

# Monthly Current Affairs

March 2019: RRB/SSC JE



## Monthly Digest

## March-2019

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of March 2019. This file is important for, **upcoming RRB, SSC** and all exams.

### Obituaries

- Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate **Zhores Alferov** passed away.

**Note:** In 2000, Alferov received the Nobel Prize in Physics together with US scientists Jack Kilby and Herbert Kroemer, for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed-and optoelectronics. He was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1972, and a full member in 1979.
- Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal **Bharat Mohan Adhikari** passed away in Kathmandu.

**Note:** Mr Adhikari was very popular among the common people for introducing "Aafno Gaun Aafai Banau", development programme aimed at developing villages across the country by giving them the authority to select local projects on their own.
- American actor **Luke Perry** passed away in California, U.S.

**Note:** He became a teen idol for playing Dylan McKay on the TV series Beverly Hills, 90210 from 1990 to 1995, and again from 1998 to 2000. From 2017 until his death, Perry starred as Frederick "Fred" Andrews, Archie's father, on the CW series Riverdale.
- Former Union Minister **V. Dhananjay Kumar** passes away in Mangaluru after prolonged illness.

**Note:** Mr. Kumar (four-time Lok Sabha member) worked in all of Karnataka's three main parties, including the Congress, BJP and Janata Dal (Secular). His journey in the electoral politics began from 1983 when he first became an MLA from BJP.
- Veteran Hindi News reader **Vinod Kashyap** passed away following a prolonged illness.

**Note:** She served All India Radio for about 30 years. The veteran newsreader started her career in Radio as a drama artist.
- America's finest and most remarkable cyclists **Kelly Catlin** passed away in USA.

**Note:** Catlin helped a dominant US team to three consecutive world titles in the pursuit between 2016 and 2018. She also won a silver medal in the team pursuit at the 2016 Olympics in Rio. Pursuit team is a track cycling event like the individual pursuit, except that two teams, each of up to four riders, compete, starting on opposite sides of the velodrome.
- Goa Chief Minister passed away in Panaji after a prolonged illness -- **Manohar Parrikar**.

**Note:** Mr. Parrikar was diagnosed with a pancreatic ailment in February last year. Since then, he received treatment at various hospitals across Mumbai, New Delhi, Goa and the US. He served as Chief Minister of the state during October 2000 to February 2005; and March 2012 to November 2014.
- Veteran Bengali actor **Chinmoy Roy** passed away.

**Note:** He was born on January 16, 1940 in Kumilla district in now in Bangladesh. He was famous for his comic roles in Bengali movies, though his versatility has allowed him to play a variety of roles.
- Former Member of Parliament and State minister passed away in Kadapa\_ **Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy**.

**Note:** He was the younger brother of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) and uncle of YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He won Pulivendula assembly constituency twice (in 1989 and 1994) and represented Kadapa Lok Sabha in the parliament twice
- Senior journalist and environmental activist **Darryl D'Monte** passed away in Mumbai after a brief illness.

**Note:** He served as the resident editor of Mumbai editions of The Times of India and The Indian Express. He was the founder-president of the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) in Dresden, Germany, in 1993.
- Former White House economist and Princeton University professor **Alan Krueger** passed away.

- Note:** Mr. Krueger served as chief economist at the Department of Labor under President Bill Clinton and chair of the Council of Economic Advisers from 2011 to 2013 under former President Barack Obama.
- 12.** Sitting AIADMK MLA from Sullur constituency **R Kanagaraj** passed away due to cardiac arrest.  
**Note:** He was first-time MLA (AIADMK) from Sullur constituency. Several leaders have offered their condolences to his family for his demise.
- 13.** Renowned **Malayalam writer** and poet **Ashita** passed away at a private hospital in Thrissur, Kerala.  
**Note:** Ashita has been the recipient of several awards including the prestigious Edaserry Award (1986) and the Lalithambika Antharjanam Award (1994). She did her graduation and post-graduation in English Literature from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.
- 14.** The legendary singer-songwriter **Scott Walker** passed away.  
**Note:** Scott Walker shot to fame in the mid-'60s as the frontman of The Walker Brothers (Scott Walker, John Maus, Gary Leeds). The Ohio-born Walker is known for his baritone voice within the world of experimental music.
- 15.** Karnataka Municipalities Minister **C S Shivalli** passed away in hospital.

- Note:** Shivalli was elected thrice from Kundgol constituency in Dharwad district. He won his first election as an independent candidate in 1999.
- 16.** Renowned South Asian singer, Shahnaz Rahmatullah passed away after suffering a heart attack in Dhaka.  
**Note:** Her professional experience began at the age of 11, as a playback singer of Notun Shur (1963), and appeared on television from 1964. She was awarded the National Film Awards (best female singer) in 1990 and Ekushey Padak (in 1992).
- 17.** Formula One director Charlie Whiting passed away in Australia \_\_ Charlie Whiting.  
**Note:** Formula One race director Charlie Whiting (66-years) has died from a pulmonary embolism three days before the season-opening Australian Grand Prix.
- 18.** Pioneering Soviet-era cosmonaut **Valery Bykovsky** passed away.  
**Note:** Valery Bykovsky was the **11th person** to venture into space and who held the unbroken record for the longest solo spaceflight. Bykovsky was one of 20 Soviet military pilots in the first group picked to prepare for space. He first flew to space in June 1963 as a member of the Vostok-5 crew. He left the cosmonaut corps in 1982 and later worked in several roles at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center at Star City near Moscow.

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## Important Days

1. Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated by the UN and other international organizations on **1<sup>st</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The objective of the day to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all the member countries of the UN. Campaigners in India have used the occasion to speak out against laws that make discrimination against the LGBTI community more likely, especially Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalises homosexuality.
2. The World Wildlife Day has been observed across the world on **3rd March**.  
**Note:** The day raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The theme of World Wildlife Day 2019 is "Life Below Water: For people and planet".
3. '**Mahashivratri**' festival is being celebrated across the country with religious fervor and gaiety on **4th March**.  
**Note:** Maha Shivratri is the most auspicious festival of devotees of 'Lord Shiva'. Thousands of devotees celebrate the festival by fasting and offering special prayers in the various temple. 'Maha Shivaratri' is an annual festival dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and is particularly important in the Shaivism tradition of Hinduism.
4. International Women's Day (IWD) is being celebrated every year on **8th March**.  
**Note:** It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. The UN Women's theme for 2019 is "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change". Women's Day was first observed on 28th February 1909 in New York, USA.
5. Govt. to celebrate '**Poshan Pakhwada**' across the Country from **8th to 22nd March 2019**.  
**Note:** The Minister for Women & Child Development has been celebrating the first anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan (from 8th-22nd March 2019). During the Poshan Pakhwada it is also planned to organise workshop on Agri-Nutrition on 15th March 2019. The Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal ministry for coordinating activities during the month.
6. **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has celebrated its **34th Inception Day**.  
**Note:** National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) formed in 1986 mandated to empower the Indian Police with Information Technology. Bureau is implementing & monitoring agency for implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government of India.
7. World Kidney Day is being observed annually on the **14th March (2nd Thursday)**.  
**Note:** The theme for this year is 'Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere'. The day is observed to create awareness on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease.
8. The World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated globally on **15th March**.  
**Note:** The theme for this year is 'Trusted Smart Products'. The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in 1983 and become an important occasion for mobilizing citizen action.
9. The world sleep day 2019 observed on **15th March**.  
**Note:** The day celebrate healthy sleep and draw attention towards its related issues including medicine, education and social aspects. The theme for this year is 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'. The day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth.
10. The 'International Day of Happiness' is celebrated throughout the world on **20th March**.  
**Note:** The day was founded by United Nations adviser 'Jayme Illien' on June 28, 2012.
11. The United Nations General Assembly designated the International Day of Forests to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests -- **21st March**.  
**Note:** This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands, trees, and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us.
12. The World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), (Schrage Day), is celebrated on **21st March**.  
**Note:** The day raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome.
13. The World Poetry Day is observed every year on **21st March**.  
**Note:** The day promote the reading, writing, publishing, and teaching of poetry throughout the world. A decision to proclaim 21st March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999.
14. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on **21st March**.  
**Note:** The theme of 2019 is Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies. The United Nations General Assembly called for the day in 1966 to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.

15. The World Water Day is observed every year on **22nd March**.  
**Note:** The theme of this year is 'Leaving no one behind'. This is an adaptation of the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit.
16. Parsis in India & abroad celebrated their New year's with great enthusiasm -- **Navroz**.  
**Note:** Nowruz is the day of the vernal equinox and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. It marks the first day of the first month (Farvardin) in the Iranian calendar.
17. The Bihar state has celebrated 107th foundation day on **22nd March**.  
**Note:** Bihar Diwas (Bihar Day) is observed every year on March 22, marking the formation of the state of Bihar. It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal Presidency in 1912.
18. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on **25th March**.  
**Note:** The theme of 2019 is "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice".
19. The United Nations' (UN) World Meteorological Day is annually held on **23rd March**.  
**Note:** The theme of WMD 2019 is 'The Sun, the Earth and the Weather'.
20. The "World Tuberculosis Day" observed every year on **24th March**.  
**Note:** The theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2019 is "It's time". Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB).
21. The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on **25th March**.  
**Note:** The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members has taken on even greater importance in recent years, as attacks against the United Nations intensify.
22. The World Theatre Day (WTD) is observed globally every year on **27th March**.  
**Note:** World Theatre Day was created in 1961 by an international non-governmental organization International Theatre Institute (ITI), France. ITI was founded in 1948 by UNESCO and the international theatre community.

### New Appointments

1. Former Finance Secretary **Ajay Narayan Jha** has joined as a member of the 15th Finance Commission.  
**Note:** Mr. Jha has been posted in place of Shaktikanta Das, resigned after being appointed the RBI Governor. Mr. Jha was retired as a Finance Secretary to the central government
2. Former Finance Secretary **Hasmukh Adhia** has been appointed as non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda (BoB).  
**Note:** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as the part-time non-official director as well as non-executive chairman on the board of Bank of Baroda. Earlier, Mr. Adhia served as the Finance Secretary.
3. **Pranay Kumar Verma** has been appointed as India's ambassador to Vietnam.  
**Note:** Currently, Mr. Verma working as the Joint Secretary at Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). An ambassador is usually accredited to another sovereign state as the resident representative of their own government appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.
4. **Bhagwan Lal Sahni** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes.  
**Note:** Kaushalendra Singh Patel, Sudha Yadav and Achary Talloju have been appointed as members of the commission. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was given constitutional status by Parliament in 2018, after repealing the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
5. **Ajit Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the country's premier multi-disciplinary nuclear research facility for a period of three years.  
**Note:** He is at present Director, Physics Group in BARC and Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics. The BARC is India's premier nuclear research facility based in Mumbai. It is a multi-disciplinary research centre with extensive infrastructure for advanced research and development covering the entire spectrum of nuclear science, engineering and related areas.
6. **Dr. Ausaf Sayeed** has been appointed the **ambassador of India** to Saudi Arabia.

- Note:** He will succeed Ahmad Javed, who had been serving as envoy to Saudi Arabia (since December 2015). An ambassador is usually accredited to another sovereign state as the resident representative of their own government appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.
7. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appointed Indian-American television personality and food expert as Goodwill Ambassador -- **Padma Lakshmi**.  
**Note:** The newest Goodwill Ambassador, supporting the agency's fight against inequality and discrimination around the world.
  8. Governor of Mizoram has resigned from his post --- **Kummanam Rajasekharan**.  
**Note:** Mr. Rajasekharan began his political career as an activist of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Sangh Parivar in the state of Kerala in 1970.
  9. **Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh** has been appointed the new prime minister of Palestinian.  
**Note:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has chosen Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh (60-years) as the new prime minister of Palestinian. Mr. Shtayyeh is an economist with a PhD from the University of Sussex in England.
  10. **Hasmukh Adhia** has been appointed as the Chancellor of Central University of Gujarat for a term of five years.  
**Note:** SA Bari is the current vice chancellor of Central University of Gujarat. In 2009, Gujarat Central University was set up through an Act of Parliament in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The university includes 16 schools, 14 academic departments, and 2 others special centres.
  11. **E Sreedharan** has been appointed principal advisor to MRTCs in J&K.  
**Note:** The governor administration has approved setting up of two MRTCs Jammu Mass Rapid Transit Corporation and the Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation for the two capital cities. Sreedharan is a retired IES (IRSE) officer and is popularly known as the "Metro Man".
  12. **Axis Bank** has been named 'Rakesh Makhija' as its new Non-Executive (Part-Time) Chairman for a period of three years.  
**Note:** Mr. Makhija (Chairman of SKF India) will take over from Sanjiv Mishra (current Axis Bank Chairman), when his term comes to an end on 17th July 2019. He has been an Independent Director on the board of Axis since October 2015. The appointment is subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the bank's shareholders.
  13. **C Lalsawta** sworn in as Mizoram's first Lokayukta chairman.  
**Note:** Mizoram Governor Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Mr. C Lalsawta (Retired IAS officer) as the first Chairman of the newly-constituted Lokayukta at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl. Mr. Lalsawta (1981-batch Bihar cadre IAS officer) was the Principal Secretary of the Finance department in the State from 2008 to 2011. The Lokayukta (also Lok Ayukta) is an anti-corruption ombudsman organization in the Indian states.
  14. The Union government has appointed the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) -- **MR Kumar**.  
**Note:** He will succeed MD Hemant Bhargava who had been named interim chairman after VK Sharma's retirement on December 31, 2018.
  15. The Supreme Court (SC) has appointed senior advocate as a mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration in the country -- **P S Narasimha**.  
**Note:** Narasimha is assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) matter. According to the SC bench, the game must go on, asking Narasimha to act as a mediator in the cricket administration disputes.
  16. Former Supreme Court Judge will India's first Lokpal -- **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose**.  
**Note:** Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who is part of the committee, did not attend the meeting. His was among the top 10 names shortlisted by the Lokpal Search Committee. Justice Ghose's appointment has come nearly five years after the Lokpal Act was notified on January 16, 2014. The law provides for a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to probe cases of corruption against public servants.
  17. The Union Government has constituted an expert committee to "revisit the criteria" for determining the "creamy layer" for OBCs which was laid down in 1993 - **BP Sharma (GOI secretary)**.  
**Note:** The committee will "revisit the criteria evolved by the Prasad committee" and give recommendations for "redefining, simplifying and streamlining the

- concept of creamy layer” while keeping in view the SC’s observations in Indira Sawhney case.
18. **Amitabh Kant (Niti Aayog CEO)** will head the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.
  19. BJP leader **Pramod Sawant** was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister (11th) of Goa state.  
**Note:** Goa Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sawant. He succeeded Manohar Parrikar, who died on Sunday after a prolonged battle with advanced pancreatic cancer.
  20. **Santosh Jha** has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan.  
**Note:** Currently, Mr Santosh Jha is the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington. An ambassador is usually accredited to another sovereign state as the resident representative of their own government-appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.
  21. Kazakhstan President **Nursultan Nazarbayev** has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power.  
**Note:** Mr Nazarbayev had ruled the country since it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the head of state, commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the Republic of Kazakhstan.
  22. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed transgender social activist **Gauri Sawant** as one of the 12 election ambassadors for Maharashtra.  
**Note:** According to the Election Commission, Gauri Sawant's appointment would help in more people from this category getting registered during the final phase of voter's enrolment. Election Commission has nominated the renowned sportsmen, film-makers, literary personalities of the respective constituencies as the goodwill ambassadors to induce more voters to vote in the Lok Sabha elections.
  23. Election Commission has appointed two eminent former Civil Servants as Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections -- **Shailendra Handa & Ms. Madhu Mahajan**.  
**Note:** Both officers have rich experience of working in Investigation Wing of I.T Department and have supervised many successful search and seizure actions unearthing tax evasion in complicated cases. The Special Observers will supervise and monitor the work being done by the electoral machinery.
  24. PhonePe (UPI based payment app company) has appointed **Bollywood actor Aamir Khan** as its Brand Ambassador.  
**Note:** PhonePe is one of India's fastest growing payment platform and is based on UPI. A brand ambassador is a person who is hired by an organization or company to represent a brand in a positive light and by doing so help to increase brand awareness and sales.
  25. **Vice Admiral Karambir Singh** has been appointed the new Navy Chief.  
**Note:** He will succeed Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on 31st May 2019. Currently, Vice Admiral Karambir Singh is serving as the Flag Officer Commander -in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command. The Chief of the Naval Staff is the commander and the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Navy. The position is abbreviated CNS in Indian Navy cables and communication, and usually held by a four-star officer in the rank of Admiral.
  26. Jet Airways founder **Naresh Goyal** has stepped down from the board of the cash-strapped airline.  
**Note:** The board also approved the issue of 11.4 crore equity shares to the lenders upon conversion of Re 1 of the outstanding debt. The board also approved the constitution of an Interim Management Committee to manage and monitor the daily operations and cash flow of the company.
  27. **Dipak Pauskar** sworn in as a Cabinet Minister by Governor **Mridula Sinha** at the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula, Goa.  
**Note:** Pauskar replaces deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar (Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party) in the Council of Ministers. As two of the three MGP MLAs, Manohar Ajgaonkar and Pauskar merged their party's legislative wing with the BJP, thereby isolating Mr Dhavalikar as the lone MGP legislator in the house.
  28. **Kenichi Ayukawa** has been re-appointed as Managing Director (MD) and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India for three years.  
**Note:** The company's board appointed Ayukawa on the existing terms and conditions including remuneration. Maruti Suzuki India Limited is an automobile manufacturer in India. It is a 56.21%

owned subsidiary of the Japanese car and motorcycle manufacturer Suzuki Motor Corporation.

29. **Rima Das** joined Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey as their official ambassador.

**Note:** TIFF launched the 5-year campaign in 2017 with a view to increase participation, skills, and

opportunities for women behind and in front of the camera. The woman behind 'Village Rockstars', India's Official Entry to Oscars 2019 would like to see more and more women in the industry break the glass ceiling.

### Important News – India

1. The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot has launched the 2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Dictionary includes **six thousand** words under the categories of academic, legal, medical, technical and everyday terms. The dictionary is intended to serve as a resource for ISL teachers, ISL learners, teachers of the hearing impaired, interpreters, parents of hearing-impaired children and researchers. The first edition of the dictionary with three thousand words was launched in March 2018.
2. Union Minister **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the new premises of the regional unit of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** The new office cum residential complex has been constructed at Khanamet area of Madhapur in Hyderabad. The NIA Hyderabad office has the jurisdictions in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
3. **DRDO** successfully test fired indigenously developed **Quick Reach Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAMs)** from ITR Chandipur off the Odisha Coast.  
**Note:** QRSAM is a missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited for the Indian Army.
4. **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission** has signed an agreement with Adobe to enhance creativity in Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) Schools.  
**Note:** Adobe will help in developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs in India. Adobe shall be adopting 100 schools under Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) initiative. ATLs are being established in more than 5,000 schools in India where students of class 6th to class 12th acquire problem solving and innovation skills, developing innovative solutions.
5. The Union minister Prakash Javadekar has launched '**Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills**' (SHREYAS) to provide apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates of **2019**.  
**Note:** The scheme aims to cover 50 lakh students by 2022. Courses will be available to the students from Academic year April-May 2019. The SHREYAS Scheme is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three central ministries (the HRD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment).
6. The union cabinet has approved the setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports in **Gwalior**.  
**Note:** It will develop a sense of belonging in Divyangjan to facilitate their integration in society. The centre will have a Governing Body comprising a maximum of 12 members, some of them experts from "National Level Sports Federations apart from experts in para games". At present, no specialized sports training facilities for Divyangjan are available in the Country.
7. Inland Waterways Authority of India and Indian Oil Sign MoU on Fuel Needs for **National Waterways**.  
**Note:** The MoU includes jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways. IWAI and IOCL have agreed to conduct techno-economic feasibility studies for preparation of detailed land requirement, storage facilities and other supporting infrastructure with details of the cost.
8. AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at **Ghaziabad**.  
**Note:** It will be developed on a 10-acre area, costing about 300 crore rupees. Once 200-bedded hospital established, it will be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in North India. The institute is an extension of the existing NIUM at Bengaluru.
9. National workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave -2019 held in **Nagpur**.  
**Note:** The objective of the workshop to sensitizing States to the need of preparing and implementing specific Heat Action Plans in line with NDMA's national guidelines on Heat Wave. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated the probability of above-normal summer temperatures this year.



- 10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-cum-Conference in New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The Construction Technology India Conference will provide avenues for stakeholders to open up new areas for collaboration and facilitate conversion of ideas into market-ready products. The conference will also identify innovative and globally established technologies for use in the Indian context.
- 11. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has released a book Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio' in New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The Book is a compendium encompassing 50 editions of the 'Mann Ki Baat' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi over All India Radio.
- 12. Coal minister Goyal dedicates 1,000 MW NTPL power project to nation.**  
**Note:** Coal Minister Piyush Goyal dedicated to the nation a 1,000-megawatt (MW) thermal power project of Neyveli Tamil Nadu Power Ltd (NTPL) and a 150-MW solar power projects of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) in Tamil Nadu. The 1,000-MW coal-fired thermal power project of NTPL is a joint venture between NLCIL and TANGEDCO (equity participation of 89:11).
- 13. IRCTC has launched its own digital payment aggregator called 'IRCTC iPay'.**  
**Note:** IRCTC iPay will provide payment options like credit card, debit card, unified payment interface and international card. This will help reduce the gap between IRCTC and banks which will eventually lead to a substantial reduction in payment failures. The back-end support will be provided by Delhi based MMAD communications (IRCTC's technology partner).
- 14. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched Young Scientist Programme "Yuva Vigyani Karyakram", for the School Children to be studying in the ninth standard.**  
**Note:** ISRO Scientists will impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the young ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities. Two weeks "Catch them young" residential training programme will be held during summer holidays to select 3 students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- 15. Tech giant Google unveiled a new free app to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English - 'Bolo'.**  
**Note:** The free app uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology. The app features an animated character 'Diya', who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word.
- 16. The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri has launched 'e-Dharti app' & e-Dharti GeoPortal.**  
**Note:** In 'e-Dharti app', all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online. e-Dharti GeoPortal, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location. The payment system in Land and Development Office, L&DO has also been completely digitized. This application will not only benefit public but the Government also in getting to know the actual status of its vacant properties, whether there is any encroachment on the property.
- 17. Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare has released Reference Annuals - India 2019 and Bharat 2019 in New Delhi.**  
**Note:** The reference annuals are the flagship publication in English and Hindi brought out by Publications Division. These publications have been the source of information not only for youth but also for those who desire to know more details about Indian Economy, Agriculture, Science and Technology and developments in other fields. This publication is also referred by foreign journalists and readers who want in-depth knowledge about India.
- 18. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the investment sanction for construction of 624 Mega-watt Kiru Hydro Electric Project in Jammu & Kashmir.**  
**Note:** The CCEA also approved the investment for Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant (1320 Mega Watt) at Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh and Buxar thermal Power Project (1320 Mega Watt) in Bihar.
- 19. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has slapped a fine of Rs 500 crore on German global auto giant for damaging the environment using "cheat device" in its diesel cars in India -- Volkswagen.**  
**Note:** A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the German global auto giant to deposit the amount within two months. The tribunal enhanced the compensation amount of Rs. 171.34 crore, which was recommended by an NGT-appointed committee, as a means of "creating deterrence".
- 20. India's 17th Lok Sabha elections will begin from 11th April 2019.**  
**Note:** Legislative Assembly elections in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim will be held simultaneously with the general elections. The Model Code of Conduct has come into force in the entire country with the announcement of the polls. Ninety crore electorates of 29 states and 7 Union territories will elect 543 Lok Sabha members in seven phases from 11th April to 19th May 2019.

21. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended the **50th Raising Day celebrations** of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) in **Ghaziabad**.  
**Note:** The CISF provides security cover to 300 industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969 with a strength of 2,800. CISF was subsequently made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983. It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarters are at New Delhi.
22. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off the '**Noida City Centre-Noida Electronic City section**' of the Delhi Metro's -- **Blue Line**.  
**Note:** The Noida City Centre and **Noida Electronic City** (fully elevated section) consists of six stations - Sector 34, Sector 52, Sector 61, Sector 59, Sector 62 and Noida Electronic City. The metro stretch will benefit the people of Noida a great deal as well as connect the satellite city to Delhi.
23. The traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government -- **The Marayoor Jaggery**.  
**Note:** The Marayoor jaggery finally managed to get the GI Tag after two years of continuous efforts by the Agricultural Department of the state. The GI tag will provide more windows of opportunity to the traditional sugarcane farmers in Marayoor.
24. The International Food and Hospitality fair '**AAHAR**' (34th edition) begins in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The five-day fair will feature a wide range of food products, machinery, hospitality and Decoration and Confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and abroad. Around 20 countries, including US, Russia, China, UK, Germany, Italy and Singapore will participate in the fair. The fair will showcase new trends in food and beverage, hospitality, culinary technology, retail and new innovations.
25. According to a newly released Kantar **IMRB ICUBE report**, Internet user base in India has exceeded **500 million mark**.  
**Note:** The number of internet users is estimated to be 566 million as of December 2018 (annual growth - 18%). The report finds 493 million Indians (total user base-87%) are defined as regular users, having accessed the internet in the last 30 days. Around 293 million active internet users reside in urban India, while there are 200 million active users in rural India.
26. **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** has decided to ground Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft with immediate effect.  
**Note:** The decision comes in the wake of Ethiopian Airlines crash (killed all 157 people) in Addis Ababa. The planes will be grounded until appropriate modifications and safety measures are undertaken to ensure their safe operations. Spice Jet has around 12 Boeing 737 Max 8 planes, Jet Airways (5) in its fleet in the country. The Boeing 737 MAX is an American narrow-body aircraft series designed and produced by Boeing Commercial Airplanes as the fourth generation of the Boeing 737.
27. The latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a GI (geographical indication) tag -- **Arecanut (supari or betel nut)**.  
**Note:** The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Government of India, accorded a GI tag, 'Sirsi Supari', to areca nut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka. The World Intellectual Property Organisation defines GI as a search sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to that origin.
28. **Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Ministry** has partnered with Microsoft India to use the platform Project Sangam of Microsoft on its Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal.  
**Note:** MoHUA has trained more than 110,000 municipal functionaries on best sanitation practices across 4,000 plus cities in India. With this partnership, the MoHUA has increased the features on the Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal.
29. **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur** will adopt Amazon Web Services (AWS) Educate programme to help students gain cloud computing skills including hands-on experience in artificial intelligence (AI).  
**Note:** The AWS Educate programme is Amazon's global initiative to provide students and educators with resources needed to accelerate cloud-related learning and to help power the workforce of tomorrow. The programme offers a robust set of no-cost tools, resources and AWS Promotional Credits for students and educators to boost their cloud skills and experience.
30. India and Sri Lanka conducted a joint exercise '**Mitra Shakti**' in Sri Lanka for the year 2018-19.  
**Note:** It is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of two nations. The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international counter-terrorism environment under United Nations mandate.
31. According to **Airports Council International (ACI)** report, India's Airport became the world's 12th busiest airport -- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) Delhi**.  
**Note:** The preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 has been released by the Airports Council

- International (ACI). The IGI airport saw 6.9 crore domestic and international flyers in 2018, which is 10.2% points higher than the combined passengers of 2017. ACI's World Airport Traffic Forecasts also predicts that India will represent the third largest aviation market, in terms of passenger throughput, after the US and China by 2020.
- 32. Artificial Intelligence, Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) and Yoga to be part of the curriculum for 2019-20 session in CBSE.**  
**Note:** The CBSE is set to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Yoga as skill subjects in the school curriculum for the upcoming academic session. The CBSE is introducing artificial intelligence as an optional 6th subject at Class IX from the session 2019-2020 onwards.
- 33. India's Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman has gone back to his squadron in Srinagar.**  
**Note:** Abhinandan Varthaman was captured by Pakistan last month and returned to India two days later. The IAF pilot went on leave around 12 days ago after security agencies completed a nearly two-week debriefing after his return from Pakistan. After his four-week sick leave period, a medical board will review his fitness to help the IAF top brass decide whether he can return to fighter cockpit as desired by him.
- 34. India conducted its first anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space by using a missile which covered distance of 300 km.**  
**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the test, called 'Mission Shakti', successful in a specially televised announcement. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Ballistic Missile, Defence Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a Hit to Kill mode from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. With this, India is only the fourth country to acquire such a specialized and modern capability after the US, Russia and China.
- 35. University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture.**  
**Note:** The decision was taken by the higher education regulator. A degree programme in agriculture is technical in nature as it requires practical or laboratory courses. The Union agriculture ministry had referred the matter to the commission. As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes (like medicine, engineering, architecture, nursing, dental, pharmacy and physiotherapy) are not permitted to be offered in distance mode.
- 36. Former Vice President of India Hamid Ansari has launched Navin Chawla's (former Chief Election Commissioner of India) new book titled -- Every Vote Counts.**  
**Note:** This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India. The book explains about India is on the cusp of change, and with its parliamentary elections coming up.
- 37. SpiceJet has become the first Indian low-cost airline to join International Air Transport Association (IATA).**  
**Note:** SpiceJet has joined global airlines' grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA) as a member, becoming the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership. The IATA represents more than 290 airlines, including Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara. The IATA membership is significant on account of SpiceJet's plans for rapidly expanding its international footprint. SpiceJet is the first Indian low-cost carrier to be an IATA member and fifth member of IATA in India.
- 38. Indian Air Force participated in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo in Malaysia -- LIMA 2019.**  
**Note:** Indian Air Force is participating in the Expo for the first time and it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft. It will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force counterparts and foster close relationship between the two services. This will also serve as a foundation for any future interaction with the Malaysian Air Force.
- 39. Indian Statistical Institute has presented its report on the sample size of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slip counting to the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.**  
**Note:** According to the commission, it had engaged the Indian Statistical Institute to systematically analyze and scientifically examine the issue of VVPAT Slip verification with an electronic count of the Electronic Voting Machines.
- 40. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new podcast app -- Shiksha Vani.**  
**Note:** This app will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner. According to CBSE, its first episode, on the evaluation process of Class 10 and 12 board examinations, has been released on the platform. As the examinations proceed, the episode helps students understand how their completed papers will be evaluated.
- 41. Mr. N.K. Singh (Chairman-15th Finance Commission of India) has launched the book -- Indian Fiscal Federalism.**  
**Note:** The book has been written by Dr. Y. V. Reddy (former RBI Governor) and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.

- 42. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba has inaugurated the Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) at **INS Shivaji**.  
**Note:** It will help train personnel of naval ships fitted with nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection systems.
- 43. The Pakistan government has approved a proposal to establish a corridor to visit Sharda Peeth in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.  
**Note:** Sharda Peeth is an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. It will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.
- 44. Former RBI Governor's Mr. Rajan launched his book -- **The Third Pillar — How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind**.  
**Note:** The Third Pillar is an important contribution to understanding why, a decade after the crisis, the

- world's politics and economics remain so brittle. Mr Rajan was the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between September 2013 and September 2016.
- 45. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi** developed an Artificial Intelligence-based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, an intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds.  
**Note:** The IITD researchers have demonstrated a proof-of-concept (PoC) low-power rapid AI hardware implementation-based microscopy diagnostic support system for four different diseases: Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cervical Cancer and Intestinal Parasite Infection. According to researchers, their system can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists. The work was showcased at Rashtrapati Bhawan and received the prestigious Gandhian Young Technology Innovation Award (GYTI) in 2018.

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## States News

1. **West Bengal Government** has inaugurated a web portal '**Banglar Shiksha**' to provide **real-time data** on state-run and aided schools.  
**Note:** The portal 'banglarshiksha.gov.in' will be up and running in two months times. According to school education department, the portal will store real-time data of 1.5 crore students, 5 lakh teachers and 1 lakh schools.
2. **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the first phase of the 6.5 km-long Ahmedabad Metro train service.  
**Note:** PM Modi also laid the foundation stone of the 28.28 km second phase of Ahmedabad Metro project and travel some distance on the phase-I stretch. Total completion cost of Phase-II metro is estimated at Rs. 5,384.17 crore. Ahmedabad Metro is an under the construction mass-transit rail system for the cities of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar in Gujarat, India.
3. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated a factory to manufacture AK 203 rifles at **Amethi**.  
**Note:** These Rifles will help the security forces to tackle terrorists and Naxals. The rifles will progressively replace the Army's in-service INSAS and AK-47 rifles. Around 7.5 lakh units of the latest version of AK-47 will be manufactured in the new unit.
4. **Maharashtra** state Government has appointed 'Lokpal' in all universities except agricultural universities to resolve student grievances.  
**Note:** The appointment of the students' ombudsman would be made in the next two to three months. Maharashtra would be the first state in the country to have such a Lokpal for universities. The Lokpal will be a person related to the university and someone not below the rank of the retired district judge or a retired vice-chancellor.
5. Piyush Goyal & Fadnavis launches second phase of Monorail in **Mumbai**  
**Note:** With this, the entire 19.54 kilo metres route (first phase-8.26 kilo metre) of the country being implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), is now functional. **Mumbai Monorail** is the first monorail in India since the **Kundala Valley Railway** and Patiala State Monorail Trainways were closed in the 1920s. The project is implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).
6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana** at **Gandhinagar**.  
**Note:** The national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganized sector was announced in the Interim Budget in February this year. Under the scheme, a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 per month is provided to workers in the un organized sector over 60 years of age.
7. The Centre has banned the **Jamat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir** (JIJK) for **five years**.  
**Note:** The Jamaat is in close touch with terror outfits and is supporting extremism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. The notification comes barely a few days after the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested around 100 cadres of the group in the state. The Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JIJK) is a cadre-based religious -political organisation in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K), distinct from the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind.
8. Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched 'Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi' scheme in **Chandigarh**.  
**Note:** Farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas up to 5 acres and the families with an income of less than Rs. 15,000 per month. The scheme would provide a sum of Rs. 6,000 yearly, each family must nominate a member who will be provided with this amount. The scheme involves two categories of beneficiaries-in the age group of (18 to 40 years) and (40 to 60 years).
9. **Maharashtra state cabinet** chaired by **Devendra Fadnavis** approved the 29-kilometre metro line for **Thane**.  
**Note:** It will feature 22 stations along a 29 kilometres route, connected to lines 4 and 5 of the Mumbai Metro. The project will take four years to be completed and will be built at a cost of nearly 13,095 crore rupees. The metro will start from the New Thane metro station in the old city area and will connect to Wadala-Kasarvadavli Metro at two places, namely the New Thane station and Dongripada.
10. India signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for 96 Million US dollars for additional financing of **Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project**.  
**Note:** The World Bank has been supporting the State Government since 2014 to restore housing and rural connectivity and to build the resilience of communities. The Project has completed more than two thousand permanent houses and 23 public buildings and restored over one thousand 300 kilometers of roads and 16 bridges so far
11. The union **Textiles Minister Smriti Irani** inaugurated the refurbished 'Handloom Haat' in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The main **objective of the Haat** is to provide **infrastructure support** to handloom agencies to augment their sales of handloom products and to showcase the exquisite variety of products produced all over the country.
12. **Karnataka** state Government has initiated the 'Jalamrutha' initiative which is a water conservation scheme.

- Note:** The objective of the initiative to create awareness among the people of the state about the invaluable nature of water and the need to conserve it at any cost. The state of Karnataka has announced the year 2019 as 'Jalavarsha (year of water)'.
13. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat laid the foundation stone for the **Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project**.  
**Note:** The Doon-Mussoorie ropeway would be among the five longest ropeway projects of the world. The ropeway project (cost Rs. 300-crore rupees) is expected to be completed in three years. A French Company 'Poma' will provide the technical support to the ropeway which will be built on the public private partnership (PPP) mode.
14. **Tripura** State Government has announced 'Notun Disha' for assessing the academic level of students in classes III-VIII and then improving their current level.  
**Note:** Training will be provided by NGOs and educational institutions to 800 teachers. The duration of the project is 1 month. Rs. 28 crores have been allocated to the project.
15. The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched (through video conferencing) the **Integrated Command and Control Centers in New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Integrated Command is under the Mission at Gangtok and Namchi in Sikkim, Pasighat and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Agartala in Tripura. The Smart City Command and Control Centres use digital technology to integrate different service networks.
16. India's first oil museum will come up in **Guwahati, Assam**.  
**Note:** It will be named KB Malaviya National Oil Museum. KB Malaviya is called the father of India's hydrocarbon industry. Assam was the first state where oil was discovered and produced for the first time in the country. All major oil and gas companies ONGC, OIL, HPCL, BPCL, EIL will jointly work for the museum.
17. **Madhya Pradesh** state Government has decided to include the ancient tribal language 'Gondi' in tribal districts of the state.  
**Note:** The state Government has decided to include Gondi in the primary education curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts.
18. Uttarakhand CM has launched free milk scheme '**Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana**' for anganwadi children of the states.  
**Note:** Under the Amrit Yojana, 2.5 lakh children (at 20,000 Anganwadi kendras) will be given 100 ml milk twice a week for free in the state. Flavoured, sweet, skimmed milk powder will be made available to the 20,000 Anganwadi Kendra across the state.
19. West Bengal Government has announced to grant 1 lakh to graduates of the state's 214 polytechnics and Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), to set up small businesses -- **Yuvashree Arpan**.  
**Note:** CM Mamata Banerjee also introduced the scheme, Yuvashree Arpan, in Howrah district.
20. The State Government has issued an ordinance raising reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) to **27% (present 14%)**.  
**Note:** The ordinance was sent to Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel for her assent on. Now, MP is possibly the only state in the country to have 27% quota for OBCs.
21. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** sanctioned loans worth Rs 689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).  
**Note:** It has sanctioned it through the 'psbloansin59minutes.com' portal as part of its effort to promote such industries. Under the Mudra Yojana, the bank has offered loan to over 2.69 lakh small entrepreneurs till February 14, 2019. MSMEs through this portal can avail loans of up to Rs 1 crore in 59 minutes or less than an hour. In November 2018, Prime Minister Modi announced the launch of the 59 minutes loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.
22. The North-Eastern states has approved the proposed liquor **prohibition bill, 2019 in Mizoram**.  
**Note:** The bill would be introduced in the state Assembly during the Budget session. There was total prohibition in Mizoram from 1997 till January 2015 with the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act in force in the state. Earlier, Lal Thanhawla government allowed opening of wine shops in the state from March 2015.
23. **Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL)** has found a place in the Limca Book of National Records and Asia Book of Records for completing a power sub-station in seven months.  
**Note:** NP Kunta sub-station was taken up to connect Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant built in Ananthapur with Power Grid, to facilitate the supply of 1500 MW of electricity. Earlier, MEIL made its way into Limca Book for completing Pattiseema Lift Irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh in record time.
24. The Delhi government's **Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC)** has set up a **17-member high-level committee** to "reform higher education" -- **Jasmine Shah**.  
**Note:** Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) is the think-tank that advises the government on key issues. The committee will recommend goals, metrics, policies, and actionable plans for reforming Delhi's higher education system within a year".
25. The **4th IoT India Congress** will be held in **Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** Event will see **digital technology** leaders converge to discuss and explore business opportunities in mainstreaming Internet of Things (IoT). The **IoT India Congress 2019** will include tracks on segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, telecom, smart cities, energy,

- retail, cybersecurity, skills and development, **IoT Standards**, legal and regulatory, and agriculture.
26. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu attended the 16th Convocation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in **Mumbai**.  
**Note:** The Institute focuses on research on developmental issues from a multi-disciplinary point of view. Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai is an autonomous advanced research institution established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1987, on its golden jubilee.
27. India's Integral Coach Factory **Chennai** became the World's largest rail coach manufacturer.  
**Note:** Indian Railways Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai has surpassed the top Chinese manufacturers after creating a 40% record increase in its production. Now, Indian Railway's oldest and premier coach manufacturing unit becomes the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world.

### Important News – World

- India and Bangladesh are conducting Joint military exercise at Tangail in Bangladesh -- **Sampriti 2019**.  
**Note:** The objective of the exercise to strengthen and broaden the aspects of inter-operability and co-operation between the Armies of both countries. The exercise will involve tactical-level operations in a counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism environment under the UN mandate.
- India ranked in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" (3i) -- **47<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The index has been prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook. Sweden topped the index which was followed by Singapore and the US. The index was expanded to include 100 countries which will represent 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP.
- North Korea–United States Hanoi Summit 2019 held in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.  
**Note:** The talk has ended with no agreement after the US refused North Korean demand to lift all international sanctions. This was the second meeting between North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump following the first meeting in June 2018 in Singapore.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under CIBMS on India-Bangladesh border in **Dhubri, Assam**.  
**Note:** Border Security Force (BSF) is responsible for the safeguarding of 4,096 Km long International Border with Bangladesh. The implementation of this project will not only help BSF to curb all types of cross border crimes but also provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a two-nation tour to **Paraguay and Costa Rica**.  
**Note:** The Vice President will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including KJ Alphons (Minister of State for Tourism), Members of Parliament and senior government officials. This is the first high-level visit from India to two Latin American countries.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has officially suspended the country's participation in a key Cold War-era nuclear arms-control treaty with **United States**.  
**Note:** Mr. Putin signed a decree regarding the suspension of Russia's participation in the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, INF treaty between the USSR and the US in 1987. The move was taken following a violation of the United States of its obligations under the treaty. Earlier, Both Countries have accused one another of breaching the INF treaty.
- Google** is getting rid of the ability to **unlock mobile phones** with Voice Match and the 'Ok Google' command.  
**Note:** Google has decided to limit this unlock feature to only launch the Assistant interface on the lock screen instead of unlocking the Android device based on voice match. A few devices have already lost the functionality with the Google app's 9.27.
- Malaysia** has become the **124<sup>th</sup> member** of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**.  
**Note:** The ICC is the world's only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling. The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands, establishment in 2002.
- The third edition of the bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman will begin at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman - **Al Nagah 2019**.  
**Note:** In the exercise, both the armies will exchange expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing. The **objective of this exercise** is to enhance interoperability in counter terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain. **India-Oman bilateral security** ties have continued to develop since the

- beginning of India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation meetings in 2006.
10. The inaugural India-Japan Space Dialogue was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The dialogue brought together **Ministries** and **agencies** related to outer space in the two countries and provided an opportunity for information exchange on the respective space policies.
  11. **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority** put out the list of 390 anti-cancer non-scheduled medicines with Maximum Retail Price reduction up to 87 per cent.  
**Note:** Medicine manufacturers and hospitals have been directed to convey the revised rates. As many as 390 brands out of the 426 brands reported by manufacturers, showed downward price movement.
  12. **Ethiopian Airlines** had grounded its Boeing 737 MAX 8 fleet after a crash that killed 157 people on board including eight crew.  
**Note:** The crash occurred around the town of Bishoftu (60-kilometre south-east of the Addis Ababa) shortly after take-off from the Bole International Airport, Ethiopia. The Boeing 737 Max-8 was carrying passengers from 33 countries.
  13. The **World Health Organization** (WHO) has released a **Global Influenza Strategy** for 2019-2030 to protect all people from the threat of **influenza**.  
**Note:** The **objective of the strategy** is to prevent seasonal influenza, control the spread of influenza from animals to humans, and prepare for the next influenza pandemic. 'Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of serious influenza complications and for health care workers.
  14. PM Modi & Sheikh Hasina jointly unveil (through video conference) e-plaques for development projects in **Bangladesh**.  
**Note:** Both leaders unveiled e-plaques for supply of buses and trucks, inauguration of 36 community clinics, 11 water treatment plants, and extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh. The National Knowledge Network will connect scholars and research institutes in Bangladesh, to India and the world. This is his sixth video conference with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
  15. Under the new visa agreement, **Maldivian** businessmen and **tourists** can stay in India without a visa for **90 days**.  
**Note:** The main aim behind the move is to boost people-to-people ties between the two countries. A visa is a conditional authorization granted by a country to a foreigner, allowing them to enter, remain within, or to leave that country.
  16. India and the U.S. have agreed to build six American nuclear power plants in India.  
**Note:** This is a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the 9th round of **India-U.S. Strategic Security Dialogue**, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Andrea Thompson, the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, on March 13.
  17. The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan involved in a joint exercise with India's National Security Guard (NSG) in **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** The US forces are from the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group stationed out of Okinawa in Japan. The overall aim of the program was to enhance professionalism and the ability to operate together during times of crisis.
  18. Google's instant messaging mobile app finally shutting down -- **Allo**.  
**Note:** The 'Allo app' uses phone numbers as identifiers, and allows users to exchange messages, files, voice notes and images. Google Allo (launched in 2016) was an instant messaging mobile app by Google for the Android and iOS mobile operating systems, with a web client available on Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Opera.
  19. The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded in **Brazil**.  
**Note:** Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti led the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting. During the meeting, India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil, particularly to take forward BRICS cooperation on counter-terrorism in a meaningful and concrete manner with BRICS member countries.
  20. According to the UN and government officials, 'Cyclone' has affected more than 1.5 million people in the three southern African countries Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi -- **Idai**.  
**Note:** Cyclone Idai' killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands who are cut off from roads and telephones in mainly poor, rural areas. Hardest hit is Mozambique's central port city of Beira where the airport is closed, electricity is out and many homes have been destroyed.
  21. The Indian Army began a 10-day military exercise with armed forces of 17 African nations at Aundh Military Station, Pune --- **AFINDEX-19**.  
**Note:** A fly past by a set of Advanced Light Helicopters and Cheetah Helicopter of the Indian Army carrying the flags of United Nations, India and the AFINDEX was the highlight of the opening ceremony. The exercise will focus on the exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in the conduct of the UN-mandated tasks.



22. A Pune-based IT firm is developing software for the world's largest ground-based telescope 'Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)', likely to come up in **Hawaii**.  
**Note:** The telescope is being constructed jointly by India, US, China, Japan and Canada and is likely to become operational in the mid-2020s. India is building the telescope's complex optical structure, called the Segment Support Assembly (SSA).
23. Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Vijit**' has become the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia.  
**Note:** This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018. Vijit's visit also highlights strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between New Delhi and Jakarta.
24. The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The festival aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand.
25. Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to **Nursultan**.  
**Note:** Mr Tokayev was sworn in as president some 24 hours after Mr Nazarbayev's surprise resignation.
26. The world's largest e-waste recycling plant has been opened in **Dubai**.  
**Note:** It will recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste. The processing capacity of this recycling hub is 100,000 tones total integrated waste (per year), of which 39,000 tonnes is e-waste. The facility can process the **entire range of WEEE** from consumer and industrial to commercial and military.
27. Indian Navy's **frontline corvette 'INS Kadmatt'** reached Malaysian archipelago Langkawi.  
**Note:** It will participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19. INS Kadmatt is an indigenous stealth anti-submarine warfare corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016. The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and machinery.
28. Google unveiled a video-game streaming platform -- **Stadia**.  
**Note:** The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud and lets players jump across devices operating on Google's Chrome browser and Chrome OS, such as Pixel phones and Chromebooks. Google made the announcement at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.
29. **Italy** has signed a non-binding protocol with China to take part in Beijing's new Silk Road of transport and trade links stretching from Asia.  
**Note:** Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the project. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte both attended a ceremony in Rome for the signing of 29 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), which Italian media said were worth 5.6 to 8 billion US Dollars.
30. Sri Lankan President handed over a proposal seeking to declare the Theravada Tripitaka as a UNESCO World Heritage -- **Maithripala Sirisena**.  
**Note:** The Theravada Tripitaka (sacred scripture of Buddhists) was declared as a National heritage of Sri Lanka by President in January this year. Buddha's preaching was propagated through word to mouth for generations till the Tripitaka was finally written down in Sri Lanka about 100 years BC.
31. India-African Union sign MoU on strengthening cooperation in the **Healthcare sector**.  
**Note:** An agreement has been signed between India and the African Union to establish an India-Africa health sciences collaborative platform.
32. **Oman** has signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airport .  
**Note:** The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage from the facilities offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft, particularly in the port of Duqm. Duqm port is in southern Oman on the Arabian Sea and around 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz.
33. Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli has inaugurated "Nepal Investment Summit 2019" at 'Hotel Soaltee' in **Kathmandu**.  
**Note:** Over 600 investors (265 from China, 120 from India) and delegates from 40 countries including India are participating in the two-day summit. The main objective of the event is to project Nepal as a favourable investment destination.
34. India and Bangladesh have started a cruise service that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to **Dhaka**.  
**Note:** The objective of the move to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries. The MEA (External Affairs Ministry) official said, as the movement of goods starts using inland waterways, so goods from India can go in the cheapest possible form up to Narayanganj and Dhaka in Bangladesh.
35. Israeli researchers have discovered the world's longest salt cave named -- **Malham**.  
**Note:** The cave stretches for over 10-kilo meters (6.25 miles), through Mount Sodom (Israel's largest mountain) and spills out to the southwest corner of the adjacent Dead Sea. It was mapped out over two years by cavers from nine countries, led by the Hebrew

University of Jerusalem. In 2006, researchers mapped over six-kilometres of the N3 cave in southern Iran's

Qeshm island

### Honor & Awards

- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has created a Guinness world record in a single line bicycle parade to mark the 50 years of the paramilitary force.  
**Note:** Personnel of the central force rode a total of one thousand 327 bicycles non-stop with uniform distance between bicycles in a single line at the Yamuna Expressway in Noida. The bicycle parade covered 3.2 km distance non-stop. Earlier, this record was held by Hubballi bicycle club of India which had one thousand 235 bicycles in single chain.
- DRDO Chairman **Satheesh Reddy** has won the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) as the co-winner of the 2019 Missile Systems Award.  
**Note:** American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) has chosen 'Satheesh Reddy' (DRDO Chairman and Secretary of India's Department of Defence R&D) as the co-winner of the 2019 Missile Systems Award. The other co-winner is Rondell J. Wilson who is a former Principal Engineering Fellow of Raytheon Missile Systems. Satheesh Reddy is the first person to be honoured with this award outside the USA in 40 years.
- American reality television personality **Kylie Jenner** has been named the youngest-ever, self-made billionaire by Forbes magazine.  
**Note:** Facebook's Zuckerberg was 23 when he hit the big B mark. According to Forbes magazine, Jenner's Kylie Cosmetics is worth at least USD 900 million, and she owns it all. She has starred in the E! reality television series Keeping Up with the Kardashians since 2007 and is the founder and owner of cosmetic company Kylie Cosmetics.
- TVS Motor Company** has won the International Sustainability Award 'Green Era Award for Sustainability' (second time) in Lisbon, Portugal.  
**Note:** The company also won the 'Quality and Business Excellence Award' in acknowledgment of its endeavour to create new benchmarks in product quality. TVS Motor Company bagged the award because of its sincere commitment towards being a responsible manufacturer. The awards are based on the conclusion of the research team of Other ways Management & Consulting, France.
- Indore** awarded cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan 2019 awards.  
**Note:** The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) and Mysore (Karnataka). The New Delhi Municipal Council area was given the 'Cleanest Small City' award, Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged the 'Best Ganga Town' in the central government survey. The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'. Ujjain has been the adjudged the 'Cleanest Medium City' and Mathura-Vrindavan bagged the tag of the 'Fastest Moving Medium Cities'. Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) has been declared as the cleanest capital.
- As per the Airport Council International (ACI) World, **Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL)** has been awarded for the best airport by size and region in the 'Over 40 Million' passenger category.  
**Note:** The award was in recognition of excellence in customer experience in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the highest possible reward for any airport operator covering more than half of the world's 8.3 billion passengers. The award ceremony will be held in Bali, Indonesia.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018 in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Nari Shakti Puraskar is the highest civilian honour for women in India. This year, 44 awardees have been selected for these Puraskar. This year, the Nari Shakti Puraskar has also been awarded to a One Stop Centre and to a state which has shown exceptional progress in improving child sex ratio at birth under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.
- Japanese architect **Arata Isozaki** has won the Pritzker Prize 2019.  
**Note:** He is the 46th Pritzker laureate and the 8th Japanese architect to receive the honour. The Pritzker Prize (prize -USD 100,000) is regarded as architecture's equivalent to the Nobel Prize. The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Palau Saint Jordi indoor sporting arena in Barcelona are among more than 100 of his major projects. The award is funded by the Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation.
- Indian Air Force Wing Commander** 'Abhinandan Varthaman' will be the first recipient of the '**Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar**'.  
**Note:** The award is instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti. 27th February, Mr. Varthaman shot down a Pakistan Air Force F-16 with an R-73 air-to-air missile in a dogfight. The award will be presented to Varthaman on 17th April 2019, carries a cash prize of Rs 2.51 lakh, a memento and a citation.

10. BBC journalist **Priyanka Dubey** has won the 'Chameli Devi Jain Award-2018' for an Outstanding Woman Journalist for the year 2018.  
**Note:** She was chosen for her multi-faceted, investigative and interrogative reportage. Priyanka Dubey works as a bilingual correspondent with the BBC at its Delhi bureau. The Chameli Devi Jain Award named after the freedom fighter, Chameli Devi Jain who held demonstrations against the foreign goods on the call of Gandhi and got arrested.
11. Japanese woman **Kane Tanaka** has been honored as the world's **oldest living person (116-years)** by Guinness World Records.  
**Note:** The global authority on records officially recognised Kane Tanaka in a ceremony. The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako (117-years) who passed away in July 2018.
12. **Indian gymnast** has been selected as Barbie role model, as the company celebrates its 60th anniversary - **Dipa Karmakar**.  
**Note:** Karmakar has been chosen along with 19 other successful women (from 17 countries), included in the collection of Barbie dolls inspired by real-life heroes. She was part of the 'Shero' program launched in 2015 by the company.
13. The President Kovind conferred three Kirti Chakras and fifteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces at the Defence Investiture Ceremony at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.  
**Note:** Two Kirti Chakras (Ysepoyvrahma Pal Singh & Rajendra Kumar Nain) and one Shaurya Chakra (Dhanawadera vindrababan) were given posthumously. The President also conferred fifteen Param VishishtSeva Medals, one Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and twenty-five AtiVishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service of an exceptional order.
14. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) in **Gandhinagar**.  
**Note:** The aim of this festival of innovation and entrepreneurship is to provide a platform for new innovators for building linkages with potential stakeholders. Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi (Uttar Pradesh) has been awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops. The first prize in Veterinary, Herbal medication for coccidiosis was presented to Periyasami Ramasami of Salem, Tamil Nadu.
15. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), **Nara Lokesh (Andhra Pradesh IT minister)** has been recognized as the Young Global Leader.  
**Note:** The list has 127 of the world's most promising social activists, business leaders, public servants, artists and technologists under the age of 40. The individuals are expected to take part in the five year-programme that will help them to identify new ways to learn new ideas.
16. **Swati Shingade** won the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award.  
**Note:** Swati Shingade of Pune, Maharashtra has bagged the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19. The award was presented by Prasar Bharati Chairman A. Surya Prakash to Ms Shingade at a grand finale event organised by DD Kisan Channel in New Delhi.
17. Water purifier company '**Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd.**' has been bestowed with the Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19 for its RO+UV+UF technology at the Water Digest Water Awards.  
**Note:** Water Digest Water Awards backed by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and UNESCO. Kent has become the first choice when people think of a water purifier and winning awards like these just reflect on the kind of quality that we intend to provide to our users.
18. **Padmanaban Gopalan** has won the Commonwealth Youth Award for The Asian Region.  
**Note:** Mr. Gopalan was named the winner of the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region worth 3,000 Pounds at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
19. **Vienna has topped in** the new Mercer Quality of Living Survey.  
**Note:** Thirteen out of the world's 20 best places to live are in Europe. Zurich, Switzerland's biggest city, came in second place for overall quality of living, followed by Auckland, Munich and Vancouver in joint third place. Luxembourg was named as the safest city in the world, followed by Helsinki in Finland and the Swiss cities of Basel, Bern and Zurich.
20. An Indian journalist, author and chief of The Wire received the prestigious Windham-Campbell Literature prize for non-fiction category -- **Raghu Karnad**.  
**Note:** He is the son of Girish Karnad (actor, film director, Kannada writer). He won the award for his debut book, 'Farthest Field: An Indian story of Second World War' published in the year 2015.
21. University of **Texas professor Karen Uhlenbeck** has become the **first woman** to win the Abel Prize.  
**Note:** She was awarded for the impact of her work on "analysis, geometry and mathematical physics". Modelled after the Nobel Prize, the Abel Prize is presented by the King of Norway and carries cash award USD 700,000.
22. A Social entrepreneur from India **Neha Upadhyaya** is among 16 persons selected by Yale University as the 2019 World Fellows **Note:** Neha Upadhyaya founded

- GUNA Organics in 2014 that provides ethically-sourced organic food products grown by rural female Indian farmers. Upadhyaya's work has also focused on working with children suffering from various health issues including diabetes, autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
23. Kenyan teacher **Peter Tabic** has won the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019 during a ceremony in Dubai.  
**Note:** Mr. Tabichi is a maths & physics teacher at Keriko Secondary School in Pwani Village, in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley. He donates most of his salary (80% of his monthly income) to help poorer students.
24. **Lalit Kala Academy** has announced **15 winners** of the 60th Annual Academy Awards.  
**Note:** All the awardees will be honoured with a plaque, a shawl and a prize money of Rs 1 lakh at the 60th National Exhibition of Art at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) and Sir JJ School of Art. The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's national academy of fine arts based in Delhi and established in 1954 by Government of India to promote and propagate an understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country.
25. According to Electoral Commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago, Comoros President was re-elected -- **Azali Assoumani**.
26. President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award **Grand Order of the King of Tomislav**.  
**Note:** The civilian order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries. The Grand Order of King Tomislav with Sash and Great Morning Star is the highest state order of Croatia. It is named after King Tomislav of Croatia.
27. Nobel Prize-winning economist **Amartya Sen** has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal.  
**Note:** The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication. Amartya Sen was born in a Hindu family in Bengal, British India, in the district of Manikganj (modern-day Bangladesh). He is the Thomas W. Lamont University Professor at Harvard University and member of faculty at Harvard Law School.
28. Former PM **Manmohan Singh** presented the **Business Line Changemaker Of The Year award** for successfully introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) -- **Arun Jaitley**.  
**Note:** Mr. Jaitley received the award on behalf of the **GST Council**. The award was also presented to the petitioners against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalised homosexuality.

### Sports News

1. Indian Boxer **Deepak Singh** has won a gold medal while five others claimed silver medals in the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran.  
**Note:** Deepak (49-kilogram) defeated Jaafar Naseri in the finals. Silver medal winners were P Lalitha Prasad (52kg), Manish Kaushik (60kg), Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Satish Kumar (91kg). Rohit Tokas (64kg) and Manjeet Singh Panghal (75kg) lost in the semi-finals to sign off with bronze medals.
2. West Indies player **Chris Gayle** has become the first batsman ever to smash 500 or more sixes in International cricket.  
**Note:** In the 4th ODI against England in Grenada, Gayle scored 162 runs. His innings contained a staggering 14 sixes and powered the Windies to their highest-ever ODI score of 389.
3. **Shashank Shekhar** has won the 10-kilometre race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu.  
**Note:** Shekhar is the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Contingent at Embassy of India in Kathmandu. COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun is an annual event organised by the Nepal Army.
4. India's star wrestler **Bajrang Punia** has won a gold medal in 65-kilograms freestyle in Bulgaria.  
**Note:** This was Punia's 10th medal in as many international tournaments since the 2017 World Championships in Paris. Earlier, Pooja Dhanda claimed gold in women's 59 kg while Sarita Mor won a silver in the same weight category. In the men's freestyle events, Sandeep Tomar claimed silver in 61kg.
5. Swiss great **Roger Federer** has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career in the Dubai Tennis Championships.  
**Note:** Federer (20-time grand slam champion) is the second man, after American Jimmy Connors to claim 100 titles (record of 109). Tsitsipas saw the end of an eight-match winning streak as he arrived in the Gulf with the Marseille title from last weekend. Martina Navratilova holds the record having won 167 women's singles crowns during her career.
6. The Yonex All England Championships 2019 held in **England**.  
**Note:** Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament. It has a total purse of USD 1,000,000.

7. **Manpreet Singh** has been named as the **Captain of the Indian hockey team** to play in the upcoming 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.  
**Note:** Surrender Kumar will be the Vice-Captain of the team. The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup is an annual international men's field hockey tournament will be held in Ipoh, Malaysia from 23rd March 2019.
8. **Kavinder Singh Bisht** has won the gold medal in 56kg-category at the **38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament** in Helsinki, Finland.  
**Note:** While three-time Asian medalist Shiva Thapa (60kg category) and three others claimed silver medals. Sumit Sangwan, former youth world champion Sachin Siwach and Naveen Kumar got bronze in their categories.
9. **P. Iniyani** has become the 61st Grandmaster of India after crossing 2,500 points during the Noisiel Open 2019.  
**Note:** Iniyani also won the silver medal in this tournament by increasing 18 points and has a rating of 2,513. Grand Master (GM) is a title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.
10. **Zinedine Zidane** re-appointed as coach of Spanish football club Real Madrid till 2022.  
**Note:** Former French football player 'Zinedine Zidane' has been re-appointed as the coach of Spanish football club Real Madrid (highest-earning football club) till 2022. He replaces Santiago Solari, who was sacked after less than five months in charge. Real Madrid was the highest-earning football club in the world (annual revenue of € 750.9 million) in 2018.
11. Mumbai sailor **Upamanyu Dutta** bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Laser Asian Sailing Championship in Singapore.  
**Note:** Earlier, Upamanyu won the Euromed Championship in Malta. Nethra Kumanan (from Chennai) achieved a creditable 4th position in the Laser Radial event for women.
12. The 2019 SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship (5th edition) was held in **Biratnagar, Nepal**.  
**Note:** The current SAFF members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Pakistan Withdraws Participation in 2019 SAFF Women's Championship.
13. Special Olympics World Games 2019 begins at **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.  
**Note:** More than 2,500 women will fly the flag for their nation, with almost half of them performing in athletics competitions. Saudi Arabia will send female athletes for the first time, with 14 women participating. Hosts UAE will field its largest-ever squad of athletes at a World Games, followed by India and the United States.
14. **Kento Momota** won men's All England Championships 2019 singles title.  
**Note:** Japan's Kento Momota beat Viktor Axelsen in 1 hour 21 minutes to win the men's singles title All England Championships 2019 title at Arena Birmingham in England. Chen Yufei (China) beat Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan) to win the women's singles title All England Championships 2019 title. Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament.
15. **Dipa Karmakar** has qualified for vault finals in **Artistic Gymnastics World Cup** at Baku in Azerbaijan.  
**Note:** Dipa Karmakar has made it to the Vault Finals after finishing third in the qualifying round of the **Artistic Gymnastics World Cup** at Baku in Azerbaijan.
16. India will host the **Under-17 Women's Football World Cup** in 2020.  
**Note:** This was announced by the President of International Football Federation (FIFA) Gianni Infantino after the council meeting in Miami, USA on 15th March 2019. The 2018 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was held in Uruguay from 13 November to 1 December 2018. Spain won their first title, beating Mexico 2-1 in the Final.
17. **Karnataka** won their maiden **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** at the Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore.  
**Note:** With the win, Karnataka set a record of most number of wins in a row by an Indian domestic team as they won 14 T20 matches to lift the coveted T20 trophy. Karnataka also equaled Indian Premier League outfit Kolkata Knight Riders' record of 14 consecutive wins.
18. South African all-rounder **J P Duminy** announced his retire from ODIs after the ICC World Cup in England.  
**Note:** He will continue to be available for South Africa in T20 Internationals. **Duminy** (34-year-old) made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2004 and has played 193 matches in the format.
19. The Supreme Court has set aside the life ban imposed on cricketer by BCCI over his involvement in the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal --- **Sreesanth**.  
**Note:** The apex court directed BCCI to hear Sreesanth and take a fresh decision on the quantum of punishment within three months. However, it added that its order shall have no effect on criminal proceedings pending against Sreesanth.
20. **Dominic Thiem** won the Indian Wells title.  
**Note:** Australia's Dominic Thiem defeated Switzerland's Roger Federer in the men's singles final of the BNP Paribas Open in California. He defeated Federer 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the final.
21. Canadian teenager stunned **three-times** Grand Slam champion **Angelique Kerber** to win the **BNP Paribas Open title** - **Bianca Andreescu**.

- Note:** She defeated Angelique Kerber by 6-4 3-6 6-4 to win the title. With this win she won her first career title in Indian Wells on 17th March 2019 held in California.
- 22. Afghanistan** defeated **Ireland** by seven wickets to win their **first-ever Test match** in Dehradun.  
**Note:** Shah scored a 122-ball 76, and Janat an unbeaten 129-ball 65\* as Afghanistan notched up the 147-run target on the fourth morning within a session. With this win Afghanistan became the newest ICC member to win a Test match.
- 23. India** finished second in medal tally at **Asian Youth Athletics Championship** in Hong Kong.  
**Note:** India won total of 26 medals including 8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals. China topped the overall medals tally with 31 medals that included 12 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals. Japan finished third with 20 medals that included 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 bronze.
- 24. Valtteri Bottas** has won the **Australian F1 Grand Prix 2019** in Melbourne, Victoria.  
**Note:** Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas beat his world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton (2nd place) to clinch the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix 2019, held in Melbourne, Victoria. The 2019 Australian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that was held in Melbourne, Victoria.
- 25. Diksha Dagar** has become only the second **Indian woman** to win on **Ladies European Tour** in golf after clinching the South African Open in Cape Town.  
**Note:** Dagar follows Aditi Ashok, who in 2016 became the first Indian to win on the LET. She has been wearing hearing aids since the age of six.
- 26. Bengaluru FC** has won the 2018-19 edition Indian Super League (ISL) Champions  
**Note:** FC Goa's Ferran Corominas (16 goals) wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Boot Award. Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Glove Award.
- 27. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)** pays over Rs 11 cr as compensation to BCCI after losing case in -- **ICC**  
**Note:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paid 1.6 million US dollars to the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) as compensation after losing a case in the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee. The PCB had filed a compensation case against the BCCI last year before the Committee for an amount of 70 million US dollars for not honouring an MoU signed between the two boards. According to the MoU, India and Pakistan were supposed to play six bilateral series between 2015 and 2023, which the BCCI failed to honour.
- 28. The Amateur International Boxing Federation (AIBA) President Gafur Rahimov** has announced his resignation.
- Note:** Rahimov, an Uzbek businessman who has been accused by the US authorities of having ties to organized crime, was elected the president of AIBA in November 2018. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) is a sports organization that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.
- 29. Director General Military Training** flagged off the first Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m).  
**Note:** In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000M, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019. Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks and summiting the peak is considered extremely challenging due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
- 30. Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary** bagged Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei.  
**Note:** Manu and Saurabh shot a combined score of 784, breaking the record set by Russians Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov at the European Championships. The pair made it to the Final after smashing the world record in the qualification.
- 31. K. Govindaraj** re-elected the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) president.  
**Note:** He has been unanimously re-elected as the President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) at its annual general-body meeting. A new six-team women's league would be held inside the next three months. Basketball Federation of India (BFI) is the governing and controlling body of Basketball in India. It is responsible for the development and promotion of the sport at all levels.
- 32. The Sultan of Azlan Shah Cup Men's Hockey tournament** (28th edition) held in **Ipoh, Malaysia**.  
**Note:** Six nations (Malaysia, Canada, Poland, Japan and Korea) are taking part in the 8-day tournament which will be held in a round-robin format. Australia (defending champions) is not playing in this edition of the tournament. The tournament is named after the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah.
- 33. India** has won the **SAFF Women's Championship** for the fifth time in a row.  
**Note:** This was India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since its inception in 2010. The 2019 SAFF Women's Championship is the biennial international women's football championship contested by the national teams of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).

- 34. FIFA bans former **Ecuador football chief** for life after finding him guilty of taking bribes -- **Luis Chiriboga**.  
**Note:** Chiriboga was one of the executives arrested in 2015 amid a massive US-led crackdown on corruption in world football. FIFA's ethics judges banned Chiriboga from all football-related activities for life and fined him 1 million Swiss francs.
- 35. Virat Kohli's childhood coach **Rajkumar Sharma** has been appointed the head coach of the 'Malta national cricket team'.  
**Note:** Malta, Estonia and hosts Spain will take part in the divisional tournament of the ICC in Spain (from 29th to 31st March 2019). Dronacharya awardee Rajkumar Sharma (former Ranji Trophy player) is a cricket coach. The Malta national cricket team is the team that represents the Republic of Malta in international cricket.

- 36. **Justice (Retd.) DK Jain** will be BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer.  
**Note:** The COA had requested the Supreme Court to appoint an Ethics Officer in addition to an Ombudsman for looking into the matters of Conflict of Interest. Earlier, the three-member COA requested Justice Jain to take over as Ethics Officer on an ad-hoc basis till a permanent appointment takes place.
- 37. **Veselin Matic has been** appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team.  
**Note:** The Serbian's name had been cleared by the sports ministry. A veteran international coach, Matic helped Iran qualify for its first ever World Championship (2010) with victory in the 2009 FIBA Asia Championship.

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