's biggest solar park in Gujarat** – India's National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) plans to set up a 5-gigawatt solar park in the western state of Gujarat, which would be the biggest in the country.

3. **Telecom body approves Rs 8500 crore for mobile towers & optical fibres** – The Digital Communication Commission, the highest decision making body in the Department of Telecom has approved multiple projects worth over Rs 8,500 crore.

- The projects aims to set up mobile towers and laying of optical fibre, with an aim to provide improved connectivity. The commission also approved a special scheme to cover upto 12,000 uncovered villages in aspirational districts.

4. **Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank launches WAVE Summit 2019** – Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE) summit.

- It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.

5. **India's first central police university to come up in Greater Noida** – The country's first central police university will be set up by the Union Home Ministry at the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

6. **Google announces new AI research lab in India** - Google has announced that it will open an artificial intelligence (AI) based research lab "Google Research India" in Bengaluru.

- The Indian AI lab will be led by Dr. Manish Gupta, a renowned computer scientist in the country.

7. **India Post expands speed post service to 6 new foreign countries** – India Post expanded speed post service to six new foreign destinations in Asia, Europe and South America.

- The Department of Posts has announced commencing of International Speed Post (EMS) Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia.

8. **India's 1st National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub set up in Kolkata** – India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub was recently inaugurated in Kolkata. The Kolkata centre would be the hub for research on antibiotic resistance not only for the country but for the entire South Asia.

9. **India to fund 1000 PhD fellowships for ASEAN students at IITs** – India has formally launched an initiative to fund 1000 scholars from South East Asian countries to pursue PhD at its 23 Indian Institutes of Technology.

- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Human Resource Development.
- The scheme has an initial budget of Rs. 300 crore.

10. **Ravi Shankar Prasad launches Maritime Communication Services in India** – Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the Maritime Communication Services at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- Nelco, India's leading VSAT solutions provider is the first Indian company that will now provide quality broadband services to the maritime sector.

11. **Centre to set up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres** – Union Government has set a target of setting up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country.

- Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Minister Shripad Yesso Naik announced this during the inauguration of a Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit.

12. **PM Modi inaugurates multi-modal terminal at Jharkhand's Sahibganj** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the second riverine multi modal terminal at Sahibganj.

Note:

- This is the second of the three Multi Modal Terminals being constructed on river Ganga under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- Earlier, in November 2018 the Prime Minister had inaugurated the MMT at Varanasi.
- The MMTs are being built as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia.

13. **'TB Harega Desh Jeetega'**: A campaign to eliminate tuberculosis from India – 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega': Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched a new 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign'.

- A National TB prevalence Survey was also launched by the minister. 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign' campaign has been launched with an aim to eliminate tuberculosis from India.

**14. Govt constituted a Sanjay Mitra committee to look into assets, liabilities of J&K** – The government has constituted a three-member committee to look into the distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories. It will come into existence on October 31.

- Former defence secretary **Sanjay Mitra** will be the chairman of the committee. The other members are - retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and retired Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta.

**Important point -**

- As per Section 84 of the Act, the assets and liabilities of the existing state of Jammu and Kashmir have to be apportioned between the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

**15. PM Modi crosses 50 million followers, becomes third most followed leader** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the mark of 50 million followers on his twitter account, becoming the third most followed world leader after **Donald Trump and Barack Obama**.

- PM Modi is the most followed Indian on Twitter, even ahead of Bollywood superstars like Salman Khan and Shahrukh Khan and Indian skipper Virat Kohli.

**16. First greenfield industrial smart city opened in Aurangabad**

- On 7th September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Aurangabad Industrial City (Aurik) in Aurangabad.
- It is the first new smart industrial city in the country and is spread over 10 thousand acres. It is part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial corridor.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Auric Hall, a six-storey building which will be both monitoring and administrative nerve centre for a smart city.
- He also launched the Auric chatbot that will help anyone get their problems addressed by the city administration.
- Developed in the backward Marathwada region of Maharashtra, this city is being described as the country's first greenfield industrial smart city.

**17. HRD Ministry awarded Institute of Eminence status to 5 public institutions** – The Human Resource Development

Ministry has awarded the Institute of Eminence status to 5 public institutions.

- Each of the above university has to sign a MoU with the HRD Ministry and will lay out its plan to achieve the objective of becoming a world-class institution. The public institutions on the list will then be eligible for a government grant of RS 1,000 crore.

The status was awarded to the following institutions:

- IIT Madras
- IIT Kharagpur
- Delhi University
- Banaras Hindu University
- University of Hyderabad

**18. Gol to spend 3.5 lakh crore rupees on Jal Jeevan Mission** –

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the central government will spend **3.5 lakh crore rupees** in the next five years on '**Jal Jeevan Mission**' to deliver potable water at every household across the country.

- Jal Jeevan Mission involves saving water and delivering water at one's doorstep.

**19. Tourism Minister inaugurates first-ever architectural LED illumination at Qutub Minar** – Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahalad Singh Patel inaugurated first-ever architectural LED illumination at the Qutub Minar.

- With the illumination, the architectural beauty of the 12th-century monument will display its historic majesty after sunset. Qutub Minar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of most visited historical site in Delhi.

**20. Delhi's IGI Airport Gets India's Tallest ATC Tower** – Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport gets India's tallest ATC tower to enhance the safety and boost the efficiency of air transport management services.

- The Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Delhi Air Traffic Service Complex, which is the tallest Air Traffic Control tower in India with a height of 102 metres.
- The tower aims to reduce the pressure on controllers and provide relief to flyers from delays. The tower has over 45 workstations with better operational area visibility. The tower has multilayered security.

**21. INX Media case: P Chidambaram sent to Tihar jail till September 19** - P Chidambaram has been sent to Tihar jail till September 19, 2019.

- The order was given by Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi where the CBI's case against the former Finance Minister in relation to INX Media corruption case was being heard.

**22. Ministry of culture rolls out 25 new mobile science museums buses** – Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), flagged off the first-ever Mobile Science Exhibition buses for the entire Ladakh Region in Leh.

- The Minister simultaneously launched 25 new Mobile Science Exhibition buses for Aspirational Districts of India.

**23. First metro coach manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers inaugurated by PM Modi**

- On 07th September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first metro coach manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers in Mumbai.
- Bharat Earth Movers (BEML) has built it in just 75 days.
- Prime Minister laid the foundation stones for three Metro corridors worth over 19,000 crore rupees.
- The three corridors, namely Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk; Wadala-CST and Kalyan-Taloja are together expected to carry more than 40 lakh commuters daily.

Note:

- BEML (formerly known as Bharat Earth Movers Limited) is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking. Its headquarters is located in Bengaluru.

**24. IIT Delhi to establish shared research infrastructure 'SATHI'** – Indian Institute of Delhi (IIT Delhi) will set up a science and technology infrastructure facility centre named Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI).

- The centre will be set up in the Sonapat campus (Haryana) of IIT Delhi.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has selected Indian Institute of Delhi (IIT Delhi) for setting up 'SATHI' centre in the country.
- The main objective of the centre would be to provide professionally managed services under one roof to meet the demands of industry, start-ups and academia.

**25. Income tax dept creates a world record with the filing of 49 lakh ITRs in one day** – According to the Income Tax department, it has created a sort of world record by achieving a record Income Tax Return filing in a single day.

- While releasing the data on e-filing of ITRs, The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said that the IT department made history with an all-time high record of 49 lakh 29 thousand ITRs filed in a single day on August 31.

**26. September month to be celebrated as 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah'** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his latest Mann Ki Baat programme announced to celebrate September 2019 as a month of nutrition. The month of September will be celebrated as 'Poshan Abhiyaan' or 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' across India.

- This year the theme is 'Complementary Feeding'.

**About POSHAN Abhiyaan**

- The POSHAN Abhiyaan, an overarching scheme for holistic nourishment, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- POSHAN stands for - Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition.
- The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.

**27. Govt. to set up 12,500 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres across country** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced government's target of setting up 12,500 AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) Centres across India.

- Out of which government is trying to set up 4000 such centres in 2019 itself. The announcement was made by PM Modi during giving away Yoga Awards to winners for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga in New Delhi.

**28. Country's longest electrified rail tunnel inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh** – Vice-President of India inaugurated the country's longest electrified rail tunnel between Cherlopalli and Rapuru and the electrified railway line between Venkatachalam and Obulavaripalli in Andhra Pradesh. The length of the rail tunnel is 6.6 kilometre.

- The South-Central Railway (SCR) zone of the Indian Railways has commissioned India's longest electrified railway tunnel in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru Railway stations in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.
- The height of the tunnel (rail level to roof) is 6.5 meters and the minimum height of the contact wire is maintained at 5.2 meters.

**29. Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved establishment of International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) along with its supporting Secretariat Office in New Delhi.

- CDRI is proposed to be launched at United Nations (UN) Climate Action Summit scheduled to be held in New York, US on 23rd September 2019.

### August

**1. Union HRD Minister launches Integrated Online junction 'Shagun'** – Union Human Resource Development Minister launched one of the world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education 'Shagun' in New Delhi.

- Shagun is coined from two different words- 'Shala' meaning Schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning Quality.

Note:

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

**2. Prime Minister launches Fit India Movement** – On the occasion of National Sports Day (29<sup>th</sup> August), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Fit India Movement at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi.

- During the event, PM appealed to the nation to join this fitness movement and make a 'Fitter & Better India'.
- The nation-wide Fit India Movement aims to motivate every Indian to incorporate simple, easy ways of staying fit in their everyday life.
- The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on 29 August, on the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.

**3. The Union Environment Ministry releases Rs 47,436 cr for green activities** – The Union Environment Ministry has transferred Rs 47,436 crore to 27 States for afforestation. The amount has been released from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund.

- The corpus will be utilised for compensatory afforestation, wildlife management, forest fire prevention, work related to soil and moisture conservation in forests, voluntary relocation of villages from protected areas etc.

**4. UGC constitutes 5-member committee to inquire into sale of fake degrees by universities** – The UGC has set up a five-member committee to look into the allegations of sale of fake degrees by certain universities.

- The committee was set up after the Union HRD Ministry directed UGC to immediately constitute a high-level committee to inquire into the matter.
- The special committee will be headed by **Chairman DP Singh** and assisted by UGC Joint Secretary (Private Universities) Surender Singh. The HRD Ministry has directed the committee to complete its enquiry within three weeks.

**5. Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) has set up a waste plastic to diesel plant in Dehradun** (capital of Uttarakhand) as a step towards ensuring freedom from plastic.

**6. India Launches World's First Ever Facial BSID** – India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.

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

**7. Govt Launched mobile app "Janaushadhi Sugam"** – Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers launched a mobile application "Janaushadhi Sugam".

- This app will enable people to search for Janaushadhi generic medicines and the stores at the tip of their fingers.

**8. Project SURE** - Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched **Project SURE**, a move towards sustainable fashion at Lakmé Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- The project aims to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.

**About SURE project**

- SURE stands for 'Sustainable Resolution'. It is first holistic effort by the apparel industry towards gradually introducing a broader framework for establishing critical sustainability goals for the industry.

- 9. National Digital Library of India launched by HRD Ministry** – Human Resource Development Ministry has launched the National Digital Library of India project to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
- It has been launched under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, NMEICT.
- 10. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology** – Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences (SACON) in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- 11. Ocean Energy gets renewable energy Status** – Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has approved proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.
- It has clarified to all stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) will be considered as Renewable Energy.
  - The decision will give boost to ocean energy in the country. It will make ocean energy eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).
- 12. Indian Railways to prohibit single-use plastic from October 2** – In a move to curb use of plastics, Union Ministry of Railways has directed all regional offices to ensure complete removal of single-use plastics from all railways stations effective from 2 October 2019.
- 13. Minority Affairs Ministry Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi to inaugurate “Hunar Haat”** – Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot will inaugurate this “Hunar Haat” at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur.
- “Hunar Haat” has proved to be an effective programme to provide employment and employment opportunities to master artisans.
- 14. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates FSSAI’s National Food Laboratory** – Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated FSSAI’s National Food Laboratory (NFL) in Ghaziabad on the occasion of 13th anniversary of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. This national lab is a result of a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), the first-of-its-kind in the food laboratory sector.
- 15. “Op-Blue Freedom” flag off in Delhi** – Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and former India football captain Baichung Bhutia flagged off Op-Blue Freedom in Delhi.
- This is an initiative in which a group of armed forces veterans train sports enthusiasts in survival training and self-defence.
- Note:
- Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as the able-bodied. It comes under the parent project “Special Forces Adventures”.
- 16. Union HRD Minister launches NISHTHA** – Union HRD Minister launched the training programme NISHTHA, (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement) to improve Learning Outcomes at the Elementary level across the country. This is the largest teachers’ training programme of its kind in the world.
- NISHTHA to build capacities of 42 Lakh government teachers across the country.
  - The basic objective of this massive training programme ‘NISHTHA’ is to motivate and equip teachers to encourage and foster critical thinking in students.
- 17. Amazon’s largest campus in the world inaugurated in Hyderabad** – Amazon has opened its largest campus in the world in Hyderabad.
- The campus covers 1.8 million square feet and can accommodate 15,000 workers.
  - This is Amazon’s first owned-building outside of the US and is also its largest tech base outside the Seattle headquarters, which has about 155,000 contract employees.
- 18. India to launch e-commerce portal “Bharatcraft” for MSME’s** – Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named “Bharatcraft” for MSME’s.
- The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like ‘Alibaba’ and ‘Amazon’.
  - The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector. As per the MSME Union Minister, the Bharatcraft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth ₹10 lakh crore in next 2-3 years.
- 19. India Celebrates 73rd Independence Day on August 15, 2019** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at Raj Ghat and addressed the following points in his speech:
- One nation, one constitution spirit has become a reality after scrapping of provisions of Article 370.



- There is a 'huge' scope for improvement in the tourism sector and everyone should visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by 2022.
  - India can become a 5 trillion dollar economy in the next 5 years.
  - Government to invest Rs 100 lakh cr in infrastructure building.
  - Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure safe drinking water to all households was announced. Government will spend Rs 3.5 lakh crore for it.
  - Implementation of GST achieved One Nation, One Tax. India achieved One Nation, One Grid in the energy sector. PM gave a motto to boost digital payment- 'Yes to digital payment, No to cash'.
  - A transfer of about Rs. 90,000 crores to farmers' bank accounts is in progress to those who are beneficiaries of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
  - 1.5 lakh wellness centers will be created at villages.
- 20. Hardeep Puri launches Swachh Survekshan 2020** – The Minister of State (Independent charge) for housing and urban affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the fifth edition of annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020) which is to be conducted from January 2020.
- 21. Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the 2nd Edition of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, India's largest sanitation survey, for 2019 in New Delhi.
- 22. Govt. to launch new app 'Uber for tractors' to aid farmers** – The agricultural Ministry and the centre decided to launch a farm equipment rental app to aid farmers in accessing cutting-edge technology at affordable prices.
- Farmers can book and hire agricultural equipment and use them on rent basis. Through this initiative, small farmers will be able to make use of tools equipped with technology that are expensive to own.
  - The name 'Uber for tractors' was kept by the govt. keeping in mind the popular app 'Uber'. Just like uber connects to cabs, this 'uber for tractors' will reach the grassroot level people and farmers.
- 23. CORAS (Commandos For Railway Security)**, a special railway unit for the Indian railways and a new establishment manual for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) was launched by union Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal at a function in New Delhi railway station.
- 24. Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) will be set up in Mumbai in association with the Tata Trust** – Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) stated that world-class Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) will be set up in Mumbai, Maharashtra in association with Tata Educational and Development Trust (TEDT).
- 25. Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh** has approved the formation of 12-member high-level committee, headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions), Apurva Chandra, to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.
- 26. Prasar Bharati will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in honor of Neelum Sharma**
- On August 20, 2019, India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharati's Chairman A Suryapaksh stated that the agency will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in memory of Doordarshan (DD) News Former anchor, Neelum Sharma who passed away due to cancer on August 17, 2019.
- 27. Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk**
- Famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his first death anniversary on August 16, 2019.
  - He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow.
  - A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built on his name.
- 28. Punjab CM dedicates 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to victims of Jallianwala Bagh massacre**
- On the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, Chief Minister of Punjab Amarinder Singh dedicated 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to people who were killed in Jallianwala Bagh massacre and unsung heroes who were incarcerated in Andaman Cellular jail during freedom struggle.
- About 'Jung-E-Azadi' Memorial**
- It is a memorial and museum being built in Kartarpur, near Jalandhar city of Punjab. It is built in memory of sacrifices and contribution made by community of Punjabi's in Indian independence movement.
- 29. Sadbhavna Diwas: Birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi celebrated** – Every year 20 August is celebrated as Sadbhavna Diwas or Communal Harmony Day to commemorate birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

- On this observance, close family members and senior Congress party members pay homage to his memory and legacy by laying down wreaths and garlands on **Veer Bhoomi**, where he was cremated.
  - 20 August 2019 marks 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
- 30. INTELIGHTS: India's 1st 3-D Smart Traffic Signal launched in Mohali** – Mohali traffic police in Punjab have launched India's first wireless 3-D Smart Traffic Signal System called Intelights.
- It proposes a Intelligent Traffic Timer Control to regulate traffic signals with smart bird's eye view using wireless sensor system. It has been installed at traffic crossing near the Airport Road in Mohali on a pilot project basis.
  - 3-D Smart Traffic Signal 'Intelights' designed by the students of Chitkara University.
- 31. 2nd UDAY Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada** – Indian Railways' 2nd UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to busy route in East Coast Railway zone (ECoR), one of 18 railway zones of Indian Railways.
- The 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018. Another Uday Express is proposed between Bangalore City and Chennai Central.
- 32. GI Tag accorded to three new products** – Geographical Indications Registry under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to –
- Tirur betel leaf from Kerala,
  - Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.
- 33. All CAPF personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years: Govt** – As per a recent order issued by Union Home Ministry, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.
- All these forces come under ambit of Union Home Ministry.
- 34. 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai** celebrated on 12th August, 2019 across the country.
- He is known as the father of India's Space Programme.
  - He is also founder of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
  - Keeping in mind the contribution of him in India's space programme the lander of Chandrayaan-2, the ambitious second lunar mission of India is named 'Vikram'.
  - Vikram Sarabhai was born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 12th August, 1919.
- 35. PM to be the chairman of the Inter-State Council** – The Inter-State Council has been reconstituted with Prime Minister as its chairman and 6 Union ministers and all chief ministers as its members.
- Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the standing committee of the Inter-State Council.
  - The Inter-State Council is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states. It is also tasked with giving recommendations on any such dispute and recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
  - The Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).
- 36. Prime Minister has announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff**
- The Chief of Defence Staff will be above the three Service Chiefs.
  - The CDS is meant to be a single-point military advisor to the government who will coordinate long-term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three services.
  - The CDS will also act as the military advisor to the Prime Minister on nuclear issues.
  - The need for a CDS was first recommended by the Kargil Review Committee after the 1999 conflict with Pakistan, but it was not implemented.
  - CDS could replace the system of the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), who takes all central decisions of the services and presents it to the government.
  - The senior-most service chief is the chairman COSC. Currently, it is the IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who is retiring in end-September.
- 37. India contributes \$1 million to UN fund** – India has contributed \$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System. The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.

**38. PM inaugurates Dynamic Facade Lighting in Parliament House**

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Dynamic Facade Lighting of Parliament House Estate in presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Union Ministers including Hardeep Puri and Jitendra Singh.

- Work of dynamic facade lighting was initiated on 20 July 2019 by Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and completed in just 22 days.

**39. Headgear becomes mandatory for children above 4 years –**

Central government has made “Headgear” mandatory for children above 4 years while travelling on a motorcycle. The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019.

- Making the protective headgear mandatory for children, Central government has replaced Section 129 of the principal Act.

**40. President approves Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019**

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

- The act aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country’s transportation system.

**Some main features of the act are:**

- The Bill proposes a scheme to allow cashless treatment of victims in a road accident during the golden hour.
- The **golden hour** is defined as the time period of **up to one hour** following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The Bill proposes to increase the minimum compensation for hit and run cases. In case of the death, the compensation has been raised from **Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 2,00,000**, and in case of grievous injury it will be from **Rs. 12500 to Rs. 50,000**.
- Under the law, **Rs 10,000** fine would be levied for not giving way to emergency vehicles such as ambulances.
- **Driving without license-** will now charge Rs 5000 in place of Rs. 500.
- **Driving without insurance** will be punishable with Rs 2,000 fine.
- **While driving without helmets** will attract **Rs 1,000** penalty and three-month suspension of licence.

- Traffic violations would now attract a penalty of Rs 500 in place of Rs 100 earlier.
- **Over speeding** – Rs. 1000 for LMV (Light Motor Vehicle) and 2000 for Medium Passenger Vehicle
- Drunken Driving – Rs. 10,000
- Seat Belt violation – Rs. 1000 in place of Rs. 100.
- Also, the guardian/owner will be deemed guilty in case of road offence by juveniles, while registration of the vehicle will be cancelled - As per the new provisions, "guardian/owner shall be deemed to be guilty and there will be a penalty of Rs 25,000 with three years imprisonment and cancellation of registration of the Motor Vehicle".

**41. Doordarshan produced a patriotic song “Watan”** – Union Information and Broadcasting Minister has released a patriotic song “Watan” to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019.

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

**42. The Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting has launched the e-version of Rozgar Samachar.**

- It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises.
- It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.

**43. A two-day International Conference titled ‘Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global’** was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) in New Delhi.

- The two-day event is organized by National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee (25 years) celebration of its establishment in 1995.

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

**45. Air India became the 1st Indian airline** to fly over the North Pole while connecting New Delhi and North America

**46. Centre launches Swachh Nagar app** – Swachh Nagar app was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

- An app that will allow users to have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected by their urban local bodies along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.

**47. BIS to set up Pashmina testing centre in Leh** – Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) will work together to promote the pashmina products at the high-level market for the proper value of this fine product of pashmina (Lena-Ladakhi).

- Ladakh region and parts of Himachal and Kashmir have world-class Pashmina production.

**48. 1st Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology to be set up in Gujarat** – India’s first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry.

- It will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat.
- It was announced by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Chemical and Fertilizers Sadananda Gowda.

**49. KABIL set up to ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian market** – A joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India limited has been set up with the participation of 3 Central Public Sector Enterprises. These CPSEs are National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Mineral Exploration Company limited.

**50. Art – 370 and Art -35-A revoked from J&K by GOI** – The Union government has revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in the Union of India.

**Key points –**

- It has decided that Jammu and Kashmir would be turned into a Union Territory with a legislature, and the Ladakh division would be made a separate Union Territory (without legislature).

**What is Article 370 & 35A?**

- Article 370 of the Constitution grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, while Article 35A empowers the state legislature to define the state’s “permanent residents” and their special rights and privileges.

- Article 35A, which was incorporated in the Constitution by a 1954 Presidential Order, gives special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

How does this change the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir?

- Any citizen of the country will be able to buy property in Jammu and Kashmir.
- J&K will no longer have a separate flag.
- J&K will no longer have dual citizenship.
- J&K will no longer be a separate state but a union territory with assembly.
- Ladakh is declared a separate union territory (UT).
- The term of the Legislative Assembly will be 5 years instead of 6 years.
- The special status of Jammu and Kashmir is scrapped
- Laws like RTI and CAG will also apply here.
- Now, any citizen of the country can get a job in Jammu and Kashmir.
- After the removal of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir do not get any exclusive rights.

**51. India contributed 5 million USD to the UN Palestine refugee agency and called for ensuring sustained financial support for the organisation’s work.**

- The amount was hand over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees.
- The headquarter of UNRWA is in Amman, Jordan.

**52. NITI Aayog to launch the 4th Edition of WTI Awards** – The NITI Aayog will launch the 4th Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. The WTI Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India.

- This year’s theme is ‘Women and Entrepreneurship’, in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018. WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to US\$100,000 to the award winners.

**53. Environment minister Prakash Javadekar launches website for COP14** – Union Environment minister launched a website ‘unccdcop14india.gov.in, which contains all the information related to COP14 .

**Note:** The 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14), will take place on 2-13 September 2019 at Greater Noida, India.

- 54. President Kovind inaugurates exhibitions on M. Gandhi and Khadi in Gambia** – President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi at the “Ebunjan Theatre” in the Gambia to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi.
- 55. Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day** – Lalit Kala Akademi celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on August 5th, 2019.
- The event was inaugurated by Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
  - Uttam Pacharne is the Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.
- 56. 30th Interaction through PRAGATI Platform Chaired By Prime Minister Narendra Modi** – The 30th Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)

platform was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

- The scheme has been launched by the government to monitor the grievances in government schemes and projects.
- It is an innovative project in e-governance initiative and good governance.
- It uniquely bundles 3 latest technologies– (1) Digital data management, (2) Video-conferencing and (3) Geo-spatial technology.
- 3-Tier System: Platform offers unique combination in Cooperative Federalism as it brings Prime Minister Office (PMO), Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of States all on one stage.

## July

- 1. Gujarat tops in solar rooftop installations** – Gujarat has emerged as the state with the most rooftop solar panels installed.
  - According to data tabled in Rajya Sabha, Gujarat has an installed rooftop solar power capacity of 261.97MW, against 1,700.54MW for all of India.
  - Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra (198.52MW) and Tamil Nadu (151.62MW) in terms of installed rooftop capacity.
- 2. Govt to Install Solar projects of 40,000 MW by 2022** – The government has set a target for the installation of Rooftop Solar projects of 40,000 MegaWatt by 2022 in the country.
  - The projects include installation of solar panels on the rooftop of houses. It is estimated that 1.5 million units per MegaWatt per year are generated from solar rooftop plants.
- 3. Reliance become highest-ranked Indian firm on Fortune Global 500 list** – Reliance Industries has jumped 42 places to become the highest-ranking Indian firm on the Fortune Global 500 list.
  - Reliance Industries (RIL) ranked at 106 spots.
  - IOC ranked at (117).
  - ONGC has moved up 37 places to 160th rank on the global list, while SBI lost 20 places to 236th rank. Tata Motors slipped 33 places to 265th position. BPL rose 39 places to rank 275th spot, while Rajesh Exports slipped 90 places to rank 495th.
  - **Top 3 companies** - Walmart of US, Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group, Dutch company Royal Dutch Shell was ranked third followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid.
- 4. Vande Bharat Express completes trial run from New Delhi to Katra** – The Northern Railway zone of Indian Railway successfully conducted trial run of Vande Bharat Express, known to be India’s fastest train.
  - The trial run was conducted from New Delhi to Katra small town in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - It is also known as Train 18. It can run at a speed of 160 -180 km per hour.
  - It is designed and developed by Chennai-based Railways Production unit Integral Coach Factory.
- 5. All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 released** – As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014.
  - The Tiger census made public on occasion of Global Tiger Day (29 July) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - **Top 5 Performing States:** Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).
  - States that saw Decline in Tiger Population: Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. While all other States saw a Positive increase.
  - Highest Number of Tigers: found in **Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh**.
  - Maximum Improvement in Tiger Population since 2014: recoded in **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu.
- 6. India is home to 1,256 species of orchid: survey** – According to the first comprehensive census of orchids of India titled ‘Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide’, India is home to 1,256 species of orchid.

- The census containing photographs of 775 species is published recently by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was unveiled in early July 2019 Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - In the light of importance of orchids in floriculture, this publication by BSI, which has photographs of 60% of all species, is 1st authentic inventory and thus will be useful for researchers, growers, nature lovers and people with different backgrounds.
- 7. Amit Shah to chair panel on sexual harassment at workplace** – On July 24, 2019, the Union Government has reconstituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace with Home Minister Amit Shah.
- The other members of the new panel include Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.
- 8. E-postal ballot registered 60.14% turnout in 2019 Lok Sabha elections** - Using the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), out of the 18,02,646 service electors, 10,84,266 e-postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout in Lok Sabha elections 2019. Only 4% was registered in 2014.
- 9. IEA praised PMUY for providing free cooking gas connection to poor** - The International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Biro praised Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for providing free cooking gas connection to poor.

Note:

- The International Energy Agency (IAE) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization.

**PMUY:**

- It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 1, 2016, in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
  - It aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing free cooking gas- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connection to poor families.
- 10. Amit Shah will head ministerial panel on Air India sale** - On July 18, 2019, Union Government reconstituted the Group of Ministers (GoM) called the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) on Air India disinvestment. The group is headed by Home minister Amit Shah.
- 11. Central Govt approves Rs 206.8 crore for Implementation of Agriculture Export Policy Scheme** - On July 18, 2019, the

central government has approved a sum of Rs 206.8 crore for a Central Sector Scheme called 'Implementation of Agriculture Export Policy', which aims at double farmers' income by the year 2022.

- 12. India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers** – The municipal officials of **Chhattisgarh** have launched a unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers.
- The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.
- 13. Under Bharat Net, more than 1.28 Lakh Gram Panchayats linked with optical fibre**
- Union Panchayat Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed that under Bharat Net programme, more than 1.28 Lakh Gram Panchayats were linked with optical fibre.
  - The programme has uploaded the photographic evidence of the works taken up by them and assistance given to beneficiaries.

**About Bharat Net Programme:**

- It is also known as Bharat Broadband Network Limited.
  - It is a telecom infrastructure provider, set up by the Government of India under the Department of Telecommunications for the establishment, management, and operation of the National Optic Fibre Network to provide a minimum of 100 Mbit/s broadband connectivity to all 250,000 Gram Panchayats in the country, to improve telecommunications in India and reach the campaign goal of Digital India.
- 14. Cabinet approves to 2,880MW hydel project in Dibang** – The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave the approval to the 2,880 megawatts Dibang hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh, approving a Rs 1,600 crore pre-investment and clearance expenditure for the Rs 28,080.35 crore strategic project.
- The Dibang river is a tributary river of the Brahmaputra that originated and flows through the Mishmi Hills & northeast India from the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 15. Infosys launches Cyber Defence Center in Romania** – Infosys announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Cyber Defence Center in Bucharest, Romania.

- The Defence Center is an expansion of services delivered through the Infosys Digital Innovation Center.
  - The Romanian leu is the currency of Romania.
  - Bucharest is the capital of Romania.
- 16. Panel to prevent extinction of Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican** – The Supreme Court of India has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of two Indian birds- Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican.
- The 3 member panel constitutes Dr Deepak Apte, Dr Asad R Rahmani and Dr Dhananjai Mohan.
- 17. All lanes at toll plazas to be 'FASTag lanes' from 1st Dec** – Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided to declare all lanes in all toll fee plazas on National Highways across country as dedicated 'FASTag lanes' from 1 December 2019.
- FASTag**
- It is an electronic toll connection device which is installed in vehicle (mostly attached to windscreen) to help drivers to drive through toll plazas without having to stop.
  - FASTag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to enable direct toll payments while vehicle is moving. The toll fare is deducted directly from prepaid of saving bank account linked to FASTag.
- 18. Iwai Ship Carrying Bhutanese Cargo flagged off from Assam to Bangladesh** - In a first ever movement of its kind, IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) ship carrying Bhutanese cargo was flagged off from Dhubri in Assam to Narayanganj in Bangladesh over Brahmaputra River and the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route.
- This is for the 1st time ever, an Indian waterway is being used for transport of cargo between two countries, using India for transit.
- 19. National Data Quality Forum: launched by ICMR** – Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR's) National Institute for Medical Statistics have launched National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) to improve quality of health and demographic data in India.
- 20. Atal Community Innovation Centre launched in New Delhi** – Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre in New Delhi. It aims to encourage spirit of innovation at community level.
- Note:**
- The Atal Community Innovation Centre initiative has been launched under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog.
  - NITI Aayog is tasked upon to open innovation Centres in all Gram Panchayats of country to promote local innovation.
- 21. 5,645 electric buses sanctioned for 65 cities: NITI Aayog**
- According to NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog an Inter-Ministerial Panel has sanctioned 5645 electric buses for operations in 65 cities and for inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings.
  - The announcement in this regard was made by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
  - The move will give huge impetus to automobile sector, clean up cities & drive Make in India initiative.
  - Niti Aayog has also proposed that all two-wheelers below capacity of 150cc sold in country after March 31, 2025, should be electric only while three-wheelers sold in country after March 31, 2023 should be electric ones.
- 22. Phase-II DBT in fertilizer subsidy launched** – Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda has launched the Phase-II of the Direct Benefit Transfer of Fertilizer Subsidy.
- DBT in fertilizer subsidy is a step in the direction of bringing ease of living in the lives of farmers through use of modern technology and plugging leakages, pilferages and black marketing.
- 23. Agri-Business Incubation Centre set up in Chhattisgarh** – Union Agriculture Ministry has set up an Agri Business Incubation Centre in Chhattisgarh.
- The centre has been set up by Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Note:**
- Agri Business Incubation Centre is set up under National Agriculture Development Scheme- RAFTAAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation).
  - It is established to focus on innovations, skill building and entrepreneurs development in agriculture and allied sectors.
- 24. Defence minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Mozambique** – Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh visited Mozambique from July 28-30 2019. This is the first official visit of Rajnath Singh as a Defence Minister to the African

country as well as it is the first time ever a defence minister of India has visited Mozambique.

- Mozambique Capital- Maputo
- Mozambique Currency- Metical

**25. DD News received “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis** – DD News

(Doordarshan), has been awarded with “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis.

- Mayank Agrawal, Director General of DD News has received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

**26. World Tiger Day 2019 observed on July 29** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the results of the 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2018, at Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi.

- According to the Survey, the count of tigers in India rose to **2967 in 2018**. India has achieved its 2022 target of doubling tiger population four years before the deadline.

**27. India becomes second- growing gas market fastest**– India has become the second-fastest growing natural gas market globally with \$30 billion for production, import and distribution infrastructure.

- China is the fastest growing natural gas market.

**28. “Operation Thirst” launched by RPF** – RPF launched “Operation Thirst” to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in the railway premises.

**29. 12 Indian beaches in the race to crest the ‘Blue Flag’ challenge** – The Union Environment Ministry has selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a ‘Blue Flag’ certification, an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety.

- These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).

**30. Kaiga Atomic Energy station sets a World record** – Kaiga Atomic Energy station (Karnataka) sets a World Record in continuous operation of 962 days by Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) among nuclear power plants of all technologies.

- KGS-1 (220 MW) in an indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) fuelled by domestic fuel which started commercial operation on November 16, 2000.

**31. 7th Economic Census begins from Tripura** –The Government of India begins the 7th Economic Census from Tripura. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct the census. It will be conducted after a gap of 5 years.

- The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December and the results at the national level is expected to be available by March 2020

**Previous Economic Censuses**

- Six Economic Censuses, (EC) have been conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. till date.
- The first Economic Census was undertaken in 1977.
- The Second EC was carried out in 1980 followed by the Third EC in 1990.
- The fourth edition took place in 1998 while the fifth EC was held in 2005.
- The Sixth edition of Economic Census was conducted in 2013.

**32. Cabinet approves merger of NIMH with ICMR-NIOH** – Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to dissolve National Institute of Miners’ Health (NIMH), an autonomous Institute under Union Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge it with ICMR-NIOH (Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Occupational Health), Ahmedabad, under Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) with all assets and liabilities.

**33. Government waives duty on products imported for nuclear plants** – The government has waived off basic customs duty (BCD) on products imported for nuclear plants.

- “All goods for use in generation of nuclear power” and “all forms of uranium ores and concentrates for generation of nuclear power” will now have to pay no basic customs duty.

**34. Scientists from IIT Hyderabad developed an eco-friendly solar cell using kumkum dye- DSSC** – Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad developed low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells named Dye-sensitised solar cell (DSSC) by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make kumkum or vermilion.

**35. Govt sets 100% Digitization target of all Waqf properties in 100 days** – On July 29,2019, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi stated that the Centre



government has set a target to achieve “100% Digitization of Waqf properties across country in its 1st 100 days” at the National Conference of State and Union Territories Waqf Boards organized by the Central Waqf Council, held in New Delhi.

- GIS/GPS: Geographic Information System (GIS)/ Global Positioning System(GPS) mapping are being used on a war footing with the help of IIT Roorkee and the Aligarh Muslim University to achieve the target.
- This is the 1st time the Government providing 100 % funding to develop various educational and developmental programs on waqf land under Pradhanmantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJVK).

**36. Under Khelo India Scheme Over 2000 sporting talents identified** – A total number of 2437 sporting talents have been identified under the Khelo India Scheme. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju informed.

- Under the scheme, the government provides financial assistance of about Rs 5,00,000 per annum for a period of 8 years.

**37. Govt to increase coal production to one billion tone by 2022-23** – The government has plan to increase the total production of coal in the country to 1 billion tone by 2022-23.

- Coal minister said that the gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal.

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

- The features of the bill include, the Common final year MBBS Exams will be know as National Exit Test (NEXT) which would serve as Licentiate Exam, for entrance to Post Graduate medical course and as screening test of foreign medical graduates.

**39. Culture Minister inaugurates architectural illumination of Safdarjung Tomb** – Culture Minister has inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi.

- A total of 213 technologically advanced LED lights have been used to highlight the 17th century monument. The consumption of LED lights is approximately 62 percent less than conventional light fixtures.

**40. First printing press heritage gallery opened by Railway’s** – The Western Railway General Stores Depot (GSD) has become the first in Indian Railways to opened a heritage gallery of the printing and allied machines used in the Western Railway Printing Press since (1948) at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai.

**41. Uttarakhand was named among best performing states in ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ scheme** – Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country’s five best performing states under the National Programme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.

**42. Jaipur walled city now a world heritage site** – The walled city of Jaipur, known globally as Pink City, has finally become a Unesco world heritage site.

- It is India’s first planned city founded by Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727, and is only the second Indian city to feature on the prestigious list.
- With this, India now has overall 38 World Heritage sites.

**Note:**

- In 2017, old Ahmedabad was India’s first city to win the ‘heritage city’ tag.
- In 2018, sites in Mumbai the Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles straddling two heritage precincts of Fort and Marine Drive, were chosen as world heritage sites.

**43. Unmanned Level Crossings in all Broad-Gauge Network removed** – Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal informed that all Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in all Broad-Gauge (BG) Network were removed on January 31, 2019.

**44. Six Indian metros are hotspots of air pollutant nitrogen oxide: Greenpeace**

- An analysis by environmental **NGO Greenpeace India** said that as per satellite data, transport and industrial clusters are giving rise to the country’s worst Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) hotspots like **Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad** which have high vehicular population and diesel consumption.
- Coal consumption and industrial clusters like Sonbhadra-Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Korba in Chattisgarh, Talcher in Odisha, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Mundra in Gujarat and Durgapur in West Bengal were equally polluting when it comes to NOx emissions.
- The data was collected between February 2018 and May 2019.

**45. Coffee Table Book launched to commemorate 50 years of partnership with UNWFP** – ‘The Coffee Table Book – 50 years of Partnership for Change’ was launched by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

- The book was launched to commemorate five decades (50 years) of partnership between Union Ministry and agency towards addressing food and nutritional security in India.

#### UN World Food Programme

- It was founded in 1961.
- It was formally established by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1963. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

**46. Operation Milap: 333 missing children rescued in 7 months** – Under Operation Milap of Delhi Police, Delhi Police Crime Branch has rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families in different parts of country.

**47. UIDAI operationalizes 1st Aadhaar Seva Kendra in Delhi and Vijayawada** – The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized 1st ‘Aadhaar Seva Kendra’ (ASKs) in Delhi and Vijayawada.

- The new centres are functioning on a pilot basis and have set in motion UIDAI’s ambitious plan to set up 114 such centers by the end of 2019.

**48. Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be first train operated by private players** – Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express, one of the most-awaited trains on the route announced in 2016, is set to be the first train to be operated by private players. At present, it is parked at the Anandnagar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh

**49. PM Narendra Modi unveils statue of Lal Bahadur Shastri** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled statue of former PM of India Lal Bahadur Shastri at Varanasi airport on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**50. India’s first Design Development Centre launched in Gujarat** – India’s first Design Development Center ‘Fashionova’ was launched in the Textile city Surat.

- The centre will promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.

**51. Tata Steel Kalanganagar has been included in World Economic Forum’s Global Lighthouse Network.**

- TSK in Odisha’s Jajpur district is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF’s Lighthouse Network.

**52. PM Modi pays tribute to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to BJP icon and the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary.

- Dr Mukherjee was born on the 6th of July, 1901 in Kolkata.

**53. India to get the first e-Vehicle Charging Highway by March 2020** –

- India’s first highway corridors with charging stations for electric vehicles are expected to come up along the Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways by 2020.

**54. Longest electrified railway tunnel in India commissioned** – The South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel of India.

- The tunnel which is between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations is 6.6 km long, is built at a total cost of ₹460 crore.
- It is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru Railway stations in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

#### About South Central Railway

- It is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways.
- The jurisdiction of the zone is spread over the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, and some portions of Madhya Pradesh.
- It has three divisions under its administration, which include Nanded, Secunderabad, Hyderabad.

**55. Indian Railways to install CCTV cameras in over 7,000 train coaches** – According to the GoI, the Indian Railways has set a target to install CCTV cameras in more than 7,000 coaches of mainline passenger trains by March 2021.

**56. Army Chief releases Kargil Tribute Song** – Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans.

- The song has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir.
- The song was released as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to be celebrated on 26th of July.

#### June

**1. All panchayats to have Broadband Connectivity by March 2020: Govt** – Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister

Electronics and Information Technology in a written reply in Lok Sabha informed Parliament that all gram panchayats

will be provided high speed broadband connections under BharatNet project by March 2020.

- Phase II of project is under implementation, and a total of 2 lakh GPs (gram panchayats) are targeted to be completed by March 2020.

#### BharatNet

- The project seeks to provide affordable last mile high speed broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across the country.
- Nodal Ministry: for implementation of project is Ministry of Communication.

- 2. India to train 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next 5 years** – India’s leading civil services training institution, National Center for Good Governance (NCGG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maldives Civil Services Commission for capacity building (training) of 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next five years.

  - This agreement was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to Male (Maldives capital).
- 3. Five-year vision plan EQUIP finalised and released by HRD Ministry** – The Department of Higher Education of HRD Ministry has finalized and released a five year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme.
- 4. Japan gifts Manipur a peace museum** – Japan gifts Manipur a “Peace Museum” which is built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.

  - The inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum at Red Hill, about 20 km southwest of Manipur’s capital Imphal, marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.
- 5. 35000 km of highways to be built by 2022 under Bharatmala** –

  - Under the 'Bharatmala Project', construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometres of national highways is to be undertaken by 2022.
- 6. Statue of Unity enters prestigious 2019 World Architecture News Awards** – World’s tallest idol Statue of Unity has entered prestigious World Architecture News Awards 2019 in the mixed-use category.

  - The statue is surrounded by Narmada river.
  - The Statue of Unity is built in dedication to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who served as the first home minister of independent India.
  - The height of Statue of Unity is 182 metre.
  - The Statue of Unity was built by Padma Bhushan recipient sculptor Ram V Sutar.

- 7. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended service of Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha for a further period of three months.**
- 8. PM Modi reconstitutes NITI Aayog** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of government of India’s policy think tank NITI Aayog (or National Institution for Transforming India).

  - Chairperson– Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - Vice-Chairperson– Dr. Rajiv Kumar
  - Amitabh Kant gets two-year extension as Niti Aayog CEO.

#### Note:

- It was established on 1 January 2015 by replacing 65 years legacy of Planning Commission (PC).
- 9. India’s Forest cover up by 1%- Environment Minister** – Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment informed the Lok Sabha that India’s forest cover has increased by 1% in last one year period and over 24.39% of India’s geographical area now constitutes of green cover.
  - 10. Mumbai Metro Railway Corporation to dig 170m long tunnel under Mumbai's Mithi river** –

    - Mumbai Metro Railway Corporation plans to dig a 170m long tunnel under Mumbai's Mithi river as a part of Mumbai's Metro Line 3. This will be India's second largest underwater project.
    - The first tunnel was built for the Kolkata metro.
  - 11. India’s first Blockchain District to come up in Hyderabad, Telangana** – The Telangana government is going to set up the country’s first ‘Blockchain district’ to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.

    - The State signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra last year to set up the Blockchain district.
    - It proposed 25 per cent subsidy on lease rentals up to ₹5 lakh per annum for the first 3 years of operations.
  - 12. National Film Heritage Mission Project reviewed by Prakash Javadekar** - Minister of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar reviewed the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) during a visit to the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, Maharashtra.
  - 13. The United States (US) Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo visited India on 25-27 June 2019.**
  - 14. Aparna Kumar becomes the first civil servant & IPS Officer to conquer the ‘Seven Summits’ challenge** - Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer and DIG (Deputy Inspector General of Police) in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Aparna Kumar

has scaled Mount Denali (the highest peak in Northern America stands at 20,310 feet) in Alaska, USA (United States of America).

- She is the first civil servant and IPS (Indian Police Service) officer to achieve the feat of completing '7 Summits' challenge.

**15. GST day** - July 1 celebrated as Goods and Services Tax day.

- **New GST return system:** Sahaj and Sugam returns for small taxpayers are proposed by the Finance ministry.
- The Central or State Government which sanctions refund disburses all four major heads of refunds namely CGST, SGST, IGST, and Cess.
- Threshold limit for goods: Threshold Limit of Rs 40 Lacs is offered of suppliers of goods as per the choice of States.
- Composition Scheme for Services: Composition Scheme for small service providers up to annual turnover of Rs 50 lacs with a tax rate of 6%.
- E-invoicing system: Electronic invoicing system in a phase-wise manner for B2B (Business to Business) transactions is proposed to be introduced.
- GSTAT: GST Appellate Tribunals are being established at various State Headquarters and area benches also.

**16. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union finance & Corporate Affairs minister, among '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list**

- On June 24, 2019, To mark 'India Day' in the Houses of Parliament in London, United Kingdom (UK), Sajid Javid, Home Secretary of UK, released the '100 most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list.

- Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, was one among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward.

**17. Central Government move to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras to double farmers' income by 2022** – The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar announced that central Government has decided to use digital technology in rural India to double farmers' income by the year 2022.

- For this, the Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and 684 Agricultural

Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community.

**18. Government schools to introduce Self Defence Training for girls under Samagra Shiksha** - Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha' was launched by the

Department of School Education and Literacy which comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, effective from the academic year 2018-19. The activity of Self Defence training for girls comes under Samagra Shiksha.

**19. National Freight Index (NFI)** - In order to bring transparency in the road-freight marketplace, an Indian technology company based in Gurgaon, Rivigo which owns 3,000 trucks

5,000 drivers launched the National Freight Index (NFI) which will provide unrestricted access of live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country. Logistics account for nearly 14% of India's GDP.

**20. Govt. reduces the rate of ESI Contribution from 6.5% to 4%**

- The government has reduced the total rate of contribution made by workers and employers towards the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme from 6.5% to 4% for the first time in over two decades.

- At present, nearly 4.75% of a worker's monthly salary goes towards ESI as the employer's contribution and 1.75% of the income is the employee's share at present.

**21. Delhi metro becomes India's 1st Project to receive power from waste-to-energy** – The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant.

- It has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.

**22. Centre sets target to provide Clean Drinking Water to all by 2024** – Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the Central government has set a target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024.

- It includes increasing coverage of piped water to households from current 18 to 100% by 2024.
- In states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, the coverage of clean drinking water is less than five percent.
- It is only in Sikkim that 99% of households get tapped water.

**State Affairs**

**December**

1. Nagaland Chief Minister **Neiphiu Rio** has inaugurated the **Multi-Media Exhibition** at World War II museum in **Kisama**.  
**Note:** For the first time in the history of Hornbill festival, Bureau of Outreach & Communication, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is organising a Multi-Media Exhibition commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. A three-day Bharatnatyam dance festival with live Carnatic music ensemble held at Chhayanaut auditorium, **Rongarpon**.  
**Note:** It has been Organized by Kolpotoru, artistes Shudha Srimoyee Das, Shammy Akter and Zuairiyah Mouli will be presenting their solo recitals respectively on December 2, 3 and 4. Musicians are coming all the way from Bangalore, India for this festival. These dancers have performed in various dance festivals in Bangladesh, India and abroad.
3. The **Union government and Asian Development Bank** (ADB) have signed the **206-million-dollar** loan agreement to develop water supply and sewerage infrastructure in 5 cities of **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** The project will target four cities namely Ambur, Tiruchirappalli, Tiruppur, Vellore, and Madurai for developing sewage collection and treatment and drainage systems. It will also strengthen the capacities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for improved service delivery. The project will improve the lives of the urban people in the State by providing universal access to water supply and sanitation.
4. Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has inaugurated the first-ever **North East Food Show** at **Polo Grounds, Shillong**.  
**Note:** The food show will provide a strong platform and network to different stakeholders. There are different technologies and products relating to the food industry which people are not aware of, and the show will serve as the bridge to connect with one another. It will also be an opportunity for these majors to source products not available anywhere else and to introduce their products to the region
5. Union Minister **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** has inaugurated **Avantee mega Food Park** in **Dewas, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** This first food park of central India is spread over 51 acres and has been constructed at a cost of about 150 crore rupees. About 5 thousand local people will get employment from this Mega Food Park. Processing of soyabean, gram, wheat and other grains and vegetables will be done in the park. Warehouses will also be opened in Indore, Ujjain, Dhar and Agar in the next phases.
6. Chief Minister of Odisha **Naveen Patnaik** has launched **e-learning mobile app 'Madhu'** for school students.  
**Note:** It is an e-learning mobile phone application which will help school students to understand their subjects in a better and most efficient way. Through this app, the students will be able to access the video explanation of the topics they were taught in their classroom. The app is named after 'Utkal Gourab' Madhusudan Das, developed by Ganjam district administration.
7. The **Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit-2019** (2nd edition) held in **Goa**.  
**Note:** The theme for Startup India Global Venture Capital Summit 2019 'India Opportunity: Investing in tomorrow together'. The event will be organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in partnership with Government of Goa. The key objectives of the Summit are to show India's opportunity in the sectors of E-Mobility, FinTech, MedTech, Enterprise Software, EdTech, Genomics and Lifesciences.

## November

1. President **Ram Nath Kovind** laid the foundation stone to the memorial being built in memory of the Paika rebellion.  
**Note:** A 200-year-old armed revolt in 1817 against the British East India Company in Odisha. The proposed project will come up at the foothills of Barunei hills in Khurda district, Odisha
2. The **Assam** Govt. has released the new Land Policy 2019.  
**Note:** The Land Policy has been prepared by the Revenue and Disaster Management Department after 30 years. (last prepared in 1989). According to Mr. Sonowal, the state government has given a lot of emphasis in preparing the Policy to safeguard the interest of the indigenous people.
3. The **Centre and Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has signed an agreement to extend **91 million US dollar** loan to modernize the **Vijayanagara Channel Irrigation Systems**.  
**Note:** It prepares river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin. It will help improve irrigation water use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka. The investment programme will help Karnataka's water agencies better draw up and roll out effective river basin management plans.
4. A three-day **Global Buddhist Congregation** has begun at Nagsenvan in **Aurangabad, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has delivered two lectures in the Congregation. Buddhist monks and

followers of the religion from across the globe arrived here to attend this Congregation

5. Jitendra Singh inaugurates 'Destination North East' Festival in **Varanasi**.  
**Note:** All 8 North-East states have been presented at the event along with their handicrafts, handloom, organic products and cultural troupes. The visitors will have live experiences of the artisans and artists from the NE states working on their looms and crafts, performing their songs and dances in the open stage during the day.
6. The **Assam** Government will start Arundhati gold scheme by January 2020 for the registered newly married couples.  
**Note:** Under the scheme, an amount of 30 thousand rupees will be given to the bride to purchase gold. According to Assam Finance minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the scheme is aimed to promote marriage registrations and prevent under-age marriages in the state. The annual income of the bride and her father should not be more than **5 lakh rupees per year** to get the benefit.
7. The **Kerala Government** has decided to ban the **manufacture, sale and storage** of one-time-use **plastic items** from 1st of January 2019.  
**Note:** Plastic carry bags, plastic sheets, cooling films, plastic plates, cups, thermocol and Styrofoam-based items and others will be covered under the ban. A fine of 10,000 rupees will be slapped on manufacturers, wholesalers and small traders who defy the ban. If the ban is violated for the second time, the fine will be 25,000 rupees.
8. Manipur Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh** has inaugurated the week-long **Manipur Sangai Festival 2019** at **Hapta Kangjeibung, Imphal**.  
**Note:** During the festival, cultural programmes, traditional games, folk dance and classical music will be performed by different communities of the State as well as from other States. The festival will conclude on the 30th of this month.
9. Uttar Pradesh Health & Family Welfare Minister **Jai Pratap Singh** has launched a massive **immunisation campaign** against the **filariasis or Filaria**.  
**Note:** Under this campaign, more than 65 thousand teams of health workers will distribute medicines to around 6.5 crore people till 10 December. This year, state's 19 districts have been divided in double drug and triple-drug categories in which they will be provided DEC tablet, Albendazole and ivermectin.
10. **Gujarat** Govt. has announced a relief package **3,795 crore rupees** for farmers who **suffered crop** loss due to unseasonal rains.  
**Note:** The relief package will help more than 56 lakh farmers across the state. According to Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, total package (1,641 crore rupees)

will be given through a budgetary provision and 2,145 crores under the State Disaster Response Fund. Farmers will get assistance in the range of 4,000 rupees to 13,000 rupees

11. The **Madhya Pradesh** Govt has announced that sports persons of the state will get **5% reservation** in government jobs.  
**Note:** The Minister also announced that children from all CBSE, government and private schools would be involved in the Under 16 state-level Olympics. At present, the competition is being organized for children above 16 years of age. It includes 10 sports (hockey, basketball, football, volleyball, kabaddi, kho-kho, athletics, wrestling, badminton and table tennis).
12. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated the 8th **National Tribal Craft Mela** at State Tribal Museum Complex in **Bhubaneswar**.  
**Note:** As a part of Odisha Government's '5Ts' initiative, 45 Supplementary Readers prepared in 21 Tribal languages were released simultaneously by CM Patnaik. The objective of the National Tribal Craft Mela is to preserve, promote and popularize traditional tribal art and crafts.
13. **Uttar Pradesh**, Etawah Lion Safari opened for public without the lion segment.  
**Note:** The Safari has been inaugurated by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Minister Dara Singh Chauhan. It is spread in 350 hectares of land and has been developed as an educative tourist destination for children as well as youths. It is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia, spread over an area of 350 hectares (860 acres).
14. The **Uttar Pradesh government** will set up state's **first vulture conservation** and breeding centre in **farenda area of Maharajganj district**.  
**Note:** The new centre will be set up on the lines of Jatayu Conservation Centre at Pinjore in Haryana (first in the country). It would be set up in association with Bombay Natural History Society, a wildlife research organization.
15. The **Chhattisgarh** state is set to have **Guru Ghasidas National Park** in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'.  
**Note:** At present there are three tiger reserves in state:
  - Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Bilaspur.
  - Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Gariaband,
  - Indravati Tiger Reserve in Bijapur district.
16. The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved the 2nd tranche of USD 150 million for **West Bengal**.  
**Note:** The board of **ADB approved** a loan of USD 300 million to continue a comprehensive series of fiscal reforms in West Bengal to revive the financial health of public sector enterprises.
17. **Assam** Government has prohibited manufacture and sale of gutkha, **pan masala** or any others chewing material in the state.

- Note:** According to Food Safety commissioner, manufacture, storage, sale, display and transportation of any products containing tobacco or nicotine are banned in the state for one year.
18. Shipping Ministry gave approval for the development of Loktak Inland Waterways improvement project in **Manipur**.  
**Note:** The estimated cost of the project is over 25 crore rupees. The Loktak Lake is the largest fresh-water lake in Northeast located at Moirang in Manipur.
  19. According to the Election Commission, **Jharkhand assembly** polls will be held in five phases **between 30<sup>th</sup> November to 20 December**.  
**Note:** As per the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, the polls to 81-member assembly will be held on November 30, December 7, 12, 16 and 20. The counting of votes will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Jharkhand was formed in the year 2000 by dividing Bihar into two-state.
  20. The **National Tribal festival** (15-day Aadi Mahotsav) held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The theme of the festival is a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce.
  21. The French Development Agency (AFD) and **Assam** govt. have signed an agreement for supporting Phase II of Assam Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC).  
**Note:** The total budget for the second phase is Rs 500 crore. The project was launched in response to the threats posed by deforestation, poaching and over-dependence of local communities on forest resources.
  22. The Indian Railways has installed two 'Health ATMs' at the Charbagh railway station in **Lucknow**.  
**Note:** The kiosks, promoted by YOLO Health ATM, provide 16 health check-ups for Rs 50-100. There are two types of check-ups a 9-minute one that costs Rs 100, and a 6-minute one that costs Rs 50.
  23. Sanskrit lovers from **17th countries** are attended the three-day mega event in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** According to Minister of State for External Affairs V.Muraleedharan, Sanskrit continues to be prevalent in the society as it is used by the people across the country.
  24. **Cyclone Bulbul** claims at least ten lives and affected **2.73 lakh families** as it hit the coastal districts of **West Bengal**.  
**Note:** The cyclone has also damaged hundreds of houses. Nearly two lakh people have been moved to relief camps set up in nine places of the state. Hundreds of uprooted trees have blocked thoroughfares in Kolkata and its fringe areas.
  25. **Gujarat Govt.** has given approval to the world's first **CNG terminal** at Bhavnagar port.  
**Note:** The joint venture of United Kingdom-based Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group will invest 1,900 crore rupees to set up a CNG terminal at Bhavnagar port. Proposed CNG terminal will have an annual capacity of 1.5 metric tonnes.
  26. As per Maharashtra Governor's **Bhagat Singh Koshiyari** recommendation, **President Ram Nath Kovind** signed a proclamation imposing **President's rule in Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** The state legislative assembly has been kept under suspended animation. In India, the president's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct central government rule in a state.
  27. Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has launched an **online registration portal** to facilitate setting up of new **MSME units**.  
**Note:** Mr. Rupani approved the **first online application** through the portal and issued a certificate through an **e-mail** to a woman entrepreneur.
  28. The **Supreme Court** upheld the disqualification of **Congress-JD (S) MLA** who had resigned this year **17 MLAs**.  
**Note:** Now, the Supreme Court allowed them to contest the election. The speaker of legislative assembly Ramesh Kumar had disqualified 17 rebel MLAs before the confidence motion of the HD Kumaraswamy government in the assembly. Kumaraswamy's government resigned after failing to get a trust vote in the assembly.
  29. The **Haryana government** has decided to bring more crops under its '**Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY)**' scheme.  
**Note:** The decision was taken at a BBY's review meeting which was presided by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Under BBY scheme, farmers get compensated for selling their crop at a price lower than that fixed by the government
  30. Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** visited Arunachal Pradesh to attend the Maitree Diwas celebrations (11th edition) at **Tawang**.  
**Note:** Maitree Diwas (Civil-Military Friendship) will be celebrated for two days at Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Stadium Tawang. Mr. Rajnath Singh will also inaugurate Sisseri River Bridge and National Highway-52 in East Siang District.
  31. **Haryana Government** has constituted an **Economic Advisory Council (EAC)** for **five years to promote industries** in the state.  
**Note:** The **Economic Advisory Council** will comprise membership-based advisory panel and will be headed by the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. This council would be constituted for 5 years, in which the government members would remain as permanent members of the council, while the members of the private sector would serve a term of 2 years.
  32. The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a dedicated web portal and a mobile application for sugarcane farmers of the state -- **e-Ganna App**.

- Note:** The web portal and e-Ganna App will help in eradicating cane mafia and middleman and strengthen cane development societies. The portal and the App will ensure transparency in the process of getting slips and facilitate sugarcane supply by farmers to mills and check irregularities.
33. The **Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights** has launched a mobile app '**Sishu Suraksha App**'.  
**Note:** The purpose of the app is to empower citizens to take moral responsibility for protecting future generations. The app can be used by anyone in the state to lodge a complaint which will be directly registered at Commission.
  34. **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**Note:** The Union government also planning to introduce another scheme called 'Amma Vodi' in January 2020 to give incentives to others who send their children to school and continue their education till class 12. In the first phase, the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme will be implemented in 15,715 schools. It will cover all schools in three years under a budget of Rs 12,000 crores.
  35. Karnataka Chief Minister **B. S. Yediyurappa** has inaugurated the Bengaluru Tech Summit at **Bengaluru Place**.  
**Note:** More than 3500 delegates, 12,000 visitors and 200 speakers are participating in this Summit. 250 Exhibitors will showcase their services, products, and technologies to visitors. The summit is expected to be attended by global tech leaders, investors, industry captains, research heads, policymakers and startups from India and 20 foreign countries.
  36. UP Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has inaugurated North India's first sugar mill in Gorakhpur (Pipraich area).  
**Note:** North India's first sugar mill will produce ethanol direct from sugarcane. Ethanol is naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes and is commonly consumed as a popular recreational drug.
  37. The two tea varieties of Darjeeling (**green tea and white tea**) have been registered as a geographical indication (GI) products in the country.  
**Note:** These two varieties of Darjeeling tea have been registered under Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act 1999 (effective from October 2019). This will "strengthen the protection of the intellectual property rights of the Darjeeling tea" which is considered as "niche and luxury" products in the country and abroad.
  38. Union Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched 'SAANS' campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia in **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** Mr. Vardhan launched the campaign while inaugurating the **6th National Summit on Good**
39. Union Minister for Rural Development **Narendra Singh Tomar** has inaugurated the SARAS India International Trade Fair in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** More than seven crore women have joined Self-Help Groups so far and the Ministry is making all efforts to take this number to 10 crores.
  40. The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a loan amount **USD 91 million** under Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program (IWRM).  
**Note:** The project will help to modernize the Vijayanagara Channel irrigation systems, prepare river basin management plans in the Krishna river basin that will help improve irrigation water use efficiency and contribute to improving sustainable water security in Karnataka.
  41. India's **biggest cinematic event**, the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has begun in **Panaji, Goa**.  
**Note:** Rajinikanth has been conferred with the Special Icon of **Golden Jubilee award** for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema. French actor Isabelle Huppert honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. **Russia is the partner country** of the IFFI 2019.
  42. **Directorate of School Education (DSEJ), Jammu** has launched a special enrollment drive under the banner 'Aao School Chalein' for increasing the enrollment in government schools.  
**Note:** As per the Directorate of School Education, the special enrollment drive would be conducted across all the villages and catchment areas of the government schools, under the supervision of chief education officers of all the districts of Jammu Division. The prime focus of the drive is on the strengthening of pre-schooling of children in the age group of 3 to 5 years.
  43. **Assam Govt.** has approved **Arundhati scheme** to provide 1 Tola Gold to Brides free of cost.  
**Note:** This scheme to give 1 tola Gold (11.66 grams) to brides parents belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society, whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh. The objective of the scheme to reduce child marriage under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act that a girl in India can't get married before the age of 18 and a boy cant get married before 21 years of age
  44. **Uttarakhand** govt. has launched a project to connect 500 secondary schools to virtual classrooms.  
**Note:** The schools in the state facing a shortage of teachers will benefit from the new technology. Virtual classes are attended through video conferences where students can meet the teacher on a real-time basis and ask questions. An estimated 1.90 lakh students of 500



government-run secondary schools in the state will benefit from the project

**45. Haryana Government** has decided to create a dedicated new department namely Department of **Foreign Cooperation**.

**Note:** The department has been created in order to streamline and provide focus to various initiatives taken by the state government for the promotion of investment, employment for youth and welfare of Non-Resident Indians. The new department will deal in the formulation of country-wise strategies for the promotion

of investment, employment in the state, education and skill development and promotion of Haryanvi culture and welfare of Haryanvi diaspora.

**46. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has inaugurated the newly established Munderwa Sugar Mill in **Basti district**.

**Note:** Munderwa mill will have a capacity of 5000 Tons of Cane per Day and generate 27 Mega Watt of power. It will be the third inauguration of sugar mills in the state in just three weeks (Ramala in Baghpat and Pipraich in Gorakhpur).

## October

**1. India's first e-waste clinic to be set up in Bhopal** – 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, Madhya Pradesh.

- “Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the clinic in exchange for a fee.

**2. PMJAY – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana** –

According to data available with the Union Health Ministry, in its first year, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), the tertiary care arm of Ayushman Bharat, has funded the treatment of 90,000 cancer patients through 1.8 lakh hospital admissions.

- Tamil Nadu, with 40,056 cases, tops the state where the most cancer patients availed treatment under PMJAY, followed by Kerala (22,000), Madhya Pradesh (19,455), Chhattisgarh (15,997) and Gujarat (14,380).

**3. Meghalaya govt. signed agreement with Dalmia Cement to turn plastic waste into Fuel** –

The Meghalaya state government signed an agreement with Dalmia Cement a cement company, to make the state plastic-free by 2022.

**4. Odisha govt. & UNICEF launched 'Tikki Masi' mascot** –

The Department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha, in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) unveiled a mascot named 'Tikki Masi'.

- Aim - to spread awareness about nutrition of children and women.
- The mascot- 'Tikki Masi' aims to change the behaviour of common people and make them aware about child and woman's

nutrition and development in every household.

**5. No govt. jobs in Assam for people with more than two children:**

☒ The State Cabinet of Assam has decided to make government jobs out of bounds for people with more than 2 children. The policy will come into effect from January 1, 2021.

☒ The Cabinet also adopted a new land policy that will make the landless indigenous people eligible for 3 bighas (43,200 sq. ft.) of land for farming and half a bigha for constructing a house.

☒ The beneficiary will be able to sell the given land only after 15 years of use.

**6. First Robot Chef Restaurant opens in Odisha:**

☒ Odisha's smart city Bhubaneswar gets its 1st Robo Chef Restaurant in Odisha.

☒ The Robot Restaurant opened at the Infocity DLF tower of Bhubaneswar claims to be the first restaurant in Eastern India where two indigenously developed robots, 'Champa' and 'Chameli' are engaged.

☒ The robots are developed at a Jaipur-based startup using SLAM technology, and it automatically navigates like humans, follows the routes and instructions.

**7. Madhya Pradesh CM inaugurates "Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference":**

☒ Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath formally inaugurated the 2-day Magnificent Madhya Pradesh Conference in Indore.

☒ The event showcasing various opportunities that exist in the state in variegated sectors, including food processing, pharmaceuticals, textile and garment, warehousing and logistics, IT & ESDM, urban development and renewable energy.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath also inaugurated the Global Trade Exhibition at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore.

#### 8. Tamil Nadu constitutes two panels over water disputes with Kerala:

- The Tamil Nadu government constituted two committees to deal over water disputes with Kerala relating to the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) and the Pandiyar-Punnampuzha project.
- Secretary of Tamil Nadu's Public Works Department (PWD) K. Manivasan would lead both the committees constituted by the State government. Cauvery Technical Committee chairperson R. Subramanian is also part of both the panels

#### 1. J&K becomes first state to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat scheme – Jammu and Kashmir became the first state in the country to issue the highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

- Over 11 lakh golden cards have been generated within the first 90 days of the launch of the scheme with 60% of families having at least one golden card which is highest in the country.

#### About Ayushman Bharat scheme

- The Ayushman Bharat Scheme introduced by the Government of India provides medical coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh per family per year.
- The scheme will cover 10 crore vulnerable families, with approximately 50 crore beneficiaries.
- It was launched on 23rd September 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Jharkhand's capital Ranchi.

#### 2. Telangana government declares 2020 as Artificial Intelligence year – The state government of Telangana has decided to declare 2020 as Year of Artificial Intelligence.

- The state government will be running multiple programs, meetings and activities such as hackathons, master classes and other activities.
- The state government has signed up with NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), which has come out with 'National Strategy for Artificial

#### 9. Shirui Lily Festival inaugurated in Manipur

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Culture Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated Shirui Lily Festival, 2019 at Shirui Vangayan Ground of Ukhrul in Manipur.
- Mr Patel along with State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh also inaugurated the Strength of Unity Statue as a mark of opening the third edition of the four-day state festival.
- This joint efforts of the State Government and Central Government can only promote tourism and culture of a region to the level of people's expectation.

### September

Intelligence' to run pilot projects in Telangana.

- Telangana was 1st State to sign up with NITI Aayog when they prepared 'AI for All' document.
  - IIT- Khargapur is also coming up with its regional centre in Hyderabad to train students in AI in partnership with State government.
3. Madhya Pradesh government appointed film star **Govinda as brand ambassador** to promote the state's traditions and tourist places.
  4. **Hyderabad-Karnataka Region Renamed 'Kalyana Karnataka'** – Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa announced that the Hyderabad-Karnataka region has been renamed as 'Kalyana Karnataka' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.
    - Hyderabad Karnataka region comprising six north-eastern districts of the State — Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal and Ballari.
  5. **Dikshi Hydroelectric Project** – Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state.
    - The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District.
    - It is a Run of the River project constructed on the river Phudung by Devi Energies Private Limited.
  6. **U.P. government announces Rs 6,000 annual aid for triple talaq victims**
    - Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has today announced that the state

- government will provide financial assistance of six thousand rupees to the triple divorce victims and the women left by the husband.
- The CM said that the government will arrange for a free trial of women suffering from triple talaq.
- 7. Now CM- ministers will fill their income tax in UP** – Yogi Adityanath Government of Uttar Pradesh has ended the 38-year-old system of paying income tax of the salaries of the Chief Minister and ministers from the government treasury.
- Now Chief Minister and Ministers will have to pay their own income tax burdening the exchequer for the last 40 years.
- 8. Kerala to open the country's first women's global trade centre** – Taking a major initiative towards promoting women entrepreneurship, Kerala state government has decided to set up the country's first International Women's Business Center (IWTC) in Kozhikode.
- 9. Maharashtra to set up Swachh Bharat World University**
- The State Government of Maharashtra has decided to set up 'Swachh Bharat World University' in Wardha to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.
  - The University will focus on research studies in sanitation, cleanliness and environment.
  - The State has formed a seven-member committee headed by the Minister of Education Vinod Tawde. The committee will conduct a study on the requirements of the University.
- 10. IIT Guwahati & Numaligarh refinery partners to set up Centre of Excellence** – Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has joined hands with Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) for setting up the "NRL-Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sustainable Materials". This is a first of its kind academic-industrial collaborative venture.
- Note:**
- The Numaligarh Refinery is located at Morangi, Golaghat district, Assam.
  - It is a joint venture between Bharat Petroleum, Oil India and Govt of Assam.
- 11. Google ties up with BSNL; launches free public Wi-Fi in villages in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar**
- Google has announced the partnership with BSNL which would help its expansion of high-speed public WiFi to villages in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Bihar.
- The announcement was done at the Google for India event which took place in New Delhi on 19th September.
- 12. Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana to be held on Oct 21** – According to the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, the legislative Assemblies election of Maharashtra and Haryana will go to the polls on October 21. While votes will be counted on 24 October.
- In Maharashtra, the Legislative Assemblies elections to be held for 288 seats and 90 seats in Haryana.
  - In the last Legislative Assemblies elections, BJP won 47 out of 90 seats in Haryana, while in Maharashtra BJP emerged as the largest party by winning 122 out of 288 seats.
- 13. Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline '1100' launched in Himachal Pradesh** - Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched Mukhya Mantri Seva Sankalp Helpline '1100' (Chief Minister's Service Resolution Helpline) for speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances using modern technology.
- So far, this facility is available in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- 14. Kerala to set up India's first iWTC in Kozhikode** – Kerala will set up India's first international women's trade centre (iWTC), in consonance with the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Kozhikode.
- The first phase of iWTC, being executed under the gender park's "Vision 2020", is scheduled to be completed by 2021.
- 15. Rajasthan launches 'Jan Soochna Portal'** – The state government of Rajasthan launched 'Jan Soochna Portal', a portal for quick access to information on government departments. The portal was launched by Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.
- 16. Madhya Pradesh government offers cows for adoption online** – The state government of Madhya Pradesh is launched an online service for those wanting to adopt a cow and provide sheds to them at gaushalas (cow shelters) across the State.
- People can adopt a cow for a minimum period of 15 days and can go on supporting it till animal's lifetime. This initiative is part of Madhya Pradesh government's 'Project Gaushala'.
- 17. Maharashtra to have drone service for emergency medicine and critical care** – The Maharashtra government will now take the help of drones to provide

essential medicines and medical aid to remote areas in case of flood or other emergency situations.

- For this service, the Government of Maharashtra has done a partnership with the Zipline. Zipline is an automated logistics company based in California.

**18. Unani Medical Centre to be inaugurated at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi** – Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik will be inaugurating Unani Medical Centre at New OPD Building in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi

**19. Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) to opened in Mumbai, Maharashtra.**

- Objective - To provide skill training in highly-specialised areas to students who want to pursue technical education after completing Class X and XII and also to make them employable and industry ready for New India and global market.

**20. Garvi Gujarat: 2nd state bhawan of Gujarat inaugurated by PM Modi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Garvi Gujarat', the second state bhawan of the Gujarat government in the national capital New Delhi.
- This is the 'first eco-friendly' state Bhawan in national capital.

**21. Gorewada International Zoo opened in Nagpur** – Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has announced the approval of the new 'Gorewada International Zoo' in Nagpur district of Maharashtra.

- The Zoo will have attractions like Bio Park, Indian Safari, African Safari, Night Safari, Research, Education and Training, facilities for tourists, etc.
- The task of construction of Indian Safari and ancillary activities, Water Reservoir and Gorewada Reserve has been given to FDCM Ltd. with Government Grants.
- The Government of Maharashtra has accorded permission for establishing the International Zoo,

through Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (FDCM. Ltd.), Nagpur.

Note:

The Gorewada International Zoo is likely to be one of the largest captive Zoo Safari in India with over 1914 Hectares of land adjoining the Gorewada Lake.

**22. India's first 'Garbage Cafe' will be opened in Chhattisgarh** - The Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh will open India's first 'Garbage Cafe'.

- This cafe offers a full-fledged meal to a person who collects 1 kg of plastic waste and a substantial breakfast to those who collect 500 grams.
- This initiative was to ensure that the homeless rag pickers, who collect plastic waste to earn some money, had a hearty meal.
- The municipal corporation will provide food to the poor and homeless in exchange for plastic waste.

**23. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched first ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.** This machine will grind the wasted and broken pottery items for re-using in pottery-making.

**24. Haryana govt waives off interest & penalty of Rs 4,750 cr on crop loans** – Haryana government has announced Rs 4,750 crore interest and penalty waiver on crop loans.

- The waive off is for farmers who had borrowed from Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, District Cooperative Central Banks and Land Mortgage Bank. The step will benefit around 10 lakh farmers in the state.

**25. UDAN regional connectivity scheme launched in Haryana from Hisar** – Hisar, Haryana has entered into the civil aviation map after the launch of the air shuttle service between Hisar and Chandigarh.

- SpiceJet has started the air shuttle service between Hisar and Chandigarh under the Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Service scheme.

## August

**1. Most awaited "Assam's National Register of Citizens List" released** – State coordinator of the National Register of Citizens, Prateek Hajela has released the most awaited Assam's final National Register of Citizens list. The list has been made accessible online and at all NRC seva kendras in the state. The process of NRC Update was started in

the state of Assam as per order of the Supreme Court of India in 2013. The NRC took five years and Rs 1,220 crore before getting published.

**Important findings of the NRC:**

- From the 3.29 crore applicants, a total of 3.11 crore people have been found eligible for inclusion in final NRC list.
  - 19.06 lakh people have been excluded from the final NRC list.
  - Those excluded from the final NRC list will have 120 days to approach the Foreigners' Tribunals. If a person is dissatisfied with the tribunal's decision, he/she can appeal against it.
  - Foreigners tribunals is a place where bona fide citizens, whose names do not figure in the final NRC, can approach to challenge their exclusion.
  - To accommodate excluded people, detention camps have been set up across the state of Assam.
  - The NRC list is the biggest exercise India has undertaken to expel illegal immigrants residing illegally in India. The updation process of NRC was carried out under The Citizenship Act, 1955, and according to the rules framed in the Assam Accord.
2. **Special Tiger Force" for Corbett Reserve to be set up by Uttarakhand** – The Uttarakhand government has decided to form a Special Tiger Force for Corbett Tiger Reserve. The STPF will serve as a second layer of protection for tigers at the Corbett Tiger Reserve.
  3. **Meghalaya launches 'Walk to Work' campaign** – Chief Minister of Meghalaya launched the 'Walk to Work' campaign in the state. The campaign is a part of Fit India Movement which has been launched in the country by the Prime Minister.
  4. **Tamil Nadu govt announces trifurcation of Vellore district** – Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that Vellore district of state would be trifurcated into Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur districts.
    - Vellore will be headquarters of these 2 new districts. With creation of two more districts the total number of districts in state would become 37.
  5. **Maharashtra: 1st state to adopt digital fingerprint and iris scanning system** – Maharashtra became first state in the country to adopt an Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) i.e. digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to help police investigations.
    - This system will soon be replicated by police forces of other states in the country.
  6. **Odisha police station in top 10 in India** – Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in India in the annual ranking for the year 2018.
    - The certificate of excellence and a trophy awarded by the Union Home Ministry were handed over to Tarava police inspector Dulamani Bhoi by Odisha DGP R.P. Sharma.
  7. **Tamil Nadu's Panchamirtham prasadam granted GI tag** – The famous Palani panchamirtham, given as 'prasadam' at Murugan temple in Palani, Tamil Nadu has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
    - This is first temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu that has been bestowed with coveted GI tag.
    - It takes total number of such indigenous products from Tamil Nadu that have been accorded GI tag to 29.
  8. **Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announces formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve**
    - On August 15, 2019, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel announced the formation of 'Lemru Elephant Reserve' (LER) in the state, over an area of 450 square kilometres.
    - It will minimize human-elephant conflict and destruction of property, with the provision of a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.
  9. **Manipur Govt launches "School Fagadaba" scheme to improve infrastructure of government schools**
    - Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh has launched "School Fagadaba" (Make education better) scheme with the aim to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.
  10. **RACE: Rajasthan's New Higher Education Model** – State government of Rajasthan has launched a new higher education model titled- Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE, for distribution of faculties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources.
  11. **AP launches 'Village Volunteers System'** - Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched his government's flagship programme called 'Village Volunteers System' aimed at providing government services at doorsteps of people.
  12. **West Bengal launches awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean'** – The West Bengal Government has launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.

- 13. One Nation One Ration Card scheme launched on pilot basis in 4 States** – One Nation-One Ration Card scheme launched on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.
- 14. Centre has approved the project to link Kosi & Mechi rivers** – The Centre has approved a Kosi-Mechi river interlining project in Bihar.
- Estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,900 crore.
  - The project will provide irrigation for over 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar in north Bihar.
  - This is India's 2nd major river linking project after Ken-Betwa of Madhya Pradesh.
- 15. Odisha approves conservation plan of lakes "Chilika and Ansupa"** – The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan of lakes "Chilika and Ansupa".
- The Chilika lake is India's largest brackish water lagoon and Ansupa is the Odisha's largest freshwater lake.
- 16. Kerala Govt to Set up Country's First-ever Elephant Rehabilitation Centre** – The Kerala government would set up a first-of-its-kind elephant rehabilitation centre here at an outlay of Rs 105 crore, to take care of jumbos, which were either orphaned or abandoned.
- Kottoor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from here, would soon host the country's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre.
- 17. Manipur tops the rank in breastfeeding report released by health minister** – Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family welfare released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi where states were ranked based on Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.
- The ranking was topped by Manipur.
  - The worst performing states were Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.
  - The national capital Delhi is also one among the worst-performing states.
- 18. UP govt creates world record by planting over 22 cr saplings in one day on 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement** - To mark the 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, Uttar Pradesh(UP) chief minister(CM) Yogi Adityanath has launched the mega greenery plantation drive called "Vriksharopan Mahakumbh", which now sets a world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in a day.
- 19. India's first underwater train will be launched in Kolkata** – Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India's first underwater train project is set to launch in Kolkata, West Bengal under the Hooghly river. It is a 16-kilometer long Kolkata Metro project.
- 20. 9 year old Manipuri girl, Valentina Devi made Manipur's green ambassador** - Elangbam Valentina Devi, a 9-year-old girl from Manipur was made the ambassador of 'Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission', after a video of her crying over felled trees went viral on social media.
- 21. Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to implement biofuel policy** – Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan state Government, Sachin Pilot stated that Rajasthan is the 1st state in the country that released biofuel rules-2019 (after the notification of the Centre on April 30, 2019) with the vision to promote the use of biofuels.
- 22. Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'** – Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake (measures 88 hectares ) in Katihar district of Bihar has been declared as state's 1st 'Community Reserve'.
- Gogabeel, which is the 15th Protected Area (PA) in Bihar, is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.
- 23. A rare tea variety of eastern Assam's Dikom Tea Estate named "Golden Butterfly tea"** created a record of being sold at Rs.75,000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC), Assam.
- 24. Karnataka categorises Nicotine as "class A poison"** – The Karnataka government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison".
- The step has been taken to strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes.

July

1. **Uttarakhand holds 1st Himalayan conclave** – Conclave of Himalayan States was held on at Mussoorie in Uttarakhand to discuss priorities of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) in 15th Finance Commission (XV FC).
    - The conclave was initiated by government of Uttarakhand with Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) as its knowledge partner. The chief guest of conclave was Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
  2. **Odisha renews effort to revive Gharial population** – Odisha has renewed its effort to revive population of gharials in their natural habitat by releasing 5 reptiles, fitted with radio transmitters, into Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi which is the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
    - Satkosia Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha.
  3. **Western Railways first printing press heritage gallery opened at Mahalaxmi, Mumbai**
    - Western Railways (WR) opened its first printing press heritage gallery named Western Railway Mahalaxmi General Stores Depot (GSD) at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was inaugurated by V P Pathak, Member (Materials Management) of the Railway Board.
  4. **Tamil Nadu to be the first state to manufacture electric cars: Minister**
    - M C Sampath, minister for industries stated that South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer Hyundai plans to launch its electric car for India and the global market from Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.
  5. **Uttar Pradesh becomes No.1 in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country** - The State Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has become number one in implementation of ambitious central government scheme Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna.
    - Totally 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019 in the state.
- About Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana:**
- It is a government-backed Life insurance scheme launched on 9 May 2015.
  - It is available to people between 18 and 50 years of age with bank accounts get an accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying an annual premium of 330 rupees.
6. **Haryana cabinet permitted to set up Sports University at Rai** –, The Cabinet of Haryana under the chairmanship of chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar approved the setting up of Haryana Sports University at Rai, Sonapat.
  7. **Meghalaya becomes 1st state to ensure water conservation** – Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure the conservation of water and have own water policy following a nod given by the State Cabinet.
    - The draft policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.
    - It is historic for Meghalaya as the state has become the first state in the country to have a State Water Policy.
  8. **India's first dragon blood-oozing tree** – Researchers discover *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam.
    - This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India. Dragon tree species whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air.
  9. **Odisha gets GI tag for its sweet version of Rasagola** – The Registrar of Geographical Indications(GI), Chennai has awarded a GI certificate registering the sweetmeat as "Odisha Rasagola" to the state of Odisha which will be valid till Feb 22, 2028.
    - In 2017, West Bengal had secured the GI tag for "Banglar Rosogolla" after a tug of war with Odisha since 2015 over the origin of the sweet.
  10. **B S Yeddyurappa sworn in as Chief Minister of Karnataka** - State BJP President B.S. Yediyurappa (76) took oath as 31st Chief Minister of Karnataka by Governor Vajubhai Vala.
  11. **MP gets its 1st international flight with Air India's Indore-Dubai service** – Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh recently made it to international aviation map with national carrier Air India launching its flight service to Dubai from MP Airport.
    - Air India Flight AI903 took wings from Indore's **Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport** with 150 passengers on. This was the 1st international commercial flight from Madhya Pradesh.
  12. **Andhra Pradesh first state to reserve 75% private jobs for locals** – Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to reserve jobs for locals. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019.

**13. Nepal invited as a partner country for Gita Jayanti**

**Mahotsav 2019** – Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be the partner country for this year's 'Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019' scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra.

- He extended the invitation to Ambassador of Nepal to India Nilamber Acharya.

**14. Chengalpet, Tenkasi to be new districts in Tamil Nadu** –

The number of districts in Tamil Nadu will go up to 35 as the government announced its decision to carve out Tenkasi district from Tirunelveli district and Chengalpet district from Kancheepuram district will become the 34th and 35th districts of Tamil Nadu.

**15. Rajghat coal plant to be turned into solar park** – The

Delhi government has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into a solar park. A 5,000 KW of solar power will be produced at the 45 acre plant site.

- The coal-based plant, whose current units were commissioned in 1989, has been lying in a shutdown mode from 2014.

**16. TN celebrates 'Hospital Day' on July 30, 2019** - On July

30, 2019, Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu (TN) celebrated its first 'Hospital Day' on the commemoration of the birth anniversary Muthulakshmi Reddy.

- She was one of India's prominent successful woman doctors in the early 20th century and TN's first woman legislator.

**17. Maharashtra Govt. raises Financial Aid for Martyrs' Kin to Rs.1 crore** – The Maharashtra government has

approved an increase in financial assistance given to families of martyred and disabled soldiers hailing from state who lay down their life in the line of duty.

- The approved four-time increase in compensation from Rs 25 lakh to Rs.1 crore for Kin of martyred soldiers will be implemented from January 1, 2019.

**18. J&K District Administration Udhampur launched helpline**

**"Jeene Do"** – Under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) District Administration Udhampur launched a helpline, "Jeene Do" with an objective to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994.

**19. Telangana Government and WEF to launch Drone Delivery Project** –

- The State Government of Telangana and World Economic Forum's (WEF) Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Network announced

the launch of drone-delivery project called **'Medicine from the Sky'**.

- The Telangana government, World Economic Forum and Health Net Global signed an agreement for project to be supervised and managed by leaders in field of medicine, technology and research.

**20. Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue to be set up at Uttarakhand** - Asia's 1st Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue to be established at Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand.

**21. Tamil yeoman: now Tamil Nadu's State Butterfly** –

Butterfly species Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.

- Scientific Name: *Cirrochroa thais*
- It is also known as Tamizh Maravan

**22. Kaziranga National Park: Special Rhino Protection Force deployed** – An 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force

which is trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was recently deployed in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).

- About Kaziranga National park is located in Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
- In 1968 it was given National Park status and in 1985 it was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) for its unique natural environment.

**23. Meghalaya fined Rs 100 cr for illegal coal mining** – The

Supreme Court directed the Meghalaya government to deposit the Rs 100 crore fine imposed on it by the NGT for failing to curb illegal coal mining with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

- The National Green Tribunal had fined the Meghalaya government on January 4.

**24. Damanganga-Pinjal project to meet water needs of Mumbai till 2060** – On June 28, 2019, The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis announced that Damanganga-Pinjal project will meet the water needs of Mumbai till 2060.

**25. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the 'Jan Choupal' program in Raipur, Chhattisgarh for holding public meetings once every week to discuss the issues of the people.**

**26. Operation Khumaar launched in J&K** - In a major step aimed towards making 'drugs-free panchayats', district administration Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir (J&k) launched an anti Drug Campaign called "Operation Khumaar" in all 312 Panchayats of the district.



27. Twenty-three persons are feared dead as the **Tiware dam in Ratnagiri** in Maharashtra's Konkan region breached following incessant rains.

## June

1. **Yogi Adityanath unveils 7-foot statue of Lord Rama in Ayodhya**

- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a 7-foot wooden statue of Lord Rama in Ayodhya.

2. **India gets its first dinosaur museum and fossil park in Gujarat** – Gujarat is now home to India's first dinosaur museum and Fossil Park at Raiyoli village, which is located near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani recently inaugurated the park.

3. **India's first solar-powered cruise boat launched in Kerala state** - Aditya, India's first solar ferry, is a solar-powered ferry operating between Vaikkom and Thavanakkadavu in the Indian state of Kerala.

4. **Gujarat police to use laser guns to crack down on over-speeding** - The Gujarat government has decided to equip the traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of over-speeding by vehicles.

5. Nandankanan National Park is situated in Odisha.

6. The state government of Goa recently approved an amendment to Factories Act 1948 which will allow deployment of women in night shifts (from 7pm to 6 am) in industries.

7. **Telangana hosts 32nd ISTA Congress** – Telangana is hosting the triennial International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Congress in Hyderabad. ISTA congress is being held for the first time in Asia.

8. **Unique Flood Hazard Atlas: Odisha** – Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas aided by satellite imagery, which is expected to help the coastal state manage floods more efficiently. The atlas was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State-level Natural Calamity Meeting.

- Base Period: Atlas is compiled on basis of historic flood inundation captured via satellite imagery over 18 years period from year 2001 to 2018.

9. **Bihar Government bans Tree-Felling** – The Bihar Government recently announced ban on felling of trees in different cities of Bihar, citing increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave in the state as reason for the ban.

10. **Namma Kolhapuri chappal gets GI boost**

- Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear industry, renowned for its handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the

Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad.

- The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted the GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts of Maharashtra — Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara — along with four in Karnataka — Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur.

11. **Himachal Pradesh makes GPS device mandatory for trekkers**

- The Himachal Pradesh (HP) government has made it compulsory for trekkers to carry a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to tackle any exigency.

**About Himanchal Pradesh**

- Himachal Pradesh state formed on 25 January 1971 and became 18th state of the Indian Union.
- It is bounded by Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state to the north, China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) to east, Uttarakhand to southeast, Haryana to its south, and Punjab to west.

12. **Assam govt to set up Skill University at Darrang district** – Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at **Darrang district**.

- This will be perhaps the first skill university of the country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats.

13. **Assam govt hikes parental income limit under fee waiver scheme** - Assam government has waived admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year.

- All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.

14. **Unemployed Graduates to get up to Rs 3,500 in Rajasthan** – Unemployed youth having graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by Rajasthan government.

- Male applicants will get Rs 3,000/month, while the women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500/month under Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana from February this year.

- The applicants must be natives of Rajasthan and the amount will be given for two years or until they get employed.

## Arts & Culture

### September

**1. Festival of Fulpati being celebrated in Nepal – The festival of Fulpati is being celebrated with gaiety and religious fervour in Nepal.**

- Fulpati is observed on the seventh day of Dashain festival.

**2. Bathukamma-2019: Flower Festival**

- Bathukamma, the flower festival of Telangana was celebrated in state's Warangal district.
- The nine-day long festival of flowers was celebrated from 29 September to 6 October 2019.
- Bathukamma marks the beginning of Sharath Routh and it is widely celebrated by young girls and women.
- The 'Bathukammas' are basically the cone shaped flower stack, at street corners and temples in the city.

**3. Bangladesh lifts ban on Hilsa export to India –**

Bangladesh Government will allow 500 tons of Hilsa fish to be exported to India prior to the eve of Durga Pooja.

- Bangladesh accounts to nearly 75% of world Hilsa production.
- The government of Bangladesh had imposed ban on its export to India due to its over – exploitation.

**4. Ladakhi Shondol dance enters Guinness book of world record –** Ladakhi Shondol dance has created history by breaking into Guinness book of world records as the largest Ladakhi dance.

- The Shondol dance was gracefully performed by about 408 women artists in traditional dresses on the occasion of the **Annual Naropa Festival**.
- Shondol dance also known as the 'royal dance of Ladakh'

**5. PM Modi, Mongolian President jointly Unveils statue of**

**Lord Buddha** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Mongolia H.E. Mr Khaltmaagiin Battulga,

jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha and his two disciples, installed at historic Gandan Tegchenling Monastery in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia's Capital) via videoconferencing from Delhi.

**6. UNESCO to publish Guru Nanak Dev's writing in world languages –** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has decided to translate and publish an anthology of writings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism (and also 1st of 10 Sikh Guru) in world languages to commemorate 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

- The year 2019 mark 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

**7. Nuakhai Juhar: Odisha's harvest festival celebrated –** Nuakhai Juhar, a harvest festival welcoming the newly harvest crop of the season was celebrated in Odisha.

- It is one of the most ancient festivals celebrated in Odisha to welcome new crop of the season. It is an important social festival of Western Odisha and is an agricultural festival.

**8. Tamil Nadu's Dindigul lock and Kandangi saree gets GI tag –** The Geographical Indications Registry (GIR) in Chennai has accorded coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tag to **Dindigul lock and Kandangi saree from Tamil Nadu**. This takes total number of such indigenous products that have been accorded GI tag from Tamil Nadu to 31.

**9. 'Namaste Pacific' Cultural Event held in New Delhi –** A cultural event called 'Namaste Pacific' to showcase in India the culture of Pacific countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji was held in New Delhi.

- The event was jointly organized by High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

### August

**1. President inaugurates underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai**

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated underground 'Bunker Museum' at the Raj Bhavan (official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra) in state capital Mumbai.
- The bunker was discovered by Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao last year, along with two identical cannons, atop foothills of Raj Bhavan, which is situated at the tip of south Mumbai.

**2. 17 August: Parsi New Year Navroz celebrated** – Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz, is celebrated every year on August 17 to mark the beginning of the new Iranian calendar.

- In Persian, Nav means new and Roz means day and together translating to 'new day'. It is

celebrated for health, wealth, prosperity and productivity.

**3. National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' organised at Leh-Ladakh** – In a bid to give a fillip to tribal economy in Ladakh, Aadi Mahotsav or National Tribal Festival will be organised at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.

- It is a 9 day festival that will start from 17 August till 25 August 2019.

**4. Virasat-e-Khalsa set to enter Asia Book of Records** – Virasat-e-Khalsa museum located in Anandpur Sahib town in Punjab is set to find a place in Asia Book of Records for becoming most visited museum in Asian sub-continent on a single day. Museum witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on 20 March 2019.

**July**

**1. Pakistan opens historic Hindu temple in Punjab** –

Pakistan has opened a 1,000 year old Hindu temple in eastern city Sialkot for worship for the first time since partition on the demand of the local Hindu community.

- The Shawala Teja Singh temple, located in city's congested Dhaarawal locality, some 100 km from Lahore, is more than 1,000 years old, according to the book 'History of Sialkot' by the late Rashid Niaz.

**2. Prakash Javadekar inaugurates 10th Jagran Film Festival**

– Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting inaugurated the 10th Jagran Film Festival in an event held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.

**3. IFFI's Golden Jubilee Edition to be celebrated in Goa** –

The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, will be held from 20th Nov till 28th November 2019 in Panaji, Goa.

- President of Oscar Academy John Bailey and other eminent cinematographers and producers have been invited for the event. Russia will be IFFI partner in this edition.

**4. Baba Guru Nanak University Foundation stone laid in Pakistan** –

Pakistan Punjab's chief minister laid the foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak University at Nanakana Sahib.

- The University was dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev at his birth place. This university would be spread over 10 acres.

**5. Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Fest**

- Kerala Tourism organized a 5-day annual Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Fest 2019 in Kanakakkunnu, Thiruvananthapuram. It was held from July 20-24, 2019. It was inaugurated by the Governor of Kerala, P Sathasivam at Nishagandhi Auditorium in Kanakakkunnu

**6. SAARC Film Festival 2019 held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

- The 9th Edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Film Festival for the year 2019 was held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 2-7, 2019.

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

– Indian Haj mission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted digital technology to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of Digital India initiative of Government of India.

**8. Jagannath Rath Yatra - Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra held in Puri, Odisha.**

- The Rath Yatra marks the journey of Lord Jagannath along with his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple. This journey covers a distance of around 17 km in Puri.

**9. Chamliyal mela 2019** was held in Jammu and Kashmir.

**10. Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019** - The 23rd edition of Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019 was held at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.

11. **Bonalu festival was held in Telangana** - The annual Bonalu festival kicked off at the Jagadamba temple in historic Golconda Fort, Telangana. Bonalu is the “state festival” of Telangana.
12. **Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated in J&K**
  - The annual festival of Kheer Bhawani Mela celebrated by Kashmiri Pandit devotees at famous Ragnya Devi temple in Jammu and Kashmir’s (J&K) Ganderbal district.
13. **ASI declares Chaukhandi Stupa as Monument of National importance** – According to a notification issued by Union Ministry of Culture, Chaukhandi Stupa, an ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been declared as ‘protected area of national importance’ by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).  
Note:
  - The Stupa is known as ‘Chaukhandi’ because of its four-armed plan.
14. **Elephanta Festival of Art and Culture**– The Elephanta Festival of art and culture commenced at the iconic Gateway of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
  - Elephanta Caves is currently maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and are also a UNESCO World Heritage Site
15. **Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020**
  - The 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
  - The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional knowledge in a simple way.
16. **People celebrate Bhandara festival, the great turmeric festival of Maharashtra** – The Bhandara festival takes place on Somvati Amavasya- a new moon day at Khandoba Temple in Maharashtra.
  - During the festival, devotees use the golden powder to worship the deity Lord Khandoba, widely known as a descendant of the sun, and to celebrate his victory over the demons Mani and Malla.
17. Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel has inaugurated the exhibition titled ‘Unknown’ Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art’ at National Museum in New Delhi.
18. **Namaste Thailand Film Festival held in Delhi.** Namaste Thailand Film Festival is an annual festival organised to bridge the gap between Indian and Thai cultures.
19. Baikho Festival - Rabha tribal Hindu women participate in a tug of war during Baikho festival at Pantan village, Guwahati, Assam.
20. Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become **Karnataka’s first solar-powered Gram Panchayat.**
21. **Meghalaya CM launches Aroma Mission** – Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission and also inaugurated the Processing Unit of Essential Oil at Byrwa village in Ri Bhoi District.
22. **Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts** (also known as 7/12 receipts).
  - The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land, and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans
23. Nearly after four decades, Bamboo rice has shown up in Odisha. The state of Odisha had last witnessed Bamboo rice in 1979. The Forest Authorities of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary in Cuttack district have opened up the gates for the forest dwellers to collect the Bamboo rice.
24. **New Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology Inaugurated** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the new Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
25. **Ugadi/Yugadi** - Ugadi festival celebrated in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
26. **Gudi Padwa** - Gudi Padwa is celebrated in the state of Maharashtra.
27. Baisakhi - Baisakhi is the Punjabi New Year celebrated in the month of April by performing their folk dance, Bhangra and Gidda and feasting.
28. Puthandu - Puthandu is the Tamil New Year celebrated in the month of April by preparing Manga Pachadi a traditional food to ring in their new year.
29. Bohag Bihu - Bohag Bihu is the Assamese New year celebrated by performing the folk dance Bihu and a grand buffet.
30. Pohela Boishakh - Pohela Boishakh is the Bengali New Year celebrated with making many sweetmeats.
31. Bestu Varas - Bestu Varas is celebrated in Gujarat on the day after Deepavali. Marwaris in Rajasthan also celebrate their new year during Deepavali.
32. Vishu - Vishu is the Malayali New Year celebrated in the state of Kerala in the month of April.

33. Losoong - Losoong is the Sikkimese New Year and falls in December at the end of harvesting. It is celebrated by performing Chham dance.
34. Navreh - Navreh is the Kashmiri New Year celebrated in the Hindu month of Chaitra.
35. **Prayagraj Kumbha Mela 2019 makes it to the Guinness World Records** – The Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 has made into Guinness World Records in the following three sectors:
  - Largest traffic and crowd management plan.
  - Biggest painting exercise of public sites under paint my city scheme.
  - Biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.
36. **Ghumot to be declared Goa’s heritage musical instrument** – The Art and Culture Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude has announced that Ghumot, an indigenous earthen drum will soon be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa. .
37. **‘Festival of India’ Begins in Kathmandu** - A month-long ‘Festival of India’ began in Kathmandu, Nepal, to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.
38. **Foundation stone laid for Hastshilp complex in New Delhi** – The Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani laid the foundation stone of a Hastshilp Complex in New Delhi. The complex would be named after Deendayal Upadhyaya as Deen Dayal Antarashtriya Hastshilp Bhawan.

## International Affairs

### December

1. Minister of State for Human Resource Development Mr Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated the India Pavilion at International Book Fair in **Guadalajara, Mexico**.  
**Note:** This fair is the biggest book fair in the Spanish-speaking world. India is the ‘Guest of Honour Country’ in this book fair and it becomes the first Asian country to participate as ‘Guest of Honour’ in the Fair.
2. **UN Climate Change Conference** (known as COP25) held in the Spanish capital **Madrid**.  
**Note:** COP 25 is an important conference as countries prepare to move from the pre-2020 period under the Kyoto Protocol to the post-2020 period under the Paris Agreement. India's approach will be guided by principles and provisions of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement particularly the principles of Equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capability (CBDR-RC). India has been leading the world in its pursuit of enhanced solar energy capacity through International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. The leaders of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** (NATO) mark the 70th birthday of the organization in **London**.  
**Note:** The summit includes receptions at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street plus a working session at a golf resort in outer London. The twenty -nine members alliance is the world's biggest military alliance.
4. Saudi Arabia has taken over the G20 Presidency from **Japan**.  
**Note:** It is the first Arab nation to assume the G20 presidency. The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continuing the work from Osaka and promoting multilateral consensus." The G20 presidency (Saudi Arabia has taken over from Japan) will host world leaders for a global summit in its capital on 21-22 November in 2020.
8. The **Global Migration Film Festival** (GMFF) was organized in **Dhaka**.  
**Note:** The day-long festival screened 15 films on the theme of migration and its various aspects. The short films and documentaries shown during the festival were selected through a global competition for which 600 entries were received. The GMFF started in 2016 and this year it is being organized across many cities in the world between 28 November to 18 December.
9. Israeli student’s made satellite launched from ISRO’s Sriharikota launch site -- ‘Duchifat-3’  
**Note:** The “Duchifat-3”, “Duchifat-3” is a satellite jointly built by Herzliya Science Center and Sha’ar HaNegev High School students of Israel. It is a remote sensing satellite through which students from all schools across the country will be able to experiment and carry through Earth observation. Duchifat-3 weighing 2.3 kg is a photo satellite to be used for ecological research of Earth from space.

### November

1. The researchers of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden have developed **Diarrhea vaccine**.  
**Note:** Science journal, The Lancet, reports that it has been proved safe and effective in an early-stage clinical trial in

- Bangladesh. The report said that 80 to 100 per cent of the children aged two to five years and 50 to 80 per cent of infants aged six to eleven months, selected for the study responded to all key immunity generating components of the vaccine.
2. There is no vaccine yet for use for children and vaccine development for Diarrhea is a World Health Organization Bangladesh's State minister of cultural affairs **KM Khalid** has inaugurated the **Ocean Dance Festival 2019** in Cox Bazar of **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** **Ocean Dance Festival** is the largest international dance festival of Bangladesh in which more than 200 dancers, choreographers and scholars from 15 countries are participating. The theme of this year's festival is 'Bridging the distance' or Durotter Shetubandhan. The festival is being organised by the Nriyajog which is the Bangladesh wing of World Dance Alliance (WDA).
  3. Maldives' former president **Abdulla Yameen** has been found guilty of money laundering and sentenced to five years in prison.  
**Note:** The five-judge bench of the criminal court unanimously concurred that Yameen is guilty on the charge of laundering state funds for personal gain. He was accused of over 1 million dollars deposit in his bank account by a company that was used to channel resort acquisition fees.
  4. Pakistan's Supreme Court **General Qamar Javed Bajwa** granted a six-month conditional extension to Army chief.  
**Note:** Current Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Army Mr. Bajwa (since 29 November 2016) continue as the Army chief for another six months. The Chief of Army Staff is appointed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan and final confirmation by the President of Pakistan.
  5. India will set up 12 hi-tech parks at a cost of USD 193 million in **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** According to High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, these hi-tech parks will provide training to 30,000 youth of Bangladesh as skilled IT professionals.
  6. The 35th ASEAN Summit held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan -O-Cha inaugurated this summit at IMPACT convention complex. The theme of the summit is 'Advancing Partnership for sustainability'.
  7. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** represented India at a meeting of the council of heads of government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in **Tashkent**.  
**Note:** The SCO is an influential regional security grouping which is seen as a counterweight to NATO. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation, which was founded in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan in the year 2001.
  8. Russia's newest nuclear submarine was successfully test-fired a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from **White Sea off Russia**.  
**Note:** The Knyaz Vladimir, or Prince Vladimir, fired the missile from underwater that landed on target on the Kamchatka peninsula in far eastern Russia.
  9. The biennial **Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference** held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka 2019**.  
**Note:** The Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad is representing India at the conference. The theme of the event: "Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law". Purpose of the event: It seeks to address challenges faced by millions of people seeking to resolve legal problems or disputes.
  10. Sudan's **first-ever satellite** for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by **China**.
  11. Union Minister for Housing and **Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri** has inaugurated a new Guru Nanak Chair at **University of Birmingham**.  
**Note:** Mr. Puri also announced the new Chair to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak, during his visit to Birmingham where he delivered an Annual Lecture on the Contemporary Relevance of Guru Nanak's Teachings.
  12. The **Ministry of Tourism** has participated in the three-day-long **World Travel Market (WTM)** in **London, UK**.  
**Note:** The theme for India Pavilion at WTM 2019 is 'Incredible India - Find Incredible India'. This year, the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the Statue of Unity are also being promoted and publicized in the India Pavilion at WTM 2019.
  13. Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has co-chaired the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation in Moscow.
  14. The US- Bangladesh Navy exercise '**Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT)- 2019**' started in **Chattogram**.  
**Note:** CARAT is one of the U.S. Navy's longest continually running exercise in South Asia and Southeast Asia. Assistant chief of naval staff (operations) Bangladesh Navy rear admiral M Makbul Hossain was present as the chief guest in the opening ceremony.
  15. According to **US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**, The US has announced the increase of H-1B work visa application fee by **10 US Dollars**.  
**Note:** The non-refundable fee will support the new electronic registration system to make the H-1B cap selection process more efficient. Petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions will first have to electronically register with the USCIS during a designated registration period.
  16. Iran and Russia inaugurated a new phase of construction for a second reactor at Iran's sole nuclear power plant in Bushehr.

- Note:** The reactor is one of two officially under construction since 2017 at the Bushehr site. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal Iran signed with six major powers, including Russia, placed restrictions on the sort of nuclear reactor Tehran could develop and its production of nuclear fuel.
17. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to attend the inaugural Ministerial session of **Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference**.  
**Note:** The Minister is scheduled to meet his UAE counterpart Minister of Energy and Industry, Suhail Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei. Both the countries will discuss issues of bilateral hydrocarbon as well as steel sector engagements.
  18. BRICS trade ministers meeting has been started in **Brasilia**.  
**Note:** MoU on trade and investment promotion between agencies of all the 5 BRICS countries will be signed after the meeting. Commerce minister Piyush Goyal is leading the Indian delegation.
  19. The fifth edition of **Global Exhibition on Services (GES)-2019** will be held at **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** The Global Exhibition on Services is an annual event which aims to engage industry and governments across the world and to promote greater exchange of trade in services between India and the rest of the world. GES 2019 is an attempt towards escalating the Indian services bar in the global arena, encompassing participation from 100 countries and hosting sector-specific knowledge sessions. India is looking to attract investments and partnerships in strategic areas like aviation and space programme, infrastructure, and telecom projects.
  20. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** attended the 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in **Brasilia**.  
**Note:** BRICS Business Forum will enhance the business collaborations between BRICS countries and deepen the relations with the New Development Bank. The theme of the Summit this year is "Economic Growth for an Innovative Future".
  21. **India** will host **19th SCO Heads of Government Council** in 2020.
- Note:** It is the first such high-level meeting of the eight-member grouping to be organised by New Delhi after its admission into the grouping in 2017.
22. The 6th ASEAN **Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)** held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with 17 other Defence Ministers of ADMM-Plus countries are attending the meeting.
  23. As per latest Global Bribery Risk Index, **Bangladesh** has been identified as the "country with the highest risk" in terms of bribery threats in South Asia.  
**Note:** India has been ranked at 78th in the Global Bribery Risk Index out of 178 countries. In South Asia, Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only countries where the bribery risk is "high". The five countries with the lowest bribery risk in the world are New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.
  24. **Pakistan** has become the 1st country to introduce the new vaccine to combat typhoid.  
**Note:** Pakistan has become the first country in the world to introduce World Health Organisation-recommended typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) in its national immunisation program. It will initially be used during a two-week immunisation campaign starting from 18 to 30th November in the urban areas of Sindh.
  25. 1st Indo-Qatari joint Naval Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) held in **Doha**.  
**Note:** The Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) between the Indian Navy and Qatari Emiri Naval Forces has been started in Doha to enhance interoperability between the two navies. From the Indian side, Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS Trikanth and Patrol Aircraft P8-I are participating in the exercise.
  26. As per World Talent Ranking (WTR), for the year 201, India was ranked at **59th position**.  
**Note:** In the released report, India was ranked at 59th position, a slip by 6 places on a global annual list of 63 countries. The top 10 countries that followed Switzerland (1st) were Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Austria (4th), Luxembourg (5th), Norway (6th), Iceland (7th), Finland (8th), Netherlands (9th) and Singapore (10th).

### October

1. **Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio named UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador** – The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Indigenous Peoples.  
**Note:** She is the first indigenous Mexican woman to be so recognized by the US Academy Awards
2. **Palestine has released a commemorative** postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, honouring his legacy and values, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the world leader.
3. **PM Modi inaugurates Metro Service and ENT hospital in Mauritius** – The Indian Government has granted \$275 million for the Metro Express project and a grant of \$14 million for the new Hospital Project.
4. Typhoon '**Mitag**' hits Northern Taiwan
5. **Mahatma Gandhi's 80-year-old Letter wishing Jews 'Era of Peace' Unveiled** – The National Library of Israel

unveiled an 80 – year old handwritten letter by Mahatma Gandhiji on the day World War II broke out. He had wished the Jewish people an era of peace in his letter.

- The letter was written by Gandhiji on the occasion of Jewish new year, that is, on September 1, 1939.

**6. World Space Week: 4-10 October: Important Facts –**

World Space Week is the largest space event on the Earth. More than 80 countries are participating commemorating the week this year

- This year Theme: **The Moon: Gateway to the stars.**

**7. FATF report on money laundering:** The Asia – Pacific

Group of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) slammed Pakistan as the later failed to take actions against terror groups.

- On 5th October, 2019, the group published report on Money Laundering and terror financing in Pakistan.

**8. Nizam Funds case: India wins £35m worth case at UK**

**court** – India has won a decades-old legal dispute over funds belonging to the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad at the UK Court.

- The High Court of England and Wales, in a landmark judgement on October 2, 2019, ruled in favour of India and the Nizam's descendants and dismissed Pakistan's claims in a legal battle involving £35m.
- The judgement was delivered by Justice Marcus Smith. The court ruled that those claiming in right of Nizam VII- his grandsons and India were now entitled to the Nizam Funds.

**Background –**

**1. Hazzaa al-Mansoori becomes first Arab to reach**

**International Space Station** - Hazzaa al-Mansoori has created history to become the first Arab to reach the International Space Station (ISS).

- He was a former military pilot who was selected for the UAE's new human spaceflight program in 2018.

**2. British travel giant Thomas Cook collapses –** Britain's

178-year-old travel company Thomas Cook declared itself bankrupt.

- Thomas Cook, one of the world's leading travel companies, said after the private investment and the government could not get bailout package,

- Nizam VII, Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last ruler of Hyderabad had transferred a sum of 1 million pounds for safe-keeping to Pakistan’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola, in 1948.

- The money was transferred from the state of Hyderabad’s bank account to Rahimtoola’s account in UK’s National Westminster Bank.

- The amount, which has now grown in value to 35 million pounds or Rs 306 crore, continues to remain in the UK bank.

**9. Ecuador to withdraw from OPEC in January 2020 –**

Ecuador has announced to withdraw its membership from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) from 1 January 2020.

- Ecuador joined OPEC in 1973 had earlier withdrawn from the bloc in 1992. However, it rejoined the organization in 2007.

**About OPEC –**

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a permanent intergovernmental organization of 14 oil-exporting developing nations that coordinates and unifies the petroleum policies of its Member Countries.
- It was founded on 14 September 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members.
- OPEC headquartered is in **Vienna, Austria.**

**September**

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178-year-old travel company Thomas Cook declared itself bankrupt.

- Thomas Cook, one of the world's leading travel companies, said after the private investment and the government could not get bailout package,

the company decided to close the business with immediate effect.

- The company was founded in 1841 by Thomas Cook. Earlier it served domestic travellers in Britain, later it started taking foreign trips.

**3. Thailand 1st in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging**

– Thailand became the first country in Asia to introduce rolled out plain cigarette packaging which aims to reduce the appeal of smoking.

- Keeping a uniform typeface below graphic depictions of cigarette-related illnesses will make the products less attractive to buyers



4. **PM Modi Inaugurates Gandhi Solar Park at UN Headquarters** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a **50 kilowatt ‘Gandhi Solar Park’** at the UN headquarters in New York.
  - Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated a Gandhi Peace Garden at the State University of New York Campus at Old Westbury in Long Island.
  - The world leaders also launched UN postage stamp on Mahatma Gandhi, commemorating his 150th birth anniversary.
5. **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to offer tourist visas for the first time** – The kingdom of Saudi Arabia will offer tourist visas for the first time as part of a push to diversify its economy away from oil.
6. **St. Vincent and Grenadines, 79th country to join India-led ISA** – Saint Vincent and Grenadines became the 79th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
  - ISA is an initiative by India aimed at combating the threats of climate change and global warming.
  - The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India
7. **UNWTO selects India as host country to celebrate World Tourism Day 2019** – India has been selected as the host country for celebration of World Tourism Day 2019 by United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
 

**Note:**

  - This is for the very first time that India will host the day in its National Capital, New Delhi.
  - The World Tourism Day which observed globally on 27 September every year.
  - World Tourism Organization headquarters is in Madrid, Spain.
8. **Sri Lanka unveils South Asia’s tallest tower** – Sri Lanka unveiled South Asia’s tallest tower, costing over \$100 million, 80% of which has been funded by China under the controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
  - The 350-metre-tall 17-storey Lotus Tower, located in the heart of Colombo city.
9. **Vietnam opens Southeast Asia’s largest solar power farm** – Vietnam has inaugurated Southeast Asia’s largest solar power farm which has the capacity to produce 688 million kWh of electricity annually.
10. **Typhoon Faxai hits Tokyo, Japan** – Typhoon Faxai has hit Tokyo, Japan. There were winds of up to 210km/h (130mph). Faxai is one of the strongest typhoons to hit the Japanese capital in a decade.
11. **Howdy Modi event held in Houston, Texas** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi played host to United States President Donald Trump at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, for an Indian-American rally dubbed the ‘Howdy Modi: Shared Dreams, Bright Futures’. The mega ‘Howdy, Modi’ gala event saw around 50,000 Indian-Americans in attendance.
12. **India-Nepal petroleum products pipeline inaugurated** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated **South Asia’s first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari (in Bihar) in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal**.
  - It is a first-ever cross-border petroleum products pipeline in the South Asia region.
13. **Hurricane Dorian:** India has announced an immediate humanitarian assistance of **\$1 million** to help people in The Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian.
14. **India joins Global AMR R&D hub as a new member** – India has joined Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) hub as a new member.
  - AMR refers to a microbe’s ability to resist the effects of drugs and medication that once could successfully treat the microbe.
  - The announcement in this regard was made by Department of Biotechnology, Union Ministry of Science & Technology in New Delhi.
  - The Global AMR R&D hub was launched in May 2018 on the sidelines of 71st session of World Health Assembly (WHA), following a call from G20 leaders in 2017.
  - Global AMR R&D Secretariat: It is established in Berlin, Germany.
15. **WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate measles & rubella by 2023** – World Health Organisation South-East Asia Region have resolved to eliminate measles and rubella by 2023.
  - The resolution to eliminate the highly infectious childhood killer diseases “measles and rubella” was taken at the 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Delhi.
16. **US Federal Trade Commission fines YouTube with \$170 million** – The US’s Federal Trade Commission has fined Google’s YouTube with \$170 million. YouTube will have to pay \$170 million to settle allegations of collecting personal information about children.
  - YouTube has been accused of tracking viewers of children’s channels using cookies without parental consent.

- YouTube also used those cookies to deliver million of dollars in targeted advertisements to those viewers.
- 17. India to contribute \$22 mn to GFTAM for 2020-22** – India has announced contribution of \$22 million to Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFTAM) for 6th Replenishment Cycle (for year 2020-22). This is an increase of 10% over the amount contributed by India in 5th cycle.

- India stands firm to its long-standing partnership with Global Fund and its commitment to eliminate AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

- 18. Indonesia to move capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan** – Indonesia’s president announced that the country’s capital will move from overcrowded, sinking and polluted Jakarta to a site in sparsely populated East Kalimantan province on Borneo island.

## August

- 1. Narendra Modi launches RuPay card in UAE** – Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has launched the RuPay card, making the UAE the first country in the Middle East to initiate the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.
- Note:**
- RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfill the Reserve Bank of India’s vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments.
  - RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions. India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.
- 2. Johnson & Johnson asked to pay \$572 mn for Opioid addiction crisis** – Johnson & Johnson has been ordered to pay \$572 million for Opioid addiction crisis in US. Oklahoma court has accused J&J for its role in fostering the state’s opioid addiction crisis.
- The money will be used to provide care for addicts, families and communities ravaged by the crisis.
- 3. Discovery, WWF tie up to preserve Sundarbans** – Discovery India and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India have partnered with the Forest Directorate, the government of West Bengal and local communities to preserve Sundarbans.
- This move is to protect the Sundarbans, the mangrove forest, the habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict.
  - The move is also a part of a global movement “Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers” which aimed at building healthy habitats for Tigers.
- 4. FATF Asia-Pacific Group blacklists Pakistan** – Pakistan has been placed on the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force’s Asia Pacific Group.

- Pakistan has been blacklisted for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering.

### About Asia Pacific Group (APG)

- It is Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional body for Asia-Pacific region to develop policies to combat money laundering and terror financing. It is inter-governmental organisation founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- 5. Saudi Arabia: Travel abroad restriction on women lifted** – In a landmark reform, Saudi Arabia has allowed women above 21 years of age to receive passports (issue or renew) and travel abroad without permission from a male guardian.
- 6. Highlights: Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Bhutan**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to neighbouring country Bhutan.
  - Prime Minister of Bhutan - Lotay Tshering

### Key points –

#### Sapling planted at Bhutan’s historic Simtoka Dzong

- PM Modi planted a Cypress tree sapling at historic Simtoka Dzong in Thimpu in presence of his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering.
- Simtoka Dzong is one of the oldest fortresses in Himalayan nation.
- Simtoka Dzong functions as a monastic and administrative centre.

#### 720 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant inaugurated

- This hydroelectric plant is touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project.
- It is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. It was developed by Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA).
- MHPA was jointly constituted by Indian and Bhutanese governments.

**RuPay Card launched**

- PM Modi launched RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.
- India announced that an additional \$100 million will be available to Bhutan under SAARC currency swap framework to meet foreign exchange requirement.

**Key agreements signed between India & Bhutan**

- MoU between Bhutan’s Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DITT) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on establishment of SATCOM Network for utilization of South Asia Satellite (also known as GSAT-9).

**Note:**

- Capital of Bhutan is Thimphu
- Currency of Bhutan is Ngultrum.

- 7. India suspends Thar Link Express** – India suspended weekly Jodhpur-Munabao Thar Link Express amid the ongoing tension with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue.
  - This move comes days after India cancelled Samjhauta Express from its side after Pakistan had announced suspension of all train services to India.
- 8. Kajin Sara Lake set to be world’s highest lake** – Newly discovered Kajin Sara lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world’s highest lake.
  - It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality in Manang district of Nepal.
  - Current world’s highest lake: It is Tilicho Lake, situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal.
- 9. Microsoft’s Bill Gates regains the spot of the second richest person in the world in Bloomberg Billionaire Index**
  - The co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates with \$106 Billion, became the second richest person in the world again, by surpassing Europe’s richest person Bernard Arnault, French luxury good (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) tycoon, as per Bloomberg Billionaire Index.
  - Jeff Bezos of Amazon still holds his no.1 spot as the world’s richest person.

- 10. U.S. labels China a ‘currency manipulator’** – The United States has officially labeled China a “currency manipulator”. The US has accused China of using yuan to gain “unfair competitive advantage” in trade.
  - The US took the action as Beijing has allowed its yuan to fall below the politically sensitive level of “seven” to the U.S. dollar for the first time in 11 years.
- 11. Iceland commemorates 1st glacier “Okjokull” lost to climate change** – Iceland commemorated the loss of 1st glacier “Okjokull”, lost due to climate change. A bronze plaque was unveiled by Iceland in a ceremony which was attended by scientists and locals at the glacier in west-central Iceland.
  - The plaque bears the inscription “A letter to the future”.
- 12. Hiroshima Day 2019 observed on August 6** - Hiroshima Day was observed on August 6, 2019. It marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan by the United States (US) in 1945.
  - During World War II, an American B-29 bomber had dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed ‘Little Boy’ on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
  - Three days later i.e on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb “Fat Man” was dropped on the city of Nagasaki.
  - 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the disastrous event.
- 13. Papua New Guinea has the highest number of ‘living’ languages in the world, India ranks 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - According to Ethnologue, a directory of languages which lists 7,111 living languages (languages that are still being used and spoken by people) worldwide, Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Country in Oceania tops the list with 840 living languages, while India ranks 4th position with 453.
  - The other nations in the top 5 positions include Indonesia (2nd ) with 710 living languages and Nigeria(3rd with 524) and US (United States) came 5th with 335.

**July**

- 1. Boris Johnson announced as Britain’s next prime minister** - Boris Johnson replaces Theresa May as Britain’s next Prime Minister.
- 2. International arbitration court imposes \$5 billion penalty Pakistan** – International Arbitration Court has imposed over **\$5 billion penalty on Pakistan** for unlawful

- denial of a mining lease to a company called Tethyan Copper Company for Reko Diq project in 2011. This penalty on cash-strapped Pakistan is one of the biggest in its history.
- 3. Australia-India finalize a new veterinary health protocol** - Australia and India recently finalized a new veterinary

health protocol for the export of Australian breeder sheep to India

4. **World Hindu Economic Forum launches its Nepal Chapter in Kathmandu** – World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter which was inaugurated by Nepal’s Minister of State for Health and Population Dr. Surendra Kumar Yadav in Nepal’s Capital of Kathmandu.
  - It has been founded by Swami Vigyananand.
5. **France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020** – France will impose green tax up to €18 on plane tickets from 2020. The move aims to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
6. **Gafa Tax: France to levy 3% tax on Internet giants** – The French parliament approved a law dubbed as Gafa Tax (an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon), the legislation will impose a 3% levy on sales generated in the country by non-tax paying online giants.
7. **Palau becomes 76th nation to join International Solar Alliance** – Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
 

**About International Solar Alliance**

  - ISA is a group of 121 solar resource-rich nations. It was jointly launched by India and France on November 2015 on side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference held at Paris.
  - It is headquartered at campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.
8. **WHO declares Ebola outbreak in DRC as a Global Health Emergency** – World Health Organization (WHO) has declared deadly Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as ‘Public Health Emergency of International Concern’. This announcement comes after Ebola virus spread to a city of 2 million people.
  - Kinshasa is the capital of Democratic Republic of Congo.
  - Congolese franc is the currency of Democratic Republic of Congo..
9. Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba. Red Sea - It is a narrow strip of water inlet of Indian Ocean. It extends southeastward from Suez in Egypt, to Bab el-Mandeb Strait (it connects Red Sea to Gulf of Aden).
10. **Ukraine inaugurates world’s largest Metal Dome** – Ukraine has inaugurated the world’s largest movable metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the

infamous Chernobyl plant. It is a 108-meter high dome which weighs 36,000 tonnes.

11. **Motihari-Amlekhgunj Oil Pipeline ready for commercial operation** – The landmark Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Products Pipeline between India and Nepal is now completed and is ready for commercial operation.
  - The testing transfer of the pipeline was successfully completed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC). As part of trial, diesel was released from Motihari which reached Amlekhgunj.
  - The prestigious project is the 1st oil pipeline in Nepal, 1st transnational petroleum pipeline from India as well as 1st South Asian oil pipeline corridor.
12. **Sri Lanka eliminates measles** – Sri Lanka has become fifth country in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.
  - The other countries in the region which have achieved this feat are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste.
13. **Tropical Storm Barry hits Louisiana in US.** - In the United States, Tropical Storm Barry has devastated Louisiana. President Donald Trump has declared a state of emergency in Louisiana.
14. **U.S. sets \$5 bn fine for Facebook** – U.S.’s Federal Trade Commission have approved a \$5 billion penalty to be levied on Facebook. The penalty have been approved to settle a probe into the social network’s privacy and data protection lapses.
15. **Plastic-like Jute material developed in Bangladesh** – Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named “Sonali”.
  - The Eco-friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work and they are not harmful for human health.
16. **The UK’s new £50 pound note features codebreaker Alan Turing** - According to the Bank of England, Alan Turing, a crack code-breaker and visionary mathematician who set the foundations for artificial intelligence (AI) will feature on Britain’s new £50 banknote.
  - The new note is expected to enter circulation by the end of 2021.
17. **Padma Shri awardee Raghu Ram receives FRCS of Thailand**
  - Popular breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee P.Raghu Ram has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand at the 44th annual congress of

the Royal College in Pattaya themed “ASEAN collaboration in value-based surgery”.

**18. Ukraine inaugurates gigantic dome worth \$1.7 billion over destroyed Chernobyl reactor**

- Ukraine and its European partners have inaugurated the world’s largest new metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Note:

- Ukraine: Capital: Kyiv or Kiev
- Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

**19. European Union fines chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million** – European Union has fined US based chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million, accusing it of “predatory pricing” to drive a competitor out of the market.

**20. 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee** – The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July 2019.

**21. Italy’s Prosecco hills enters UNESCO World Heritage list** – Italy’s hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, which is home to world-famous sparkling wine Prosecco, were added by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to World Heritage list.

- It has now become Italy’s 55th World Heritage site.

**22. Australia’s Budj Bim Cultural Landscape included in UNESCO’s WHS** – Australian Aboriginal site ‘Budj Bim Cultural Landscape’ in south-west Victoria has been added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

- It is the 20th site in Australia to make it to WHS list.

**23. Iraq’s Babylon listed as UNESCO’s World Heritage Site** – UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee has voted to list the sprawling Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon as a World Heritage Site after three decades of lobbying efforts by Iraq.

- Since 1983 Iraq had been trying to have Babylon site recognised by UNESCO.

**24. Sharjah issues its first Golden card visa to an Indian Lalu Samuel, Chairman of Kingston Holdings** – The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs of Sharjah has granted the first golden card visa to an Indian expat businessman, Lalu Samuel, Chairman and Managing

Director of Kingston Holdings and Chairman of Sharjah Industry Business Group.

**25. World’s largest burn and plastic surgery institute inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh** – The world’s largest burn and plastic surgery institute named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute started its functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**26. Sri Lanka inaugurates first model village built with Indian assistance** – The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka.

**27. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** confirmed that **Iran** had exceeded a limit of 300 kilograms on its enriched uranium reserves set by a 2015 nuclear deal/Iran deal.

**About Iran Deal**

- It is also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or Iran Nuclear deal.
- It was signed on July 14, 2015 in Vienna, Austria between - Iran, **P5+1 namely- France, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and the US (P5) plus Germany.**
- International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters is in - **Vienna, Austria.**

**28. Japan resumes commercial whaling** – Japan has resumed commercial whaling after a period of 31 years, but will stay within country’s exclusive economic waters.

**International Whaling Commission**

- It is an international body set up under International Convention for Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in 1946 in Washington, D.C., United States (US).
- ICRW governs scientific, commercial, and aboriginal subsistence whaling practices of 59 member nations.
- IWC Headquarters: Impington, England.

**29. New Zealand bans Single-Use Plastic shopping bags** – New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags with effect from 1 July 2019.

June

**1. ‘goAML’ launched by UAE** - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become 1st country in Gulf to launch new anti-money laundering platform called ‘goAML’ (Anti-Money Laundering).

- It is the new anti-money laundering platform was launched by UAE’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and is developed by United Nations Office

on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to curb organised crimes.

2. **Saudi Arabia becomes 1st Arab country to get full FATF membership** – Saudi Arabia has become 1st Arab country to be granted full membership of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following FATF's Annual General Meeting held in Orlando, Florida in United States (US).

**About FATF –**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization that designs and promotes policies and standards to combat financial crime.
- The FATF was created in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money
- FATF headquartered in Paris, France.

3. **India-assisted IT- Biotechnology Park inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire** – Mahatma Gandhi Information Technology and Biotechnology Park (MGIT-BP) built with India's assistance was recently inaugurated at Grand-Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire.

- Côte d'Ivoire is a West African country
- Yamoussoukro is the capital of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Currency - franc

4. The world's smallest baby ever to survive, weighing a mere 245 grams was born in San Diego, California.
5. **Indonesia's Mount Sinabung spews huge column of ash during latest eruption** – Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra, Indonesia, sent a huge plume of thick ash 7km high into the sky during an eruption on 9 Jun
6. **UAE launches 'Golden Card' scheme to woo wealthy investors, exceptional talents** – The United Arab Emirates launched a permanent residency scheme to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents, a move that could attract more Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation.
  - The "Golden Card" programme unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.
7. **IMF approves \$6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan** – The IMF has approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of 3 years for cash strapped Pakistan.
8. **Pakistan secures \$3 billion bailout from Qatar** – Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured a financial assistance in form of a bailout package of \$3 billion from oil-rich Qatar.
9. **Mauritania holds election for 1st time in 60yrs** – Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa went to polls

for the first time since the African nation gained independence from France nearly 60 years ago.

- Mohamed Ould Ghazouani elected as the president of Mauritania
- Mauritania, officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in Northwest Africa.
- Capital of Mauritania is **Nouakchott**.

10. **U.S. Senate passes provision to give India NATO ally-like status** – The U.S. Senate has passed a legislative provision National Defense Authorisation Act for India.

**About NATO**

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 29 countries from North America and Europe.
- NATO headquarters is in **Brussels, Belgium**.

11. **BIMSTEC Day- 2019** celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries consisting of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan celebrated the BIMSTEC Day- 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- BIMSTEC: Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh

12. **Russia extends ban on EU Food Imports until end of 2020** – Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a decree for extending Moscow's embargo on food products being imported from the European Union (EU) to the end of 2020.

13. **Imports from Pakistan to India decline by 92% in March 2019** - Imports from Pakistan to India have declined by 92% amounting to USD 2.84 Million in March 2019 after imposition of 200% customs duties on all products.

14. **UAE Cabinet adopts 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031'** – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Cabinet adopted a National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi (UAE Capital).

15. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev elected Kazakhstan president

16. **SriLankan Airlines: World's Most Punctual Airline** – SriLankan Airlines, the National Carrier of island nation has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for second consecutive time.

17. **Russia launches 1st Arctic train service** – Russia has launched first Arctic train service running from St. Petersburg station headed to Norway

18. **Italy's Volcano Mount Etna erupts on Island of Sicily** – Europe's Highest Volcano Mount Etna, in southern Italy erupted with burst into life, spews ash, fire, and spitting molten lava high into sky.

### 19. 16th Asia Media Summit held in Siem Reap province in Cambodia.

- The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) was hosted by India.

### 20. China launches Space Rocket from Yellow Sea for 1st time - China launched a space rocket named "Long March

11" from a mobile launch platform in Yellow Sea off Shandong province (China) for the first time.

- With this China became 3rd nation following the U.S. and Russia to successfully demonstrate ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform.

## Sports

### December

#### 1. Gurpreet Singh & Sunil Kumar clinched gold medals at the senior national wrestling championships in Jalandhar.

**Note:** Gurpreet defeated Sajan Bhanwal by a 3-1 margin, in the 77-kilogram category. Sunil also managed an easy win over Punjab's Prabhal. The Railway's grappler used all his experience to crush the Punjab wrestler 5-1 in the 87 kg final.

#### 2. Vinesh Phogat & Sakshi Malik registered convincing wins in the finals to claim gold medals at the Senior Wrestling National Championships in Jalandhar.

**Note:** Phogat beat Haryana's Anju 7-3 in the 55kg category. Olympic bronze medallist Malik defeated Radhika (Haryana) 4-2 in the 62kg category. In the 68kg category, Haryana wrestler Anita Sheoran stunned Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Divya Kakran.

#### 3. Priyam Garg will lead defending champions India in next year's Under-19 ICC Cricket World Cup (13th edition) to be held in South Africa.

**Note:** India (defending champions) are placed in Group 'A' with first-time qualifier Japan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Sixteen teams will be taking part in the tournament, split into four groups of four. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super League stage, with the bottom two teams in each group progressing to the Plate League.

#### 4. 13th South Asian Games open in a glittering ceremony held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Note:** Over 2700 athletes from seven South Asian Countries participated in the march past. For 10 days biggest sporting event of South Asia, 2715 athletes (India - 487 athletes) compete for 1119 medals including 319 Gold in 26 game categories. The closing ceremony will be held on 10th December.

#### 5. Karnataka won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2019-20.

**Note:** Karnataka lifted the Syed Mushtaq Trophy 2019-20 (Cricket) after a thrilling one-run win over Tamil Nadu in

the final. This is the second consecutive title win for Karnataka. Karnataka rode on skipper Manish Pandey's 60 runs (45-ball) to post a total of 180/5 in 20 overs.

#### 6. Steve Smith has become the fastest cricketer to score 7,000 Test runs.

**Note:** Australian Steve Smith had gone past legendary Don Bradman's 73-year-old record to become the fastest batsman to score 7000 runs in just 126 innings. He has a mountain to climb to reach Ricky Ponting, who amassed 13,378 runs in his 168 Tests. India's Virender Sehwag is the third fastest in 134 innings.

#### 7. British racing driver Lewis Hamilton has won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix held in Abu Dhabi UAE.

**Note:** He has claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races of this year. Max Verstappen of Red Bull finished 2nd in the race while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished 3rd in the race. The 2019 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (formally known as the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2019) was a Formula One motor race held at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

#### 8. New Zealand cricket team has been awarded the Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket award.

**Note:** The team has been awarded for its exemplary show of sportsmanship during the final match of the ICC World Cup at Lord's in July 2019, which it lost under controversial circumstances. Martin-Jenkins was the former MCC president and BBC Test Match Special commentator.

#### 9. Virat Kohli regained the top spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Test rankings in batting.

**Note:** Australian Steve Smith (923 points) slipped a rung in the latest list issued in Dubai. Among the bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah is the highest-placed Indian at the fifth position. West Indies captain Jason Holder has consolidated his position at the top of the all-rounders' list.

### November

#### 1. Rafael Nadal has clinched 6th Davis Cup title for Spain.

**Note:** Nadal (33-year) defeated Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9-7) to clinch Spain's 2-0 win against Canada. It was the

- Spanish team's first Davis Cup title since 2011 and their sixth Davis Cup title overall. In 2019, Nadal won the French Open and the US Open, made the Australian Open final and reached the Wimbledon semi-final.
2. India's **Lakshya Sen** has won the Scottish Open men's singles title in **Glasgow**.  
**Note:** Lakshya Sen defeated Ygor Coelho 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 to seal his fourth title in three months. Within a month, Lakshya won his first BWF Super 100 title at the Dutch Open, with the second one coming soon after, at the SaarLorLux Open in Germany
  3. India concluded its campaign at the **Under-15 Asian Championships with 28 medals (13 gold, 14 silver and a bronze)**.  
**Note:** For the first time, India finished on top of the team rankings in freestyle category with 225 points as all 10 wrestlers finished on the podium. Kazakhstan finished second while Japan was third.
  4. **Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman** clinched double trap titles, winning gold at the 63rd National Shotgun Shooting Championship in New Delhi.  
**Note:** In the men's category, Sangram shot 142 out of 150 targets to clinch the gold medal. Former world champion Ankur Mittal has won Silver and Prithvi Singh Chahal bronze.
  5. **Eliud Kipchoge & Dalilah Muhammad** has won the World Athlete of the Year awards.  
**Note:** Kipchoge claimed the prize in Monaco after making history last month when he ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec. American Muhammad won her award after a magnificent year that saw her set a world record of 52.20 seconds at the US Trials in Iowa in July breaking a record that had stood since 2003.
  6. India won the bid to host **2023 Men's Hockey World Cup**.  
**Note:** Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium Stadium in Rourkela to be the venues for the tournament. Bhubaneswar has hosted some big international sporting events, including the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships, 2017 FIH Hockey World League Final, FIH Men's Series Finals in 2019.
  7. **Abhishek Verma & Jyothi Surekha Vennam** claimed the gold in compound mixed pair event at the **21st Asian Archery Championships**, in Bangkok.  
**Note:** The Indians defeated Chinese Taipei opponents Yi-Hsuan Chen and Chieh-Luh Chen 158-151 in the final clash. India picked up seven medals including one gold, two silver and four bronze meddles in the event. The Indian archers participated in the tournament as neutral athletes under the World Archery flag due to the suspension of the national federation Archery Association of India (AAI).
  8. **Deepika Kumari** has won gold medal in the women's individual recurve event of the 21st Asian Championships in Bangkok.  
**Note:** Deepika defeated Ankita 6-0 in the one-sided final. Earlier, the duo had secured an individual Olympic quota for the country by storming into the semi-finals of the event.
  9. **Justice Mukundakam Sharma committee:** Sports Ministry has constituted a **13-member expert committee** to review the Draft National Sports Code.  
**Note:** Former sports persons Gagan Narang, Bhaichung Bhutia, Anju Bobby George and national badminton coach Pulella Gopichand are part of the panel. The panel has been formed to suggest measures to make the Sports Code acceptable to all the stakeholders. It will try to strike a balance between the autonomy of National Sports Federations vis-a-vis need for transparency and autonomy.
  10. **C. Mary Kom:** included in a **10-member athlete ambassadors' group** by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.  
**Note:** The group will represent boxers in the **build-up to next year's Tokyo Olympics (Tokyo Olympic 2020)**. C. Mary Kom will represent the **Asian bloc in boxing's athlete ambassadors' group**.
  11. **Pooja Gehlot:** silver medal in 53kg at UWW Under-23 World Championships in Budapest.  
**Note:** Pooja lost 0-2 to Okuno in the summit clash. She had entered the finals after beating Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in the semifinals of the tournament.
  12. **South Africa** defeated **England** in the final to win the **Rugby World Cup**.  
**Note:** South Africa beat **England 32-12** in the world cup final in Japan.
  13. **Lakshya Sen** has won the **SaarLorLux Open badminton tournament** at Saarbrücken in Germany.  
**Note:** He defeated Weng Hong Yang of China in an exciting final last night.
  14. **Novak Djokovic** won the fifth **Paris Masters title for 2019** by defeating Denis Shapovalov in the final.  
**Note:** Djokovic will lose top spot in the rankings to Nadal next week, but could still equal Pete Sampras' record by finishing a sixth year as the world's best player.
  15. Finnish racing driver **Valtteri Bottas** has won the **Formula One, United States Grand Prix 2019**.  
**Note:** Lewis Hamilton was on second, Max Verstappen on third, Charles Leclerc on fourth and Alexander Albon on fifth.
  16. **India B** has won the 2019–20 Deodhar Trophy (47th edition) at JSCA International Stadium Complex, Ranchi.  
**Note:** Deodhar Trophy was contested between three teams (India-A, India -B and India-C) selected by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).



17. Serbian professional tennis player **Novak Djokovic** eased to a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title.  
**Note:** He defeated Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 6-4 in the final.
18. **Deepak Kumar:** won the men's 10m air rifle bronze medal at the 14th Asian shooting Championships in Doha.  
**Note:** India has already secured nine Tokyo quotas in rifle and pistol and lies behind China who has 25 quotas and Korea's 12 in the Asian region, besides the host-country Japan, in terms of quotas won.
19. **Manu Bhaker:** He won gold medal in women's 10m air pistol event at **Doha, Qatar**.  
**Note:** She put up a dominant showing, shooting 584 in qualification and 244.3 in the final to take gold. Vivaan Kapoor & Manisha Keer also won the Gold medal in junior trap mixed event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2019.
20. **Rohit Sharma** has become the **first Indian man and second in world cricket** to complete 100 T-20 Internationals.  
**Note:** He reached the milestone when he led the team in the second match against Bangladesh at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium. Shoaib Malik with 111 games from Pakistan is the only player to have played more than 100 T20 Internationals.
21. India will host the 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup from **13th to 29th January**.  
**Note:** The decisions were made during FIH's Executive Board Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.
22. Two-time Olympic champion **Nicola Adams** will retire because of fears about her sight.  
**Note:** Nicola Adams became the first-ever women's Olympic boxing champion at London 2012. Adams successfully defended her title in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.
23. **Kento Momota:** China Open 2019 winner.  
**Note:** Japan's Kento Momota (world number -1) defeated Taiwan's Tien-chen (world number-2) to retain his Fuzhou China Open Badminton title. Chinese player Chen Yufei successfully defended the women's title with a victory over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara. Chen Yufei beat Okuhara 21-9, 21-12, 21-18.
24. **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won silver medal in **Men's 10m air pistol event** at Asian Championship.
25. India's Javelin thrower **Sundar Singh Gurjar** has won a gold medal in the men's F46 javelin throw event at World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai.  
**Note:** Gurjar came up with his season's best effort of 61.22m to claim the top spot. While Yogesh Kathuniya added a silver for India in men's discus throw F56 event with a best throw of 42.05m yesterday.
26. **Shafali Verma (15-years- and 285 days)** has become the youngest Indian Cricketer to score a half-century in International Cricket.  
**Note:** Shafali Verma's 73 runs (49-ball) in the first T20 International against West Indies surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's 30-year-old record. Shafali achieved the feat surpassing batting legend Tendulkar, who had notched up his maiden Test fifty at 16 years and 214 days.
27. The **1st South Asian country** to call match-fixing a crime - **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** Sri Lanka has become the first South Asian nation to criminalize several offenses related to match-fixing. Sri Lanka parliament passed all three readings of a bill labeled "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports".
28. **Punjab** will host the Kabaddi World Cup 2019.  
**Note:** The tournament will be dedicated to the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji (1 to 9 December) Nine teams -- India, USA, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, and Canada -- are expected to take part in the tournament.
29. Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand** has been named in the TIME 100 list of the most influential persons in the world.  
**Note:** The list, an initiative of TIME magazine, highlights 100 rising stars who are shaping the future of business, entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism, etc.
30. **England** has qualified for the UEFA Euro 2020 football tournament.  
**Note:** Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 99th international goal as Portugal secured its place at the Euro 2020 finals. Portugal are the defending champions, having won the 2016 edition. For the first time, the video assistant referee (VAR) system will be used at the UEFA European Championship.
31. Greek tennis player **Stefanos Tsitsipas** has won the ATP Finals in London.  
**Note:** It is Tsitsipas's third title of the season and comes a year after he was crowned champion at the Next Gen ATP Finals in Milan. Tsitsipas had qualified for the finals after defeating six-time champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals.
32. Indian women have clinched five gold, while men bagged two silver at Asian Youth Boxing Championship in **Mongolia**.  
**Note:** All five women finalists, Naorem Chanu (51kg), Vinka (64kg) Sanamacha Chanu (75kg), Poonam (54kg) and Sushma (81kg) won Gold for the country in a phenomenal sweep.
33. **Harmeet Desai** has won men's singles Gold medal at **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Indonesia Open 2019 Table Tennis** tournament.
34. Korean teenager **Joohyung Kim** has won the 2019 Panasonic Open India held at **Gurgaon, Haryana**.  
**Note:** India's Shiv Kapur and Chikkarangappa S finished tied second. With this win, the Joohyung Kim has become the second-youngest winner on the Asian Tour.

- 35. David Villa:** Spanish striker has announced his retirement from football.  
**Note:** David Villa retired from the national team with 59 goals in 98 matches, making him Spain's all-time top goalscorer as well as the country's top scorer in the World Cup, with nine goals.
- 36. India-Pakistan Davis Cup** tie shifted to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan from **Islamabad**.  
**Note:** The Davis Cup tie was scheduled to be held in September but was pushed to 29-30 November after India expressed concerns about the safety of their players.
- 37. Belgian-Dutch racing driver Max Verstappen (with Red Bull)** has won the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix 2019.

**Note:** The Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clashed in the race due to which Verstappen was able to take the lead and ultimately win the race. Pierre Gasly (France) was on the second position and was the first podium position for him while Lewis Hamilton remained on the third.

- 38. Manu Bhaker** has become the second Indian shooter to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISS World Cup 2019.  
**Note:** Serbia's Zorana Arunovic won the silver with 241.9, while Quian Wang of China bagged the bronze with 221.8. Manu Bhaker shot 244.7 to win the gold medal at World Cup Finals.

## October

- Harmanpreet Kaur** has become the 1st Indian to play **100 T20 International** matches.
- Japan Open title 2019 -- **Novak Djokovic**.  
**Note:** He defeated Millman with a score of 6-3, 6-2 and secured a 76th career singles tournament win.
- Austria's **Christine Wolf** has won the Hero **Women's Indian Open** at Gurugram, Haryana.
- Japan's **Naomi Osaka** has won the China Open held in Beijing, China.
- Simone Biles** has won the 15th World Gymnastics Championship title in Stuttgart, Germany.
- German World Cup champion **Bastian Schweinsteiger** has announced his retirement from soccer.
- India's M C Mary Kom has won the **bronze medal** in the **51kg event** of World Women's Boxing Championships in Russia.
- Kenya's **Eliud Kipchoge** becomes **1st athlete** to run sub 2-hour marathon.
- Indian shuttler clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title in the Netherlands-- **Lakshya Sen**.
- Manju Rani** settled for silver medal in World Women's Boxing Championships (in the 48-kilogram category) in Russia.
- Priyanshu Rajawat** wins men's singles title at Bahrain International Series.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has changed the super-over rule for all its major events  
**Note:** As per new rule, in case of a super over tie, there will be a repeated super over until one team has more runs than the other.
- Mercedes' **Valtteri Bottas** won the **2019 Japanese Grand Prix**.

**Note:** Ferrari's **Sebastian Vettel** (Germany) and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton (Britain) were ranked at the **2nd** and **3rd places** respectively.

- Zimbabwe** and **Nepal** were re-admitted as **ICC members**.  
**Note:** Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020.
- The Indian football team won the 3rd Edition of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championships 2019 at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimpu, Bhutan.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal (17-year) has become the youngest cricketer in the world to score a **double century** in One Day cricket.
- England all-rounder **Jennifer Louise Gunn** has announced her retirement from international cricket.
- Great Britain won the **9th edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup 2019**.  
**Note:** **Great Britain** defeated India in the finals by 2-1 in the
- Kuhoo Garg** and **Dhruv Rawat** won the badminton mixed doubles title at the Egypt International 2019 in Cairo, Egypt.
- Indian cyclist **Ronaldo Singh** bagged a gold medal in the men's junior Keirin event at the Asian Track Cycling Championships in South Korea.
- Indian cricketer **Rohit Sharma** smashed the Don Bradman's (former Australia cricketer) record of highest average in **Test cricket** on home soil.  
**Note:** He broke record by scoring an average of **99.84**. Bradman, the legendary Australia cricketer had an average of 98.22.

- 22. Riya Bhatia** has won the **ITF women's tennis tournament** in Lagos, Nigeria.  
**Note:** She defeated Slovenian player Nastja Kolar of Slovenia 7-5, 1-6, 6-3 in the summit clash of the ITF women's tennis tournament.
- 23. India's 65th Grandmaster:** Raunak Sadhwani.
- 24. Canadian player Denis Shapovalov** has won the **Stockholm Open title 2019.**
- 25. Bengal Warriors** wins **7th season of Vivo Pro Kabaddi League 2019.**  
**Note:** Bengal Warriors won their first title by defeating **Dabang Delhi** by 39-34 at the EKA Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- 26.** The logo for the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games** unveiled at a ceremony in the French capital.  
**Note:** The circular design with Paris 2024 in the art deco style which was in vogue in 1924 when Paris last hosted the Games, also **incorporates** the lips and outline of Marianne, the personification of the French Republic since the revolution in 1789.
- 27.** Para-athlete **Anandan Gunasekaran** has won 2 gold medals at the 7th CISM World Military Games in Wuhan, China.
- 28. Graeme Smith** (Former South Africa skipper) has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- 29.** 1st Indian man to win a gold medal at the Wushu World Championships-- **Praveen Kumar.**
- 30.** Mumbai all-rounder has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket -- **Abhishek Nayar.**
- 31.** Karnataka has won the **2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy.**  
**Note:** Karnataka won their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy title with a dominant display against Tamil Nadu.
- 32. Jasprit Bumrah** and **Smriti Mandhana** won Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year award.  
**Note:** The other 3 winners are Fakhar Zaman (Pakistan), Dimuth Karunaratne (Sri Lanka) and Rashid Khan (Afghanistan).The Zozo Championship 2019 tournament title was clinched by -- **Tiger Woods.**
- 33.** Mercedes' driver won the Mexican Grand Prix 2019 -- Lewis Hamilton.
- 34.** Indian men's doubles pair has won the silver medal in the men's doubles event at French Open -- **Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.**
- 35.** Indian boxer clinched gold medals in Olympic Test Event for Boxing in Tokyo, Japan -- **Shiva Thapa and Pooja Rani.**
- 36.** India's Prithvi Sekhar wins gold in World Deaf Tennis Championship.  
**Note:** The 2nd Edition of World Deaf Tennis Championships 2019 was held in Antalya, Turkey.
- 37.** The Indian cricket team will play its first-ever Day-Night Test match against -- **Bangladesh.**
- 38. China Open (tennis)** - Japan's Naomi Osaka has won the China Open held in Beijing, China. She defeated world number one Ashleigh Barty in the final.
- 39. Hero Women's Indian Open (Golf)** - Austria's Christine Wolf has won the Hero Women's Indian Open at Gurugram, Haryana.
- 40. Japan Open (Tennis)** – Novak Djokovic defeated Australia's John Millman in the finals to win the Japan Open title.
- 41. Ravindra Jadeja becomes second fastest Indian to 200 wickets in Test cricket –**
- Ravindra Jadeja became the fastest **left-arm bowler** to reach the milestone.
  - He became the second Indian bowler to take the fastest 200 wickets in Test cricket.
  - He 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.
- 42. Professional Cricketers' Association player of the year –** England all-rounder Ben Stokes has been voted Professional Cricketers' Association player of the year at the Professional Cricketers' Association awards.
- All-rounder Stokes played a starring role in England's maiden World Cup win before
- 43. Annu Rani becomes 1st Indian to qualify for women's javelin throw final –** India's top female javelin thrower player Annu Rani made it to the finals of the World Athletics Championship. She is the first Indian woman to reach the finals of this event.
- 44. India gets its first-ever floating basketball court in Mumbai –** The National Basketball Association installed India's first-ever floating basketball court in Mumbai.
- 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 in the SVP Stadium at Dome, NSCI, in Mumbai.
- 45. India won the under-19 Asia Cup for the 7th time –** The Indian U-19 cricket team has won the Asia Cup for the second time in a row.

- Team India defeated Bangladesh by 5 runs in a thrilling final in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Note:
- India has won the Under-19 Asia Cup title for the seventh time.
  - Earlier India won this title in 1989, 2003, 2012, 2013-14, 2016, 2018.
46. Maj **Abdul Quadir Khan** of the Corps of Signals has won the Silver medal at the 53rd Asian Body Building and Physique Sports Championship held at Batam, Indonesia.
47. India's N. Wilson Singh and Satish Kumar Prahapati won the gold medal in the 10m platform synchronised diving event at the Asian Age Group Championships held in Bengaluru.
48. Jamaican sprint legend **Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce** won gold medal in 100m race of 2019 IAAF World Championships held in Doha.
49. Indian fencer **Bhavani Devi** wins the silver medal in the women's sabre individual event at the Tournoi satellite competition in Belgium.
50. Mercedes Lewis Hamilton won 2019 **Russia F1 Grand Prix**.

## September

1. **India lift SAFF U-18 Championship title for first time**
  - India won the SAFF Under-18 football Championship by defeating Bangladesh by 2-1 in final held in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is India's maiden SAFF U-18 trophy.
2. **IAAF Council: Adille Sumariwalla re-elected as its member** – The President of Athletics Federation of India (AFI), Adille Sumariwallam has been re-elected as member of Council of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). His election is for a second four-year term.
 

**International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)**

  - It is the international governing body for sport of athletics.
  - It was established on 17 July 1912 in Stockholm, Sweden. It is headquartered in Monaco.
  - Membership: 215 member federations
3. **PT Usha honoured with IAAF Veteran Pin** – Former athlete and Olympian PT Usha, known as 'Payyoli Express', has been awarded the prestigious International Athletics Federation (IAAF) Veteran Pin Award.
  - IAAF chief Sebastian Coe presented her the Veteran Pin during the 52nd IAAF Congress at Doha.
4. **Singapore Grand Prix Formula** – Four-time world champion **Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel**
5. **Rupa Gurunath** was appointed as the first woman president of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) at the 87th Annual General Meeting of TNCA in Chennai, TamilNadu.
6. **FIFA Football Awards 2019** – The Best FIFA Football Awards 2019 were presented at La Scala opera house in Milan, Italy.
  - Best Men's Player: Lionel Messi of Barcelona & Argentina
  - Best Women's Player: Megan Rapinoe of Reign FC & United States
7. **World Wrestling Championships**: India's bags 5 medals
  - The World Wrestling Championships held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
  - Rahul Aware bagged a bronze medal in men's 61kg category.
  - Deepak Punia won silver in men's 86 kg freestyle.
  - Deepak Punia by winning silver has become only 5th Indian to reach the final at senior World Championships.
  - **Bajrang Punia** won a bronze medal
8. **Sumit Nagal wins title at ATP Challenger Tournament** – Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal has won the men's singles title at the ATP Challenger Tournament held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
9. **Advani-Mehta pair wins "IBSF World Snooker" title** – The Indian team of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta to win the "IBSF World Snooker" title.
  - India defeated Thailand in the team event to emerge World champions in the IBSF World snooker team event held in Mandalay, Myanmar.
10. **Manipur wins Senior Women's National Football Championship** – Manipur defeated Railways by 1-0 to win the Senior Women's National Football Championship held in Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh.
  - This was Manipur's 20th National title.
11. **Skolkova Fides Grand Prix title 2019** – Indian chess grandmaster, Koneru Hampi of Gudivada ( Andhra Pradesh) has clinched Fide World Grand Prix 2019 title.
12. Indian **shuttler Malvika Bansod** has won the Maldives International Future Series held in Maldives.
13. **Amit Panghal becomes first Indian male boxer to win silver at World Boxing Championship** – Amit Panghal settled for the silver medal at World Boxing

- Championships after he lost to Uzbekistan's Shakhobidin Zoirov 3-2 in the 52kg category final.
- He became the first Indian male pugilist to win a silver in World Championships at Ekaterinburg in Russia.
- The International Cricket Council has banned Sri Lankan off-spinner **Akila Dananjaya** from bowling in international matches for 1 year.
  - India slip to 104th spot in latest FIFA ranking** – The Indian football team slipped a place to 104th position in the latest FIFA rankings released.
  - Anurag Thakur announces cricket and sports academy for Leh** – Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur announced that a cricket and sports academy will be set up in Ladakh.
  - Vinesh Phogat wins bronze medal in Wrestling World Championships** – Vinesh Phogat won the bronze medal at the Wrestling World Championships held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
    - She defeated Maria Prevolaraki of Greece in the 53 kg freestyle event.
  - Dinesh Mongia announces retirement from all form of cricket** – Former Indian Cricket all-rounder Dinesh Mongia announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
  - Basketball World Cup** – Spain defeated Argentina by 95-75 to win the Basketball World Cup held in Beijing, China. The next world cup will be held in 2023 in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.
    - Spain became the fifth country to win the World Cup 2 times.
  - India's Kaushal Dharmamer wins Myanmar International Series** – Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer has won the Myanmar International Series. He defeated Indonesia's Karono Karono by 18-21, 21-14, 21-11 in the finals.
  - Lakshya Sen wins Belgian International Badminton title** – Indian Badminton star, Lakshya Sen has won the Belgian International badminton title.
  - Sourabh Verma clinches Vietnam Open Super 100 title** – Sourabh Verma has won the Vietnam Open Super 100 title held at the Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
  - Pankaj Advani became world champion for 22nd time** – Pankaj Advani has become the world champion for the 22nd time.
    - The 34-year-old Advani has won the title of IBSF World Billiards Championship for the fourth consecutive time. This is his fifth world title in the last 6 years in the short format of billiards.
  - Andrew Strauss becomes chairman of ECB's cricket committee** – Former England captain Andrew Strauss has been appointed as the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board's cricket committee.
  - Megan Schutt becomes the first woman to claim two white ball hat-trick** – Australian fast bowler Megan Schutt scripted history by becoming the first woman to claim two hat-tricks in white-ball cricket.
    - The right-arm medium-pacer claimed an ODI hat-trick to become the first Australian woman to achieve the feat.
    - She became the first Australian women to claim a hat-trick in ODIs. Schutt had claimed her first hat-trick in a T20 game against India.
  - Athlete Hima Das named brand ambassador of Gatorade by PepsiCo** – PepsiCo India has roped in India's star athlete Hima Das as the brand ambassador for its sports drink brand Gatorade.
    - With this the 19-year old Hima Das joins ace shuttler PV Sindhu (since 2017) and javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra (since 2018) as the brand's ambassadors in country.
  - Sports Ministry derecognises Paralympic Committee of India** – Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) derecognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for violating National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.
  - Diego Matos banned for a lifetime for match-fixing** – Diego Matos of Brazil was banned for life from professional tennis for being found guilty of match-fixing.
  - Feroz Shah Kotla stadium renamed after Arun Jaitley** – Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi will now be known as Arun Jaitley Stadium.
    - The stadium was renamed on 12 September 2019 in the memory of former Finance Minister of the country and stalwart BJP leader Arun Jaitley.
  - Sarah Thomas became the first person to swim across the Channel four times** – American Sarah Thomas, 37, became the first person to swim across the Channel four times non-stop in a 54-hour feat of endurance.
    - A woman who was treated for breast cancer a year ago has become the first person to swim across the English Channel four times non-stop.
  - Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics** – Indian women wrestler Vinesh Phogat has qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Vinesh managed to get an Olympic ticket in the 53 kg category.
    - She has become the first Indian woman wrestler to make it to the 2020 Olympics.

- Vinesh Phogat achieved this feat by defeating Sarah Hildebrandt of America in the repechage rounder of the World Wrestling Championship.

Note:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has selected Tokyo, Japan, to host the Summer Olympics in 2020. The games are planned to be held from 24 July to 9 August 2020 in Tokyo.
- The 2024 Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, France.
- The 2028 Summer Olympics will be held in Los Angeles, California.

**32. Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza retires from international cricket** – The captain of Zimbabwe cricket team Hamilton Masakadza retires from International cricket on 21st September.

- He broke a T20I record in his final international game against Afghanistan in the ongoing tri-series also involving Bangladesh.

**33. Deepak Punia claims world number 1 spot in 86 kg** – Wrestler Deepak Poonia became the world's number one wrestler in the 86kg category in the latest rankings released by the international federation United World Wrestling (UWW).

**34. US Open men's singles title 2019**

- **Winner - Rafael Nadal (Spain)**
- **Runner-up - DomDaniil Medvedev (Russia)**

Note:

- Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal has clinched his fourth US Open title at the Arthur Ash Stadium in New York.
- With this win, Nadal won the second Grand Slam this year. He also won the men's singles French Open title 2019

**19th Grand Slam singles title -**

- In the men's US Open 2019 final which lasted nearly five hours, Nadal defeated Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 to win his 19th Grand Slam singles title.
- With this, Nadal is now just a step away from Switzerland's Roger Federer record of winning the most Grand Slam title.
- Federer, who was out of the quarterfinals of the US Open 2019, has recorded 20 Grand Slams title in his name.

**35. Bianca Andreescu wins U.S. Open women's singles title 2019**

- Bianca Andreescu becomes the first Canadian singles player to win a Grand Slam event.
- She defeated Serena Williams 6-3, 7-5 in her first Grand Slam title.
- With the victory, **Andreescu** also jumps into the top 10 in the WTA rankings.
- The 19-year-old teen is also the first woman to win the trophy in her tournament debut in the US Open era.

**36. India Red clinch Duleep Trophy title**

- India Red defeated India Green by an innings and 38 runs to clinch the Duleep Trophy title.

**37. Malinga creates history by taking 4 wickets in 4 balls for the second time in Int'l cricket**

- Sri Lankan fast bowler Lasith Malinga has taken four wickets in 4 balls for the second time in his international career.
- The 36-year-old took his second double hat-trick by dismissing New Zealand's Colin Munro, Hamish Rutherford, Colin de Grandhomme and Ross Taylor in the third T20I.
- Earlier, he took four wickets in 4 consecutive balls against South Africa in the 2007 World Cup.

**38. Steve Smith becomes 2nd Australian to score 500 in Ashes series**

- On 5th September in the current Ashes series, Steve Smith scored his third double century against England.
- With this, he became the second Australian after Allan Border to score 500 and more runs in the consecutive Ashes series in England. Smith scored 508 runs in the Ashes series in England which was held in 2015.
- Allan Border is the first Australian batsman who scored 500 plus runs consecutively in the Ashes in England.
- Border scored more than 500 runs in 1981 and 1985.

**39. Italian Grand Prix - Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has won the Italian Grand Prix.**

**40. Bianca Andreescu of Canada becomes 1st teen US Open semi-finalist**

- The 19-year-old Canadian, Bianca Andreescu became the first teen to enter in the semi-finals of US Open tournament.
- Bianca Andreescu becomes the first teenager to reach the US Open semi-finals since Caroline Wozniacki in 2009.

**41. Rashid Khan becomes the youngest Test Captain**

- Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan created another record in his name. He has become the youngest Test Captain in the world at the age 20 years 350 days.
- Rashid Khan achieved this feat when the Afghanistan team started playing against Bangladesh.
- Rashid Khan won his first toss as a Test captain and decided to bat first.
- Before Rashid Khan, the record of captaining the Test team at the youngest was the name of Tatenda Taibu of Zimbabwe.
- He first captained against Sri Lanka in 2004. His age at that time was 20 years 358 days.

#### 42. Mithali Raj retires from T20Is

- Indian women cricketer Mithali Raj announced her retirement from the T20 International Cricket.

Note:

- She leads team India in 32 T20 International matches.
- Three times she has also captained team India in the ICC Women's World Twenty20.
- She was the first captain of the Indian women's Twenty20 team in 2006, played a total of 89 International Twenty20 matches and scored 2364 runs.
- She is the highest run-scorer in this format.
- She is also the first Indian woman to reach the landmark of 2000 T20I runs.
- She hails from Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

#### 43. Rishabh Pant became fastest Indian wicket-keeper to claim 50 dismissals in Test cricket

- Rishabh Pant became fastest Indian wicket-keeper to claim 50 dismissals in Test cricket.
- He broke previous record held by MS Dhoni for India.
- Pant claimed his 50th test wicket in his 11th test during India vs West Indies.
- MS Dhoni had taken 15 tests to get to 50 Test dismissals.

#### 44. Qatar will host the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

- Qatar will be the first Arab country to host the World Cup.

#### 45. Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza has announced to retire from international cricket.

#### 46. Anupama Swain wins bronze in World Martial Arts Mastership – Indian woman athlete Anupama Swain won

a bronze medal in the recently concluded World Martial Arts Mastership Jiu-Jitsu 2019.

- The event was held in Chungju, South Korea. Now she qualified for 2022 Asian Games. she was the only Indian to participate in the championship.
- Jiu-Jitsu is a form of martial art and combat sport and it puts the entire focus on grappling with particular emphasis on ground fighting.

#### 47. Virat Kohli becomes India's most successful Test skipper

- Virat Kohli surpassed Mahendra Singh Dhoni to become India's most successful Test captain.
- Virat achieved this feat by winning 28 matches for India from 48 games.
- It came after the Indian team recorded its 28th win under Kohli's leadership in the second and final test against the West Indies at Kingston.
- MS Dhoni in his captaincy won a total of 27 matches from 60 Test matches.
- Sourav Ganguly with 21 wins and Mohammad Azharuddin with 14 wins are third and fourth in the list of successful Indian Test skippers.
- Former South African captain Graeme Smith remains the most successful skipper in the world with 53 Test wins, followed by ex-Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who recorded 48 Test wins in his captaincy tenure.

#### 48. India beat Nepal 7-0 to lift SAFF Under-15 title

- India defeated Nepal with 7-0 to lift the SAFF Under-15 title at Kalyanai, West Bengal,
- With this win, India wins the title for a record third time after previous wins in 2013 and 2017.
- India is now the most successful team in the tournament's history.

#### 49. Yashaswini Deswal wins gold at ISSF World Cup

- Indian shooter Yashaswini Singh Deswal won gold in the women's 10meter Air Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

#### 50. Jasprit Bumrah becomes 3rd Indian to register hat trick in Test cricket

- Indian pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah has become the third Indian to register a hat-trick in Test cricket. He took 3 wickets in 3 successive balls in the 2nd test against West Indies, held in Kingston, Jamaica. He dismissed Darren Bravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase to claim the hat trick.
- This was the third test hat-trick by an Indian bowler after Harbhajan Singh and Irfan Pathan.

51. Kenya's Brigid Kosgei completed the fastest half-marathon ever ran by a woman.
52. **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary** won the gold medal in mixed 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.
53. Shot putter Tejinderpal Singh Toor won a silver medal during an athletic meet at Decin in the Czech Republic.
54. **Belgian Grand Prix – Charles Leclerc** of Ferrari won the Belgian Grand Prix after defeating Lewis Hamilton by less than a second.
55. **New head coach appointed of Pakistan Cricket team** - Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq has been appointed as head coach and chief selector of Pakistan's cricket team.  
**Note:** Waqar Younis appointed as the team's new bowling coach.

## August

1. **Goa to host 36th National Games.**
  - The 36th National Games to be held in Goa from October 20 to November 4, 2020.
  - Goa was earlier supposed to host the 36th edition of the National Games in November last year.
2. **Virgil van Dijk, Lucy Bronze win UEFA Award** – Liverpool Football player Virgil van Dijk has won UEFA's Player of the Year award.
3. **Abhishek Verma and Elavenil Valarivan won the gold medal in shooting Worldcup** – Abhishek Verma won the gold medal and Saurabh Chaudhary won the bronze medal, in a dominant display by Indian shooters in the men's 10m air pistol event.
  - While Elavenil Valarivan opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro.
4. **West Indies fast bowler Cecil Wright retires at 85** – West Indies pacer Cecil Wright has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket at the ripe old age of 85.
  - Wright made his first-class debut for Jamaica against a Barbados side which had legends Wes Hall and Sir Garfield Sobers.
  - The 85-year-old claims to have played over two million games taking over 7,000 wickets in professional cricket.
5. **Ajantha Mendis announces retirement from Cricket** – Ajantha Mendis, the mystery spinner from Sri Lanka, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
  - Mendis played 19 Tests, 87 One-Day Internationals and 39 T20Is for Sri Lanka, taking 70 Test wickets, 152 ODI wickets and 66 T20I wickets.
6. **Worldskills Kazan competition in Russia** – Indian team created history by winning one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the world's biggest international vocational skill competition, 45th WorldSkills Kazan 2019, Russia.
  - S Aswatha Narayana won the gold medal in water technology, Pranav Nutalapati won a silver medal in web technologies, Sanjoy Pramanik and Shweta Ratanpura won one bronze medal each in Jewellery and graphic design technology.
7. **British Grand Prix** – Spain motorcycle racer, Alex Rins of the Team SUZUKI ECSTAR has won the British Grand Prix.
8. **Vikram Rathour appointed as Team India's batting coach** – Former Indian opener Vikram Rathour appointed as team India's new batting coach. He will replace Sanjay Bangar.
  - While Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches.
9. **Durand Cup** - Gokulam Kerala FC won the 129th Durand Cup, defeating Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
10. **PV Sindhu becomes first Indian to win World Championships gold** – Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has won the World Championships title defeating Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in the final at Basel, Switzerland.
  - Sindhu defeated her Japanese opponent Nozomi Okuhara to 21-7, 21-7.
  - This was Sindhu's third straight World Championships final.
  - With this victory, the 24-year-old shuttler has become the first Indian to book a gold medal at the World Championships.
11. **Paytm retains title sponsorship of Indian cricket for 5 years** – The Board of Control for Cricket in India has announced that mobile payments and e-commerce company "Paytm" has retained the title sponsorship rights. Paytm has retained the title sponsorship rights for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for 5 years.
12. B.N.S. Reddy beats Bruce Barrios of the U.S. in the men's singles final to win the gold medal at the World Police and Fire Games.



### 13. Para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia crosses America's Catalina Channel

- Indian Para Swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel of America.
- Satendra holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels.

### 14. Komalika Bari becomes recurve cadet at the World Archery Youth Championships

– India's Komalika Bari became recurve cadet world champion at the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain. She defeated higher-ranked Sonoda Waka of Japan 7-3 in the final.

### 15. India won Bronze in World Archery Youth Championships

– The Indian team of Sukhbeer Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare clinched a bronze medal in the junior compound men's team event in the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, Spain.

### 16. Maharashtra launches Mission Shakti sports initiative –

- Film Actor Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti, a Maharashtra government's initiative to train athletes from tribal areas for international sports events such as Olympics.
- It will help Maharashtra government to hunt for talented athletes in remote areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.
- At the launch event Aamir Khan felicitated a team of tribal mountaineers who had recently scaled Mount Everest as part of 'Mission Shaurya'.

#### Mission Shakti

- It aims to groom tribal student for an Olympic medal by 2024.
- The mission is directed towards 6 sporting disciplines namely- archery, shooting, volleyball, swimming, weightlifting and gymnastics.

### 17. Former Chelsea footballer Ashley Cole announces retirement

– Former Chelsea, Arsenal and England football player Ashley Cole aged 38, announced his retirement from football.

### 18. Mitchell Johnson becomes MCC Honourary Life member

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

### 19. Labuschagne becomes 1st Concussion Substitute cricket player

– Australian player Marnus Labuschagne has

become the 1st Concussion Substitute player in the history of International cricket.

- A Concussion Replacement Request is the notification made to the ICC Match Referee in accordance with the process set out by ICC.
- The Team Medical Representative is the individual designated for the assessment of any head or neck injury sustained by a player.
- A Concussion Replacement is a player who takes the place of a player who has been replaced for the remainder of the match.
- The player will be selected from the list of nominated players provided by that team whose player was injured and will take a full part in the match.

#### Note:

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

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

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

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

### 21. India wins U-12 Asian Tennis Team championship

– India have won the gold medal at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the summit clash to win the title.

### 22. India wins T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series

– India has won the inaugural T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series 2019 held in England.

- India defeated England by 36 runs in the finals to win the title.
- The 6-nation tournament was organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board.

### 23. Indian cyclists win gold at World Junior Track Cycling Championships

– Indian cyclists team have won the gold medal in the Team Sprint event at World Junior Track Cycling Championships held in Frankfurt, Germany.

- Indian team comprised of Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh.

- This is India's first ever gold medal in a global cycling competition.
  - The Indian team defeated Australian team in the finals to win the gold medal.
- 24. In the 300m races held at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter Event 2019 in the Czech Republic, Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold in the women's and men's category respectively.**
- It was the sixth gold in European races by Hima Das since July 2, 2019.
- 25. Russell Domingo appointed as the head coach of Bangladesh, replacing Steve Rhodes (English cricket coach and former cricketer) by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).**
- 26. NZ's Tim Southee equals India's Sachin Tendulkar's record**
- New Zealand's fast bowler Tim Southee now equaled former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's record tally of sixes in Test cricket, on the first day of the Test match between Srilanka and New-Zealand that was held at Galle, Srilanka.
  - Both Tendulkar and Southee have made 69 sixes in the Test cricket.
- 27. Mumbai to host 2019 World Youth chess meet** - The 2019 World Youth chess championship is to be held in Mumbai from October 1-13, at the Renaissance Hotel in Powai, Mumbai
- 28. Ravi Shastri appointed as Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team** – Former all-rounder Ravi Shastri has been appointed as the head coach of Indian cricket team for another two years.
- 29. Deepak Punia wins Junior World Championship title** – Deepak Punia won the gold medal at the Junior World Championships held in Talinn, Estonia.
- He defeated Russia's Alik Shebzukov to win the 86 kg junior freestyle title.
- 30. Serena Williams tops Forbes list of best-paid female athletes –**
- Serena Williams topped the List of Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 published by Forbes.
  - She has topped the annual list for a 4th consecutive year with estimated total earnings of \$29.2 million.
  - Japan's Naomi Osaka was 2nd on the list with earnings of (\$24.3 million).
  - Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (\$5.5 million), with Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn (\$5.3 million) rounding out the top 15 of Forbes list of best-paid female athletes.
- 31. Liverpool beats Chelsea to win UEFA Super Cup** – Liverpool defeated Chelsea in the finals to win UEFA Super Cup held in Istanbul. The match ended in draw with score 2-2 following the extra time.
- 32. Simone Biles makes history with a "triple-double" twist** – Simone Biles makes history with a never-before-seen "triple-double" floor exercise landing.
- She performed the landing featuring "two flips and three twists" in U.S. Gymnastics Championships held in Kansas City.
- 33. Wesley Sneijder announces retirement from Football** – The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced his retirement from football.
- 34. Aishwarya Pissay wins FIM Bajás World Cup** – Aishwarya Pissay made history by becoming the first Indian to win a world title in motorsports as she won the FIM World Cup in women's category after the final round of the championship in Varpalota, Hungary.
- The event was conducted by the International Motorcycling Federation, the governing body for motorcycle racing in the world.
  - The headquarters of International Motorcycling Federation is in **Mies, Switzerland**.
- 35. Women's Cricket at Birmingham CWG** – Cricket will come back to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) roster for the 1st time since 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, with the inclusion of women's T20 for the 2022 edition in Birmingham.
- It will take place from July 27 to August 7, 2022, with 8 international teams playing cricket. This decision was taken by Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- 36. Dutch Hero Wesley Sneijder announces retirement from Football.**
- 37. Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup 2019** – Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup tennis tournament 2019 held in Toronto, Canada.
- She was the first Canadian to win the event in 50 years. Serena Williams was the runner-up in the final.
- 38. Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open** – Indian Badminton star Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open.

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

**39. Chennai Lions beat Dabang Delhi to win UTT** – Chennai Lions wins the Ultimate Table Tennis league. They defeated Dabang Delhi in the finals by 8-1. Chennai Lions collected the winner's share of Rs. 75 lakh while Delhi settled for Rs. 50 lakh.

**40. Rafael Nadal wins Montreal Masters title** – Rafael Nadal wins in Montreal to win 35th Masters crown. He defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev by 6-3, 6-0.

- With the win, he also extended his record haul of Masters 1000 titles.

**41. Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix** – Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix held in Tbilisi, Georgia.

- He defeated Iran's Peiman Bibyani by 2-0 in the 65 kg final of the men's freestyle competition.
- It was the 4th gold of the season for the Asian Games champion.

**42. BCCI has agreed to come under NADA ambit** – The Board of Control For Cricket In India has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency.

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

#### About NADA

- The National Anti-Doping Agency is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.
- It was established as registered society under Societies Registration Act of 1890 in 2005 with mandate for dope free sports in India.

**43. Cricket Australia unveils new transgender inclusive policy** – The Cricket Australia has announced new transgender inclusive policy. This policy will enable transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels.

- The decision aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.

- The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.

**44. World Archery suspends AAI for violating guidelines** – The World Archery (WA) has suspended the Archery Association of India for violating its guidelines.

- The AAI violated the WA's guidelines by electing two parallel bodies.
- As per the suspension order, the last event in which the Indian archers can participate under the Indian flag is the World Archery Youth Championships to be held in Madrid.

**45. Diego forlan announces retirement from professional football** – Legendary Uruguay striker Diego Forlan has announced his retirement from professional football.

- He had won the Golden Ball award after being adjudged the best player of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

**46. Amla retires from international cricket** – South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all formats of international cricket.

- Amla played 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is between his 15-year-long cricketing career.
- Scoring more than 18,000 runs, including 55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50

**47. 1st woman to win 4,000km cycling race** – German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km(2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race from Burgas in Bulgaria to Brest in France.

- Kolbinger becomes the 1st woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races in her first ultra-distance event.

**48. Sally Pearson announces retirement from Track and field** – Australia's reigning world-champion hurdler Sally Pearson announced her surprise retirement due to injury.

**49. Nick Kyrgios beats Daniil Medvedev to win 6th ATP title** – Australia's Nick Kyrgios kept his composure and captured the ATP Washington Open title, defeating Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev.

**50. Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, aged 37, has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.**

**51. Ravichandran Ashwin named "PCA Player of the Month** – Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been named as Professional Cricketers Association's Player of the month of July 2019.

- He has been named for his consistent performances in the county championships

as he hit 197 runs and picked up 23 wickets from just 3 matches for Nottinghamshire.

52. **South African bowler Dale Steyn** retires from Test cricket.
53. Vinesh wins gold in 53kg at Poland Open Wrestling Tournament.
54. **1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title** – India’s Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted a history to win the men’s doubles final of the Thailand Open badminton championship in Bangkok.
  - This is the first-ever Indian men’s combination to win a BWF Super 500 title.
55. **Hungarian Grand Prix** – Formula One Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton winner.
56. **Birmingham Commonwealth Games: Organisers firm on shooting exclusion** - Commonwealth Games chief Louise Martin said shooting will not be part of the 2022 edition in Birmingham.
  - Commonwealth Game 2022 scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England.
57. **Bangalore will host the 10th AASF Asian Age Group Championships 2019 for the 1st time** – For the first time, Bangalore(Karnataka) will host the 10th AASF (Asia Swimming Federation) Asian Age Group Championships

2019 starting from September 24, 2019, to October 2, 2019, will give the country’s swimming enthusiasts an opportunity to witness the aquatic event.

58. **Steve Smith becomes second fastest to score 25 test centuries overtaking Virat Kohli** – Former Australian captain Steve Smith has overthrown Indian Skipper Virat Kohli to become the second-fastest batsman to score 25 test centuries during the second innings of the first Ashes test match against England.
  - The chart is topped by Australian cricketer, Sir Don Bradman.
  - Smith recorded this feat in his 119th innings whereas Sir Don Bradman achieved this feat in just 68 innings.
59. **Lionel Messi suspended from Argentina for 3 months** – Soccer body CONMEBOL suspended Lionel Messi from international matches for three months because of accusations of corruption he made at the latest Copa America.
  - The South American body also fined the superstar in USD 50,000 for his comments after Argentina’s 2-1 win against Chile in the third-place playoff of the tournament.

## July

1. **ICC World Cup title 2019** –
  - England lifted the ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy 2019 at the Lord’s cricket stadium in London.
  - England defeated New Zealand with more number of boundaries in the Super Over thriller in the grand finale of ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy 2019.

Note:

- Player of the tournament: Kane Williamson (New Zealand).
- Player of the Match Award: Ben Stokes (England).
- Highest run scorer of the tournament: Rohit Sharma (India).
- Highest wicket taker of the tournament: Mitchell Starc (Australia).

Note:

- The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.

2. **Wimbledon 2019** –
  - **Simona Halep** (Romanian) beats Serena Williams to win first Wimbledon title.

- Novak Djokovic (Serbian) won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- This is Djokovic’s 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.
- Mixed Doubles –  
Winner - Dodig (Croatia) and L. Chan (Taiwan)  
Runner up - R. Lindstedt (Sweden) and J. Ostapenko (Latvia)
- Women’s Doubles  
Winner - S W. Hsieh (Taiwan) and B. Strycova (Czech Republic)  
Runner up - G. Dabrowski (Canada) and Y. Xu (China)
- Men’s Doubles  
Winner - Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia)  
Runner up - Nicolas Mahut (France) and Edouard Roger Vasselin (France)

3. **Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20Is** – Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry

became the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.

4. **'Robot umpires' debut in U.S. baseball league** – The Independent Atlantic League became the first American professional baseball league to let a computer call balls and strikes.
  - The umpires have the ability to override the computer, which considers a pitch a strike when the ball bounces and then crosses the zone.
5. Indian weightlifter Ajay Singh created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category en route to a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships held in Apia, Samoa.
6. **Sunil Chhetri named AIFF Player of the Year for a record 6th time**
  - Sunil Chhetri was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time.
  - Sunil Chhetri has already won Player of the Year award in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017
  - India midfielder Abdul Samad was named the AIFF Emerging Men's Player of the Year.

Note:

- **Ashalata Devi (Maipur)** was named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2018-19 –
- Manipur's Dangmei Grace was announced as the emerging player of the year in the women's category.

Note:

- AIFF Player of Year has been awarded by All India Football Federation since 1992.
- It is an annual association football award presented to best footballer in India.

7. **FIFA rankings: India drops two places to 103** – On 25th July 2019, Federation Internationale de Football Association(FIFA) has released its ranking for the year 2019. Belgium leads the overall FIFA rankings, followed by Brazil, France, England, and Uruguay.
  - Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the recent FIFA rankings with 1214 ranking points.
8. Nuwan Kulasekara, Sri Lanka pacer retires from international cricket - Sri Lanka pacer, Kulasekara Mudiyansele Dinesh Nuwan Kulasekara aged 37 announced retirement from international cricket. He hails from Nittambuwa, Sri Lanka.

9. **India will host ISSF World Cup 2020** – International Shooting Sport Federation approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages.
  - World Cup will be held in New Delhi from March 15 to 26 ,2020.
  - The last edition of ISSF World Cup was held in Munich, Germany.
10. **Khelo India Youth Games 2020 to be held in Guwahati** – The 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2020 will be held in Guwahati.
  - Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018.
  - The 2nd edition of 'Khelo India Youth Games' was held in 2019 in Pune, Maharashtra.
  - In the second edition of Khelo India Youth Games (2nd edition), Maharashtra topped with 228 medals (85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze).
  - Haryana was second with total 178 medals (62 gold, 56 silver and 60 bronze) while Delhi was third with total 136 medals (48 gold, 37 silver and 51 bronze) for a total of 136 medals.
11. **Mary Kom wins gold in President's Cup** – Six times World Champion MC Mary Kom (36) claimed gold medal at 23rd President's Cup held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. She defeated April Franks of Australia with 5-0
12. German Grand Prix – Red Bull's Max Verstappen
13. **Chandigarh gets BCCI affiliation** – Chandigarh received affiliation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India(BCCI) after nearly four decades.
  - After getting BCCI affiliation, Chandigarh Cricket Association-Punjab had recently decided to merge with Union Territory Cricket Association, thus paving way for the Union Territory to be recognised as a separate entity.
14. **ICC launched the World Test Championship** – The WTC will see the top nine Test teams in the world – Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.
  - Compete in 71 Test matches across 27 series, played over two years.
  - The top 2 teams at the end will compete in the ICC World Test Championship Final in the UK in June 2021.
15. **ICC suspends Zimbabwe Cricket** - International Cricket Council has suspended Zimbabwe for failing to ensure there is no government interference in its running of the sport.
  - ICC funding has been withdrawn and the country will be barred from participating at ICC events.

Zimbabwe's Test status was suspended by the ICC in June 2004.

16. **North Korea wins Intercontinental Cup title** – North Korea wins the 2nd edition of Intercontinental Cup football tournament. North Korea beats Tajikistan in the finals held in Ahmedabad.
17. **British Grand Prix** - Lewis Hamilton
18. **Mexico wins CONCACAF Gold Cup final** - Mexico defeated USA to claim their eighth CONCACAF Gold Cup title. Jonathan Dos Santos scored the winning goal in 73rd min for Mexico in the thrilling final.
19. **Vinesh Phogat wins gold at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul.**
  - Phogat beat her Russian opponent Ekaterina Poleshchuk in the final match to bag the gold medal.
20. 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title - Magnus Carlsen won the 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title.
21. 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held in **Cuttack, Odisha.**
  - India women defeated Singapore to clinch their first-ever Commonwealth Table Tennis title
  - India men pipped England 3-2 in the final in Cuttack
22. **Hima Das wins gold in "Tabor Athletics"** - Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched gold in a 200m race in 23.25 seconds creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.
23. **Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting Championships** – 4 gold medals for India
  - Mirabai Chanu wins gold in the senior women's 49 kg event.
  - Jhilli Dalabehra wins gold in the senior women's 45 kg event.
  - Soroikhaibam Bindyarani Devi wins gold while Matsa Santoshi wins the silver medal in the senior women's 55kg event.
  - Rishikanta Singh grabbed the gold in the senior men's 55kg event.
24. **Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships** – India have won 4 gold medals in Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held in Apia, Samoa. The Indian medallists are:
  - Men (Elite and junior): Achinta Sheuli has won 2 gold medals in 73kg event.
  - Junior: Gulam Navi has won gold medal in 67kg event.
  - Junior and youth: L. Sadananda Singh has won Bronze & Gold medals in 73kg event.
- Women (Elite): Manpreet Kaur has won silver medal in 76kg event.
- Junior: R. Arockiya Alish has won silver medal in 76kg event.
25. **Tamil Nadu girl wins gold medal in World Deaf title** – Tamil Nadu girl Jerlin Anika has won the gold medal in the World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships held in Taipei. 15-year-old Anika bagged four medals in the championship, including the gold, two silver and one bronze.
26. In Table Tennis, Indian pair G. Sathiyan and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open. They defeat Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu.
27. **Boxer Vijender Singh wins 11th consecutive pro bout** – He defeated Mike Snider on his debut in the US professional circuit at Newark in the US.
28. M. Sreeshankar has won the long jump gold at the Tatyana Kolpakova International athletics. The tournament was held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).
29. **Amir Khan (British professional) wins WBC international welterweight title.** He defeated Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
30. **Vijayveer wins his 3rd gold at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup** – Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, combining with Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to clinch the men's 25m pistol.
31. Anish Bhanwala claims gold medal in ISSF Junior World Cup - Shooter Anish Bhanwala claimed gold in 25m rapid fire pistol competition to continue India's dominance in the tournament in Suhl, Germany.
32. Sarabjot Singh wins gold medal in ISSF Junior World Cup tournament in Suhl, Germany.
33. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20.
34. **Collin Morikawa wins the US PGA title** – American Collin Morikawa has won the US PGA title at the Barracuda Championship. This was his 1st win in the US PGA title.
35. Former France and Manchester United defender Patrice Evra has announced his retirement.
36. **Hima Das returns to 400m run, grabs 5th gold** - Indian sprinter Hima Das extended her sensational run by claiming her fifth gold of the month as she returned to her pet 400m competition with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic. She is fondly called the 'Dhing Express'.

- 37. BCCI approves Indian Cricketers Association** - The BCCI has approved the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA). The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers.
- Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA.
- 38. First Indian boxer to win gold at President's Cup** - Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- 39. Ravinder Malik clinches Mr South Asia title** - Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
- 40. Japan's Akane Yamaguchi wins Indonesia Open** - Japan's Akane Yamaguchi wins Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament held in Jakarta, Indonesia. She defeated India's P.V. Sindhu.
- 41. WBA welterweight title** - Filipino legend **Manny Pacquiao** claimed the **WBA welterweight championship** after scoring a split-decision win against **Keith Thurman**.
- 42. Shane Lowry wins British Open** - Irishman Shane Lowry wins British Open to claim his first major golfing title at Royal Portrush.
- 43. John Isner wins Hall of Fame Tennis Championships** - American tennis player John Isner wins Hall of Fame Tennis Championships title in Newport, Rhode Island.
- 44. Adam Peaty breaks 57 seconds barrier & 100m breaststroke world record** – The Britain swimmer Adam Peaty has break the world record in the men's 100 metre breaststroke at the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea. He smashed the previous record of 57.10 seconds.
- 45. Abhay, Tanvi win Bengal Open squash titles** – Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu and Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in the sixth Bengal Open squash tournament.
- Earlier under-15 category witnessed a thrilling battle between fifth seeded Tamil Nadu girl Shameena Riaz upsetting top seed Soniya Bajaj from Maharashtra.
- 46. Kristof Milak breaks the Phelps record in 200m butterfly stroke** – Kristof Milak shattered Michael Phelps' long-standing world record in the 200 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju.
- Hungarian teenager Milak won the final in 1:50.73, breaking the previous record of 1:51.51, set by Phelps in 2009.
- 47. Nikoloz Basilashvili wins the German Tennis Championships.** He defeated Andrey Rublev to successfully defend his title at the German Tennis Championships.
- With the win, he has become first player to win the event in successive years since Roger Federer in 2004-2005.
- 48. Dressel breaks the Phelps record in 100m butterfly stroke** – American star Caeleb Dressel destroyed Michael Phelps's World record in the 100 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships 2019 in Gwangju (South Korea).
- Caeleb Dressel take 49.50 seconds in the semi-final event and breaking the old record of 49.82 seconds set by Michael Phelps.
- 49. Egan Bernal claims Colombia's 1st Tour de France title** – Egan Bernal became the 1st Colombian to win the Tour de France which finished in Paris, France. He beat the defending champion Geraint Thomas of Britain by 1 minute 11 seconds.
- 50. Dalilah Muhammad shatters 400m hurdles World record** – Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad shattered one of the longest standing records in women's athletics with a superb display to clinch victory in the 400m hurdles at US Championships.
- 51. Sniper Frontier Competition: 2019** – A 9 member Indian Army team has left for Belarus to compete in the Sniper Frontier Competition as part of the International Army Games scheduled on 03 Aug to 17 Aug 2019.
- 52. 2020 Tokyo Olympics will feature Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event** - For the first time in the Olympic Games' history, Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event added in a new Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games.
- 53. Prithvi Shaw suspended by BCCI for doping violation** – Prithvi Shaw has been suspended by Board of Control for Cricket in India for 8 months for a doping violation. Shaw was charged with the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) under the BCCI Anti-Doping Rules.
- 54. FIFA Women's World Cup 2019** – The U.S. women's national soccer team defeated the Netherlands 2-0 in the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup final.
- Host country - **France**
  - USA secured its fourth Women's World Cup title (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019), now winning twice as many Women's World Cup tournaments as any other nation.

- USA's Jill Ellis became the first coach to win two FIFA Women's World Cup titles.
55. Brazil beats Peru in the final to lift the Copa America 2019 title
  56. **Rahul Dravid appointed as Head of Cricket at NCA by BCCI** – The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed the former Indian captain Rahul Dravid as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA).
  57. **IOA President Narinder Batra elected to IOC** – Narinder Batra, President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was elected as a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland.
  58. **Indian Pro Boxer Wins WBC Asia Title** - Indian pro boxer **Vaibhav Yadav** has become the WBC Asia Silver Welterweight Champion. He defeated Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand.
  59. **India loses to Pakistan in the IBSF Snooker World Cup finals** – The Indian team lost to Pakistan in the final of the IBSF Snooker World Cup in Doha. India lost the summit clash by 1-3. Pankaj Advani and Laxman Rawat represented the Indian team in the world cup.
  60. **Ambati Rayudu retires from international cricket** - Indian batsman Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from international cricket.
  61. **Dutee Chand wins gold in Summer University Games** - Dutee Chand from Odisha has won the gold medal in the women's 100 metre sprint at the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy.
  62. Magnus Carlsen won the 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title
  63. **Arjen Robben announces retirement from football** – Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from football

at the age of 35 after a 10-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich.

64. **Austrian Grand Prix 2019** - Max Verstappen (Red Bull's)
65. **Toran Yadav, a para-athlete wins 3 medals at 4th World Wealth Yoga Championship 2019** - Toran Yadav(19), a specially-abled boy from Khatti village in Chhattisgarh clinched 3 medals for India at 4th World Yoga Festival and Championship 2019, held at Bulgaria, Sofia.
66. **Hima Das** (Indian athletes) have won 4 gold medals in the Kutno Athletics Meet held in Poland.
67. Vinesh Phogat & Divya Kakran won gold; **Pooja Dhanda** won silver at the Wrestling Grand Prix 2019 of Spain.
68. **Elavenil Valarivan** clinched silver medal in **shooting** in women's **10m Air Rifle event** at the 30th Summer Universiade Games 2019 held in Napoli, Italy.
69. **World Youth Cup 2019 was held in Umag, Croatia** – A 10-year old Karate girl, Arinjeeta Dey (Barasat, West Bengal) has won a silver medal in the under 12 age category in the World Youth Cup 2019 which was held in Umag, Croatia.
70. **34th Sailing Championship inaugurated in Telangana** - The 34th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week National Ranking Multi-Class Championship 2019 was inaugurated by Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, ESL Narasimhan in Hyderabad, Telangana.
71. **Veer Chotrani won Asian U-19 champion in Squash** - Veer Chotrani became third Indian after he won 26th Asian junior Individual squash championship 2019 in the U-19 category at Macau, China. It was organized by Macau Squash Association.

## June

1. **ICC Cricket World Cup 2019** –
  - The 12th edition was hosted by England and Wales from 30 May to 14 July 2019.
  - Total number of Matches played – 48
  - Winner of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 – **Australia**
  - It is the fifth time that the Cricket World Cup is being held in England and Wales, following the 1975, 1979, 1983 and 1999 World Cups.
2. **Rohit Sharma sets world record of maximum hundreds in single World Cup**
  - Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became the first batsman in the world to score five hundred in a single World Cup.

- Rohit scored his fifth century of the World Cup against Sri Lanka.
- He scored rest four centuries against South Africa, Pakistan, England and Bangladesh.
- Rohit Sharma broke the record of former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara who scored four centuries in the 2015 World Cup in Australia.
- Rohit also equalled Sachin Tendulkar in the total number of World Cup hundreds. Both the Indians have six hundred to their names.

3. **Afghanistan batsman Ikram Ali Khil breaks Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing World Cup record** –
  - Afghanistan batsman Ikram Ali Khil broke Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record to become the



youngest player to register a 80+ score in the World Cup history.

- Ikram Ali Khil, at the age of 18 years and 278 days scored 86 runs in Afghanistan's last league match against West Indies.
- Tendulkar's had scored 81 runs at the age of 18 years and 318 days in a World Cup match against Zimbabwe in 1992.

#### 4. Rashid Khan becomes most expensive bowler in World Cup history

- Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan recorded the worst bowling figures in an ICC World Cup Match after conceding 110 runs in 9 overs against England.
- Previous record of conceding 105 runs in 12 overs was held by New Zealand's Martin Snedden.

#### 5. Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs

- Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs.
- He took just 417 innings to reach the milestone and advanced the time taken by legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- The India captain reached the milestone when he reached the score of 37 in India's 6th match in World Cup tournament against West Indies.

#### 6. IOC opens new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland -

The International Olympic Committee has formally opened new headquarters in Switzerland exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.

#### 7. IOC lifts sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) lifted the sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events.
- The sanctions were imposed on India when Pakistani shooters were not issued visas for the ISSF World Cup held in Delhi in February 2019.

#### 8. Summer Olympics 2020 Venue – Tokyo, Japan - Japan will be the host nation of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August 2020.

#### 9. Bronze for India in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics meet - Annu Rani won the women's javelin bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, an IAAF World Challenge event.

- Annu Rani is a Javelin thrower from Uttar Pradesh.

#### 10. Shooting game has been excluded from 2022 Commonwealth Games.

- The 2022 Commonwealth Games will be held in **Birmingham**, England from 27 July to 7 August 2022.

#### 11. Men's Asian Snooker Championship - Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha.

#### 12. Bronze medal for India at Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship - India's gymnast Pranati Nayak has won a bronze medal in the vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships. The championship was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

#### 13. Fernando Torres retires from football - The spanish footballer Fernando Torres who was a part of 2010 World Cup Winning Team of Spain has announced his retirement from football.

#### 14. Indian women's hockey team defeats Japan in FIH Series Finals – The Indian women's hockey team have won the FIH Series Finals after defeating Japan. The team rose to a victory with a score of 3-1. The series was held in Japan.

- The best player title was clinched by Rani Rampal.

#### 15. France Grand Prix 2019 – Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes Driver)

#### 16. Marcus Trescothick to retire from professional cricket - Former England batsman Marcus Trescothick is to retire from professional cricket. Trescothick, 43, played 76 Tests for England between 2000 and 2006 and scored 5,825 runs at an average of 43.79.

#### 17. Hima bags gold in Poznan Athletics Grand Prix – Hima Das, the under-20 World champion has won the gold medal in women's 200m in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix. Poznan Athletics Grand Prix is taking place in Poznan, Poland.

#### 18. India proposes to host 2023 IOC session – India has proposed to host 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose host city for 2030 Winter Olympics.

- Earlier, India has hosted the 86th IOC Session in 1983 in New Delhi.

#### 19. Italy to host 2026 Winter Olympics

- The Italian city Milan was named as host of 2026 Winter Olympics.

#### 20. Coca-Cola and Chinese Dairy firm sign Olympic Sponsorship – Coca-Cola and Chinese dairy firm Mengniu have signed a multi-year global Olympic deal to become joint sponsors (beverages and dairy) of Olympic Games starting from 2021 to 2032.

21. **India women's Rugby team record 1st-ever International win** – Indian Women's Rugby team claimed their 1st ever international women's 15s victory after beating Singapore in the Asian Women Rugby Championship Division 1 in Manila, Philippines.
22. **10th Halle Open 2019 title** - Roger Federer (37) of Switzerland defeated David Goffin (Belgium) to win the 27th edition of the Halle Open 2019.
23. Odisha to host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019.
24. Girish Koushik of Karnataka became India's 63rd Grandmaster.
25. **Indian women's Rugby team scripted history in Manila** - The 26-member squad of Indian women's Rugby team created a historic first international 15s rugby match win at Southern Plains Sports Field in Manila, Philippines.
26. **French Open Tennis 2019** – The 2019 French Open was the 123rd edition of a Grand Slam tennis tournament. It was held from 26 May to 9 June 2019, at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.  
List of Winners
  - **Men's single title** - Spain's Rafael Nadal defeated Dominic Thiem of Austria.  
Note: With this win Rafael Nadal won the French Open title for 12<sup>th</sup> time and 18<sup>th</sup> overall Grand Slam title.
  - **Women's Singles title** – Ashleigh Barty of Australia defeated Marketa Vondrousova of Czech Republic in final.
  - She won the 1st Women's Singles title at French Open tennis 2019.
  - **Women's Doubles title** - Hungary's Tímea Babos & France's Kristina Mladenovic defeated Zheng Saisai & Duan Yingying of China in final.
  - **Mixed Doubles title** - Chinese Taipei's Latisha Chan & Ivan Dodig of Croatia defeated Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada & Mate Pavić of Croatia in final.
27. **Joshna Chinappa wins record 17th National Title in Squash** – Joshna Chinappa made a record for the most number of national titles after beating her Tamil Nadu state-mate Sunayna Kuruvilla.
28. FIH Men's Series Finals, India defeated South Africa by 5 goals.
29. Gary Woodland won the 119th US Open Golf title after defeating two-time defending champion Brook Koepka.
30. **FIFA latest Rankings: India remains static at 101** - The Indian football team remained static at 101st place in the FIFA rankings.
  - Belgium continued to top overall world rankings, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.
31. **Peter Gilchrist wins Pacific International Billiards Championship** - Peter Gilchrist defeated India's Sourav Kothari in final.
32. **Yuvraj Singh announces retirement from International Cricket** - Yuvraj Singh announced retirement from international cricket.
  - The 37-year-old cricketer announced his decision in Mumbai.
  - Yuvraj played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is for India.
  - He put together 1900 runs in the longest format, and 8701 in the one-dayers, the format in which he enjoyed the most success.
33. **Kohli is the sole Indian in the list of top-paid athletes** – Virat Kohli, ranked 100th, remains the sole Indian in the Forbes list of world's highest-paid athletes with estimated annual earnings of \$25 million.
  - The list is topped by Barcelona and Argentina football superstar **Lionel Messi**.
  - **Top 5 athletes in the list are** - Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Canelo Alvarez (Mexican professional boxer) and Roger Federer.
34. Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won Formula One Canadian Grand Prix 2019.
35. Sunil Chhetri became the most capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.
36. **IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics** - World athletics' governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will re-brand itself as World Athletics. The rebranding would be operational from October 2019.
37. **Facebook launched its first interactive Game Show in India** - The Social networking giant Facebook launched its first interactive game show, titled "Confetti" in India on 4 June 2019. The launch announcement was made on sidelines of Facebook's Social Entertainment Summit held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

## Science & Defense

### Military Exercise

1. Indian Navy to host multi-nation military drill in March -- **Milan 2020**.  
**Note:** 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
2. The union Govt. has extended to ban on Assam-based NDFB by another ---**5 years**.
3. Mine Counter Measure Exercise-first time between – **India & Japan**.  
**Note:** This is first time an explosive ordnance disposal and mine counter measure was held by Indian and Japanese forces.
4. **United States of America (USA)** approved Foreign Military Sale to India  
**Note:** The principal contractor in this India-US defence deal will be BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Minneapolis, Minnesota with gun manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky.
5. **Lieutenant Shivangi:** 1st woman pilot of Indian Navy to join Naval operations.  
**Note:** She will join after naval operations on completion of operational training at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala
6. The **Defense Research and Defense Organization** has allowed free access to its -- 450 patents.  
**Note:** The organization intends to provide a boost to domestic industries, especially startups and the strategic sector that has a network of 50 national laboratories that are involved in research and development
7. **Prithvi-2 missile successfully test fired:**  
**Note:** India successfully test-fired two rounds of its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile at night as part of a user trial by Indian Army. These test were conducted from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-3 of Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore district of Odisha. These were second night trials of Prithvi-II missile.
8. **DRDO to double ASTRA's range:** Astra (Sanskrit word for weapon) is an all-weather air-to-air missile developed completely by DRDO. Currently, ASTRA is capable of engaging targets upto a distance of 110 km.
9. The central government has banned Meghalaya-based insurgent group '**Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council'** (HNLC).  
**Note:** The union Govt. also notified that HNLC's activities are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India.
10. **Pakistan successfully test fires Shaheen-1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile:**  
**Note:** The test come days after India conducted the first night trial of Agni-II surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile having strike range of 2,000 km.
11. A three-day **naval exercise** is being conducted between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces -- **Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)**.  
**Note:** The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces.
12. Indian Army conducts Sindhu Sudarshan exercise in -- **Barmer, Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** The annual exercise will test the operational readiness and maneuver warfare capability of Indian Army's 21 Corps, one of the service's three so-called Strike Corps.
13. **India conducted its first night trial of AGNI II missile successfully:** It is the first night trial being tested by the country. The nuclear capable missile was tested at the Abdul Kalam Island of Odisha Coast.
14. **Defence Minister inaugurates Sisseri River Bridge in East Siang:** The bridge will play an important role in the overall development of the area and will immensely contributes to the socio-economic development of the region.
15. **Ministry of Defence showcases the innovations of iDEX initiative:** The main objective of the event is to showcase the accomplishments of iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence.
16. **IAF launches** multiplayer version of 'Indian Air Force – A Cut Above' game  
**Note:** The game is a combat simulator that lets the players choose from an array of IAF's fighter aircraft, such as Tejas, Rafale Mirage-2000, Su-30 among others.
17. **First Tri-services amphibious exercise between India and US:** India and US are to jointly conduct Tiger TRIUMP. It is to be conducted in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It includes field training and events that simulate humanitarian assistance in disaster times. The event will also hold simulations in moving disaster relief forces from ship to shore.

18. **India- Indonesian Joint Naval exercise: Samudra Shakti**

**Note:** This year is the second edition of India, Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise. The inaugural edition of exercise was held at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia in November 2018.

19. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 'Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019': **ReSAREX- 19**.

**Note:** The two-day event was organised by Coast Guard District Headquarters-11 (Goa) to test efficiency and preparedness of ICG.

20. **DRDO's Igniter Complex inaugurated in Pune:** The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.

21. **US-Bangladesh Navy exercise: CARAT- 2019**

**Note:** The biggest US- Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) – 2019' is being held in Chattogram

(or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh. The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal. The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.

22. **Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise: SCOJtEx-2019**

**Note:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue- 'SCOJtEx-2019' in New Delhi.

23. **India Uzbekistan joint Military Exercise: Dustlik 2019**

**Note:** The Defence Minister Shri Raj Nath Singh during his 3 day visit met the Indian contingent participating in the joint exercise.

24. **Brahmos missile is considered as one of the fastest supersonic missiles.** Philippines army is acquiring Indian-manufactured weapon in order to strengthen its coastal defences. In 2018, Indian PM Modi signed 4 bilateral agreements during his visit to Philippines, and acquiring Brahmos is one among them.

### October

1. **Nomadic Elephant 2019** – joint military exercise between India and Mongolia.

- The exercise will be conducted from 05 Oct 19 to 18 Oct 19 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

2. **'Him Vijay' 2019** – Indian Army's first and biggest mountain combat exercise "Him Vijay" for the year 2019 begun at Arunachal Pradesh.

3. **KAZIND -2019:** joint military exercise between India and Kazakhstan held at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

4. **Malabar 2019** – The 23rd edition of the trilateral maritime exercise of India, Japan and the United States

(US) named "**Malabar 2019**" exercise was held at Sasebo, Japan.

5. **Exercise 'Chang Thang'** - The Indian Army conducted a massive rare exercise 'Chang Thang' in Eastern Ladakh bordering China.

6. **"SITMEX"** - A maiden trilateral exercise SITMEX, involving **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN)** conducted at Port Blair.

7. **Maitree 2019** – joint military exercise between India and Thailand held at Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.

### September

1. **'SLINEX 2019'** - the bilateral maritime exercise between India and Sri Lanka held at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

2. **EX TSEINTR 2019: India, Pakistan forces to be part of military exercise in Russia**

- Armies of India, Pakistan will take part in this year's military exercise TSEINTR 2019 that will be conducted by Russia from September 9 to 23, 2019.

**Note:**

- Russia holds major military exercise every year at one of its four military Commands i.e Vostok

(East), Zapad (West), TSEINTR (Centre) and Kavkas (South).

3. **AUMX:** 1st ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise

- The first ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise (AUMX) between regional bloc- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and United States kicked off at the Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand.

4. **Exercise "Yudh Abhyas 2019"** - joint military exercise between **India & US**.

- This exercise is being conducted at Joint Base Lewis Mc Chord, Washington, USA from 05-18 September 2019.

### July

1. **Garuda-VI:** Joint Air Exercise between **Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air Force** at Mont de Marsan in France.
2. **ISALEX19** - The first edition of the joint security exercise of International Security Alliance (ISA), ISALEX19 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (United Arab Emirates).

### June 2019

1. **Kharga Prahar** - The “Kharga Prahar”, a major training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Punjab from 27 May 2019 concluded on 4 June 2019.
  - The Indian Army’s II Corps, based in Ambala is known as Kharga Corps. It has been stationed at Ambala since 1985.
2. **SIMBEX-19 Naval Exercise** – Naval exercise between India & Singapore.
  - The 26th Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19 has commenced in the South China Sea.
  - In addition to **IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti**, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the exercise.
3. **Exercise Pacific Vanguard 2019** - US, Japan, South Korea, Australia hold 1st Naval Drills in Western Pacific in Guam.

### Science & Technology December

1. **NVIDIA announces world’s largest GPU-accelerated cloud-based supercomputer**  
**Note:** NVIDIA has announced a new kind of GPU-accelerated supercomputer in the cloud on Microsoft Azure. It enables customers to rent an AI supercomputer on-demand from their desk and match the capabilities of large-scale on-premises supercomputers.
2. **Microsoft rolls out the K12 Education Transformation Framework in India:**  
**Note:** Microsoft rolled out its K12 Education Transformation Framework more widely to schools across India at the second edition of the Microsoft Education Days in Gurgaon Microsoft Education Days 2019 brought together more than 700 school leaders, educators, students and Microsoft partners to deliberate on the future of learning.
3. **ISRO transfer space-grade Li-Ion cell technology to BHEL**  
**Note:** ISRO has transferred its indigenous technology to produce space-grade Li-Ion cells to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). BHEL can also produce and sell Li-Ion cells for meeting other national/commercial applications by suitably modifying the space-grade cell which can lead to cost reduction.

### September

1. **India International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata** – The 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in Kolkata from November 5-8. IISF is the largest science festival in the world.
2. The theme for this year’s festival is ‘RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation’.
3. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will launch ‘Samudrayaan project by 2021-22 to explore the deep sea region.
  - It is pilot project of Union Ministry of Earth Sciences as part the Rs 6000 crore ‘Deep Ocean’ mission for deep ocean mining of rare minerals.

### August

5. **Intel launches first artificial intelligence chip Springhill**
  - Intel Corp launched its latest processor, it’s first using artificial intelligence (AI), designed for large computing centres.
  - The chip developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel.
  - The name of the chip is Nervana NNP-I or Springhill and it is based on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor that will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy.
6. **NASA honours Rolling Stones by naming rock on Mars** – NASA announced that it has named rock on Mars in honour of the iconic English band, The Rolling Stones.

- The space agency revealing that the “Rolling Stones Rock” was a stone that was sent rolling after NASA’s InSight lander touched down on the Mars’ surface.
- 7. Russia sends its first humanoid robot Fedor into space –** Russia launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named Fedor, (Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research).
- Fedor will spend 10 days learning to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.
- 8. Cerebras Systems reveals “world’s largest computer chip” –** Artificial intelligence(AI) company Cerebras Systems has unveiled the world’s largest single silicon-based processor named Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine(WSE).
- 9. Akademik Lomonosov: Russia launches world’s first floating nuclear reactor –** Russia launched world’s first floating nuclear reactor called Akademik Lomonosov, sending it on epic journey across the Arctic.
- 10. IIT-Madras researchers develop industrial and field robot ‘GraspMan’ –** IIT Madras researchers have developed a multi-modal robot with Industrial and field applications called ‘GraspMan’ .
- GraspMan consists a pair of graspers, which provide morphological adaptation, enabling it to conform to the geometry of the object being grasped.
  - This allows the grasper to hold objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand.
- 11. Meghdoot app launched to assist farmers –** The Ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.
- The app has been named **Meghdoot** and can be downloaded from Google Play Store and App Store.
- 12. ICMR launches India Hypertension Control Initiative –** In India, one in four adults has high blood pressure.
- To deal with the problem, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has decided to expand its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) across the country.
- 13. ICMR finalizes India’s first National Essential Diagnostics List –** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has finalized India’s first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).
- With this, India has become the first country to compile such list that will provide guidance to government for deciding kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.
- 14. PRETOMANID: US FDA approves new drug for drug-resistant TB –** United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved new drug-Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant strain of Tuberculosis (TB).
- Pretomanid is novel compound developed by New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance. It is used alongside two other antibiotics (bedaquiline and linezolid) to treat extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis.
- 15. ROTAVAC Vaccine to be expand to entire country –** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to expand Rotavirus vaccine to the entire country from September 2019. It will provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states/UTs by September, 2019.
- 16.** A team of researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) has developed portable diagnostic device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays.
- 17.** China successfully launched a new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1.
- 18. NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** mission has discovered GJ 357 d, a super-Earth planet located 31 light years away from our own solar system.
- **About GJ 357 d**
  - It is super-Earth planet discovered in early 2019 by NASA’s TESS. It is located GJ 357 planetary system which has diminutive M-type dwarf sun, about one-third the size of our own sun and harbour in three planets including GJ 357 d.
- 19. NASA PUNCH Mission -** NASA’s ‘Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere’ (PUNCH) mission is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the outer corona of the Sun to the solar wind that fills the interplanetary space.
- NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.
  - Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission.
- 20. ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru –** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) laid foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka to protect Indian satellites from space debris.

- It will facilitate intensified activities foreseen for Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM), in view of the increasing debris population and operational space assets.
- 21. IMMUVAC , VPM1002: India’s 1st large-scale trial of two new TB vaccines launched** – Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India’s first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002
  - 22. First Ever Space Museum of India Inaugurated at Hyderabad** – The first space museum of India opening

new attraction to space enthusiasts, was set up at Hyderabad in Telangana in association with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- 23. IIT-KGP develops Hydro-Thermal Carbonization technology for Waste Management** – IIT-KGP (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur) researchers develop new technology- Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) for solid waste management.
  - This Hydro Thermal Carbonization Technology can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.

## July

- 1. Chandrayaan 2 mission –India’s second moon mission launched**
  - On July 22, 2019, India’s 2nd moon mission (after Chandrayaan-1, 2008) was successfully launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - GSLV-MkIII-M1 from Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
  - India became the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the moon.
  - It is the world’s first mission to Moon’s South Pole.
  - ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan.

### Key points

- Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon.
- It comprises a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan).
- The Rover Pragyan is housed inside Vikram lander.
- The mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- Besides being India’s 2nd mission to the moon it is 1st-ever mission to be spearheaded by two women.
- Chandrayaan-2 is led by Muthayya Vanitha and Ritu Karidhal, the project director and mission director, respectively.
- ‘Bahubali’ is the nicknamed of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-III.
- Chandrayaan-2 will be the first spacecraft to land near the **South Pole** of the moon and the landing will be attempted on September 7, 2019.
- It is an Rs 978-crore project.

- The first spacecraft, Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008 and orbited the moon without landing on it. The new mission will attempt to do what the first could not.
- 2. Cabinet approves ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow** – Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow, Russia.
  - 3. NASA’s discover TOI 270 - NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** recently discovered new dwarf star and planetary system named as TOI 270. It is located about 73 light years away from Earth, and in the constellation Pictor.
  - 4. Centre plans to combat vehicle theft with Microdot Patches** – Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has issued a Draft Notification GSR 521(E) that seeks to amend Central Motor Vehicle Rules and allows motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies to be affixed with Microdot Patches.
    - Application: Use of this technology will help check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.
  - 5. NASA to send “first woman and next man” on Moon in 2024** – U.S. space agency NASA prepares to send “first woman and next man” on Moon as part of its ambitious **Artemis programme** in 2024.
    - NASA has marked the 50th anniversary of the historic first Moon landing.
  - 6. U.S. celebrates 50 years of the Apollo 11 mission** – U.S. celebrates the Apollo 11 mission’s 50th year anniversary. July 20, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 mission.
 

**Note:**

    - On July 20, 1969, 600 million people watched with anxious excitement as Neil A. Armstrong

and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins took their first steps on the moon's surface.

- The mission, dubbed Apollo 11, was the climax of the Apollo program, which pushed human spaceflight forward faster than ever before.
7. **CARE4U app:** for elderly people developed by IIT Kharagpur team – To help geriatric care, students of IIT Kharagpur have developed an application called CARE4U that connect the caregiver to the elderly person. It will inform the caregiver when elderly person falls down with exact location.
  8. **ISRO to launch India's 1st solar mission Aditya-L1 in the first half of 2020** - On July 23, 2019, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will launch its first solar mission Aditya-L1 in the first half of 2020. It will be the first dedicated scientific mission to study Sun's corona.
  9. India's first space tech park to come up in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
  10. **First-ever image of quantum entanglement "Bell entanglement" unveiled by the physicists of Glasgow University**
    - A team of physicists from the University of Glasgow has taken a photo of a strong form of quantum entanglement called Bell entanglement. It has captured visual evidence of an elusive phenomenon which a baffled Albert Einstein once called "spooky action at a distance".

11. **JATAN: special software for Digitization of Archaeological Museum** – The Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel informed Lok Sabha about JATAN: Virtual Museum software. JATAN has been developed by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune, Maharashtra.

**About JATAN**

- JATAN is used for creating digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.
12. **NASA's Dragonfly to look for Origins, Signs of Life in Titan** – National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently announced its plan to launch **Dragonfly** drone helicopter to Saturn's largest moon Titan in search of building blocks of life.
    - Titan. Dragonfly will launch be launched in 2026 and will arrive at its destination in 2034.
  13. **NASA successfully tests launch-abort system for moon-mission capsule** – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully conducted the test of a launch-abort system for the Orion capsule designed to take United States (US) astronauts to the Moon.
    - It took place at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US. It was launched by a mini-rocket, a repurposed first stage of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

**June**

1. **Indian Railways conducting trials of Tri-Netra technology** – Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal during Question Hour informed Rajya Sabha members that Indian Railways is conducting TRI-NETRA (Terrain Imaging for Drivers Infrared, Enhanced, Optical & Radar Assisted) technology for detecting obstructions on tracks.
2. **NASA's Mars Rover detects High Levels of Methane** – The Curiosity Rover of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an independent federal agency of United States has found the largest amount of methane ever measured during its mission on Red Planet (Mars).
3. **India gets new C-ATFM System** – India now has a state-of-the-art Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) in New Delhi, which will optimise utilisation of resources such as airspace and aircraft at the capacity-constrained Indian airports.
4. **Facebook's Cryptocurrency 'Libra'** - Facebook has officially announced the details of its new global

cryptocurrency called Libra. This Facebook owned cryptocurrency Libra will be launched by social media giant in 2020.

5. **NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope to Retire in 2020** – After nearly 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light, NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope will be switched off permanently on Jan. 30, 2020.
  - Spitzer is a small but transformational observatory.
  - It captures infrared light, which is often emitted by "warm" objects that aren't quite hot enough to radiate visible light.
6. **ISRO opens its laboratories for Indian school students** - The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year.



- The training module has been devised as part of its new Young Scientists Programme, or Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram, YUVIKA.
7. **HCL to roll out “Tech Bee” programme** - HCL Technologies is all set to roll out “Tech Bee” programme, a company initiative under which it trains and hires students who have completed XII standard, across several states.

- Tech Bee is a HCL’s early career programme in which company provides students an opportunity to start early and become financially independent and trendsetters.
- Enrolled students are paid stipend of Rs 10,000 per month.

**Defense News  
December/ November**

- Indian Navy to host multi-nation military drill in March -- **Milan 2020**.  
**Note:** 41 nations from South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe that share defence cooperation with India have been invited for the drill.
- The union Govt. has extended to ban on Assam-based NDFB by another ---**5 years**.
- Mine Counter Measure Exercise-first time between – **India & Japan**.  
**Note:** This is first time an explosive ordnance disposal and mine counter measure was held by Indian and Japanese forces.
- United States of America (USA)** approved Foreign Military Sale to India  
**Note:** The principal contractor in this India-US defence deal will be BAE Systems Land and Armaments, Minneapolis, Minnesota with gun manufacturing in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Lieutenant Shivangi:** 1st woman pilot of Indian Navy to join Naval operations.  
**Note:** She will join after naval operations on completion of operational training at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi, Kerala
- The **Defense Research and Defense Organization** has allowed free access to its -- 450 patents.  
**Note:** The organization intends to provide a boost to domestic industries, especially startups and the strategic sector that has a network of 50 national laboratories that are involved in research and development
- Prithvi-2 missile successfully test fired:**  
**Note:** India successfully test-fired two rounds of its indigenously developed nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile at night as part of a user trial by Indian Army. These test were conducted from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-3 of Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Balasore district of Odisha. These were second night trials of Prithvi-II missile.
- DRDO to double ASTRA’s range:** Astra (Sanskrit word for weapon) is an all-weather air-to-air missile developed completely by DRDO. Currently, ASTRA is capable of engaging targets upto a distance of 110 km.
- The central government has banned Meghalaya-based insurgent group ‘**Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council**’ (HNLC).  
**Note:** The union Govt. also notified that HNLC’s activities are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- Pakistan successfully test fires Shaheen-1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile:**  
**Note:** The test come days after India conducted the first night trial of Agni-II surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile having strike range of 2,000 km.
- A three-day **naval exercise** is being conducted between the Indian and Qatar Naval Forces -- **Za’ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)**.  
**Note:** The aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the naval forces.
- Indian Army conducts Sindhu Sudarshan exercise in -- **Barmer, Rajasthan**.  
**Note:**The annual exercise will test the operational readiness and maneuver warfare capability of Indian Army’s 21 Corps, one of the service’s three so-called Strike Corps.
- India conducted its first night trial of AGNI II missile successfully:** It is the first night trial being tested by the country. The nuclear capable missile was tested at the Abdul Kalam Island of Odisha Coast.
- Defence Minister inaugurates Sisseri River Bridge in East Siang:**The bridge will play an important role in the overall development of the area and will immensely contributes to the socio-economic development of the region.
- Ministry of Defence showcases the innovations of iDEX initiative:** The main objective of the event is to

- showcase the accomplishments of iDEX-Innovations for Defence Excellence.
16. **IAF launches** multiplayer version of 'Indian Air Force – A Cut Above' game  
**Note:** The game is a combat simulator that lets the players choose from an array of IAF's fighter aircraft, such as Tejas, Rafale Mirage-2000, Su-30 among others.
  17. **First Tri-services amphibious exercise between India and US:** India and US are to jointly conduct Tiger TRIUMP. It is to be conducted in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. It includes field training and events that simulate humanitarian assistance in disaster times. The event will also hold simulations in moving disaster relief forces from ship to shore.
  18. India- Indonesian Joint Naval exercise: **Samudra Shakti**  
**Note:** This year is the second edition of India, Indonesia Bilateral Naval Exercise. The inaugural edition of exercise was held at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia in November 2018.
  19. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 'Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019': **ReSAREX- 19.**  
**Note:** The two-day event was organised by Coast Guard District Headquarters-11 (Goa) to test efficiency and preparedness of ICG.

20. **DRDO's Igniter Complex inaugurated in Pune:** The main purpose of the laboratory is to design, process, evaluate ignition systems for any kind of DRDO projects.
21. **US-Bangladesh Navy exercise: CARAT- 2019**  
**Note:** The biggest US- Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) – 2019' is being held in Chattogram (or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh. The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal. The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.
22. **Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise: SCOJtEx-2019**  
**Note:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search and Rescue- 'SCOJtEx-2019' in New Delhi.
23. **India Uzbekistan joint Military Exercise: Dustlik 2019**  
**Note:** The Defence Minister Shri Raj Nath Singh during his 3 day visit met the Indian contingent participating in the joint exercise.
24. Brahmos missile is considered as one of the fastest supersonic missiles. Philippines army is acquiring Indian-manufactured weapon in order to strengthen its coastal defences. In 2018, Indian PM Modi signed 4 bilateral agreements during his visit to Philippines, and acquiring Brahmos is one among them.

### October

1. The Indo – Mongolian joint military training, Exercise (14th edition) -- **Nomadic Elephant-XIV.**  
**Note:** Nomadic Elephant-XIV is aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter-terrorism operations under United Nations mandate.
2. The first-ever **India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise** at Uzbekistan -- **Dustlik-2019.**
3. The bilateral between the armies of **India and France** at Rajasthan -- '**Exercise SHAKTI**'.  
**Note:** It will be conducted from 31st October to 13th November 2019 at Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges.
4. The **Indian Army (IA)** will conduct exercise **Sindhu Sudarshan** in 2019 in the deserts of **Rajasthan.**  
**Note:** The **aim of this exercise** is to evaluate the capability of the defence services in an integrated air-land battle.
5. Two-day long manoeuvres by **Sudarshan Chakra Vahini** of Indian Army Started held at – **Jaisalmer.**  
**Note:** In this war exercise, the army is going to exhibit its strength regarding Agni Missile and artillery
6. The **India-Myanmar Naval Exercise** is being organized in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh -- **IMNEX-2019.**
7. **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** has conducted the **2nd edition** of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 -- **DANX-19.**
8. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** kickstarted its bilateral joint exercise with Royal Air Force Oman (RAFO)-- **EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V.**
9. **Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force (JASDF)** carrying out a joint military air force exercise named -- **Shinyuu Maitri.**  
**Note:** The focus of the exercise will be to undertake Joint Mobility and Tactical interoperability among the two forces.

10. The 10th edition of the joint military exercise between India and the US-- **Vajra Prahar 2019**.  
**Note:** 'Vajra Prahar' is a Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US. Last year, the exercise had taken place in Jaipur.
11. The 2nd joint military exercise to promote military cooperation between India and Japan held in Mizoram-- '**Dharma Guardian-2019**'  
**Note:** Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various Counter-Terrorism Operations in respective Countries.
12. The 2nd edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) of the navies of India and Bangladesh held at -- **Northern Bay of Bengal**.
13. **Rajnath Singh creates history, becomes first Defence Minister to fly Rafale jet** – Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh created history by becoming the first defence minister to fly sortie in Rafale fighter jet from Dassault Aviation Mérignac facility in France.
  - The Defence Minister received the first of the 36 Rafale fighter jets on behalf of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Merignac in France.
14. **China launched Dongfeng-41 (DF-41) intercontinental-range ballistic missile** – The missile is touted to be the most powerful missile on the planet. It was launched during the National Day parade, as China observed its 70th anniversary of Communist rule.
  - DF-41 has a range of up to 9,320 miles (15,000 kilometres), more than any missile on Earth.
15. **Japan Launches “World’s Biggest Transport Space-Ship” for Space Station** – Japan launched an unmanned H-2B rocket towards the International Space Station. The H-2B rocket lifted off with cargo vessel Kounotori8, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.
16. India successfully test-fired a land-attack version of BrahMos supersonic missile from Chandipur coast in Odisha’s Balasore district. DRDO conducted the test-fire successfully.
  - The missile, with a strike range of 290km.
17. **US military test fires Minuteman III ballistic missile** – US tested an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile was launched from the California base.
  - The missile travelled 6,750 km across Pacific Ocean to the Kwajalein Atoll in Marshall Islands.

### September

1. **China launches its first Amphibious Assault Ship** – China has launched its first amphibious assault ship in Shanghai. This ship would enable ground forces to carry out attacks on enemy territory from sea.
2. **INS Khanderi submarine commissioned into Indian Navy** – Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 28, 2019 commissioned the INS Khanderi, the second indigenously built Scorpene class submarine, into the Indian Navy.
  - INS Khanderi is fully automated and has been built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai
3. **Rajnath Singh becomes 1st Defence Minister to fly in LCA Tejas** – Defence Minister Rajnath Singh becomes the first defence minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
  - He flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru.
4. **White Water Rafting Expedition ‘Rudrashila’ Flagged off at Jaisalmer** – The White water Rafting Expedition christened 'RUDRASHILA' being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off at Jaisalmer Military station.
  - The expedition christened 'Rudrashila' has been organised to commemorate the 75th Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion.
5. **ICGS ‘Varaha’ commissioned – Defense Minister Rajnath Singh** has formally commissioned the Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel 'Varaha' at the Chennai Port Trust.
6. **DRDO hands over second ‘Netra’ (AEWC) aircraft to IAF** – The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) has handed over the second airborne warning plane, **Netra**, to the Indian Air Force. The Netra, an Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft.
7. **India successfully test-fires air-to-air missile Astra** – India has successfully test-fired air-to-air missile Astra from Sukhoi-30 MKI. The indigenously developed missile was tested off the coast of Odisha on September 17, 2019.
  - Astra missile is India’s first indigenous air-to-air and beyond visual range missile.
  - The missile can engage targets of different ranges and altitudes

- Astra missile has a strike range of over 70 km. It can fly towards its target at a speed of over 5,555 km per hour.
- 8. Shaheen VIII:** joint bilateral aerial exercise between Pakistan and China held in **China's Hotan City**.
  - 9.** As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to South East Asia and Western Pacific, two Indian Navy warships, INS Sahyadri and INS Kiltan arrived at Laem Chabang, Bangkok for a port call from 31 August to 3 September 2019. The port call is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Thailand.
  - 10. Pakistan test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile Ghaznavi** – Pakistan successfully conducted night training launch of hypersonic surface-to-surface ballistic missile Hatf-III Ghaznavi from Sonmiani test range in Balochistan.
  - 11. Abhinandan Varthaman flies with IAF Chief BS Dhanoa on his last sortie** – Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the recipient of Vir Chakra, flew with IAF Chief BS Dhanoa on his last sortie aboard MiG-21 fighter aircraft on September 2, 2019.
  - 12. Amazon India launches Military Veterans Employment programme** – Amazon India has launched a Military Veterans Employment programme in country.
    - This initiative of e-commerce giant will create employment opportunities for military veterans as well as their spouses across company's sort centres, delivery centres and fulfilment centres in India.
    - For this, **Amazon** India has partnered with office of Director-General of Resettlement (DGR),
  - 13. IAF inducts 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters** – The Indian Air Force has inducted 8 Apache AH-64E attack helicopters at the Pathankot Air Force station to enhance its combat capabilities.

The Apache AH-64E helicopters are made by US company **Boeing** and will give a major boost to combat capabilities of Indian Air Force.

## August

- 1. IAF's Shalija Dhami becomes first female flight commander** – Indian Air Force's Wing Commander Shalija Dhami has become the first female officer in the country to become Flight Commander of a flying unit.
  - 2. Iran unveils new missile defence system "Bavar-373"** – Iran unveiled its new home-grown air defence system called Bavar-373 during a ceremony held on Iran's 'National Defence Industry Day'.
    - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has ordered to add Bavar-373 to country's missile defence network.
  - 3. Astra Rafael Communication System inaugurated in Hyderabad** – An Indo-Israel joint venture's "Astra Rafael Communication System" was inaugurated in Hyderabad.
    - The Joint Venture between Astra Microwave and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has become India's first private sector firm to manufacture cutting-edge software defined radios in multiple variants.
  - 4. The Indian Navy is to host naval exercise MILAN in March 2020 in Vizag** – The Indian Navy is to host the multilateral naval exercise named 'MILAN' at Visakhapatnam for the year 2020 in the month of March.
  - 5. SCO exercise "Tsentr (centre) 2019" to be participated by India with Pakistan, China** - India and Pakistan will be participating in the upcoming major military exercise "Tsentr (centre) 2019" under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), to be held from tentatively scheduled period of September 10-21 at Orenburg, Russia.
    - SCO members – China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.
  - 6. Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles** – Iran unveiled 3 precision-guided missiles. The new line-up of air-to-air missiles named the "Yasin", "Balaban" and a new series of the "Ghaem" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.
- Note:
- **Yasin:** It is smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.
  - **Balaban:** It is guided by GPS and sensors. It is also equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft.
  - **Ghaem:** It is heat-seeking missile capable of hitting target within 50 centimetres of a target.
- 7. QRSAM: successfully test-fired by DRDO** – Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted two back-to-back flight tests of its state of the art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha.

8. **Indian Army in partnership with EESL employs e-cars to combat pollution** – Indian Army in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has launched ecological initiative of employing E Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi. Under this ecological initiative, first lot of 10 e-Cars was flagged off by Indian Army.
  - Now, Indian Army is planning to further increase number of E Cars in Delhi to ensure economy, efficiency and minimal emissions.
9. **Indian Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu** – Indian Army has launched Mission Reach Out in Jammu to ensure basic essential services and necessities are available in region after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
  - In this regard, high level "Mission Reach Out" conference was held in the Nagrota Military

Station to review the prevalent situation in the region.

10. **Falcon 9 rocket launched by SpaceX carrying AMOS-17 satellite of Israel** - The US (United States) carrier rocket Falcon 9 carried Israel's satellite AMOS-17 off the pad in Florida, America. This is SpaceX's 25th reflight of an orbit class rocket and also this booster's third flight.
11. **INS Tarkash participates in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 Bilateral Exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain** - The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Tarkash, participated in the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK).
12. **DRDO transfers design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army** – Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) transferred the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army.

## July

1. **Rs.1500 crore deal signed by India and Russia to acquire Russia's R-27**
  - India signed a contract with Russia for the acquisition of R-27 air-to-air missile which gives the additional capability to target enemy aircraft at long Ranges.
  - These missiles are to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF)
  - R-27 missile - It is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MIG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
2. **Indian Army successfully conducts Summer User Trials of Nag Missile** – Indian Army has successfully conducted summer user trials of NAG, 3rd Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM). The test was carried out at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

Note:

- NAG missile Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), a government agency responsible for military's research and development.
  - Range: Minimum-500 metres and Maximum- 4 kilometres
3. India and Russia bilateral co-operation to the next level in the field of space, including assistance in India's maiden human space flight mission 'Gaganyaan'.
  4. **INS Sagardhwani embarks on mission Sagar Maitri** – INS Sagardhwani embarked on a two-month-long Sagar

Maitri Mission-2 from Southern Naval Command in Kochi. INS Sagardhwani is an oceanographic research vessel of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- Sagar Maitri is a unique initiative of the DRDO to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction, especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.
5. Indian Navy Ship LCU L-56, the sixth of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class ships, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.
  6. **Israel and the US successfully tested Arrow-3 Anti-Ballistic Missile System** - On July 28, 2019, Israel's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Benjamin Netanyahu informed that Israel and the United States (US) successfully conducted tests of the advanced anti-ballistic missile system "Arrow-3".
  7. **Russia launched Soyuz Carrier Rocket with 33 satellites** – Russia successfully launched Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with a hydrometeorological satellite and 32 small satellites.
  8. **China has gifted warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka**. It will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats.
  9. **AH-64E Apache Guardian Attack helicopters arrived India** – The 1st batch of Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian

Attack helicopters arrived at Indian Air Force's (IAF's) Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- The 1st batch consists of 4 out of 22 choppers ordered by India from United States.

**10. Project Sampark: Defence Minister inaugurates Ujh and Basantar Bridges in J&K** – Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh inaugurated 1 km long Ujh bridge in Kathua district and 617.40 m long Basantar bridge in Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir.

- Both of these bridges have been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under 69 RCC/13 BRTF of Project Sampark.

**11. Bhabha Kavach: India's 1st Lightest, Indigenous Bullet Proof Jacket gets MHA nod**

- Indigenously produced lightweight bullet proof jacket Bhabha Kavach was launched at International Police Expo 2019 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The jacket which is a major breakthrough for Paramilitary Forces and Indian armed forces got nod from Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- India's Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket 'Bhabha Kavach' by was launched at the International Police Expo 2019.
- It is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

**12. Japan's Hayabusa2 Probe makes 2nd touchdown on asteroid Ryugu** – Japan's Hayabusa2 probe has made a perfect touchdown on a distant asteroid named Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres from Earth. It collected samples from beneath surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on origins of solar system.

**1. Indian Army releases special tribute video to commemorate 20 years of 'Operation Vijay'** - To commemorate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian army has released a special Kargil Tribute Song' to honor, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and the war veterans who sacrificed and fought for the country.

- The song titled '**Tujhe Bhulega Na Tera Hindustan**' has been written by renowned Bollywood lyricist **Sameer**.
- The nation will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2019.

**13. China launches first private rocket capable of carrying satellites** – "Interstellar Glory Space Technology" also known as iSpace successfully launched the china's first commercial rocket.

- The 20 m (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named Hyperbola-1 reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles). The rocket is capable of carrying satellites into orbit.

**14. Iran test-launched Shahab-3, a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile** inside its borders. missile defence system despite repeated warnings from US against the purchase.

**15. Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrives in Morocco** – Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived at Tangier, Morocco. The visit is part of an ongoing Overseas Deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe.

**16. India has successfully tested the vertical steep dive version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.**

- Made in India 'Brahmos Aerospace' is also ready with a longer 500 km range version of the Brahmos missile that can be fired from Sukhoi 30 fighter jets.
- BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture company owned by the governments of India and Russia and its missiles are produced in India.

**17. Operation Sudarshan: launched by BSF to fortify border with Pakistan** – Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.

## June

- The 20th anniversary of "Operation Vijay" will be celebrated with the theme '**Remember, Rejoice and Renew**'.

**2. Operation Bandar' was IAF's code name for Balakot airstrike** –

- According to the senior defence sources, in order to maintain secrecy and ensure that the plans don't leak out, the Balakot operations were given the codename Operation Bandar,".
- On February 26, 12 Mirages having taken off from multiple air bases crossed over into the Pakistani air space and carried out missile attacks on Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Balakot town of Khyber Pakhtunwa province.

- The attacks carried out by the Indian Air Force, pilots had dropped five Spice 2000 bombs.
3. **NASA's First Astrobees Robot Bumble Starts Flying in Space**
    - NASA's First Astrobees Robot Bumble Starts Flying in Space.
    - NASA has revealed its first cube-shaped 'Astrobee' robot, called Bumble, flew under its own power in space for the first time on June 14.
  4. **IAF inks Rs 300 crore deal to procure SPICE 2000 bombs from Israel** – Indian Air Force (IAF) signed Rs.300 crore deal with Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, an Israeli defence firm to procure a batch of SPICE 2000 guided bombs.
    - The SPICE stands for Smart, Precise Impact and Cost-Effective.
    - It is guidance and maneuvering kit manufactured by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
  5. **Operation Sankalp** - Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through area. This deployment is in the wake of following recent maritime incidents in region.
    - Indian Naval Ships, INS Chennai (Kolkata-class stealth guided missile destroyers) and INS Sunayna (Saryu-class patrol vessel) have been deployed in region to undertake maritime security operations.
  6. **Operation Sunrise** - The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-week-long coordinated operation in their respective border areas called 'Operation Sunrise 2' to bust terror camps.
    - The operation was targeted at militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. This was the 2nd edition of Operation Sunrise.
  7. **Govt. to set up Defence Space Research Agency** – The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of the Central Government of India headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared setting up of new agency called Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO).
    - The DSRO has been entrusted with task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
    - The agency would be providing the research and development support to the Defence Space Agency (DSA) which comprises members of the three services.
    - The Defence Space Agency is being set up in Bengaluru under an Air Vice Marshal-rank officer and will gradually take over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.
  8. The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became first ever woman pilot to fly by day on Hawk advanced jet aircraft.
  9. **ICG co-hosts 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop** – Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosts 12th Capacity Building workshop with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in New Delhi.
 

**Note:**

    - The ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
    - Presently 20 countries are members of ReCAAP.
    - India played an active role in the setting up and functioning of ReCAAPISC along with Japan and Singapore.

### Important Days

#### December

01 Dec	World AIDS Day
02 Dec	World Computer Literacy Day, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
03 Dec	International Day of People with Disability or World Disability Day
04 Dec	Indian Navy Day
07 Dec	International Civil Aviation Day, Indian Armed Force Flag Day
09 Dec	The International Anticorruption Day
10 Dec	World Human Rights Day, International Children's Day of Broadcasting
11 Dec	International Mountain Day, UNICEF Day

14 Dec	National Energy Conservation Day (India)
16 Dec	Vijay Diwas
18 Dec	International Migrants Day, National Minority Rights Day
23 Dec	National Farmer's Day or Kisan Diwas
25 Dec	Good Governance day

### November

01 Nov	World Vegan Day
2nd Nov	The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
5th Nov	World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)
06 Nov	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
07 Nov	National Cancer Awareness Day
10 Nov	World Science day for Peace and Development, Public Transport Day
11 Nov	National Education Day
12 Nov	World Pneumonia Day, Public Service Broadcasting Day
13 Nov	World Kindness Day
14 Nov	Children's Day (India), World Diabetes Day
17 Nov	International Students Day, Gurunanak Dev's Birth Anniversary, National epilepsy day
19 Nov	World Toilet Day, International Men's Day, National Integration Day
20 Nov	Universal Children's Day
26 Nov	National Law Day or National constitution Day
30 Nov	National Flag Day

### October

1. October 1 - International Day of Older Persons (**2019 Theme: The Journey to Age Equality**)
2. October 1 - International Coffee Day
3. October 1 - World Vegetarian Day
4. October 2 - International Day of Non – Violence
5. October 5 – World Teachers Day (**2019 Theme: Young Teachers: The Future of the Profession**)
6. October 7: World Habitat Day (**2019 Theme: Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth**)
7. October 7 - World Cotton Day
8. October 8 – Air Force Day
9. October 9 - World Postal Day or World Post Office Day
10. October 10 - World Mental Health Day
11. October 11 - International Girl Child Day
12. October 13 - World Calamity Control Day
13. October 14 - World Standards Day
14. October 15 - World Students' Day
15. October 16 - World Food Day
16. October 17 - International Poverty Eradication Day
17. October 24 - United Nations Day
18. October 31 - Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day

### September

1. September 05 - International Day of Charity
2. September 08 - International Literacy Day (Theme - Literacy and Multilingualism)



3. September 14: Hindi Diwas
4. September 15: Engineers' Day; International Day of Democracy
5. September 16: World Ozone Day; International Day for Preservation
6. September 21: Alzheimer's Day; Day for Peace & Non-violence (UN)

7. September 22: Rose Day (Welfare of cancer patients)
8. September 23: International Day of Sign Languages
9. September 26: Day of the Deaf; World Contraception Day
10. September 27: World Tourism Day; World Maritime Day
11. September 29: World Heart Day
12. September 30: International Translation Day

### August

1. 1 August - Yorkshire Day
2. 6 August - Hiroshima Day
3. 7<sup>th</sup> August – National Handloom Day
4. 9 August - Quit India Movement Day (The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement was observed on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019)
5. 9 August - Nagasaki Day
6. 9 August – Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
7. 10 August - World Biofuel Day (Theme for year 2019: Production of Bio-diesel from Used Cooking Oil)
8. 12 August - International Youth Day (theme "Transforming education")
9. 13 August - International Lefthanders Day
10. 14<sup>th</sup> August- Youm-e-Azadi (Pakistan Independence Day)
11. 15 August- National Day of mourning (Bangladesh)
12. 15 August - Independence Day (India)
13. 15 August (UK) - Victory over Japan Day
14. 15 August - Day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

15. 16 August- Bennington Battle Day
16. 17 August - Indonesian Independence Day
17. 19 August - World Photography Day
18. 19 August – World Humanitarian Day
19. 20 August - World Mosquito Day
20. 20 August- Sadbhavna Divas
21. 20 August - Indian Akshay Urja Day
22. 22 August - International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
23. 23 August - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
24. 23 August - European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism
25. 26 August - Women's Equality Day
26. 29 August - National Sports Day
27. 30 August - Small Industry Day
28. 31 August - Hari Merdeka (Malaysia National Day)

### July

- 1 July - Doctor's Day
- 1 July – GST Day (Goods & Services Tax DAY)
- 1 July - National Gingersnap Day
- 2 July - World UFO Day
- 2 July - National Anisette Day
- 6 July - World Zoonoses Day
- 11 July - World Population Day
- 15 July - World Youth Skills Day
- 17 July - World Day for International Justice
- 18 July - International Nelson Mandela Day
- 23 July - National Broadcasting day

- 24 July – Aaykar Diwas (The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrating the 159th Income Tax Day (AaykarDiwas) on 24th July)
- 26 July - Kargil Vijay Diwas (Kargil Victory Day) – (This year 20th anniversary of Kargil Diwas is celebrated).
- 28 July - National Parent's Day
- 28 July - World Nature Conservation Day
- 28 July - World Hepatitis Day (The theme for 2019 is "Invest in eliminating hepatitis")
- 29 July - International Tiger Day
- 30 July - World Day Against Trafficking

### June

- 1 June: World Milk Day (2019 theme - "Drink Milk: Today & Everyday")
- 1 June: Global Day of Parents
- 2 June: International Sex Workers Day
- 2 June: Telangana Formation Day
- 3 June: World Bicycle Day

- 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June: World Environment Day (2019 Theme - Beat Air Pollution)
- 7 June: World Food Safety Day
- 8 June: World Brain Tumour Day

- 8 June: World Oceans Day
- 12 June: World Day Against Child Labour
- 14 June: World Blood Donor Day (Theme 2019 - "Blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion")
- 15 June: World Wind Day
- 15 June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 3rd Sunday of June: World Father's Day
- 16 June: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
- 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (International)
- 18 June: Autistic Pride Day
- 18 June: International Picnic Day
- 19 June: World Sickle Cell Awareness Day
- 19 June: World Sauntering Day
- 20 June: World Refugee Day (Theme for 2019: Step With Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day)
- 21 June: World Music Day
- 21 June: World Hydrography Day
- 21 June: International Yoga Day (Theme 2019 - Yoga for Climate Action)
- 23 June: International Olympic Day
- 23 June: United Nations Public Service Day
- 23 June: International Widow's Day
- 26 June: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26 June: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- 27 June – (Theme for 2019 is - Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day)
- 29 June - Statistics Day (Theme for year 2019: Sustainable Development Goals)
- 30 June: Asteroid Day

-----All the Best-----



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