

ESIC UDC 2019

GK Tornado PDF



GK Tornado for ESIC UDC Main Exam 2019

Dear Aspirants,

This GK Tornado is a complete docket of important Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news and events that occurred in last 3.5 months **(1 May 2019 – 20 August 2019)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like Banking, Insurance, SSC and UPSC Exams.

News related to RBI

August

1. RBI reduces repo rate by 35 basis points

- On 7th August, in its 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting, the Reserve Bank of India has reduced the policy repo rate by 35 basis points (bps).
- The repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was reduced from **5.75% to 5.40%**.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to **5.15%**.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate revised to **5.65%**.
- RBI has also reduced the real GDP growth for 2019-20 from **7% to 6.9%**.
- Governor Shaktikanta Das termed the steeper cut as a “balanced” call given the domestic and global developments.
- Four members voted for cut of 35 basis points in rate; two members voted for 25 basis points rate cut.
- Next monetary policy statement on October 4.

Current rate is as follows:

- Repo rate - 5.40%
- Reverse repo rate - 5.15%
- MSF rate - 5.65%
- Bank rate - 5.65%
- SLR – 18.75%
- CRR – 4%

2. NEFT to be available 24x7 from December 2019: RBI

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 07th August announced that the National Electronic Funds

Transfer (NEFT) systems would be available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

- At present, the NEFT payment system operated by the Reserve Bank as a retail payment system is available to customers from 8am to 7pm on all working days of the week (except 2nd and 4th Saturdays, and all Sundays of the month).

3. RBI to set up “Central Payment Fraud Registry”

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 07th August proposed to set up a **central payment fraud registry (CPFR)**, which will monitor digital payment frauds in real-time.
- The move is expected to boost customer confidence in the payments systems.
- At present, banks report all frauds in the system to the central fraud monitoring cell of the RBI.
- According to an RBI report, instant payment systems such as immediate payment service (IMPS) and unified payments interface (UPI) are expected to have annual growth of over 100%, while national electronic funds transfer (NEFT) will witness 40% growth by 2021.
- Besides, the number of digital transactions is expected to increase fourfold to ₹8,707 crore by December 2021.
- The central fraud registry was proposed earlier both in the Nandan Nilekani committee report and RBI’s payments vision document 2019 to 2021.

4. RBI alltargetedndk of China to offer regular banking services in India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country.
- Banks falling under this schedule have to adhere to the norms of the RBI.

5. Atanu Chakraborty nominated on central board of RBI

- The Union Government has nominated Atanu Chakraborty as a Director on the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Currently, he is a Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- Shri Rajiv Kumar (new Finance Secretary) is also a Director on the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India.

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Criteria:** RBI will launch the sandbox for companies/banks that meet the criteria of the minimum net worth of Rs.25 lakh and the promoter/director of the entity should meet fit and proper framework.

- **Regulatory Sandbox (RS):** It refers to live testing of new products/services in a secure & controlled regulatory environment, where the regulators can allow certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.
- **Background:** The concept of Regulatory Sandbox was proposed by a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen, former executive director of RBI.

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

- According to the latest monthly data of RBI (Reserve Bank of India), the retail personal credit disbursement growth in the first half of 2019 (January - June) was 7.3%, which is the slowest rate of disbursement by banks in 5 years.

9. RBI Expands biller categories for Bharat Bill Payment System

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

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

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

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

12. Residential Asset Price Monitoring Survey – RBI

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

Note:

- The Reserve Bank has been conducting a quarterly residential asset price monitoring survey (RAPMS) since July 2010 on housing loans disbursed by select banks/ housing finance companies (HFCs) across 13 cities, viz., Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar.

13. RBI imposes Rs 11 cr fine on 7 PSBs for violating norms

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a collective penalty of Rs 11 crore on 7 public sector banks.
- The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions issued by RBI on 'Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts.

The penalties on 7 banks are as follows:

- Allahabad Bank and Bank of Maharashtra have been imposed with a penalty of Rs 2 crore each.
- Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and United Bank of India have been imposed with a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore each.
- Oriental Bank of Commerce has been imposed with a penalty of Rs 1 crore.
- RBI has also imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Corporation Bank for non-compliance of norms related to cyber security framework for banks, frauds classification and reporting.

July

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

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

2. RBI fines Mobikwik & Hip Bar for violating norms –

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty on two online payment solutions providers Mobikwik Systems and Hip Bar for non compliance of regulatory guidelines.

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

3. RBI's Working Group recommends extension of market hours- An Internal Working Group of Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) on Comprehensive Review of Market Timings has suggested calibrated extension of Currency Market (Foreign Exchange Market) hours, from 9 am to 9 pm for both **Over the Counter (OTC)** and Exchange Traded. At present the markets close at 5 pm.

Key Recommendations

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

Note:

- Exchange Traded Derivatives (ETD) are traded via central exchange with publicly visible prices i.e. on a centralized exchange.

- Over the Counter (OTC) derivatives are for companies that are not listed on a formal exchange and traded between two parties (bilateral negotiation) without going through an exchange or any other intermediaries.

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

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

About External Commercial Borrowing (ECB)

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

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

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

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

the collateral free lending limit to Rs 20 lakh for MSMEs and self-help groups.

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

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

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

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

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

Note:

- The Banking Ombudsman scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum for bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
- The scheme is introduced under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 by RBI with effect from 1995.

Banking Ombudsman scheme

- Banking Ombudsman is a person to whom the customer can approach for redressal of their grievances. He is appointed by RBI to redress customer complaints against certain deficiency in banking services.
 - All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006.
 - One can file a complaint before the Banking Ombudsman if the reply is not received from the bank within a period of **one month** after the bank concerned has received one's representation, or the bank rejects the complaint, or if the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank.
 - The Banking Ombudsman does not charge any fee for filing and resolving customers' complaints.
 - The appellate authority for the Banking Ombudsman Scheme is the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India.
9. **RBI to regulate housing finance companies**– In the Union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will now be given power to take over as the regulator of Housing Finance Firms (HFFs) instead of NHB (National Housing Bank).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act will be amended to give the RBI powers to regulate the HFC sector.
- NHB was part of the RBI till April this year when the government decided to take it over.
10. **No charges on NEFT, RTGS money transfers from 1 July** – As per Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20, the Reserve Bank of India will stop imposing additional charges on Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems from 1st July, 2019.
- National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) – There is no limit – either minimum or maximum limit.
 - However, maximum amount per transaction is limited to ₹ 50,000/- for cash-based remittances within India and also for remittances to Nepal under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme.
 - RTGS - Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)
 - Maximum limit – **No upper limit**
 - Minimum limit – **Rs. 2 lakhs**
11. **Utkarsh 2022: finalized by RBI board** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board has finalised Three Year Roadmap to improve supervision and regulation, among other functions of central bank. This medium term strategy is **named as Utkarsh 2022**.
- Note:**
- An internal committee to identify issues that needed to be addressed over next 3 years was formed, which was anchored by Viral Acharya outgoing Deputy Governor of RBI.

June

1. **RBI: Payments related Data to be stored only in India** – Reserve Bank of India recently clarified that all Payment System Operators (PSOs) shall store entire payment data in systems located only in India.
- It means that the data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India.
2. **RBI permits ARC to buy financial assets from Peers** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to acquire financial assets from peers i.e. other such entities.
- However, RBI, the apex banking regulator cleared that all such transactions have to be settled in cash.
 - The ARCs have been allowed to acquire financial assets from other ARCs, in the view of amendment to the Securitisation and
- Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.
3. **UK Sinha panel on MSMEs suggests Rs 20 lakh collateral-free loan under Mudra** – A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expert committee on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) has recommended doubling the cap on collateral-free loans to **Rs 20 lakh from the current Rs 10 lakh**. This will be extended to borrowers falling under the Mudra scheme, self-help groups, and MSME.
- Note:**
- Distressed asset fund: It also recommends the creation of a distressed asset fund of Rs 5,000 crore for small enterprises.

- It stated the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which is responsible for the development of the MSME sector.
 - The government has notified a procurement policy wherein PSUs (Public Sector Units) & government departments have to make **25 percent** of their procurement from MSMEs through government e-marketplace (GeM) portal.
 - The proposal is part of a report prepared by the eight-member RBI committee tasked with reviewing the current framework for the MSME sector.
 - The panel, headed by former Securities and Exchange Board of India chairman **U K Sinha**, submitted its report to the RBI.
- 4. RBI advises commercial banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme** – The Reserve Bank of India has advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to adopt Education Loan Scheme, formulated by Indian Banks Association.
- Salient features of the Scheme includes:**
- Loan upto **Rs 10 lakh for study in India** and upto **Rs 20 lakh for study abroad**.
 - Collateral free loans upto Rs 7.5 Lakh under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL).
 - No Margin for loan up to Rs 7.50 Lakh.
 - Repayment period of 15 years.
 - One Year Moratorium for repayment after completion of studies in all cases.
 - Moratorium taking into account spells of unemployment/under employment, say two or three times during the life cycle of the loan.
 - Moratorium for the incubation period if the student wants to take up a start-up venture after graduation.
- 5. RBI launches Complaint Management System** – The Complaint Management System (CMS) is a software application launched by Reserve Bank of India on its website.
- It will be used for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.
 - Customers can lodge complaints against any regulated entity on the platform. These complaints will be directed to the appropriate office of the Ombudsman/Regional Office of the RBI.
- 6. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya resigns** – Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor Viral

Acharya has quit six months before the scheduled end of his term. He had joined RBI on January 23, 2017.

RBI Deputy Governor -

- BP Kanungo, N. S. Vishwanathan, and Mahesh Kumar Jain are present RBI Deputy Governor.
- 7. On June 24, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has launched a Complaint Management System (CMS) for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) on its website.**
- 8. CAD increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the GDP in FY19** - On June 28, 2019, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated that India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to \$57.2 billion or 2.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in FY19 as against 1.8% of 2018 which stood at \$48.7 billion.
- It was the highest in 6 years on due to higher trade deficit caused by high crude oil imports.
 - The Centre has pegged fiscal deficit—the difference between the government's revenue and expenditure—at 3.4% of the GDP for this fiscal year, the same as in 2018-19.
- Note:
- Current account deficit (CAD) is one of the key indicators of an economy's health and measures the difference between the value of the goods and services a country imports and the value of its exports.
- 9. RBI relaxes leverage ratio for banks** – The Reserve Bank relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks. This has been done to help them boost their lending activities.
- The reduced leverage ratio will be effective from the quarter commencing October 1, 2019.
 - The leverage ratio, as defined under Basel-III norms, is Tier-I capital as a percentage of the bank's exposures.
- 10. RBI sets average base rate at 9.18% for NBFC-MFI borrowers for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019**
- On June 28, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India set an average base rate of 9.18% for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to be charged from their customers. It will be charged for the quarter beginning July 1, 2019.
- 11. RBI issued Guidelines for Setting up of an FBAs for administering "Significant Benchmarks"** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a regulatory framework for setting up of **financial benchmark**

administrator (FBA) for administering 'significant benchmarks' in the markets for financial instruments.

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

Function of FBAs:

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

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

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

13. RBI conducted Financial Literacy Week

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

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

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

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

May

1. RBI extends timings for RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm – RBI has extended timings for customer transactions in the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to **6:00 pm from 4:30 pm**.

Note:

- The customer is charged a 'time-varying charge' on each outward transaction in addition to the flat processing charge.
- The fee for transfers between 8 am to 11 am is nil, from 11 am to 1 pm is Rs 2, and from 1 pm to 6 pm is Rs 5.
- The fee for transfers made after the initial cut off of 6 pm will be Rs 10.
- The initial cut off for customer transactions will be 6 pm and the final cut off for inter-bank transactions will be 7:45 pm.
- The IDL reversal will take place between 7:45 pm and 8 pm.

Note:

- RTGS is an online fund transfer system, supported by the RBI. RTGS enables transmission on a real-time basis.

- The minimum amount for the transaction to be eligible as an RTGS transfer is Rs. 2 lakh.

2. Harsh Vardhan Committee: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee under **Harsh Vardhan**, to review existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to develop market further.

3. Debit Card Swipes on PoS terminals rise 27% in March 2019: RBI data

- According to the RBI data, in Mar 2019, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards increased by 15%.
- Also, the financial transactions done by the debit cards at POS terminals increased by 27% compared to March 2018.
- In actual terms, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards at ATMs stood at 891 million for the month of March, increased by 15%, against 775 million in March 2018.

4. **RBI sets up committee on corporate loans** – RBI has constituted a six-member committee on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.

- The committee, headed by **TN Manoharan, Chairman**, Canara Bank

5. **RBI releases draft norms on liquidity risk management for NBFCs** – RBI stated that all non-deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of **Rs 5,000 crore** and above, and all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of their asset size, have to maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).

Note:

- In a draft on liquidity risk management framework for NBFCs and core investment companies, these measures will promote resilience of NBFCs to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring they have sufficient **High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA)** to survive an acute liquidity stress scenario lasting for 30 days.
- The banking regulator proposed that it will implement LCR through a glide path from 01st April 2020 to 01st April 2024.

6. **RBI allows modern Currency Chests to hike Service Charges** – The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will allow large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of **Rs 5 per packet of 100 pieces** to a higher rate subject to a maximum of **Rs 8 per packet**.

7. **RBI releases ‘Vision 2021’ For Payment Systems For ‘Cash-Lite’ Society** – Reserve Bank of India has released a vision document ‘Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021’, with its core theme of **‘Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience’** for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.

- The number of digital transactions is expected to increase more than four times from 2,069 crore in December 2018 to 8,707 crore in December 2021.

8. **Bank credit grows 13.2% in FY19:** RBI

- Bank credit grew by 13.2% in the financial year 2018-19 as compared to 10.3% in the previous financial year, mainly aided by loans to services and retail sector. Deposit growth also gained momentum, growing by 10% as compared to 6.7% a year ago.

9. **RBI enhances Housing-Loan limits Under Priority Sector Lending for RRBs, SFBs** – The Reserve Bank of India has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending.

- Housing loans given by RRBs and SFBs to individuals up to INR 35 lakh in metropolitan centers (with population of 10 lakh and above).
- INR 25 lakh in other centers, provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centers and at other centres does not exceed **INR 45 lakh and INR 30 lakh**, respectively, will be eligible for classification under priority sector lending.

GDP growth rate projection by various Org.

Org.	GDP growth rate projection
RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RBI has also reduced the real GDP growth for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%.
World Bank (Global Economic Prospects report)	7.5 percent in fiscal year 2019-20

	real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2 per cent in 2018-19
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Lowered growth forecast for India from 7.3% to 7% in financial year 2019-20.
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	ADB lowered India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for the current fiscal year.
FICCI survey	India's GDP is forecast at 7.10 percent for Financial Year 2020 and 7.20 percent for Financial Year 2021.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) - Economic Outlook report	India's economic growth will regain strength and approach 7.5% by 2020 and projected to strengthen to close to 7.25% in FY19.
Fitch rating	India's growth forecast was lowered to 6.6 per cent for the current fiscal from 6.8 per cent projected earlier. Fitch retained its GDP growth forecast for the next fiscal (2020-21) at 7.1% and 7.0% for 2021-22.
Moody's	Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3% in 2019-20.
UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)	7.0 % in 2019-20 India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1 per cent in fiscal year 2020
DBS Bank	DBS Bank has revised India's GDP growth for fiscal year 2020 downwards to 6.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) from 7 per cent projected earlier
Crisil Ratings	7.3 % in 2019-20
Central Statistics Office (CSO)	7.2% in 2018-19
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)	lowered India's growth forecast for the current fiscal (2019-20) to 7.3%, from the earlier projection of 7.5 %.

Ranking/Indexes

1. India slips to 7th largest economy in 2018

- According to the World Bank, India has been pushed to the 7th place in the global GDP rankings in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the 6th largest economy.
- The US remains the top economy with a GDP of \$20.5 trillion in 2018.

- China was the 2nd largest economy with \$13.6 trillion, while Japan took the 3rd place with \$5 trillion.
 - India's GDP was at \$2.7 trillion in 2018, while UK and France were at \$2.8 trillion.
 - India still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- 2. London named the world's best city for students -**
- London has named the world's best city for students for the 2nd consecutive year, beating Tokyo and Melbourne that came 2nd and 3rd, respectively, on a new worldwide ranking.
 - According to the rankings, India's best student city is Bengaluru (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113th and Chennai at 115th, out of a total of 120th cities in the list.
 - The QS Best Student Cities Ranking compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds highlights each city's performance across different categories.
- 3. India is the 46th highest risk country in the world: Water Stress Index 2019**
- According to the Water Stress Index 2019, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm Verisk Maplecroft, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world.
 - 11 out of India's 20 largest cities face an 'extreme risk' of water stress and 7 are in the 'high risk' category. Delhi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Nashik, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Indore are among the cities facing 'extreme risk'.
 - Chennai is the "tip of the iceberg" for India's water-stressed cities.
- 4. Walmart tops Euromonitor's 2019 list of India's top retailers**
- As per the latest report "Top 100 Retailers in Asia 2019" by market research firm, Euromonitor International, Walmart Inc has topped the rankings in India for 2018.
 - Amazon(US) came on the second spot followed by Mumbai based retail company Future Group (3rd position) and Reliance Group(4th position).
- 5. Flipkart ranked No 1 in LinkedIn's list of best workplaces in India for 2019** – In LinkedIn's fourth edition of Top Companies list for India 2019, Walmart acquired Flipkart was ranked first place as the best workplace in India.
- Top 3 companies are – Flipkart, Amazon & OYO.
- 6. Global Innovation Index 2019** – On July 24, 2019, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways,

Piyush Goyal launched the 12th Edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) for the year 2019 in New Delhi.

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

Ranking

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

7. World Reputation Rankings 2019: Top 3 Best

Institutes in India are IISc Bengaluru, IIT Madras and MAHE

- In the World Reputation Rankings 2019 released by the Times Higher Education, among the Indian Institutes, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal were awarded the top 3 positions.

8. Global Multidimensional Poverty Index -

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

Key findings

- Across 101 countries, 1.3 billion people—23.1 percent—are multidimensionally poor.
- Two-thirds of multidimensionally poor people live in middle-income countries.
- One in every three children (under the age of 10) and every second child below the age of 18 years is multidimensionally poor in the world.
- About 34% of the world's children and 17.5% adults covered under MPI survey are multidimensionally poor.

- One adult in six is multidimensionally poor compared with one child in three, hence children are more prone to multidimensional poverty than adults.

Indian Scenario

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

9. Taylor Swift tops Forbes list of highest-earning celebs

- According to the Forbes, Pop singer Taylor Swift (American Singer) is the world's top-earning celebrity.
- Social media and reality TV star Kylie Jenner (American) is ranked second on the list.
- American rapper Kanye West ranked third on the list.

Note:

- **Akshay Kumar** ranked on 33rd spot is only Indian on the Forbes Celebrity 100 list for 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. India ranked 86th in the Henley Passport Index 2019

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

14. Connaught Place 9th most expensive office location in the world - According to property consultant CBRE,

New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) is the 9th most expensive office location in the world.

- Hong Kong's Central district retained the top spot as the world's most expensive market for prime office rents.
- Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex and Nariman Point CBD slipped to 27th and 40th position.
- Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey, CBRE tracks the cost of leasing prime office space globally.

15. Global Peace Index 2019: India Ranks 141

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

16. Money in Swiss banks: India ranked 74 – India has ranked at 74th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks by the end of 2018.

- While with maximum holdings, UK (United Kingdom) has remained top in the list.
- The report is compiled by the Swiss National Bank (SNB).
- India was ranked 73rd in 2018.
- The US remains on the second with CHF 144 billion accounts 10.3% of foreign funds.

About Swiss National Bank:

- It is the central bank of Switzerland, and is therefore responsible for the monetary policy of the nation of Switzerland and also for the issuing of Swiss franc banknotes
- Headquarters: Bern and Zurich
- Chairman: Thomas Jordan

17. Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog's AMFFR Index – Maharashtra achieves first rank in NITI Aayog launched "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)".

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

value "100" implying complete reforms in the selected areas.

18. Beekeeping Development Committee Report – India has a potential of about 200 million bee colonies as against the present 3.4 million and increasing the number of bee colonies.

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister set up a Beekeeping Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Bibek Debroy to identify ways of advancing beekeeping in India.
- Further, beekeeping can be an important contributor in achieving the 2022 target of doubling farmer incomes.
- As per Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked **8th** in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood **1st** with a production level of 551 thousand tonnes.

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

- Uttar Pradesh is the worst state in the index.

Key points

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

- The second round of the Health Index took into account the period 2015-16 (base year) to 2017-18 (reference year).

20. Traffic Index-2018:

- Mumbai 'most congested' among 403 global cities, Delhi ranks 4th.
- Mumbaikars spend 65% extra time caught in traffic.
- New Delhi ranked fourth with a congestion rank of 58%.
- Bogota (63%) in Colombia and Lima in Peru (58%) were ranked second and third on the list respectively, while the Russian capital Moscow (56%) ranked fifth.
- Traffic Index-2018', compiled by location technology specialist TomTom.

21. Global Gender Equality Index Released: India Ranks 95

- India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
- The list was topped by **Denmark** followed by Finland and Sweden.
- Chad was placed at bottom most position (129th).
- The Index is developed by Equal Measures 2030, a partnership effort of regional and global organisations.
- Indicators: It includes 51 indicators across 14 of 17 official Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

22. End of Childhood Index 2019 –

- India was ranked 113 in 176 countries on the wellbeing of children.
- The Index was released by 'Save the Children', a United Kingdom (UK) based non-profit organisation which works for child rights.
- The Index was topped by Singapore.

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

- IIT Bombay has emerged the country's best university for the second consecutive year in the 2019 QS World University Ranking.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was named the world's best for a record eighth consecutive year.
- Twenty-three Indian institutes feature in the sixteenth edition of the QS World University Ranking in which **IIT Bombay (152)**, **IIT**

Delhi (182) and **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (184)** are ranked in the global top 200.

- The ranking is produced by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds, QS ranks the world's top 1,000 universities.

24. IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019

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

25. Kids Right Index 2019: India Ranks 117

- India stands in a lowly 117th position out of 181 countries in the KidsRight Index.
- The index ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights.
- Iceland secured the top position in the index followed by Portugal.
- KidsRights Index is an initiative of Kids Right Foundation in cooperation with Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

26. India ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries: Knight Frank

- With investment of \$2.6 billion, India was ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries globally, while China was at the 6th position with an investment of \$14.30 billion.
- The US was the top capital importing country globally with an investment of \$80.89 billion.
- The report noted that the US also topped the list of capital exporting countries globally, with an investment of \$59.62 billion, followed by Canada (\$50.41 billion) and Germany (\$24.50 billion).

27. Cancer Preparedness Index 2019 - India Ranks 19th

- India was ranked 19th out of 28 countries in the Index.
- Index is released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- Top 3 countries are Australia (1st), Netherlands (2nd) and Germany (3rd).
- Bottom three are Saudi Arabia (28th), Romania (27th) and Egypt (26th).

28. Global Startup Ecosystem – India was ranked 17th position among 100 countries.

- It was released by StartupBlink.
- The report ranks countries based on the strength of its startup ecosystem.

- China was ranked 27th.
- Bangalore, New Delhi, and Mumbai were the top cities in the Indian startup ecosystem.
- Top three countries are: United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

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

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

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

- The report stated that India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.
- Sweden remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- The index is compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

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

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

32. India Ranks 11th in Gold Holding: WGC Report – The World Gold Council its latest report highlights the quantum of gold holding by the different countries.

- India has the 11th largest gold reserve and the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes.
- The top spot is occupied by US gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranks third on the list with total gold reserves of 2,814 tonnes.
- The World Gold Council is the market development organisation for the gold industry and it aims to stimulate and sustain demand for gold, provide industry

leadership, and be the global authority on the gold market.

- The members of the World Gold Council include gold mining companies.

33. India ranks 16th in terms of Highest Number of impacted Species in Hotspots – A recent study published in PLOS Biology found that human impacts on species occur across 84% of the earth's surface and India ranks 16th in such impacts, with 35 species impacted on an average.

- Malaysia ranks 1st among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125).
- Southeast Asian tropical forests, including those in India's Western Ghats, Himalaya, and north-east, are among the 'hotspots' of threatened species.
- However, these very areas are also 'cool-spots' (the world's last refuges where high numbers of threatened species still persist).

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

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

35. International IP index 2019

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

36. Corruption Perception Index 2018

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

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

- India has grabbed the 54th spot among 60 countries in the Bloomberg Innovation Index with a score of 47.93 out of 100.

- South Korea has topped the Bloomberg Innovation Index for the sixth time in a row with a total score of 87.38.
- Germany ranked second, Finland stood on the third spot.

38. Global Talent Competitive Index 2019:

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

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

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

40. India Ranks 79th, Japan Tops List of Most Powerful Passports - According to the Henley Passport Index, India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th in 2019. Japan retained its top spot as the world’s most travel-friendly passport.

41. India 6th in GDPR Readiness Index: CISCO - Nearly 65% of Indian organizations are better prepared for the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), making the country the sixth leading nation

globally in the GDPR readiness index, global networking leader, according to CISCO.

42. World Bank's ease-of-doing-business 2019: India ranked at 77

- India’s jumped 23 places to 77 among 190 countries in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business 2019 index.
- Last year, India ranked at 100th position.
- The top 3 economies in the ease of doing business rankings are **New Zealand, Singapore, and Denmark.**

43. IMD World Talent Ranking: India Ranks 53rd

- Switzerland has topped the list of the IMD World Talent Ranking 2018 for the fifth year in a row.
- The Top 3 countries in the list are:
 - Switzerland, Denmark, Norway

44. Climate Change Performance Index 2019:

- India ranked at 11th position.
- As per the Index, Sweden has topped the list while India was on 11th position.
- Saudi Arabia came last, in 60th place, partly due to its obstructive role during international climate negotiations.

45. WEF Gender Gap Index 2018:

- India has been ranked **108th** in World Economic Forum (WEF) gender gap index 2018.
- As per the WEF’s Global Gender Gap Report 2018, Iceland topped the list having closed more than 85.8% of its overall gender gap.
- The Report was published for total 149 countries.
- Norway and Sweden were on 2nd and 3rd position, respectively.

Economy News

Key Highlights of Economic Survey 2018-19

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

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

- This is the first survey by the new chief economic advisor **Krishnamurthy V Subramanian.**

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

Key ingredients for a self-sustaining virtuous cycle:

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

Behavioural Economics for Social Change

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

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

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

Nudge Theory

- American economist **Richard Thaler** has won the 2017 Nobel Prize in economics for his contributions to behavioural economics.
- According to Nudge theory, people, rather than being forced, can be encouraged and influenced to pursue or desist from certain actions through nudges.

- It does not talk about penalizing people if they do not behave in a particular manner, rather it encourages them to make desirable decisions.
- It believes that Humans are not-so-rational and often need encouragement or intervention — a nudge — to get going and do what's best for the country or society at large.

Policies for MSME Growth

- The survey highlights the importance of intervention in the case of "Dwarfs".
- **Dwarfs are the firms with less than 100 workers** despite being more than 10 years old.
- They account for more than 50% of all organized firms in manufacturing by number.
- Contribution of dwarfs to employment is only 14% and to the productivity is a mere 8%.
- Large firms (more than 100 employees) account for 75% employment and close to 90% of productivity despite accounting for about 15% by number.

Minimum Wage System & Inclusive Growth

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

Current Scenario:

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

Setting a National Floor Level Minimum Wage:

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

Criteria for setting minimum wage:

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

just four basic minimum wages for the four skill categories."

Enabling Inclusive Growth through Affordable, Reliable and Sustainable Energy

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

State of the Economy in 2018-19:

- India still the fastest growing major economy in 2018-19.
- Growth of GDP moderated to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 from 7.2 per cent in 2017-18.
- Inflation contained at 3.4 per cent in 2018-19.
- Non-Performing Assets as percentage of Gross Advances reduced to 10.1 per cent at end December 2018 from 11.5 per cent at end March 2018.
- Current account deficit manageable at 2.1 percent of GDP.
- Fiscal deficit of Central Government declined from 3.5 percent of GDP in 2017-18 to 3.4 percent in 2018-19.

Fiscal Developments

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

Sustainable Development and Climate Change

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

External Sector

- As per WTO, World trade growth slowed down to 3 per cent in 2018 from 4.6 per cent in 2017.
- Top export items continue to be Petroleum products, precious stones, drug formulations, gold and other precious metals.
- Top import items continue to be Crude petroleum, pearl, precious, semi-precious stones and gold.

- India's main trading partners continue to be the US, China, Hong Kong, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Agriculture and Food Management

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

About Zero Budget Natural Farming

- Zero Budget Natural Farming, as the name implies, is a method of farming where the cost of growing and harvesting plants is zero.
- This means that farmers need not purchase fertilizers and pesticides in order to ensure the healthy growth of crops.
- It is, basically, a natural farming technique that uses biological pesticides instead of chemical-based fertilizers. Farmers use earthworms, cow dung, urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers for crop protection. It reduces farmers' investment. It also protects the soil from degradation.
- Zero budget natural farming requires only 10 per cent water and 10 per cent electricity than what is required under chemical and organic farming.

Industry and Infrastructure

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

Services Sector

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

Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

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

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

August

1. 33% of India's skilled youth jobless: official survey

- An analysis of the unit-level data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18, conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), found that 33% of India's skilled youth are jobless.
- 4 out of 10 youth who received vocational training are out of the labour force.
- Three fifth young skilled young women out of labour force.
- The unemployment rate among freshly trained youth, who completed training during the previous year, was even higher at 40%.
- The bulk of the training received by younger population were in the fields of IT, electronics, mechanical sectors.
- Coverage was another challenge, with just 1.8% of the population getting formal training in 2017-18.

Note:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
- The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

2. Centre Issues Guidelines for Granting Rs 1 Trillion Credit Guarantee for NBFCs

- In a bid to help the Financially sound NBFCs (Non- Banking Financial Companies), including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), which are facing stress following stocks of defaults.
- The Central Government has issued guidelines of partial guarantee scheme covering a maximum standard asset value of **Rs 1 trillion** under which state-run public-sector banks(PSBs) can purchase high-rated pooled assets originated up to March 31, 2019, from NBFCs.
 - **Guarantee:** Central government will provide a one-time 6 months' partial credit guarantee to PSBs for first loss of up to 10 % (valid for 24 months from the date of purchase).

- Criteria: The credit rating of the pool of assets should be at least 'AA' or equivalent at fair value. Assets below that rating will not qualify under this guarantee.
- Ticket value: NBFCs registered with RBI /HFCs registered with National Housing Bank (NHB) will be only eligible & they should at best liquidate 20% of their standard assets as on March 31, 2019, which otherwise qualify as above subject to a maximum cap value of Rs 5,000 crore.
- CRAR & CAR ratio: The guidelines stipulate that the CRAR (capital to risk-weighted assets ratio) of NBFCs/ CAR (Capital Adequacy Ratio) of HFCs should not be below the regulatory minimum of 15 % & 12 % respectively and net Non-Performing Asset(NPA) should not be more than 6 %.
- The banks can consider an asset a default if there interest and/or installment of principal remains overdue for 90 days.
- Background: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced this scheme in her FY20(Fiscal year) budget.

3. ANZ lowers India's GDP growth in FY20 to 6.2% -

According to a recent report of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), India's GDP (gross domestic product) growth expected to grow by 6.2 % in 2019 (FY-Fiscal Year 2020).

- It also downgraded its forecast for the year to March 2021 to 6.5% from 7.1%.

4. India's GDP to grow at 6.2% in FY 2019-20: NCAER -

As per the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), an economic think-tank, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will be 6.2% in FY 2019-20, down from 6.8% in 2018-19.

5. WTO likely to set up panel to decide on India's sugar sops

- Brazil, Australia and Guatemala have requested the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to set up dispute panels to rule on India's sugar subsidies the second time round after India rejected the request at the last meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) last month.

6. India to conduct 1st National Time Release Study for efficient trade flow

- The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance conducted India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) from August 1-7, 2019.

- It will be conducted on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter.

- It is lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC).
 - TRS: It is an internationally recognized tool advocated by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows.
7. **Sebi to relax norms to allow smart cities issue funds through 'Muni Bonds'** – Capital market regulator Sebi is planning to ease its norms for 'Muni Bonds' to help smart cities and other registered entities working in areas of city planning and urban development work, like municipalities, raise funds through issuance and listing of their debt securities.
 - The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued its Issue and Listing of Debt Securities by Municipalities (ILDM) Regulations nearly five years ago and since then seven municipalities have raised nearly **₹1,400 crore** by issuing their debt securities, which are commonly known as 'Muni Bonds'.
 8. **NSE, SGX get SEBI's nod to operate jointly in GIFT City** - The National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) received permission from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to operate jointly in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City under the proposed programme 'Connect'.
 - Nifty index, which is trading on SGX in Singapore, will be traded on a joint platform between the NSE and SGX in GIFT City.
 9. **Akhilesh Ranjan committee** - On August 19, 2019 a group of experts panel headed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) legislative member Akhilesh Ranjan who was appointed as the convener of the task force in November 2018 by the finance ministry, submitted a report to Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance Minister), to **replace the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code(DTC)**.
 10. **MSCI added HDFC Life Insurance to its Global Standard Index** - MSCI Inc (Morgan Stanley Capital International), One of the world's biggest index compilers, has added HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd. to its Global Standard Index and removed Union Bank of India(UBI) from its India Smallcap Index.
 - The changes in the MSCI Index will be implemented as of the closing hours of August 27, 2019.
 11. **448 entities withdrew over Rs 100 crore each, prompting TDS levy** – As many as 448 firms have withdrawn more than Rs 100 crore in cash cumulatively withdrawing Rs 5.56 lakh crore during fiscal 2017-18.
 - Almost 2 lakh individuals and business entities withdrew more than Rs 1 crore in cash from bank accounts in 2017-18, official data showed.
 - These entities had cumulatively withdrawn over Rs 11.31 lakh crore.
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech said "To discourage the practice of making business payments in cash, I propose to levy TDS of 2 per cent on cash withdrawal exceeding Rs 1 crore in a year from a bank account".
 12. **Crisil cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9% for FY 2019-20** – Ratings agency CRISIL has cut its forecast for India's GDP growth by 20 basis points for FY 2019-20. It has lowered India's GDP growth to 6.9% from 7.1%.
 13. Union government has constituted a 12-member high-level committee to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative. The panel will be headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions).
 14. **Injeti Srinivas Committee** - A high level steering committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) headed by Injeti Srinivas, Corporate Affairs Secretary has recommended to make CSR expenditure tax-deductible and that non-compliance of CSR norms be treated as a civil offence.
 - The committee also recommends companies may be exempted from constituting a CSR committee, if its CSR prescribed amount below **Rs 50 lakh**.

July

1. **ADB cuts India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for FY20** – Asian Development Bank lowered India's GDP growth rate from 7.2% to 7% for the current fiscal year.
 - India is expected to grow by 7% in 2019 and 7.2% in 2020, slightly slower than projected in April, ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook 2019.
2. **IMF lowers India's growth outlook for FY20** – The International Monetary Fund has lowered its annual growth forecast for India from 7.3% to 7% in financial year 2019-20.
3. **Cars24 gets RBI NBFC license to offer loans against used cars**
 - On July 26, 2019, CARS24, an online marketplace for buying and selling used cars has received a license of a Non-banking Finance Company (NBFC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and will be venturing into the consumer lending

business as a separate entity within the Cars24 group.

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

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

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

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

7. **36th Goods & Service Tax (GST) Council Meeting was held in New Delhi** – The GST Council made the following changes in the GST rate on supply of goods and services which will be effective from August 1, 2019:

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

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

10. **Reliance Jio is India's largest telecom company** –

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

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

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

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

12. **LIC offers Rs 1.25 trillion by 2024 for highway projects** –

Life Insurance Corporation of India has agreed to offer Rs 1.25 trillion Line of Credit by 2024, to fund highway projects.

- LIC has offered Rs 25,000 crore in a year and Rs 1.25 trillion in five years. The borrowings will be in the form of bonds to be issued by the National Highways Authority of India.
- The Line of Credit will be used to fund the ambitious Bharatmala project.

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

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

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

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

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

16. Health Ministry bans Colistin in Animal Food Industry

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

- The ban is announced in a bid to preserve drug's efficacy in humans.
- Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units. It is effective against most Gram-negative bacilli. It is also known as polymyxin E.

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

Chandra Garg has submitted its report to the government.

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

Note:

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

18. India's first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dashboard launched

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

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

19. Govt sets a target to raise health services expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025

– Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan stated that the Government sets target is to raise health services expenditure to **2.5 percent of the country's GDP** (Gross domestic product) by 2025 due to the increment of expenditure over the last 10 years.

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

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

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

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

Key highlights of the report:

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

Projections for India

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

About ILO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

June

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

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

- This information was obtained as a response to an RTI filed by The Wire.

2. 2,313 frauds reported in Mudra loan accounts – As many as **2,313 Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** accounts with the public sector banks reported instances of fraud since the financial year 2016-17.

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

- As per information compiled from public sector banks (PSBs), instances of alleged frauds reported during the last three years and the current year so far is in 2,313 accounts.
 - The highest number of frauds were reported from Tamil Nadu (344), followed by Chandigarh (275) and Andhra Pradesh (241).
- 3. Govt cuts interest rate on small savings schemes –**
The GoI has reduced interest rates for small savings schemes by 10 basis points for the July-September quarter of the 2019-20 financial year.
- Some schemes that will fetch lower interest rates are Kisan Vikas Patra (7.6%), Public Provident Fund (7.9%), Sukanya Samriddhi Account (8.4%).
- 4. India's Forex reserves rise to a record high of \$426.42 billion –** As per the data revealed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserve rose to a life-time high of \$426.42 billion (in week to 21 June 2019) after it surged by \$4.215 billion boosted by higher foreign portfolio investments (FPI) and a stable rupee.
- 5. Government to constitute working group for revision of Wholesale Price Index –** Central Government has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
- It will be chaired by **Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member**, NITI Aayog. Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade will be nodal office for Working Group.
 - It will process report / recommendation of this Working Group for further necessary action.
- 6. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs 35th GST council meeting in Delhi**
- The 35th Goods and Service Tax (GST) council meeting was held in New Delhi.
 - Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meeting for the first time after assuming the office.
- Key points**
- The Council extended the tenure of the anti-profiteering authority by two years till **November 2021**.
 - The Council has decided to use **Aadhaar as the identity and address proof** required for registration for GST. No other documents will be required, and authentication can be done using a one-time password.
 - The Council decided to extend the deadline for the filing of the annual return forms GSTR 9, 9A and 9C to August 30, 2019. The earlier deadline was June 30, 2019.
 - The council also approved the rollout of the **single-return filing system for all by January 1, 2020**.
 - The council also approved imposing a penalty of up to **10 per cent of the profiteered amount on entities for not passing on benefits of GST rate cuts** to consumers, as against the current norm of levying a maximum fine of Rs 25,000.
 - The Council also approved the rollout of an **electronic invoicing system** on a pilot basis from January 1, 2020, made it mandatory for GST-registered multiplexes to issue e-tickets.
 - According to the proposal, entities with a turnover of more than Rs 50 crore will be required to generate **electronic invoices** on a government portal for B2B sales.
- 7. SEBI sets up panel for reviewing Margins on Derivatives –** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the capital markets regulator has set up a panel, to review current framework of margins in the futures and options (F&O) derivative segment.
- The working group set up by SEBI is headed by the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) Clearing Ltd.**
- 8. EAC-PM releases a detailed analysis on robustness of India's GDP estimation methodology –** The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released a detailed note titled '**GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts**'.
- The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements,
 - a) Incorporation of MCA21 database, and
 - b) Incorporation of the Recommendations of System of National Accounts (SNA), 2008.
- 9. World Investment Report 2019: UNCTAD**
- According to the World Investment Report 2019, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to India grew by 6% to USD 42 billion in 2018. India was ranked among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
 - The report is published by United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- 10. FDI in services sector up 37 per cent in 2018-19**
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in services sector grew 36.5 per cent to \$9.15 billion in 2018-19, according to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- The sector attracted FDI worth \$6.7 billion in 2017-18.
- Services sector contributes over 60 per cent to the gross domestic product (GDP).

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

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

12. FM chairs the 20th meeting on FSDC

- The 20th meeting on Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.

About FSDC

- The FSDC was constituted in December 2010. It is apex body of sectoral regulators and not a statutory body.
- It was set up by on the recommendation given by Raghuram Rajan Committee.
- The council is headed by the finance minister.
- Members – RBI Governor and SEBI Chairman, IRDAI Chairman, PFRDA Chairman as other members along with finance ministry officials.

13. Electoral bond scheme –

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

14. Bangladesh's first iron ore mine discovered

- For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at **Isabpur village in Dinajpur**.
- The announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh following extensive drilling over two months in the area.

15. ICMR calls for ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems -

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended 'complete' ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes. The recommendation is based on currently available scientific evidence.

- Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes are devices that do not burn or use tobacco leaves but instead vaporise a solution, which a user then inhales.
- The main constituents of the solution, in addition to nicotine, are propylene glycol (with or without glycerol and flavouring agents).

16. DCC approves levy of penalty on Airtel, Vodafone

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

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

Digital Communications Commission

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

17. Forex reserves swell by \$1.8 bn to \$421.8 bn –

The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion in the week ending 31st May 2019.

- Reserve Bank weekly data released showed that foreign currency assets, which is a major component of the overall reserves, rose by USD 1.946 billion to USD 394.134 billion.

18. World Bank retains Growth Forecast for Indian

Economy at 7.5% - The World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects report, retained its forecast of India's growth rate at 7.5% for the current financial Year 2019/20.

19. Overseas investors pump over Rs 9,000 crore into Indian capital markets in May –

Overseas investors pumped more than 9,000 crore rupees into the Indian

capital markets in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures.

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

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

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

- 21. ONGC overtakes India Oil Corp as Most Profitable PSU** – The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) overtook India Oil Corporation (IOC) by regaining crown of being India’s most profitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSU).

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

- 22. GST collections cross Rs 1 lakh crore mark for third straight month** – India’s goods and services tax (GST) revenue collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the third straight month in May to Rs 1,00,289 crore, despite the slowdown in the industrial activities.

- GST collections rose by **6.67 percent** over the revenue of Rs 94,016 crore reported in May 2018.

May

- 1. India’s Economy to grow 7.5% by 2020: OECD report**

- As per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Economic Outlook, India’s economic growth will regain strength and approach 7.5% by 2020.
- As per the report, Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in India is projected to strengthen to close to 7.25% in FY19.
- Global growth is now projected to settle to 2.7 % in 2019 and 2.9 % in 2020.

- 2. India to Grow at 7.1% in FY’20: UN Report**

- As per the report by the United Nations, India’s economy is projected to grow at 7.1% in the fiscal year 2020 and projected at 7.0 per cent in 2019.
- The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report is published by UN.

- 3. FICCI survey forecasts India’s GDP growth at 7.1% for FY20** – The country’s median GDP is forecast at 7.10 percent for Financial Year 2020 and 7.20 percent for Financial Year 2021.

- The industry body FICCI’s economic outlook survey stated that the minimum and maximum growth estimate stood at 6.80 per cent and 7.3 percent for 2019-20.
- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation rate is projected at 3.1 percent in 2019-20, While, the

Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation has a median forecast of 4 percent for 2019-20.

- 4. US removes India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list** – The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners.

- Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed from the list. However, the list includes China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam among others.

- 5. India’s overall exports registered positive Growth of 1.34% in April 2019** – According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data, India’s overall exports, in April 2019 is estimated to be around 44 billion US dollars with a positive growth of 1.34% over April 2018.

- Overall imports in April 2019 is estimated to be around 53 billion dollars with a positive growth of 4.5% over the corresponding period of 2018.

- 6. Unemployment rate, highest in 45 years, touches 6.1%**

- India’s unemployment rate has touched a 45-year-high of 6.1 per cent.
- The report is released by the National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO’s) periodic labour force survey (PLFS) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

- The last time India saw such high unemployment rate was in 1972-73.
 - The assessment period for the data was between July 2017 and June 2018.
 - The report showed that 7.8% of all employable youth in urban areas was unemployed while the rural figure was 5.3%.
 - The unemployment rate among men across the country was 6.2%, while for women, it stood at 5.7%.
 - The joblessness among male on all India basis was 6.2 per cent, while it was 5.7 per cent in case of females.
 - Top and Bottom: Nagaland has the highest unemployment rate among the states with 21.4% followed by Goa (13.9%) and Manipur (11.6%), while Meghalaya has the lowest rate at 1.5%. Chhattisgarh and Sikkim also have the lowest rates.
- 7. WPI inflation Slides to 3.07% in April** – Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for April eased to 3.07%, from 3.62% in April 2018.
- 8. Wirecard' to Work with India to Issue PAN Cards** – Wirecard, a German payments company announced that it would work with India to simplify the process of issuing tax identity cards (PAN Cards) which are required for opening bank accounts, transfer money and complete business transactions.
- 9. 'Elephant Bond'**- A government-appointed high-level panel has suggested for issuance of 'Elephant Bonds' for infrastructure projects and people who are declaring undisclosed income will have to mandatorily invest half of that amount in these securities.
- The duration of 'Elephant Bond' will be 25-years.
 - The 12-member panel headed by **economist Surjit Bhalla** was set up by Ministry of Commerce and Industries last year.
 - The panel has also recommended a road map for doubling India's exports of good and service to over USD 1,000 billion by 2025.
- 10. Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies'** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched an 'Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies' for Asia and the Pacific alongside an ADB Oceans Financing Initiative.
- Through the Initiative, ADB commits to expand its investments and technical assistance in these areas to **USD 5 billion** between 2019 and 2024.
 - The Plan and Initiative aim to support the protection and restoration of marine

ecosystems while promoting inclusive livelihoods, in line with SDG 14 (life below water).

- 11. SBI ties up with FMCG arm of The Art of Living** – The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living – Sri Sri Tattva.
- 12. SIDBI launched a pilot Scheme for Fintech NBFCs** – Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has put together a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to **Rs10 crore** to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities.
- What are Fintech NBFCs?**
- Fintech NBFCs are digital loan companies. They leverage information technology to provide fast and convenient access to funding. To be eligible for funding assistance, Reserve Bank of India-registered new-age fintech NBFCs have to meet prescribed parameters, including minimum capital risk-weighted assets ratio of 15%; non-performing assets less than or equal to 4%; minimum net-owned fund (NOF) of Rs20 crore and minimum asset size of Rs50 crore; and at least two audited annual reports, positive net worth and leverage ratio within 5:1.
- 13. Govt to merge CSO with NSSO to create new stats body** - The government announced that the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) will be merged with the Central Statistics Office to form the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- The NSO will be headed by the secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI).
 - Both the wings are currently part of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
 - While the NSSO comes out with various sample surveys such as on consumption expenditure, employment and unemployment, the CSO releases various data such as GDP and IIP.
 - Chief Statistician of India is Pravin Srivastava.
- 14. Vice President calls for protecting Ongole Cattle Breed** – The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu called for protecting and promoting the indigenous Ongole cattle breed.
- He also released a Compendium on Ongole breed of cattle at the Swarna Bharat Trust in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

Note:

- The breed derives its name from the name of a place called 'Ongole', which occupies a small area between Gundlakamma and Musi rivers in Andhra Pradesh. It is also nicknamed as 'Nelore cattle' as Ongole was once part of the Nellore area.
- Ongole cattle are indigenous to Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh in India.
- National Kamadhenu Breeding Centre will be set up in Chintaladevi in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.

15. 7th Economic Census 2019 -

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) partnered with CSC e-Governance services India Ltd (CSC SPV) to conduct the census.
- The first Economic Census was undertaken in 1977. The 2nd edition was carried out in 1980 followed by 3rd EC in 1990. The 4th EC took place in 1998 while 5th EC was held in 2005. The Sixth edition of Economic Census was conducted in 2013.

Economic Census

- Economic Census is the complete count of all establishment located within the geographical boundary of India.

- It provides disaggregated information on various operational and structural variables of all establishments of the country.

16. SEBI bars NSE from securities market for 6 months:

Co-Location Case - The Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred National Stock Exchange (NSE) from accessing the securities market for six months and also imposed a fine of around **₹1,000 crore (that is, ₹624.89 crore plus 12% interest from April 1, 2014) on NSE in co-location case.**

Co-Location Case

- Co-location refers to system wherein a broker's server is kept in the exchange premises to reduce latency (as it directly influences the amount of time trader takes to interact with market), or delay in computing terms, while executing trades.

17. Chief Economic Advisor appointed as Advisory Council Member in 15th Finance Commission

- The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to Central government, Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian is appointed as twelfth (12) member of Advisory Council of Fifteenth (15th) Finance Commission (FCc).

Fifteenth Finance Commission

- It was constituted in November 2017, to give recommendations for tax devolution and other fiscal matter for five fiscal years, 1 April 2020- 31 March 2025.
- It is chaired by N. K. Singh.

Banking & Financial Awareness

August

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

- EnKash, a card focused Fin-tech startup, has launched the EnKash "**Freedom Card**", India's

FIRST Corporate Credit Card for SMEs / MSMEs and Startups.

- The Freedom Card would give SMEs and startups the freedom to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage their liquidity.

2. AePS crosses 200 million transactions in July: NPCI

- National Payments Corporation of India has announced that Aadhaar enabled Payment System has crossed the milestone of over 200 million transactions during July 2019.
- The transaction count of AePS stood at 220 million in July 2019.
- According to NPCI, in July, the transaction count of AePS stood at 220.18 million with transaction value ₹9,685.35 crore compared with a transaction count of 194.33 million and a transaction value of ₹8,867.33 crore in June.

3. Mastercard launches identity check express to secure online transactions

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

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

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

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

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

6. India Post Payments Bank to be converted into SFB

- The postal department has decided to convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small

finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers.

- This bank will provide micro credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's. The postal department has also target the milestone of 1 crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days.
- India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments etc at post offices.

7. NHB to provide Rs.10,000 cr liquidity infusion facility to HFCs – The housing sector regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) opened a liquidity infusion facility of Rs.10000 crore for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to improve liquidity in sector. The move is taken to unveil measures to boost lending and accelerate growth.

Note:

- National Housing Bank (NHB) was established in 1988, under National Housing Bank Act, 1987. It is an All India Financial Institution (AIFI).

8. Standard Chartered to be first foreign bank to launch ops at GIFT IFSC – UK-based Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

- Standard Chartered has received in-principle regulatory approvals to set up its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

9. New insurance plan "Jeevan Amar" launched by LIC – LIC has launched a new term-insurance plan called Jeevan Amar.

- It is a non-linked, without profit, pure protection plan, and is available for sale offline.
- It offers the flexibility to choose from two death benefit options – level sum assured and increasing sum assured.
- The minimum sum assured under the plan is ₹25 lakh with no maximum limit.
- People of ages 18-65 years are eligible. The maximum maturity age is 80yrs offering policy terms from 10 years to a maximum of 40 years.
- The insurance premium can be paid only once for a limited premium paid regularly.

10. Deutsche Bank to set up 50 billion euro bad bank in revamp – Deutsche Bank is planning to overhaul its trading operations by creating a so-called bad bank to hold tens of billions of euros of non-core assets.

- Deutsche Bank AG is a German multinational investment bank.

11. **SBI Life Insurance and Indian Bank signed a Bancassurance agreement** – , Indian Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with the leading private life insurer, SBI (State Bank of India)Life Insurance to provide SBI’s suite of insurance products to its customers.
12. **Max Life Insurance introduces ‘Speed Dial – your partner for life’ initiative to provide better policy servicing needs to customers** – Max Life Insurance Co Ltd has launched a customer-friendly initiative called “Speed Dial – your partner for life” with the aim to provide a quick and easy resolution of policy servicing needs to customers by allocating a partner (relationship manager) from the day of purchase of a policy.
13. **Indian Bank & Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance inked a pact to offer life insurance products** – Indian Bank, a, signed a pact with Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company (ABSLI) to offer life insurance products to the customers of Indian Bank
14. **Scheduled bank status is given to Jana Small Finance Bank** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave the status to Jana Small Finance Bank to operate as a Scheduled Bank.

- Headquarters- Bengaluru.
15. **Axis Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance signed bancassurance pact** –
 - The 3rd -largest of the private-sector lender, Axis Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with stand alone health insurer, Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHICL) to provide Aditya Birla’s suite of insurance products to its customers.
 16. **Aditya Puri, CEO of HDFC bank, is the top-paid bank CEO in FY19**
 - The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri, who led the bank since its inception 25 years ago, is the highest-paid bank chief executive in India with a monthly basic salary of Rs 89 lakh in FY19.
 17. **Denmark’s Jyske Bank unveiled world’s first negative interest rate home loan** – Denmark’s third-largest bank, Jyske Bank has launched the world’s first negative interest rate mortgage – handing out loans to homeowners where the charge is minus 0.5% a year. It has begun offering borrowers a 10-year deal at -0.5%.

July

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

- Total deposits with Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank stand at about Rs 20 crore.
2. **India Post Payments Bank to be converted into Small Finance Bank**
 - The postal department will convert the India Post Payments Bank into a small finance bank, enabling it to offer small loans to customers, with an aim to open one crore accounts in the first 100 days.
 - India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments etc at post offices, the statement said.

Note:

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

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

- The small bank shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- Capital requirement - The minimum paid-up capital requirement for small banks is Rs. 100 crore.
- Can provide basic banking activities – The small banks accept deposits as well as can offer loan products. Small banks can accept fixed deposits (FDs), term deposits, recurring deposits (RDs) and any non-resident Indian deposits.
- Promoter's contribution: **Promoter contribution would be at least 40 percent** for the first five years. Excess shareholding should be brought down to 40 percent by the end of the fifth year, to 30 percent by the end of 10th year and to 26 percent in 12 years from the date of commencement of business
- Foreign shareholding: The foreign shareholding in the small finance bank would be as per the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.
- They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.
- The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single/group borrowers/issuers would be restricted to 15 percent of total capital funds.
- Loans and advances of up to Rs 25 lakhs, primarily to micro enterprises, should constitute at least 50 percent of the loan portfolio.
- For the first three years, 25 percent of branches should be in unbanked rural areas.
- For the initial three years, prior approval will be required for branch expansion.
- The small finance banks will be required to extend 75 percent of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by the Reserve Bank.

Payment Banks

- Payments Bank cannot lend money to the people.
- Payments banks can't accept fixed deposits (FDs), term deposits, recurring deposits (RDs) and any non-resident Indian deposits.
- Payment Banks will provide banking services to migrant labor workforce, low-income households, small businesses, other unorganized sector entities and other users.

- Payments banks can open small savings accounts and accept deposits of up to Rs.1 lakh per individual.
- Payments banks can issue debit cards but they are not eligible to provide credit card facilities.
- Payments Banks are allowed to set up their own ATMs (automated teller machines).

3. **“Sahamati” introduced to Solve Fintech’s Data Problem** – Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani has introduced a new platform “Sahamati” based on a new class of non-banking financial institutions called the account aggregator (NBFC-AA) model. This will work as consent brokers, which will take users permission to access their financial accounts, aggregate and organize all their financial information in one place.
4. **NPCI ties up with JCB for global RuPay card** – National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and JCB International have launched RuPay JCB Global Cards.
 - RuPay JCB Global Cards can be used at all point of sales terminals which accept RuPay cards and terminals outside India which accept JCB.
5. **Deposits in Jan Dhan Yojana accounts crosses Rs 1 lakh crore** – Deposits in bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan scheme have crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark. As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 36.06 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts was at Rs 1,00,495.94 crore as on July 3.
 - The PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014, with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to the people in the country.
6. **ICICI Bank unveils digital platform InstaBIZ for MSMEs** –
 - ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) launched a new digital platform called ‘InstaBIZ’.
 - It targeted at micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed customers, enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly.
 - It is a new comprehensive digital platform for businesses enables MSMEs to experience the convenience of a range of services digitally includes instant overdraft (OD) facility of up to Rs.15 lakh.
7. **HDFC Bank, CSC launch credit card for VLEs and small traders** – HDFC Bank and Common Services Centres launched a co-branded ‘Small Business Money

Back Credit Card' for small traders and village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs).

- The credit card is specifically designed for VLEs and VLE-sourced customers. It will give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses.

8. HDFC Bank terminated & delisted its GDRs from Luxembourg Stock Exchange – HDFC Bank has terminated and de-listed its 22 outstanding global depository receipts (GDRs) from the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The action has been taken due to low trading volume of GDRs.

Note:

- A global depository receipt (GDR) is a bank certificate issued in more than one country for shares in a foreign company. The shares are held by a foreign branch of an international bank. The shares trade as domestic shares but are offered for sale globally through the various bank branches.

9. ICICI Bank to buy stake in BSE subsidiary INX for Rs 31 crore – ICICI Bank said it has entered into an agreement with the BSE to buy stake in its subsidiary INX - located at GIFT City Gujarat - for nearly Rs 31 crore.

- India International Exchange (INX) - a wholly owned subsidiary of the BSE - is India's first international exchange at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City.

10. Amazon launched 'JEE Ready' app - Amazon, an e-commerce and tech giant, launched an Indian Institute of Technology Joint Entrance Examination (IIT-JEE) preparation app called JEE Ready. It is Amazon's first product in the edtech sector in India.

11. Andhra Bank rolls-out AI chatbot "ABHi" in Telangana – A medium-sized public sector bank in India, Andhra Bank launched its AI (Artificial Intelligence) interactive assistant called "ABHi" at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana.

12. Repco MFI wins an award from NABARD for SHG linkage in TN for 2018-19 - Repco Micro Finance, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)-Micro Finance Institution (MFI) promoted by Repco Bank,

was awarded for outstanding performance in terms of Self-Help Group (SHG) linkage in Tamil Nadu for 2018-19 from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

13. PayPal opens third Global Technology Centre in Hyderabad – On July 23, 2019, an online payment solutions provider PayPal Holdings, Inc has opened a 3rd Global Technology Centre at Western Aqua at Kondapur in Hyderabad, Telangana after Bengaluru and Chennai.

14. YES Bank acquires 9.47% stake in Eveready Industries by invoking pledged shares – YES Bank has acquired a **9.47 % stake** in dry cell battery maker, Eveready Industries India by invoking shares pledged by McLeod Russel.

15. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde was nominated as the president of the European Central Bank.

About the European Central Bank

- European Central Bank was established on 1 June 1998.
- ECB headquarters is located in Ostend district, Frankfurt, Germany.
- It is the central bank of 19 European Union (EU) countries which have adopted Euro.

16. Punjab & Sind Bank sets up Cen-MARG – Punjab & Sind Bank has set up a centralised hub "Centralised MSME & Retail Group".

- It will process retail and MSME loans for the better efficiency of branches in business acquisition.
- The Cen-MARG has been envisioned to ensure qualitative improvement in credit appraisal, improved turnaround time, uniform documentation, and efficient monitoring.

17. 'Vasool So-Ft' launched to digitize NPA recovery process – Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched the web tool 'Vasool So-Ft' (Vasool So-Fast) for digitalising the Non-Performing Asset recovery process of the bank.

18. ICICI Bank tied up with IndoStar Capital, a non-banking financial company, for vehicle financing for small and medium fleet owners to buy new and old commercial vehicles.

June

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

Key points:

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

2. Oracle launches Crime Mitigation solution for smaller banks - A multinational software firm based in the United States, Oracle has introduced a new tool that will help small & mid-sized banks to tackle fraud.

- The Oracle Financial Services “Anti Money Laundering Express Edition(AMLXE)” is designed to detect, investigate, and report suspected money laundering and terrorist financing activity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of the Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

- **MD & CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank:** Parthasarathi Mukherjee.

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

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

Note:

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

May

1. NABARD Announces Rs700-cr Venture Capital Fund for Agriculture, Rural Startups –

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced **Rs 700-crore** venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups.
- NABARD has been contributing to other funds till now and this is the first time that the rural development bank has launched a fund of its own.

- The fund has been launched by **Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD**, and has a proposed corpus of Rs 500 crore with an option to retain over-subscription of **Rs 200 crore**, called as the greenshoe option.
- NABARD Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 12 July 1982.
- NABARD is now 100% owned by the government.

2. Corporation Bank launches loan scheme for MSME sector – Corporation Bank has launched ‘SMESuvidha’

- scheme to provide loans to the GST-registered MSMEs at affordable interest rates.
- Headquarters of Corporation Bank is in Mangaluru.
 - PV Bharathi is Managing Director and CEO of Corporation Bank.
- 3. Indian Overseas Bank launches 'Bank on Wheels' facility** – Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has announced that it has launched 'Bank on Wheels' facility in 14 of its lead districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, besides Vijayawada.
 - 4. State Bank of India (SBI) had organised a nationwide customer meet on May 28 to understand their grievances and enhance services.**
 - 5. India Ratings downgrades Yes Bank with Negative Outlook** – India Ratings has downgraded the YES bank's long-term rating to 'IND AA-' with a negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating. ICRA has also downgraded the long-term ratings of the lender.
 - 6. Bharti AXA Ties Up with Wishfin to offer policies via WhatsApp** – Bharti AXA General Insurance, a private non-life insurer, has tied up with financial marketplace Wishfin's insurance arm Wishpolicy, to offer two-wheeler insurance to customers via WhatsApp.
 - 7. LIC HFL launches Udyam Centre in Bengaluru** – LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) has launched 'Udyam', a skilling center in Bengaluru. It was launched in association with Lok Bharti Education Society, the implementing partner.

Banking & Financial terms

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

57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets

85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund
98. **NSC** - National Savings Certificate
99. **CbC** - Country-by-Country
100. **WEF** - World Economic Forum
101. **MPI** - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
103. **UPI** - Unified Payments Interface
104. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India
105. **CII** - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. **NBCC** - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. **NSSO** - National Sample Survey Office
108. **EMV** - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. **FATF** - Financial Action Task Force

Important Committees

1. **Tapan Ray committee** – The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CICs).
2. **Ramesh Chand (Member, NITI Aayog) committee** – Central Government has constituted Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (Base 2011-12).
3. **Devendra Fadnavis (CM of Maharashtra)** - PM Narendra Modi has constituted a high-powered Committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) for ‘Transformation of Indian Agriculture’.
9. **Aruna Sundararajan Committee** - – Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had constituted a committee chaired by Telecom Secretary Aruna

Sundararajan to spell out revival plans for Telecom sector.

4. **P K Sinha (Cabinet Secretary) panel** - Central Government has formed a committee for coordination among the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the state governments after a tug of war between the two ministries. The panel formation will help in speeding up hydrocarbon exploration-related clearances.
5. **Nandan Nilekani committee** – To encourage digital payments, the committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round-the-clock RTGS and NEFT facility, and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.
6. **V G Kannan committee** - The Reserve Bank of India constituted a six-member committee to review the

- ATM interchange fee structure** with a “view to increase the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas”.
- The committee will be led by V G Kannan, Chief Executive, Indian Banks Association.
- Anil Kakodkar & Sidharth Pradhan committee** - to discuss research-related synergies and tax issues for state-run oil companies. The committee has recommended strategies to reduce import dependency.
 - TN Manoharan committee (Chairman Canara Bank)**- on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.
 - Kasturirangan committee** - Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
 - Amitabh Kant (Niti Aayog CEO) committee** - National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.
 - Suresh Mathur committee** – to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
 - Bimal Jalan Panel** - to suggest how the central bank should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.
 - Anoop Satpathy Committee** - Recommends Rs 9,750 Monthly National Minimum Wage
Note:
 - submitted its report on “Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” to the Government.
 - It recommended the fixation of need-based National Minimum Wage (NMW) for India at Rs 375 per day or Rs 9,750 per month irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations for a family comprising of 3.6 consumption units.
 - The Present NMW is Rs. 4,576.
 - Sanjeev Sharma (income tax commissioner) Committee** - to look into the matter of taxation related pain points and submit its final report and recommendations by mid-March.
 - CPWD Constitutes 8-member Committee to Chart Out Design Policy** - The Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has constituted an expert committee to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development.
 - The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of CPWD’s Additional Director General M K Sharma.
 - Environment Ministry Constitutes Committee to Implement National Clean Air Programme** - The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.
 - The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry. It would be headquartered in New Delhi.
 - B V R Mohan Reddy committee** - not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.
Note:
 - The Panel headed by IIT-Hyderabad chairman B V R Mohan Reddy has suggested All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) not to allow setting up of new Engineering colleges from 2020.
 - Nandan Nilekani committee** - to boost digital payments and enhance financial inclusion.
 - U.K. Sinha committee** - to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.
 - Committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health)** - The Union government has constituted a high-power committee headed by NITI Aayog member (health) to monitor the pricing of medicines and healthcare products.
 - Praveen Kutumbe committee** - Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a panel headed by Praveen Kutumbe, to identify domestically systematically important insurers (SIIs) and an augmented regulatory framework is logically established in this regard.
 - Akhilesh Ranjan Committee** – for drafting New Direct Tax Legislation (Law)
 - Dr. Bibek Debroy (The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister) Committee** - to assess key challenges and suggest reforms in logistics development and associated commerce.
 - Rajiv Kumar (NITI Aayog Vice Chairman) Committee** – to look at selling of 149 small and marginal oil and gas fields of state-owned the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to private and foreign companies to boost domestic output.

Agreement & Deals

August

- 1. ADB to provide \$200 Million loan for improving road infrastructure in Maharashtra** – Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved US \$200 million loan for Road Infrastructure Improving project in Maharashtra's 34 districts for better connecting rural areas with markets and services.
- 2. ADB signs USD 500 million loan agreement with Pakistan** – The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD 500-million loan agreement with cash-strapped Pakistan to support the country's trade competitiveness and exports.
- 3. India signs UN Convention on International Settlement Agreements** – India signed United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) also known as Singapore Convention on Mediation.
 - It was signed by India's High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf, representing Government of India (GoI).
 - So far 46 countries have signed this international treaty on settlement agreements.
- 4. UP Govt extends bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024** – The Uttar Pradesh government has extended bilateral agreements with Netherlands till 2024.
 - The previously inked MoUs sought cooperation and exchange of the knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management including restoration of water bodies and mobility planning.
- 5. Wipro partners with IISc on robotics and 5G** – Wipro announced a strategic partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G.
 - Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry-academia collaboration unit, which will drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.
- 6. OYO Hotels partners with ACKO General Insurance will launch complimentary insurance cover up to Rs.10 lakh for guests**
 - On August 12, 2019, Budget hotel chain Oyo Hotels and Homes have partnered with ACKO General Insurance to provide a complimentary insurance cover as part of the booking price for guests at its hotels across India.
- 7. Chennai City FC ties up with German company "uhlsport"** – I-League champion Chennai City FC has announced a strategic partnership with German sports goods supplier "uhlsport".
 - The partnership aims to support a sustainable growth of football education in India.
- 8. UNIDO and NISE to partner for skill development program** – The National Institute of Solar Energy and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization have signed an agreement to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
 - NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material.
- 9. Rel Jio & Microsoft partners to offer cloud infrastructure for businesses** – Reliance Jio and Microsoft announced a partnership to accelerate the digital transformation in India.
 - Under this deal, Microsoft will bring in the Azure Cloud on Jio Network and target the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift.
- 10. India & Bangladesh to set up committee for optimum use of water resources** – India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a Joint Technical committee for optimum use of Ganges water.
 - The river Ganga's water is being received by Bangladesh under the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty 1996.
 - Both the countries have also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for 8 rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta.
- 11. Bangladesh signs uranium supply deal with Russia** – Bangladesh signed a deal with Russia for the supply of uranium for its 2400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP).
 - The deal was signed in Dhaka between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company (TVEL).

- Under this deal, Russia will supply the nuclear fuel needed for the plant during its entire life cycle.

- 12. IIT Madras partners with NIOT to harness electricity from ocean waves** – The Indian Institute of Technology Madras partnered with National Institute of Ocean Technology to harness electricity from ocean waves. Both institutions will together develop turbines that can harness the power of ocean waves to generate electricity.
- The research is being headed at IIT Madras.

- 13. Indian Bank signs up Corporate Agency pact with Chola MS** – Indian Bank has entered into a corporate agency agreement with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Ltd.

- Under the agreement, Indian Bank will distribute the latter's insurance products ranging from motor, home, health PA, and travel insurance, and SME and commercial line of business etc.

July

- 1. India, UK launch Innovating for Clean Air initiative in Bengaluru** – India and United Kingdom launched two-year joint initiative- Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA) in Bengaluru, capital of Karnataka.
- It is aimed at providing unique air quality measurement system by integrating satellite and sensor data and support India's transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- 2. President Ram Nath Kovind Visit to Benin** – President Ram Nath Kovind visited Benin at Cardinal Bernadine de Cotonou International Airport in Cotonou, the largest city in the West African country.
- This is first visit by either a head of state or head of government to three West African countries.

Note:

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

Note:

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

- 3. Deputy CM of Tripura, Jishnu Dev Varma announces projects worth Rs.1925 crore by ADB** - Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, Jishnu Dev Varma announced that Rs.1,925 crore worth of amount is sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for power generation up-gradation and distribution projects in the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note:

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

10. BCC signs MoU with BRICS chamber to promote trade

– The Bharat Chamber of Commerce and the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, signed an MoU for promoting trade and investments between the BRICS countries and the eastern part of India.

Note:

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

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

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

12. India hands over pre-fabricated houses to Myanmar -

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

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

Note:

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

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

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

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

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

15. Prasar Bharati and IIT Kanpur signed an MoU for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi. The move is likely to boost research activities in the broadcasting field.

16. Ebix acquires Yatra Online in \$337.8 million – US company, Ebix has announced the acquisition of travel portal Yatra Online for \$337.8 million.

17. L&T Infotech acquires AI firm Lymbyc for Rs 38 crore – Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd acquires AI firm Lymbyc for Rs 38 crore.

- Lymbyc is a Bengaluru-headquartered company known for its capabilities in analytics and data sciences space.

18. India signs MoU with Myanmar on defense co-operation.

19. Kalyani JV gets missile kits order – A joint venture of a Kalyani group firm and Israel’s Rafael Advanced Systems has secured a \$100 million contract for manufacturing 1,000 Barak-8 MRSAM missile kits.

- Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems will manufacture the kits at its production facility near Hyderabad and supply them to Bharat Dynamics for further integration. The product will be used by the Indian Army and the Air Force.

20. Haryana govt signs pact with NSE & BSE for growth of MSMEs – BSE & National Stock Exchange has signed a pact with the Haryana government to help boost the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises sector in the state. As per the MoU:

- NSE will support the Haryana government in enhancing the financing opportunities for MSMEs in the state, through listing on NSE's SME exchange platform "NSE Emerge".
 - The Government of Haryana and BSE intend to facilitate SMEs in raising funds through BSE's dedicated platform for SME's "BSE SME" where small companies can list and raise productive capital, gain visibility and credibility vis-a-vis large corporates.
- 21. Sri Lanka signs agreement with India to upgrade railway lines** – Sri Lanka has signed an agreement with India to upgrade tracks in a key railway segment connecting the north and south at a cost of \$ 91.26 million.
- This is the first time in 100 years that the 130 km-long-tracks, running from Maho town in the North Western Province to Omanthai in the Northern Province, are being upgraded.
 - The contract agreement for concessional financing was signed in Colombo between the Government of Sri Lanka and IRCON International Ltd (India).
- 22. India, Italy to set up fast-track mechanism** – India and Italy have decided to set up a fast track mechanism to facilitate investors and companies.
- The meeting was attended by Ambassador of Italy to India, Lorenzo Angeloni and Secretary of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ramesh Abhishek.
- 23. OYO Hotels & Homes acquires co-working firm Innov8** –
- OYO Hotels & Homes has formally announced its acquisition of co-working venture Innov8. OYO will operate the firm Innov8 as an independent brand, and along-side its existing co-working operations.
- 24. Broadband Readiness Index for Indian States and Union Territories** – The Department of Telecom (DoT) and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) signed a MoU to develop a Broadband Readiness Index (BRI) for Indian States and Union Territories (UT).
- The first estimate will be made in 2019 and subsequently every year until 2022.
- 25. Israel Aerospace signs \$50 million deal with Indian navy** – Israel Aerospace signs \$50 million follow-up deal with Indian navy.
- Under the deal, Israel Aerospace Industries will provide complementary missile systems to the Indian navy and India's MDL Shipyard.
 - The agreement also involves a range of maintenance and other services for sub-systems of Israel Aerospace's naval medium range surface-to-air missile.
- 26. Reliance Jio ties up with Facebook for 'Digital Udaan'** – Reliance Jio ties up with Facebook for digital literacy initiative 'Digital Udaan'. The initiative will have audio-visual training in 10 regional languages.
- 27. ISRO ties up with Russian agency to select, train Indian astronauts** – Indian Space Research Organisation has signed a contract with Russia's **Glavkosmos** for selection support, medical examination and space training of Indian astronauts.
- ISRO has planned to send two unmanned missions before the mission 'Gaganyaan-1'.
- 28. Govt ropes in IBM for a pilot study on using AI, weather tech in agriculture** – The Centre on 03rd July 2019 inked pact with IBM India for undertaking a pilot study to utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and weather technology solutions in agriculture in one district each in three states.
- The pilot study will be conducted for the Kharif crop season 2019 in three districts - Bhopal, Rajkot and Nanded - in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, respectively.
- 29. Hong Kong to provide over \$9 million aid for Cyclone Fani victims** - The Hong Kong government has approved over \$900,000 for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Odisha that could benefit around 45,100 victims.
- Cyclone Fani, an extremely severe cyclonic storm, made a landfall in Odisha's Puri in May 2019.
- 30. India sign Rs.200 crore deal with Russia to acquire Strum Ataka** – India has signed Rs.200 crore deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF).
- 31. MoU between India and Maldives in the Health Sector.**
- 32. Cabinet approves India-Maldives MoU for passenger, cargo services** – The Union Cabinet has approved the pact signed between India and Maldives to start passenger and cargo services via sea route. The MoU will pave way for ferry services between Maldives and India.
- 33. ICICI & IndoStar Capital partner to finance commercial vehicles** – ICICI Bank has tied up with NBFC IndoStar Capital for vehicle financing for small and medium fleet owners to buy new as well as old commercial vehicles.
- 34. Delhi Police signs pact with SECI for rooftop solar energy systems** – Delhi Police has signed a pact with Solar Energy Corporation of India. Under this, the SECI will support the implementation of grid-connected

- rooftop solar photovoltaic systems on the establishments of Delhi police.
35. **SBI, NIIF in pact for funding infrastructure projects** – The State Bank of India has signed a memorandum of understanding with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects.
 36. **NASSCOM & NSDC launches “World Skills India”- International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019** – NASSCOM(National Association of Software and Services Companies) and NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) has organized “World Skills India”- International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019.

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

37. **VNL signs pact with Vietnam to develop digital villages** – Vihaan Networks Ltd (VNL) has inked a pact with Vietnam to develop digital villages.
38. **Airtel Payments Bank to sell Bharti AXA Life’s term insurance** – Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer a life term insurance plan.
 - The product, Bharti AXA Life (Point of Sale) Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana, is a pure life term insurance plan which is aimed at the under insured and uninsured segments in India.

June

6. **India & World Bank signed a loan agreement worth of \$328 million** for improving health services of Andhra Pradesh.
7. World Bank commits **\$31.58 mn loan** for Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project
8. **Tech Mahindra signed a contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering** - Tech Mahindra, an information technology firm, entered into a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.
 - The contract is aimed to capitalise on the specialised skills and competencies in growing cabin engineering business over the next few years.
9. **Airbnb has invested \$100mn in Indian hotel startup OYO** - Airbnb has invested \$100 million in hospitality chain
 - Oyo Hotels & Homes, making it the third successive strategic investor to buy a stake in the Gurgaon-based company.
 - Airbnb, Inc. is an American online marketplace and hospitality service brokerage company based in San Francisco, California, United States. Members can use the service to arrange or offer lodging, primarily homestays, or tourism experiences.
 - As part of the deal, Oyo is also likely to list its properties on the San Francisco-headquartered company’s platform.
10. **India scrapped \$500 mn arms deal with Israel** - India scrapped \$500 million arms deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
11. **Maruti Suzuki inks partnership with BOB for dealer financing** - Automobile manufacturer in India, Maruti Suzuki signed ‘Preferred Financier’ MoU(Memorandum

of understanding) with public sector Bank, Bank of Baroda (BOB) to improve credit for dealership inventory financing.

12. World Bank approves \$147 Million Loan to the Government of Jharkhand – The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed a \$147 Million Loan Agreement.

- Jharkhand will invest the amount to provide urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage and urban road.

13. India & Portugal to set up National Maritime Heritage Museum - India and Portugal will cooperate in setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at ancient Indian site of Lothal in Gujarat.

- Lothal (literally means the mound of dead) was one of port cities of Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Civilization).
- The proposed maritime museum in Indian is likely to come up on lines of similar museum at Lisbon, which is administered by Portuguese Navy.

14. DD India to be available in Bangladesh, South Korea

- The Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry said that India has entered into agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea to make DD (Doordarshan) India available to viewers in the two countries respectively.
- Under this agreement, Bangladesh's BTV World and South Korea's KBS World will also be made available on DD Free Dish, which has nearly 35 million subscribers across the country.

15. India extends \$15 Million assistance to Niger for holding AU summit – India has for the first time extended \$15 Million financial support to Niger as a support for organising African Union (AU) summit scheduled to be held in 7-8 July 2019 in Niamey (Capital of Niger).

- This will be the 1st time that Niger will be hosting an AU summit.

- India is also establishing the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre (MGICC) in Niamey under grant assistance.
- African Union (AU), international organization established in 2002 by the nations of the former Organization of African Unity (OAU).
- There are 54-member nations; the only African country that is not a member is Morocco.
- The AU's headquarters are at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

16. India extended a financial aid of 1.6billion Nepalese Rupees (NPR) to Nepal government for rebuilding earthquake-hit houses in two district that were most hit.

17. ICANN partners NASSCOM to develop tech, standards for IoT devices – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Indian IT industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) collaborated to develop identifier technology to manage devices and infrastructure using internet.

18. Tamil Nadu gets \$287 million World Bank Loan for Healthcare Reform – The Centre, the Tamil Nadu Government and the World Bank have signed a \$287-million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP).

19. IndianOil, BPCL And HPCL Ink JV For Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline Project – IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had signed a joint venture in New Delhi for Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline Project.

- They will be laying the world's longest LPG pipeline from Kandla (Gujarat) to Gorakhpur (UP).

20. Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered a Tripartite Agreement with French Railways (SNCF) & AFD, a French Agency which will finance up to 7,00,000 EURO, through French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC to support the Railway Station Development Program in India, so there will be no financial liability on IRSDC or Indian Railways.

May

1. IIT Guwahati signs MoU with ISRO to set up space technology – Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed an MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC) at the institute.

2. Sri Lanka signs tripartite agreement with India and Japan – Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.

- As per the agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51 percent majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 percent.
3. **ADB to provide USD750 Million Loan to India for Railway Track Electrification** – Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it has signed an agreement to provide USD 750 million equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.
 4. **Tech Mahindra signs Rs300 crore Defence Contract with Indian Navy** – Tech Mahindra announced its biggest defence order worth over Rs 300 crore with the Indian Navy. As part of the 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card' (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based Access Control System across all naval bases and ships.
 5. **Sri Lanka, Japan, India signs MoC to develop East Container Terminal** – Sri Lanka, India and Japan have signed an Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to jointly develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port in Sri Lanka.
 6. **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), HCL Foundation and Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the plantation of Rudraksha trees in Uttarakhand under the 'Namami Gange' Programme.**
 7. **IBM India has tied-up with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, to co-create new Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions.**

Reports/Survey

1. **Earth has lost 53% of its Wildlife since 1970: WWF Report**
 - According to the first-ever global assessment of forest biodiversity, "Below the Canopy: Plotting Global Trends in Forest Wildlife Populations" by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the number of forest wildlife populations have declined on average by 53% since 1970 due to Habitat loss and degradation, over exploitation and Climate change.
 - The report has been produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) & The UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) co-lead the analysis and modelling for this report.
2. **India Is the top Emitter of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) in the World: Greenpeace**
 - According to a data released by a non-governmental environmental organization, Greenpeace, India is the world's top emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world with more than 15% of all the SO₂ hotspots, tracked by NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.
 - The name of the report is "Global SO₂ emission hotspot database: Ranking the world's worst sources of SO₂ pollution". It is written by Sunil Dahiya and Lauri Myllyvirta.
- **SO₂ hotspots in India:** The reports finds that Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli, and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra are the major SO₂ hotspots in India.
- **SO₂ Hotspots in the World:** Norilsk smelter complex in Russia is the largest SO₂ emission hotspot in the world, followed by China, Mexico, Zagroz (Iran) and Kriel in Mpumalanga province (South Africa).
- About SO₂: It is produced from burning of coal in power plants and other industries and it is known to largely contribute to air pollution.
3. **MSME Pulse Report: Gujarat tops –**
 - According to TransUnion Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL) – Small Industries Development Bank of India's (SIDBI) Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Pulse Report, Gujarat was ranked first in terms of performance and credit growth potential for MSME Corporate Lending in India.
 - It has maintained the top position since the past 4 years. MSME corporate entities are borrowers with aggregate credit exposure of up to Rs 50 crore. The market size of this category is Rs 17.6 lakh crore as of March 31, 2019.

- Gujarat was followed by Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Delhi. Maharashtra, one among the most industrialized states, was ranked 9th.
4. **“Tata” becomes India’s most valuable brand for 2019: Brand Finance India 100 2019 report**
- According to the London-based consultancy Brand Finance annual report, “Brand Finance India 100 2019”, “Tata” has become India’s most valuable brand for the second straight year in 2019 with the brand value of \$19.6 billion followed by LIC(Life Insurance Corporation) (2nd)with \$7.3 billion and Infosys (3rd)\$6.5 billion.
5. **UN Report: Over 820 million people suffering from hunger –**
- A UN report has said, more **than 821 million people** suffered from hunger worldwide last year. It is the third year in a row that the number has risen.
 - The report named, ‘**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**’, produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and other UN agencies, including WHO, was released.
 - The report is part of tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goal to Zero Hunger, which aims to end hunger, promote food security and end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.
- Number of hungry people in the world in 2018: 821.6 million (or 1 in 9 people)
- Asia: 513.9 million.
 - Africa: 256.1million.
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: 42.5 million.
6. **India stays lower-middle-income nation while Sri Lanka gets richer: World Bank Report**
- According to the World Bank’s classification of countries by income levels, released on July 1, 2019, India continues to be a lower-middle-income country along with 46 others, while Sri Lanka has climbed to the upper-middle-income group for the fiscal year (FY) 2020.
 - India became a lower-middle-income nation from low-income in FY 2009.
 - Sri Lanka entered the lower-middle-income group in FY 1999, from the low-income category and continued for over two decades, before moving to the upper-middle-income group this year.
 - The World Bank classifies economies based on gross national income (GNI) per capita (current

US\$) calculated using what is **called the Atlas method.**

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

Classifications are determined:

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

7. **WHO has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health –**

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

8. **75% of children with disabilities don't attend schools in India: UNESCO -** The 2019 "State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities" took into account the 2011 census, according to which there are 78,64,636 children with disability in India constituting 1.7 percent of the total child population.

Key points of the report -

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

9. **The Rahimatpur Police station in Satara tops SMART survey –** The Rahimatpur police station in Satara district in Maharashtra has emerged as the State topper in a survey based on the ‘SMART’ policing concept.

- ‘SMART’: Strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsive, techno-savvy and trained. The survey was executed by the Quality Council of India.

10. **World Food Programme (WFP) report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) –** The report on Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Analysis of India developed by UN (United Nations) World Food Programme in

partnership with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) stated that **31.4% of Indian** children under five years will still be stunted by 2022.

Key Highlights:

- The stunting in children under 5 years of age is the highest in Bihar (48%), Uttar Pradesh (46%), Jharkhand (45%), and Meghalaya (44%).
- Only one in five children in Kerala and Goa (20% each) are stunted.
- Reduction: Stunting in children in India under the age of five has reduced at a rate of about 1% per year in the last decade.
- India must double its rate of progress to reach the target of 25% by 2022 set by the National Nutrition Mission.

About Stunting:

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

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

Note:

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

12. Mercer’s 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey –

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

13. Wind and solar to deliver half the world’s power by the year 2050: BNEF report

- According to a “New Energy Outlook (NEO) report 2019” released by Bloomberg NEF, Wind and solar power are the new power in two-thirds of countries around the world and they will make up almost half of the electricity system by 2050.

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

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

Key highlights of the report

- India is expected to add nearly **273 million people between 2019 and 2050** and remain the most populated country through the end of the current century.
- China, with 1.43 billion people in 2019, and India, with 1.37 billion, have long been the two most populous countries of the world,

World Population

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

Population Growing Older

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

Average life expectancy

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

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

- According to a new study by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson, India has the highest average data usage per smartphone, reaching 9.8 GB per month at the end of 2018.
- The report, released on 19th June, also forecasts that this figure is likely to double to 18 GB per month per smartphone by 2024.
- The ‘Ericsson Mobility Report’ added that total smartphone subscriptions in the region is likely to reach 1.1 billion by 2024, growing at 11% CAGR.

- The total mobile broadband subscriptions in India are expected to grow from about 610 million in 2018 to 1.25 billion in 2024.

16. CO2 emissions rose by 2% in 2018: Study

- As per a closely-watched review by United Kingdom (UK) based energy giant BP, titled “The BP Statistical Review of World Energy”, the global carbon emissions grew by 2.0% in 2018, the highest rate since 2010-2011.
- BP is a London based, British multinational oil and gas company.

17. India to generate over 2 million outbound tourists annually by 2020: Report

- India is estimated to generate over 2 million outbound luxury and MICE tourists annually by 2020, reinforcing the country's influence as a key source market for MICE and luxury travel.

18. Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand

- Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand, according to the findings of the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019.
- Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India.

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

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

20. Amazon top global brand: 100 Top BrandZ report

- According to global market research agency Kantar in its 2019's '100 Top BrandZ Report', US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google to become the world's most valuable brand.
- The brand value of Amazon surged by 52 percent to \$315 billion, hence jumping from third to first place to replace Google.

21. India accounts for 12% of world's internet users

- According to annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker, India accounts for 12% world's internet users.
- China has the largest base, accounting for 21% of all internet users globally, and the US comes third at 8%.

22. Mukesh Ambani tops Forbes' list of World's Richest

Sports team owners – The chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Mukesh Ambani, made it to the top with a net worth of around \$50 billion.

- The Indian Premier League (IPL) team Mumbai Indians was bought by Ambani for over \$100 million through RIL's 100 per cent subsidiary IndiaWin Sports.
- The team had won the IPL crown in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019.
- **Steve Ballmer team owner of NBA team Los Angeles Clippers is on the second list.**
- In the third list - Dietrich Mateschitz owner of Auto racing team Red Bull-Toro Rosso Honda, Formula One team Red Bull Racing and MLS club New York Red Bulls.

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

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

24. 2019 Global Report on Food Crises –

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

Key points –

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

About FAO –

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy
- Founded: 16 October 1945

Government Schemes

August

1. Punjab govt. launches 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' health insurance scheme – State government of Punjab launched a mega health insurance scheme title 'Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana' (MGSSBY) for poor by clubbing Centre's Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) plan with its own.

- The PMJAY was unveiled in September 2018 by the Centre and kept on hold so far by Punjab government.
- The scheme was launched by Punjab's Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to mark 75th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- With launch of this scheme, Punjab has become 1st state to offer medical insurance for such a large proportion of its population.

About Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana

- It incorporates Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), Centre's health insurance scheme for poor.
- By clubbing Centre's Ayushman Bharat plan with its MGSSBY, it is expected to benefit 46 lakh families covering 76% of state's population.

Insurance Coverage: Like PMJAY, this Punjab government's scheme will also provide cashless health insurance cover of Rs.5 lakh/year.

2. PM announces Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme for households – Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will launch a Jal Jeevan Mission to bring piped water to households.

- The announcement was made during his 6th Independence Day (August 15) address from Red Fort.

Concerned Authority: Under Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Objective: It seeks to converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across India.

3. Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana – Vice President launches Jharkhand government's financial assistance program for its farmers

- Under the Jharkhand state's scheme, Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana launched by Shri Venkaiah Naidu, farmers/ beneficiaries having farmlands of less than 1 acre to 5 acres

will be provided financial assistance of Rs5,000-25,000. The launching ceremony was held in 23 districts apart from Ranchi.

- This scheme would benefit approximately 35 lakh farmers and by september/october this year. The outlay is Rs 3000 crore.
- This scheme is apart from the benefits that the farmers are getting under Pratan Mantri Kisan yojana.

4. SAMARTH Scheme: 16 states ink MoU with Textiles Ministry – 16 states out of 18 selected states have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Ministry of Textiles for skilling about 4 lakh workers as part of Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH).

- 16 states that have signed MoUs include Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Karnataka, Manipur, Haryana, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha earlier had agreed to be on board, but did not sign MoU.

Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SAMARTH)

- It is skill development scheme of Union Ministry of Textiles, covering the entire value chain of the textile sector excluding Spinning & Weaving in organized Sector. It was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in December 2017.

5. Flipkart launches initiative to bring indigenous artisans products on its platform – E-commerce company Flipkart launched 'Samarth', an initiative to bring weavers, artisans and makers of handicrafts to its platform.

- Flipkart Samarth will support such artisans, weavers, etc, by on-boarding them and helping them in the process of selling on the internet.

6. Government of Odisha launched Small Savings Incentive Scheme – Odisha government unveiled the 'Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme' for the calendar year 2019 under the notation "AQ" series. The aim of the scheme is to stop people from transacting with 'suspicious' non-banking private financial institutions.

7. Union HRD Minister to launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive – Union HRD Minister will launch

'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.

- So that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens of our nation.

Five Major Objectives of the scheme -

- To educate students learn about conservation of water.
- To sensitize students about the impact of scarcity of water.
- To empower students to learn to protect the natural sources of water.
- To help every Student to save at least one litre of water per day.
- To encourage Students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level.

Target under the drive -

- 1 Student – 1 Day – Save One Litre Water
- 1 Student – 1 Year – Save 365 Litres Water
- 1 Student – 10 Years – Save 3650 Litres Water

8. 5595 electric buses sanctioned under FAME scheme –
The Department of Heavy Industry has sanctioned 5,595 electric buses under the phase II of Faster Adoption and

Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) India scheme.

- The buses are sanctioned to 64 cities in 22 states and union territories for intracity and intercity operations in order to push for clean mobility in public transportation.

9. One Nation, One Ration Card' to be rolled out in India by June 1, 2020 – "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme to be rolled out in India from June 1, 2020.

- To implement the scheme successfully, the centre has kick started inter state portability of ration card pairing two states each.
- The pairs are made between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.
- This means that beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS), also called ration shops, in either of the states.

10. KVIC launches "Leather Mission" on World Tribal Day – The Khadi and Village Industry Commission has launched "Leather Mission" on World Tribal Day.

- Under this mission, the commission will give leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- World Tribal Day observed on 9th August every year.
- The 2019 theme is 'Indigenous Languages'.

July

Scheme Announced in Budget 2019-20

1. FAME II scheme – aims to encourage faster adoption of electric vehicles by right incentives and charging infra.

Key points

- The Union cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for implementation of scheme titled 'Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)' for promotion of Electric Mobility in the country.
- Only advanced-battery-operated and registered e-vehicles to be incentivized under FAME Scheme.

Financial Implications:

- Total fund requirement for this scheme is **Rs. 10,000 crores** over three years from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Note:

- This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled 'FAME India1' which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.

2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao – The Economic Survey 2019 has proposed a change in the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.

- The campaign, to be labelled **BADLAV** (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi), will be used to represent the change towards gender equality.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme:

- BBBP scheme was launched on 22 January 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- The budget of Rs 280 crore allocated to BBBP scheme in the current financial year.

3. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) – In the Union Budget 2019-20, the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a maternity benefit programme, was **Rs 2,500 crore**.

Key points

- Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh were the top three performing states under the maternity benefit programme 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' (PMMVY).

4. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana: A new scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector.

- While presenting Union Budget 2019-20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a new scheme to promote processing in the fishery sector.
- The new scheme, Pradhan **Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, will be established under the Department of Fisheries for a robust fisheries management framework.
- She also announced the creation of a new ministry for fisheries sector **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- The new ministry was formed in order to promote the allied farm sector that has huge potential to help achieve the government's target of doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- The budget allocated for the newly carved out Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is **Rs 3,737 crore**.

5. Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi Maandhan Scheme – Monthly Pension Scheme for Traders

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved **Rs.3000 monthly pension scheme** for small retail traders and shopkeepers after they attain the age of 60 years.

Key points of Scheme

- Under the scheme all small shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum of Rs.3,000 monthly pension after attaining 60 years of 60 years.
- The new pension scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community will cover 3 crore small retail traders and shop keepers.
- **Eligibility:** All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between **18-40**

years and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below **Rs.1.5 crore** can enrol for pension scheme.

6. National Common Mobility Card – India's first indigenously developed payment ecosystem for transport, based on National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) standards, launched in March 2019.

- This will enable people to pay multiple transport charges across India.
- This card runs on RuPay card and allows users to pay bus charges, parking charges, etc.

Note:

- National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) developed One Nation One Card.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs ministry formulates the concept of One Nation One Card.

7. One Nation, One Grid – for power availability to states at affordable rates.

8. MUDRA scheme – According to the Union Budget 2019-20, the overdraft of Rs. 5,000 to be allowed for every verified women SHG member having a Jan Dhan Bank Account.

- One woman per SHG to be eligible for a loan up to **Rs. 1 lakh** under **MUDRA Scheme**.

Note:

- Prime Minister Modi had launched **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** in April 2015.
- The objective was to provide non-corporate and non-agricultural small businesses with loans up to **Rs 10 lakh**, which are called Mudra loans.
- Mudra loans are divided into three categories: Shishu (loans up to Rs 50,000), Kishor (loans between Rs. 50,001 and Rs. 5 lakh), and Tarun (loans between Rs. 5,00,001 and Rs. 10 lakh).
- Maximum loan amount under MUDRA scheme is – Rs 10 lakh and the minimum loan amount is Rs. 50,000.
- MUDRA stands for - Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd.

9. Jal Jeevan Mission – Jal Shakti Mantralaya will work with states to ensure Har Ghar Jal for all rural houses by 2024, under JalJeevan Mission.

- To all rural households by 2024, water will be supplied.

10. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan - Over 2 crore Indian made digitally literate under PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan).

- Under Digital India Programme would cover **6 crore households** in rural areas to make them digitally literate.

- The Scheme is applicable only for rural areas of the country.

Entry criteria

- The beneficiary should be Digitally Illiterate
- Only one person per eligible household would be considered for training
- Age Group: 14 - 60 years

11. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana – Under phase three of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, **1.25 lakh kms** of road to be built in the next five years. Project cost estimated cost of nearly **Rs 80,200 crore**.

12. ASPIRE scheme - Under ASPIRE to develop, 80 Livelihood business incubators and 20 technology business incubators to be set up in 2019-20

ASPIRE Scheme -

- The ASPIRE-A scheme runs under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and aims to promote innovation, rural industry and entrepreneurship in India.
- This scheme was launched in March 2015.
- Objective - To set up a network of technology centres, incubation centres to accelerate entrepreneurship and also to promote start-ups for innovation and entrepreneurship in rural and agriculture based industry with a fund of Rs. 200 crores.

13. MNREGA – According to the budget document, for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGA) the budget was allocated to **Rs 60,000 crore** for 2019-20.

14. National Rural Livelihood Mission – In the Union Budget 2019-20, this year, the allocation has been increased to **Rs 9,024 crore**.

Note: Originally called as Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the programme was renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) in 2015.

15. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Under PMAY Garmin, in the 2nd phase 1.95 crore houses are proposed to be provide to eligible beneficiary with facilities like toilet and LPG connection.

- Urban, over 80 lakh houses have been sanctioned under PMAY.
- The completion of houses that required 314 days in 2015-16, it has now come down to 114 days since 2017.
- The budget allocated for PMAY for 2019-20 fiscal is **Rs 19,000 crore**.

Other Schemes

1. Over 30 lakh persons enrolled under “PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme” - Under “Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme”, total 30,85,205 persons have been enrolled.

- This voluntary and contributory pension scheme is benefited for unorganized workers. Under this scheme assures the minimum monthly pension of 3000 rupees to the beneficiaries after attaining the age of 60 years.

2. Under PMKSNY, more than 7 crore 32 lakh farmer families received first two instalments of Rs 2000 each

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKSNY), more than 7 crores 32 lakh farmer families across India received the first and second installments of Rs 2000 each amounting to 14 thousand 646 crore rupees.
- The list was topped by Uttar Pradesh with over two crores twenty lakh farmer families followed by Andhra Pradesh with 72 lakh and Maharastra 50 lakh farmers.

3. HRD Ministry launches new UGC Scheme

“Paramarsh” For Higher Education - On July 19, 2019, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, Union Minister for Human Resource Development (HRD) launched a Scheme called “Paramarsh” of University Grants Commission (UGC) in New Delhi.

- This scheme aims at mentoring National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions to develop quality assurance in Higher Education.
- Under the scheme, the prime Mentoring institutions will provide regular mentoring to colleges to help achieve high-quality standards. For mentoring they will get the financial assistance & also the option of appointing an expert, who can be paid a fellowship amount of Rs 31,000 per month.

4. India to give scholarships to heirs of Muktijodhas – Government of India will provide 10,000 scholarships for heirs of the liberation war fighters of Bangladesh called ‘Muktijodhas’ over the next five years under the Nutan

India-**Bangladesh Maitree Muktijodha Sontan Scholarship Scheme.**

5. **UKIERI Mobility Programme: Study in India** – India and UK have joined hands together for UKIERI Mobility Programme: Study in India which will allow UK students to visit India for higher studies.
 - The British Council of India and Universities UK International have joined hands together for the launch of **UKIERI Mobility Programme.**
 - It aims to generate up to 200 opportunities for undergraduate students at UK universities to visit India by March 2021.
 - The programme will be funded by the UK and Indian governments as part of Phase 3 of the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKEIRI).
6. **Union HRD Minister launches “Deeksharambh”** – Union Minister of Human Resource Development released UGC Guide to Student Induction Programme “Deeksharambh” in New Delhi.
 - The guide to Student Induction Programme is to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution, help them build bonds with other students and faculty members, and expose them to a sense of larger purpose and self-exploration.
7. **Internet Saathi’ programme to be expanded to Punjab, Odisha** – Google India and Tata Trusts initiative is aimed at facilitating digital literacy among women in rural India named “Internet Saathi”. This initiative will be expanded to villages in Punjab and Odisha.
 - This programme has now reached 2.6 lakh villages in 20 states. In Punjab, the programme will cover around 5,000 villages. In Odisha, it will cover over 16,000 villages.
8. **Bangla Abas Yojana** - The West Bengal Government has decided to construct 8 lakh 30 thousand houses under Bangla Abas Yojana for the people belonging to Economically Weaker Section.
 - Under the scheme, the Rural Development Department has constructed more than 14 lakh houses.
9. Health Ministry launches Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi – Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) have launched a 3 day special campaign called Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan in New Delhi.
10. **UDAN Scheme: 8 more air routes added** – Civil Aviation Ministry announced addition of 8 more air routes under UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik), the regional air connectivity scheme. These air routes have become functional and started operations.

- With the addition of 8 new routes the total UDAN routes that are now operational in country has increased to 194.

About UDAN

- UDAN or Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik is a regional connectivity scheme (RCS). It was scheme on 21 October 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable to masses.
- It aims to make flying affordable besides connecting underserved and unserved airports across India.

11. **PENCIL Portal** – Union Minister for Labour & Employment informed Lok Sabha that 361 Complaints of Child Labour have been resolved via PENCIL (**Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour**) Portal (pencil.gov.in).

About PENCIL Portal

- It is a separate online portal Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) launched on 26 September 2017 to ensure effective enforcement of provisions of Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme.

12. **YouTube Introduces ‘Learning Playlists’ for Educational Videos** – YouTube is bringing a new education feature “Learning Playlists” with dedicated landing pages for educational videos on topics like math, science, music and language.

- YouTube was investing \$20 million to fund resources for educational creators and organisations through a Learning Fund initiative.

13. **PM-LVMY Yojana launched by Labour ministry**

- Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-LVMY) was launched by the Union labour and Employment ministry for retailers and small traders.
- This scheme provides a minimum monthly pension of Rs 3000/month to small shopkeepers, retail traders, and the self-employed people after they attain 60years of age.
- It is an extension of Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM).

Eligibility

- Self-employed people, small shopkeepers and retail traders aged between 18-40 years and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs 1.5 crore can avail the scheme.

14. **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana** – On July 23,2019, Union Minister for Rural Development, Narendra Singh Tomar stated that the ministry is implementing Deendayal

Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) across the country.

- The aim of the scheme is to organized the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously supporting them to take economic activities till they come out of poverty and reach an good-level of increase in income to improve their quality of life.

Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission

- It is a poverty alleviation scheme launched in 2011 as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and was succeeded by Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana in 2016.

15. Kaushal Yuva Samwaad – To commemorate World Youth Skills Day (July 15) and celebrate the 4th Anniversary of the Skill India Mission, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) launched 'Kaushal Yuva Samwaad' (A Youth Dialogue) in New Delhi.

- It aimed at creating an open dialogue with youth across all skill training centres to hear their views, ideas, opportunities, and recommendations help the Ministry of Skill Development scaling up existing programs and improve the overall efficiency of the on-going projects.

16. WCD implements a Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances called "Swadhar Greh"

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development(WCD), Government of India is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme for the rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances so that they could lead their life with dignity.

17. Govt signs MoU with NATHEALTH to streamline delivery of services under PMJAY – National Health Authority (NHA) implementing agency of Ayushman Bharat, Centre's flagship healthcare scheme has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) to streamline delivery of services under Ayushman Bharat.

About Ayushman Bharat

- Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS) launched by PM Shri Narendra Modi on Independence Day 2018.
- The scheme is renamed as PM Jan Arogya Yojana
- The aim of the scheme is to provide cashless hospitalisation for 1,354 procedures to 10 crore poor families for Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- It covers both preventive and promotive health.

18. Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal for farmers launched by Haryana – The Chief Minister of Haryana Government Manohar Lal Khattar has launched online portal named "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" for farmers to directly avail crop related benefits of state government schemes after self -reporting their land and crop-related details.

19. Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme – Government of India has fixed the price at **Rs.3,443 per gram** for the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) opening July 8.

- Union Finance Ministry recently announced that Centre in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow a discount of **Rs. 50 per gram** from issue price to those investors who apply online and payment which is made via digital mode.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- It was launched by Government of India in November 2015 with the goal of reducing the demand for physical gold and shifting a part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
- Under the SGB scheme, bonds are denominated in units of 1 gram of gold and multiples thereof.
- **Minimum Investment:** in bonds is 1 gram and a maximum limit of subscription of 500 gram/person/fiscal year (April-March).
- **Maximum Limit:** of subscription is 4 kg for an individual and Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg maximum subscription limit for trusts and similar entities per fiscal (April-March).

20. UGC approves a scheme "STRIDE" to boost research culture in India – University Grants Commission has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' to boost research culture in India.

- STRIDE stands for **Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy.**

Key points

- It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- An advisory **Bhushan Patwardhan committee** set up by UGC under chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan, Vice Chairman, UGC will oversee entire scheme.

21. 'One nation one ration card' scheme from July 1, 2020 – 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme will be available across the country from July 1, 2020.

- The scheme will allow portability of food security benefits according to which the poor migrant workers will be able to buy subsidised rice and wheat from any ration shop in the country as long as their ration cards are linked to Aadhaar.
- 22. Jal Shakti Abhiyan** – Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan- a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.
- It is a collaborative effort of various Union Ministries and State Governments, being coordinated by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
- 23. UP launches Dastak Campaign to eradicate AES & JE** – Uttar Pradesh government has launched a massive campaign called ‘Dastak’ to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease.
- 24. West Bengal introduces free crop insurance scheme Bangla Shashya Bima for farmers**
- On June 28, 2019, West Bengal Government launched a crop insurance scheme, Bangla

Shashya Bima (BSB) for the 2019 ‘Kharif’ season to protect farmers from losses due to natural disasters and provide a steady income in case of unstable market prices.

- 25. ‘Go Tribal’ campaign launched** – Go Tribal campaign, was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global.
- Amazon, an e-commerce giant company will market ‘Tribes India’ collections under sections of ‘Tribes of India Heritage Collection.
 - Objective is to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as help in socio-economic welfare of more than 700 Indian tribes.
- TRIFED**
- TRIFED is an organization that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name of TRIBES INDIA.

June

- 1. Union Cabinet approves extension of PM-KISAN scheme** – The government has extended the extension of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to all the farmers in the country.
- Earlier the benefit of the scheme was applicable to **farmers having two hectares of land.**
 - PM-KISAN scheme was launched in Uttar Pradesh’s Gorakhpur on 24th February 2019.

Key points of the scheme

- **Aim** - to provide to provide income support to all small and Marginal landholding farmer.
- **Objective** - The main objective of the government to launch this scheme is the development of farmers by the provision of financial assistance which can utilize by the farmer to increase the crop production every year.

Benefits of the Scheme

- As per government norms, the farmers will get the benefit of Direct Income support of **Rs. 6,000 per year** (500 Rs per month)
- This fund will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers through 3 equal

instalments of **Rs. 2000** every four months into the Aadhar ceded bank accounts of eligible landholding SMFs families.

- 2 per cent interest subvention to farmers pursuing animal husbandry and fisheries.
- All farmers severely affected by severe natural calamities will get 2% interest subvention who avail loan through Kisan Credit Card and additional 3% interest subvention upon timely repayment of crop loans.

Fund allocation

- The government has allocated **Rs 75,000 crore** towards the scheme for financial year 2020.
- 2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana** - The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana, a new Central Sector Scheme (CSS), to provide pension cover to farmers.

Key Features of Scheme

- It is voluntary and contributory pension scheme for all Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) across the country.

- Eligibility: Entry age of 18 to 40 years with provision of minimum fixed pension of Rs.3,000 on attaining the age of 60 years.
 - Contribution: Beneficiary farmer of this scheme is required to contribute Rs 100 per month at median entry age of 29 years.
- 3. Government launches DBT Tribal web portal** - Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched DBT Tribal web portal to streamline and expedite the process of releasing scholarship grants directly into bank accounts of beneficiary students.
- The portal provide single common platform to states to upload data related to beneficiaries, raise queries and give feedback.
- 4. E-Governance Initiatives for ST Welfare Schemes** - Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the “e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes” at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- These e-governance initiatives will serve their purpose of the betterment of tribal communities across the nation.
- 5. Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme** - Odisha government has allocated an additional Rs 3,234 crore for covering more farmers under the Kalia scheme during 2019-20.
- Under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme, farmers get Rs 5,000 financial assistance per crop.
 - A farm household is entitled to get Rs 10,000 per year for two crops (Kharif and Rabi),
- 6. PM Modi hikes National Defence Fund scholarship assistance** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved changes to the Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme for wards of deceased defence personnel under the National Defence Fund.
- Key points:**
- **Scholarship Rate:** The rates of scholarship have been increased from Rs.2000pm (per month) to Rs.2500pm for boys and from **Rs. 2250pm to Rs.3000pm for girls.**
 - **Scholarship Extended:** The ambit of Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme is now extended to include the wards of State Police officials who are or were martyred during terror or naxal attacks. The new scholarships quota for wards of state police officials will be 500 in one year.
 - **Nodal ministry** - For the implementation of it the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will be the nodal Ministry.
- About National Defence Fund**
- NDF was set up in 1962.
 - It was meant to take charge of voluntary donations (in cash and kind) received for promotion of national defence effort, and also to decide on their utilisation.
 - National Defence Fund also accepts online voluntary contributions.
 - NDF is used for welfare of members of Armed Forces, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force, and their dependents.
 - Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme’ (PMSS) is implemented under NDF.
 - The National Defence Fund is administered by an executive committee that has the Prime Minister as the chairperson and the Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as members.
- 7. Cabinet approved new initiative to control FMD and Brucellosis** - Union Cabinet has approved new initiative (scheme) to control Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis to support the livestock rearing farmers and improve the health of animals.
- This initiative aims to fully control these diseases amongst livestock in the country in next five years and subsequently eradicate these diseases.
 - Cabinet has cleared a total outlay of Rs. 13,343 crores for this scheme and entire cost will be now borne by Central Government.
- 8. ‘Aapki Beti’ scheme** – Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the ‘Aapki Beti’ scheme.
- Under the Aapki Beti scheme, girls living under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and whose mother or father or both have died to get annual financial assistance in the state.
 - The amount has been increased to **Rs 2,100 from Rs 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8** and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500.
 - Similarly, the government has also increased ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of an official killed on election duty to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 15 lakh.
- 9. Telangana enhances Rythu Bandhu scheme to Rs 5000 per acre per season** - The Telangana Government has issued a notification to extend the Rythu Bandhu scheme for 2019-20, while enhancing the amount from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.
- About Scheme**
- The scheme aimed at providing income support to the agriculturists directly to back their crops.

- Now the scheme provides Initial Investment support to agriculture and horticulture crops through a grant of Rs 5000 per acre per farmer each season towards purchase of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour and other filed operation.

- The amount would be paid through electronic transfer to all the pattadars and title holders through e-Kuber, the RBI payment platform.
- In 2018, scheme was launched by Telangana CM K Chandrasekar Rao.

May

1. **'Honey Mission'** - The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) distributed more than one lakh beehives among farmers and unemployed youths across India in less than two years under its 'Honey Mission' initiative.

About Honey Mission

- It was launched in August 2017 in line with PM Narendra Modi's call for 'Sweet Revolution' (revolution in production of honey to increase its production) in 2016 while introducing Banas Honey project at Deesa in Gujarat.

Summits & Conference

August

1. **28th BASIC Ministerial meeting on Climate Change held in Brazil** – BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) held their 28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
 - In this meeting, India was represented by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.
2. **5th BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting held in Sao Paulo, Brazil**
 - The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.
3. **Udaipur to host India's Largest Education Brainstorm** – The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event, the ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) will held in the city of lakes, Udaipur.
 - The theme for fest is Education for Sustainability: Moving on from Conformity to Creativity'.
4. **3rd International Electric Vehicle (EV) Conclave held in Manesar** – The 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave was inaugurated at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana.
5. **10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation in Bangkok** – External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended 10th

- Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) in Thailand's Bangkok.
6. **HRD Minister inaugurates Technology Expo at IIT Delhi** – Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank inaugurated Technology Expo at IIT Delhi to showcase the latest innovation in the field of science and technology.
 7. **Global Investors Summit 2019 will be held in Srinagar, J&K**
 - A 3-day Global Investors Summit 2019 starting from October 12, 2019, will be held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) which will provide the state an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies, and potential.
 8. **Foreign Ministers from South East Asia attend 52nd ASEAN summit** – Foreign Ministers from South East Asia are attending the 52nd ASEAN summit in Bangkok.
 - The annual meeting opened with a call from the host Thailand for deeper integration to expand trade and bolster prosperity in the region amid rising global challenges.
 9. **22nd National Conference on e-Governance** - Shillong, Meghalaya
 - The theme of the conference is 'Digital India: Success to Excellence'.

July

1. **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** Ministerial meeting was held in Caracas, **Venezuela**

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin represented India in the meeting.
- The movement had 125 members and 25 observer countries.
- The headquarters of NAM is in Central Jakarta, Indonesia

2. **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting 2019 held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil**

- India was represented by Gen. (retd) VK Singh who is the Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways.
- **BRICS member countries** - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

3. **44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020**

- The city of Fuzhou (China) will host the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020
- In the event of 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan(June 30 to July 10,2019), the UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) announced that the Chinese city of Fuzhou will host the 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.

4. **Lucknow to host DefExpo 2020**

- Lucknow will host the 11th biennial edition of DefExpo from February 5 to 8, 2020.
- The focus of the Expo will be on "Digital transformation of defence".
- The main theme of DefExpo India-2020 will be "India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub"

5. The International Police Expo 2019 was held at **Pragati Maidan in New Delhi**.

- Theme 'Challenges to strengthen peace and security'

6. The 19th Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting was held in London, UK.

- India External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the meeting.

7. **14th conference of Parties to be hosted by India** - India will host the 14th conference of the parties from September 02 to 13, 2019 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- Three crucial issues in this conference are desertification, land degradation and drought.

8. First Global Conference for Media Freedom was held in London.

- The conference was co-hosted by the UK and Canada.

9. The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum 2nd annual leadership summit held in **Washington, US**.

10. **India-Nepal Logistics Summit organised in Kathmandu** - India-Nepal Logistics Summit was

organised in Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 July 2019. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli. Theme for Summit was: Transforming Logistics Landscape.

11. **G20 Summit 2019** - was held in **Osaka, Japan** from 28 - 29 June 2019.

Highlights

- Prime Minister's sherpa for the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meeting at Osaka in Japan.
- Sister City Partnership: LoI shared between Ahmedabad and Kobe - A Letter of Intent (LoI) was exchanged between Ahmedabad and Japanese city of Kobe for a sister city partnership.
- Osaka Track" - India, South Africa, and Indonesia boycotted the "Osaka Track" on the "digital economy".
- **PM Modi outlined 5 I vision in G-20 meet at Osaka** to maximize digital technology for social benefit.
- The 5 'I's (5I Vision) are — Inclusiveness, Indigenisation, Innovation, Investment in infrastructure & International cooperation.
- Over the next five years, India aims to become a 5 trillion dollar economy and setting up of 50,000 start-ups in 5 years was the goal.
- India is also planning to run its first bullet train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad with Japan's help.

Participants

- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and European Union.

12. **Women Startup Summit** - Kerala Startup Mission to host Women Startup Summit in Kochi on August 1
13. **The 3rd edition of International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019** will be held in Mumbai
 - India will be hosting the 3rd edition of International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 in Maharashtra, Mumbai (on July 19-20).
14. **G-7 Summit to be held in France in August 2019.**
 - India has received an invitation from France to attend the outreach Session at the G-7 Summit to

be held in France in August 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee.

15. **First ever IICTF to be held in India** – The first ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) to be held in New Delhi, India.
 - It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to the global trade arena which will be held from 11th till 13th October 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

June

1. **G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting** – Fukuoka, Japan
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors in Japan.
2. **G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy** – Tsukuba, Japan.
 - Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal represented the Indian delegation.

Note:

Japan will host the G20 summit for the first time in 2019

- Japan is going to host this year G20 Summit in the city of Osaka.
 - The G20 Osaka Summit will be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 in Japan.
 - The summit under Japanese presidency is centered around the theme "**Human centered future society**".
3. **Saudi Arabia to host G20 Summit in 2020**

Note:

 - Saudi Arabia (first G20 meeting in the Arab world) will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020 in its capital Riyadh.
 - Italy will host the G20 Summit in 2021.
 - India will host the G20 Summit in 2022 when the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence.
 4. **The Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP)** was held in Mumbai.

Note:

 - India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

- At present, KPCS has 55 members representing 82 countries including EU with 28 members.
- The Kimberley Process is a joint initiative involving Government, international diamond industry and civil society to stem the flow of **Conflict Diamonds**.
- Conflict Diamonds means rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments.
- It is also described in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

5. **G-7 Summit 2019** will be held in France in August 2019.

Note:

- The 45th G7 summit will be held on August 25–27, 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.
 - G7 member countries – China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, US.
 - The President of the European Commission has been a permanently welcome participant at all meetings and decision-making since 1981.
 - The 44th G7 summit was held on 8–9 June 2018, in La Malbaie, Quebec, Canada.
6. **2nd Global Disability Summit** - Buenos Aires, Argentina was held from 6th June to 8th June 2019.
 - India a delegation headed by Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot.
 - '1st Global Disability Summit' held at London, UK in July 2018.
 7. **14th Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Summit** was held in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

8. Fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi.

- The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

9. World Food India to be held in New Delhi

- The second edition of World Food India to be held from 1st to 4th November 2019 in New Delhi, which will position India as Food Processing Destination of the World.
- The tagline of the event will be “Forging Partnerships for Growth”.

May

- 1. UN to host 2020 Ocean Conference in Lisbon** – United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference in **Portugal's Lisbon** to support the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- 2. 72nd World Health Assembly** - Geneva, Switzerland
Note: The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - The theme of 2019 World Health Assembly (72nd session) was “**Universal Health Coverage**” focusing strongly on primary health care.
- 3.** The 11th Joint Consular Committee Meeting between India and Iran took place in New Delhi.
- 4. TAPI Pipeline meeting held in Turkmenistan** - The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
 - The ground-breaking of the TAPI gas pipeline will be held in Pakistan in October 2019.

About TAPI Gas Pipeline -

- The Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline, also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- On 24 April 2008, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan signed a framework agreement to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan.
- 5.** SCO Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
 - Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting.
 - 6.** 17th Investiture Ceremony of Border Security Force, BSF held in New Delhi.
 - National Security Advisor Ajit Doval addresses the event.
 - 7.** WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries meeting held in – New Delhi, India
 - 8.** Regional heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) held in Kochi
 - 9.** 15th Finance Commission’s meeting with RBI held in - Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - 10.** The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in - Doha, Qatar.
Note: The theme of the meeting was “Partners in Progress”.
 - 11.** The G7’s (Group of Seven) Environment Ministers meet to discuss Climate crisis held in - Metz, France
Note: The G-7 groups together the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany.

Books & Author

- 1.** The Book titled ‘**Kashmir’s untold story: Declassification**’- author of the book is Delhi- based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defense analyst Maroof Raza.
- 2.** Book ‘**Resurgent India**’ – Book authored by former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, Bimal Jalan

3. The book, titled '**Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar**' authored by screenwriter **Satyarth Nayak**.
4. Vice President's book titled "**Listening, Learning & Leading**" released – Home Minister Amit Shah released a Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's book titled "Listening, Learning & Leading".
5. **PM Modi releases book on former PM Chandra Shekhar** – PM Narendra Modi releases book "Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics" is written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai in New Delhi.
6. **Book 'Who Stole My Job' authored by Sunil Mishra**
7. **The coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice'**, was released by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh.
Note: This book showcases the courage and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army.
8. Book titled 'Vivekadeepini' – authored by **Adi Shankaracharya**
9. Book titled "A Prime Minister to Remember," – authored by former Navy Chief **Admiral Sushil Kumar**
10. Book titled '**The New Delhi Conspiracy**' – authored by 5. BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi
11. Book titled 'War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960" authored by **Devika Sethi**
12. Book titled 'Whispers of Time' authored by **Dr. Krishna Saksena**
13. Autobiography titled '**Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly**' - autobiography of veteran Bollywood actor **Anupam Kher**
14. Autobiography titled- '**My Life, My Mission**' – authobiography of **Yoga guru Baba Ramdev**
 - The book is co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar.
15. Book titled '**Function of Data Sovereignty: The Pursuit of Supremacy**' authored by - **Vinit Goenka**
16. Book titled '**Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge**' – authored by - Ashis Ray
17. Book titled - Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook - Journalist Saba Naqvi
18. **Book titled 'Darkness to light'** - Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom.
19. Book titled "**No Presents Please**" is authored by - Jayant Kaikini
20. **Book titled "Game Changer" autobiography** of - Shahid Afridi (Pakistan's former Cricket team captain). The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.
21. Book titled "**Indian Fiscal Federalism**" authored by - Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India (The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission of India, N.K. Singh launched the book)
22. Book titled 'Saffron Swords' authored by - Manoshi Sinha Rawal
23. Book titled "The Third Pillar - How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind" authored by –Raghuram Rajan (Former Governor of RBI)
24. Book titled 'Every Vote Counts: The Story of India's Elections' authored by - former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla. Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched the book.
25. Book titled "India Positive" authored by - Chetan Bhagat
26. Book titled 'Simplicity & Wisdom' authored by - Mr. Dinesh Shahra
27. Book titled ' Khooni Vaisakhi' authored by -- Nanak Singh (Jallianwala Bagh survivor)
Note: A poem on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni Vaisakhi', by Punjabi writer Nanak Singh has now been translated into English.
 - It was banned by the British in 1920. Singh was present at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919, and was 22 years old at the time.
 - A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni Vaisakhi' has been released in Abu Dhabi.
 - India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri commended the launch of the book.
 - It will be published by Harper Collins India in March to mark the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh.
28. Book titled "Quality, Accreditation & Ranking" authored by - Dr. H Chaturvedi
29. Book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio'
30. Arun Jaitley releases book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio' authored by - BlueKraft Digital Foundation
31. Book titled '**Moving On, Moving Forward: A year in Office**' - Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu
32. Book titled "Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India" authored by - **P Chidambaram** (former Finance Minister)
33. Book titled 'We are Displaced' authored by - **Malala Yousafzai**
34. A book titled 'Changing India' written by – **Former PM Manmohan Singh**
35. A book titled 'Early Indians: The Story of Our Ancestors and Where We Came From' written by Tony Joseph
36. A book titled 'Blue Water Ahoy!' written by – Vice Admiral Anup Singh

Obituaries

August

- 1. Sushma Swaraj** – Former External Affairs Minister
Sushma Swaraj passed away.
 - She was the 1st full time woman external affairs minister of India.
 - She was also the youngest cabinet minister at 25 when she joined the Haryana government in 1977 and the first woman chief minister of Delhi.
- 2. Neelum (Neelam) Sharma** – Doordarshan News Anchor and Nari Shakti Award Winner
- 3. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi** – Veteran music composer
Mohammed Zahur Hashmi, popularly known as Khayyam passed away.
- 4. Niranjana Singh Tasneem** - Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi winner
- 5. Jagannath Mishra** – Former Bihar Chief Minister
- 6. Babulal Gaur** – Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh
- 7. J Om Prakash** – Veteran director
- 8. Rizia Rahman** - Renowned Bangladeshi novelist
- 9. Vidya Sinha** – Veteran Bollywood actress
- 10. VB Chandrasekhar** - Former Indian cricketer
- 11. Damodar Ganesh Bapat** - a noted social worker from Chhattisgarh and Padma Shri award winner
- 12. Dayanidhi Nayak** – Freedom fighter
- 13. Kanti Bhatt** – Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist
- 14. Toni Morrison** – Toni Morrison, the 1993 Nobel laureate in literature passed away.
 - She was the 1st African American woman to win the Nobel in literature.
- 15. Anant Setalvad** – Cricket commentator Anant Setalvad, who used to draw pictures of the game's progress on airwaves with his fine command of the English language, from the mid 1960s through to the 1980s, passed away .
- 16. Malcolm Nash** - Former cricketer
 - He was Glamorgan's legendary left-arm bowler who took 993 first-class wickets in a 17-year career between 1966 and 1983. He became famous after Garfield Sobers hit him for six sixes in an over.
- 17. Russi Taylor** - Veteran actor Russi Taylor, who voiced Disney's Minnie Mouse for more than 30 years,
- 18. Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy** – Former Padma Shri award winner and educationist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy passed away.

July

- 1. Sheila Dikshit** – Three-time Delhi Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Sheila Dixit passed away in New Delhi.
- 2. Subir Gokarn** - Former RBI Deputy Governor and Noted economist Subir Vithal Gokarn passed away.
 - He had the distinction of being the youngest RBI Governor at the time.
- 3. Lt Gen Joginder Singh Gharaya** - Retired Lt Gen Joginder Singh Gharaya, who was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra in the 1971 Indo-Pak war and Kirti Chakra in the 1947 Hyderabad operations, passed away.
- 4. M. K. Seetharam Kulal** - Veteran poet and lyricist and former president of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy
- 5. Ram Chandra Paswan** – Lok Janshakti Party MP from Bihar's Samastipur Ram Chandra Paswan passed away.
 - He was the younger brother of Union minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan.
- 6. S. Jaipal Reddy** – Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader
- 7. Donkumar Roy** – Meghalaya Assembly Speaker and former Meghalaya Chief Minister Donkumar Roy passed away. He was head of the United Democratic Party (UDP).
- 8. Mukesh Goud** - Former Andhra Pradesh state Minister
- 9. Fernando Corbató** - American computer scientist, known for computer passwords
- 10. Yukiya Amano** – Chief of International Atomic Energy Agency. He was extensively involved in negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.
- 11. Attoor Ravi Varma** - Renowned Malayalam poet, translator
- 12. A. U. Celestine** - Former India football goalkeeper from Tamil Nadu A. U. Celestine passed away. He played for the Tamil Nadu men's team in the senior Nationals as a keeper in the 1965 and 69 National championships.
 - He represented India in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in 1969.
- 13. Lee Iacocca** - Automobile industry legend from USA

14. **BK Birla** – Veteran industrialist, businessman and Indian industry stalwart
 - He wrote several books including an autobiography titled ‘Svantah Sukhaya’.
15. **Barun Haldar** - veteran newsreader of All India Radio (AIR)

16. **Rakesh Shukla** - former leg-spinner of India
17. **Sudershan Agarwal** - former Uttarakhand Governor

June

1. **Babu Narayanan** – Malayalam director
2. **Abhuri Chaya Devi** – Telugu story writer and the Sahitya Akademi award winner
3. **Jharna Dhara Chowdhury** – an Eminent Social Activist and secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Trust in Jayag, Noakhali, Bangladesh passes away in Dhaka.
4. **Shyam Sundar Mitra** – Former Bengal cricketer Shyam Sundar Mitra passes away . He was awarded the Karthick Bose Lifetime Achievement Award by Cricket Association of Bengal.
5. **Vijaya Nirmala** – Veteran actor-filmmaker
6. **Mohan Ranade** – Veteran freedom fighter from Goa and Padmashri winner
7. **Mohammed Baji** - Noted freedom fighter
8. **Rajnath Singh Surya** - Former BJP Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist

9. **Mohamed Morsy** - Former Egyptian President
10. **Dinyar Contractor** - Veteran comedian, film and theatre actor
11. **Girish Karnad** - Noted actor, filmmaker and playwright
12. **Crazy Mohan** - Tamil writer, comedian and actor
13. **R V Janakiraman** - Former Puducherry Chief Minister between 1996 and 2000
14. **Pazhavila Ramesan** - Poet and lyricist
15. **Ruma Guha Thakurta** - Actor-singer Ruma Guha Thakurta, who featured in films such as Jwar Bhata, Ganga and 36 Chowringhee Lane.

May

1. **Veeru Devgan** - Bollywood’s most famous stuntman and action choreographer.
2. **Hiralal Yadav** - Padma Shri Awardee Bhojpuri Singer. He was a well-known Bhojpuri folk singer from the ‘Birha’ genre,
3. **Vijaya Mulay** - Renowned filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist. In 1959, she founded the Delhi Film Society.
4. **Niki Lauda** - The former Formula One driver and three-time world champion
5. **Sammy Shore** - an actor and stand-up comedian who co-founded the Comedy Store, passed away.

6. **YC Deveshwar** - The Padma Bhushan awardee and ITC’s Non-Executive Chairman.
7. **NR Madhava Menon** - an educationist, scholar, father of Modern Legal Education in India
8. **Prof. Kirpal Singh** - the first chronicler of Partition, who started building an archive in 1954
9. **Master Hirannaiah** - Noted Kannada theatre personality, satirist and TV actor
10. **Derek Sippy** - Former Billiards Player
11. **Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao** - Prominent writer and academician
12. **Baidyanath Mishra** - Renowned economist

National Appointments

LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS & CONSTITUENCY 2019

Portfolio (Department)	Minister Name	Constituency
Prime Minister and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All-important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Narendra Modi	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
Ministry of Defence	Rajnath Singh	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of External Affairs	Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	-
Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs	Nirmala Sitharaman	Karnataka, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.	Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Nagpur, Maharashtra
Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Bangalore North, Karnataka
Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Chandni Chowk, Delhi
Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	Ramvilas Paswan	--
Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Ravi Shankar Prasad	Patna Sahib, Bihar
Ministry of Minority Affairs	Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Jharkhand, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines	Prahlad Joshi	Dharwad, Karnataka
Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Mahendra Nath Pandey	Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises	Arvind Sawant	Mumbai South, Maharashtra
Minister of Food Processing Industries	Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Bathinda, Punjab
Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj.	Narendra Singh Tomar	Morena, Madhya Pradesh
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Arjun Munda	Khunti, Jharkhand
Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	Giriraj Singh	Begusarai, Bihar
Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles	Smriti Zubin Irani	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
Minister of Human Resource Development	Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment	Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting	Prakash Javadekar	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel	Dharmendra Pradhan	Madhya Pradesh, Rajya Sabha

Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry	Piyush Goyal	Maharashtra, Rajya Sabha
Minister of Jal Shakti	Gajendra Shekhawat	Jodhpur, Rajasthan

LIST OF MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Minister Name	Portfolio
Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Ministry of Labour and Employment.
Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Ministry of Planning.
Shripad Yesso Naik	Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); and Ministry of Defence.
Dr. Jitendra Singh	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Prime Minister's Office; Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space.
Kiren Rijju	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
Pralhad Singh Patel	Ministry of Culture; and Ministry of Tourism.
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power; Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Shipping; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

August

- First woman president of INSA** – Chandrima Shaha became the 1st woman president of the Indian National Science Academy.
- New MD-CEO of Vodafone Idea – **Ravinder Takkar**
- Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare** - Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as the director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.
- P.T. Usha has been appointed as a member of the Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission.** This is the 2nd time P.T. Usha has been appointed a member of the Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission
- New President of Paytm** - Madhur Deora
- New MD and CEO of Mindtree** – Debashis Chatterjee
- Harshad Pandurang Thakur has been appointed as the director of **National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.**
- New CMD of Power Grid Corporation** – State-owned Power Grid Corporation Director (Finance) Kandikuppa Sreekant assumed the charge of the chairman and managing director of Power Grid Corporation of India.
- Giriraj Prasad Gupta appointed as new CGA** – Giriraj Prasad Gupta, Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) officer, took over as the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
 - He succeeds Anthony Lianzuala as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA) under the Finance Ministry.
- IFSG appoints Justice A.K. Sikri as ombudsman** – The Indian Federation of Sports Gaming (IFSG), country's self-regulatory industry body for the online fantasy sports gaming sector, announced the appointment of Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri as its ombudsman and ethics officer.
 - Justice A.K. Sikri will be responsible for investigating queries/complaints raised by the users of the online fantasy sports gaming platforms.
- Rakesh Asthana given additional charge of NCB** – The Appointments Committee on Cabinet has given the additional charge of the post of Director General Narcotics Control Bureau to Rakesh Asthana.
 - He is presently serving as the Director General of Civil Aviation Security.

12. New DPIIT secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra assumed charge as the secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

13. Secretary, Ministry of Textiles – Ravi Capoor, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, assumed charge of the office of Secretary, Ministry of Textiles in New Delhi.

July

1. New Finance Secretary - Rajiv Kumar. He replaces Subhash Chandra Garg.
2. New Home Secretary - Ajay Kumar Bhalla
3. New PAC Chairman - The leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** was appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
4. New BSF Director General - V.K. Johri
5. New chairman of the “Estimates Committee” - Girish Bapat
6. New Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army - **Lt Gen Paramjit Singh**
7. New MTNL Chief - Sunil Kumar
Note: He is currently Director (Human Resources and Enterprise Business) at MTNL and takes over from P K Purwar who was recently appointed chairman and managing Director of BSNL.
8. **Vikas Swarup** appointed as Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs
9. New Deputy Chief Minister of Goa - **Chandrakant Kavlekar**
10. **Kiran More** (former India wicket keeper-batsman) appointed USA cricket team’s interim coach

11. **Vivek Kumar** appointed as private secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
12. Joint Secretary to the President - **Ajay Bhadoo**
13. Next Vice-Chief of Army Staff - M.M. Naravane
14. New India’s table tennis coach - Dejan Papic (Canadian)
15. New Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) - **B Harideesh Kumar**
16. **N S Vishwanathan** gets extension by one year as RBI deputy governor
17. New Chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network - Manoj Kumar Nambiar
18. New CMD of BSNL - P.K. Purwar
19. LinkedIn chooses Ashutosh Gupta as country manager for India
20. Additional director on Board of Directors (BOD) of Jammu and Kashmir Bank - AK Misra
21. New Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) – **K. Natarajan**
 - He has become the 23rd chief of India’s coastal security force.
22. New CMD of BHEL - Nalin Shinghal
23. He will replace Atul Sobti.

New Governor Appointed

24. New Governor of West Bengal - **Jagdeep Dhankar**
 25. New Governor of Himachal Pradesh - **Kalraj Mishra**
 26. New Governor of Gujarat - **Acharya Devvrat**
 27. New Governor of Chhattisgarh - **Anusuiya Uikey**
 28. New Governor of Andhra Pradesh - **Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**
 29. New Governor of Madhya Pradesh: **Lalji Tandon**
 30. New Governor of Uttar Pradesh: **Anandiben Patel**
 31. New Governor of Bihar - **Phagu Chuhan**
 32. New Governor of Nagaland: **R.N. Ravi**
- New Governor of Tripura: **Ramesh Bais**

June

1. **New Governor of Manipur** – Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya sworn in as Governor of Manipur.
2. Amitabh Kant gets two-year extension as NITI Aayog CEO - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Amitabh Kant’s tenure as the

- CEO of NITI Aayog beyond June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2021.
3. New Chief of RAW - **Samant Goel**
 4. New Chief of Intelligence Bureau - **Arvind Kumar**
 5. New director general of Indian Coast Guard – **Krishnaswamy Natarajan**
 6. New President of FIEO – Exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected Sharad Kumar Saraf as its new president.
 7. New MD of National Housing Bank - Sarada Kumar Hota
 8. Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia (Retired) was sworn in as the Chairperson of the Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh.
 9. Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha - Om Birla (MP from Kota, Rajasthan)
 10. New executive director at RBI - Rabi N. Mishra
 11. New Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court - Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel
 12. New interim Chief of J&K Bank - RK Chibber
 13. New acting Central Vigilance Commissioner - Sharad Kumar
 14. New Chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD) - Mrutyunjay Mohapatra (Renowned scientist and cyclone warning specialist)
 15. Principal Secretary to PM Modi - Nripendra Mishra
 16. New Chairman of Axis Bank - Rakesh Makhija
 17. New independent director of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank - Sachin Bansal
 18. New National Security Adviser (NSA) - Ajit Doval
 19. New Advocate General of Chhattisgarh - Satish Chandra Verma

May

1. New Prime Minister of India – Narendra Modi (for second term)
2. New Navy Chief - Karambir Singh
3. New CM of Andhra Pradesh - Jagan Mohan Reddy
4. New Chairman of ITC - **Sanjiv Puri**
5. New MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank - Nitin Chugh
6. New CEO of LIC Mutual Fund - **Dinesh Pangtey**
7. RBI appoints R Gandhi on YES Bank Board
8. New Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Walmart – Suresh Kumar
9. Coach of Indian men’s national Volleyball Team - Dragan Mihailovic (Serbia)
10. BSE appoints First Independent Woman Director Jayshree Vyas to board
11. Senior IAS officer Dilip Kumar was appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal.
12. Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform **Myntra** announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.

International Appointment

August

1. **Guatemala’s new president** – Alejandro Giammattei
2. **New director of ICTP** – Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India, has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.
 - He will succeed Fernando Quevedo, who has led the centre since 2009.
3. **New CEO of HSBC** – Noel Quinn has been appointed as the interim CEO of HSBC’s Global Commercial Banking unit.
4. **India’s next Ambassador to Republic of Congo** – Ghotu Ram Meena has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Congo.
5. **Former SC judge Madan Lokur sworn in as Fiji’s SC judge** - On August 12, 2019, the President of Fiji Major. General(Retd) Jioji Konrote has appointed Justice Madan Lokur from India as the new Supreme Court (SC) judge of Fiji.

July

1. New Britain's Home Secretary - **Priti Patel** has been appointed as Britain's Home Secretary in the newly-unveiled Boris Johnson Cabinet.
 - She has become the Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary.
2. New US Secretary of Defence - **Mark Esper**
3. **Anshula Kant** appointed World Bank Group Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer
 - She is currently a Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI).
 - She will be the first woman CFO of the Bank.
4. Supreme Court judge, **Justice AK Sikri**, has been appointed as an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial court (SICC).
5. New India's Ambassador to Israel - **Sanjeev Kumar Singla**
6. India's next Ambassador to Panama - **Upender Singh Rawat**
7. New chief of ICC committee - **Ehsan Mani** (Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman)
8. New Prime Minister of Greece - **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**
9. New head of European Central bank (ECB) - **Christine Lagarde** (MD of IMF)
10. **Economist David Lipton appointed as IMF interim leader** - International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed American economist David Lipton as its interim leader. He replaces Christine Lagarde who was nominated to head the European Central Bank.
11. New President of European Commission - **Ursula von der Leyen (German politician)**
 - She will replace Jean Claude Juncker.
 - She has become the first woman to be elected to lead the EU's executive arm.

June

1. **Shefali Juneja appointed India's representative to ICAO** - Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja is appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body.
 - She will replace the senior IAS officer Alok Shekhar.
 - Presently, Shefali Juneja is serving as the Joint Secretary in Ministry of Civil Aviation.
2. **First female CEO of Warner Bros** - WarnerMedia, part of AT&T Inc, has appointed Ann Sarnoff as the chief executive officer of Warner Bros.
 - Ann Sarnoff has become the first female CEO of Warner Bros. She will be replacing Kevin Tsujihara.
3. **Qu Dongyu becomes first Chinese to head FAO** - Qu Dongyu becomes the first Chinese national to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.
 - He will replace Brazil's Jose Graziano da Silva.
4. External Auditor for WHO - CAG Rajiv Mehrishi chosen External Auditor for WHO
5. New PM of Thailand - Prayuth Chan-ocha
6. New Pakistan ISI Chief - Lt General Faiz Hameed
7. UN Deputy Executive Director - Anita Bhatia
 - Indian-origin Anita Bhatia has been appointed as the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.

May

1. New President of Indonesia - Joko Widodo (for 2nd term)
2. New President of Ukraine - Volodymyr Zelenskiy
3. **New Deputy Attorney General of United States** - Jeffrey Rosen
4. **New President of the United Nations General Assembly** - Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande
5. **Next Ambassador of India to State of Eritrea** - Subhash Chand
6. **Anil Kumble** re elected as ICC Cricket Committee chairman for a second term.
7. UN Secretary, General Antonio Guterres, has appointed Indian Army officer, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan
8. Next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) - Kumar Sangakkara (Former Sri Lankan Cricket team captain)
9. India's Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected with the highest number of votes by the UN Economic and Social Council to a five-year term on International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), while China's candidate Hao Wei lost.

Honours & Awards

August

National Sports Awards 2019 - National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29th August 2019.

- Para-athlete Deepa Malik and wrestler Bajrang Punia will be conferred with the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
- Khel Ratna is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year.
- Arjuna Award is given for consistently outstanding performance for four years.
- Dronacharya Award for coaches is given for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.
- Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime contribution to sports development.

List of all winners

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

- Bajrang Punia – Wrestling
- Deepa Malik - Para Athletics

Dronacharya Award (regular category for coaches)

- Vimal Kumar – Badminton
- Sandeep Gupta - Table tennis
- Mohinder Singh Dhillon – Athletics

Dronacharya Award (lifetime category)

- Sanjay Bhardwaj - cricket
- Rambir Singh Khokar - kabaddi
- Mezban Patel – hockey

Dhyan Chand Award

- Manoj Kumar (wrestling),
- C Lalremsanga (archery),
- Arup Basak (table tennis),
- Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and
- Manuel Fredricks (hockey).

Arjuna Awards

Arjuna Award	Sh. Tajinderpal Singh Toor	Athletics
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Arjuna Award	Mohammed Anas Yahiya	Athletics
Arjuna Award	Sh. S. Bhaskaran	Body Building
Arjuna Award	Ms. Sonia Lather	Boxing
Arjuna Award	Sh. Ravindra Jadeja	Cricket
Arjuna Award	Sh. Chinglensana Singh Kangujam	Hockey
Arjuna Award	Sh. Ajay Thakur	Kabaddi
Arjuna Award	Sh. Gaurav Singh Gill	Motor Sports
Arjuna Award	Sh. Pramod Bhagat	Para Sports (Badminton)
Arjuna Award	Ms. Anjum Moudgil	Shooting
Arjuna Award	Sh. Harmeet Rajul Desai	Table Tennis
Arjuna Award	Ms. Pooja Dhandra	Wrestling
Arjuna Award	Sh. Fouaad Mirza	Equestrian
Arjuna Award	Sh. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu	Football
Arjuna Award	Ms. Poonam Yadav	Cricket
Arjuna Award	Ms. Swapna Barman	Athletics
Arjuna Award	Sh. Sundar Singh Gurjar	Para Sports (Athletics)
Arjuna Award	Sh. Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth	Badminton
Arjuna Award	Sh. Simran Singh Shergill	Polo

66th National Film Awards

- Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal shared the Best Actor national film award and Uri Director Aditya Dhar won the Best Director award.
- The 66th National Film awards were announced by Rahul Rawail, head of the Jury for feature films.

List of winners –

- Best Director: Aditya Dhar for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Feature Film: Hellaro a Gujarati film directed by Abhishek Shah
- Best Actor: Ayushmann Khuranna for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri : The Surgical Strike
- Best Actress: Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
- Best Supporting Actor - Swanand Kirkire for Chumbhak
- Best supporting actress - Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
- Best Action Direction: KGF Chapter I
- Best Choreography: Padmaavat for Goomar
- Best Film for National Integration - Ondalla Eradalla (Kannada)
- Best Popular Film: Badhaai Ho
- Best film on Environment issues - Paani
- Best Debut Film of a Director: Naal (Marathi)
- Best film on Social Issues: Padman
- Best Children's Film: Sarkari Hiriya Prathamika Shaale Kasaragod
- Special Jury Award: Award shared by Sruthi Hariharan, Joju George for Joseph, Savithri for Sudani From Nigeria, Chandrachood Rai

Other Awards

1. Bharat Ratna Award 2019

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presented Bharat Ratna Awards to Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika (posthumously) and Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika were conferred the award posthumously.
- The Bharat Ratna has been conferred after a gap of four years.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and founder of Banaras Hindu University Madan Mohan Malviya were given the award by the government in 2015.

About Nanaji Deshmukh

- Nanaji Deshmukh was born in 1916 in a Marathi family in Parbhani, Maharashtra. As a child, he was inspired by freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- Nanaji established India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950.
- Nanaji Deshmukh had won in the 1977 Lok Sabha election from Balrampur.

About Bhupen Hazarika

- Bhupen Hazarika was born on September 8, 1926 in Sadiya, Assam.
- He was also one of the leading author-poets of Assam with more than 1,000 lyrics and several short stories, essays and travelogues to his credit.
- Bhupen Hazarika, popularly known as the 'Bard of Brahmaputra',.
- In May 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge (9.15 kms), which runs over the Lohit river in Assam. Modi named the Dhola-Sadia bridge after Bhupen Hazarika.

About Pranab Mukherjee

- Pranab Mukherjee was born in Mirati in Birbhum District of West Bengal on December 11, 1935 to freedom fighters.
- He served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.

About Bharat Ratna

- It is highest civilian award of Republic of India. It was instituted in 2 January 1954.
- First recipients of Bharat Ratna award (1954)- C. Rajagopalachari, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.

- Limits: Maximum of 3 nominees can be awarded per year.

2. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be honoured with "Order of Zayed"** – The United Arab Emirates will honour the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the "Order of Zayed", the highest civilian award of the country.

3. **ISRO Chairman K. Sivan honoured with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award** – Tamil Nadu government has awarded K. Sivan with its Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award.

- K. Sivan is currently serving as the chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation.

4. **CCMB scientist K Thangaraj awarded JC Bose Fellowship** – Dr K Thangaraj, Chief Scientist at Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)– Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) was awarded JC Bose Fellowship.

- He was given this fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics.
- The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology.

5. **Wg Cdr Abhinandan Varthaman honoured with Vir Chakra** – Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, has been honoured with the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest war time gallantry medal.

Note:

- From the Army, **Sapper Prakash Jadhav of the Rashtriya Rifles** posthumously awarded Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal, who played a key role as flight controller during the aerial combat between India and Pakistan on February 27, has been awarded Yudh Seva medal.

6. **Arun Lal awarded CAB's Lifetime Achievement Award** – Former India cricketer Arun Lal conferred with Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement award of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) in Kolkata.

- Former Bengal captain Raju Mukherjee was also considered for 2019 Lifetime Achievement but CAB eventually picked Lal.

7. **Longest documentary "100 Years of Chrysostum" will receive Guinness Award** – A biographical documentary "100 Years of Chrysostum" will receive Guinness Award in the category of longest documentary.

- The “100 Years of Chrysostum” is based on the life of Philipose Mar Chrysostum, scripted and directed by filmmaker Blessy.
 - The 48-hour and 8 minutes documentary has broken the record of the 21-hour Saudi Arabian documentary “World of Snakes”.
- 8. Rajasthan bags award at World Education Summit 2019** – Rajasthan wins the “best innovation and initiative leadership award” for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in New Delhi.
- 9. Priyam Chatterjee becomes 1st Indian chef to win French honour** – Priyam Chatterjee became the 1st Indian chef to be awarded the ‘Chevalier de l’Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto’ by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India.
- Chatterjee is best known for revisiting the traditional dishes from his native state of West Bengal and giving it a French twist.
- 10. Lionel Messi Wins UEFA Goal of the Season Award 2018-19** – Barcelona’s Lionel Messi has been awarded UEFA’s Goal of the Season award 2018-19 for his free-kick against Liverpool.
- 11. ISRO announces Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award 2019** - As part of centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme, ISRO institutes two categories of awards in journalism.
- ISRO has announced its “**Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research**” to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- 12. BAFTA LA to honour Steve Coogan with Charlie Chaplin Award** - Actor Steve Coogan will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy’s Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honour during the 2019 Britannia Awards.
- 13. President Kovind honoured with the highest award of Republic of Guinea** – President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National Order of Merit by the President of Guinea.
- The award is bestowed for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea.

Note:

- President of Guinea: Alpha Conde
- Capital of Guinea: Conakry
- Currency of Guinea: Guinean franc

- 14.** India’s transsexual woman Naaz Joshi was crowned Miss World Diversity 2019. This event was held in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- 15. Miss England 2019** - Bhasha Mukherjee, a 23-year-old Indian origin doctor was crowned Miss England 2019.
- 16. Ramon Magsaysay award 2019** – Ravish Kumar has been awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award for “harnessing journalism to give voice to the voiceless”.

The other winners of the award are:

- Ko Swe Win (Myanmar): He is a human rights defender and the chief editor of Myanmar Now news agency.
- Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand) is human rights activist and a leading human rights defender in Southern Thailand.
- Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) is a musician who has served in the music faculty of the University of the Philippines and has conducted free workshops for thousands of students all across the country.
- Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea) is an activist working with violence and mental health issues in youth and a South Korean agrarian movement leader who pioneered wasteland cultivation, and strove to demonstrate through his work that life as a farmer can be fulfilling and productive.

Note:

- The Magsaysay award was started in 1957 and celebrates the memory and leadership example of the former Philippine president Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay.
- Ramon Magsaysay Award is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.

- 17. Kapil Dev honoured with Bharat Gaurav Award** – East Bengal club awarded former Indian Cricket captain Kapil Dev with its highest honour, Bharat Gaurav.
- 18. 2019 Prem Bhatia Award** – Veteran journalist and consulting editor at India Today TV (television), Mr. Rajdeep Sardesai was awarded the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for his Outstanding Political Reporting with a career spanning over three decades.
- 19. Ruhan Rajput honoured with ‘Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2019’** –
- Ruhan Rajput, a renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of Einfoolge Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019 at New Delhi.

- Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.

- His company, is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry.

1. **Arjuna Award** – to tennis player Rohan Bopanna and Women cricketer Smriti Mandhana.
 - Bopanna who won the Gold medal in tennis men’s double category in Asian Games 2018 and Mandhana was the ICC women’s player of the year 2018.
2. **Sachin Tendulkar 6th Indian to be inducted into ICC Hall of Fame** – International Cricket Council has inducted India’s batting icon Sachin Tendulkar, South African pace legend Allan Donald and two-times World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick into the ICC’s Hall of Fame.
 - Other Indians on the list are Bishan Singh Bedi, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid.
3. **Sudarsan Pattnaik wins People’s Choice Award in U.S.** – Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won People’s Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in United States (US).
 - 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival was held in Boston.
4. **Mohun Bagan Ratna Award** - Keshav Dutt, Prasun Banerjee to be honoured with Mohun Bagan Ratna
5. **P T Usha nominated for IAAF Veteran Pin** – Former Olympic track and field athlete P T Usha has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federations Veteran Pin for her ‘long and meritorious service to the cause of World Athletics’.
6. **CSR Journal Excellence Awards** – The 3rd Edition of the CSR Journal Excellence Awards honoured 6 firms for the best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility. The theme of the event was ‘**India First**’.
The winners of the awards are:
 - YES Bank Ltd. won in the category “Health & Sanitation”.
 - Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. won in the category “Sports”.
 - Tata Power won in the category “Education & Skill Training”.
 - ReNew Power won in the category “Women Empowerment & Child Welfare”.
 - Mahindra & Mahindra won in the category “Environment”.

July

7. **Miss Deaf World 2019 title** – Vidisha Baliyan, a 21-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh’s Muzaffarnagar city, was crowned the Miss Deaf World 2019 title.
 - The international beauty pageant was held in Mbombela, South Africa.
 - She is a former international tennis player who represented India in the Deaflympics and also won a silver medal.
8. **Pata Gold Award 2019** – Union Tourism Ministry’s Incredible India ‘Find the Incredible You’ campaign has won PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019.
 - It won the award in ‘Marketing – Primary Government Destination’ category.
9. **Indian Woman of Influence’ award** – Eminent fashionista, social entrepreneur and philanthropist Priya Priyadarshini Jain has been felicitated with the prestigious ‘Indian Woman of Influence’ award at the House of Lords, the United Kingdom Parliament, London.
 - Priyadarshini Jain for it also marked the grand launch of coffee table book on ‘50 most influential Indian women worldwide’ featuring her as one of the most prominent personalities from India.
10. **2019 Sangita Kalanidhi award** – Noted Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya won the 2019 Sangita Kalanidhi award of Music Academy.
11. **Tribute Actor award** – Veteran actor Meryl Streep (American) will be honoured with Tribute Actor award at 2019 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).
12. **Nagarkirtan’ wins Best Feature Film’ at SAARC film fest** – Bengali film ‘Nagarkirtan’, has won 4 awards in SAARC film festival.
 - The movie was honoured with ‘Best Feature Film’, ‘Best Director’, ‘Best Actor’ and ‘Best Original Score’ awards.
 - The movie was directed by Kaushik Ganguly.
 - Best Short Film’ award– Na Bole Wo Haram, a 20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patan
 - Special Jury Award for Direction and Story– Walking With the Wind, by Praveen Morchhale

About SAARC Film Festival

- The 9th edition of SAARC film fest took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 13. Isha Kanth bags ICJ internship programme** – Indian girl, Isha Kanth is one of the two persons in the world to have bagged an internship programme at the International Court of Justice.
 - She has earlier worked in rural Bihar spreading awareness on the right to education and women empowerment among children belonging to the marginalised sections.
 - 14. Shah Rukh Khan to be conferred with an Honorary Doctorate by Melbourne's La Trobe University**
 - Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood actor, will be felicitated with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Melbourne-based La Trobe University at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) at Bundoora, Australia.
 - 15. IOC Sportsperson of the Year** – Sharath Kamal was voted the Sportsperson of the Year in the annual Indian Oil Sports Conclave.
 - Sharath Kamal is a professional table tennis player from Tamil Nadu, India.
 - 16. Best Innovation Award** - Northeast Frontier Railway has won the 'Best Innovation Award' for unique strategy adopted to keep wild elephants away from train tracks.
 - The **Plan Bee** initiative of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has won the Best Innovation Award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal.
 - The initiative helps in preventing trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.
 - 17. Gully Boy' wins NETPAC award in Bucheon film festival** – Filmmaker Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'Gully Boy' has won the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award at the 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.
 - 18. 2019 Global Excellence Awards** - The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum has announced that Mastercard CEO and **President Ajay Banga** and **Wipro Chairman Azim Premji** will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards.
 - 19. NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR** – National Aluminium Company Limited has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility fund in social development.
 - NALCO started a scheme "Aliali Jhia" in 2015 to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. NALCO is an Odisha based Navaratna Company.

June

- 1. UK-India Awards 2019: Mark Tully gets Lifetime Achievement Award** – Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was conferred with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at UK-India Awards in London for his contributions to UK-India relationship.

Other awards –

 - **Start-up of the Year Award**- Maanch, a new platform that matches up funders and receivers to accelerate global sustainable development
 - Global Indian Icon of the Year– **Kunal Nayyar**, best known for his role as Rajesh Koothrappali on US sitcom The Big Bang Theory
 - Market Entrant of the Year category– Oyo, Indian hospitality start-up
 - Social Impact category– British Telecom (BT)
- 2. IIT Kanpur honours Gopichand with honorary doctorate** – IIT Kanpur honours India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand with honorary doctorate on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
- 3. RedInk Award** – The Tribune's reporter wins the 'Journalist of the Year' RedInk Award.
 - **Rachna Khaira of The Tribune** has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year'. She won it for exposing the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.
 - Two retired senior journalists **Dinu Ranadive from the Maharashtra Times, and Sebastian D'Souza**, from the Mumbai Mirror, have jointly received the Lifetime Achievement Award for this year.
 - The RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism are conferred to encourage good quality reporting and analysis, fair play and high ethical standards in Indian journalism.
- 4. Indian engineer wins Innovation Award in UK** – Nitesh Kumar Jangir, an Indian engineer has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in the "People" category in London.

- Nitesh Kumar Jangir created Saans, a breathing support device to tackle avoidable deaths of premature babies from respiratory distress syndrome.
- 5. Award for Malayalam film at 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival** – Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun) have become the first Indian film to win 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award at the Shanghai International Film Festival. The film is directed by Bijukumar Damodaran.
 - 6. Indian woman crowned Miss Universe Australia** – India born Priya Serrao has won the Miss Universe Australia title for 2019.
 - 7. Kapil Sharma is the most viewed Stand-up Comedian in India and Abroad** – Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World book of Records London.
 - 8. Maldives to confer its highest award 'Nishan Izzuddin' on PM Modi** - Maldives will confer 'Nishan Izzuddin' award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals.
 - 9. Miss India 2019** - Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star-studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
 - Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh clinched Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker from Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title during the grand finale of the beauty pageant.
 - 10. Ex-President Pratibha Patil awarded with Mexico's Highest Civilian Award** - Former President Pratibha Patil was bestowed on the highest civilian award of Mexico for foreigners.
 - 11. Chinese President Xi Jinping** was conferred with highest national award of Kyrgyzstan titled Manas Order of the First Degree in Bishkek (capital of Kyrgyzstan).
Note: Kyrgyzstan hosted 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.
 - 12. Indian engineer wins Innovation for Sustainable Development Award** - An Indian engineer named Nitesh Kumar Jangir won 2019 Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in London, United Kingdom (UK). He won the award in People category, for creating a low-cost breathing support device called 'Saans' for premature babies.
 - 13. Amitav Ghosh becomes first English writer to get 54th Jnanpith award** - Renowned author **Amitav Ghosh** was awarded the 54th Jnanpith Award for his contribution to the enrichment of Indian Literature in English. He was conferred the award by former governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi.
 - 14. Man Booker International Prize** - An author from **Oman, Jokha Alharthi** has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "**Celestial Bodies**", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
 - 15. Priyanka Chopra to be honoured with humanitarian award by UNICEF** - Priyanka Chopra, a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights is going to be honoured with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF at the UNICEF SNOWFLAKE BALL.
 - 16. WHO award for Rajasthan Health Department** - The World Health Organization has selected the Rajasthan government's Medical & Health Department for its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control.
 - The department's Additional Chief Secretary, Rohit Kumar Singh has received the award at a function to mark World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi.
 - The Health Department of the State is the only government body in the country which will be awarded for its tobacco-free initiatives.
 - 17. J.C. Daniel Award** - Malayalam Actor Sheela J.C. has won the J.C. Daniel Award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema. She is only the second woman to get it, after Aranmula Ponnamma in 2005.
 - 18. Akshaya Patra wins BBC award** - Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organisation, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award. It runs one of the world's largest school meals project in India.
 - 19. 2019 Global Leadership Award** - Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019.
 - 20. Automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in South Africa** for fairing on various indicators, including level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.
 - 21. UN Sasakawa Award 2019:** The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred 'Sasakawa Award 2019' for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.
 - 22. Former US President Jimmy Carter receives Statesmanship Award** - Jimmy Carter, Ex-President of United States of America (USA) won the inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in recognition of his contributions to relations between U.S. and China.
 - 23. Teen Climate activist Greta Thunberg wins Amnesty prize** - The 16-year old climate activist, Greta Thunberg

of Sweden won Amnesty International's 'Ambassador of Conscience' Award 2019 for mobilising world public opinion global warming.

24. I&B Ministry institutes Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman - The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) has instituted a new award called Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from

year 2019 to recognise contribution made by media in spreading awareness about Yoga and for promotion and commemoration of International Yoga Day, held every year on 21 June.

May

- 1. McCain Institute Award** - IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
- 2. CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019 Announced:**
 - International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year – Virat Kohli
 - International Bowler of the Year - Jasprit Bumrah
 - International ODI Cricketer of the Year - Rohit Sharma
 - International T20 Bowler of the Year – Rashid Khan
 - International Woman Cricketer of the Year - Smriti Mandhana
 - International T20 Player of the Year - Aaron Finch
- 3. Kapil Sharma acknowledged as most viewed Stand-up Comedian in India & Abroad** - Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma has been acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London.
- 4. Shyam Saran to be Conferred with Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' Award** - Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award, 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.

Note:

- He will be conferred with this award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.
 - Saran, who was India's Foreign Secretary during 2004-2006, has played an important role to elevate Japan-India relationship to the strategic partnership.
- 5. Horticulture award for TNAU V-C** - N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India.

- The award has been conferred for his outstanding contribution in the field of horticulture and academic leadership focussed on human resource development in agriculture.
- 6. Bharti AXA claims Excellence Award** - Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the FICCI Claims Excellence Award.
 - 7. Nepal's 18 year old girl sets Guinness World Records for Longest Dancing** - An 18-year old girl from Nepal named Bandana set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual'.
 - She danced exclusively to Nepalese music continuously for 126 hours (over five days).
 - She broke record set by India's Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.
 - He performed classical dance form Mohiniyattam and set record at age of 37.
 - 8. CBSE was honoured with the Digital India Award 2019** under 'Exemplary Online Service' category on February 22, 2019.
 - 9. Professor Balram Bhargava**, Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health.

Note:

- He won the award for his achievements as an innovator, clinician, researcher and trainer.
- The award was presented at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

About ICMR

- ICMR was founded in 1911. It is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.
 - It is the apex body in India which formulates, coordinates and promotes biomedical research.
 - ICMR headquartered in New Delhi.
- 10. Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani** has won the prestigious Joan Miro Prize for 2019. Joan Miro Prize is named after Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miró, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

11. Global Book Prize 'Nine Dots' – Indian writer **Annie Zaidi** was announced as the 2019 winner of the USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize, a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.

- She won for her entry 'Bread, Cement, Cactus'- combining memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India.

12. France's Highest Civilian Honour - Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's

highest civilian honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

13. V K Krishna Menon Award - GD 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.

February

1. Oscar Awards 2019 announced: The 91st Academy Awards (Oscars) has been announced at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, the USA.

Complete list of winners

- Best Picture - **Green Book**, directed by - **Peter Farrelly**
- Best Actress in a Leading Role - Olivia Colman for film - The Favourite
- Best Actor in a Leading Role - Rami Malek for film - Bohemian Rhapsody
- Best Director - Alfonso Cuarón for Roma

- Best Foreign Language – Roma (Alfonso Cuaron's Roma from Mexico has won Best Foreign language)
- Best Documentary Short film - Period. End of Sentence Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton Note:
- India-based Period End of Sentence has won Documentary Short at 91stOscars Academy Awards.
- The film talks about the stigma of menstruation in India.
- It is directed by Rakya Zehtabchi.

National Affairs

August

1. India Celebrates 73rd Independence Day on August 15, 2019 – Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at Raj Ghat and addressed the following points in his speech:

- One nation, one constitution spirit has become a reality after scrapping of provisions of Article 370.
- There is a 'huge' scope for improvement in the tourism sector and everyone should visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by 2022.
- India can become a 5 trillion dollar economy in the next 5 years.
- Government to invest Rs 100 lakh cr in infrastructure building.

- Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure safe drinking water to all households was announced. Government will spend Rs 3.5 lakh crore for it.
- Implementation of GST achieved One Nation, One Tax. India achieved One Nation, One Grid in the energy sector. PM gave a motto to boost digital payment- 'Yes to digital payment, No to cash'.
- A transfer of about Rs. 90,000 crores to farmers' bank accounts is in progress to those who are beneficiaries of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.
- 1.5 lakh wellness centers will be created at villages.

2. Hardeep Puri launches Swachh Survekshan 2020 – The Minister of State (Independent charge) for housing

and urban affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri launched the fifth edition of annual cleanliness survey, Swachh Survekshan 2020 (SS 2020) which is to be conducted from January 2020.

3. **Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the 2nd Edition of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, India's largest sanitation survey, for 2019 in New Delhi.
4. **Govt. to launch new app 'Uber for tractors' to aid farmers** – The agricultural Ministry and the centre decided to launch a farm equipment rental app to aid farmers in accessing cutting-edge technology at affordable prices.
 - Farmers can book and hire agricultural equipment and use them on rent basis. Through this initiative, small farmers will be able to make use of tools equipped with technology that are expensive to own.
 - The name 'Uber for tractors' was kept by the govt. keeping in mind the popular app 'Uber'. Just like uber connects to cabs, this 'uber for tractors' will reach the grassroot level people and farmers.
5. **CORAS (Commandos For Railway Security)**, a special railway unit for the Indian railways and a new establishment manual for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) was launched by union Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal at a function in New Delhi railway station.
6. **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) will be set up in Mumbai in association with the Tata Trust** – Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) stated that world-class Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) will be set up in Mumbai, Maharashtra in association with Tata Educational and Development Trust (TEDT).
7. **Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh** has approved the formation of 12-member high-level committee, headed by the Director-General (Acquisitions), Apurva Chandra, to revise and align the procedure of Defence procurement with the aim of strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.
8. **Prasar Bharati will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in honor of Neelum Sharma**
 - On August 20, 2019, India's largest public broadcasting agency, Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryapakash stated that the agency will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in memory of Doordarshan (DD) News Former anchor, Neelum Sharma who passed away due to cancer on August 17, 2019.

9. Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

- Famous 'Hazratganj Chauraha' of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as 'Atal Chowk' in memory of former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his first death anniversary on August 16, 2019.
- He was a five-time Member of Parliament (MP) from Lucknow.
- A memorial named "Atal Smriti Upvan" will also be built on his name.

10. Punjab CM dedicates 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to victims of Jallianwala Bagh massacre

- On the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, Chief Minister of Punjab Amarinder Singh dedicated 3rd phase of 'Jung-E-Azadi' memorial to people who were killed in Jallianwala Bagh massacre and unsung heroes who were incarcerated in Andaman Cellular jail during freedom struggle.

About 'Jung-E-Azadi' Memorial

- It is a memorial and museum being built in Kartarpur, near Jalandhar city of Punjab. It is built in memory of sacrifices and contribution made by community of Punjabi's in Indian independence movement.

11. Sadbhavna Diwas: Birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi celebrated

– Every year 20 August is celebrated as Sadbhavana Diwas or Communal Harmony Day to commemorate birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

- On this observance, close family members and senior Congress party members pay homage to his memory and legacy by laying down wreaths and garlands on **Veer Bhoomi**, where he was cremated.
- 20 August 2019 marks 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

12. INTELIGHTS: India's 1st 3-D Smart Traffic Signal launched in Mohali

– Mohali traffic police in Punjab have launched India's first wireless 3-D Smart Traffic Signal System called Intelights.

- It proposes a Intelligent Traffic Timer Control to regulate traffic signals with smart bird's eye view using wireless sensor system. It has been installed at traffic crossing near the Airport Road in Mohali on a pilot project basis.
- 3-D Smart Traffic Signal 'Intelights' designed by the students of Chitkara University.

13. 2nd UDAY Express to run between Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada

– Indian Railways' 2nd UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express will run

between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada to cater to busy route in East Coast Railway zone (ECoR), one of 18 railway zones of Indian Railways.

- The 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018. Another Uday Express is proposed between Bangalore City and Chennai Central.

14. GI Tag accorded to three new products – Geographical Indications Registry under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to –

- Tirur betel leaf from Kerala,
- Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram.

15. All CAPF personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years: Govt – As per a recent order issued by Union Home Ministry, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.

- All these forces come under ambit of Union Home Ministry.

16. 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai celebrated on 12th August, 2019 across the country.

- He is known as the father of India's Space Programme.
- He is also founder of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- Keeping in mind the contribution of him in India's space programme the lander of Chandrayaan-2, the ambitious second lunar mission of India is named 'Vikram'.
- Vikram Sarabhai was born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 12th August, 1919.

17. PM to be the chairman of the Inter-State Council – The Inter-State Council has been reconstituted with Prime Minister as its chairman and 6 Union ministers and all chief ministers as its members.

- Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the standing committee of the Inter-State Council.
- The Inter-State Council is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states. It is also tasked with giving recommendations on any such dispute and recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action.
- The Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).

18. Prime Minister has announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff

- The Chief of Defence Staff will be above the three Service Chiefs.
- The CDS is meant to be a single-point military advisor to the government who will coordinate long-term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three services.
- The CDS will also act as the military advisor to the Prime Minister on nuclear issues.
- The need for a CDS was first recommended by the Kargil Review Committee after the 1999 conflict with Pakistan, but it was not implemented.
- CDS could replace the system of the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), who takes all central decisions of the services and presents it to the government.
- The senior-most service chief is the chairman COSC. Currently, it is the IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who is retiring in end-September.

19. India contributes \$1 million to UN fund – India has contributed \$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System. The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.

20. PM inaugurates Dynamic Facade Lighting in Parliament House – Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Dynamic Facade Lighting of Parliament House Estate in presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Union Ministers including Hardeep Puri and Jitendra Singh.

- Work of dynamic facade lighting was initiated on 20 July 2019 by Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and completed in just 22 days.

21. Headgear becomes mandatory for children above 4 years – Central government has made "Headgear" mandatory for children above 4 years while travelling on a motorcycle. The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019.

- Making the protective headgear mandatory for children, Central government has replaced Section 129 of the principal Act.

22. President approves Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019 – President has approved the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019. The bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

- The act aims to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to overhaul the country's transportation system.

Some main features of the act are:

- The Bill proposes a scheme to allow cashless treatment of victims in a road accident during the golden hour.
- The **golden hour** is defined as the time period of **up to one hour** following a traumatic injury, during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
- The Bill proposes to increase the minimum compensation for hit and run cases. In case of the death, the compensation has been raised from **Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 2,00,000**, and in case of grievous injury it will be from **Rs. 12500 to Rs. 50,000**.
- Under the law, **Rs 10,000** fine would be levied for not giving way to emergency vehicles such as ambulances.
- **Driving without license**- will now charge Rs 5000 in place of Rs. 500.
- **Driving without insurance** will be punishable with Rs 2,000 fine.
- **While driving without helmets** will attract **Rs 1,000** penalty and three-month suspension of licence.
- Traffic violations would now attract a penalty of Rs 500 in place of Rs 100 earlier.
- **Over speeding** – Rs. 1000 for LMV (Light Motor Vehicle) and 2000 for Medium Passenger Vehicle
- Drunken Driving – Rs. 10,000
- Seat Belt violation – Rs. 1000 in place of Rs. 100.
- Also, the guardian/owner will be deemed guilty in case of road offence by juveniles, while registration of the vehicle will be cancelled - As per the new provisions, "guardian/owner shall be deemed to be guilty and there will be a penalty of Rs 25,000 with three years imprisonment and cancellation of registration of the Motor Vehicle".

23. Doordarshan produced a patriotic song "Watan" – Union Information and Broadcasting Minister has released a patriotic song "Watan" to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019.

- The song is sung by singer Javed Ali, penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by Doordarshan.

24. The Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting has launched the e-version of Rozgar Samachar.

- It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises.
- It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts.

25. A two-day International Conference titled 'Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global' was inaugurated by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Human Resource Development (HRD) in New Delhi.

- The two-day event is organized by National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) as part of silver jubilee (25 years) celebration of its establishment in 1995.

26. "Operation Number Plate" Launched by RPF – Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways launched a Special Drive with a Code Name "Operation Number Plate" to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parking and even in the 'No Parking' areas for a longer duration.

27. Air India became the 1st Indian airline to fly over the North Pole while connecting New Delhi and North America

28. Centre launches Swachh Nagar app – Swachh Nagar app was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

- An app that will allow users to have waste — solid, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) — collected by their urban local bodies along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.

29. BIS to set up Pashmina testing centre in Leh – Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) will work together to promote the pashmina products at the high-level market for the proper value of this fine product of pashmina (Lena-Ladakhi).

- Ladakh region and parts of Himachal and Kashmir have world-class Pashmina production.

30. 1st Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology to be set up in Gujarat – India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and

Technology (CICET) will be set up in Gujarat to give boost to the chemical industry.

- It will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat.
- It was announced by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Chemical and Fertilizers Sadananda Gowda.

31. KABIL set up to ensure supply of critical Minerals to Indian market – A joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India limited has been set up with the participation of 3 Central Public Sector Enterprises. These CPSEs are National Aluminium Company Limited, Hindustan Copper Limited and Mineral Exploration Company limited.

32. Art – 370 and Art -35-A revoked from J&K by GOI – The Union government has revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which grants special status to the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in the Union of India.

Key points –

- It has decided that Jammu and Kashmir would be turned into a Union Territory with a legislature, and the Ladakh division would be made a separate Union Territory (without legislature).

What is Article 370 & 35A?

- Article 370 of the Constitution grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir, while Article 35A empowers the state legislature to define the state’s “permanent residents” and their special rights and privileges.
- Article 35A, which was incorporated in the Constitution by a 1954 Presidential Order, gives special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

How does this change the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir?

- Any citizen of the country will be able to buy property in Jammu and Kashmir.
- J&K will no longer have a separate flag.
- J&K will no longer have dual citizenship.
- J&K will no longer be a separate state but a union territory with assembly.
- Ladakh is declared a separate union territory (UT).
- The term of the Legislative Assembly will be 5 years instead of 6 years.
- The special status of Jammu and Kashmir is scrapped
- Laws like RTI and CAG will also apply here.
- Now, any citizen of the country can get a job in Jammu and Kashmir.

- After the removal of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir do not get any exclusive rights.

33. India contributed 5 million USD to the UN Palestine refugee agency and called for ensuring sustained financial support for the organisation’s work.

- The amount was hand over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees.
- The headquarter of UNRWA is in Amman, Jordan.

34. NITI Aayog to launch the 4th Edition of WTI Awards – The NITI Aayog will launch the 4th Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards. The WTI Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India.

- This year’s theme is ‘Women and Entrepreneurship’, in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018. WhatsApp has collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019 and will be providing support amounting to US\$100,000 to the award winners.

35. Environment minister Prakash Javadekar launches website for COP14 – Union Environment minister launched a website ‘unccdcop14india.gov.in, which contains all the information related to COP14 .

- The 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14), will take place on 2-13 September 2019 at Greater Noida, India.

36. President Kovind inaugurates exhibitions on M. Gandhi and Khadi in Gambia – President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi and Khadi at the “Eburnjan Theatre” in the Gambia to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi.

37. Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates 65th Foundation Day – Lalit Kala Akademi celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on August 5th, 2019.

- The event was inaugurated by Culture and Tourism Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Uttam Pacharne is the Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi.

38. 30th Interaction through PRAGATI Platform Chaired By Prime Minister Narendra Modi – The 30th Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation

(PRAGATI) platform was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

- The scheme has been launched by the government to monitor the grievances in government schemes and projects.
- It is an innovative project in e-governance initiative and good governance.

- It uniquely bundles 3 latest technologies- (1) Digital data management, (2) Video-conferencing and (3) Geo-spatial technology.
- 3-Tier System: Platform offers unique combination in Cooperative Federalism as it brings Prime Minister Office (PMO), Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of States all on one stage.

July

- 1. Gujarat tops in solar rooftop installations** – Gujarat has emerged as the state with the most rooftop solar panels installed.
 - According to data tabled in Rajya Sabha, Gujarat has an installed rooftop solar power capacity of 261.97MW, against 1,700.54MW for all of India.
 - Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra (198.52MW) and Tamil Nadu (151.62MW) in terms of installed rooftop capacity.
- 2. Govt to Install Solar projects of 40,000 MW by 2022** – The government has set a target for the installation of Rooftop Solar projects of 40,000 MegaWatt by 2022 in the country.
 - The projects include installation of solar panels on the rooftop of houses. It is estimated that 1.5 million units per MegaWatt per year are generated from solar rooftop plants.
- 3. Reliance become highest-ranked Indian firm on Fortune Global 500 list** – Reliance Industries has jumped 42 places to become the highest-ranking Indian firm on the Fortune Global 500 list.
 - Reliance Industries (RIL) ranked at 106 spots.
 - IOC ranked at (117).
 - ONGC has moved up 37 places to 160th rank on the global list, while SBI lost 20 places to 236th rank. Tata Motors slipped 33 places to 265th position. BPCL rose 39 places to rank 275th spot, while Rajesh Exports slipped 90 places to rank 495th.
 - **Top 3 companies** - Walmart of US, Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group, Dutch company Royal Dutch Shell was ranked third followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid.
- 4. Vande Bharat Express completes trial run from New Delhi to Katra** – The Northern Railway zone of Indian

Railway successfully conducted trial run of Vande Bharat Express, known to be India's fastest train.

- The trial run was conducted from New Delhi to Katra small town in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - It is also known as Train 18. It can run at a speed of 160 -180 km per hour.
 - It is designed and developed by Chennai-based Railways Production unit Integral Coach Factory.
- 5. All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 released** – As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018 India has 2,967 tigers, a third more than in 2014.
 - The Tiger census made public on occasion of Global Tiger Day (29 July) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - **Top 5 Performing States:** Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).
 - States that saw Decline in Tiger Population: Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. While all other States saw a Positive increase.
 - Highest Number of Tigers: found in **Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.**
 - Maximum Improvement in Tiger Population since 2014: recoded in **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** in Tamil Nadu.
 - 6. India is home to 1,256 species of orchid: survey** – According to the first comprehensive census of orchids of India titled 'Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide', India is home to 1,256 species of orchid.
 - The census containing photographs of 775 species is published recently by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) was unveiled in early July 2019 Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
 - In the light of importance of orchids in floriculture, this publication by BSI, which has

photographs of 60% of all species, is 1st authentic inventory and thus will be useful for researchers, growers, nature lovers and people with different backgrounds.

7. Amit Shah to chair panel on sexual harassment at workplace – On July 24, 2019, the Union Government has reconstituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine frameworks for dealing with matters of sexual harassment of women at the workplace with Home Minister Amit Shah.

- The other members of the new panel include Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'.

8. E-postal ballot registered 60.14% turnout in 2019 Lok Sabha elections - Using the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), out of the 18,02,646 service electors, 10,84,266 e-postal ballots were received indicating 60.14% turnout in Lok Sabha elections 2019. Only 4% was registered in 2014.

9. IEA praised PMUY for providing free cooking gas connection to poor - The International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Biro praised Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for providing free cooking gas connection to poor.

Note:

- The International Energy Agency (IAE) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization.

PMUY:

- It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 1, 2016, in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- It aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing free cooking gas- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connection to poor families.

10. Amit Shah will head ministerial panel on Air India sale - On July 18, 2019, Union Government reconstituted the Group of Ministers (GoM) called the Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) on Air India disinvestment. The group is headed by Home minister Amit Shah.

11. Central Govt approves Rs 206.8 crore for Implementation of Agriculture Export Policy Scheme - On July 18, 2019, the central government has approved a sum of Rs 206.8 crore for a Central Sector Scheme called 'Implementation of Agriculture Export Policy', which aims at double farmers' income by the year 2022.

12. India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers – The municipal officials of Chhattisgarh have launched a

unique garbage cafe scheme in Ambikapur of Surguja district which has become India's first 'Garbage Cafe' for Ragpickers.

- The ragpickers and the homeless will collect plastic waste, and in return, the municipal corporation will offer them food. The fund allocated for this scheme is Rs. 5.5 lakh.

13. Under Bharat Net, more than 1.28 Lakh Gram Panchayats linked with optical fibre

- Union Panchayat Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed that under Bharat Net programme, more than 1.28 Lakh Gram Panchayats were linked with optical fibre.
- The programme has uploaded the photographic evidence of the works taken up by them and assistance given to beneficiaries.

About Bharat Net Programme:

- It is also known as Bharat Broadband Network Limited.
- It is a telecom infrastructure provider, set up by the Government of India under the Department of Telecommunications for the establishment, management, and operation of the National Optic Fibre Network to provide a minimum of 100 Mbit/s broadband connectivity to all 250,000 Gram Panchayats in the country, to improve telecommunications in India and reach the campaign goal of Digital India.

14. 'Pink coaches' introduced by the Northeast frontier railway – Indian Railways 'Northeast Frontier Railway zone' has started a unique initiative to earmark a special portion of the SLR coach with pink colour. This is done to specially help the women passengers with better safety and security.

- Headquarter of Northeast Frontier Railway zone: Maligaon, Guwahati.

15. Cabinet approves to 2,880MW hydel project in Dibang – The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave the approval to the 2,880 megawatts Dibang hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh, approving a Rs 1,600 crore pre-investment and clearance expenditure for the Rs 28,080.35 crore strategic project.

- The Dibang river is a tributary river of the Brahmaputra that originated and flows through the Mishmi Hills & northeast India from the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

16. Infosys launches Cyber Defence Center in Romania – Infosys announced the launch of its state-of-the-art Cyber Defence Center in Bucharest, Romania.

- The Defence Center is an expansion of services delivered through the Infosys Digital Innovation Center.
- The Romanian leu is the currency of Romania.
- Bucharest is the capital of Romania.

17. Panel to prevent extinction of Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican

– The Supreme Court of India has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of two Indian birds- Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican.

- The 3 member panel constitutes Dr Deepak Apte, Dr Asad R Rahmani and Dr Dhananjai Mohan.

18. All lanes at toll plazas to be 'FASTag lanes' from 1st Dec

– Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has decided to declare all lanes in all toll fee plazas on National Highways across country as dedicated 'FASTag lanes' from 1 December 2019.

FASTag

- It is an electronic toll connection device which is installed in vehicle (mostly attached to windscreen) to help drivers to drive through toll plazas without having to stop.
- FASTag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to enable direct toll payments while vehicle is moving. The toll fare is deducted directly from prepaid of saving bank account linked to FASTag.

19. Iwai Ship Carrying Bhutanese Cargo flagged off from Assam to Bangladesh

- In a first ever movement of its kind, IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) ship carrying Bhutanese cargo was flagged off from Dhubri in Assam to Narayanganj in Bangladesh over Brahmaputra River and the Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route.

- This is for the 1st time ever, an Indian waterway is being used for transport of cargo between two countries, using India for transit.

20. National Data Quality Forum: launched by ICMR

– Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR's) National Institute for Medical Statistics have launched National Data Quality Forum (NDQF) to improve quality of health and demographic data in India.

21. Atal Community Innovation Centre launched in New Delhi

– Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre in New Delhi. It aims to encourage spirit of innovation at community level.

Note:

- The Atal Community Innovation Centre initiative has been launched under Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog.
- NITI Aayog is tasked upon to open innovation Centres in all Gram Panchayats of country to promote local innovation.

22. 5,645 electric buses sanctioned for 65 cities: NITI Aayog

- According to NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog an Inter-Ministerial Panel has sanctioned 5645 electric buses for operations in 65 cities and for inter-city operations to 8 state transport undertakings.
- The announcement in this regard was made by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- The move will give huge impetus to automobile sector, clean up cities & drive Make in India initiative.
- Niti Aayog has also proposed that all two-wheelers below capacity of 150cc sold in country after March 31, 2025, should be electric only while three-wheelers sold in country after March 31, 2023 should be electric ones.

23. Phase-II DBT in fertilizer subsidy launched

– Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers D.V. Sadananda Gowda has launched the Phase-II of the Direct Benefit Transfer of Fertilizer Subsidy.

- DBT in fertilizer subsidy is a step in the direction of bringing ease of living in the lives of farmers through use of modern technology and plugging leakages, pilferages and black marketing.

24. Agri-Business Incubation Centre set up in Chhattisgarh

– Union Agriculture Ministry has set up an Agri Business Incubation Centre in Chhattisgarh.

- The centre has been set up by Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Note:

- Agri Business Incubation Centre is set up under National Agriculture Development Scheme-RAFTAAR (Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation).
- It is established to focus on innovations, skill building and entrepreneurs development in agriculture and allied sectors.

25. Defence minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Mozambique

– Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh visited Mozambique from July 28-30 2019. This is the first official visit of Rajnath Singh as a Defence Minister to the African country as well as it is the first time ever a defence minister of India has visited Mozambique.

- Mozambique Capital- Maputo
 - Mozambique Currency- Metical
- 26. DD News received “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis** – DD News (Doordarshan), has been awarded with “Champions of Empathy Award” for spreading awareness about hepatitis.
- Mayank Agrawal, Director General of DD News has received the Award from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- 27. World Tiger Day 2019 observed on July 29** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the results of the 4th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2018, at Lok Kalyan Marg in New Delhi.
- According to the Survey, the count of tigers in India rose to **2967 in 2018**. India has achieved its 2022 target of doubling tiger population four years before the deadline.
- 28. India becomes second- growing gas market fastest**– India has become the second-fastest growing natural gas market globally with \$30 billion for production, import and distribution infrastructure.
- China is the fastest growing natural gas market.
- 29. “Operation Thirst” launched by RPF** – RPF launched “Operation Thirst” to crack down selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water in the railway premises.
- 30. 12 Indian beaches in the race to crest the ‘Blue Flag’ challenge** – The Union Environment Ministry has selected 12 beaches in India to vie for a ‘Blue Flag’ certification, an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety.
- These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
 - The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).
- 31. Kaiga Atomic Energy station sets a World record** – Kaiga Atomic Energy station (Karnataka) sets a World Record in continuous operation of 962 days by Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) among nuclear power plants of all technologies.
- KGS-1 (220 MW) in an indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) fuelled by domestic fuel which started commercial operation on November 16, 2000.
- 32. 7th Economic Census begins from Tripura** –The Government of India begins the 7th Economic Census from Tripura. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will conduct the census. It will be conducted after a gap of 5 years.
- The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December and the results at the national level is expected to be available by March 2020
- Previous Economic Censuses**
- Six Economic Censuses, (EC) have been conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. till date.
 - The first Economic Census was undertaken in 1977.
 - The Second EC was carried out in 1980 followed by the Third EC in 1990.
 - The fourth edition took place in 1998 while the fifth EC was held in 2005.
 - The Sixth edition of Economic Census was conducted in 2013.
- 33. Cabinet approves merger of NIMH with ICMR-NIOH** – Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved to dissolve National Institute of Miners’ Health (NIMH), an autonomous Institute under Union Ministry of Mines (MoM) and merge it with ICMR-NIOH (Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Occupational Health), Ahmedabad, under Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) with all assets and liabilities.
- 34. Government waives duty on products imported for nuclear plants** – The government has waived off basic customs duty (BCD) on products imported for nuclear plants.
- “All goods for use in generation of nuclear power” and “all forms of uranium ores and concentrates for generation of nuclear power” will now have to pay no basic customs duty.
- 35. Scientists from IIT Hyderabad developed an eco-friendly solar cell using kumkum dye- DSSC** – Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad developed low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells named Dye-sensitised solar cell (DSSC) by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make kumkum or vermilion.
- 36. Govt sets 100% Digitization target of all Waqf properties in 100 days** – On July 29,2019, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi stated that the Centre government has set a target to achieve “100% Digitization of Waqf properties across country in

its 1st 100 days” at the National Conference of State and Union Territories Waqf Boards organized by the Central Waqf Council, held in New Delhi.

- GIS/GPS: Geographic Information System (GIS)/ Global Positioning System(GPS) mapping are being used on a war footing with the help of IIT Roorkee and the Aligarh Muslim University to achieve the target.
- This is the 1st time the Government providing 100 % funding to develop various educational and developmental programs on waqf land under Pradhanmantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJVK).

37. Under Khelo India Scheme Over 2000 sporting talents identified – A total number of 2437 sporting talents have been identified under the Khelo India Scheme. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju informed.

- Under the scheme, the government provides financial assistance of about Rs 5,00,000 per annum for a period of 8 years.

38. Govt to increase coal production to one billion tone by 2022-23 – The government has plan to increase the total production of coal in the country to 1 billion tone by 2022-23.

- Coal minister said that the gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal.

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

- The features of the bill include, the Common final year MBBS Exams will be know as National Exit Test (NEXT) which would serve as Licentiate Exam, for entrance to Post Graduate medical course and as screening test of foreign medical graduates.

40. Culture Minister inaugurates architectural illumination of Safdarjung Tomb – Culture Minister has inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi.

- A total of 213 technologically advanced LED lights have been used to highlight the 17th century monument. The consumption of LED lights is approximately 62 percent less than conventional light fixtures.

41. First printing press heritage gallery opened by Railway’s – The Western Railway General Stores Depot (GSD) has become the first in Indian Railways to opened

a heritage gallery of the printing and allied machines used in the Western Railway Printing Press since (1948) at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai.

42. Uttarakhand was named among best performing states in ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ scheme – Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country’s five best performing states under the National Programme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.

43. Jaipur walled city now a world heritage site – The walled city of Jaipur, known globally as Pink City, has finally become a Unesco world heritage site.

- It is India’s first planned city founded by Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727, and is only the second Indian city to feature on the prestigious list.
- With this, India now has overall 38 World Heritage sites.

Note:

- In 2017, old Ahmedabad was India’s first city to win the ‘heritage city’ tag.
- In 2018, sites in Mumbai the Victorian and Art Deco Ensembles straddling two heritage precincts of Fort and Marine Drive, were chosen as world heritage sites.

44. Unmanned Level Crossings in all Broad-Gauge Network removed – Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal informed that all Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in all Broad-Gauge (BG) Network were removed on January 31, 2019.

45. Six Indian metros are hotspots of air pollutant nitrogen oxide: Greenpeace

- An analysis by environmental NGO Greenpeace India said that as per satellite data, transport and industrial clusters are giving rise to the country’s worst Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) hotspots like **Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad** which have high vehicular population and diesel consumption.
- Coal consumption and industrial clusters like Sonbhadra-Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Korba in Chattisgarh, Talcher in Odisha, Chandrapur in Maharashtra, Mundra in Gujarat and Durgapur in West Bengal were equally polluting when it comes to NOx emissions.
- The data was collected between February 2018 and May 2019.

46. Coffee Table Book launched to commemorate 50 years of partnership with UNWFP – ‘The Coffee Table Book – 50 years of Partnership for Change’ was launched

by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

- The book was launched to commemorate five decades (50 years) of partnership between Union Ministry and agency towards addressing food and nutritional security in India.

UN World Food Programme

- It was founded in 1961.
- It was formally established by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1963. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

47. Operation Milap: 333 missing children rescued in 7 months – Under Operation Milap of Delhi Police, Delhi Police Crime Branch has rescued 333 missing children from the city and handed them over to their families in different parts of country.

48. UIDAI operationalizes 1st Aadhaar Seva Kendra in Delhi and Vijayawada – The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized 1st 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' (ASKs) in Delhi and Vijayawada.

- The new centres are functioning on a pilot basis and have set in motion UIDAI's ambitious plan to set up 114 such centers by the end of 2019.

49. Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be first train operated by private players – Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express, one of the most-awaited trains on the route announced in 2016, is set to be the first train to be operated by private players. At present, it is parked at the Anandnagar Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh

50. PM Narendra Modi unveils statue of Lal Bahadur Shastri – Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled statue of former PM of India Lal Bahadur Shastri at Varanasi airport on 06th July 2019.

51. India's first Design Development Centre launched in Gujarat – India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in the Textile city Surat.

- The centre will promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.

52. Tata Steel Kalinganagar has been included in World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network.

- TSK in Odisha's Jajpur district is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.

53. PM Modi pays tribute to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary – Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tributes to BJP icon and the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee on his birth anniversary.

- Dr Mukherjee was born on the 6th of July, 1901 in Kolkata.

54. India to get the first e-Vehicle Charging Highway by March 2020 –

- India's first highway corridors with charging stations for electric vehicles are expected to come up along the Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways by 2020.

55. Longest electrified railway tunnel in India commissioned – The South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel of India.

- The tunnel which is between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations is 6.6 km long, is built at a total cost of ₹460 crore.
- It is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru Railway stations in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

About South Central Railway

- It is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways.
- The jurisdiction of the zone is spread over the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, and some portions of Madhya Pradesh.
- It has three divisions under its administration, which include Nanded, Secunderabad, Hyderabad.

56. Indian Railways to install CCTV cameras in over 7,000 train coaches – According to the GoI, the Indian Railways has set a target to install CCTV cameras in more than 7,000 coaches of mainline passenger trains by March 2021.

57. Army Chief releases Kargil Tribute Song – Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans.

- The song has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir.
- The song was released as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to be celebrated on 26th of July.

June

1. All panchayats to have Broadband Connectivity by March 2020: Govt – Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister Electronics and Information Technology in a written reply in Lok Sabha informed Parliament that all gram panchayats will be provided high speed broadband connections under BharatNet project by March 2020.

- Phase II of project is under implementation, and a total of 2 lakh GPs (gram panchayats) are targeted to be completed by March 2020.

BharatNet

- The project seeks to provide affordable last mile high speed broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across the country.
- Nodal Ministry: for implementation of project is Ministry of Communication.

2. India to train 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next 5 years – India's leading civil services training institution, National Center for Good Governance (NCGG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Maldives Civil Services Commission for capacity building (training) of 1,000 civil servants of Maldives over next five years.

- This agreement was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Male (Maldives capital).

3. Five-year vision plan EQUIP finalised and released by HRD Ministry – The Department of Higher Education of HRD Ministry has finalized and released a five year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme.

4. Japan gifts Manipur a peace museum – Japan gifts Manipur a "Peace Museum" which is built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.

- The inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum at Red Hill, about 20 km southwest of Manipur's capital Imphal, marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.

5. 35000 km of highways to be built by 2022 under Bharatmala –

- Under the 'Bharatmala Project', construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometres of national highways is to be undertaken by 2022.

6. Statue of Unity enters prestigious 2019 World Architecture News Awards – World's tallest idol Statue of Unity has entered prestigious World Architecture News Awards 2019 in the mixed-use category.

- The statue is surrounded by Narmada river.

- The Statue of Unity is built in dedication to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who served as the first home minister of independent India.
- The height of Statue of Unity is 182 metre.
- The Statue of Unity was built by Padma Bhushan recipient sculptor Ram V Sutar.

7. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended service of Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha for a further period of three months.

8. PM Modi reconstitutes NITI Aayog – Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of government of India's policy think tank NITI Aayog (or National Institution for Transforming India).

- Chairperson– Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- Vice-Chairperson– Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- Amitabh Kant gets two-year extension as Niti Aayog CEO.

Note:

- It was established on 1 January 2015 by replacing 65 years legacy of Planning Commission (PC).

9. India's Forest cover up by 1%- Environment Minister – Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister for Environment informed the Lok Sabha that India's forest cover has increased by 1% in last one year period and over 24.39% of India's geographical area now constitutes of green cover.

10. Mumbai Metro Railway Corporation to dig 170m long tunnel under Mumbai's Mithi river –

- Mumbai Metro Railway Corporation plans to dig a 170m long tunnel under Mumbai's Mithi river as a part of Mumbai's Metro Line 3. This will be India's second largest underwater project.
- The first tunnel was built for the Kolkata metro.

11. India's first Blockchain District to come up in Hyderabad, Telangana – The Telangana government is going to set up the country's first 'Blockchain district' to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.

- The State signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra last year to set up the Blockchain district.
- It proposed 25 per cent subsidy on lease rentals up to ₹5 lakh per annum for the first 3 years of operations.

12. National Film Heritage Mission Project reviewed by Prakash Javadekar - Minister of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar reviewed the National Film Heritage Mission

- (NFHM) during a visit to the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, Maharashtra.
13. The United States (US) Secretary of State, Michael R. Pompeo visited India on 25-27 June 2019.
 14. **Aparna Kumar becomes the first civil servant & IPS Officer to conquer the 'Seven Summits' challenge** - Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer and DIG (Deputy Inspector General of Police) in Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Aparna Kumar has scaled Mount Denali (the highest peak in Northern America stands at 20,310 feet) in Alaska, USA (United States of America).
 - She is the first civil servant and IPS (Indian Police Service) officer to achieve the feat of completing '7 Summits' challenge.
 15. **GST day** - July 1 celebrated as Goods and Services Tax day.
 - **New GST return system:** Sahaj and Sugam returns for small taxpayers are proposed by the Finance ministry.
 - The Central or State Government which sanctions refund disburses all four major heads of refunds namely CGST, SGST, IGST, and Cess.
 - Threshold limit for goods: Threshold Limit of Rs 40 Lacs is offered of suppliers of goods as per the choice of States.
 - Composition Scheme for Services: Composition Scheme for small service providers up to annual turnover of Rs 50 lacs with a tax rate of 6%.
 - E-invoicing system: Electronic invoicing system in a phase-wise manner for B2B (Business to Business) transactions is proposed to be introduced.
 - GSTAT: GST Appellate Tribunals are being established at various State Headquarters and area benches also.
 16. **Nirmala Sitharaman, Union finance & Corporate Affairs minister, among '100 Most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list** - On June 24, 2019, To mark 'India Day' in the Houses of Parliament in London, United Kingdom (UK), Sajid Javid, Home Secretary of UK, released the '100 most Influential in UK-India Relations: Celebrating Women' list.
 - Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, was one among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward.
 17. **Central Government move to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras to double farmers' income by 2022** - The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar announced that central Government has decided to use digital technology in rural India to double farmers' income by the year 2022.
 - For this, the Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community.
 18. **Government schools to introduce Self Defence Training for girls under Samagra Shiksha** - Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha' was launched by the Department of School Education and Literacy which comes under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, effective from the academic year 2018-19. The activity of Self Defence training for girls comes under Samagra Shiksha.
 19. **National Freight Index (NFI)** - In order to bring transparency in the road-freight marketplace, an Indian technology company based in Gurgaon, Rivigo which owns 3,000 trucks 5,000 drivers launched the National Freight Index (NFI) which will provide unrestricted access of live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country. Logistics account for nearly 14% of India's GDP.
 20. **Govt. reduces the rate of ESI Contribution from 6.5% to 4%** - The government has reduced the total rate of contribution made by workers and employers towards the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme from 6.5% to 4% for the first time in over two decades.
 - At present, nearly 4.75% of a worker's monthly salary goes towards ESI as the employer's contribution and 1.75% of the income is the employee's share at present.
 21. **Delhi metro becomes India's 1st Project to receive power from waste-to-energy** - The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant.
 - It has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghazipur.
 22. **Centre sets target to provide Clean Drinking Water to all by 2024** - Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the Central government has set a target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024.
 - It includes increasing coverage of piped water to households from current 18 to 100% by 2024.
 - In states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha, the coverage of clean drinking water is less than five percent.
 - It is only in Sikkim that 99% of households get tapped water.

May

1. **New Jal Ministry formed** – The government has formed the new 'Jal Shakti' Ministry by merging the ministries of Water Resources and Drinking Water and Sanitation.
 - Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is the Union Minister of 'Jal Shakti' Ministry.
 - Rattan Lal Kataria is the minister of state in the newly formed ministry.
2. **Bhawana Kanth, 1st Woman to qualify to go to Day Missions on Fighter Jet** – Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.
 - She completed the Day Operational syllabus on MiG-21 Bison. Bhawana joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew the first solo on MiG-21 Bison in 2018.
3. India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020.
 - The decision was taken during the CG meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the margins of the 6th Session of the GPDRR 2019.
4. The nation pays homage to first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary on 27th May 2019. **Shantivan** is the Samadhi of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.
5. **2019 Lok Sabha Election – Highlights**
 - The 17th Lok Sabha elections was held across the 7 phases between 11 April and 19 May.
 - Results were declared on 23 May.
 - Election in one parliamentary constituency — Vellore in Tamil Nadu — was postponed.
 - Sunil Arora is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
 - Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra are 2 Election Commissioner of India.
 - Modi is the first non-Congress prime minister to come back to power with a majority for the second time after Indira Gandhi in 1971.

Highest ever voter turnout

- As per Election Commission of India, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections witnessed a voter turnout of **67.10% (interim)**, which is the highest ever voter turnout in the history of general elections.
- The previous highest voter turnout of **66.44%** was recorded in 2014.

- Himachal Pradesh poll: 143% voter turn-out in world's highest polling booth - The world's highest polling station at 15,256 feet in Tashigang village of Himachal Pradesh recorded an unbelievable 142.85 per cent voter turn out.

At 14%, 17th Lok Sabha has highest number of women MPs

- There are **78 women members of parliament**, the highest since independence.
- According to PRS legislative research, Parliament this time has **300 first-time MPs** and 197 MPs who have been re-elected for a second consecutive term.
- Out of the 716 women candidates who contested elections, 78 have been elected, which is 14% of the house. This is higher than 2014 where there were 62 women MPs in the house.

Performance of BJP in Lok Sabha Election 2109

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single-largest party after winning 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
- BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won 353 seats.
- The Congress won 52 seats and the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance won 91.
- Indian National Congress again failed to secure the requisite 10% of the seats (54 seats) in the Lok Sabha and hence India remains without an official opposition party.
- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) emerged as the third-largest party with 23 seats.
- The BJP swept all votes in eight states and one Union Territory - Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Delhi and over 50 per cent votes in Chandigarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Youngest MP in India's history

- Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate Chandrani Murmu (25-year-old) engineering graduate from Odisha has become the youngest Member of Parliament to the 17th Lok Sabha.
- She was elected to the Lok Sabha, from Keonjhar, Odisha.
- Odisha has a total of seven women MPs, making it the first state ever to have 33 percent or the largest share of women MPs of its total of 21 seats.

- Until now, the record has been held by Dushyant Chautala, founder of the Jannayak Janta Party representing Hisar Lok Sabha constituency in Haryana in the 16th Lok Sabha. He is the grandson of well-known Haryana politician Om Prakash Chautala.

6. **Legislative assembly elections** held in 4 states - Legislative assembly in the states of **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim** were held simultaneously with the general election.

New CM of Odisha

- Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Naveen Patnaik became the Chief Minister of Odisha for a record 5th consecutive term.
- He is the son of Biju Patnaik (former Chief Minister of Odisha).
- He is only the third Indian chief Minister after Pawan Chamling and Jyoti Basu to win five consecutive terms as Chief Minister of an Indian state.
- In the recent State Legislative Assembly polls, BJD won 112 of the total 146 seats.

New CM of Sikkim

- Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as P S Golay, sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Sikkim on 28th May 2019. He is the president of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM).
- In the recent State Legislative Assembly polls, Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party won 17 of the total 32 seats. Its opposition party Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) bagged 15 seats.
- Mr. P. S. Tamang succeeds Pawan Kumar Chamling who holds the record for being the Chief Minister of a state in India for the longest time.
- Pawan Kumar Chamling served as the chief minister of Sikkim from 1994 to 2019.
- Mr. Ganga Prasad is the current Governor of Sikkim.

New CM of Andhra Pradesh

- Y S Jaganmohan Reddy sworn in as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh
- **He became the second** chief minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- The YSR Congress bagged 151 of the 175 seats in the state Assembly.
- N Chandrababu Naidu, was the first chief minister of the state after it was bifurcated to carve out Telangana five years ago.
- E S L Narasimhan is the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

New CM of Arunachal Pradesh –

- Pema Khandu was sworn- in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for a second term.
- He became the 10th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.
- In the recent State Legislative Assembly polls, BJP led by Mr Khandu won 41 of the total 60 seats. While the opposition Congress could win only four seats.
- Brigadier (Retd.) B.D. Mishra is the present Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

7. Iraq remains India's top supplier of Crude Oil in 2019

– According to data released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Iraq remains India's top crude oil supplier for second year in a row followed by Saudi Arabia & Iran.

Note:

- India is world's third largest importer of crude oil (7% of total crude oil imports) after China (world's largest importer with 20.2% of total crude oil imports) and USA (13.8%).
- India's crude oil imports meets 80 % its oil needs.

8. Konkan Railways signs agreement with Nepal Railways –

India and Nepal have inked a deal on procurement of demo train that operates on diesel.

- The contract agreement was signed between India's Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd and Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train sets.
- The trains will be manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory (owned and operated by Indian Railways) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

9. Vice president issued Postage Stamp to commemorate 750th Birth Anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desika –

On 2 May 2019, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released postage stamp in New Delhi to commemorate 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan and his great philosopher's life and highly valued work.

10. Cyclone FANI: 1.2 mn Evacuated as Powerful Storm hits Odisha

- The severe cyclonic storm named Cyclone Fani had recently made a landfall impact on May 3, 2019 in Puri on Odisha coast.
- Cyclone Fani, with wind speed of about 175 kilometres per hour, was the second-most powerful cyclone to have hit Odisha after 1999.
- The government, however, earned international praise for its efforts to reduce casualty by shifting away more than 11 lakh people.

- Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), has prepared nearly one lakh meals for distribution in cyclone Fani hit areas of Odisha.

Note:

- Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) is a premier food research laboratory under Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), Government of India.
- It was established in 1950 and is headquartered in Mysore, Karnataka.

11. India and Bangladesh to co-produce movie on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

– India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a feature movie on life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (founding father of People’s Republic of Bangladesh) and also a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War (1971). India’s state broadcaster Prasar Bharati will co-produce the film.

12. India Re-Elected as Observer to ‘Arctic Council’ –

India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum.

- The decision was taken during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland.
- The Council also appointed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a new Observer.
- India successfully got the Observer status in 2013 during the Kiruna Ministerial meeting held in Sweden.
- India has its Arctic research station ‘Himadri’ in Svalbard, Norway since 2008.
- The Arctic Council is formed of eight circum-polar countries- Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, US and Russia.

State Affairs

August

1. Tamil Nadu govt announces trifurcation of Vellore district

– Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that Vellore district of state would be trifurcated into Vellore, Ranipet and Tirupattur districts.

- Vellore will be headquarters of these 2 new districts. With creation of two more districts the total number of districts in state would become 37.

2. Maharashtra: 1st state to adopt digital fingerprint and iris scanning system

– Maharashtra became first state in the country to adopt an Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) i.e. digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to help police investigations.

- This system will soon be replicated by police forces of other states in the country.

3. Odisha police station in top 10 in India

– Tarava police station in the Subarnapur district of Odisha has been adjudged as one of the 10 best police stations in India in the annual ranking for the year 2018.

- The certificate of excellence and a trophy awarded by the Union Home Ministry were handed over to Tarava police inspector Dulamani Bhoi by Odisha DGP R.P. Sharma.

4. Tamil Nadu’s Panchamirtham prasadam granted GI tag

– The famous Palani panchamirtham, given as ‘prasadam’ at Murugan temple in Palani, Tamil Nadu has been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

- This is first temple ‘prasadam’ from Tamil Nadu that has been bestowed with coveted GI tag.
- It takes total number of such indigenous products from Tamil Nadu that have been accorded GI tag to 29.

5. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel announces formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve

- On August 15, 2019, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel announced the formation of ‘Lemru Elephant Reserve’ (LER) in the state, over an area of 450 square kilometres.
- It will minimize human-elephant conflict and destruction of property, with the provision of a permanent habitat for the wild tuskers.

6. Manipur Govt launches “School Fagadaba” scheme to improve infrastructure of government schools

- Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh has launched “School Fagadaba” (Make education better) scheme with the aim to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools.
- 7. RACE: Rajasthan’s New Higher Education Model –** State government of Rajasthan has launched a new higher education model titled- Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence or RACE, for distribution of faculties and movable assets among government colleges at district level so as to rationalise availability of resources.
- 8. AP launches ‘Village Volunteers System’ -** Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched his government’s flagship programme called ‘Village Volunteers System’ aimed at providing government services at doorsteps of people.
- 9. West Bengal launches awareness campaign ‘Save Green, Stay Clean’ –** The West Bengal Government has launched an awareness campaign ‘Save Green, Stay Clean’ for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean.
- 10. One Nation One Ration Card scheme launched on pilot basis in 4 States –** One Nation-One Ration Card scheme launched on a pilot basis in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.
- 11. Centre has approved the project to link Kosi & Mechi rivers –** The Centre has approved a Kosi-Mechi river interlining project in Bihar.
- Estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,900 crore.
 - The project will provide irrigation for over 2.14 lakh hectares of command areas spread across the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar in north Bihar.
 - This is India’s 2nd major river linking project after Ken-Betwa of Madhya Pradesh.
- 12. Odisha approves conservation plan of lakes “Chilika and Ansupa” –** The Odisha Wetland Authority has approved implementation of an integrated management plan of lakes “Chilika and Ansupa”.
- The Chilika lake is India’s largest brackish water lagoon and Ansupa is the Odisha’s largest freshwater lake.
- 13. Kerala Govt to Set up Country’s First-ever Elephant Rehabilitation Centre –** The Kerala government would set up a first-of-its-kind elephant rehabilitation centre here at an outlay of Rs 105 crore, to take care of jumbos, which were either orphaned or abandoned.
- Kottoor, an ecotourism village situated nearly 35 km from here, would soon host the country’s first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre.
- 14. Manipur tops the rank in breastfeeding report released by health minister –** Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family welfare released a report on Breastfeeding in New Delhi where states were ranked based on Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country.
- The ranking was topped by Manipur.
 - The worst performing states were Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.
 - The national capital Delhi is also one among the worst-performing states.
- 15. UP govt creates world record by planting over 22 cr saplings in one day on 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement -** To mark the 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, Uttar Pradesh(UP) chief minister(CM) Yogi Adityanath has launched the mega greenery plantation drive called “Vriksharopan Mahakumbh”, which now sets a world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in a day.
- 16. India’s first underwater train will be launched in Kolkata –** Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India’s first underwater train project is set to launch in Kolkata, West Bengal under the Hooghly river. It is a 16-kilometer long Kolkata Metro project.
- 17. 9 year old Manipuri girl, Valentina Devi made Manipur’s green ambassador -** Elangbam Valentina Devi, a 9-year-old girl from Manipur was made the ambassador of ‘Chief Minister’s Green Manipur Mission’, after a video of her crying over felled trees went viral on social media.
- 18. Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to implement biofuel policy –** Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan state Government, Sachin Pilot stated that Rajasthan is the 1st state in the country that released biofuel rules-2019 (after the notification of the Centre on April 30, 2019) with the vision to promote the use of biofuels.
- 19. Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake in Bihar declared as the state’s first ‘Community Reserve’ –** Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake (measures 88 hectares) in Katihar district of Bihar has been declared as state’s 1st ‘Community Reserve’.
- Gogabeel, which is the 15th Protected Area (PA) in Bihar, is formed from the flow of the

rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.

20. A rare tea variety of eastern Assam's **Dikom Tea Estate** named "**Golden Butterfly tea**" created a record of being sold at Rs.75,000 per kg at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC), Assam.

21. **Karnataka categorises Nicotine as "class A poison"**

- The Karnataka government has amended the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015 and notified Nicotine as "Class A poison".

- The step has been taken to strengthen enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes.

July

1. **Uttarakhand holds 1st Himalayan conclave** - Conclave of Himalayan States was held on at Mussoorie in Uttarakhand to discuss priorities of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) in 15th Finance Commission (XV FC).
 - The conclave was initiated by government of Uttarakhand with Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) as its knowledge partner. The chief guest of conclave was Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
2. **Odisha renews effort to revive Gharial population** - Odisha has renewed its effort to revive population of gharials in their natural habitat by releasing 5 reptiles, fitted with radio transmitters, into Satkosia gorge of Mahanadi which is the southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India.
 - Satkosia Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve located in the Angul district of Odisha.
3. **Western Railways first printing press heritage gallery opened at Mahalaxmi, Mumbai**
 - Western Railways (WR) opened its first printing press heritage gallery named Western Railway Mahalaxmi General Stores Depot (GSD) at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was inaugurated by V P Pathak, Member (Materials Management) of the Railway Board.
4. **World Bank decides not to fund for Andhra's ambitious Amaravati capital city project** - After the central government dropped support, The World Bank had withdrawn \$300 million of fund for Amaravati Capital City project in Andhra Pradesh, the ambitious project of former chief minister Chandrababu Naidu.
5. **Tamil Nadu to be the first state to manufacture electric cars: Minister**
 - M C Sampath, minister for industries stated that South Korean multinational automotive manufacturer Hyundai plans to launch its electric car for India and the global market from Chennai facility will help make Tamil

Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.

6. **Uttar Pradesh becomes No.1 in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country** -The State Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has become number one in implementation of ambitious central government scheme Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna.
 - Totally 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019 in the state.

About Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana:

- It is a government-backed Life insurance scheme launched on 9 May 2015.
- It is available to people between 18 and 50 years of age with bank accounts get an accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying an annual premium of 330 rupees.

7. **Haryana cabinet permitted to set up Sports University at Rai** -, The Cabinet of Haryana under the chairmanship of chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar approved the setting up of Haryana Sports University at Rai, Sonapat.
8. **Meghalaya becomes 1st state to ensure water conservation** - Meghalaya became the first state in India to ensure the conservation of water and have own water policy following a nod given by the State Cabinet.
 - The draft policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.
 - It is historic for Meghalaya as the state has become the first state in the country to have a State Water Policy.
9. **India's first dragon blood-oozing tree** - Researchers discover *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in **Assam**.
 - This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India. Dragon

tree species whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air.

10. Odisha gets GI tag for its sweet version of Rasagola

– The Registrar of Geographical Indications(GI), Chennai has awarded a GI certificate registering the sweetmeat as "Odisha Rasagola" to the state of Odisha which will be valid till Feb 22, 2028.

- In 2017, West Bengal had secured the GI tag for "Banglar Rosogolla" after a tug of war with Odisha since 2015 over the origin of the sweet.

11. B S Yeddyurappa sworn in as Chief Minister of

Karnataka - State BJP President B.S. Yediyurappa (76) took oath as 31st Chief Minister of Karnataka by Governor Vajubhai Vala.

12. MP gets its 1st international flight with Air India's

Indore-Dubai service – Indore, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh recently made it to international aviation map with national carrier Air India launching its flight service to Dubai from MP Airport.

- Air India Flight AI903 took wings from Indore's **Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar International Airport** with 150 passengers on. This was the 1st international commercial flight from Madhya Pradesh.

13. Andhra Pradesh first state to reserve 75% private jobs for locals

– Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to reserve jobs for locals. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries/Factories Act, 2019.

14. Nepal invited as a partner country for Gita Jayanti

Mahotsav 2019 – Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be the partner country for this year's 'Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019' scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra.

- He extended the invitation to Ambassador of Nepal to India Nilamber Acharya.

15. Chengalpet, Tenkasi to be new districts in Tamil

Nadu – The number of districts in Tamil Nadu will go up to 35 as the government announced its decision to carve out Tenkasi district from Tirunelveli district and Chengalpet district from Kancheepuram district will become the 34th and 35th districts of Tamil Nadu.

16. West Bengal CM launches 'Didi Ke Bolo' campaign

– Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched a unique initiative called 'Didi Ke Bolo' (Tell your sister) campaign to reach out to people of State.

17. Rajghat coal plant to be turned into solar park

– The Delhi government has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned

into a solar park. A 5,000 KW of solar power will be produced at the 45 acre plant site.

- The coal-based plant, whose current units were commissioned in 1989, has been lying in a shutdown mode from 2014.

18. TN celebrates 'Hospital Day' on July 30, 2019

– On July 30, 2019, Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu (TN) celebrated its first 'Hospital Day' on the commemoration of the birth anniversary Muthulakshmi Reddy.

- She was one of India's prominent successful woman doctors in the early 20th century and TN's first woman legislator.

19. Maharashtra Govt. raises Financial Aid for Martyrs' Kin to Rs.1 crore

– The Maharashtra government has approved an increase in financial assistance given to families of martyred and disabled soldiers hailing from state who lay down their life in the line of duty.

- The approved four-time increase in compensation from Rs 25 lakh to Rs.1 crore for Kin of martyred soldiers will be implemented from January 1, 2019.

20. J&K District Administration Udhampur launched

helpline "Jeene Do" – Under the Centrally sponsored Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) District Administration Udhampur launched a helpline, "Jeene Do" with an objective to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act 1994.

21. Telangana Government and WEF to launch Drone Delivery Project

- The State Government of Telangana and World Economic Forum's (WEF) Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) Network announced the launch of drone-delivery project called '**Medicine from the Sky**'.
- The Telangana government, World Economic Forum and Health Net Global signed an agreement for project to be supervised and managed by leaders in field of medicine, technology and research.

22. Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue to be set up at Uttarakhand

- Asia's 1st Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue to be established at Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand.

23. Tamil yeoman: now Tamil Nadu's State Butterfly

– Butterfly species Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.

- Scientific Name: Cirrochroa thais
- It is also known as Tamizh Maravan

- 24. Kaziranga National Park: Special Rhino Protection Force deployed** – An 82-member Special Rhino Protection Force which is trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was recently deployed in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- About Kaziranga National park is located in Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam.
 - In 1968 it was given National Park status and in 1985 it was declared UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) for its unique natural environment.
- 25. Meghalaya fined Rs 100 cr for illegal coal mining** – The Supreme Court directed the Meghalaya government to deposit the Rs 100 crore fine imposed on it by the NGT for failing to curb illegal coal mining with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The National Green Tribunal had fined the Meghalaya government on January 4.

- 26. Damanganga-Pinjal project to meet water needs of Mumbai till 2060** – On June 28, 2019, The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis announced that Damanganga-Pinjal project will meet the water needs of Mumbai till 2060.
- 27.** The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the '**Jan Choupal**' program in Raipur, Chhattisgarh for holding public meetings once every week to discuss the issues of the people.
- 28. Operation Khumaar launched in J&K** - In a major step aimed towards making 'drugs-free panchayats', district administration Rajouri in Jammu and Kashmir (J&k) launched an anti Drug Campaign called "Operation Khumaar" in all 312 Panchayats of the district.
- 29.** Twenty-three persons are feared dead as the **Tiware dam in Ratnagiri** in Maharashtra's Konkan region breached following incessant rains.

June

- 1. Yogi Adityanath unveils 7-foot statue of Lord Rama in Ayodhya**
- Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a 7 -feet wooden statue of Lord Rama in Ayodhya.
- 2. India gets its first dinosaur museum and fossil park in Gujarat** – Gujarat is now home to India's first dinosaur museum and Fossil Park at Raiyoli village, which is located near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani recently inaugurated the park.
- 3. India's first solar-powered cruise boat launched in Kerala state** - Aditya, India's first solar ferry, is a solar-powered ferry operating between Vaikkom and Thavanakkadavu in the Indian state of Kerala.
- 4. Gujarat police to use laser guns to crack down on over-speeding** - The Gujarat government has decided to equip the traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of over-speeding by vehicles.
- 5.** Nandankanan National Park is situated in Odisha.
- 6.** The state government of Goa recently approved an amendment to Factories Act 1948 which will allow deployment of women in night shifts (from 7pm to 6 am) in industries.
- 7. Telangana hosts 32nd ISTA Congress** – Telangana is hosting the triennial International Seed Testing

Association (ISTA) Congress in Hyderabad. ISTA congress is being held for the first time in Asia.

- 8. Unique Flood Hazard Atlas: Odisha** – Odisha has come out with a unique flood hazard atlas aided by satellite imagery, which is expected to help the coastal state manage floods more efficiently. The atlas was released by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State-level Natural Calamity Meeting.
- Base Period: Atlas is compiled on basis of historic flood inundation captured via satellite imagery over 18 years period from year 2001 to 2018.
- 9. Bihar Government bans Tree-Felling** – The Bihar Government recently announced ban on felling of trees in different cities of Bihar, citing increasing pollution as well as a fatal heatwave in the state as reason for the ban.
- 10. Namma Kolhapuri chappal gets GI boost**
- Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear industry, renowned for its handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad.
 - The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted the GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts of Maharashtra — Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara —

along with four in Karnataka — Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur.

11. Himachal Pradesh makes GPS device mandatory for trekkers

- The Himachal Pradesh (HP) government has made it compulsory for trekkers to carry a GPS (Global Positioning System) device to tackle any exigency.

About Himanchal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh state formed on 25 January 1971 and became 18th state of the Indian Union.
- It is bounded by Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state to the north, China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) to east, Uttarakhand to southeast, Haryana to its south, and Punjab to west.

12. Assam govt to set up Skill University at Darrang district

– Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at **Darrang district**.

- This will be perhaps the first skill university of the country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats.

1. **Punjab bans Online Food Delivery without Hygiene Rating** - The Punjab government has decided to make it mandatory for all online food aggregators to ensure that food supplied by them should compulsorily have hygiene rating as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.
2. The Rajasthan government announced its decision to ban production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarette in the state.
3. **Kerala first Indian state to tap into masala bond market** – Kerala became the first state to tap into masala bond market by listing the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)'s masala bond worth of USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore) in London Stock Exchange (LSE)'s International Securities Market (ISM).
 - It has a fixed interest rate of 9.723% per annum.
 - The bond issue builds on the Kerala government's focus to get multinational corporations to invest in the state.
4. **e-Vidhan: Kerala Assembly to Digitize all its records** - The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-

13. Assam govt hikes parental income limit under fee waiver scheme

- Assam government has waived admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year.

- All provincialized government colleges and 5 universities are incorporated under the scheme.

14. Unemployed Graduates to get up to Rs 3,500 in Rajasthan

– Unemployed youth having graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by Rajasthan government.

- Male applicants will get Rs 3,000/month, while the women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500/month under Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana from February this year.
- The applicants must be natives of Rajasthan and the amount will be given for two years or until they get employed.

May

Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.

5. **Sikkim Statehood Day observed on 16th May** – On 16th May 2019, Sikkim celebrated its 44th statehood day.
 - It was on this day in **1975** that Sikkim had officially become a state under the Union of India and Kazi Lhendup Dorjee became its first chief minister.
 - Sikkim officially merged with the Indian union and became the 22nd state of the country.
6. **Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May** - Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May.
 - It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.
 - Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.
7. **Meghalaya govt approves setting up of Farmers' Commission** – The Meghalaya government approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers.
 - The cabinet approved the proposal made by the Agriculture Department to set up the Farmers' Commission in line with the resolution passed at the 'farmers' parliament'.

8. **Zero Pendency Courts Project** – Zero Pendency Courts Project is the pilot project of the Delhi High Court. The pilot project was undertaken in certain subordinate courts of Delhi to identify benchmarks for different types of cases timelines, number of judges required, case flow management rules and a host of other relevant factors.
9. **Purple Frog to be crowned Kerala's state amphibian** – Purple frog could be soon designated as Kerala's state amphibian.
 - The proposal for this is being mooted by Kerala's leading Herpetologists (a specialist in study of reptiles and amphibians).
 - The odd-looking species is endemic to Western Ghats. The title would help in protecting species fragile habitat.

- Scientific Name: *Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis* (N. sahyadrensis).
- It is also known as Maveli frog or Pignose Frog.

10. **Gujarat Assembly Passes Act to Allow Shops & Businesses Remain Open 24x7** – 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019. The Act will allow the shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24x7.
11. **Chhattisgarh Deploys 1st Anti-Naxal Women Commando Unit** – The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG), its frontline anti-Naxal force.

Arts & Culture

August

1. **President inaugurates underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai**
 - President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated underground 'Bunker Museum' at the Raj Bhavan (official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra) in state capital Mumbai.
 - The bunker was discovered by Maharashtra Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao last year, along with two identical cannons, atop foothills of Raj Bhavan, which is situated at the tip of south Mumbai.
2. **17 August: Parsi New Year Navroz celebrated** – Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Jamshedi Navroz, is celebrated every year on August 17 to mark the beginning of the new Iranian calendar.
 - In Persian, Nav means new and Roz means day and together translating to 'new day'. It is

celebrated for health, wealth, prosperity and productivity.

3. **National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' organised at Leh-Ladakh** – In a bid to give a fillip to tribal economy in Ladakh, Aadi Mahotsav or National Tribal Festival will be organised at Polo Ground, Leh-Ladakh.
 - It is a 9 day festival that will start from 17 August till 25 August 2019.
4. **Virasat-e-Khalsa set to enter Asia Book of Records** – Virasat-e-Khalsa museum located in Anandpur Sahib town in Punjab is set to find a place in Asia Book of Records for becoming most visited museum in Asian sub-continent on a single day. Museum witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on 20 March 2019.

July

1. **Pakistan opens historic Hindu temple in Punjab** – Pakistan has opened a 1,000 year old Hindu temple in eastern city Sialkot for worship for the first time since partition on the demand of the local Hindu community.

- The Shawala Teja Singh temple, located in city's congested Dhaarawal locality, some 100 km from Lahore, is more than 1,000 years old, according to the book 'History of Sialkot' by the late Rashid Niaz.

2. **Prakash Javadekar inaugurates 10th Jagran Film Festival** – Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting inaugurated the 10th Jagran Film Festival in an event held at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi.
3. **IFFI's Golden Jubilee Edition to be celebrated in Goa** – The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, will be held from 20th Nov till 28th November 2019 in Panaji, Goa.
 - President of Oscar Academy John Bailey and other eminent cinematographers and producers have been invited for the event. Russia will be IFFI partner in this edition.
4. **Baba Guru Nanak University Foundation stone laid in Pakistan** – Pakistan Punjab's chief minister laid the foundation stone of Baba Guru Nanak University at Nanakana Sahib.
 - The University was dedicated to Guru Nanak Dev at his birth place. This university would be spread over 10 acres.
5. **Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Fest**
 - Kerala Tourism organized a 5-day annual Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Fest 2019 in Kanakakkunnu, Thiruvananthapuram. It was held from July 20-24, 2019. It was inaugurated by the Governor of Kerala, P Sathasivam at Nishagandhi Auditorium in Kanakakkunnu
6. **SAARC Film Festival 2019 held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka**
 - The 9th Edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Film Festival for the year 2019 was held at the National Film Corporation Cinema Hall, Colombo, Sri Lanka from July 2-7, 2019.
7. **Saudi Arabia adopts Digital India, equality of women in Haj 2019** – Indian Haj mission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted digital technology to reach out to a large number of pilgrims as part of Digital India initiative of Government of India.
8. **Jagannath Rath Yatra** - Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra held in Puri, Odisha.
 - The Rath Yatra marks the journey of Lord Jagannath along with his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra from Jagannath temple to Gundicha temple. This journey covers a distance of around 17 km in Puri.
9. Chamliyal mela 2019 was held in Jammu and Kashmir.
10. **Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019** - The 23rd edition of Sindhu Darshan Utsav 2019 was held at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir.
11. **Bonalu festival was held in Telangana** - The annual Bonalu festival kicked off at the Jagadamba temple in historic Golconda Fort, Telangana. Bonalu is the “state festival” of Telangana.
12. **Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated in J&K**
 - The annual festival of Kheer Bhawani Mela celebrated by Kashmiri Pandit devotees at famous Ragnya Devi temple in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Ganderbal district.
13. **ASI declares Chaukhandi Stupa as Monument of National importance** – According to a notification issued by Union Ministry of Culture, Chaukhandi Stupa, an ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been declared as ‘protected area of national importance’ by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Note:

 - The Stupa is known as ‘Chaukhandi’ because of its four-armed plan.
14. **Elephanta Festival of Art and Culture**– The Elephanta Festival of art and culture commenced at the iconic Gateway of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - Elephanta Caves is currently maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and are also a UNESCO World Heritage Site
15. **Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020**
 - The 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
 - The film festival is being held with the objective of highlighting science, technology, innovation, energy, environment, agriculture and traditional knowledge in a simple way.
16. **People celebrate Bhandara festival, the great turmeric festival of Maharashtra** – The Bhandara festival takes place on Somvati Amavasya- a new moon day at Khandoba Temple in Maharashtra.
 - During the festival, devotees use the golden powder to worship the deity Lord Khandoba, widely known as a descendant of the sun, and to celebrate his victory over the demons Mani and Malla.
17. Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel has inaugurated the exhibition titled ‘Unknown’ Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art’ at National Museum in New Delhi.
18. **Namaste Thailand Film Festival held in Delhi.** Namaste Thailand Film Festival is an annual festival organised to bridge the gap between Indian and Thai cultures.
19. **Baikho Festival** - Rabha tribal Hindu women participate in a tug of war during Baikho festival at Pantan village, Guwahati, Assam.

20. Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become **Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat**.
21. **Meghalaya CM launches Aroma Mission** – Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission and also inaugurated the Processing Unit of Essential Oil at Byrwa village in Ri Bhoi District.
22. **Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts** (also known as 7/12 receipts).
 - The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land, and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans
23. Nearly after four decades, Bamboo rice has shown up in Odisha. The state of Odisha had last witnessed Bamboo rice in 1979. The Forest Authorities of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary in Cuttack district have opened up the gates for the forest dwellers to collect the Bamboo rice.
24. **New Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology Inaugurated** – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the new Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.
25. **Ugadi/Yugadi** - Ugadi festival celebrated in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
26. **Gudi Padwa** - Gudi Padwa is celebrated in the state of Maharashtra.
27. Baisakhi - Baisakhi is the Punjabi New Year celebrated in the month of April by performing their folk dance, Bhangra and Gidda and feasting.
28. Puthandu - Puthandu is the Tamil New Year celebrated in the month of April by preparing Manga Pachadi a traditional food to ring in their new year.
29. Bohag Bihu - Bohag Bihu is the Assamese New year celebrated by performing the folk dance Bihu and a grand buffet.
30. Pohela Boishakh - Pohela Boishakh is the Bengali New Year celebrated with making many sweetmeats.
31. Bestu Varas - Bestu Varas is celebrated in Gujarat on the day after Deepavali. Marwaris in Rajasthan also celebrate their new year during Deepavali.
32. Vishu - Vishu is the Malayali New Year celebrated in the state of Kerala in the month of April.
33. Losoong - Losoong is the Sikkimese New Year and falls in December at the end of harvesting. It is celebrated by performing Chham dance.
34. Navreh - Navreh is the Kashmiri New Year celebrated in the Hindu month of Chaitra.
35. **Prayagraj Kumbha Mela 2019 makes it to the Guinness World Records** – The Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 has made into Guinness World Records in the following three sectors:
 - Largest traffic and crowd management plan.
 - Biggest painting exercise of public sites under paint my city scheme.
 - Biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.
36. **Ghumot to be declared Goa's heritage musical instrument** – The Art and Culture Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude has announced that Ghumot, an indigenous earthen drum will soon be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa. .
37. **'Festival of India' Begins in Kathmandu** - A month-long 'Festival of India' began in Kathmandu, Nepal, to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.
38. **Foundation stone laid for Hastshilp complex in New Delhi** – The Union Minister for Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani laid the foundation stone of a Hastshilp Complex in New Delhi. The complex would be named after Deendayal Upadhyaya as Deen Dayal Antarashtriya Hastshilp Bhawan.

International Affairs

August

1. Highlights: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to neighbouring country Bhutan.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan - Lotay Tshering

Key points –

Sapling planted at Bhutan's historic Simtoka Dzong

- PM Modi planted a Cypress tree sapling at historic Simtoka Dzong in Thimphu in presence of his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering.
- Simtoka Dzong is one of the oldest fortresses in Himalayan nation.
- Simtoka Dzong functions as a monastic and administrative centre.

720 MW Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant inaugurated

- This hydroelectric plant is touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project.
- It is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. It was developed by Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project Authority (MHPA).
- MHPA was jointly constituted by Indian and Bhutanese governments.

RuPay Card launched

- PM Modi launched RuPay Card in Bhutan by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong, one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.
- India announced that an additional \$100 million will be available to Bhutan under SAARC currency swap framework to meet foreign exchange requirement.

Key agreements signed between India & Bhutan

- MoU between Bhutan's Department of Information Technology and Telecom (DITT) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on establishment of SATCOM Network for utilization of South Asia Satellite (also known as GSAT-9).

Note:

- Capital of Bhutan is Thimphu
- Currency of Bhutan is Ngultrum.

2. India suspends Thar Link Express – India suspended weekly Jodhpur-Munabao Thar Link Express amid the ongoing tension with Pakistan over the Kashmir issue.

- This move comes days after India cancelled Samjhauta Express from its side after Pakistan had announced suspension of all train services to India.

3. Kajin Sara Lake set to be world's highest lake – Newly discovered Kajin Sara lake in Nepal is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake.

- It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality in Manang district of Nepal.
- Current world's highest lake: It is Tilicho Lake, situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal.

4. Microsoft's Bill Gates regains the spot of the second richest person in the world in Bloomberg Billionaire Index

- The co-founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates with \$106 Billion, became the second richest person in the world again, by surpassing Europe's richest person Bernard Arnault, French luxury good (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) tycoon, as per Bloomberg Billionaire Index.
- Jeff Bezos of Amazon still holds his no.1 spot as the world's richest person.

5. U.S. labels China a 'currency manipulator' – The United States has officially labeled China a "currency manipulator". The US has accused China of using yuan to gain "unfair competitive advantage" in trade.

- The US took the action as Beijing has allowed its yuan to fall below the politically sensitive level of "seven" to the U.S. dollar for the first time in 11 years.

6. Iceland commemorates 1st glacier "Okjokull" lost to climate change – Iceland commemorated the loss of 1st glacier "Okjokull", lost due to climate change. A bronze plaque was unveiled by Iceland in a ceremony which was attended by scientists and locals at the glacier in west-central Iceland.

- The plaque bears the inscription "A letter to the future".

7. Chinese telecom giant Huawei launched its own operating system called HarmonyOS or HongMeng in Chinese.
8. **Hiroshima Day 2019 observed on August 6** - Hiroshima Day was observed on August 6, 2019. It marks the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan by the United States (US) in 1945.
 - During World War II, an American B-29 bomber had dropped the first atomic bomb nicknamed 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.
 - Three days later i.e on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb "Fat Man" was dropped on the city of Nagasaki.
9. **Papua New Guinea has the highest number of 'living' languages in the world, India ranks 4th**
 - According to Ethnologue, a directory of languages which lists 7,111 living languages (languages that are still being used and spoken by people) worldwide, Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea, Country in Oceania tops the list with 840 living languages, while India ranks 4th position with 453.
 - The other nations in the top 5 positions include Indonesia (2nd) with 710 living languages and Nigeria(3rd with 524) and US (United States) came 5th with 335.

July

1. **Boris Johnson announced as Britain's next prime minister** - Boris Johnson replaces Theresa May as Britain's next Prime Minister.
2. **International arbitration court imposes \$5 billion penalty Pakistan** – International Arbitration Court has imposed over **\$5 billion penalty on Pakistan** for unlawful denial of a mining lease to a company called Tethyan Copper Company for Reko Diq project in 2011. This penalty on cash-strapped Pakistan is one of the biggest in its history.
3. **Australia-India finalize a new veterinary health protocol** - Australia and India recently finalized a new veterinary health protocol for the export of Australian breeder sheep to India
4. **World Hindu Economic Forum launches its Nepal Chapter in Kathmandu** – World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter which was inaugurated by Nepal's Minister of State for Health and Population Dr. Surendra Kumar Yadav in Nepal's Capital of Kathmandu.
 - It has been founded by Swami Vigyananand.
5. **France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020** – France will impose green tax up to €18 on plane tickets from 2020. The move aims to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
6. **Gafa Tax: France to levy 3% tax on Internet giants** – The French parliament approved a law dubbed as Gafa Tax (an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon), the legislation will impose a 3% levy on sales generated in the country by non-tax paying online giants.
7. **Palau becomes 76th nation to join International Solar Alliance** – Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands in Oceania, has become 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

About International Solar Alliance

 - ISA is a group of 121 solar resource-rich nations. It was jointly launched by India and France on November 2015 on side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference held at Paris.
 - It is headquartered at campus of National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.
8. **WHO declares Ebola outbreak in DRC as a Global Health Emergency** – World Health Organization (WHO) has declared deadly Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern'. This announcement comes after Ebola virus spread to a city of 2 million people.
 - Kinshasa is the capital of Democratic Republic of Congo.
 - Congolese franc is the currency of Democratic Republic of Congo.

About Ebola Virus

 - It is highly contagious. It has an average fatality rate of around 50%.
 - Transmission: It is transmitted to humans from wild animals and spreads among people via close contact with blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person.

9. Jordan has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba. Red Sea - It is a narrow strip of water inlet of Indian Ocean. It extends southeastward from Suez in Egypt, to Bab el-Mandeb Strait (it connects Red Sea to Gulf of Aden).
 10. **Ukraine inaugurates world's largest Metal Dome** – Ukraine has inaugurated the world's largest movable metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl plant. It is a 108-meter high dome which weighs 36,000 tonnes.
 11. **Motihari-Amlekhgunj Oil Pipeline ready for commercial operation** – The landmark Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Products Pipeline between India and Nepal is now completed and is ready for commercial operation.
 - The testing transfer of the pipeline was successfully completed by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC). As part of trial, diesel was released from Motihari which reached Amlekhgunj.
 - It is expected to be inaugurated soon by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli.
 - It is a 69 kilometre-long pipeline that will run from Motihari in Bihar to Amlekhgunj in Nepal.
 - It has been constructed by India in just 15 months, which is half of its 30 months deadline.
 - The prestigious project is the 1st oil pipeline in Nepal, 1st transnational petroleum pipeline from India as well as 1st South Asian oil pipeline corridor.
 12. **Sri Lanka eliminates measles** – Sri Lanka has become fifth country in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.
 - The other countries in the region which have achieved this feat are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste.
 13. **Tropical Storm Barry hits Louisiana in US.** - In the United States, Tropical Storm Barry has devastated Louisiana. President Donald Trump has declared a state of emergency in Louisiana.
 14. **U.S. sets \$5 bn fine for Facebook** – U.S.'s Federal Trade Commission have approved a \$5 billion penalty to be levied on Facebook. The penalty have been approved to settle a probe into the social network's privacy and data protection lapses.
 15. **Plastic-like Jute material developed in Bangladesh** – Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named "Sonali".
 - The Eco-friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work and they are not harmful for human health.
 16. **The UK's new £50 pound note features codebreaker Alan Turing** - According to the Bank of England, Alan Turing, a crack code-breaker and visionary mathematician who set the foundations for artificial intelligence (AI) will feature on Britain's new £50 banknote.
 - The new note is expected to enter circulation by the end of 2021.
 17. **Padma Shri awardee Raghu Ram receives FRCS of Thailand**
 - Popular breast surgeon and Padma Shri awardee P.Raghu Ram has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of Thailand at the 44th annual congress of the Royal College in Pattaya themed "ASEAN collaboration in value-based surgery".
 18. **Ukraine inaugurates gigantic dome worth \$1.7 billion over destroyed Chernobyl reactor**
 - Ukraine and its European partners have inaugurated the world's largest new metal dome encasing the destroyed reactor at the infamous Chernobyl nuclear power station.
- Note:
- Ukraine: Capital: Kyiv or Kiev
 - Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia
19. **European Union fines chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million** – European Union has fined US based chipmaker Qualcomm \$271 million, accusing it of "predatory pricing" to drive a competitor out of the market.
 20. **43rd session of the World Heritage Committee** – The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee was held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 30 June to 10 July 2019.
 21. **Italy's Prosecco hills enters UNESCO World Heritage list** – Italy's hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene, which is home to world-famous sparkling wine Prosecco, were added by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to World Heritage list.
 - It has now become Italy's 55th World Heritage site.
 22. **Australia's Budj Bim Cultural Landscape included in UNESCO's WHS** – Australian Aboriginal site 'Budj Bim Cultural Landscape' in south-west Victoria has been added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

- It is the 20th site in Australia to make it to WHS list.
- 23. Iraq's Babylon listed as UNESCO's World Heritage Site** – UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has voted to list the sprawling Mesopotamian metropolis of Babylon as a World Heritage Site after three decades of lobbying efforts by Iraq.
- Since 1983 Iraq had been trying to have Babylon site recognised by UNESCO.
- 24. Sharjah issues its first Golden card visa to an Indian Lalu Samuel, Chairman of Kingston Holdings** – The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs of Sharjah has granted the first golden card visa to an Indian expat businessman, Lalu Samuel, Chairman and Managing Director of Kingston Holdings and Chairman of Sharjah Industry Business Group.
- 25. World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh** – The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute started its functioning in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 26. Sri Lanka inaugurates first model village built with Indian assistance** – The first model village built with Indian assistance under the Model Villages Program was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka.
- It is a part of housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers. The fully constructed houses were handed over to beneficiaries.
 - India has partnered with Sri Lankan Ministry of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs to build 100 model villages which will

consist of a total of 2400 houses all across Sri Lanka.

- 27. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** confirmed that **Iran** had exceeded a limit of 300 kilograms on its enriched uranium reserves set by a 2015 nuclear deal/Iran deal.

About Iran Deal

- It is also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or Iran Nuclear deal.
- It was signed on July 14, 2015 in Vienna, Austria between - **Iran, P5+1 namely- France, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and the US (P5) plus Germany.**
- International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters is in - **Vienna, Austria.**

- 28. Japan resumes commercial whaling** – Japan has resumed commercial whaling after a period of 31 years, but will stay within country's exclusive economic waters.

International Whaling Commission

- It is an international body set up under International Convention for Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in 1946 in Washington, D.C., United States (US).
- ICRW governs scientific, commercial, and aboriginal subsistence whaling practices of 59 member nations.
- IWC Headquarters: Impington, England.

- 29. New Zealand bans Single-Use Plastic shopping bags** – New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags with effect from 1 July 2019.

June

- 1. 'goAML' launched by UAE** - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become 1st country in Gulf to launch new anti-money laundering platform called '**goAML**' (Anti-Money Laundering).
- It is the new anti-money laundering platform was launched by UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and is developed by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to curb organised crimes.
- 2. Saudi Arabia becomes 1st Arab country to get full FATF membership** – Saudi Arabia has become 1st Arab country to be granted full membership of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following FATF's Annual General Meeting held in Orlando, Florida in United States (US).

About FATF –

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization that designs and promotes policies and standards to combat financial crime.
 - The FATF was created in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money
 - FATF headquartered in Paris, France.
- 3. India-assisted IT- Biotechnology Park inaugurated in Cote d'Ivoire** – Mahatma Gandhi Information Technology and Biotechnology Park (MGIT-BP) built with India's assistance was recently inaugurated at Grand-Bassam in Cote d'Ivoire.
- Côte d'Ivoire is a West African country

- Yamoussoukro is the capital of Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Currency - franc
- The world's smallest baby ever to survive, weighing a mere 245 grams was born in San Diego, California.
 - Indonesia's Mount Sinabung spews huge column of ash during latest eruption** – Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra, Indonesia, sent a huge plume of thick ash 7km high into the sky during an eruption on 9 Jun
 - UAE launches 'Golden Card' scheme to woo wealthy investors, exceptional talents** – The United Arab Emirates launched a permanent residency scheme to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents, a move that could attract more Indian professionals and businessmen to the Gulf nation.
 - The "**Golden Card**" programme unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum is open to investors and "exceptional talents" such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists.
 - IMF approves \$6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan** – The IMF has approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of 3 years for cash strapped Pakistan.
 - Pakistan secures \$3 billion bailout from Qatar** – Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured a financial assistance in form of a bailout package of \$3 billion from oil-rich Qatar.
 - Mauritania holds election for 1st time in 60yrs** – Mauritania, a country in Northwest Africa went to polls for the first time since the African nation gained independence from France nearly 60 years ago.
 - Mohamed Ould Ghazouani elected as the president of Mauritania
 - Mauritania, officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in Northwest Africa.
 - Capital of Mauritania is **Nouakchott**.
 - U.S. Senate passes provision to give India NATO ally-like status** – The U.S. Senate has passed a legislative provision National Defense Authorisation Act for India.
About NATO
 - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Formed in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty, NATO is a security alliance of 29 countries from North America and Europe.
 - NATO headquarters is in **Brussels, Belgium**.
 - BIMSTEC Day- 2019** celebrated in Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries consisting of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan celebrated the BIMSTEC Day- 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 - BIMSTEC: Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh
 - Russia extends ban on EU Food Imports until end of 2020** – Russian President Vladimir Putin recently signed a decree for extending Moscow's embargo on food products being imported from the European Union (EU) to the end of 2020.
 - Imports from Pakistan to India decline by 92% in March 2019** - Imports from Pakistan to India have declined by 92% amounting to USD 2.84 Million in March 2019 after imposition of 200% customs duties on all products.
 - UAE Cabinet adopts 'National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031'** – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Cabinet adopted a National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi (UAE Capital).
 - Kassym-Jomart Tokayev elected Kazakhstan president
 - SriLankan Airlines: World's Most Punctual Airline** – SriLankan Airlines, the National Carrier of island nation has been named the '**World's Most Punctual Airline**' for second consecutive time.
 - Russia launches 1st Arctic train service** – Russia has launched first Arctic train service running from St. Petersburg station headed to Norway
 - Italy's Volcano Mount Etna erupts on Island of Sicily** – Europe's Highest Volcano Mount Etna, in southern Italy erupted with burst into life, spews ash, fire, and spitting molten lava high into sky.
 - 16th Asia Media Summit held in Siem Reap province in Cambodia.**
 - The 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) was hosted by India.
 - China launches Space Rocket from Yellow Sea for 1st time** - China launched a space rocket named "Long March 11" from a mobile launch platform in Yellow Sea off Shandong province (China) for the first time.
 - With this China became 3rd nation following the U.S. and Russia to successfully demonstrate ability to launch satellites into orbit from a floating platform.

May

- 1. India elected to Executive Board of 1st UN-Habitat Assembly** – India has been elected to the Executive Board of first United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) Assembly.
Note:
 - It is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development. It was established in 1978 and is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Russia recently launched nuclear-powered Arctic icebreaker named 'Ural' at Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg. The move is to tap commercial potential of Arctic Ocean.
- 3. WHO: Algeria and Argentina declared Malaria-Free** – The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Algeria and Argentina as 'Malaria-Free' countries after no cases of indigenous transmission of disease were recorded.
Note: Algeria became second country in Africa to be declared malaria-free, after Mauritius, which was certified in 1973.
 - Argentina became second country in South America to be certified malaria free after Paraguay, which was certified in June 2018.
- 4. India delivers First Pair of Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan** – India recently handed over two Mi-24 attack helicopters to Afghanistan.
- 5. Taiwan: First Asian country to Legalise Same-Sex Marriage** – Taiwan became the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage thus giving gay couples the 'Right to Marry'.
- 6. World Bank, CommBank Team Up For 'World 1st' Blockchain Bond Transaction** - The World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank) have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.
- British PM Theresa May announces resignation
- 8. Trump becomes first foreign leader to meet new Japanese emperor Naruhito** – US President Donald Trump got the red carpet treatment at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan Naruhito.
- Japan has started testing its fastest-ever bullet train capable of reaching 400 kilometers per hour (249 mph) as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel.
- 10. Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day** - Nepal is celebrating its 12th Republic Day on 29th May 2019.
- 11. India to co-chair Consultative Group of GFDRR** - India was unanimously chosen by member countries as next co-chair of Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for fiscal year 2020. This decision was taken during Consultative Group meeting of GFDRR 2019 held from 13 May- 17 May in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 12. Iran announces Partial Withdrawal from JCPOA** - Iran announced it will pull out of some commitments under 2015 international nuclear agreement signed with world powers, called Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA).
- 13. UK Parliament 1st in World to Declare Climate Emergency** – The UK parliament became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change emergency.
 - It also calls for the government to work towards carbon neutrality before 2050 and for ministers to draft proposals within the next 6 months to restore the country's environment and create a "zero waste economy."
- 14. Ireland becomes 2nd country to declare Climate Emergency** - Ireland has declared a climate emergency in their country, to be the second country after Britain to do so.

Sports

August

1. Maharashtra launches Mission Shakti sports initiative –

- Film Actor Aamir Khan launched Mission Shakti, a Maharashtra government's initiative to train athletes from tribal areas for international sports events such as Olympics.
- It will help Maharashtra government to hunt for talented athletes in remote areas of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.
- At the launch event Aamir Khan felicitated a team of tribal mountaineers who had recently scaled Mount Everest as part of 'Mission Shaurya'.

Mission Shakti

- It aims to groom tribal student for an Olympic medal by 2024.
 - The mission is directed towards 6 sporting disciplines namely- archery, shooting, volleyball, swimming, weightlifting and gymnastics.
- 2. Former Chelsea footballer Ashley Cole announces retirement** – Former Chelsea, Arsenal and England football player Ashley Cole aged 38, announced his retirement from football.
 - 3. Mitchell Johnson becomes MCC Honourary Life member** – Former Australian pace bowler Mitchell Johnson has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
 - 4. Labuschagne becomes 1st Concussion Substitute cricket player** – Australian player Marnus Labuschagne has become the 1st Concussion Substitute player in the history of International cricket.
 - A Concussion Replacement Request is the notification made to the ICC Match Referee in accordance with the process set out by ICC.
 - The Team Medical Representative is the individual designated for the assessment of any head or neck injury sustained by a player.
 - A Concussion Replacement is a player who takes the place of a player who has been replaced for the remainder of the match.

- The player will be selected from the list of nominated players provided by that team whose player was injured and will take a full part in the match.

Note:

- In Ashes Series 2019, Steve Smith was ruled out of the last day of the 2nd Ashes Test match at Lord's due to concussion. Marnus Labuschagne replaced Smith on the last day of the Lord's Test.
- 5. Hima Das, Mohammad Anas win gold in Athleticky Mitink Reiter event** - Indian sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas have won a gold medal and Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event.
 - The event was held in Czech Republic. While Hima won the gold in women's category and Mohammad Anas and Nirmal Tom claimed the yellow and bronze medal in men's category.
 - 6. India wins U-12 Asian Tennis Team championship** – India have won the gold medal at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the summit clash to win the title.
 - 7. India wins T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series** – India has won the inaugural T20 Physical Disability World Cricket Series 2019 held in England.
 - India defeated England by 36 runs in the finals to win the title.
 - The 6-nation tournament was organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board.
 - 8. Indian cyclists win gold at World Junior Track Cycling Championships** – Indian cyclists team have won the gold medal in the Team Sprint event at World Junior Track Cycling Championships held in Frankfurt, Germany.
 - Indian team comprised of Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh and Rojit Singh.
 - This is India's first ever gold medal in a global cycling competition.
 - The Indian team defeated Australian team in the finals to win the gold medal.
 - 9. In the 300m races held at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter Event 2019 in the Czech Republic, Indian**

- sprinters Hima Das and Mohammad Anas won gold in the women's and men's category respectively.
- It was the sixth gold in European races by Hima Das since July 2, 2019.
- 10. Russell Domingo appointed as the head coach of Bangladesh, replacing Steve Rhodes (English cricket coach and former cricketer) by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).**
- 11. NZ's Tim Southee equals India's Sachin Tendulkar's record**
- New Zealand's fast bowler Tim Southee now equaled former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's record tally of sixes in Test cricket, on the first day of the Test match between Sri Lanka and New-Zealand that was held at Galle, Sri Lanka.
 - Both Tendulkar and Southee have made 69 sixes in the Test cricket.
- 12. Mumbai to host 2019 World Youth chess meet -** The 2019 World Youth chess championship is to be held in Mumbai from October 1-13, at the Renaissance Hotel in Powai, Mumbai
- 13. Ravi Shastri appointed as Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team -** Former all-rounder Ravi Shastri has been appointed as the head coach of Indian cricket team for another two years.
- 14. Deepak Punia wins Junior World Championship title -** Deepak Punia won the gold medal at the Junior World Championships held in Tallinn, Estonia.
- He defeated Russia's Alik Shebzukov to win the 86 kg junior freestyle title.
- 15. Serena Williams tops Forbes list of best-paid female athletes -**
- Serena Williams topped the List of Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 published by Forbes.
 - She has topped the annual list for a 4th consecutive year with estimated total earnings of \$29.2 million.
 - Japan's Naomi Osaka was 2nd on the list with earnings of (\$24.3 million).
 - Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (\$5.5 million), with Thai golfer Ariya Jutanugarn (\$5.3 million) rounding out the top 15 of Forbes list of best-paid female athletes.
- 16. Liverpool beats Chelsea to win UEFA Super Cup -** Liverpool defeated Chelsea in the finals to win UEFA Super Cup held in Istanbul. The match ended in draw with score 2-2 following the extra time.

- 17. Simone Biles makes history with a "triple-double" twist -** Simone Biles makes history with a never-before-seen "triple-double" floor exercise landing.
- She performed the landing featuring "two flips and three twists" in U.S. Gymnastics Championships held in Kansas City.
- 18. Wesley Sneijder announces retirement from Football -** The Netherlands' most-capped player Wesley Sneijder announced his retirement from football.
- 19. Aishwarya Pissay wins FIM Bajas World Cup -** Aishwarya Pissay made history by becoming the first Indian to win a world title in motorsports as she won the FIM World Cup in women's category after the final round of the championship in Varpalota, Hungary.
- The event was conducted by the International Motorcycling Federation, the governing body for motorcycle racing in the world.
 - The headquarters of International Motorcycling Federation is in Mies, Switzerland.
- 20. Women's Cricket at Birmingham CWG -** Cricket will come back to the Commonwealth Games (CWG) roster for the 1st time since 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, with the inclusion of women's T20 for the 2022 edition in Birmingham.
- It will take place from July 27 to August 7, 2022, with 8 international teams playing cricket. This decision was taken by Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- 21. Dutch Hero Wesley Sneijder announces retirement from Football.**
- 22. Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup 2019 -** Canadian teenager Bianca Andreescu wins Rogers Cup tennis tournament 2019 held in Toronto, Canada.
- She was the first Canadian to win the event in 50 years. Serena Williams was the runner-up in the final.
- 23. Sourabh Verma wins Hyderabad Open -** Indian Badminton star Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title in the Hyderabad Open.
- He beat Singapore's Loh Kean Yew in a 52-minute final clash. Sourabh Verma belongs to Madhya Pradesh.
- 24. Chennai Lions beat Dabang Delhi to win UTT -** Chennai Lions wins the Ultimate Table Tennis league. They defeated Dabang Delhi in the finals by

8-1. Chennai Lions collected the winner's share of Rs. 75 lakh while Delhi settled for Rs. 50 lakh.

25. Rafael Nadal wins Montreal Masters title –

Rafael Nadal wins in Montreal to win 35th Masters crown. He defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev by 6-3, 6-0.

- With the win, he also extended his record haul of Masters 1000 titles.

26. Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix –

Bajrang Punia wins gold at Tbilisi Grand Prix held in Tbilisi, Georgia.

- He defeated Iran's Peiman Bibyani by 2-0 in the 65 kg final of the men's freestyle competition.
- It was the 4th gold of the season for the Asian Games champion.

27. BCCI has agreed to come under NADA ambit –

The Board of Control For Cricket In India has agreed to come under the ambit of the National Anti-Doping Agency.

- This decision makes Indian Cricket's governing body a sports federation as per government norms. As a result, all cricketers will now be tested by NADA.

About NADA

- The National Anti-Doping Agency is the national organisation responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.
- It was established as registered society under Societies Registration Act of 1890 in 2005 with mandate for dope free sports in India.

28. Cricket Australia unveils new transgender inclusive policy –

The Cricket Australia has announced new transgender inclusive policy. This policy will enable transgender players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels.

- The decision aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.
- The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.

29. World Archery suspends AAI for violating guidelines –

The World Archery (WA) has

suspended the Archery Association of India for violating its guidelines.

- The AAI violated the WA's guidelines by electing two parallel bodies.
- As per the suspension order, the last event in which the Indian archers can participate under the Indian flag is the World Archery Youth Championships to be held in Madrid.

30. Diego forlan announces retirement from professional football –

Legendary Uruguay striker Diego Forlan has announced his retirement from professional football.

- He had won the Golden Ball award after being adjudged the best player of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

31. Amla retires from international cricket –

South African batsman Hashim Amla has retired from all formats of international cricket.

- Amla played 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is between his 15-year-long cricketing career.
- Scoring more than 18,000 runs, including 55 centuries and 88 other scores in excess of 50

32. 1st woman to win 4,000km cycling race –

German cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger won the mixed annual 4,000km(2,485 miles) cycling Transcontinental Race from Burgas in Bulgaria to Brest in France.

- Kolbinger becomes the 1st woman to win one of the world's toughest cycling races in her first ultra-distance event.

33. Sally Pearson announces retirement from Track and field –

Australia's reigning world-champion hurdler Sally Pearson announced her surprise retirement due to injury.

34. Nick Kyrgios beats Daniil Medvedev to win 6th ATP title –

Australia's Nick Kyrgios kept his composure and captured the ATP Washington Open title, defeating Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev.

35. Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum, aged 37, has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.

36. Ravichandran Ashwin named "PCA Player of the Month –

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been named as Professional Cricketers Association's Player of the month of July 2019.

- He has been named for his consistent performances in the county championships as he hit 197 runs and

picked up 23 wickets from just 3 matches for Nottinghamshire.

37. **South African bowler Dale Steyn** retires from Test cricket.
38. Vinesh wins gold in 53kg at Poland Open Wrestling Tournament.
39. **1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title** – India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty scripted a history to win the men's doubles final of the Thailand Open badminton championship in Bangkok.
 - This is the first-ever Indian men's combination to win a BWF Super 500 title.
40. **Hungarian Grand Prix** – Formula One Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton winner.
41. **Birmingham Commonwealth Games: Organisers firm on shooting exclusion** - Commonwealth Games chief Louise Martin said shooting will not be part of the 2022 edition in Birmingham.
 - Commonwealth Game 2022 scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England.
42. **Bangalore will host the 10th AASF Asian Age Group Championships 2019 for the 1st time** – For the first time, Bangalore(Karnataka) will host the 10th AASF (Asia Swimming Federation) Asian

Age Group Championships 2019 starting from September 24, 2019, to October 2, 2019, will give the country's swimming enthusiasts an opportunity to witness the aquatic event.

43. **Steve Smith becomes second fastest to score 25 test centuries overtaking Virat Kohli** – Former Australian captain Steve Smith has overthrown Indian Skipper Virat Kohli to become the second-fastest batsman to score 25 test centuries during the second innings of the first Ashes test match against England.
 - The chart is topped by Australian cricketer, Sir Don Bradman.
 - Smith recorded this feat in his 119th innings whereas Sir Don Bradman achieved this feat in just 68 innings.
44. **Lionel Messi suspended from Argentina for 3 months** – Soccer body CONMEBOL suspended Lionel Messi from international matches for three months because of accusations of corruption he made at the latest Copa America.
 - The South American body also fined the superstar in USD 50,000 for his comments after Argentina's 2-1 win against Chile in the third-place playoff of the tournament.

July

1. ICC World Cup title 2019 –

- England lifted the ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy 2019 at the Lord's cricket stadium in London.
- England defeated New Zealand with more number of boundaries in the Super Over thriller in the grand finale of ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy 2019.

Note:

- Player of the tournament: Kane Williamson (New Zealand).
- Player of the Match Award: Ben Stokes (England).
- Highest run scorer of the tournament: Rohit Sharma (India).
- Highest wicket taker of the tournament: Mitchell Starc (Australia).

Note:

- The 13th edition of ICC Cricket World Cup will be held in India from February 9 to March 26, 2023.

2. Wimbledon 2019 –

- **Simona Halep** (Romanian) beats Serena Williams to win first Wimbledon title.

- Novak Djokovic (Serbian) won his fifth Wimbledon title after defeating Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer.
- This is Djokovic's 16th Grand Slam and 5th Wimbledon title. He is now level with Bjorn Borg as a five-time Wimbledon winner.
- Mixed Doubles – Winner - Dodig (Croatia) and L. Chan (Taiwan) Runner up - R. Lindstedt (Sweden) and J. Ostapenko (Latvia)
- Women's Doubles Winner - S W. Hsieh (Taiwan) and B. Strycova (Czech Republic) Runner up - G. Dabrowski (Canada) and Y. Xu (China)
- Men's Doubles Winner - Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) and Robert Farah (Colombia) Runner up - Nicolas Mahut (France) and Edouard Roger Vasselin (France)

3. **Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20Is** – Australia all-rounder

Ellyse Perry became the first cricketer of either gender to reach the rare milestone of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.

4. 'Robot umpires' debut in U.S. baseball league – The Independent Atlantic League became the first American professional baseball league to let a computer call balls and strikes.

- The umpires have the ability to override the computer, which considers a pitch a strike when the ball bounces and then crosses the zone.

5. Indian weightlifter Ajay Singh created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category en route to a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships held in Apia, Samoa.

6. Sunil Chhetri named AIFF Player of the Year for a record 6th time

- Sunil Chhetri was named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time.
- Sunil Chhetri has already won Player of the Year award in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017
- India midfielder Abdul Samad was named the AIFF Emerging Men's Player of the Year.

Note:

- **Ashalata Devi (Maipur)** was named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2018-19 –
- Manipur's Dangmei Grace was announced as the emerging player of the year in the women's category.

Note:

- AIFF Player of Year has been awarded by All India Football Federation since 1992.
- It is an annual association football award presented to best footballer in India.

7. FIFA rankings: India drops two places to 103 – On 25th July 2019, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has released its ranking for the year 2019. Belgium leads the overall FIFA rankings, followed by Brazil, France, England, and Uruguay.

- Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the recent FIFA rankings with 1214 ranking points.

8. Nuwan Kulasekara, Sri Lanka pacer retires from international cricket - Sri Lanka pacer, Kulasekara Mudiyansele Dinesh Nuwan Kulasekara aged 37 announced retirement from international cricket. He hails from Nittambuwa, Sri Lanka.

9. India will host ISSF World Cup 2020 – International Shooting Sport Federation approved India's application to host the ISSF World Cup stages.

- World Cup will be held in New Delhi from March 15 to 26, 2020.
- The last edition of ISSF World Cup was held in Munich, Germany.

10. Khelo India Youth Games 2020 to be held in Guwahati – The 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2020 will be held in Guwahati.

- Khelo India programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018.
- The 2nd edition of 'Khelo India Youth Games' was held in 2019 in Pune, Maharashtra.
- In the second edition of Khelo India Youth Games (2nd edition), Maharashtra topped with 228 medals (85 gold, 62 silver and 81 bronze).
- Haryana was second with total 178 medals (62 gold, 56 silver and 60 bronze) while Delhi was third with total 136 medals (48 gold, 37 silver and 51 bronze) for a total of 136 medals.

11. Mary Kom wins gold in President's Cup – Six times World Champion MC Mary Kom (36) claimed gold medal at 23rd President's Cup held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. She defeated April Franks of Australia with 5-0

12. German Grand Prix – Red Bull's Max Verstappen

13. Chandigarh gets BCCI affiliation – Chandigarh received affiliation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after nearly four decades.

- After getting BCCI affiliation, Chandigarh Cricket Association-Punjab had recently decided to merge with Union Territory Cricket Association, thus paving way for the Union Territory to be recognised as a separate entity.

14. ICC launched the World Test Championship – The WTC will see the top nine Test teams in the world – Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

- Compete in 71 Test matches across 27 series, played over two years.
- The top 2 teams at the end will compete in the ICC World Test Championship Final in the UK in June 2021.

15. ICC suspends Zimbabwe Cricket - International Cricket Council has suspended Zimbabwe for failing to ensure there is no government interference in its running of the sport.

- ICC funding has been withdrawn and the country will be barred from participating at

ICC events. Zimbabwe's Test status was suspended by the ICC in June 2004.

16. North Korea wins Intercontinental Cup title – North Korea wins the 2nd edition of Intercontinental Cup football tournament. North Korea beats Tajikistan in the finals held in Ahmedabad.

17. British Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton

18. Mexico wins CONCACAF Gold Cup final - Mexico defeated USA to claim their eighth CONCACAF Gold Cup title. Jonathan Dos Santos scored the winning goal in 73rd min for Mexico in the thrilling final.

19. Vinesh Phogat wins gold at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul.

- Phogat beat her Russian opponent Ekaterina Polshchuk in the final match to bag the gold medal.

20. 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title - Magnus Carlsen won the 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title.

21. 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held in Cuttack, Odisha.

- India women defeated Singapore to clinch their first-ever Commonwealth Table Tennis title
- India men pipped England 3-2 in the final in Cuttack

22. Hima Das wins gold in "Tabor Athletics" - Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched gold in a 200m race in 23.25 seconds creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.

23. Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting Championships – 4 gold medals for India

- Mirabai Chanu wins gold in the senior women's 49 kg event.
- Jhilli Dalabehra wins gold in the senior women's 45 kg event.
- Soroikhaibam Bindyarani Devi wins gold while Matsa Santoshi wins the silver medal in the senior women's 55kg event.
- Rishikanta Singh grabbed the gold in the senior men's 55kg event.

24. Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships –

India have won 4 gold medals in Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships held in Apia, Samoa. The Indian medallists are:

- Men (Elite and junior): Achinta Sheuli has won 2 gold medals in 73kg event.
- Junior: Gulam Navi has won gold medal in 67kg event.
- Junior and youth: L. Sadananda Singh has won Bronze & Gold medals in 73kg event.

- Women (Elite): Manpreet Kaur has won silver medal in 76kg event.
- Junior: R. Arockiya Alish has won silver medal in 76kg event.

25. Tamil Nadu girl wins gold medal in World Deaf title – Tamil Nadu girl Jerlin Anika has won the gold medal in the World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships held in Taipei. 15-year-old Anika bagged four medals in the championship, including the gold, two silver and one bronze.

26. In Table Tennis, Indian pair G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open. They defeat Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu.

27. Boxer Vijender Singh wins 11th consecutive pro bout – He defeated Mike Snider on his debut in the US professional circuit at Newark in the US.

28. M. Sreeshankar has won the long jump gold at the Tatyana Kolpakova International athletics. The tournament was held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

29. Amir Khan (British professional) wins WBC international welterweight title. He defeated Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

30. Vijayveer wins his 3rd gold at ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup – Vijayveer Sidhu picked up his third gold medal of the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, combining with Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu and Adarsh Singh to clinch the men's 25m pistol.

31. Anish Bhanwala claims gold medal in ISSF Junior World Cup - Shooter Anish Bhanwala claimed gold in 25m rapid fire pistol competition to continue India's dominance in the tournament in Suhl, Germany.

32. Sarabjot Singh wins gold medal in ISSF Junior World Cup tournament in Suhl, Germany.

33. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched the All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20.

34. Collin Morikawa wins the US PGA title – American Collin Morikawa has won the US PGA title at the Barracuda Championship. This was his 1st win in the US PGA title.

35. Former France and Manchester United defender Patrice Evra has announced his retirement.

36. Hima Das returns to 400m run, grabs 5th gold - Indian sprinter Hima Das extended her sensational run by claiming her fifth gold of the month as she returned to her pet 400m competition with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds in Nove Mesto, Czech Republic. She is fondly called the 'Dhing Express'.

- 37. BCCI approves Indian Cricketers Association** - The BCCI has approved the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA). The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers.
- Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA.
- 38. First Indian boxer to win gold at President's Cup** - Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- 39. Ravinder Malik clinches Mr South Asia title** - Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
- 40. Japan's Akane Yamaguchi wins Indonesia Open** - Japan's Akane Yamaguchi wins Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament held in Jakarta, Indonesia. She defeated India's P.V. Sindhu.
- 41. WBA welterweight title** - Filipino legend **Manny Pacquiao** claimed the **WBA welterweight championship** after scoring a split-decision win against **Keith Thurman**.
- 42. Shane Lowry wins British Open** - Irishman Shane Lowry wins British Open to claim his first major golfing title at Royal Portrush.
- 43. John Isner wins Hall of Fame Tennis Championships** - American tennis player John Isner wins Hall of Fame Tennis Championships title in Newport, Rhode Island.
- 44. Adam Peaty breaks 57 seconds barrier & 100m breaststroke world record** - The Britain swimmer Adam Peaty has break the world record in the men's 100 metre breaststroke at the World Championships in Gwangju, South Korea. He smashed the previous record of 57.10 seconds.
- 45. Abhay, Tanvi win Bengal Open squash titles** - Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu and Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in the sixth Bengal Open squash tournament.
- Earlier under-15 category witnessed a thrilling battle between fifth seeded Tamil Nadu girl Shameena Riaz upsetting top seed Soniya Bajaj from Maharashtra.
- 46. Kristof Milak breaks the Phelps record in 200m butterfly stroke** - Kristof Milak shattered Michael Phelps' long-standing world record in the 200 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships in Gwangju.
- Hungarian teenager Milak won the final in 1:50.73, breaking the previous record of 1:51.51, set by Phelps in 2009.
- 47. Nikoloz Basilashvili wins the German Tennis Championships.** He defeated Andrey Rublev to successfully defend his title at the German Tennis Championships.
- With the win, he has become first player to win the event in successive years since Roger Federer in 2004-2005.
- 48. Dressel breaks the Phelps record in 100m butterfly stroke** - American star Caeleb Dressel destroyed Michael Phelps's World record in the 100 metres butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships 2019 in Gwangju (South Korea).
- Caeleb Dressel take 49.50 seconds in the semi-final event and breaking the old record of 49.82 seconds set by Michael Phelps.
- 49. Egan Bernal claims Colombia's 1st Tour de France title** - Egan Bernal became the 1st Colombian to win the Tour de France which finished in Paris, France. He beat the defending champion Geraint Thomas of Britain by 1 minute 11 seconds.
- 50. Dalilah Muhammad shatters 400m hurdles World record** - Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad shattered one of the longest standing records in women's athletics with a superb display to clinch victory in the 400m hurdles at US Championships.
- 51. Sniper Frontier Competition: 2019** - A 9 member Indian Army team has left for Belarus to compete in the Sniper Frontier Competition as part of the International Army Games scheduled on 03 Aug to 17 Aug 2019.
- 52. 2020 Tokyo Olympics will feature Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event** - For the first time in the Olympic Games' history, Table Tennis Mixed Doubles event added in a new Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games.
- 53. Prithvi Shaw suspended by BCCI for doping violation** - Prithvi Shaw has been suspended by Board of Control for Cricket in India for 8 months for a doping violation. Shaw was charged with the commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) under the BCCI Anti-Doping Rules.
- 54. FIFA Women's World Cup 2019** - The U.S. women's national soccer team defeated the Netherlands 2-0 in the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup final.
- Host country - **France**
 - USA secured its fourth Women's World Cup title (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019), now winning twice as many Women's World Cup tournaments as any other nation.

- USA's Jill Ellis became the first coach to win two FIFA Women's World Cup titles.
55. Brazil beats Peru in the final to lift the Copa America 2019 title
 56. **Rahul Dravid appointed as Head of Cricket at NCA by BCCI** – The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed the former Indian captain Rahul Dravid as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA).
 57. **IOA President Narinder Batra elected to IOC** – Narinder Batra, President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was elected as a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland.
 58. **Indian Pro Boxer Wins WBC Asia Title** - Indian pro boxer **Vaibhav Yadav** has become the WBC Asia Silver Welterweight Champion. He defeated Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand.
 59. **India loses to Pakistan in the IBSF Snooker World Cup finals** – The Indian team lost to Pakistan in the final of the IBSF Snooker World Cup in Doha. India lost the summit clash by 1-3. Pankaj Advani and Laxman Rawat represented the Indian team in the world cup.
 60. **Ambati Rayudu retires from international cricket** - Indian batsman Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from international cricket.
 61. **Dutee Chand wins gold in Summer University Games** - Dutee Chand from Odisha has won the gold medal in the women's 100 metre sprint at the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy.
 62. Magnus Carlsen won the 2019 Croatia Grand Chess Tour title
 63. **Arjen Robben announces retirement from football** – Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from football at the age of 35 after a 10-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich.
 64. **Austrian Grand Prix 2019** - Max Verstappen (Red Bull's)
 65. **Toran Yadav, a para-athlete wins 3 medals at 4th World Wealth Yoga Championship 2019** - Toran Yadav(19), a specially-abled boy from Khatti village in Chhattisgarh clinched 3 medals for India at 4th World Yoga Festival and Championship 2019, held at Bulgaria, Sofia.
 66. **Hima Das** (Indian athletes) have won 4 gold medals in the Kutno Athletics Meet held in Poland.
 67. Vinesh Phogat & Divya Kakran won gold; **Pooja Dhanda** won silver at the Wrestling Grand Prix 2019 of Spain.
 68. **Elavenil Valarivan** clinched silver medal in **shooting** in women's **10m Air Rifle event** at the 30th Summer Universiade Games 2019 held in Napoli, Italy.
 69. **World Youth Cup 2019 was held in Umag, Croatia** – A 10-year old Karate girl, Arinjeeta Dey (Barasat, West Bengal) has won a silver medal in the under 12 age category in the World Youth Cup 2019 which was held in Umag, Croatia.
 70. **34th Sailing Championship inaugurated in Telangana** - The 34th edition of Hyderabad Sailing Week National Ranking Multi-Class Championship 2019 was inaugurated by Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, ESL Narasimhan in Hyderabad, Telangana.
 71. **Veer Chotrani won Asian U-19 champion in Squash** - Veer Chotrani became third Indian after he won 26th Asian junior Individual squash championship 2019 in the U-19 category at Macau, China. It was organized by Macau Squash Association.

June

1. **ICC Cricket World Cup 2019** –
 - The 12th edition was hosted by England and Wales from 30 May to 14 July 2019.
 - Total number of Matches played – 48
 - Winner of ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 – **Australia**
 - It is the fifth time that the Cricket World Cup is being held in England and Wales, following the 1975, 1979, 1983 and 1999 World Cups.
2. **Rohit Sharma sets world record of maximum hundreds in single World Cup**
 - Indian batsman Rohit Sharma became the first batsman in the world to score five hundred in a single World Cup.
 - Rohit scored his fifth century of the World Cup against Sri Lanka.
 - He scored rest four centuries against South Africa, Pakistan, England and Bangladesh.
 - Rohit Sharma broke the record of former Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara who scored four centuries in the 2015 World Cup in Australia.

- Rohit also equalled Sachin Tendulkar in the total number of World Cup hundreds. Both the Indians have six hundred to their names.
3. **Afghanistan batsman Ikram Ali Khil breaks Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing World Cup record –**
 - Afghanistan batsman Ikram Ali Khil broke Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record to become the youngest player to register a 80+ score in the World Cup history.
 - Ikram Ali Khil, at the age of 18 years and 278 days scored 86 runs in Afghanistan's last league match against West Indies.
 - Tendulkar's had scored 81 runs at the age of 18 years and 318 days in a World Cup match against Zimbabwe in 1992.
 4. **Rashid Khan becomes most expensive bowler in World Cup history**
 - Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan recorded the worst bowling figures in an ICC World Cup Match after conceding 110 runs in 9 overs against England.
 - Previous record of conceding 105 runs in 12 overs was held by New Zealand's Martin Snedden.
 5. **Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs**
 - Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs.
 - He took just 417 innings to reach the milestone and advanced the time taken by legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
 - The India captain reached the milestone when he reached the score of 37 in India's 6th match in World Cup tournament against West Indies.
 6. **IOC opens new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland** - The International Olympic Committee has formally opened new headquarters in Switzerland exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.
 7. **IOC lifts sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events**
 - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) lifted the sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events.
 - The sanctions were imposed on India when Pakistani shooters were not issued visas for the ISSF World Cup held in Delhi in February 2019.
 8. **Summer Olympics 2020 Venue** – Tokyo, Japan - Japan will be the host nation of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo from 24 July to 9 August 2020.
 9. **Bronze for India in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike Athletics meet** - Annu Rani won the women's javelin bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, an IAAF World Challenge event.
 - Annu Rani is a Javelin thrower from Uttar Pradesh.
 10. Shooting game has been excluded from **2022 Commonwealth Games**.
 - The 2022 Commonwealth Games will be held in **Birmingham**, England from 27 July to 7 August 2022.
 11. **Men's Asian Snooker Championship** - Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha.
 12. **Bronze medal for India at Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship** - India's gymnast Pranati Nayak has won a bronze medal in the vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships. The championship was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
 13. **Fernando Torres retires from football** - The spanish footballer Fernando Torres who was a part of 2010 World Cup Winning Team of Spain has announced his retirement from football.
 14. **Indian women's hockey team defeats Japan in FIH Series Finals** – The Indian women's hockey team have won the FIH Series Finals after defeating Japan. The team rose to a victory with a score of 3-1. The series was held in Japan.
 - The best player title was clinched by Rani Rampal.
 15. **France Grand Prix 2019** – Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes Driver)
 16. **Marcus Trescothick to retire from professional cricket** - Former England batsman Marcus Trescothick is to retire from professional cricket. Trescothick, 43, played 76 Tests for England between 2000 and 2006 and scored 5,825 runs at an average of 43.79.
 17. **Hima bags gold in Poznan Athletics Grand Prix** – Hima Das, the under-20 World champion has won the gold medal in women's 200m in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix. Poznan Athletics Grand Prix is taking place in Poznan, Poland.
 18. **India proposes to host 2023 IOC session** – India has proposed to host 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose host city for 2030 Winter Olympics.
 - Earlier, India has hosted the 86th IOC Session in 1983 in New Delhi.
 19. **Italy to host 2026 Winter Olympics**
 - The Italian city Milan was named as host of 2026 Winter Olympics.

- 20. Coca-Cola and Chinese Dairy firm sign Olympic Sponsorship** – Coca-Cola and Chinese dairy firm Mengniu have signed a multi-year global Olympic deal to become joint sponsors (beverages and dairy) of Olympic Games starting from 2021 to 2032.
- 21. India women’s Rugby team record 1st-ever International win** – Indian Women’s Rugby team claimed their 1st ever international women’s 15s victory after beating Singapore in the Asian Women Rugby Championship Division 1 in Manila, Philippines.
- 22. 10th Halle Open 2019 title** - Roger Federer (37) of Switzerland defeated David Goffin (Belgium) to win the 27th edition of the Halle Open 2019.
- 23.** Odisha to host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019.
- 24.** Girish Koushik of Karnataka became India’s 63rd Grandmaster.
- 25. Indian women’s Rugby team scripted history in Manila** - The 26-member squad of Indian women’s Rugby team created a historic first international 15s rugby match win at Southern Plains Sports Field in Manila, Philippines.
- 26. French Open Tennis 2019** – The 2019 French Open was the 123rd edition of a Grand Slam tennis tournament. It was held from 26 May to 9 June 2019, at Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France.
List of Winners
- **Men’s single title** - Spain’s Rafael Nadal defeated Dominic Thiem of Austria.
Note: With this win Rafael Nadal won the French Open title for 12th time and 18th overall Grand Slam title.
 - **Women’s Singles title** – Ashleigh Barty of Australia defeated Marketa Vondrousova of Czech Republic in final.
 - She won the 1st Women’s Singles title at French Open tennis 2019.
 - **Women’s Doubles title** - Hungary’s Tímea Babos & France’s Kristina Mladenovic defeated Zheng Saisai & Duan Yingying of China in final.
 - **Mixed Doubles title** - Chinese Taipei’s Latisha Chan & Ivan Dodi goof Croatia defeated Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada & Mate Pavić of Croatia in final.
- 27. Joshna Chinappa wins record 17th National Title in Squash** – Joshna Chinappa made a record for the most number of national titles after beating her Tamil Nadu state-mate Sunayna Kuruvilla.
- 28.** FIH Men’s Series Finals, India defeated South Africa by 5 goals.
- 29.** Gary Woodland won the 119th US Open Golf title after defeating two-time defending champion Brook Koepka.
- 30. FIFA latest Rankings: India remains static at 101** - The Indian football team remained static at 101st place in the FIFA rankings.
- Belgium continued to top overall world rankings, followed by France, Brazil, England, and Portugal.
- 31. Peter Gilchrist wins Pacific International Billiards Championship** - Peter Gilchrist defeated India’s Sourav Kothari in final.
- 32. Yuvraj Singh announces retirement from International Cricket** - Yuvraj Singh announced retirement from international cricket.
- The 37-year-old cricketer announced his decision in Mumbai.
 - Yuvraj played 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is for India.
 - He put together 1900 runs in the longest format, and 8701 in the one-dayers, the format in which he enjoyed the most success.
- 33. Kohli is the sole Indian in the list of top-paid athletes** – Virat Kohli, ranked 100th, remains the sole Indian in the Forbes list of world’s highest-paid athletes with estimated annual earnings of \$25 million.
- The list is topped by Barcelona and Argentina football superstar **Lionel Messi**.
 - **Top 5 athletes in the list are** - Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar, Canelo Alvarez (Mexican professional boxer) and Roger Federer.
- 34.** Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won Formula One Canadian Grand Prix 2019.
- 35.** Sunil Chhetri became the most capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia’s 107 international matches.
- 36. IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics** - World athletics’ governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) will re-brand itself as World Athletics. The rebranding would be operational from October 2019.
- 37. Facebook launched its first interactive Game Show in India** - The Social networking giant Facebook launched its first interactive game show, titled “Confetti” in India on 4 June 2019. The launch announcement was made on sidelines of Facebook’s Social Entertainment Summit held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

1. **Sudirman Cup 2019: China beats Japan** - China beats Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to lift the Sudirman Cup Badminton title 2019.
2. **2020 Asia Cup** - Pakistan will host the 2020 Asia Cup cricket tournament (15th edition) in September 2020.
3. Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix 2019.
4. **Cricket World Cup: The Indian Challenge' book authored by Ashis Ray.**
 - The new book he has Ray penned down the journey of Indian cricket at the World Cups since the inaugural edition of WCs in 1975.
5. **ICC launches Criciio Campaign on eve of Men's World Cup** – It is a celebration of all brilliant and unique ways people play cricket game which can be played by anyone, anywhere and at any time.
 - Venue of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 – England & Wales
6. **India's GS Lakshmi becomes 1st ever Female ICC Match Referee** - Former India women cricketer GS Lakshmi became the first female to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees.

Note: In April 2019, Claire Polosak of Australia became the 1st ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI
7. Liverpool beats Tottenham Hotspur with 2-0 to win **UEFA Champions League football trophy** final at Madrid, Spain.
8. In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's Saurabh Chaudhary has won 10m Air Pistol Gold beating his own World Record.
9. 2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament was held in Guwahati, Assam.
10. **China to host 2023 Asian Cup Football Tournament.**
11. **Spanish Grand Prix** - Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Wins Spanish Grand Prix.
 - Lewis Hamilton also won Bahrain and Chinese Grand Prix of 2019.
12. **Sana Mir becomes highest wicket-taking spinner in ODIs** - Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir has become the most successful women's ODI spinner in history after she took her **147th wicket**, highest ever by any spinner in One-day International (ODI) cricket.
 - Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami.
13. **Igor Stimac appointed Indian football team coach** - **Igor Stimac of Croatia** has been appointed head coach of the Indian football team for a two-year term.

Note: As a player, he was part the of the Croatia team that finished third in the 1998 World Cup, and a member of the national squad which qualified for the quarterfinals of the UEFA European Championship 1996 (Euro) in England.
14. Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder **Yaya Toure** has officially announced his retirement from football.

Note: He captured the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations playing for the Ivory Coast.

 - He was named the African Footballer of the Year in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.
15. **Madrid Open 2019:** The 2019 Madrid Open is a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain.

List of Winners

 - Men's singles - Novak Djokovic (Serbia) defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) in the final.
 - Women's singles - Kiki Bertens (Netherlands) defeated Simona Halep (Romania) in the final.
16. **Italian Open 2019: List of Winners**
 - Men's singles - Rafael Nadal (Spain) defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia) in the final.
 - Women's singles - Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic) defeated Johanna Konta (United Kingdom) in the final.
17. Badminton World Federation (BWF) has launched two new formats of badminton game namely, AirBadminton and Triples.
 - Airbadminton is an outdoor game - It has new dimensions of court and an innovative outdoor shuttlecock called AirShuttle.
 - **In Triples format**, badminton match will be played between a team of total three players. Each team will mandatory have at least one female athlete. Also, players are not allowed to hit returns successively.
18. The **Manchester City** won the English Premier League football title for second successive year. Liverpool gained the second place in league.
19. **12th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2019** – Mumbai beat Chennai by 1 run to win the 4th IPL title
 - Mumbai Indian Captain – Rohit Sharma
 - Man of the Match - Jasprit Bumrah
 - Earlier, Mumbai won the IPL title in 2013, 2015, 2017

Cap holders

- Orange Cap: David Warner (SRH) - 692 runs
- Purple Cap: Imran Tahir (CSK) - 26 wickets
- MVP: Andre Russell (KKR) - 510 runs and 11 wickets

Other awards

- Subhman Gill (KKR): Emerging player of the year
 - Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH): Playing in right spirit award
 - Hardik Pandya (MI): Fastest fifty of the season (50 runs in 17 balls)
 - Andre Russell (KKR): Super striker of the season
 - KL Rahul (KXIP) : Stylish player of the season
 - Rahul Chahar (MI): Gamechanger of the season
- 20. Amul to sponsor Afghanistan in 2019 World Cup -** Amul has been announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.
- 21.** Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela has been ranked the world number one in the women's 10 metres air rifle event.
- 22. Asian Youth Women Handball Championship -** Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in August 2019.
Note: The previous edition in 2017 was held at Jakarta in Indonesia.
- 23.** Spain and Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez has announced that he will retire from professional football at the end of the current season.
- 24.** Sri Lanka's former captain Kumar Sangakkara will become first Non-British president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

Science & Defense

Military Exercise

July

- 1. Garuda-VI:** Joint Air Exercise between **Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air Force** at Mont de Marsan in France.
- 2. ISALEX19 -** The first edition of the joint security exercise of International Security Alliance (ISA), ISALEX19 held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (United Arab Emirates).

June & May 2019

- 1. Kharga Prahar -** The "Kharga Prahar", a major training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Punjab from 27 May 2019 concluded on 4 June 2019.
 - The Indian Army's II Corps, based in Ambala is known as Kharga Corps. It has been stationed at Ambala since 1985.
- 2. SIMBEX-19 Naval Exercise -** Naval exercise between India & Singapore.
 - The 26th Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19 has commenced in the South China Sea.
 - In addition to **IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti**, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the exercise.
- 3. Exercise Pacific Vanguard 2019 -** US, Japan, South Korea, Australia hold 1st Naval Drills in Western Pacific in Guam.

April 2019

- 1. Varuna 19.1 -** naval exercise between India & France.
 - The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 conducted in Off Goa Coast.
 - The second part, Varuna 19.2, is scheduled to be held at the end of May in Djibouti.
- 2. 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019 -** joint military exercise between India & Singapore held in Babina Cantonment in Jhansi.

3. **African Lion 2019** - joint military exercise between Morocco and the US held in southern Morocco.

4. **IN – VPN BILAT EX** - bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy conducted at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

1. **AUSINDEX** - bilateral joint exercise between India and Australia held in held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
2. **Mitra shakti-VI** - bilateral joint exercise between India and Sri Lanka. The exercise is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy in Sri Lanka.
3. **AFINDEX-19** – Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 for India and African nations held at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

March

4. **Al Nagah 2019** – bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman held at at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
5. **'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019'** – b/w India & Bangladesh
 - Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) took part in the 'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019' which was held in held in Agartala, Tripura.

Science & Technology

August

1. **IIT-Madras researchers develop industrial and field robot 'GraspMan'** – IIT Madras researchers have develop a multi-modal robot with Industrial and field applications called 'GraspMan'.
 - GraspMan consists a pair of graspers, which provide morphological adaptation, enabling it to conform to the geometry of the object being grasped.
 - This allows the grasper to hold objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand.
2. **Meghdoot app launched to assist farmers** – The Ministries of Earth Sciences and Agriculture have launched a mobile application that will provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages.
 - The app has been named **Meghdoot** and can be downloaded from Google Play Store and App Store.
3. **ICMR launches India Hypertension Control Initiative** – In India, one in four adults has high blood pressure.
 - To deal with the problem, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has decided to expand its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) across the country.

4. **ICMR finalizes India's first National Essential Diagnostics List** – Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has finalized India's first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL).
 - With this, India has become the first country to compile such list that will provide guidance to government for deciding kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.
5. **PRETOMANID: US FDA approves new drug for drug-resistant TB** – United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved new drug- Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant strain of Tuberculosis (TB).
 - Pretomanid is novel compound developed by New York-based non-profit organisation TB Alliance. It is used alongside two other antibiotics (bedaquiline and linezolid) to treat extremely drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis.
6. **ROTAVAC Vaccine to be expand to entire country** – Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to expand Rotavirus vaccine to the entire country from September 2019. It will provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states/UTs by September, 2019.
7. A team of researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G) has developed portable

- diagnostic device to detect bacteria without cell culture or microbiological assays.
8. China successfully launched a new rocket for commercial use named Smart Dragon-1.
 9. **NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** mission has discovered GJ 357 d, a super-Earth planet located 31 light years away from our own solar system.
 - **About GJ 357 d**
 - It is super-Earth planet discovered in early 2019 by NASA's TESS. It is located GJ 357 planetary system which has diminutive M-type dwarf sun, about one-third the size of our own sun and harbour in three planets including GJ 357 d.
 10. **NASA PUNCH Mission** - NASA's 'Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere' (PUNCH) mission is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the outer corona of the Sun to the solar wind that fills the interplanetary space.
 - NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.
 - Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission.
 11. **ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru** – Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) laid foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka to protect Indian satellites from space debris.
 - It will facilitate intensified activities foreseen for Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM), in view of the increasing debris population and operational space assets.
 12. **IMMUVAC , VPM1002: India's 1st large-scale trial of two new TB vaccines launched** – Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named IMMUVAC and VPM1002
 13. **World's thinnest gold created by British Scientists**
 - Scientists from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom (UK), claim to have created the world's thinnest gold (periodic table representation of gold is Au) which is one million times thinner than fingernail of human. As it appears to be green in the water, researchers named it gold "nanoseaweed".
 14. **First Ever Space Museum of India Inaugurated at Hyderabad** – The first space museum of India opening new attraction to space enthusiasts, was set up at Hyderabad in Telangana in association with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 15. **IIT-KGP develops Hydro-Thermal Carbonization technology for Waste Management** – IIT-KGP (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur) researchers develop new technology- Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) for solid waste management.
 - This Hydro Thermal Carbonization Technology can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.

July

1. Chandrayaan 2 mission –India's second moon mission launched

- On July 22, 2019, India's 2nd moon mission (after Chandrayaan-1, 2008) was successfully launched by Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - GSLV-MkIII-M1 from Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- India became the fourth country after Russia, the US and China to pull off a soft landing on the moon.
- It is the world's first mission to Moon's South Pole.
- ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan.

Key points

- Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon.
- It comprises a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan).
- The Rover Pragyan is housed inside Vikram lander.
- The mission objective of Chandrayaan-2 is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface.
- Besides being India's 2nd mission to the moon it is 1st-ever mission to be spearheaded by two women.

- Chandrayaan-2 is led by Muthayya Vanitha and Ritu Karidhal, the project director and mission director, respectively.
 - 'Bahubali' is the nicknamed of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-III.
 - Chandrayaan-2 will be the first spacecraft to land near the **South Pole** of the moon and the landing will be attempted on September 7, 2019.
 - It is an Rs 978-crore project.
 - The first spacecraft, Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008 and orbited the moon without landing on it. The new mission will attempt to do what the first could not.
- Cabinet approves ISRO Technical Liaison Unit at Moscow** – Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow, Russia.
 - It is mandated to collaborate with Space agencies and industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.
 - NASA's discover TOI 270 - NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** recently discovered new dwarf star and planetary system named as TOI 270. It is located about 73 light years away from Earth, and in the constellation Pictor.
 - Centre plans to combat vehicle theft with Microdot Patches** – Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has issued a Draft Notification GSR 521(E) that seeks to amend Central Motor Vehicle Rules and allows motor vehicles and their parts, components, assemblies, sub-assemblies to be affixed with Microdot Patches.
 - Application: Use of this technology will help check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.
 - NASA to send "first woman and next man" on Moon in 2024** – U.S. space agency NASA prepares to send "first woman and next man" on Moon as part of its ambitious **Artemis programme** in 2024.
 - NASA has marked the 50th anniversary of the historic first Moon landing.
 - U.S. celebrates 50 years of the Apollo 11 mission** – U.S. celebrates the Apollo 11 mission's 50th year anniversary. July 20, 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 mission.

Note:

 - On July 20, 1969, 600 million people watched with anxious excitement as Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins took their first steps on the moon's surface.
 - The mission, dubbed Apollo 11, was the climax of the Apollo program, which pushed human spaceflight forward faster than ever before.
 - Pakistan will send its first man to space in 2022** - Pakistan informed that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using China's satellite launching facilities.
 - CARE4U app:** for elderly people developed by IIT Kharagpur team – To help geriatric care, students of IIT Kharagpur have developed an application called CARE4U that connect the caregiver to the elderly person. It will inform the caregiver when elderly person falls down with exact location.
 - ISRO to launch India's 1st solar mission Aditya-L1 in the first half of 2020** - On July 23, 2019, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will launch its first solar mission Aditya-L1 in the first half of 2020. It will be the first dedicated scientific mission to study Sun's corona.
 - India's first space tech park to come up in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
 - First-ever image of quantum entanglement "Bell entanglement" unveiled by the physicists of Glasgow University**
 - A team of physicists from the University of Glasgow has taken a photo of a strong form of quantum entanglement called Bell entanglement. It has captured visual evidence of an elusive phenomenon which a baffled Albert Einstein once called "spooky action at a distance".
 - JATAN: special software for Digitization of Archaeological Museum** – The Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel informed Lok Sabha about JATAN: Virtual Museum software. JATAN has been developed by Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune, Maharashtra.

About JATAN

 - JATAN is used for creating digital collections in various museums and digital archival tools that are used in background for managing National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.
 - NASA's Dragonfly to look for Origins, Signs of Life in Titan** – National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently announced its plan to launch **Dragonfly** drone helicopter to Saturn's largest moon Titan in search of building blocks of life.

- Titan. Dragonfly will launch be launched in 2026 and will arrive at its destination in 2034.

14. NASA successfully tests launch-abort system for moon-mission capsule – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully conducted the test of a launch-abort system for the

Orion capsule designed to take United States (US) astronauts to the Moon.

- It took place at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US. It was launched by a mini-rocket, a repurposed first stage of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

June

- 1. Indian Railways conducting trials of Tri-Netra technology** – Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal during Question Hour informed Rajya Sabha members that Indian Railways is conducting TRI-NETRA (Terrain Imaging for Drivers Infrared, Enhanced, Optical & Radar Assisted) technology for detecting obstructions on tracks.
- 2. NASA's Mars Rover detects High Levels of Methane** – The Curiosity Rover of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an independent federal agency of United States has found the largest amount of methane ever measured during its mission on Red Planet (Mars).
- 3. India gets new C-ATFM System** – India now has a state-of-the-art Central Command Centre for Air Traffic Flow Management (C-ATFM) in New Delhi, which will optimise utilisation of resources such as airspace and aircraft at the capacity-constrained Indian airports.
- 4. LESA: ESA tests device to rescue injured astronauts** – European Space Agency (ESA) recently tested a device called Evacuation System Assembly (or LESA), which is designed to assist in astronaut rescue missions on the surface of Moon.
 - As per ESA, it is world's 1st device aimed to help future incapacitated astronauts.
- 5. Facebook's Cryptocurrency 'Libra'** - Facebook has officially announced the details of its new global cryptocurrency called Libra. This Facebook owned cryptocurrency Libra will be launched by social media giant in 2020.

- 6. NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope to Retire in 2020** – After nearly 16 years of exploring the cosmos in infrared light, NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope will be switched off permanently on Jan. 30, 2020.
 - Spitzer is a small but transformational observatory.
 - It captures infrared light, which is often emitted by "warm" objects that aren't quite hot enough to radiate visible light.
- 7. ISRO opens its laboratories for Indian school students** - The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year.
 - The training module has been devised as part of its new Young Scientists Programme, or Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram, YUVIKA.
- 8. HCL to roll out "Tech Bee" programme** - HCL Technologies is all set to roll out "Tech Bee" programme, a company initiative under which it trains and hires students who have completed XII standard, across several states.
 - Tech Bee is a HCL's early career programme in which company provides students an opportunity to start early and become financially independent and trendsetters.
 - Enrolled students are paid stipend of Rs 10,000 per month.

May

- 1. NewSpace India Limited: ISRO's new Commercial Arm** – The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) new commercial arm called NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.

- NSIL is provided an authorised share capital worth Rs.100 crore and initial paid up capital of Rs.10 crore.
- NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.

- The first commercial venture of DoS was Antrix Corporation Limited, which was set up in September 1992 to market products and services of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for astronaut selection and training for ambitious **Gaganyaan Programme, scheduled for 2022.**
 - Gaganyaan Mission is India's maiden human spaceflight programme, scheduled for 2022.
 - The Centre has officially sanctioned Rs.10,000 crore in December 2018. On 30 January 2019, ISRO has set up Human Spaceflight Centre at its headquarters in Bengaluru.
 3. **WHO partners with IFBA to eliminate Trans Fat -** The World Health Organization (WHO) has partnered with International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to achieve its target under 'REPLACE Strategy' of eliminating Trans-fat from industrially produced global food supply by 2023.
 4. **ISRO announces Seven Mega Missions -** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), recently announced its planned seven mega missions, including Chandrayaan-2 (India's second lunar exploration mission) which will be conducted over a period of next 10 years. The ISRO has also prepared a roadmap for next 30 years.
 5. **ISRO inaugurates 'Yuvika 2019': The Young Scientist Programme -** ISRO Chairman Dr K. Sivan inaugurated ISRO's Young Scientist Programme called 'Yuvika 2019' at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
Key points
 - The YUVIKA (or 'YUva Vlgyani KAryakram') 2019, is a two week (14 days) summer vacation residential training programme, which will be conducted by ISRO from 13 May to 26 May 2019.
 - It was launched by ISRO in tune with the Centre governments vision of "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan". This is the first time it is being held.
 6. **MoU: signed between IIT Guwahati and ISRO -** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC).
 - The Space Technology Cell (STC) would be a first of its kind in the North-East region that would augment research and capacity building processes in field of space-technology.
 7. **NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission -** NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024.
 8. **ISRO successfully launched earth observation satellite 'RISAT-2B' -** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the 'RISAT-2B' Satellite from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR.
 - The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km.
 - The RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite, weighing about 615 kg.
 - The satellite is intended to provide services in the field of agriculture, forestry and disaster management.
 9. **Scientists carry out first ever Genetic Study on Lakshadweep Island's Natives -** For the very first time scientists carried out genetic study on people of Lakshadweep Islands.
 - It was conducted by a team of researchers at CSIR's (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).
 - The authors studied major islands of Kadmat, Andorth, Chetlat, Agatti, Kalpeni, Bitra, Kiltan and Minicoy of Lakshadweep.

Defense News

August

- 16. The Indian Navy is to host naval exercise MILAN in March 2020 in Vizag** – The Indian Navy is to host the multilateral naval exercise named ‘MILAN’ at Visakhapatnam for the year 2020 in the month of March.
- 17. SCO exercise “Tsentr (centre) 2019” to be participated by India with Pakistan, China** - India and Pakistan will be participating in the upcoming major military exercise “Tsentr (centre) 2019” under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), to be held from tentatively scheduled period of September 10-21 at Orenburg, Russia.
- SCO members – China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.
- 18. Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles** – Iran unveiled 3 precision-guided missiles. The new line-up of air-to-air missiles named the “Yasin”, “Balaban” and a new series of the “Ghaem” were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.
- Note:
- **Yasin:** It is smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft.
 - **Balaban:** It is guided by GPS and sensors. It is also equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft.
 - **Ghaem:** It is heat-seeking missile capable of hitting target within 50 centimetres of a target.
- 19. QRSAM: successfully test-fired by DRDO** – Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted two back-to-back flight tests of its state of the art Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM) from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha.
- 20. Indian Army in partnership with EESL employs e-cars to combat pollution** – Indian Army in partnership with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has launched ecological initiative of employing E Cars for use of its officials in New Delhi. Under this ecological initiative, first lot of 10 e-Cars was flagged off by Indian Army.
- Now, Indian Army is planning to further increase number of E Cars in Delhi to ensure economy, efficiency and minimal emissions.
- 21. Indian Army launches ‘Mission Reach Out’ in Jammu** – Indian Army has launched Mission Reach Out in Jammu to ensure basic essential services and necessities are available in region after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- In this regard, high level “Mission Reach Out” conference was held in the Nagrota Military Station to review the prevalent situation in the region.
- 22. Falcon 9 rocket launched by SpaceX carrying AMOS-17 satellite of Israel** - The US (United States) carrier rocket Falcon 9 carried Israel’s satellite AMOS-17 off the pad in Florida, America. This is SpaceX’s 25th reflight of an orbit class rocket and also this booster’s third flight.
- 23. INS Tarkash participates in 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 Bilateral Exercise between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain** - The Indian Navy’s stealth frigate, INS Tarkash, participated in the 14th Edition of KONKAN-19 series of annual bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Britain off the South Coast of the United Kingdom (UK).
- 24. DRDO transfers design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army** – Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) transferred the design of Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR) to Indian Army.

July

- 1. Rs.1500 crore deal signed by India and Russia to acquire Russia’s R-27**
- India signed a contract with Russia for the acquisition of R-27 air-to-air missile which gives the additional capability to target enemy aircraft at long Ranges.
 - These missiles are to be equipped on the Su-30MKI combat aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF)

- R-27 missile - It is a medium-to-long-range air-to-air missile developed by Russia for its MIG and Sukhoi fighter jets.
- 2. Indian Army successfully conducts Summer User Trials of Nag Missile** – Indian Army has successfully conducted summer user trials of NAG, 3rd Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM). The test was carried out at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
Note:
 - NAG missile Developed by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), a government agency responsible for military's research and development.
 - Range: Minimum-500 metres and Maximum- 4 kilometres
 - 3. India and Russia bilateral co-operation to the next level in the field of space, including assistance in India's maiden human space flight mission 'Gaganyaan'.**
 - 4. INS Sagardhwani embarks on mission Sagar Maitri** – INS Sagardhwani embarked on a two-month-long Sagar Maitri Mission-2 from Southern Naval Command in Kochi. INS Sagardhwani is an oceanographic research vessel of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - Sagar Maitri is a unique initiative of the DRDO to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction, especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.
 - 5. Indian Navy Ship LCU L-56, the sixth of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class ships, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.**
 - 6. Israel and the US successfully tested Arrow-3 Anti-Ballistic Missile System** - On July 28, 2019, Israel's Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Benjamin Netanyahu informed that Israel and the United States (US) successfully conducted tests of the advanced anti-ballistic missile system "Arrow-3".
 - 7. Russia launched Soyuz Carrier Rocket with 33 satellites** – Russia successfully launched Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket with a hydrometeorological satellite and 32 small satellites.
 - 8. China has gifted warship 'P625' to Sri Lanka.** It will be mainly used for offshore patrol, environment monitoring and anti-piracy combats.
 - 9. AH-64E Apache Guardian Attack helicopters arrived India** – The 1st batch of Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian Attack helicopters arrived at Indian Air Force's (IAF's) Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- The 1st batch consists of 4 out of 22 choppers ordered by India from United States.
- 10. Project Sampark: Defence Minister inaugurates Ujh and Basantar Bridges in J&K** – Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh inaugurated 1 km long Ujh bridge in Kathua district and 617.40 m long Basantar bridge in Samba district of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Both of these bridges have been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under 69 RCC/13 BRTF of Project Sampark.
 - 11. Bhabha Kavach: India's 1st Lightest, Indigenous Bullet Proof Jacket gets MHA nod**
 - Indigenously produced lightweight bullet proof jacket Bhabha Kavach was launched at International Police Expo 2019 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The jacket which is a major breakthrough for Paramilitary Forces and Indian armed forces got nod from Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - India's Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket 'Bhabha Kavach' by was launched at the International Police Expo 2019.
 - It is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
 - 12. Japan's Hayabusa2 Probe makes 2nd touchdown on asteroid Ryugu** – Japan's Hayabusa2 probe has made a perfect touchdown on a distant asteroid named Ryugu, some 300 million kilometres from Earth. It collected samples from beneath surface in an unprecedented mission that could shed light on origins of solar system.
 - 13. China launches first private rocket capable of carrying satellites** – "Interstellar Glory Space Technology" also known as iSpace successfully launched the china's first commercial rocket.
 - The 20 m (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named Hyperbola-1 reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles). The rocket is capable of carrying satellites into orbit.
 - 14. Iran test-launched Shahab-3, a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile** inside its borders.
 - 15. US not to sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey for buying Russian S-400** - Donald Trump, President of United States of America has announced that US would not sell F-35 fighter jets to Turkey, a major NATO ally after Ankara purchased S-400 missile defence system from sanctions-hit Russia.
Note: Turkey, a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is denied purchase of F-35 fighter jets after it received the 1st batch of Russian missile defence system despite repeated warnings from US against the purchase.

- 16. Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrives in Morocco –**
Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived at Tangier, Morocco. The visit is part of an ongoing Overseas Deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe.
- 17. India has successfully tested the vertical steep dive version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile.**
- Made in India 'Brahmos Aerospace' is also ready with a longer 500 km range version of the Brahmos missile that can be fired from Sukhoi 30 fighter jets.
 - BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture company owned by the governments of India and Russia and its missiles are produced in India.
- 18. DRDO carries out 3 tests of Nag Missile –** The Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) carried out 3 successful test firings of Nag missiles during both day and night in Pokhran firing ranges.

- 19. Nagaland declared 'Disturbed Area' under AFSPA for 6 more months –** Centre has declared entire State of Nagaland a 'disturbed area' for a period of 6 more months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) with effect from 30 June 2019. The central government opinion was notified by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 20. Operation Sudarshan: launched by BSF to fortify border with Pakistan –** Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.

June

- 1. Indian Army releases special tribute video to commemorate 20 years of 'Operation Vijay' -** To commemorate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian army has released a special Kargil Tribute Song' to honor, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and the war veterans who sacrificed and fought for the country.
- The song titled '**Tujhe Bhulega Na Tera Hindustan**' has been written by renowned Bollywood lyricist **Sameer**.
 - The nation will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July 2019.
 - The 20th anniversary of "Operation Vijay" will be celebrated with the theme '**Remember, Rejoice and Renew**'.
- 2. Operation Bandar' was IAF's code name for Balakot airstrike –**
- According to the senior defence sources, in order to maintain secrecy and ensure that the plans don't leak out, the Balakot operations were given the codename Operation Bandar,".
 - On February 26, 12 Mirages having taken off from multiple air bases crossed over into the Pakistani air space and carried out missile attacks on Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp in Balakot town of Khyber Pakhtunwa province.
 - The attacks carried out by the Indian Air Force, pilots had dropped five Spice 2000 bombs.
- 3. NASA's First Astrobee Robot Bumble Starts Flying in Space**

- NASA's First Astrobee Robot Bumble Starts Flying in Space.
- NASA has revealed its first cube-shaped 'Astrobee' robot, called Bumble, flew under its own power in space for the first time on June 14.

- 4. IAF inks Rs 300 crore deal to procure SPICE 2000 bombs from Israel –** Indian Air Force (IAF) signed Rs.300 crore deal with Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, an Israeli defence firm to procure a batch of SPICE 2000 guided bombs.
- The SPICE stands for Smart, Precise Impact and Cost-Effective.
 - It is guidance and maneuvering kit manufactured by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- 5. Operation Sankalp -** Indian Navy launched 'Operation Sankalp' in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through area. This deployment is in the wake of following recent maritime incidents in region.
- Indian Naval Ships, INS Chennai (Kolkata-class stealth guided missile destroyers) and INS Sunayna (Saryu-class patrol vessel) have been deployed in region to undertake maritime security operations.
- 6. Operation Sunrise -** The armies of **India and Myanmar** carried out a 3-week-long coordinated

operation in their respective border areas called 'Operation Sunrise 2' to bust terror camps.

- The operation was targeted at militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam. This was the 2nd edition of Operation Sunrise.

7. Govt. to set up Defence Space Research Agency –

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of the Central Government of India headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared setting up of new agency called Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO).

- The DSRO has been entrusted with task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
- The agency would be providing the research and development support to the Defence Space Agency (DSA) which comprises members of the three services.
- The Defence Space Agency is being set up in Bengaluru under an Air Vice Marshal-rank

officer and will gradually take over the space-related capabilities of the three forces.

8. The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh became first ever woman pilot to fly by day on Hawk advanced jet aircraft.

9. **ICG co-hosts 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop** – Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosts 12th Capacity Building workshop with Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre (ISC) in New Delhi.

Note:

- The ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.
- Presently 20 countries are members of ReCAAP.
- India played an active role in the setting up and functioning of ReCAAPISC along with Japan and Singapore.

May

1. New version of Akash missile test-fired

successfully - The DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast.

- The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.
- The supersonic missile has a range of around 25km and up to the altitude of 18,000 meters.

2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully fired aerial version of supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

BrahMos Missile

- It is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile.
- Its range is close to 300 km, and is designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL).

3. Indian Navy's 1st full-fledged SSB opened at

Kolkata - The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) was inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata, West Bengal.

- This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy. The other boards are located in Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore.

4. Indian Air Force successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

5. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha decommissioned

– The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is a frontline offshore patrol vessel (OPV).

6. Inertial Guided Bomb: successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO

– The Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO), under Ministry of Defence has successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb from Su-30 MKI Aircraft from Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.

7. **Shaheen-II: successfully test-fired by Pakistan** – Pakistan has successfully test-fired a land-based ballistic missile named 'Shaheen-II'. The impact point of missile was in the Arabian Sea.

- **Range:** It is capable of hitting targets up to 1,500-2000 kilometers.
- It is a land-based supersonic intermediate-range surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile.

8. **Sahara: Hostel for the 'Veer Naris'** – Lt. Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal, inaugurated the Sahara Naval Hostel for the 'Veer Naris' at Vasant Kunj in New Delhi.

- It is a unique Hostel project for Naval Widows or Veer Naris.
 - It aims to provide rehabilitation of Naval Widows and their families in period immediately after unfortunate demise of their husbands serving the Indian Navy.
9. The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) B.S. Dhanoa visits Air Force Station in Bhisiana and Sarsawa to pay homage to the air warriors who made supreme sacrifice during **Operation Safed Sagar** at Kargil.
- Safed Sagar (or “Operation White Sea”)
- It was the code name assigned to Indian Air Force’s (IAF) role in acting jointly with Ground troops of Indian Army during the Kargil war in 1999.
 - It was aimed at flushing out Regular and Irregular troops of Pakistani Army from vacated Indian Positions in Kargil sector along Line of Control (LOC).
 - Since 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, it was the first large scale use of Airpower in Jammu and Kashmir region.
10. **Indian Navy successfully Test-Fires MRSAM missile** – The Indian Navy has successfully test-fired a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).
11. China has delivered the first overhauled multi-role JF-17 Thunder fighter jet to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).
12. **DRDO successfully conducts flight Test of ABHYAS** – India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS – High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from a test range in Odisha.
- The trial, carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore, was tracked by various radars and electro-optic systems.
13. Indian Air Force’s AN-32 transport aircraft goes missing after taking off from Jorhat in Assam. The airborne aircraft had total 13 people on board including eight aircrew and five passengers.
14. **Indian Army to commemorate 2019 as ‘Year of next of kin’** – The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the ‘Year of Next of Kin’ and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension-related problems.
15. First AH-64E (I) – Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA.
- IAF had signed a contract with US Government and M/s Boeing Ltd in Sep 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.
16. **India to purchase 10 Kamov-31 Choppers from Russia for INR 3,600 cr** – Defence ministry has approved the procurement of 10 Kamov Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters for the Indian Navy. The cost of the deal would be around Rs 3,600 crore.
17. **Indian Navy launches 4th Scorpene Class Submarine INS Vela** – The fourth of Indian Navy’s stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, INS Vela was launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai in Maharashtra.
18. **INS Ranjit to be decommissioned** – INS Ranjit, an Indian navy destroyer built by erstwhile USSR, is set to be decommissioned. The third of the five Kashin-class destroyers, it was commissioned in 1983 and has rendered service to the Navy for over 36 years.
- The ship will be decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Important Days

August

- 1 August - Yorkshire Day
- 9 August – Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- 6 August - Hiroshima Day
- 10 August - World Biofuel Day (Theme for year 2019: Production of Bio-diesel from Used Cooking Oil)
- 7th August – National Handloom Day
- 12 August - International Youth Day (theme “Transforming education”)
- 9 August - Quit India Movement Day (The 77th anniversary of the August Kranti Din or Quit India Movement was observed on 9th August 2019)
- 13 August - International Lefthanders Day
- 9 August - Nagasaki Day

- 14 August- Youm-e-Azadi (Pakistan Independence Day)
- 15 August- National Day of mourning (Bangladesh)
- 15 August - Independence Day (India)
- 15 August (UK) - Victory over Japan Day
- 15 August - Day of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary
- 16 August- Bennington Battle Day
- 17 August - Indonesian Independence Day
- 19 August - World Photography Day
- 19 August – World Humanitarian Day
- 20 August - World Mosquito Day
- 20 August- Sadbhavna Divas

- 20 August - Indian Akshay Urja Day
- 22 August - International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
- 23 August - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 23 August - European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism
- 26 August - Women's Equality Day
- 29 August - National Sports Day
- 30 August - Small Industry Day
- 31 August - Hari Merdeka (Malaysia National Day)

July

- 1 July - Doctor's Day
- 1 July – GST Day (Goods & Services Tax DAY)
- 1 July - National Gingersnap Day
- 2 July - World UFO Day
- 2 July - National Anisette Day
- 6 July - World Zoonoses Day
- 11 July - World Population Day
- 15 July - World Youth Skills Day
- 17 July - World Day for International Justice
- 18 July - International Nelson Mandela Day
- 23 July - National Broadcasting day

- 24 July – Aaykar Diwas (The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) celebrating the 159th Income Tax Day (AaykarDiwas) on 24th July)
- 26 July - Kargil Vijay Diwas (Kargil Victory Day) – (This year 20th anniversary of Kargil Diwas is celebrated).
- 28 July - National Parent's Day
- 28 July - World Nature Conservation Day
- 28 July - World Hepatitis Day (The theme for 2019 is “Invest in eliminating hepatitis”)
- 29 July - International Tiger Day
- 30 July - World Day Against Trafficking

June

- 1 June: World Milk Day (2019 theme - “Drink Milk: Today & Everyday)
- 1 June: Global Day of Parents
- 2 June: International Sex Workers Day
- 2 June: Telangana Formation Day
- 3 June: World Bicycle Day
- 4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June: World Environment Day (2019 Theme - Beat Air Pollution)
- 7 June: World Food Safety Day
- 8 June: World Brain Tumour Day
- 8 June: World Oceans Day
- 12 June: World Day Against Child Labour
- 14 June: World Blood Donor Day (Theme 2019 - "Blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion")
- 15 June: World Wind Day

- 15 June: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 3rd Sunday of June: World Father's Day
- 16 June: Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
- 17 June: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (International)
- 18 June: Autistic Pride Day
- 18 June: International Picnic Day
- 19 June: World Sickle Cell Awareness Day
- 19 June: World Sauntering Day
- 20 June: World Refugee Day (Theme for 2019: Step With Refugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day)
- 21 June: World Music Day
- 21 June: World Hydrography Day
- 21 June: International Yoga Day (Theme 2019 - Yoga for Climate Action)
- 23 June: International Olympic Day
- 23 June: United Nations Public Service Day

- 23 June: International Widow's Day
- 26 June: International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26 June: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

- 27 June – (Theme for 2019 is - Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day)
- 29 June - Statistics Day (Theme for year 2019: Sustainable Development Goals)
- 30 June: Asteroid Day

May

- 1 May: International Labour Day (Theme for 2019 is - “Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners”)
- 1 May: Maharashtra Day
- 3 May: Press Freedom Day (Theme for 2019 is - Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”)
- 4 May: Coal Miners Day
- 4 May: International Firefighter’s Day
- 5 May: World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May)
- 7 May: World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May) (Theme for 2019 is - STOP for Asthma)
- 7 May: World Athletics Day
- 7 May: Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti
- 8 May: World Red Cross Day
- 8 May: World Thalassaemia Day
- 11 May: National Technology Day
- 12 May: Mother's Day (Second Sunday of May)
- 12 May: International Nurses Day (Theme for 2019 is - Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All)
- 15 May: International Day of Families
- 16 May: International Day Light

- 17 May: World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (Them for 2019 is - is ‘Bridging the Standardization Gap’)
- 17 May: World Hypertension Day
- 17 May: National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday in May)
- 18 May: World AIDS Vaccine Day
- 18 May: International Museum Day
- 18 May: Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday of the May)
- 20 May: World Bee Day
- 20 May: World Metrology Day (Theme for 2019 is - The International System of Units – Fundamentally better)
- 21 May: National Anti-Terrorism Day
- 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity (Theme for 2019 is - Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health’)
- 29 May – International Everest Day
- 31 May: Anti-Tobacco Day (Theme for 2019 is “tobacco and lung health”)

-----All the Best-----

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