

# Monthly GK Digest

November 2019



## Monthly Digest November -2019

### Important Days

1. World Vegan Day is observed on **1st November**.  
**Note:** The Day provides an opportunity to promote the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general. On the Day, vegan groups and practitioners organize workshops to highlight the importance of animal rights. Donald Watson coined the term Vegan which was derived from the word Vegetarian in 1944.
2. The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is a UN-recognized day observed annually on **2nd November**.  
**Note:** This year's International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, is focused on local journalists.
3. The World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) is being observed across the world on **5th November**.  
**Note:** In 2019, the World Tsunami Awareness Day will promote Target (d) of the "Sendai Seven Campaign" which focuses on reducing disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. By the year 2030, an estimated 50% of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms and tsunamis.
4. The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed annually on **6th November**.  
**Note:** On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6th November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (A/RES/56/4).
5. The **National Cancer Awareness Day** is observed annually in India on **7th November**.  
**Note:** The day coincides with the birth anniversary of scientist Marie Curie (Marie Skłodowska Curie), winner of the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics
6. Uttarakhand state is celebrating its 19th formation day 9<sup>th</sup> November  
**Note:** Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat flagged off Cultural Procession in the state capital Dehradun. On 9th November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining north-western districts of Uttar Pradesh.
7. World Science Day for Peace & Development is celebrated every year on **10th November**.  
**Note:** The day is observed to highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. 2019 Theme: "Open science, leaving no one behind"
8. The nation celebrates the National Education Day on **11th November**.  
**Note:** Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a freedom fighter and independent India's first Education Minister (served from 1947 to 1958). He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992. Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has launched SWAYAM 2.0, Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds in New Delhi.
9. The **World Pneumonia Day** is observed every year on **12th November**.  
**Note:** The day raise awareness about pneumonia, the world's leading infectious killer of children under the age of 5. World Pneumonia Day was established in 2009 and seeks to spread awareness of the diseases as a public health issue. The day also aims to generate action, including continued donor investment, to combat pneumonia and other common, deadly childhood diseases.
10. The **World Kindness Day** is being observed every year on **13th November**.  
**Note:** The Theme of 2019 for this World Kindness Day 2019 is empathy, encouraging people across the globe to better understand "the pains of others" and touch their lives "positively".
11. The **Public Service Broadcasting Day** is being celebrated on **12th November**.  
**Note:** The day commemorate the first and only visit of the Mahatma Gandhi (Father of the Nation) to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi (in 1947). Mahatma Gandhi addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.
12. **Children's Day** is celebrated on **14th November** every year on the birth anniversary of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**.  
**Note:** Children's Day is celebrated across India to increase awareness of the rights, care, and education of children. Political leaders and eminent persons have paid tribute to him at his Samadhi, Shanti Vana in New Delhi. Children's Day (Bal Divas) was first celebrated in 1964 after the death of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

13. The **World Diabetes Day** being observed every year on **14th November**.

**Note:** The world Diabetes Day being observed marks the birthday of the man who co-discovered insulin, Frederick Banting. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2018 and 2019 is 'The Family and Diabetes'.

14. National Press Day being observed every year on **16th November**.

**Note:** It was on this day the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any influence or threats.

15. International Day for Tolerance is observed by the United Nations (UN) all across the world on **16th November**.

**Note:** The Day is observed to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce the achievements of humanity.

16. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed every year as the appropriate acknowledgement of victims of road traffic crashes and their family -- **17th November (3rd Sunday in November)**:

**Note:** The theme is based on Pillar 3 of the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety – Safer vehicles.

17. **World Toilet Day** is observed across the world on **19th November**.

**Note:** The objective of the day to motivate millions across the world on issues of sanitation. The theme for 2019 is 'Leaving No One Behind'. It's all about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which promises sanitation for all by 2030.

18. Quami Ekta Week to be observed across the country from **19-25th November**.

**Note:** The week is observed to highlight the strength and resilience of the nation to withstand any potential threats to the secular fabric. These occasions will also provide an opportunity to reaffirm age-old traditions and faith in the values of tolerance, co-existence, and brotherhood in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society.

19. Universal Children's Day is celebrated annually on **20th November**.

**Note:** The goal of Universal Children's day is to improve child welfare worldwide, promote and celebrate children's rights and promote togetherness and awareness amongst all children. The intergovernmental organisation is asking individuals, schools and corporates worldwide to 'Go Blue' this Universal Children's Day to help build a world where every child goes to school and is safe from harm.

20. Africa Industrialization Day being observed on **20th November**.

**Note:** The theme of 2019 is '**Positioning African Industry to Supply the AfCFTA Market**'. On 22 March 2018, 44 member States of the African Union signed the Agreement Establishing an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), thus creating a single African market for goods and services

21. The World Fisheries day is celebrated every year on **21st November**.

**Note:** The Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of the water. This year's theme is 2022 Ka Hai Sapna Kisan Ki Aay Ho Dugna – Sankalp Se Siddhi”.

22. World Television Day being observed on **21st November**.

**Note:** United Nations proclaimed 21st November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996. The day recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting the different issue that affects people.

23. The **World Philosophy Day 2019** was proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every **3rd Thursday of November**.

**Note:** It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002. The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts.

24. The **International Day for the Elimination of Violence** against Women is being observed every year on **25th November**.

**Note:** The theme for this year is "**Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape**". The colour orange in the theme symbolizes a better future without the pervasive human rights violation that affects 1 in 3 women and girls all over the globe.

25. **The National Cadet Corps (NCC)** has celebrated its **71st Raising Day** all over the country.

**Note:** The NCC day which is observed every year on the fourth Sunday of November was celebrated with pomp and gaiety. National Cadet Corps is a Tri-Services Organization, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Wing,

26. **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)** is being celebrated on **26th November** across the country.

**Note:** The day mark the adopting of the Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949 (came into force on 26th January in 1950). The Chairman of the drafting committee 'B. R. Ambedkar' is widely considered to be the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

27. The **National Milk Day (NMD)** is being observed every year on **26th November**.

**Note:** The idea of observing National Milk Day was first mooted by Indian Dairy Association (IDA) in 2014 on the lines of World Milk Day that is observed on 1st June

every year under the aegis of UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Dr. Kurien he was conferred with many accolades such as Ramon Magsaysay Award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Krishi Ratna, World Food Prize, Padma Vibhushan, etc.

28. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is being observed on **29th November**.  
**Note:** In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. On that

day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine.

29. The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare being observed on **30 November**.  
**Note:** This commemoration provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons.

### New Appointments

- Alberto Fernandez won the presidential election in -- **Argentina**.  
**Note:** Fernandez, a 60-year-old law professor, got 47.36 per cent votes crossing the threshold for outright victory.
- Prime Minister of **Lebanon** has resigned from the portfolio amid anti-government protests -- **Saad Hariri**.  
**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.
- The Government of India notified the appointment of new Chief Justices to the High Courts of **Madras, Madhya Pradesh, and Patna**.  
**Note:** Patna High Court's Chief Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. Meghalaya High Court's Chief Justice AK Mittal has been appointed the next Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Tripura High Court's Chief Justice Sanjay Karol has been appointed the next Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, to fill the vacancy left behind in view of Chief Justice Sahi's transfer to Madras. The judges in various High Courts are appointed and transferred by the President of India under Article 222 of the Constitution of India
- Pavan Kapoor** took charge as the **new Ambassador** to UAE.  
**Note:** **Pavan Kapoor** (1990 batch Indian Foreign Service officer) replaced Navdeep Singh Suri, who retired last month. During his last posting, Mr. Kapoor served as the Ambassador to Israel.
- Senior **IPS officer** has been appointed as the chairman of the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Aditya Mishra**.  
**Note:** The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) is a statutory body (created through the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010) working under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It is responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India.
- Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** MLA from Panchkula Gian Chand Gupta has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of **Haryana Assembly**.  
**Note:** Mr Gupta's name was proposed by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and seconded by Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala. BJP party stitched an alliance with Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and managed to get the support of seven independent MLAs in the 90-member Haryana Assembly
- P.S Sreedharan Pillai (65-years) took oath as the Governor of **Mizoram**.  
**Note:** The Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court 'Ajai Lamba' administered the oath of Office and Secrecy at Raj Bhawan in Aizawl. P.S Sreedharan Pillai replaced Governor of Assam Jagdish Mukhi (additional charge-Mizoram).
- The two-day 'BIMSTEC Conclave' begins 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.
- 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.
- Sheikh Khalifa bin **Zayed Al Nahyan** re-elected as President of **UAE**.

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**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. The United Arab Emirates is a federation of seven emirates consisting of Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain. Each emirate is governed by a ruler; together, they jointly form the Federal Supreme Council.

**11. Pravin Jugnauth** claimed victory in the Prime Minister's election in Mauritius.

**Note:** Mr Jugnauth's swearing-in took place at the residence of President Barlen Vyapoor.

**12. Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi** was sworn-in as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

**Note:** Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to Justice Sahi. Justice Sahi succeeds Vijaya Tahilramani who had resigned. Prior, Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi was the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

**13. Justice Muhammad Raffiq** took oath as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.

**Note:** Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office and secrecy at Raj Bhavan in Shillong. Raffiq succeeds Ajay Kumar Mittal who is now the Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court. He also served as acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court twice.

**14. Former prime minister and senior congress leader Manmohan Singh** has been nominated to the parliamentary standing committee on finance.

**Note:** Manmohan Singh was a member of the panel from September 2014 to May 2019 before his tenure in the Upper House ended in June 2019. In August 2019, Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

**15. Justice Sanjay Karol** sworn in as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court.

**Note:** Bihar Governor Phagu Chauhan administered the oath of office to Justice Karol at the Raj Bhavan. Patna High Court is the High Court of the state of Bihar, established on 3 February 1916 and later affiliated under the Government of India Act 1915.

**16. President Ram Nath Kovind** has accepted the resignation of the Union Council of Ministers -- **Arvind Ganpat Sawant (Shiv Sena MP)**.

**Note:** Earlier, Mr Sawant is the Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Minister in Narendra Modi government. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has been assigned the additional charge of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

**17. As per by the New York-based non-governmental organization, 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. It is one of the integral parts of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels.

**18. G Kamala Vardhana Rao** has been appointed new Chairman and Managing Director of **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)**.

**Note:** Prior to this, **Mr. G Kamala Vardhana Rao** was the Principal Secretary, Kerala government. He has also served as the Secretary of Kerala Tourism in 2014-15.

**19. Nils Andersen** appointed as the new Chairman of Unilever.

**Note:** Nil Andersen will replace Marijn Dekkers. Unilever is a British-Dutch transnational consumer goods company co-headquartered in London, United Kingdom, and Rotterdam, Netherlands.

**20. Prakash Javadekar** took charge as the **Minister of Heavy Industries** and Public Enterprises.

**Note:** He also holds Information & Broadcasting, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change portfolios. Earlier, Sena leader Arvind Sawant resigned from the Union Cabinet.

**21. Nilam Sawhney** has been appointed as the **first woman Chief Secretary** of Andhra Pradesh.

**Note:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India (GoI) has approved her appointment on November 13, 2019. She will replace Neerabh Kumar, who has been holding additional charge as the CS, following the sudden transfer of LV Subramanyam, a week ago.

**22. Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde** sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India.

**Note:** Justice SA Bobde succeeds Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi. Justice Bobde was born in Nagpur (Maharashtra)

and is the son of Arvind Shrinivas Bobde, an eminent senior advocate.

- 23. Gotabaya Rajapaksa** has been sworn-in as new President of Sri Lanka.  
**Note:** He will succeed President Maithripala Sirisena for a five-year term. Rajapaksa secured 52.25% votes (6,924,255) while Sajith Premadasa received 41.99% votes. Gotabaya is the younger brother of former President (from 2005 to 2015) Mahinda Rajapaksa and served as defence secretary during the end of LTTE war.
- 24. Justice Dr Ravi Ranjan** took oath as the 13th Chief Justice of **Jharkhand High Court**.  
**Note:** Governor Draupadi Murmu administered the oath to Justice Ravi Ranjan at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi (Jharkhand capital). Justice Ranjan was a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The post was lying vacant since May this year after the former Chief Justice, Anirudh Bose was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- 25. Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of **Tripura High Court**.  
**Note:** Governor Ramesh Bais administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan in Agartala. The Tripura High Court established on 23 March 2013, after making suitable

amendments in the Constitution of India and North-Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971.

- 26. Mahinda Rajapaksa** has been sworn in as the new **Prime minister** of -- **Sri Lanka**.  
**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.
- 27. Media mogul Subhash Chandra** has resigned as Chairman of the Zee Entertainment Enterprises' board.  
**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.
- 28. Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray** took oath as the chief minister (18th) of Maharashtra state.  
**Note:** Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath ceremony at Shivaji Park in Mumbai. Mr. Thackeray is the third Shiv Sena leader to hold the post after Manohar Joshi (1995–1999) and Narayan Rane (1 Feb- 17 Oct 1999).

### Important News - India

- 1. India** placed among the top nations with the most conducive environment for financial inclusion in terms of allowing non-banks to issue e-money.  
**Note:** As per Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report, the overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico have the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
- 2. Union minister Shri 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'. 14th edition of National Health Profile (NHP) was also released by health minister during the event. The Lymphatic Filariasis is a disease caused by a human parasitic worm called Wuchereria Bancrofti and spread by Culex Mosquitoes.
- 3. 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. The countries are also working on opportunities in E-mobility, smart cities, inland waterways, and environmental conservation.

- 4. 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. Till now there was no such limit for calls within India. Telecom operators on their own were reducing incoming call ring time to attract reverse calls from the subscriber of other networks.
- 5. 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

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based on both the recent “Employment and Unemployment” and “Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprise” survey data of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

6. **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.

7. German multinational conglomerate company **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.

8. **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).

9. 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.

10. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **5th India International Science Festival (IISF)** through video conference in **Kolkata**.

**Note:** The theme for this year’s festival is RISEN India - Research, Innovation and Science Empowering the Nation. The prime objective of IISF is to instil scientific temper among people, showcase India’s contribution in the field of Science and Technology and encourage the translation of its benefits to people.

11. The Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** unveiled two new IT Initiatives for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods **ICEDASH and ATITHI**

**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.

12. The first-ever containerised 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.

13. 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. It can be contacted on 75 thousand mobile numbers daily. In this process, a 110-seat call centre of Punjab Job Helpline has also been created for the data to be prepared.

14. 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.

15. The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was successfully achieved at the **Science City, Kolkata (IISF-2019)**

**Note:** Over 1,598 students has participated in the event.

16. The **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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
  19. 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.
  20. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released the monograph, the **Musical Excellence of Mridangam in Chennai**.  
**Note:** According to Mr. Naidu, science has the responsibility to add values to ancient musical traditions like Mridangam and to preserve and protect the nation's cultural heritage. Mridangam is an instrument made with ordinary and locally available materials but exhibits enormous musical beauty. 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.
  21. **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).
  22. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the 10th Asian Conference of Emergency Medicine in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Mr. Naidu has stressed on the urgent need to attach high priority to emergency medicine and services in the country. Emergency medicine is the medical specialty that endeavors to the diagnosis and treatment of the acutely ill and injured patients. 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.
  23. 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.
  24. 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.
  25. 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.
  26. 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.
  27. Who conducted the Regional level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise - 2019 (ReSAREX - 2019) **Indian Coast Guard**.  
**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.
  28. 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.
  29. 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. The various chapters of the book narrate the historical events of the court.
  30. The 25th Kolkata International Film Festival (eight-day) has begun 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.
31. 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.
  32. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has organized the 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) in **Kolkata**.  
**Note:** The Conference has been inaugurated by Shri Pravin Srivastava, Chief Statistician of India cum Secretary, MoSPI. The theme of this year's Conference "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".
  33. 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.
  34. 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.
  35. The 50th- edition of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will showcase **Eight** movies from Russia (focused Country this year).  
**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.
  36. 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.
  37. 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
  38. The 39th edition of **India International Trade Fair (IITF-2019)** has been inaugurated by the union minister **Nitin Gadkari 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.
  39. 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'.
  40. 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.
  41. 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.

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- 42. 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.
- 43. 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
- 44. 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. Other members of the bench apart from Ranjan Gogoi were Justices Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Khanna.
- 45. The Indian Navy** has selected **Lt. Commander Karabi Gogoi** as assistant naval attache at the **Moscow Embassy**.  
**Note:** She will be the first woman Assistant Naval Attache and second woman defence personnel to be appointed for a diplomatic assignment in Russia. Currently posted as a naval engineer at the Karwar base of the Navy, the officer is also learning Russian and is expected to take up her new assignment in Moscow next month.
- 46. 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.
- 47. 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.
- 48. 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.
- 49. 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.
- 50. Regional Conference** on “Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh” held at **Jammu**.  
**Note:** A two-day Regional Conference on the theme: “Replication of Good Governance Practices in Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh” has begun in Jammu. 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.
- 51. 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
- 52. Central Bureau of Investigation** has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention and Investigation Unit at its 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.
- 53. 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
- 54. 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.

- 55. 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. This new fuel will help Indian security forces to stock up on crucial supplies and ammunition that gets cut off due to bad weather in winters. Indian Oil's winter-grade diesel meets BIS specifications and has been produced and certified by the company's Panipat refinery.
- 56. 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.
- 57. 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. It also approved the creation of the post of director in Level-14 to oversee implementation of the project from the construction stage itself.
- 58. 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.
- 59. 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.
- 60. 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.
- 61. India's Gram Panchayats** will be connected with internet, broadband by March 2020 -- **Two lakhs**  
**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.
- 62. 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.
- 63. 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.
- 64. 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.
- 65. As per Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards**, top-ranked state in the list is **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** Top-ranked district is Peddapalli (Telangana)
- 66. 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 tourist 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.
- 67. 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.
- 68. 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.
- 69. 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.
- 70. The world's biggest Islamic Congregation 'Aalmi Tablighi Ijtimah'** 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 Ijtimah took place in Bhopal in 1944 and only 14 people attended it then.
- 71. 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
- 72. 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.
- 73. 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.
- 74. Oxford Dictionaries** has named 2019 Word of the Year - **climate emergency**.  
**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.
- 75. 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.
- 76. 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.
- 77. ISRO** has launched India's most sophisticated Earth observation satellite Cartosat-3 and 13 US nanosatellites from Sriharikota 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.
- 78. 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.
- 79. The Indian Navy** will host military drill in March 2020 -- **Milan 2020**.  
**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.
- 80. The Indian Railways** has set up the Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) -- **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.
- 81.** Former Australian cricket umpire Simon Taufel released his book titled -- **Finding The Gaps.**  
**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.
- 82.** A book titled "Hemant Karkare -A Daughter's Memoir" by his daughter -- **Jui Karkare Navare.**  
**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).
- 83.** The Centre for **Water Resources Development and Management** (CWRDM), operating under the **Government of Kerala** 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.
- 84.** Mr. 'Nishank' also launched three books which are a collection of stories for Children namely **Kumbh, Garam Pahad and Dilli ki Bulbul (Sindhi edition).**  
**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.
- 85.** 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)
- 86. 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.
- 87.** 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.
- 88.** The NBFC arm of Aditya Birla Capital, became the first company to list its commercial papers on the stock exchanges\_ **Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL).**  
**Note:** The value date of the commercial paper is November 28 and maturity date on February 7, 2020.
- 89.** 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.
- 90.** 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 Neighbourhood First' Policy.
- 91.** 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.

### Important News – State

- According to the Election Commission, **Jharkhand assembly** polls will be held in five phases **between 30<sup>th</sup> November to 20 December.**  
**Note:** The counting of votes will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. 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. Jharkhand was formed in the year 2000 by dividing Bihar into two-state.
- The **National Tribal festival** (15-day Aadi Mahotsav) will be held in **New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The theme of the festival is a celebration of the spirit of tribal culture, craft, cuisine and commerce. More than one thousand tribal artisans from 27 states will participate in the event. The festival will feature exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through two hundred stalls.

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3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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. Sanskrit words are found in most of the Indian languages. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr.Harsh Vardhan was also present on the occasion.
6. **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.
7. **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. At present, the Bhavnagar port is operated by Gujarat Maritime Board, which is handling three metric tones of cargo annually.
8. As per Maharashtra Governor's **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** 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.
9. 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.
10. The **Supreme Court** upheld the disqualification of **Congress-JD (S) 17 MLAs** had resigned.  
**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.
11. 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
12. Defence 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.
13. **Haryana** 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.
14. The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a dedicated web portal and a mobile application '**e-Ganna App**' for sugarcane farmers of the state.  
**Note:** Now, Cane supply slip will be issued to the farmers by sugar mills online. 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.
15. 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.

- 16. Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' scheme to introduce English medium from classes 1 to 6.  
**Note:** The Union government also planning to introduce another scheme called 'Amma Vodi' in January 2020 to give incentives to mothers 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.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Uttar Pradesh** 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.
- 19.** The two tea varieties of Darjeeling have been registered as a geographical indication (GI) products in the country -- **green tea and white tea**.  
**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.
- 20.** Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare 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, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Gujarat. The objective of the SAANS campaign to reduce child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% of deaths annually of children under the age of five.
- 21.** 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.
- 22.** The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan under Karnataka Integrated and Sustainable Water Resources Management Investment Program (IWRM) **USD 91 million**.  
**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.
- 23.** 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.
- 24. 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.
- 25. 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 can't get married before 21 years of age
- 26. 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
- 27.** 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.
- 28.** 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).
- 29.** 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.
- 30.** 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.
- 31.** A three-day **Global Buddhist Congregation** has begun at Nagsenyan 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
- 32.** 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.
- 33.** 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.
- 34.** 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.
- 35.** 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.
- 36.** 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.
- 37.** **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
- 38.** **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).
- 39.** 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.

40. Etawah Lion Safari opened for public without the lion segment -- **Uttar Pradesh**.  
**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). The Etawah lion safari is the first in India to have a lion breeding centre set up with an aim to develop a research facility on Asiatic lions.
41. 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.
42. **Chhattisgarh** state Govt. will set up **Guru Ghasidas National Park** in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'.

**Note:** This decision was taken in **11th meeting of Chhattisgarh State** Wildlife Board chaired by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. 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.
43. 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.
44. **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.
45. 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.

### Important News – World

1. 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'. The headquarters of ASEAN is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

5. Sudan's **first-ever satellite** for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by **China**.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has co-chaired the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation in Moscow.

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9. 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.
10. 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. The electronic registration system is part of an agency-wide initiative to modernise the immigration system while deterring fraud.
11. 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. As part of the agreement, Moscow provides Tehran with the fuel it needs for its electricity-generating nuclear reactors.
12. 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.
13. 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. Later, Power minister R K Singh will attend the meeting of BRICS power ministers where deliberations will focus on clean energy and harnessing the strengths of each other in the energy sector.
14. 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.

15. 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". BRICS brings together five major economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa having 23% of the global GDP and around 17% of the share in world trade.
16. **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.
17. 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. Earlier, Mr Singh reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral defence relations with the respective leaders and discussed ways to further improve the ties.
18. 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.
19. Who has become the 1st country to introduce the new vaccine to combat typhoid -- **Pakistan**.  
**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.
20. 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 Trikand and Patrol Aircraft P8-I are participating in the exercise. The versatile Anti-Ship Missile equipped Barzan Class Fast Attack Craft along with Rafale multi-task fighter aircraft will participate from Qatar Navy.
21. 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).
  22. The researchers of the University of Gothenburg in Sweden have developed a potential -- **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.
  23. 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).
24. 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.
  25. Pakistan's Supreme Court granted a six-month conditional extension to Army chief -- **General Qamar Javed Bajwa**.  
**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.
  26. 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.

### Honor & Awards

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. The Vyas Samman started in 1991, is given by KK Birla Foundation in honour of Indian industrialist Krishna Kumar Birla for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.
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. Veteran Hollywood star-actress Dame Judith Olivia Dench was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the ceremony
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. An Indian origin researcher from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney has won the 'Early Career Researcher of the Year Award-2019' (Physical Sciences) -- **Neeraj Sharma**.  
**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.

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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. The novel published by Fourth estate India. JCB prize is an annual Indian literary award instituted in 2018 for a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or to a translated fiction by an Indian writer.
8. **Shripad Naik** (Union Minister of State for Defence) 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. Who has been crowned 'Miss Asia Global 2019' (5th Edition) at Gokulam Convention centre in Kochi, Kerala -- **Sara Damjanovic**  
**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. The 'Miss Asia Global Title 2020' will be held in Malaysia.
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. The special focus of this year's lit-fest is on Indigenous Languages as the UNESCO has marked 2019 as the year of Indigenous Language Protection.
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. The Lesley Ho Asian Film Talent Award is one of the most honourable awards on the global platform.
14. Wildlife biologist was awarded the Wildlife Conservation Society's George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science -- **K. Ullas Karanth**.  
**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. Satchidanandan has represented the country at several literary meetings overseas and headed many national literary institutions.
16. The prestigious **Munin Barkotoki Literary Award 2018** in Assam has been given to young writer-critic -- **Dr Debabhuson Borah**.  
**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 Ravi Prakash** has won BRICS-Young Innovator Prize.  
**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". The BRICS Young Innovator Prize aims to recognize and reward the research, development and innovation projects in the science and technology sector of the BRICS countries.
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. It gets the award in the 'Public Service Initiative' category for its efforts in

- undertaking various ecological initiatives towards Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco cultivation in India. The Golden Leaf Awards was created by Tobacco Reporter, an international magazine in 2006 to recognize professional excellence and dedication in the tobacco industry.
19. Manoj Bajpayee starrer won two awards at Asian Film Festival Barcelona for **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. The movie was directed by Devashish Makhija. The movie "Bhonsle" revolves around a police constable played by Manoj Bajpayee, who tries to help in the struggles of migrants and their battles with the local politicians.
  20. Renowned **Rabindra Sangeet** exponent from Bangladesh has conferred the ICCR distinguished alumni award in Dhaka\_ **Rezwana Choudhury Bannya**  
**Note:** The award was given away by the Riva Ganguly Das (High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh) in a musical function organised by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC). Rezwana Choudhury Bannya is widely recognised as a great exponent of Rabindra Sangeet.
  21. **Late actor Sridevi Sridevi & actor Rekha** conferred with the Akkineni Nageswara Rao National Award for 2018 and 2019.  
**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. Ace **Indian wrestler 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. Renowned naturalist & broadcaster will receive the 2019 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize -- **Sir David Attenborough**.  
**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. India captain **Virat Kohli** has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2019 for his animal advocacy efforts.  
**Note:** Virat Kohli's efforts to improve conditions for animals include sending a letter to officials asking for the release of an elephant used for rides at Amer Fort.
25. Swedish teen activist has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize 2019 -- **Greta Thunberg**.  
**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.
  26. **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".
  27. Former **Hockey player turned bodybuilder** has been crowned Mr Universe 2019 -- **Chitahresh Natesan**.  
**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.
  28. Bangladesh's **Floating school project** (in South Kanarchor) wins the Aga Khan Architecture Award -- **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
  29. Young activist was awarded the prestigious 2019 International Children's Peace Prize along with Cameroon peace campaigner Divina Maloum -- **Greta Thunberg**.  
**Note:** Greta Thunberg had initiated 'Fridays for Future' campaign against climate change along with the school children across the world. Maloum campaigns for the rights and education of Cameroon children preyed upon by extremist groups. The International Children's Peace Prize is awarded annually to a child who has made a significant contribution to advocating children's rights and improving the situation of vulnerable children.
  30. **Singer Billie Eilish** has been named as **Billboard's 2019 Woman** of the Year.  
**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
31. Odia women weightlifter will receive the 27th Ekalabya Award for 2019 -- **Jhilli Dalabehera**.  
**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.
32. Noted writer **Manisha Kulshreshtha** has been awarded the 28th Bihari Puraskar for 2018 for her novel 'Swapnapash'.  
**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.
33. Indian journalist is one of several recipients of the 2019 International Press Freedom Awards -- **Neha Dixit**.  
**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.
34. French film has won the coveted **Golden Peacock Award** at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa -- **Particles**  
**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.
35. Noted Malayalam poet has been declared the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award for the year 2019 -- **Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri**.  
**Note:** His work includes Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam, or the legend of the 20th century, which is considered to have brought modernism into Malayalam poetry. Akkitham is the 6th Malayalam writer to be conferred this award. Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri is the recipient of the Padma Shri (in 2017), Kerala Sahitya Academy Award (in 1971), the Sahitya Academy Award (in 1973), and the Vayalar Award (in 2012).

## Sports News

1. Six-time **boxing world champion C. Mary Kom** has been 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. At present the President of **International Olympic Association (IOC)** is **Thomas Bach** and its headquarters in **Lausanne**, Switzerland.
2. **Pooja Gehlot** has won 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.
3. **South Africa** has 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. The victory under Siya Kolisi, the team's first black captain, was another symbolic moment for the Springboks. In 1995, former President Nelson Mandela's famously celebrated on the podium with captain Francois Pienaar after their first world cup win.
4. **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. World number 51 Lakshya took 59 minutes to overcome Weng in the summit clash. The 18-year-old from Uttarakhand had entered the final beating Kiran George in an all-Indian semifinal.
5. **Novak Djokovic** won the fifth **Paris Masters title for 2019** by defeating Denis Shapovalov in the final.  
**Note:** Thus, he sealed his 34th Master's title and fifth overall ATP victory of the year 2019. 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.
6. 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. Lewis Hamilton (sixth F1 world title) has won the Formula One World Drivers' Championship for 2019. The maximum number of Formula One World Drivers' Championship has been won by Michael Schumacher with 7 titles.
7. **India B** has won the 2019-20 Deodhar Trophy (47th edition) at JSCA International Stadium Complex, Ranchi.

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- 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).
8. 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. Now, he has won 34 Masters titles (16-time Grand Slam champion), moving to within one of Nadal at the top of the all-time list, and 77 on the ATP Tour in total. It was Djokovic's fifth trophy of the season after previous triumphs at Wimbledon and the US Open, as well as at the Madrid Open and in Tokyo.
  9. **Deepak Kumar** secured **India's 10th Tokyo Olympic quota** in shooting after winning the men's 10m air rifle bronze medal at the 14th Asian 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. Deepak is the second Indian shooter to earn an Olympic quota in the men's 10 metres air rifle event after Divyansh Singh Panwar.
  10. India's **Manu Bhaker** has won a 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.
  11. **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.
  12. 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. The venues of both the men's and women's World Cups will be announced by the host nations at a later date.
  13. 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.
  14. **Kento Momota** has won China Open 2019. **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.
  15. **Saurabh Chaudhary** has won silver medal in **Men's 10m air pistol event** at Asian Championship. **Note:** Saurabh Chaudhary claimed the silver medal in men's 10m air pistol event to continue India's surge at the 14th Asian Championship in Doha. Korea's Kim Song Guk won the top prize with a world record 246.5. Iran's Foroughi Javed bagged the bronze. India won six Olympic quotas across events from the prestigious championship, taking their total to 15.
  16. 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.
  17. **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.
  18. **Sri Lanka** has become the **1st South Asian country** to call match-fixing a crime. **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".
  19. Indian state **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.
  20. Veteran coach **Arsene Wenger** has been named **FIFA's Chief of global football** development. **Note:** He will be responsible for the growth of the game for both men and women around the world and would also be the leading authority on technical matters, including potential changes to the sport's laws. Wenger made the Gunners one of the strongest sides in Europe, winning three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups and taking his team to the 2006 Champions League final
  21. 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,

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- entertainment, sports, politics, health, science, activism, etc.
- 22. 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.
- 23.** 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.
- 24.** 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. Among the men, Selay Soy (49kg) and Ankit Narwal (60kg) settled for the second place after going down in their respective summit clashes.
- 25. Harmeet Desai** has won men's singles Gold medal at International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Challenge Indonesia Open 2019 Table Tennis tournament. 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.
- 30. Manu Bhaker** has become the second Indian shooter to win a gold medal Women's 10m Air Pistol at the ISS World Cup 2019.
- 31.** 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.
- 32.** 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
- 33.** 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
- Note:** Harmeet defeated compatriot Amalraj Anthony by 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9 score.
- 26.** 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.
- 27.** Spanish striker has announced his retirement from football -- **David Villa**.  
**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.
- 28.** India-Pakistan Davis Cup tie shifted to Kazakhstan capital Nur-Sultan from **Islamabad**.  
**Note:** The Devis 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. The side will be led by top singles players Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan while veteran Leander Paes and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan are likely to pair up for the doubles
- 29.** Belgian-Dutch racing driver has won the Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix 2019 -- **Max Verstappen (with Red Bull)**  
**Note:** The Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc clashed in the race due to which Verstappen was able to take
- 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.
- all 10 wrestlers finished on the podium. Kazakhstan finished second while Japan was third.
- 34. 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.
- 35. Eliud Kipchoge & Dalilah Muhammad** 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. The winners were chosen following a vote shared 50% by

- World Athletics, 25% by athletes, coaches and journalists and 25% by the general public.
- 36. India** won the bid to host **2023 Men's Hockey World Cup**.  
**Note:** Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey 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.
- 37. 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 medals 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).
- 38. 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.
- 39. Sports Ministry** has constituted a **13-member expert committee** to review the Draft National Sports Code -- **Justice Mukundakam Sharma**.  
**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.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

- New Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IndusInd Bank -- Sumant Kathpalia.**  
**Note:** He has replaced Romesh Sobti. Kathpalia is the head of consumer loans at the Hinduja-promoted lender and his name has been forwarded to the Reserve Bank for approval.
- According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** report, **South America's Guyana GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) is expected to be more at 86% in **2020**.  
**Note:** This growth expectation had done after Exxon Mobil Corp.'s discovery of oil at Guyana. Guyana's GDP is to get fourteen times as fast as China's GDP in 2020. Guyana is projecting USD 300 million in petroleum revenue in 2020. The oil sector will represent about 40% of the economy within five years.
- Reserve Bank of India** has issued **compensation** guidelines for **whole-time directors** and chief executives of foreign, private, small finance, payments banks and local area banks, mandating the cash component of variable pay at 67%.  
**Note:** If the variable pay is up to 200% of the fixed pay, at least 50 % of it should be in non-cash. If the variable pay is above 200%, 67 per cent of it should be paid via non-cash instruments.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has allowed **policyholders** to revive their policies that have lapsed for more than two years.  
**Note:** Now, The LIC policyholders who bought their policies after January 1, 2014, could revive their, Non-linked policies within five years of the first unpaid premium. Earlier, after the IRDA Product Regulation 2013 (from 1st January 2014), the revival period was restricted to two consecutive years from the date of the first unpaid premium.
- The 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.  
**Note:** Instant Digital SA account: This account has the restriction of Rs 1 lakh deposit. It has unlimited free transactions on the bank's own ATM (automated teller machine) and 6 free transactions for other bank ATMs per month.
- The **Union Cabinet** has decided to set up 25 thousand crore rupees fund to revive stalled **housing projects**.  
**Note:** The union government will put in 10 thousand crore rupees in the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) while State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) will provide 15 thousand crore rupees

taking the total size to 25 thousand crore rupees. It will finance over 1,600 stalled housing projects comprising about 4.58 lakh housing units across the country.

7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on prepaid payment instrument **Oxigen Services**.  
**Note:** 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. Oxigen Services facilitates payment processing and money transfer services.
8. Global rating agency **Moody's Investors Service** has lowered the outlook on the government of India's ratings to 'negative' from **stable**.  
**Note:** It affirmed the Baa2 foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings for India. Moody's also affirmed India's local-currency senior unsecured rating and another short-term local-currency rating. India's economy grew only 5.0% year-on-year between April and June, its weakest pace since 2013
9. **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has launched a new mobile app '**Farmitra**' to help the farmers needs and address their worries.  
**Note:** 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. Currently, the application is implemented in 6 states (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Haryana).
10. **Reserve Bank** has increased the household income limits for borrowers of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs) from 1 lakh to **1.25 lakh rupees**.  
**Note:** The move is aimed at strengthening credit to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid in rural areas. Similarly, the limit has been increased from 1.6 lakh for urban or semi-urban areas to 2 lakh rupees. The limit has been increased after taking into consideration the important role played by microfinance institutions in delivering credit to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid and to enable them to play their assigned role in a growing economy.
11. **State Bank of India** has lowered its lending rates by 5 basis points across all tenors.  
**Note:** It has also sharply slashed the deposits pricing between 15 and 75 basis points. It will be effective from 10th of November. This is the seventh consecutive cut in lending rates by the bank this fiscal. The bank also reduced the interest rate on retail term deposit by 15

basis points for one year to less than two years' tenor. The bulk term deposit interest rates have been reduced by 30 to 75 basis points across tenors.

12. **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SFA as part of the growing Singapore-India fintech ecosystems.  
**Note:** The MoU was signed during the Fourth edition of Singapore Fintech Festival. Singapore Fintech Festival is the world's largest financial technology platform along with Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology conducted from 11-13 November 2019.
13. The **economic research team** from the State Bank of India (SBI) has revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the FY20 -- **5%**.  
**Note:** 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".
14. **Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB)** has launched 'mobile ATMs' in Kalaburagi, among several other districts in the Karnataka.  
**Note:** 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.
15. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has launched an instant digital savings account along with Fixed Deposit (FD) and Privilege Savings Account to offer distinctive banking and digital services to its customers.  
**Note: Instant Digital SA account:** This 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. **Instant Fixed Deposit (FD):** With 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.
16. Moody's Investors Service slashed India's economic growth forecast for FY 2019 **5.6%**.  
**Note:** Moody's says that government measures do not address the widespread weakness in consumption demand. Moody's had on October 10 slashed India's economic growth forecast for 2019-20 fiscal to 5.8 per cent from an earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent.

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- 17. Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the merger of the BNP Paribas (BNPP) Mutual Fund and the Baroda (BOB) Mutual Fund, under Section 31(1) the Competition Act, 2002.  
**Note:** The Proposed Combination relates to the merger of the BNP Paribas Mutual Fund and the BOB Mutual Fund. The parties propose to amalgamate (i) BOB Asset Management Company (AMC) into BNPP AMC; and (ii) BNPP Trustee Company (TC) into BOB TC.
- 18. ICICI Lombard** has been partnering with '**Fino Payments Bank**' to offer non-life insurance solutions to its customers.  
**Note:** ICICI Lombard has introduced several innovative insurance solutions that complement Fina's technology-enabled platforms and harness its customer reach. ICICI Lombard and Fino also launched Dengue and Malaria policy which covers treatment to Dengue and Malarial diseases up to Rs. 10,000 at a
- 19. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has approved stricter disclosure norms for listed companies.  
**Note:** Accordingly, in case of default in repayment of loans beyond 30 days, listed companies will have to disclose the fact of such default within 24 hours. SEBI has amended Portfolio Managers (PM) Regulations, 2019 following which net worth requirement of portfolio managers has been enhanced from two crores to five crore rupees.
- 20. The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** has pegged India's **gross domestic product (GDP)** growth for 2019-20 at 4.9%.  
**Note:** It lowers its outlook due to the slowdown in almost all sectors & it is primarily driven by a simultaneous deceleration of all the drivers of aggregate demand.
- 21. The Government of India** has issued fresh rules under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to govern the rescue of **non-bank lenders**.  
**Note:** 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.
- 22. Reserve Bank of India** has superseded the board of debt-laden Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL).  
**Note:** 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.
- 23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has superseded the board as it "intends to shortly" initiate the process of insolvency\_\_ **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)**  
**Note:** 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.
- 24. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has doubled the **minimum investment limit** for clients of Portfolio Management Services to **Rs 50 lakh**.  
**Note:** Currently, the minimum ticket size for investing in PMS is Rs 25 lakh. The market regulator also increased the net worth requirement for PMS to Rs 5 crore from Rs 2 crore earlier, giving the existing portfolio managers 36 months to meet the enhanced requirement. The regulator has set a deadline of 31 days for listed companies to disclose to the stock exchanges with respect to default.
- 25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted a three-member panel to advise the Administrator of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)**  
**Note:** IDFC First Bank's Non-Executive Chairman Rajiv Lall, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance's Managing Director and Chief Executive N S Kannan and Mutual Funds' Association AMFI's Chief Executive N S Venkatesh would be part of the panel. Earlier, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded DHFL's board and placed the company under an administrator in the wake of governance issues and severe liquidity crisis which had led to a string of defaults.
- 26. Srei Equipment Finance Ltd** has partnered with **United Bank of India (UBI)** to offer loans to the MSME sector and retail customers under a co-lending arrangement.  
**Note:** The **NBFC** and the bank jointly organized Loan Utsavs across 20 cities. According to a release, loan to value of up to 90 per cent of the equipment were offered for the tenure of up to 5 years, while a moratorium of 30-60 days was also awarded depending on the loan structure and size.

27. Private sector lender Dhanlaxmi Bank managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) **T. Latha** has resigned due to personal reasons.  
**Note:** The resignation has been accepted by the board and the same has been intimated to the RBI. Ms Latha was appointed as MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for three years.
28. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has signed MoU with **Indian Bank & Canara Bank**.  
**Note:** The MoU will facilitate a cashless, paperless and transparent payment system on the portal and would create an efficient procurement system for government entities. GeM is also working with Banks, TReDs and SIDBI to provide bill discounting and financing of working capital where the cost of capital is linked to the performance and rating of a seller on GeM. This will help sellers in general and MSMEs, in particular, to access easy credit and do better business with the government.
29. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), India's gross domestic product (GDP) could grow in 2020-24 -- **6.6%**  
**Note:** As per the report, China would need to bridge the gap between demand and supply of digital talent, while improving digital literacy and increasing access to digital devices are critical in India.
30. The **Union Cabinet** has extended the term of the **15th Finance Commission** by **11 months**.  
**Note:** This will suggest formulae for tax devolution for the 2020-21 fiscal year. It will give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2020. The commission's chairman is N. K. Singh, and Full-time members being Ajay Narayan Jha, Ashok Lahiri and Anoop Singh.
31. **Fitch group** firm **India Ratings and Research** has projected India's GDP Growth rate for FY20 (2019-20) at 5.6%.  
**Note:** The new projection suggests that second quarter of 2019-20 GDP growth is likely to be 4.7%. Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the big three credit rating agencies (other two -Moody's and Standard & Poor's).
32. **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has become the first company to touch a market capitalization (m-cap) of Rs 10 lakh crore.  
**Note:** Its shares jumped to touch a record high of Rs 1,581 per piece. A month ago, Reliance Industries became the first Indian company to cross a market capitalisation of Rs 9 lakh crore.
33. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised concerns over increasing bad loans from the **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**.  
**Note:** According to RBI, the percentage of MUDRA loans were at 2.52% in 2017-18 (now raised to 2.89% in 2018-19).It also says that the number of loans being sanctioned under the scheme has increased greatly. According to RBI, out of 182 million MUDRA loans sanctioned, 3.63 million accounts have defaulted.
34. 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.  
**Note:** 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.

### Obituaries

1. Former judge of the Supreme Court and former Lokayukta of Karnataka passed away – Venkatachala.  
**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 also functioned as the head of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, during 1990. He was Lokayukta from July 3, 2001, to July 2, 2006.
2. Vetrean Telugu actress **Geetanjali Ramakrishna** passed away due to cardiac arrest.  
**Note:** She had an illustrious career spanning nearly six decades by doing movies not just in Telugu, but also in other South Indian languages.It was legendary actor-politician Jr NTR who had introduced Geetanjali as an actress in his directorial Seetharama Kalyanam, which released in 1961. She then went on to prove her mettle as an actress in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi. Some of her popular works include Seetharama Kalyanam, Deivathin Deivam, Swapnangal, Parasmani, Gudachari 116 and Bobbili Yuddham.
3. Veteran communist leader and trade unionist **Gurudas Dasgupta** passed away.

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- 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. As a parliamentarian, he was known for his oratory skills and his speeches earned praise from politicians, cutting across party lines
4. Noted industrialist & Chairman of Modi Enterprises **Krishnan Kumar Modi** passed away.  
**Note:** Mr. Modi served as the chairman of Modi Enterprises, which includes companies like Godfrey Phillips, Indofil Industries and Modicare. Modi led Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in 1997 and the president of the confederation of Asia-pacific chambers of commerce and industry (from 2002 to 2006). He was the eldest son of late Rai Bahadur Gujarmal Modi (founder of the city of Modi Nagar).
  5. Senior Congress party leader & former Maharashtra minister **Babasaheb Dhabekar** 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.
  6. Former **Chief Election Commissioner** (CEC) **TN Seshan** passed away in Chennai.  
**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. The rules range from issues related to speeches, polling day, polling booths, portfolios, the content of election manifestos, processions and general conduct so that free and fair elections are conducted.
  7. Padma Shri-awardee **Dhrupad vocalist Ramakant Gundecha** 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.
  8. 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. Nabaneeta Dev Sen's 1978 book on 'Naxal movement in Bengal' was published in English.
  9. 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.
  10. **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.
  11. **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.
  12. **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).
  13. **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.
  14. **TN Seshan:** Former **Chief Election Commissioner** (CEC)  
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  15. **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.

- 16. 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**.
- 17. 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
- 18. 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20.** 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).
- 21.** Veteran actor & **Shabana Azmi's mother** passed away in Mumbai due to age-related illness -- **Shaukat Kaifi**  
**Note:** Kaifi's husband was the celebrated Urdu poet and film lyricist, Kaifi Azmi. Shaukat Kaifi and Kaifi Azmi were leading lights of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and the Progressive Writers Association (IWA), which were the cultural platforms of the Communist Party of India.
- 22.** 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.
- 23.** Former West Bengal Minister **Kshiti Goswami** passed away at a private hospital in Chennai.  
**Note:** Goswami was PWD Minister in Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's cabinet in the Left Front Government in the State. He was also the state secretary of the RSP for a few years since 2012.
- 24.** 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
- 25.** 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
- 26.** 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
- 27.** 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.
- 28.** Puducherry Lieutenant Governor **Kiran Bedi** has inaugurated the 47th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) in Lucknow.  
**Note:** During 6 sessions of the event, police officers, academicians, researchers, judicial and scientific experts will present their papers.
- 29.** 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.

30. world-renowned rock climber **Brad Gobrigh**t 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 Gobrigh (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.
31. 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.

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