

Monthly GK Digest

July 2019



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Important Days

1. The annual Amarnath Yatra (46-day pilgrimage) was flagged off from both 'Baltal' and 'Pahalgam' routes in **Jammu & Kashmir**
Note: Governor **Satya Pal Malik** (Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board) attended traditional "Pratham Pooja" at the cave shrine. Any person below the age of 13 years or above 75 years, pregnant women and medically unfit people are barred for taking the pilgrimage in south Kashmir. Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has procured Group Accidental Insurance Policy with a cover of 3 lakh rupees for registered Yatris (three lakhs).
2. The **National Doctors' Day** is celebrated **every year** in India on **1st July**.
Note: The day honors the **legendary physician** and the 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. This is a vital day for doctors as it provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their career and remind them about practicing the art and science of Medicine and Surgery in an ethical manner.
3. The **World Zoonoses Day** is observed every year on **6th July**.
Note: The day is observed to create awareness on **zoonotic diseases**, how to prevent them and what actions to take when exposed. The day has been observed since 1885 to mark the day **Louis Pasteur** administered his first rabies vaccine. Millions of people across the globe every year fall prey to the diseases like swine flu, bird flu, cat scratch fever, rabies, leptospirosis, Lyme disease, cowpox, Ebola, SARS, hantavirus, anthrax, monkeypox, etc. these diseases are known as zoonotic diseases.
4. The **International Day of Cooperatives** observed every year on the **first Saturday of July**.
Note: The aim of **this celebration** is to increase awareness of cooperatives. 2019 theme: **COOPS 4 DECENT WORK**.
5. According to a recent estimate, cooperatives around the world employ or are the main source of income for more than 279 million people almost 10% of humanity's total working population.
6. **World Population Day** is observed across the world every year on **11th July**.
Note: This year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The main aim behind having a World Population Day is to focus attention on the consequence of population issues and how it affects overall development plans and programs.
7. The **French government** marked the national day on **14th July**.
Note: The day is also known as Bastille Day. This is the 230th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison which took place in Paris on 14 July 1789. Armed forces from France and allied countries will march, drive, ride and fly over the central Champs Elysee.
8. The **World Youth Skills Day** is observed globally every year on **15th July**.
Note: The day raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development. On in November 2014, The United Nations at its General Assembly declared 15th July as World Youth Skills Day. WorldSkills is proud to be part of global recognition and promotion of skills.
9. The **World Day for International Justice** (or International Criminal Justice Day) is being **observed globally** on **17th July**.
Note: The day (17th - July) was chosen because it is the **anniversary of the adoption** of the **Rome Statute**, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court. On 1 June 2010, at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute held in Kampala (Uganda), the Assembly of State Parties decided to celebrate 17 July as the Day of International Criminal Justice.
10. **Nelson Mandela International Day** is an annual international day in honour of **Nelson Mandela**, celebrated every year on **18th July**.
Note: In November 2009, The Mandela day was officially declared by the United Nations. Mandela Day honour the legacy of South Africa's former President Nelson Mandela. Mandela Day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that every individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.
11. **India** celebrates 23rd July every year as the **National Broadcasting day**.
Note: On this day in 1927, the first-ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under the Indian Broadcasting Company. On 8th June 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.
12. **World Hepatitis Day** is being observed every year on **28th July**.

Note The day raise global awareness of Hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2019 is “Invest in eliminating Hepatitis”. The theme focuses on the hepatitis elimination goals by 2030, in the context of universal health coverage.

13. India has celebrated the anniversary of the victory of the **Indian Armed Forces** in ‘Operation Vijay’ against the infiltrating Pakistani troops -- 20th.

Note: The day is named after the successful ‘**Operation Vijay**’ (in 1999) when India regained the control of the high outposts which had been stealthily taken over by Pakistan. The central theme of this year's celebrations is ‘Remember, Rejoice and Renew’. The Kargil War was an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that took place between May and July 1999 in the Kargil district of Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).

14. The ‘**Global Tiger Day**’ is being celebrated across the world on **29th July**.

Note: According to All India Tiger Estimation 2018, India is one of the safest habitats in the world with 2967 tigers. Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526,

closely followed by Karnataka at 524 with Uttarakhand at number 3 with 442 tigers. The Tiger Estimation exercise is believed to be the world’s largest wildlife survey effort in terms of coverage, the intensity of sampling and quantum of camera trapping.

15. World Hepatitis Day is being observed on **28th July**.

Note: The day raise global awareness of Hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2019 is “Invest in eliminating Hepatitis”. The theme focuses on the hepatitis elimination goals by 2030, in the context of universal health coverage. Hepatitis is a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

16. The **World Day against Trafficking** in Persons is observed across the world on **30th July**.

Note: The day raise awareness of the plight of victims of human trafficking and to protect their rights. The theme for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2019 is “**Human Trafficking: Call Your Government To Action**”. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated 30th July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

New Appointments

1. **Pravin Kumar Purwar** has been appointed as the **interim Chairman-Managing Director (CMD)** of the government-owned BSNL (**Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.**) for a period of three months.

Note: He succeeds Anupam Shrivastava who retired upon superannuation on June 30, 2019. BSNL is India's largest fixed telephony and broadband, and fifth largest mobile telephony services provider. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (incorporated on 15th September 2000) is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company, headquartered in New Delhi. BSNL is the fourth largest mobile telephony provider in India.

2. **Dr. Nalin Shinghal** has been appointed as the **chairman and managing director (CMD)** of **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)**.

Note: Mr. Singhal is presently working as Chairman and Managing Director of **Central Electronics Limited**. BHEL is India’s largest power generation equipment manufacturer and is owned by Government of India.

3. **Karnam Sekar** was taken over the charge as new **Managing Director (MD)** and **CEO (Chief Executive Officer)** of Indian Overseas Bank.

Note: He has replaced R Subramaniakumar. Mr. Sekar began his career in State Bank of India (SBI) as a

probationary officer. He also had served Dena Bank as its Managing Director and CEO

4. **N.S. Vishwanathan** has been reappointed as **deputy governor** of the Reserve Bank of India.

Note: The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the extension of Vishwanathan's term as RBI deputy governor by one year (from 4 July 2019). Vishwanathan is in charge of regulation of banks, non-banking finance companies and cooperative banks. Besides Vishwanathan, the other deputy governors of the RBI include B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.

5. American economist **David Lipton** will serve as **interim leader** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

Note: He will replace **Christine Lagarde** who was nominated to head the European Central Bank. Chief of **International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde** has been nominated as the first woman to head the European Central Bank.

6. **Manoj Kumar Nambiar** has been elected Chairman of **Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)**.

Note: He will replace **Udaya Kumar Hebbar**, President MD & CEO of CreditAccess Grameen. Vineet Chattree (Svatantra Microfin) will be the vice-chairman. Microfinance Institutions Network is an association for the microfinance sector in India. Its member

- organizations constitute the leading microfinance institutions in India.
7. Rahul Gandhi officially resigned as **Congress President**.
Note: According to Mr Gandhi, the **party's working committee** should meet immediately to decide on his successor. **Indian National Congress** (known as the Congress Party and abbreviated INC) is a major political party in India. Indian National Congress Created in 1885 by 'A. O. Hume'.
 8. IMF Chief **Christine Lagarde** nominated as president of European Central Bank.
Note: The **nomination means Lagarde** will step down two years before the end of her second five-year term at the helm of the IMF. Christine Lagarde would succeed Mario Draghi, whose term ends on October 31.
 9. **Kyriakos Mitsotakis** sworn in as the **Prime Minister** of Greece.
Note: Mitsotakis' New Democracy party won an outright majority with 158 seats in the 300-seat legislature. Earlier, he was Leader of the Opposition (from 2016 to 2019) and also served as Minister of Administrative Reform (from 2013 to 2015). Mitsotakis is the son of former Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, one of the country's longest-serving parliamentarians.
 10. **Ashutosh Gupta** has been appointed as the **Country Manager** for India of LinkedIn.
Note: He will replace Mahesh Narayanan, who was the country manager for India (LinkedIn) from January 2019 to June 2019. Gupta will take charge, in his new role, from 2nd September 2019. LinkedIn has over 630 million global users and more than 57 million members in India. LinkedIn is an American business and employment-oriented service that operates via websites and mobile apps.
 11. Senior **IAS officer Mr. Arun Kumar** has been appointed **full-time head** of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Kumar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor. Mr. Arun Kumar was holding additional charge as DG from 1st June when B S Bhullar retired.
 12. The Union government has appointed **B S Bhullar** as the chairman of **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)** for five years.
Note: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is India's regulatory body for **civil aviation**, under the aegis of Union Ministry of Civil Aviation. As a regulatory body, it seeks to promote Safe and efficient Air Transportation through regulation and proactive safety oversight system in India. Enforce civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards in India as per International standards.
 13. **M Nageswar Rao** has been appointed as the **Director General (DG)** of Fire Services, Civil Defence and **Home Guard** till 31st July 2020.
Note: Earlier, he held the position of Additional Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar (34-years) takes Charge as Force Commander of the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in Juba.
 14. **Fitness brand 'Reebok'** has announced Bollywood actor **Katrina Kaif** as its new **brand ambassador** in India.
Note: This association would further Reebok's commitment to be the best fitness brand in India. Katrina, who trains hard towards a fitter and better self each day, embodies the brand's ethos and is an inspiration for today's generation. Reebok is an English footwear and apparel company, subsidiary of German sports giant Adidas (since 2005). Reebok produces and distributes fitness, running and CrossFit sportswear including clothing and footwear.
 15. **Vikas Swarup** has been appointed as **Secretary**, (consular, passport, visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) in the **External Affairs** Ministry.
Note: His appointment will come into effect from 1st August, 2019. Currently, Mr. Swarup is India's High Commissioner to Canada. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was a ministry of the Government of India, dedicated to all matters relating to the Indian diaspora around the world
 16. **Election Commission of India** has Notified for the election of **Vellore (in Tamil Nadu)**.
Note: Vellore was the only seat that did not go for polling in the whole country during the General Elections. During the recent General Elections, polling to the seat was rescinded following a huge haul of money by the Income Tax authorities that were hoarded purportedly for distribution to the voters.
 17. Congress leader **Navjot Singh Sidhu** has resigned from Punjab Cabinet.
Note: Mr Sidhu had been sulking after being stripped of key portfolios in the Punjab cabinet reshuffle in June. On 6th June 2019, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had

- divested Sidhu of the Local Government and Tourism and Cultural Affairs Departments and allotted him the power and new and renewable energy portfolio.
- 18.** President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed Senior BJP leader **Kalraj Mishra** as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
Note: He replaced **Acharya Devvrat** (60-years) who has been transferred and appointed as Governor of Gujarat. **Mr. Acharya Devvrat** will replace **OP Kohli** (Governor of Gujarat), who completed his five-year term on 15th July 2019. The governors (exist in the states) and lieutenant-governors/administrators (union territories and in the NCT of Delhi) of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level. The governor acts as the nominal head whereas the real power lies with the Chief ministers of the states and his/her councils of ministers.
- 19.** **Anshula Kant** has been appointed as **managing director** (MD) and **chief financial officer** (CFO) of the World Bank.
Note: As Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, **Anshula Kant** will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group. Anshula brings more than 35 years of expertise in finance, banking, and innovative use of technology through her work as CFO of the State Bank of India (SBI- Probationary Officer-1983). The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides interest-free loans and grants to the governments of poorer countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.
- 20.** President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **BJP senior leader Biswa Bhushan Harichandran** as **Andhra Pradesh** governor.
Note: He replaced ESL Narasimhan, serving as the governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Earlier, Mr. Harichandran was elected to Odisha Assembly for the five times from Bhubaneswar and Chilika.
- 21.** President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed Senior tribal BJP leader **Anusuiya Uikey** as Governor of Chhattisgarh.
Note: Anusuiya Uikey has replaced **Anandiben Patel**, who as Governor of **Madhya Pradesh** was also holding the charge of Chhattisgarh. The appointments will take effect from the dates they **assume charge** of their offices.
- 22.** German **Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen** has been elected as the **European Commission's first female** president.
Note: Leyen's nomination was approved by 383 votes (required 374), at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. There were 327 votes against her and 22 abstentions. Von der Leyen was nominated to become the first woman in Brussels' top job last month by the leaders of the bloc's 28 member states, to the annoyance of many MEPs.
- 23. International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director** (MD) **Christine Lagarde** has resigned.
Note: Her resignation has been accepted by the IMF Executive Board, which will come into effect from 12th September. If the European Council approves Ms Lagarde's ECB nomination, she will become the central bank's first-ever female leader, responsible for the Euro and the monetary policy of the eurozone. The former French cabinet minister has been heading the IMF since 2011.
- 24.** Senior diplomat **Sanjeev Kumar Singla** has been appointed as the **Indian Ambassador** to Israel.
Note: He will succeed Pavan Kapoor, who assumed charge as the Ambassador to Israel in 2016. Earlier, he was serving as Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister of India.
- 25.** **Upender Singh Rawat** (IFS officer) has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Panama.
Note: He succeeds Ravi Thapar.
- 26.** Rajya Sabha MP **D Raja** has been appointed as the General Secretary of CPI (Communist Party of India).
Note: Raja was unanimously chosen as S Sudhakar Reddy's successor at a three-day meeting of the CPI National Council, the top decision-making body of the party, earlier this week. The Communist Party of India (CPI) (formed - 26th December 1925) is the oldest communist party in India. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) separated from the CPI in 1964 following an ideological rift between China and the Soviet Union, continues to claim having been founded in 1925.
- 27.** **Vivek Kohli** has been elected as chairman of the **Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation** (CTTF).
Note: Vivek Kohli defeated incumbent Alan Ransome (England) by securing 16 votes more than him. The CTTF president's post is already held by Dushyant Chautala (TTFI chief).
- 28.** **Indian Foreign Service officer** Vivek Kumar has been appointed as **Private Secretary** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Note: Currently, **Mr Kumar** is working as the **Director in the Prime Minister's** Office. Mr Kumar's appointment will come into effect from the day of the assumption of charge.
- 29.** **VK Johri** has been appointed as the new **Director-General** (DG) of **Border Security Force** (BSF).
Note: He will succeed **Rajni Kant Misra** who retires on **31st** of July 2019. Currently, Mr. Johri is serving as the Special Secretary in RAW, under the Cabinet Secretariat. The BSF is the country's largest border guarding force (present strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel) and is tasked to secure two of India's most important and sensitive fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- 30.** Conservative Party leader **Boris Johnson** has been elected as new **Prime Minister** of United Kingdom.

- Note:** The **Prime Minister of the United Kingdom** is the head of the Government of the United Kingdom and chairs Cabinet meetings. The Prime Minister directs both the executive and the legislature, and together with their Cabinet are collectively accountable for their policies and actions to the Monarch, to Parliament, to their political party and ultimately to the electorate.
31. The **U.S. Senate** Mark Esper confirmed former soldier as Secretary of Defense.
Note: Esper replaces Patrick Shanahan, who led the military in an acting capacity but this week withdrew his name from consideration for a permanent role after allegations of domestic violence. Earlier, Mark Esper served as acting secretary of defence and was the 23rd United States Secretary of the Army from 2017 to 2019.
32. BJP veteran and **former Odisha minister** sworn in as the new Governor of **Andhra Pradesh** (23rd) — **Mr. Biswabhusan Harichandan**.
Note: Harichandan replaced ESL Narasimhan, who is also governor of Telangana. The governors and lieutenant-governors are appointed by the president for a term of five years.
33. **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
Note: Currently, **Mr. Bhalla** is serving as Power Secretary. **Anshu Prakash** has been appointed new Secretary, Telecommunications, in place of Aruna Sundararajan, who is superannuating on 31st July. **Home Secretary** is the administrative head of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is the principal adviser to the Home Minister on all matters of policy and administration within the Home Ministry.
34. **Priti Patel** has been appointed as the UK's Home Secretary.
Note: The Prime Minister named former Home Secretary **Sajid Javid** (former banker) to take over from Philip Hammond as the Finance Secretary or Chancellor. Mr Johnson has also named Brexit hardliner Dominic Raab as the country's Foreign Secretary. Priti Patel (MP for Witham) was first elected as a Conservative MP in 2010 and gained prominence in the then David Cameron led Tory government as his Indian Diaspora Champion.
35. **BS Yeddyurappa** takes oath as chief minister of **Karnataka**.
Note: Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala administers the oath to the BJP leader B.S. Yeddyurappa (76-years) as chief minister of the state (4th time) at a ceremony held outside the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. B S Yeddyurappa is popularly known as "Raithara Bandhu" for his pro-farmer policies, initiatives like separate agriculture budget in Karnataka Government during his chief ministership.
36. The leader of the **Congress party** in Lok Sabha **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **Public Accounts Committee** (PAC).
Note: The PAC has **15 members** from Lok Sabha and seven from Rajya Sabha. The term of office of members of the committee does not exceed one year at a time. Earlier, **Mallikarjun Kharge** (Congress leader in the 16th Lok Sabha) was the Chairman of the PAC.
37. The **US Senate General Mark Milley** has overwhelmingly confirmed as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS).
Note: He will replace General **Joseph Dunford**. The Chairman is nominated by the **President for the appointment** and must be confirmed via majority vote by the Senate. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) is, the highest-ranking and senior-most military officer in the United States Armed Forces
38. **Sunil Kumar** has been given **additional Charge** of chairman and managing director of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).
Note: Currently, Mr Kumar is Director (Human Resources and Enterprise Business) at MTNL. He takes over from P K Purwar who was recently appointed chairman and managing Director of BSNL. MTNL operates telecom services in the Delhi and Mumbai circles, has been incurring consistent losses and is now awaiting a comprehensive revival plan from the government.
39. Senior IPS Officer **VK Johri** has been appointed as the new **Director-General** (DG) of **Border Security Force** (BSF).
Note: He will succeed Rajni Kant Misra who retires on 31st of July 2019. Currently, Mr. Johri is serving as the Special Secretary in RAW, under the Cabinet Secretariat. The BSF is the country's largest border guarding force (present strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel) and is tasked to secure two of India's most important and sensitive fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
40. Senior **IAS officer Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary.
Note: He succeeded **Subhash Chandra Garg** (1983 batch IAS- officer), who is currently the **power secretary**. Currently, **Mr Rajiv Kumar** is serving as Secretary in the **Department of Financial Services**. **Finance Secretary** is the administrative head of the **Ministry of Finance** and is the principal adviser to the Finance Minister on all matters of policy and administration within the Finance Ministry.
41. Governor of Uttar Pradesh -- **Anandiben Patel**.
Note: The Chief Justice of the High Court, Govind Mathur, administered her the oath of Office and Secrecy at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow. Earlier, she was serving as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Ms Patel will be the second woman Governor of the state after Sarojini Naidu.

42. Fagu Chauhan was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Bihar.

Note: **Fagu Chauhan** was administered the oath of office by **Chief Justice** of Patna High Court Amreshwar Pratap Shahi at the Raj Bhavan in Patna. Mr. Chauhan is a former member of **17th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh** from Ghosi, a seat he won from a record six times.

43. Senior BJP leader Lalji Tandon took oath as **Governor** of Madhya Pradesh.

Note: The oath was administered by acting Chief Justice of the High Court Ravi Shankar Jha. Mr. Tandon replaced Anandiben Patel, who was appointed as Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Important News – India

1. Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has launched '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan**' across the country to accelerate **water harvesting and conservation measures**.

Note: The scheme is aimed at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a mass movement through asset creation and communication campaigns. Over 250 officers, including Additional and Joint Secretaries, have been appointed as in-charge of water-stressed districts in the country to plan ways to conserve the natural resource. They have been appointed as Central Prabhari Officers of 255 water-stressed districts for coordinating the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. These teams will visit identified blocks & districts and coordinate the implementation of various water harvesting and conservation measures.

2. A Book titled '**A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief**' has been written by **Admiral Sushil Kumar**.

Note: The book is about the huge impact that the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had on the Armed Forces of India. Former Navy Chief **Sushil Kumar** served with Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** (from 1998 to 2001) during challenging times of Kargil War, hijacking of IC 814 and Operation Parakram

3. The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) to boost **research culture in India**.

Note: The scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges & Universities. It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant. An Advisory Committee has been set up by the UGC under the chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan to oversee the entire scheme. STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development. It will also support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and

practices for the public good and strengthening civil society.

4. Union Minister **Smriti Irani** has launched a book '**Whispers of Time**' at the India International Centre in New Delhi.

Note: The book 'Whispers of Time' authored by Dr Krishna Saksena (91-years). 'Whispers of Time' is an effort to condense nine decades of her life experiences, realisations and observations into a book of fiction based on facts. Dr. Saksena is the first woman candidate from Uttar Pradesh to get a PhD degree in English Literature in the year 1955.

5. The **Union Government** has decided to enhance the **import limit** on Tur Dal for **the year 2019 – 20** from two lakh metric tonnes to **4 lakh metric tonnes**.

Note: The Union government has also decided to release two lakh metric tonnes of Tur Dal, available in the buffer stock of pulses to States and Union Territories under the Price Stabilization Fund. The Union Government had signed an MoU with Mozambique, in July 2016 to improve domestic availability and facilitate price stability of Tur and other pulses.

6. **Indian Railways** has set a target to install **CCTV cameras** in more than **7,000 coaches** of mainline passenger trains by **March 2021**.

Note: CCTV cameras have **already been installed** in coaches of premium, mail, express and suburban trains. The cameras **have also been installed** in one thousand 300 coaches of mainline passenger trains.

7. The **Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Kharif crops for 2019-20 Season.

Note: Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of paddy has been increased by **65 rupees per quintal**, Jowar by **120 rupees** and Ragi by **253 rupees** per quintal. **MSP of Tur** has been raised by **125 rupees**, Moong by **75 rupees** and Urad pulses raised by 100 rupees per quintal.

8. **Reliance Jio** has launched a new digital literacy programme '**Digital Udaan**'.

Note: The objective of the **Digital Udaan** is to provide digital literacy to first-time internet users who are using the connected internet ecosystem and apps for the very

first time. The **Jio Digital Udaan programme** is being launched across **200 locations** in **13 states** in partnership with Facebook.

9. **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has set up its first exclusive '**Aadhaar Seva Kendra**' (ASK) in **New Delhi & Vijayawada**.

Note: It will be operational **six days a week** excluding **Tuesdays** and **public holidays**. These **Aadhaar centres** will make it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones. UIDAI has an **ambitious plan** to set up 114 such centres by the **end of 2019**. Although thousands of **Aadhaar centres** are being run by banks and post offices currently but the **Aadhaar Seva Kendras** (ASK) are the first specialized centres operationalized by UIDAI.

10. India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' has been launched in **Surat, Gujarat**.

Note: The launch of Fashionova will promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector. The main objective of this studio is to provide a strong platform to all those who have a flair of the apparel business.

11. India will host the **3rd edition** of the International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 in **Mumbai**.

Note: The event will be hosted by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA). The last two editions was hosted by China and Ukraine. Sunflower seed is seen as a healthy table-seed and culinary seed having wide applications in variety of food preparations including cakes and pastries.

12. The first ever **India International Cooperatives Trade Fair** (ICTF) to be held in **New Delhi**.

Note: 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.

13. India's first highway corridors for e-vehicles expected by **March 2020**.

Note: 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. The combined stretch of the corridors on the Yamuna Expressway (between Delhi and Agra) and the National Highway 48 (between Delhi and Jaipur) will be 500 km. The e-corridors are proposed to be the first under the Ease of Doing Business Programme (EODB) of the Advance Services for Social and Administrative Reforms (ASSAR), a private entity which is supported by the central government, an official engaged in the project said.

14. According to Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal**, the Union government is eyeing investment of **50 lakh crore** in railways by the year **2030**.

Note: The **rail infrastructure** in the country increased by mere 30% in the last 65 years due to the lack of adequate investment, while freight and passenger traffic increased by 1500 per cent. Mr Goyal announced that the **entire Konkan Railway route** from Mumbai to Mangaluru via Goa would be electrified at the cost of **11,000 crore** rupees. The electrification of railways will improve speed and reduce pollution on the scenic **Konkan railway route**.

15. The **city in Rajasthan** made its entry into the 39th UNESCO World Heritage Site list -- **The Walled City of Jaipur**.

Note: The announcement was made after the **43rd Session** of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, underway at **Baku** (Azerbaijan). The committee examined the nomination of the **Walled City of Jaipur** for inclusion in the World Heritage list. With this, India now has **39 World Heritage Sites** (30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and one mixed site).

16. **NASSCOM** partners with **National Skill Development Corporation** to organize 'World Skills India's International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019'.

Note: **Ten countries including India** are participating in the competition, along with New Zealand, Belgium, Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Oman and Ireland. "**WorldSkills India**" is an **NSDC initiative** launched in 2011 to provide a platform to the youth, along with industries and educators. The **National Association of Software and Services Companies** (NASSCOM) is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.

17. **Border Security Force** (BSF) has launched **massive exercise code** to fortify the '**anti-infiltration grid**' along the **Pakistan border** in Punjab and Jammu -- **Sudarshan**.

Note: The exercise will see the entire **BSF's senior field brass**, thousands of troops and machinery being deployed in these forward areas. It will cover the entire over the **1,000 km length** (Jammu shares 485-km and Punjab shares 553-km) of the India-Pakistan International Border. It further runs down towards Rajasthan and Gujarat on India's western flank.

18. The **Union Government** has decided to extend the **ESI Act** to the entire country by **2022**.

Note: Labour and Employment Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** said out of the total 722 districts, the ESI scheme has been extended to **541 districts**. Under the ESIC 2.0 programme, ESI scheme was extended in newly implemented areas. The Minister informed the House that around 3 crores 60 lakh employees across the country are likely to be benefited by the measure.

19. **India** has **successfully tested** the vertical steep dive version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile that changes the dynamics of conventional **warfare**.

- Note:** The **upgraded version** of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile with an enhanced range of up to 500 km is also ready. **Brahmos missile**, which cruises at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on the Su-30 fighters. The BrahMos is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.
- 20. Two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for IAF arrive in Gujarat.**
Note: American aerospace major Boeing has announced the arrival of two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the Mundra port in Gujarat. The Indian Air Force has ordered 15 Chinooks and the first four helicopters arrived in February. According to **Boeing India**, the advanced multi-mission helicopter will provide the armed forces unmatched strategic airlift capability. The CH-47 Chinook is an advanced multi-mission helicopter and has unsurpassed ability to deliver heavy payloads to high altitudes.
- 21. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled 'Land Registration, Global Practices and Lessons for India'.**
Note: The book has been written by the **B.K. Agarwal** (Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh). The Vice President in the book launch event called for a comprehensive model to make land deeds, transfers and registrations litigation free.
- 22. RPF (Railway Protection Force) has launched an All India Drive "Operation Thirst" to crack down selling of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water.**
Note: The objective of the "Operation Thirst" is to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW (Packaged Drinking Water) in Railway premises. Almost all major stations over Indian Railway were covered during this operation. The special drive will be followed by continuous action by concerned PCSCs on this issue.
- 23. The Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers Shri D. Sadananda Gowda has launched the Phase-2 of the Direct Benefit Transfer of Fertilizer Subsidy (DBT 2.0).**
Note: DBT system in Fertilizers (DBT 1.0) aimed at the release of 100% subsidy on various fertilizer grades to the fertilizer companies based on actual sales made by the retailer to the beneficiaries.
- DBT Dashboards: with details of fertiliser supply, availability and requirement at national, state and district level
 - PoS 3.0 Software: The Multi-lingual facility would provide Aadhar virtual ID option for registration, login and sale activity in DBT software.
 - Desktop PoS Version: Retailers with laptops and computer systems can use high-speed broadband service for fertilizer sales.
- 24. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Coffee Table Book to Commemorate 50 years of Partnership with UNWFP.**
Note: **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** (Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare) has launched a Coffee Table Book named '50 years of Partnership for Change' in New Delhi. The book has been launched to commemorate **five decades** (50 years) of the partnership between the Ministry and UN World Food Programme (UNWFP) towards addressing food and nutritional security in India.
- 25. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a 'Kargil Tribute Song' to honour, salute and pay homage to the 'Kargil martyrs' and war veterans.**
Note: 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
- 26. DRDO successfully tests armour-piercing Nag missiles at Pokhran range.**
- 27. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has released a book titled 'Vivekadeepini'.**
Note: It is a book (in 10 languages) that contains facts and principles of spiritual leaders like Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda. The original book is written by Sri Adi Shankaracharya in Prashnottara Ratnamalika. The conversion in different 10 languages has been done by Vedanta Bharati
- 28. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with the central government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to secure funding for large-sized projects, including highways.**
Note: The MoU is related to co-operation in the formation of SPVs to execute the fund arrangement for large size road projects particularly greenfield projects to be executed by NHAI in future. NHAI is pursuing alternate sources of funding to attract international investors and fund houses that are willing to invest in road projects in India. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund promoted by the Government of India to give a boost to the infrastructure sector in the country.
- 29. Parliament (The Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha) has adopted a statutory resolution for levying 200% duty on all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan.**

- Note:** Parliament approved the amendment in the first schedule of the Customs Tariff Act in this regard. India had notified the basic customs duty to 200% on all goods exported from Pakistan with effect from 16th of February 2019.
30. According to **MPI 2019** released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** & the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, India lifted **271 million** people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016.
Note: In Bangladesh the number dropped by 19 million between 2004 and 2014. In 101 countries (31 low income, 68 middle income and 2 high income), Around 1.3 billion people are “multidimensionally poor”, including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence. The report underscored that the traditional concept of poverty is outdated, demonstrating more clearly than ever that labelling countries - or even households - as rich and poor is an oversimplification.
31. The Union Government issued a **fresh bid document for strategic** disinvestment in **Pawan Hans**.
Note: According to Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), union Government has in-principle decided to disinvestment its entire equity shareholding of 51% in Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL) by way of strategic disinvestment to investors along with transfer of management control. The PIM document stated that in the case of the consortium also, the combined net worth of all the members of the consortium should be 350 crore rupees.
32. **The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** has rolled out an initiative in the form of a **Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN)** in to pursue a heightened sense of **self-governance** and strengthen the practicing side of company secretaries.
Note: UDIN will provide ease of maintaining a register of attestation and certification services. The initiative will also enable stakeholders and regulators to verify genuinely of documents signed or certified by company secretaries in practice.
33. The book named “**War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960**” has been authored by **Devika Sethi**.
Note: This book recovers narrates and interrogates the history of censorship of publications in India over three crucial decades – encompassing the Gandhian anti-colonial movement, the Second World War, Partition, and the early years of Independent India. Devika Sethi teaches modern Indian history at IIT-Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. The book has been published by Cambridge University Press.
34. The **Union Government** will set up a **secretary-level task force** to figure out how to create a **USD 110-billion** mobile phone export business from **India**.
Note: The task force will be headed by **NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** Amitabh Kant. The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has suggested the secretaries should form a policy that eliminates India’s weakness vis-à-vis other Asian countries. The **National Policy on Electronics 2019** has set a manufacturing target at USD 400 billion by 2025.
35. Asia’s first **Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue** will be established at **Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand**.
Note: The institute would train armed forces as well as para-military personnel in Mountain Medicines. The mountain institute will be Specialised healthcare, advance education and Rescue Training in the state.
36. The **5th India-EU High-Level Dialogue** on Migration and Mobility was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: It encompassed a **wide range of issues** of mutual interest in the context of migration and **mobility along** the India-EU corridor. Both sides reaffirmed that migration and mobility are important dimensions of the strategic partnership between India and EU and exchanged views on further initiatives and steps aimed at realizing the full potential of further strengthening cooperation in this area.
37. India and **US trade negotiators** will hold talks to discuss **bilateral** and economic issues in **New Delhi**.
Note: The US delegation is being led by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, Christopher Wilson. The Indian side is being led by Additional Secretary level officer from Commerce and Industries Ministry. This would be the first meeting on trade issues after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump in Japan on the sidelines of the G20 summit.
38. India - **ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’** meeting was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: India looks at RCEP as a logical extension of its Act East Policy and it holds enormous potential for economic growth and stability for the entire region.
39. The **Union Government** has launched **Labour room Quality improvement** Initiative to improve the quality of care in the labour room and maternity operation theatres ‘**LaQshya**’.
Note: It’s a **multipronged approach focused** on Intrapartum and the immediate postpartum period. The initiative primarily focuses on reducing preventable maternal and new-born mortality and morbidity due to haemorrhage retained placenta, preterm, preeclampsia and eclampsia, obstructed labour, puerperal sepsis, newborn asphyxia, and newborn sepsis.
40. The **fourth** anniversary of **Skill India Mission** being observed in **New Delhi**.
Note: National Skill Development Mission also known as Skill India Mission was launched on this day in 2015.

Nearly One Crore youth are being presently imparted skills training annually under the mission. The mission also envisages convergence, coordination and harmonization of the fragmented skilling efforts of various Ministries in Government of India and other key stakeholders through the instruments of Common norms, implementation of National Skills Qualification Framework and data integrations through the Skill India Portal.

41. The **8th meeting of India-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group** on counter terrorism was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Group discussed measures to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the sphere of counter terrorism through information sharing, mutual capacity building and sharing of best practices. Cooperation in multilateral fora including UN, Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and EAG was also discussed. The Joint Working Group reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective regions including cross border terrorism.
42. A three-day **public awareness campaign** to accelerate vector control measures got underway in **Delhi**.
Note: The campaign aims to sensitize and **mobilize the community** on measures for prevention and control of Vector-Borne Diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya.
43. **India** has decided to **set up a fast track mechanism** to facilitate investors and companies with **Italy**.
Note: The meeting was attended by Lorenzo Angeloni (Ambassador of Italy to India) and Ramesh Abhishek (Secretary, DIPP) in New Delhi. The fast-track system in Italy aims to identify and solve problems faced by Indian companies and investors.
44. The **Union Cabinet** has approved **National Medical Commission Bill, 2019**.
Note: 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 known as National Exit Test (NEXT) which would serve as Licentiate Exam, for entrance to Post Graduate medical course and as the screening test of foreign medical graduates. The bill provides that the national entrance test that is NEET, common counselling, NEXT will also be applicable to Institutes of National Importance (INIs) like AIIMS to have common standards in the country.
45. **20 thousand** wellness centers will be completed by the **end of the current year** under Ayushman Bharat programme.
46. **India Film Divisions** will launch a documentary film club '**KSHITIJ**' in Mumbai.
Note: An acclaimed documentary film "Secret Life of Frogs" by Ajay and Vijay Bedi will be screened as the

inaugural film. Public screenings will begin at 5:30 PM on the second and fourth Friday of every month. The screenings will be held at Films Division Complex.

47. The **Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will be held in **Panaji, Goa**.
Note: Around 70 countries business exhibition will showcase the latest technology, film production and distribution and other aspects regarding films. Russia will be IFFI partner in this edition. According to Mr Prakash Javdekar, President of Oscar Academy John Bailey and other eminent cinematographers and producers have been invited for the event.
48. The **Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has released the UGC Guide in New Delhi_ **Deeksharambh**.
Note: According to HRD minister **Mr. Nishank**, the guide will help new students to build bonds with fellow students and faculty members in the new environment. 'Deeksharambh' is a guide to Student Induction Programme (SIP) to help new students adjust and feel comfortable in the new environment, inculcate in them the ethos and culture of the institution. To promote Deeksharambh, UGC will shortly conduct awareness and training programmes for teachers in different regions in the country.
49. **Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Prakash Javadekar** has inaugurated the **10th Jagran Film Festival in New Delhi**.
Note: He highlighted the **importance and impact of cinema** on the life of people and termed that it is a medium which connects people. He recalled the **historical development of cinema** in India and the growing impact of Indian cinema as a transporter of India's soft power.
50. The **Union government** has permitted the export of **1,239 tonnes raw sugar** under its tariff-rate quota (TRQ) to the **US**.
Note: TRQ is a quota for a volume of exports that enter the US at relatively low tariffs. After the quota is reached, a higher tariff applies to additional imports. Directorate General of Foreign Trade in a public notice said that an additional quantity of 1,239 tonnes of raw cane sugar to be exported to the US under TRQ up to September 30, 2019.
51. **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**.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of Minister of State for Health Ashwini K Choubey and Minister of AYUSH Shripad Nayak. Around 28 lakh people contract the disease every year in the country and four lakh people die every year. **Tuberculosis (TB)** is a potentially serious infectious disease that mainly affects your lungs. The bacteria that cause tuberculosis are spread from one

- person to another through tiny droplets released into the air via coughs and sneeze.
52. India's landmark Moon Mission '**Chandrayaan-2**' launched from **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: **Chandrayaan-2** onboard the heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle **GSLV-MkIII-M1** (nicknamed Baahubali). The total cost of the mission is worked out to be **978 crore rupees**. **Chandrayaan-2** carried 13 scientific satellites (weighs about 3.8 tonnes), explore the southern part of the Moon. '**Chandrayaan-2**' would make India the **4th country** to soft-land on the Moon, a feat achieved only by the space agencies of the US, USSR, and China. It will have three modules — **Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) & Rover (Pragyan)**.
53. On the **20th anniversary of the Kargil War**, A new book "**Kargil: Untold stories from the War**" has been released in **New Delhi**.
Note: The book authored by **Rachna Bisht Rawat**. The book is based on Rawat's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families, take the readers to the treacherous Himalayan mountains.
54. The **International Police Expo 2019** (5th edition) has been organized in **New Delhi**.
Note: The theme of **International Police Expo 2019** is 'Challenges to strengthen peace and security'. The **2019 event saw the participation of Manufacturers** and technology players from more than 25 countries.
55. Commerce and Industry **Minister Piyush Goyal** has launched the Global Innovation Index (GII) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The **theme this year** is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, which aims to explore the role of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare. India has jumped **24 places** in the **Global Innovation Index** in four years, from 81st position in 2015, it achieved the 57th position in 2018.
56. The **Supreme Court** (SC) bench has extended the deadline for publication of final **National Register of Citizens** (NRC) in Assam from 31st July to **31st August**.
Note: The **Apex Court rejected** the pleas seeking permission for 20% sample re-verification. The **Centre and the Assam** government sought permission for sample re-verification to find out wrongful inclusions and exclusions of persons in the NRC.
57. A new **India-UK bilateral pilot scheme** has been launched to support **Britain's universities** to collaborate with **Indian partners** to send **UK students** to India during their studies -- **UKEIRI**.
Note: The "**UKEIRI Mobility Programme: Study in India**", an initiative of **Universities UK International** (UUKI) and **British Council India**. It aims to generate up to **200 opportunities** for undergraduate students at **UK universities** to visit India by March 2021.
58. The **Union government** has extended the deadline for filing of **Income Tax returns** by individuals for the financial year 2018-19 to **31st August this year**.
Note: According to the **official release** of Finance Ministry, the decision has been taken after it was reported that some of the taxpayers are facing difficulties in filing their income tax returns due to various reasons including the extension of due date for issue of Form 16 for the Assessment Year 2019-20.
59. The **Central Board of Direct Taxes** (CBDT) has celebrated the **159th Income Tax Day** as '**Aaykar Diwas**'.
Note: Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has attended an event to mark **Income Tax Day** in New Delhi. The event will include the release of **departmental publications**, e-journal, publicity kit for outreach programmes among other things. The week preceding the **Aaykar Diwas** has been marked by various activities undertaken by the regional offices of the department across the country.
60. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has released a book '**Chandra Shekhar-The Last Icon of Ideological Politics**' in New Delhi.
Note: The book has been written by Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; and Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai. The book release event was held at the Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building.
61. The **Union Cabinet** approves the merger of **National Institute of Miners' Health** with **ICMR-NIOH**.
Note: This will help both the institutes in terms of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides efficient management of public money. The Cabinet also approved sale of **481.79 acres** of land held by Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, FACT to the Government of Kerala and utilization of the sale proceeds by FACT.
62. **ISRO's commercial arm 'Antrix Corporation'** earned Rs 6,289 crore in the last 3 years.
Note: Total 239 satellites were launched by ISRO's commercial arm 'Antrix Corporation' in the last three years, garnering revenue of Rs 6,289 crore. The government has already set up NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), under the administrative control of the Department of Space (DOS) to commercially exploit the research and development work of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres and constituent units of DOS. The NSIL was set up to meet the ever-increasing demands of the Indian space programme and to commercially exploit the emerging global space market.
63. Chief of Naval Staff **Admiral Karambir Singh** commissioned the **fifth Dornier squadron** of the Indian Navy **Indian Naval Air Squadron 313** at the Naval Air Enclave in Meenambakkam, Chennai.

- Note:** The fifth Dornier squadron will help India track of the growing Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean Region. With commissioning of INAS 313, the Tamil Nadu states will have three naval (earlier, INS Rajali at Arakkonam and INS Parundu at Ramnad) airbases, the highest number for any Coastal State. The squadron will operate the indigenous Hindustan Aeronautical built maritime surveillance version multi-role Dornier 228 Short Range Maritime reconnaissance aircraft from Chennai airport.
64. The **11th edition** of the biennial **DefExpo 2020** will be held in **Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)**.
Note: The four-day event will offer an excellent opportunity for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential. The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 will be 'India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'. The **DefExpo** would provide a unique platform for Defence industry OEMs, exhibitors and private industry to display their latest innovations and capabilities.
65. The **Western Railway (WR)** has thrown open to the public the **first printing press** heritage gallery of the Indian Railways at **Mahalaxmi**.
Note: With this, the WR Mahalaxmi General Stores Depot (GSD) has become the first in Indian Railways to portray a heritage gallery of the printing and allied machines used in the WR Printing Press since 1948, which are still in working condition. The press came into existence in 1912 under the Greater Indian Peninsular Railway (GIP) Bombay, as the railway needed stationery and tickets to run the operations.
66. India and **China** will carry out a **major military exercise** in Meghalaya this year -- **Hand-in-Hand**.
Note: The exercise will take place at Umroi, Meghalaya in **December 2019**. It will be based on counter-terrorism humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The exercise was previously held in **December last year** at Chengdu, China
67. An annual **military exercise** between the US and **South Korean military exercises** will be held in August this year -- **19-2 Dong Maeng (alliance)**.
Note: The announcement was made by Choi Jong-kun, the secretary for peace planning to South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Earlier, the United States and South Korea had suspended a large-scale exercise and it also cancelled a second exercise after the Singapore summit in June 2018. North Korea has threatened that the country will drop the nuclear talks with the US if it continues the military exercise with South Korea.
68. Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh has released the coffee table book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice' in **Leh, Jammu & Kashmir**.
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.
69. Culture Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel** has announced to include two languages in the **Sub-Field of Field Literature** in the scheme component 'Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships **Nepali and Santhali**'.
Note: The announcement was made by the Culture Minister during an interaction with media in New Delhi. The fellowships are awarded for undertaking research-oriented projects.
70. The sixth ship of the **Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV** class was commissioned into the Indian Navy -- **IN LCU L56**.
Note: Vice Admiral **Atul Kumar Jain**, Eastern Naval Command commissioned the ship in a ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. The ship will be deployed for multi-role activities such as beaching operations, search and rescue missions, disaster relief operations, coastal patrol and surveillance operations along the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands. **LCU 56** is an amphibious ship with its primary role being transportation and deployment of Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, Troops and Equipment from ship to shore.

Important News – State

- Rajasthan Chief Minister '**Ashok Gehlot**' has inaugurated **5th and 6th Unit** of Chabra Super Critical Thermal Power Station in **Baran district**.
Note: In Chhabra, 4 Units are already producing power with a capacity of 250 MW each. These two new units are of capacity to produce 660 Megawatts power each and now the total capacity of this thermal power station has reached up to 2 thousand 320 MW. This is the state's First project based on Super Critical Thermal Power Technology and the estimated cost of this project is 9 thousand 550 Crore Rupees.
- As per recommendation of state's forest department, the **Tamil Nadu**. Government has declared Tamil Yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) as the state butterfly.
Note: With this, Tamil Nadu became the fifth state in the country to announce its state butterfly. Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon (Papilio polymnestor) as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock). These butterflies are also known as Tamil Maravan, which means warrior.

3. **Haryana Government** has announced an annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs to **“loktantra senanis”** or their spouse for treatment at private or government hospitals.
Note: Now, the term “emergency victim” on their identity cards would be replaced with “loktantra senani”. During the Emergency, Democracy fighters who have been jailed in Satyagraha movement for a pension of 10 thousand rupees per month, and a helper to the freedom fighter and one of his assistants in Haryana Transport buses Bus travel facility is being provided.
4. **Ministry of Railways** has released its new **All India Railway Timetable** known as **Trains At A Glance**.
Note: In addition to this, all the 17 Zonal Railways have also released their Zonal Railway Timetables. The new **Trains at a Glance** is available on Indian Railways’ official website - www.indianrailways.gov.in. The Northern Railway zone has introduced two new Tejas Express trains on the New Delhi-Chandigarh-New Delhi and the New Delhi-Lucknow-New Delhi routes.
5. The Parliament has given its nod to the resolution seeking an extension of President rule for a further period of six months in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: Jammu and Kashmir **Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019** was also passed by Parliament with Rajya Sabha approving it today. A total of 3.50 lakh population of 435 villages will be benefitted through this amendment. In India, the president's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct central government rule in a state.
6. The **Union Government** has constituted a **high-powered committee** of chief ministers of several states for transforming Indian agriculture and raising **farmers’ income**.
Note: Maharashtra Chief Minister **‘Devendra Fadnavis’** will be the convener of the committee. While the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members. Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister will also be a member of the committee. Besides, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been named the Member Secretary. It will suggest the modalities for adoption and time-bound implementation of agriculture sector reforms.
7. The **Chattisgarh Government** has decided to increase the retirement age of industrial labourers working in private sectors to 60 years from the current **58 years**.
Note: Employees and laborer’s working in **various undertakings**, factories, industries and commercial institutions would now retire at the age of 60 years. Final notification will be issued within 15 days after disposing of the suggestions received from all stakeholders.
8. The annual **Jagannath Rath Yatra** has begun at Puri in **Odisha**.
Note: Lakhs of people converge at **Jagannath Temple** in Puri to witness Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra riding three giant wooden chariots which are pulled by devotees as they travel to Gundicha temple. The Yatra commences with Lord Jagannath and his siblings visiting his aunt’s place, Gundicha Temple, and is followed by rituals like Suna Besha and Adhar Pana on their return. In Gujarat, 142nd annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath begins in Ahmedabad.
9. **Uttar Pradesh** Government has decided to set up Ganga Committees in all 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga.
Note: This step is part of the largescale program to clean the holy river. In coming days, a special plantation drive on the banks of prominent holy rivers will be taken up. Total of **85 projects** related to Clean Ganga Mission worth 1185 crore rupees are running in the state, out of which 15 have been completed so far.
10. The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline -- **1076**.
Note: It will enable people from across the state to register their complaints, ensure time-bound action on the complaints. If a department gets more than 100 complaints in a month, action will be taken against the concerned officials.
The 500-seater call centre has been established for the helpline and it has the capacity to handle 80,000 inbound and 55,000 outbound calls on daily basis.
11. According to Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria, how many senior citizens in the country **Over 10.38 crore**.
Note: Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than one crore 54 lakh followed by Maharashtra one crore 11 lakh.
12. Assam Govt. will develop over **three hundred tourist spots**.
Note: **Assam government** has taken a step to develop 316 tourists spot in the state. According to Bhaskar Phukan (M D of Assam Tourism Development Corporation), 150 crore rupees will be spent to develop these locations under Axom Darshan. Toilet, waste management, drinking water and waiting shades to be built or develop across the state in important locations.
13. The annual **Bonalu festival** kicked off in the city at the **historic Golconda Fort of Hyderabad**.
Note: Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana. It is celebrated every year in a grand manner in the state during the first month of the monsoon season. The famous Sri Ujjaini Mahankali

- Bonalu celebrations at Secunderabad will be held on July 21 and 22.
- 14. The Union government** is going to set-up **three Sports Centre of Excellence** (for Martial Arts, Weightlifting and Boxing) in **Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
Note: These centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with the residential facility. The Union government will also set up 12 to 15 football stadiums with Astro-turf football pitches across the state in the next three years. Mr. Rijiju further announced that this year Arunachal Pradesh will host the North East Youth Festival.
- 15. The Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Seed Federation** will produce -- **seeds**.
Note: In Madhya Pradesh, along with distribution and marketing of certified and high-quality seeds to farmers. The brand name of seeds will be '**Sah-Beej**'. A plan has been made to produce seeds from the next **Rabi season**.
- 16. Delhi Police** reunited 333 children with their families this year under '**Operation Milap**'.
Note: Under Operation Milap this year, The Delhi Police's crime branch has reunited 333 children with their families after they separated from their parents. Under this project, the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police develops information, rescues the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnapper. The 'Operation Milap' is carried out by the crime branch's 'Anti Human Trafficking Unit' (AHTU).
- 17. The Delhi government** has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into -- **Solar park**.
Note: A 5,000 KW of solar power will be produced at the 45-acre plant site. **Rajghat thermal power plant** (coal-based plant), whose current units were commissioned in 1989, has been lying in a shutdown mode from 2014.
- 18. Isha Kanth** has been selected for the prestigious **two-month internship** at the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** based at The Hague.
Note: Only **two law students** from across the world get selected for this internship programme. Currently, **Isha Kanth** pursuing a bachelor's degree in Law from the Queen Mary University of London. The ICJ (the principal judicial organ of the United Nations) offers internships for one to three months to students and young professionals who are in the early stages of their careers. The interns get an opportunity to put their knowledge and experience into practice while performing certain tasks for the Court under the supervision of registry officials.
- 19. Meghalaya** has become the **first state in India** to ensure the conservation of water.
Note: The draft policy was approved by the State Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma. The objective of the policy is to recognize water resources as a common pool resource, to provide safe and hygienic water for drinking, domestic and sanitation and livelihood development to all residents of the state.
- 20. Vikas Bahl's 'Super 30'** has been made tax-free in **Bihar**.
Note: The state's Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi announced no entertainment tax will be levied from the film in Bihar. 'Super 30' is based on the life of Patna-based mathematician and teacher Anand Kumar. The teacher runs a coaching programme called Super 30 for underprivileged students to prepare them for IIT entrance exams.
- 21. Maharashtra** govt. hikes compensation for kin of Jawans killed in the line of duty.
Note: Maharashtra state cabinet headed by CM Devendra Fadnavis has decided to increase the compensation from 25 lakh to one crore rupees for families of security personnel hailing from the state who lay down their lives in the line of duty. A cabinet note stated that personnel wounded in a conflict will get monetary compensations ranging from 20 lakh to 60 lakh rupees each, depending on the severity of their injury. The state Cabinet also decided to raise the allowances for special teachers attached with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by 1500 rupees, taking it to 21,500 rupees
- 22. Union Cabinet** chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has approved **1,600 crore rupees** for Dibang Multipurpose Project in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The project is envisaged as a storage-based hydro-electric project with flood moderation as the key objective. This is the largest ever Hydro Electric Projects to be constructed in India with a height of 278 metres, Once completed. The Union Cabinet also approved the doubling of a vital railway line connecting Guwahati with New Bongaigaon at a cost of 2,042 crore rupees.
- 23. National Stock Exchange (NSE)** has signed a pact with the **Haryana** government to help boost the growth of MSME sector.
Note: As per the **memorandum of understanding**, NSE will support the Haryana government in enhancing the financing opportunities for **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** in the state, through listing on NSE's SME exchange platform, NSE Emerge. **Haryana government** would facilitate the listing of **MSMEs on NSE Emerge** through financial assistance.

24. **West Bengal** government has signed an MoU with the **British Council** for brushing up the **English-Speaking skills** of the students studying in Polytechnic Colleges in the.
Note: The move is aimed to improve English speaking capacity for job seekers students. According to Technical Education Department sources, an enquiry to assess job readiness of students was conducted recently and communication in English was found as a major hurdle. At present, there are 148 Polytechnic Colleges across the state.
25. The **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** is hosting the Women Startup Summit on **1st August**.
Note: The summit will be hosted in association with the Indian Women Network floated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), at the Integrated Startup Complex, Kochi. Successful women leaders, startup founders, policymakers and women entrepreneurs will participate in the summit. The theme of this summit is 'Developing an Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystem'.
26. The **Tamil Nadu government** has announced the creation of two new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to **35**.
Note: **Tenkasi District** would be carved out of Tirunelveli. **Chengalpet District** would be carved by splitting Kanchipuram district. Since **Tirunelveli** and **Kanchipuram** are vast in area, the government is splitting them for better administration. Special Officers would be appointed to govern the new districts.
27. The **Telangana Government** and the **World Economic Forum's Centre** for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network has announced to launch an innovative project to **deliver emergency medical supplies** via drones.
Note: The pilot project, 'Medicine from the Sky' will run in partnership with the State Government and HealthNet Global Limited. It will help facilitate decision-making in healthcare supply chains, focus on last-mile deliveries and address issues that affect the medical distribution system.
28. India's **first garbage café** has been launched by the Municipal Corporation of **Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh)**.
Note: The Municipal Corporation of Ambikapur has launched a 'Garbage Cafe scheme' (India's first garbage cafe) at Ambikapur city in Chhattisgarh. Under this scheme, A person fetching a kilo of plastic waste to the garbage cafe will be assured of a full meal. Those collecting at least 500 grams will benefit from a substantial breakfast.
29. Culture Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel** has inaugurated the **architectural illumination** of the historic **Safdarjung Tomb, New Delhi**.
Note: A total of **213 technologically advanced LED lights** have been used to highlight the monument. The consumption of LED lights is approximately 62% less than conventional light fixtures. The Archaeological Survey of India has previously undertaken similar initiatives at the Red Fort, the Humayun's Tomb, and the Purana Qila in Delhi. The tomb will be illuminated from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM daily and it will cost the government Rs 8,880 monthly.
30. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned **1,925 crore rupees project** for up-gradation of **power generation** and distribution in **Tripura**.
Note: The amount was sanctioned to the **Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited** after the state government had sought the ADB's assistance. The project has been sanctioned for upgrading capacity of **63 MW Rokhia Project** to 120 MW at an estimated cost of over 699 crores and modernising Gumti Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of nearly 1225 crore rupees. Rokhia project is located at West Tripura district whereas the Gumti project is in Gomati district.
31. **Gujarat** has emerged as the most **rooftop solar panels** installed state.
Note: The data was tabled by R K Singh (Union minister of state for new and renewable energy) in the upper house of Parliament. Gujarat has an installed rooftop solar power capacity of 261.97 MW, against 1,700.54 MW for all of India. Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra (198.52 MW) and Tamil Nadu (151.62 MW) in terms of installed rooftop capacity. The Union government aims to install rooftop solar capacity of 40,000 MW by 2022.
32. **Uttar Pradesh** has become number one state in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country.
Note: As per the statement released by the state government, 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31st March 2019. Implementation of this ambitious central government scheme started in the state from January 2018 under which people between age group of 18 to 70 get an accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying a nominal premium of 12 rupees annually. Uttar Pradesh stands second in the country in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana, another flagship scheme of the Union Government.
33. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Pema Khandu** has launched the **state-wide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019'** in Itanagar.
Note: The campaign is being held as part of Van Mahotsav celebration and has set the target of planting 1 Crore tree within the next five years. The forest carbon stock in Arunachal comes to 148.52 tonnes per hectare, which is highest in the country and whose

- value in terms of carbon credit at 6 Euros per tonne works out to 48000 Crore rupees annually.
- 34.** The 14-digit **Parivar Pehchan Patra** (PPP) officially rolled out by the Haryana chief minister **Manohar Lal Khattar**.
Note: Chief Minister Khattar has launched a portal 'www.meraparivar.haryana.gov.in'. According to the government data, the population of over 2.5 crore, which is approximately 54 lakh households, will be covered through this exercise. As per the plan, more than 500 PPP registration centres will be set up for scanning and uploading of documents submitted by the citizens
- 35.** Uttarakhand government is hosting the first-ever Himalayan states' conclave in **Mussoorie**.
Note: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has attended the conclave as the chief guest. The prime focus of the meeting was sustainable development. The Conclave would focus on environmental protection, Himalayan culture, and economic development. It will also focus on solving the Himalayan states' problems.
- 36.** The **Union government** has kicked off the **7th Economic Census** from the **north eastern state of Tripura**.
Note: It will be launched in other states and union territories in August and September. The census conducted by the Ministry of **Statistics and Programme Implementation** (MoSPI) will be held this year after a gap of five years. The data will be collected through the door to door survey of each household and commercial establishment under the provisions of the Collection of Statistics Act 2008.
- 37.** The **Karnataka State Government** has cancelled the birth anniversary celebrations of **Hazrat Tipu Sultan**.
Note: In an order, Kannada and Culture department has stated that Hazrat Tipu Sultan Jayanti being celebrated since 2016 in the state is cancelled with immediate effect. **Tipu Sultan** (or Tiger of Mysore) was born on 20th November 1750 at Devanahalli, (Currently in Bangalore Rural district). Tipu Sultan was a ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore and a pioneer of rocket artillery.
- 38.** Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** has announced that **Sachivalaya** (State secretariat) will now be called '**Lok Seva Bhawan**'.
Note: Mr. Patnaik made this announcement while moving the expenditure relating to the Home Department in Assembly. The Odisha secretariat building was inaugurated on November 12, 1959, by the then Union Home Minister Govind Ballabh Pant.
- 39.** **Udhampur District Administration** (In Jammu and Kashmir) has launched a helpline '**Jeene Do**'.
Note: The objective is to improve sex ratio and deal with defaulters of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques or PCPNDT Act under the Centrally sponsored 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme. A Mobile Number '**9469793363**' has been dedicated to the public to register complaints regarding sex determination during pre-natal check-ups.

Important News - World

- 1.** The **US space agency 'NASA'** has announced to launch a **spacecraft in 2026** to explore the richly organic world of Titan.
Note: A rotorcraft called 'Dragonfly' will arrive at the Saturn's moon in 2034, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and Earth. It may lend clues to how life may have arisen on Earth. Titan is the second largest moon in the solar system and is an icy world whose surface is completely obscured by a nitrogen-based golden atmosphere, four times denser than Earth's.
- 2.** India has signed a deal with Russia for acquiring the anti-tank missiles -- **Strum Ataka**.
Note: The deal has been signed under the emergency clause as a result of which the missile would be delivered within a time of 3 months of the signing of the contract. The deal is worth around Rs 200 Crore. The deal would give an added capability to the Mi-35 attack choppers to take out enemy tanks and other armored elements.
- 3.** Representatives of **50 law enforcement agencies** of the International Security Alliance are taking part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi -- **ISALEX19**.
Note: Joint Security Exercise will test the readiness of the different teams and to evaluate the tools, strategies and procedures developed jointly between member countries. The participants include representatives from tactical teams, rapid intervention units, communications, civil defence, and explosive ordnance disposal, teams. The International Security Alliance (launched in 2017) is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes in Abu Dhabi.
- 4.** The United States has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which is fighting Pakistani rule in **Balochistan province**.
Note: BLA is an armed separatist group that targets security forces and civilians, mainly in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan. The department has also made it a crime for anyone in the US to assist the BLA terrorists and freezing any US assets they may have. The US has

- also sanctioned Hezbollah operative Husain Ali Hazzima, chief of the Beirut-based terrorist group's intelligence unit.
5. **India has pledged** to contribute **USD 5 Million** in 2019 to the **UN Palestine refugee agency**.
Note: The Indian Government is assisting 150 Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (Created in December 1949) is a relief and human development agency which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees. UNRWA is the only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR.
 6. **Indian Rupee** will now be an accepted **currency** at all the retail outlets of the **Dubai airport**.
Note: Stores at the Dubai Airport will accept notes of various denominations, including 100s, 200s, 500s and 2000s. The move makes the Indian rupee the 16th international currency to be accepted at Dubai's airports.
 7. International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves **USD 6 billion loans** to Cash-Strapped -- **Pakistan**.
Note: The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved USD 6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan over a period of three years. The loan amount will help to support Pakistan's economic plan that aims at returning sustainable growth to the country's fragile economy and improving the standards of living. The USD 6 billion financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its balance of payment crisis.
 8. **France** has approved a small, **pioneering tax** on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.
Note: The French government hopes that other countries will follow the suit. The bill foresees a 3 per cent tax on the French revenues of digital companies with global revenue of more than 750 million Euros. At present, the companies pay nearly no tax in countries where they have large sales like France. The bill adopted by the National Assembly will be sent to the Senate next week, where it is expected to win final approval.
 9. Italy's north-eastern Conegliano and **Valdobbiadene hills** (home to the world-famous sparkling wine prosecco) have been added to the **UNESCO World Heritage list**.
Note: The region became Italy's **55th World Heritage site**. The landscape is characterized by hogback hills, ciglioni -- small plots of vines on narrow grassy terraces -- forests, small villages and farmland. A **World Heritage Site** is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural, historical, scientific or another form of significance and is legally protected by international treaties. The **sites are judged important** to the collective interests of humanity.
 10. According to the latest **Henley Passport Index 2019**, who have ranked on top-- **Japan and Singapore**.
Note: India stands at 86th position in this index with a mobility score of 58. Afghanistan has once again been labelled by the index as the least powerful passport in the world. The HPI consists of a ranking of passports according to how many other territories can be reached 'visa-free'. The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations including micro-states and territories.
 11. **Sri Lanka** has become the fifth country in the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles.
Note: The other **countries in the region** which have achieved this feat are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste. WHO recommends immunization for all children with **two doses** of measles vaccine, either alone, or in a measles-rubella (MR) or measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) combination. According to WHO, one-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide occur in India.
 12. The second **India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue** has been started in **New Delhi**.
Note: It will be held under the chairmanship of **Rajiv Kumar** (NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman) and Timur Maksimov (Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of Russia). The first Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg on November 2018. The meeting will focus on six core areas of cooperation, including the development of transport infrastructure and technologies, agriculture and agro-processing sector and small and medium business support.
 13. The **annual festival** at historic **Kataragama temple** attracts devotees from all faiths in **Sri Lanka**.
Note: The festival will end next week on full moon night with a water cutting ceremony. **Thousands of devotees travel** for hundreds of kilo metres on foot to attend the **fortnight-long festival**. The place finds mention in **Skanda Purana** and is popular for centuries-old Hindu temple of Lord Kartika, known locally as Katargama Deviyo. Kataragama (multi-religious city) contains a mosque within the temple complex and a Buddhist temple nearby, considered to be one of the 16 main places of Buddhist pilgrimage in Sri Lanka.
 14. South Korean tech giant **Samsung** has announced its partnership with **Paisabazaar.com** for financial products in India__

- Note:** Now, Paisabazaar.com will support **Samsung Pay** to provide users with a **one-stop solution** to their financial requirements. Users can apply for credit cards and personal loans from the platform.
15. The fifth edition of **International Army Scout Masters Competition** is being held at **Jaisalmer Military Station**.
Note: The competition is a part of **International Army Games** and consists of five stages of competitions which will be conducted over a period of nine days from **06 August 2019** to 14 August 2019 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. It is the first time that India has got an opportunity to host and participate in this prestigious event. Elite teams from eight participating countries including India will undergo a gruelling experience. The other seven countries are Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.
 16. **India** will host the **14th Conference of the Parties (COP)**.
Note: The global conference will be hosted at India Expo Mart Limited in Greater Noida. As many as 197 countries are expected to participate in the conference. The 14th session of COP will stress on three crucial issues - desertification, land degradation and drought.
 17. Indian delegation attends **Global Conference on Media Freedom in London**.
Note: UK Foreign Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** made the announcement at the first Global Conference for Media Freedom in London. The Conference the first of its kind, was also attended by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament Swapan Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member, Press Council.
 18. World's Largest Movable Metal Dome Unveiled in **Ukraine**.
Note: The world's largest **movable metal structure** has been unveiled as the covering for the destroyed reactor at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant. **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** (President of Ukraine) along with his European partners formally inaugurated a new metal dome called as New Safe Confinement. The **1.7 billion** was paid through a special fund launched by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and sponsored by 45 countries.
 19. **French** will impose a tax of up to **€18 on plane tickets for all flights** from airports in France from **2020** to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
Note: A **similar tax** was introduced in Sweden in April 2018, which imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket in a bid to lessen the impact of air travel on the climate. It will see a tax of **€1.5 imposed** on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe, with the highest tariff applied to business-class travellers flying outside the bloc. The new measure is expected to bring in some **€182 million a year** which will be invested in greener transport infrastructures.
 20. **Iran** has breached a **uranium enrichment cap** set by a troubled **2015 nuclear deal** and warned Europe against taking retaliatory measures.
Note: Iran has officially surpassed the 3.67% **Uranium enrichment limit** set under the 2015 nuclear deal. The country had stopped complying with some elements of the **2015 nuclear deal** (officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). Signed by China, France, Germany, European Union, Iran, Russia, the UK and the US, the JCPoA treaty was aimed at limiting Iran's civilian energy programme.
 21. The Russian space agency 'Roscosmos' has successfully launched into space an all-sky-survey satellite, Spektrum-Rontgen-Gamma -- **Spektr-RG**.
Note: It is a joint project of **Roscosmos with German space agency (DLR)** for mapping **X-rays across** the sky to trace the large-scale structure of the universe and mark a new stage in X-ray astronomy. The Russian space agency showed a Proton-M rocket carrying the Spektr-RG taking off from the launch pad. This **new space telescope** with advanced features will replace the Spektr-R, known as the "Russian Hubble", which Roskosmos lost control of in January 2019.
 22. Google India's '**Internet Saathi**' programme aimed to **empower rural women** to use the Internet has added two more states **Punjab & Odisha**.
Note: With this, the programme has now reached **2.6 lakh villages** in 20 states. Launched as a pilot project in 2015, along with Tata Trusts, '**Internet Saathi**' programme focuses on educating women on how to use the Internet. These women, in turn, impart training to other women in their community and neighboring villages.
 23. China has gifted a **warship to Sri Lanka**, in the latest sign of its **deepening military cooperation** with the strategically located island nation in the **Indian Ocean**.
Note: The **China-gifted frigate 'P625'** arrived in Colombo last week. The Type 053 frigate was commissioned into China's People's Liberation Army Navy in 1994 as the Tongling. Also, China's rolling-stock manufacturer has announced that it would shortly deliver nine "new type" of diesel trains to Sri Lanka.
 24. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has declared the 'Ebola crisis' in the **Republic of Congo**.
Note: The UN health agency made the announcement days after the virus was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in north eastern Congo on the Rwandan border. According to Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (WHO director-general), it was time for the world to take notice of the epidemic and called for a redoubling of efforts to battle it back. More than 1,600

people have died since August in the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is unfolding in a region described as a war zone.

25. **UK government** has expanded its **Go Global initiative** to India with the aim of giving **Indian Startups** to grow their business.

Note: This will also help the startups in India to build links with the UK's digital sector and will pave the way for future economic partnerships. Go Global programme is an innovative scheme supporting startups to work with UK expertise to take their firms to the next level.

26. President **Ram Nath Kovind** visited to three **West African** nations **Benin, The Gambia & Guinea**.

Note: India's diplomatic relations with Africa have undergone an unprecedented transformation in the last five years. This will be the first high-level visit for our Head of State from India to all the three countries in West Africa.

27. Prime Minister of Nepal **KP Sharma Oli** has inaugurated '**India-Nepal Logistics Summit**' in **Kathmandu**.

Note: The theme of the summit was "Transforming Logistics Landscape". He stressed upon smooth and quality logistics between India and Nepal. Nepal and India have a significant volume of trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people movement for which smooth and quality logistics including easy transit facilities is very essential.

28. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is on a three-day visit to southern African country **Mozambique**.

Note: India is willing to forge a strong bilateral relationship with Mozambique by increasing regular engagement and cooperation in multiple spheres. Mr Singh will hold talks with President, Defence Minister, Foreign Minister and Interior Minister of Mozambique during his visit. During the defence minister's visit, India will also hand over two fast interceptor boats and 44 SUVs to Mozambique.

Honor & Awards

1. ITBP **Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Aparna Kumar** has become the **first civil servant** to scale Mount Denali in North America.

Note: Currently, **Ms Kumar** posted as DIG, ITBP Northern Frontier at Dehradun. She also became the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition

2. India's chief national **badminton coach Pullela Gopichand** was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur.

Note: He received the honour from former ISRO chairman and Chairman of Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan. Former President **APJ Abdul Kalam** and former Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** are past recipients of the honour.

3. **Achyutanand Sahu (DD News cameraman)** conferred with posthumously '**Narad Samman-2019**'.

Note: **Late Sahu** was martyred in Naxal attack in **Dantewada in Chhattisgarh** in October last year, in the line of duty. Even after having been shot, **Achyutanand** showed exemplary courage and set new standards in journalism. The **2019 Narad Samman** was given in total nine categories.

4. Odisha-based **Navaratna Company National Aluminium Company (NALCO)** has been selected for President's award for utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.

Note: NALCO has started "**Aliali Jhia**" a new scheme on the line of '**BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO**' (from 2015) to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. Under

this scheme, **416 girls** from BPL families of **66 villages** of Anugul, Damanjodi and **Potangi area in Anugul** and Koraput districts have been adopted by Company. The Company is bearing all the expenditure for education and promotion of talent from **8th to 10th class**.

5. As per the **BrandZ Report**, **Amazon** has topped in the 100 Most Valuable Global Brand for 2019.

Note: The brand value of Amazon saw an increase of 52% in 2019 at **USD 315,505 million** (USD 207,594 million- in 2018). Apple is at the second rank followed by Google at 3rd. Three Indian companies (HDFC Bank-60th, LIC-68th & TCS-97th) have found place in the ranking. The BrandZ rankings of the world's most valuable brands have been compiled by WPP's research arm.

6. **Arinjeeta Dey** has won the **silver medal** in the **World Youth Cup**, in the under-12 age group category.

Note: The tournament was held in Umag, Croatia and a total of 35 countries participated in this competition. The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association.

7. **Women's soccer team** successfully claimed the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup -- **United States**.

Note: This is the **record fourth title** for the United States (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019). The other winners are Germany, with two titles; and Japan and Norway with one title each. The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of FIFA, the sport's international governing body.

- **Golden Boot** (top scorer): **Megan Rapinoe** (6 goals)
 - **Golden Ball** (best overall player): **Megan Rapinoe** (USA)
 - **Golden Glove** (best goalkeeper): **Sari van Veenendaal** (Netherlands)
8. Indian movie **Gully Boy** has been honored with the **NETPAC** (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) **Award for Best Asian Film** in South Korea. **Note:** The film '**Gully Boy**' has been directed by **Zoya Akhtar** (released on 14th February 2019). '**Gully Boy**' is inspired by the lives of Mumbai street rappers Vivian Fernandes aka Divine and Naved Shaikh (aka Naezy). **BIFAN** is an international film festival (founded in 1997) with attention to Asian cinema from East Asia and Southeast Asia. **NETPAC** (created in 1990) is a pan-Asian film cultural organization of **29 member countries** which involves critics, filmmakers, distributors and exhibitors, festival, organizers and curators, and film educators.
9. Singe **Taylor Swift** has emerged as the **highest-paid celebrity** with her 2019 estimated earnings to be over USD 185 million. **Note:** This is the second time after 2016 that Swift has surpassed all the celebrities which makes her first music artist to outstrip others twice on the list, reported Variety. Swift's 2018 'Reputation' tour became the highest-grossing tour in the US history collecting over USD 266.1 million. Other celebrities on the list include beauty mogul, Kylie Jenner leading the list at No. 2 with estimated earnings of USD 170 million and Kanye West who stood at No.3 with earning over USD 150 million.
10. Director **Kaushik Ganguly's** Bengali outing was honored with 'Best Feature Film', 'Best Director', 'Best Actor' and 'Best Original Score' awards at the **9th edition** of the SAARC fest in Colombo -- **Nagarkirtan**. **Note:** Nagarkirtan is a love story of a transwoman and a flautist. 'Na Bole Wo Haram' (20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patankar) bagged the 'Best Short Film' award, while 'Walking with the Wind' by Praveen Morchhale received the Special Jury award for direction and story.
11. The **Sportsperson of the Year** in the annual **Indian Oil Sports Conclave -- Sharath Kamal**. **Note:** The other nominees were cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, Grandmaster B Adhiban, hockey player Simranjeet Singh and table tennis player Manika Batra. Sharath Kamal is a professional table **tennis player** from Tamil Nadu, India. Recently he received the fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri. Sharath Kamal is the first Indian table tennis player ever to become nine times Senior National Champion hence breaking the record of Kamlesh Mehta (eight times National Champion).
12. **44 artists** were selected for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018. **Note:** **Zakhir Hussain** (Tabla Maestro), **Sonal Mansingh**(dancer), **Jatin Goswami** (dancer and choreographer) and **K Kalyanasundaram Pillai** (Bharatnatyam exponent) have been selected in the Akademi Ratna category. Diwan Singh Bajeli and Puru Dadhich have been selected for the Akademi Award 2018 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship in the Performing Arts.The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** (since 1952) is an Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture.
13. Sports and **Youth Affairs Minister** conferred Arjuna Awards to **Rohan Bopanna & Smriti Mandhana**. **Note:** **Rohan Bopanna** had won the Gold medal in **tennis men's double category** in Asian Games 2018. **Smriti Mandhana** was the ICC women's player of the year 2018. The award carries a cash prize of **500,000**, a bronze statue of **Arjuna** and a scroll. The duo did not receive the **Arjuna Awards** during the Award ceremony held last year (25th September 2018) in Rashtrapati Bhawan, as they were out of the country taking part in international tournaments.The **Arjuna Awards** (started in 1961) are given by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs** and Sports, Government of India to recognize outstanding achievement in sports.
14. **Shah Rukh Khan has been** honored with an honorary **doctorate degree** from La Trobe University. **Note:** Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan (53-years) to be honoured with an honorary doctorate degree from La Trobe University on 9th August at its Melbourne campus in Bundoora. The award is for his contributions towards underprivileged children, women empowerment initiatives through Meer Foundation. La Trobe University is the first Australian university to award Khan with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).
15. **Find the Incredible You"** campaign has won the **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award**, 2019. **Note:** The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country. The campaign won the award under the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category. As part of the 2.0 campaign, five new television commercials were produced by the ministry, which was aired globally on television and social media. To take the campaigns to the next level, the 'Incredible India 2.0' campaign was launched in September 2017. PATA Gold Awards are given to tourism industry organizations and individuals making an outstanding

- contribution towards the successful promotion of the travel industry throughout the Asia Pacific Region.
16. Indian bodybuilder **Ravinder Kumar Malik** has clinched Mr. South Asia title.
Note: He has crowned the overall champion at 12th **South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship** in Kathmandu, Nepal. Malik, the winner of **80 kg category**, was adjudged **best bodybuilder** among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories. A total of **91 bodybuilders participated** in the championship organized by **South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation** under the auspices of Nepal Bodybuilding and Fitness Association.
 17. Indian batting icon **Sachin Tendulkar** and South African pace legend **Allan Donald** have been inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame 2019.
Note: Two-time World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick also inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame 2019. Sachin Tendulkar (retired in November 2013) has 34,357 runs across formats and is the only batsman to have 100 international hundreds under his belt. Allan Donald is one of the finest bowlers to have played the game and had 330 Test and 272 ODI wickets to his credit before calling it quits in 2003. The ICC Cricket Hall of Fame recognises the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history.
 18. The **Supreme Court of India** has constituted a **three-member high powered committee** to urgently frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of two Indian bird species namely -- **Great Indian Bustard & Lesser Florican**.
 19. **Palau** has become the **76th signatory country** to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.
Note: According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
 20. Noted **Vocalist S. Sowmya** has been chosen for the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** of the Music Academy.
Note: She will preside over the **93rd annual conference** of the Academy to be held between 12 December 2019, and 1st January 2020. Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalists **Seetha Narayanan** and **M.S. Sheela. Sangeetha Kalanidhi** is the title awarded yearly to a **Carnatic Musician** by the Madras Music Academy.
 21. **Keshav Dutt & Prasun Banerjee** has been conferred the '**Mohun Bagan Ratna**'.
Note: Mohun Bagan will also felicitate pacer Mohammed Shami, while Ashok Chatterjee will be given the Lifetime Achievement award. The Mariners will also give Life Memberships to Sourav Ganguly, Chuni Goswami, Dr Vece Paes, Prasenjit Chatterjee and Deb Shankar Halder. One of the oldest surviving hockey Olympians of the country, Duttodned (94-years) the national jersey in the 1948 London Games, where India won the first gold post-Independence, and the former centre halfback won his second Olympic gold in Helsinki 1952.
 22. **Odisha** has won the ownership right **geographical indication (GI)** tag from the **Registrar of Geographical Indication** over its Rasagola.
Note: The Chennai-based Registrar of Geographical Indications issued the ownership certificate registering the sweetmeat as 'Odisha Rasagola' under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The certificate will be valid until 22 February 2028. Both Odisha and West Bengal have been contesting the origin of Rasagola and West Bengal had got GI for "Banglar Rasagola" in 2017.
 23. Renowned Indian sand artist **Padmashri Sudarsan Pattnaik** has won People's Choice Prize at Boston International Sand Art Championship in the US.
Note: Mr. Pattnaik was among the 15 top sand artists selected from across the world to participate in the 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival in Boston. Mr. Pattnaik (Representing India at the festival) bagged the award for his sand art on plastic pollution with the message 'Stop Plastic Pollution, Save Our Ocean'.

Sports News

1. The **iconic tennis championships 'Wimbledon 2019'** (133rd-edition) held in **London, UK**.
Note: The grass court Major Wimbledon Tennis Championships is the third Grand Slam tournament of the year after the 'Australian Open' and the 'French Open'. The Swiss great Roger Federer will be playing

his 21st consecutive Wimbledon. The 2019 Wimbledon Championships is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which took place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.

2. Indian pro boxer **Vaibhav Yadav** has become the **World Boxing Council (WBC)** Asia silver welterweight champion in Pattaya Thailand.
Note: He defeated Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak. The fight was conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the WBC.
3. India's Veer Chotrani has won a gold medal in Under-19 Squash title at the Asian Junior Championship in **Macau, China**.
Note: **Veer Chotrani** beat Yash Fadte. With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to win the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar. In the other two finals, India bagged two silver medals through Neel Joshi in the boys' Under-17 category and Yuvna Gupta in the girls' Under-15 section. India finished the tournament with one gold, three silver and as many bronze medals.
4. **Max Verstappen** has won the 2019 **Austrian Grand Prix** for the second year in a row.
Note: The win was only confirmed three hours after the race finished following an investigation into whether Verstappen unfairly ran Leclerc off the track. The victory of Max Verstappen in the Red Bull Racing RB15 was the first win for a Honda-powered F1 car since Jenson Button in the 2006 Hungarian Grand Prix. He also become the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in 2019. He is the son of former Formula One driver 'Jos Verstappen'.
5. **Odisha Government** will host the **21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship** at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in **Cuttack**.
Note: This championship will see participation from some of the best players from across the world. Sports Secretary Vishal Dev and senior vice president, TTFI SN Sultan and president, OSTTA LN Gupta signing the MoU in presence of CM Naveen Patnaik. The tournament has received a good entry with 14 associations, consisting India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan
6. Indian **middle-order batsman** Ambati Rayudu retired from all forms of cricket.
Note: **Ambati Rayudu** was in India's **official standbys** list for the on-going **World Cup** but was omitted twice. **Rayudu played 55 ODIs** for India, scoring **1694 runs** at an average of 47.05. He, however, did not play any Test. Ambati Thirupathi Rayudu played as a right-handed middle-order batsman, who occasionally kept wicket and bowled right-arm off breaks.
7. Dutch winger has announced his retirement from football after a 10-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich -- **Arjen Robben**.
Note: He has played 96 international matches for the Netherlands, scoring 37 goals. Robben, who joined Bayern in 2009 from Real Madrid, played 309 competitive games for the Bavarian powerhouse, contributing 144 goals and setting up 81 more.
8. Indian sprinter **Hima Das** has won the women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix, Poland.
Note: National record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze medal in the men's shot put with a best effort of 19.62 metre. Hima Das is the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to the 200m gold.
9. Pakistan batsman **Shoaib Malik** confirmed his retirement from one-day cricket.
Note: He will continue to play the Twenty20 format, but he admitted it was an emotional moment to call time on his ODI career. He appeared in 287 one-day internationals and scored 7,534 runs with nine hundred. His last appearance came in the defeat against India in Manchester on June 16.
10. **Brazil** won the **Copa America 2019** Title.
Note: Brazil defeated Peru 3-1 to win its first Copa America title since 2007. The 2019 Copa América (46th edition) was the international men's association football championship organized by South America's football ruling body CONMEBOL.
11. India's wrestler Vinesh Phogat (in 53 Kg category) and Divya Kakran (in 68 kg category) have won Gold Medal at the Grand Prix of **Spain**.
Note: Vinesh comfortably beat Peru's Justina Benites and Russia's Nina Minkenova before getting the better of Dutch rival Jessica Blaszka in the final. Among others, World Championship bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda (57kg), Seema (50kg), Manju Kumari (59kg) and Kiran (76kg) won silver medal. India finished second with 130 points in team championship behind Russia (165-points)
12. India's Badminton player **Parupalli Kashyap** has lost to Li Shi Feng (China) in the men's singles title clash of the Canada Open.
Note: Kashyap entered the final, defeating Taiwan's **Wang Tzu-wei** in a semi-final encounter at Calgary. Feng had defeated Koki Watanabe of Japan in the other semi-final. The 2019 Canada Open (or, YONEX Canada Open 2019) is a badminton tournament took place at Markin-MacPhail Centre in Canada (2-7th July 2019). This tournament is organized by the **Badminton Alberta** and sanctioned by the BWF and Badminton Canada.
13. Norwegian chess grandmaster **Magnus Carlsen** defeated Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) to reach 8/11 and win the Croatia Grand Chess Tour.
Note: The world champion Carlsen won his eighth straight tournament and earned USD 90,000. He scored a 2943 performance and returned to his highest rating

- of 2882. India's Viswanathan Anand ended up with 4.5 points and finished 11th
14. **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has appointed **former cricketer** as the head of National Cricket Academy (NCA) -- **Rahul Dravid**.
Note: Dravid will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and the support staff at the academy. Dravid will look after all cricket-related activities at the NCA and the head coach of India's under-19 & India A team. **National Cricket Academy** (established in 2000) is a cricket facility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for training young cricketers.
 15. Indian captain **Sunil Chhetri** has won the **AIFF Men's footballer** of the year 2018-19 award.
Note: Sunil Chhetri has already won Player of the Year award in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017. Currently, Chhetri plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL).
 16. India midfielder **Abdul Samad** was named the **AIFF Emerging Men's Player** of the Year.
 17. Ace Indian **Women's footballer** has won the Women's footballer of the year award -- **Ashalata Devi**.
Note: The AIFF Player of the Year is an annual association football award presented to the best footballer in India over the previous year (2018-19 season). It has been awarded by All India Football Federation since 1992.
 18. Total number of **two thousand 437 sporting talents** identified for support under '**Khelo India Scheme**'.
Note: Under the scheme, the government provides financial assistance of about five lakh rupees per annum for a period of eight years. The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.
 19. India's sprinter **Dutee Chand** has clinched a Gold medal in the 100-metre dash event at the World Universiade at Napoli in Italy.
Note: She clocked **11.32 seconds** as she led the race from start to finish. **Del Ponte** of Switzerland won the Silver, while German **Lisa Kwayie** took home the Bronze. With the Gold, Dutee has become the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win the coveted yellow metal at the event.
 20. British **racing driver Lewis Hamilton** has won his sixth British Grand Prix.
Note: Hamilton's Mercedes teammate **Valtteri Bottas** looked all set for victory, but a safety car intervention helped Hamilton to seal the victory. Bottas had an early lead from **pole position** and he fought off **Hamilton's challenge** in the starting laps. Hamilton somehow managed to edge ahead in the race later and from there he controlled the race. The 2019 British Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom.
 21. **Pardeep Singh** has created new **Commonwealth record** in the clean & jerk category.
Note: **Pardeep Singh** has created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category on the way to a gold medal as Indian weightlifters continued their impressive run on the Commonwealth Championships in Apia (Samoa). **Pardeep** smashed the record in the clean and jerk event by **lifting 202 kg**. His earlier successful attempt of **148 kg** took his total to 350 kg.
 22. India's **wrestler Vinesh Phogat** has won gold in the **53kg category** at Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul.
Note: **Phogat** beat her **Russian** opponent **Ekaterina Poleshchuk** 9-5 in the final match to bag the gold medal. It was third gold in the **women's competition** for India after **Seema** (50kg) and **Manju** (59kg) triumphed in their respective categories.
 23. India's Boxer **Vijender Singh** clinched a **Technical Knockout** over Mike Snider on his debut in the **US professional circuit** at Newark in the US.
Note: Vijender Singh prevailed in four rounds for his 11th consecutive victory in the circuit. This was Vijender's eighth knockout win in all. Vijender would be aiming to compete in two more fights this year after signing up with Hall of Famer Bob Arum's Top Rank Promotions.
 24. Olympic silver medalist **Amir Khan** clinched the **WBC international** welterweight title.
Note: He knocked out Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He is a British professional boxer who was also Britain's youngest boxer to win a silver medal in the lightweight division at the 2004 Olympics at the age of 17.
 25. Former **India wicketkeeper-batsman** Kiran More has been appointed the **interim coach** of the senior **USA cricket** team.
Note: He will replace the head coach Pubudu Dassanayake (resigned in July 2019). The USA Cricket has also appointed Sunil Joshi (former India spinner) as spin bowling advisor, and Pravin Amre and Kieran Powell as advisors for the batting department.
 26. Odisha Governor **Ganeshi Lal** opened the **21st edition of Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship** at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in **Cuttack**.
Note: The event will witness the top players from Australia, Bangladesh, Cyprus, England, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Scotland, South Africa, Singapore and Wales. Ghana, Guyana and Pakistan pulled out of the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

27. Indian men & women teams have won the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in **Cuttack**.
Note: India women's team clinched their maiden **Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships title**, beating England 3-0 in the final. The men's team survived a stiff challenge from England in the final. The Indian women team won the gold for the first time in the history in the commonwealth games
28. India's **Asian Games silver medal in mixed relay** event to be upgraded to **Gold medal**.
Note: India is in line to get the **Asian Games gold in 4x400 mixed relay** as Kemi Adekoya of Bahrain, who was part of the gold winning team, has been handed a four-year ban for failing a dope test. The silver won by India's mixed relay team of Mohammad Anas, Hima Das, Arokiya Rajiv and M R Poovamma at the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. Athletics Integrity Unit said that Adekoya's results between August 24, 2018 and November 26, 2018 will be disqualified.
29. India's sprinter **Hima Das** has won a gold medal in the **400-meter race** at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.
Note: It was Hima's fifth gold medal since July 2 when she ran her first competitive race in Europe. Hima has already won gold in 200 meters race at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix and Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland earlier this month. She won her third 200 meters gold at the Kladno Athletics Meet and fourth gold at the Tabor Athletics Meet in the Czech Republic.
30. Japan's **Akane Yamaguchi** has won the Indonesia **Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament** held in **Jakarta**.
Note: She defeated India's P.V. Sindhu in the title clash by 21-15, 21-16. P.V. Sindhu will next be seen at the Japan Open (in July) and the Thailand Open (in August) in the lead up to the BWF World Championships. The 2019 Indonesia Open was the fourteenth tournament of the 2019 BWF World Tour and also part of the Indonesia Open championships.
31. **North Korea** has won the **2019 Intercontinental Cup football tournament** (2nd Edition) beating **Tajikistan** by a solitary goal in the final in **Ahmedabad, India**.
Note: The champions got richer by USD 50000 while the runners-up received USD 25000. The 2019 Intercontinental Cup was the second edition of Hero Intercontinental Cup held at Trans Stadia Arena in Ahmedabad between the 7th and 19th of July 2019. The tournament was organized by the AIFF.
32. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** has launched the **All India Football Federation's Golden Baby Leagues handbook 2019-20** on the sidelines of the Intercontinental Cup in Ahmadabad.
Note: The launch marked the renaming of the 'AIFF Baby Leagues' to 'AIFF Golden Baby Leagues', with the emphasis being laid for ages under 6 to under 12 both for girls and boys. The handbook is a guide to help the stakeholder to organise the Golden Baby League. The Leagues aim to provide access to football in localities irrespective of gender, religion, economic background, or ethnic origin.
33. Former Indian athlete **P T Usha** has been nominated for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Veteran Pin.
Note: She will **receive the pin during the opening ceremony** of the **52nd IAAF Congress** in Doha, Qatar. Usha's most memorable performance came in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where she became the first Indian to reach the finals of the 400m hurdles but lost the bronze by one-hundredth of a second. She is often called the "queen of Indian track and field". The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) is the international governing body for the sport of athletics.
34. **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** has approved India's application to host the **ISSF World Cup stages**.
Note: World Cup will be held at the **Dr. Karni Singh Range**, Tughlakabad in New Delhi. (from 15 to 26 March 2020). The last edition of ISSF World Cup was held in Munich, Germany. In February this year, India had hosted a World Cup, which offered Olympic quota places for Tokyo.
35. India's **Sarabjot Singh** has won the **10 metres men's air pistol gold medal** in ISSF Junior World Cup in **Suhl, Germany**.
Note: This is India's ninth yellow metal at ISSF Junior World Cup event. Now, India remains on top of the medal standings with nine gold, nine silver and four bronze for a total of 22 medals. The 2019 ISSF Junior World Cup is the annual edition of the ISSF Junior World Cup, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.
36. Former Pakistan skipper **Inzamam-ul-Haq** has decided to step down as Pakistan chief selector.
Note: According to Inzamam-ul-Haq, he would not seek an **extension or renewal** of his contract, which is due to expire by the end of this month. Inzamam came under severe criticism as the chief selector after Pakistan failed to qualify for the knockouts in the recently concluded ICC Cricket World Cup. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) controls and organises all tours and matches undertaken by the Pakistan national cricket team.
37. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended Cricket team with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution **Zimbabwe Cricket**
Note: The current elected members of Zimbabwe Board were suspended by government agency Sports

- and Recreation Committee (SRC) which was a violation of relevant articles of ICC Constitution. As a consequence of suspension, ICC funding to Zimbabwe Cricket will be frozen and representative teams from Zimbabwe will not be allowed to participate in any ICC events. The **Croatia, Morocco** and Zambia Cricket Union have both also been suspended for continuing to be non-compliant.
- 38. Indian shooters** claimed the gold medal in 25m rapid fire pistol competition at **ISSF Junior World Cup** in Suhl, Germany -- **Anish Bhanwala**.
Note: India has so far won eight gold, seven silver and three bronze medals in the tournament. Indian shooters, Adarsh Singh came fourth with a score of 17. The 2019 ISSF Junior World Cup is the annual edition of the ISSF Junior World Cup, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.
- 39. Delhi's Chess player Prithu Gupta** has become India's **64th** Grandmaster.
Note: Mr. Gupta has achieved the sensational feat at the age of 15 years, 4 months and 10 days. Gupta received his first GM norm at the Gibraltar Masters last year, before achieving the second norm at the Biel Masters the same year. Grandmaster (GM) is a title awarded to chess players by the world chess organization FIDE.
- 40. India's long-distance runner 'Sanjivani Yadav'** has been handed a **two-year suspension** by the IAAF's **Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)** for a doping violation.
Note: Sanjivani Yadav had failed a dope test in November 2018 when her sample taken during the National Inter-State Athletics Championships was found to contain Probenecid, a masking agent. According to International federation's body for combating doping, the athlete admitted to her first violation resulting in disqualification all past results since June 29, 2018. The suspension period also commenced from June 29, 2018.
- 41. Irishman Shane Lowry** has won the British Open Golf.
Note: Lowry became the **second player** from the **Republic of Ireland** to win a major after Padraig Harrington. The **2019 Open Championship** was the 148th Open Championship, played at **Royal Portrush Golf Club** in County Antrim, Northern Ireland.
- 42. India's first gold medallist Shiva Thapa** has won the President's Cup boxing tournament in 63-kg at Astana, Kazakhstan.
Note: Four-time Asian medalist Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury. Woman boxer Parveen (60kg) lost her final bout to Rimma Volosenko and claimed a silver medal.
- 43. Britain's swimmer Adam Peaty** has broken his own world record in the men's **100-metre breaststroke** at the **World Championships** in Gwangju, South Korea.
Note: Adam Peaty (24-years) smashed the previous record (57.10 seconds) that was set by him at last year's European Championships, after winning the semi-finals in 56.88 seconds. Now, Adam Peaty has swum the event 1.4 seconds faster than anyone else in history.
- 44. The Maharashtra sports department** has sought funds of over **Rs one crore** for ace shooter **Rahi Sarnobat**.
Note: Sarnobat hails from Kolhapur district in western Maharashtra, has qualified for the next year's Tokyo Olympics. According to a senior Government official, Players who can seek funds need to have resided in Maharashtra for 15 years and should have won at least one medal in junior or senior national competitions.
- 45. Abhay & Tanvi Khanna** clinched the **men's** and **women's titles** in the 6th Bengal Open squash tournament in Kolkata.
Note: Singh defeated top seed Abhishek Pradhan 11-6 11-6 11-4, while Tanvi fought her way past Tamil Nadu's Aparajitha Balamurukan 11-7 11-6 5-11 13-11. Earlier, the under-15 category witnessed a thrilling battle with fifth-seeded Tamil Nadu girl Shameena Riaz upsetting top seed Soniya Bajaj from Maharashtra 9-11 11-7 11-5 7-11 11-8. Daughter of former India hockey captain Mohammed Riaz, Shameena recently won the U-15 title at the Goregaon Sports Club All India Squash Open in Mumbai.
- 46. Sri Lankan fast bowling ace Lasith Malinga** has retired from **ODI-Cricket**.
Note: Malinga is the third-highest wicket-taker for the island country behind Muttiah Muralitharan and Chaminda Vaas. He has taken 335 wickets from 225 one-day internationals for Sri Lanka. He has also taken three ODI hat-tricks and is the only player to have achieved the milestone twice during a World Cup.
- 47. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** formally recognised the **Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA)**, under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
Note: Former India cricketers Kapil Dev, Ajit Agarkar and Shantha Rangaswamy are the directors at ICA and will hold their positions until elections are held. The ICA is not affiliated to Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and is only open to former men and women cricketers, unlike the players' associations in most countries.
- 48. Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Ehsan Mani** has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance and Commercial Affairs committee.
Note: The F&CA assists the ICC in discharging its responsibilities in relation to all financial and

- commercial matters. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has 104 cricket playing nations as members including 11 full members and other as associate members.
49. The Indian football team **slipped two places** in the FIFA -- **103rd**.
Note: India has 1214 ranking points to its kitty, down by five points from the previous chart issued last month. The Indian team now lies at 18th among Asian countries. Iran (23rd) is at the top among Asian countries, followed by Japan (33), Korea (37), Australia (46) and Qatar (62). Overall, Belgium leads the chart, followed by Brazil, France, England and Uruguay.
50. The **Goa state** Government is not able to host the **36th National Games** in November 2019.
Note: The Goa government has requested the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to allot fresh dates in May 2020. Recently, The IOA had fined the Goa government for frequently missing the deadlines to host the games in the last four years. The National Games were earlier scheduled to be held in March- April 2019 but were postponed to November on account of Lok Sabha elections, by polls.
51. Pakistan **Speedster** called time on his Test career -- **Mohammed Amir**.
Note: Amir made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in Galle in July 2009 and he featured in 36 Tests, taking 119 wickets at an average of 30.47. In July 2019, he was selected to play for the Dublin Chiefs in the inaugural edition of the Euro T20 Slam cricket tournament.
52. The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has officially announced new sponsors of **Team India -- Byju**.
Note: BYJU'S (Bengaluru-based online tutorial company) will be taking over the sponsorship from OPPO. Now, BYJU'S will be seen on the Indian team jersey from September 2019 when the home series against South Africa. Oppo had won the Indian team sponsorship rights in March of 2017 by bidding Rs 1079 crores.
53. **Mary Kom and Simranjit Kaur** grabbed a gold medal in **23rd President's Cup Boxing Tournament** in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.
Note: The Olympic bronze medallist **Mary Kom** (in 51kg category) decimated Australian **April Franks** 5-0 in finals. **Simranjit Kaur** (in 60kg category) defeated Indonesia's **Asian Games bronze medallist** Hasanah Huswatun 5-0 in the final bout. With this, Indian boxers finished their campaign in the Tournament with nine medals.
54. **Bajrang Punia** booked a berth in **India's World Championship squad** in the 65kg category.
Note: Punia was born in Khudan village of Jhajjar district in the state of Haryana, India.
55. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju** has received the Special Olympics Torch '**Flame of Hope**' in New Delhi.
Note: The Flame of Hope after travelling from Singapore to Delhi, reached New Delhi. The championship will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai from 3rd to 6th August 2019. The 'Flame of Hope' symbolizes courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities around the globe.
56. Red Bull's driver **Max Verstappen** clinched the rain-hit German Grand Prix at Hockenheim in Germany.
Note: Four-time **former champion Ferrari** driver **Sebastian Vettel** claimed the second spot after starting from the rear of the grid. Russian **Daniil Kvyat** achieved the third spot for Toro Rosso followed by Canadian **Lance Stoll** in fourth in Racing Point. The **2019 German Grand Prix** was a Formula One motor race which was held on 28 July 2019 at the Hockenheimring in Germany.
57. Indian Test opener Prithvi Shaw has been suspended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a doping violation till **15th November 2019**.
Note: According to a **BCCI release**, Shaw had inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance, which can be commonly found in cough syrups. Mr Shaw had provided a urine sample as part of the BCCI's anti-doping testing program during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match on 22nd February 2019 in Indore. Prithvi Shaw became the second-youngest Indian after Tendulkar to make a Test century and the youngest Indian to do so on Test debut.
58. The third edition of '**Khelo India Youth Games**' will be held in **Guwahati**.
Note: It will see the participation of more than 10,000 athletes and officials. It will be conducted in partnership with Indian Olympic Association, School Games Federation of India & Assam as host State. The inaugural edition was held in New Delhi, while Pune hosted the second one this year. Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) are the national level multidisciplinary Grassroot games in India held for two categories, namely under-17 years school students and under-21 college students.
59. American sprinter **Dalilah Muhammad** has broken the world 400m hurdles record at the US Championships.
Note: She clocked 52.20 seconds on the final day of action of the championships to achieve the feat. The Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad was 0.14 seconds faster to Russia's Yuliya Pechonkina, who had set the previous world record (52.34sec) on 3rd August 2003.
60. **Chandigarh** has received affiliation from the **Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI)** in India.
Note: This was stated by Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) President **Sanjay Tandon**. Earlier,

The BCCI had told Chandigarh Cricket Association (Punjab) and Chandigarh Cricket Association (Haryana) to merge into the UTCA and form a unified body to represent Chandigarh.

61. The inaugural ICC World Test Championship will be played over **two years**.

Note: The World Test Championship will witness the top nine Test teams in the world compete in 71 Test

62. Serbian Tennis Player **Novak Djokovic** has won 2019 Wimbledon title.

Note: Djokovic defeated Swiss tennis ace **Roger Federer** 7-6, 1-6, 7-6, 4-6, 13-12 in the final match. The match had to be decided in the fifth set, as both **Federer and Djokovic** won two sets each in the longest ever final to be played so far. This is Djokovic's **16th Grand Slam** and **5th Wimbledon title**. Simona Halep (Romania) has won **2019 Wimbledon women's title** after defeating Serena Williams 6-2 6-2 in the final match.

matches across 27 series. The two top teams will then go head to head in the World Test Championship final to be held in the United Kingdom in 2021. Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies are the nine teams that will battle it out for the top honours in the World Test Championship.

2019 Wimbledon Championships Winners List:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Men's Singles	N. Djokovic (Serbia)
2.	Women's Singles	S. Halep (Romania)
3.	Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal (Colombia) & Robert Farah (Colombia)
4.	Women's Doubles	S W. Hsieh (Taiwan) & B. Strycova (Czech Republic)
5.	Mixed Doubles	I. Dodig (Croatia) & L. Chan (Taiwan)

63. **England** lifted the **ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy 2019** at the Lord's cricket stadium in London.

Note: England beat New Zealand in a **nerve-wracking final** that was decided via a dramatic Super Over. Batting first after winning the toss, New Zealand put up a modest 241 for eight in 50-overs. In reply, England ended at the same score leading to the one-over eliminator at the Lord's. In the Super Over, England batted first and the duo of Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler made 15, and New Zealand also ended at the same score but for the loss of one wicket, paving the way for an English victory on boundary count.

Note: The **ICC Cricket World Cup** (13th edition) will be held in India from **9th February** to **26th March** 2023.

Top 2019 ICC World Cup Awards

Sl. No.	Awards	Players /Team
1.	Winner	England (1st Time)
2.	Runner-Up	New Zealand
3.	Golden Bat (Most Runs)	Rohit Sharma (India), 648 Runs
4.	Golden Ball (Most Wickets)	Mitchel Stark (Australia), 27 Wickets
5.	Man of the Match	Ben Stokes (England)
6.	Man of the Tournament	Kane Williamson (New Zealand), 578 runs
7.	Hosts	England and Wales
8.	Highest Individual Score	David Warner (Australia), 166 runs against Bangladesh
9.	Best Bowling Figures	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan), 35-6 against Bangladesh
10.	Most Sixes	Eoin Morgan (England), 22 sixes

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Karnataka Bank Ltd. MD & CEO M S Mahabaleshwara has launched the web tool to digitalize the NPA recovery process of the bank -- **Vasool So-Ft**.
Note: The tool will enable easy and faster processing, real-time information and immediate decision making in the recovery area. The bank has joined hands with a local **IT start-up** to develop the tool for recovery management.
2. **Punjab & Sind Bank** has set up the Centralized MSME & Retail Group (Cen-MARG) for credit facilities at its head office in New Delhi.
Note: This will help branches focus better on lead generation for retail and MSME lending and enhanced customer service. The Cen-MARG would be linked with pan-India branches in a phased manner. The bank is aiming to bring about much-enhanced customer satisfaction through this initiative.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided not to impose any charges on Fund transfer through systems -- **RTGS and NEFT**.
Note: RBI has also asked banks to pass on the benefits to customers from the same day. The transaction cost comprises two components-RBI's charges plus banks' services charges based on the infrastructure cost they incur. The Real-Time Gross Settlement system is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers, while the National Electronic Funds Transfer system is used for fund transfers of up to 2 lakh rupees.
4. According to data released by the government, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections narrowly missed crossing Rs. **1 lakh-crore** in June 2019.
Note: Total gross GST revenue collected in June 2019 is **RS. 99,939 crores**. CGST (Collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale) is **Rs. 18,366 crores**. SGST (Collected by the State Government on an intra-state sale) is **RS. 25,343 crores**. IGST (Collected by the Central Government for inter-state sale) is **Rs. 47,772 crores**. Cess (Cess knew as a tax on tax) is **Rs. 8,457 crores**. The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of May up to 30th June is **Rs. 38 lakhs**.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a Working Group of six members headed by **Tapan Ray** to Review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies.
Note: Mr. Tapan Ray is a **Non-Executive Chairman** of Central Bank of India and **former Secretary**, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India. The committee will **suggest measures** to strengthen corporate governance and disclosure requirements for CICs, assess the adequacy of supervisory returns submitted by CICs and suggest changes therein and various other things for the betterment of CIC.
6. The union **finance minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman** has presented the maiden union budget for 2019-20 in Lok Sabha.
Note: This is the first Budget of the Narendra Modi Government in the second tenure. The annual financial statement of a government, the Union budget gives details about the revenue and expenditure of the Centre in the past and estimated spending and projections for the coming year.
7. The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed **A K Misra as the** additional director on the board of Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
Note: He is a former **executive director** of RBI. A K Misra shall hold the office for a **period of two years** up to July 2, 2021, or till further orders.
8. **B Harideesh Kumar** has been appointed as the Director of **Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS)** for a period of three years.
Note: Earlier, he was the Executive Director of **Canara Bank**. He is a **Post-Graduate with a Degree** in Law and started his banking career with erstwhile Vijaya Bank in the year 1978. The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) is a recruitment body that was started with an aim to encourage the recruitment and placement of young graduates in public sector banks in India, other than the State Bank of India
9. **Airtel Payments Bank** to sell term insurance of **Bharti AXA Life**
Note: Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer the Bharti AXA Life POS Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana through its extensive network of banking points across the country. Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana is a pure life term insurance plan which is aimed at the underinsured and un-insured segments in India.
10. The **union government** has inked pact with IBM India for undertaking a **pilot study** to utilize **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
Note: 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. IBM's Watson Decision

Platform will give solution in the field of agriculture through AI and **weather technology** at village level/ farm level to provide weather forecast and soil moisture information on the pro bono basis to help farmers for taking decisions regarding water and crop management for better production and productivity.

11. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** board has finalized a **three- year roadmap** named -- **Utkarsh 2022**.

Note: To identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years, an internal committee was formed. It was headed by outgoing Deputy Governor Viral Acharya. This is in line with the **practice of Central Banks** across the world, that make long term and short-term plans.

12. The **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 Series-II** is now open for the issue from 8th July to **12th July 2019**.

Note: Government of India has decided to offer a discount of **Rs 50 per gram** less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode. For such investors, the issue price of Gold Bond will be Rs 3,393/-per gram of gold. The minimum investment in the Bonds shall be one gram with a maximum limit of subscription per fiscal year of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for **Hindu Undivided Family (HUF)** and 20 kg for trusts. The **tenor of these Bonds** will be for a period of 8 years (exit option after the 5th year).

13. According to **Swiss brokerage firm UBS**, India's **GDP growth rate** for FY20 (2019-20) predicted at **6.7%**.

Note: This is 20 bps less than its earlier prediction of 6.9%. As per UBS, India's GDP growth rate in FY19 was 6.8%. The brokerage expects the Reserve Bank to ease the policy rate by another 75 basis points as against its previous forecast 25 basis points in FY20. The lack of fiscal impetus in the budget opens the door for higher monetary easing than market expectations.

14. PAN not linked to **Aadhaar card will become invalid** from **1st September 2019**

Note: To validate and continue using the existing PAN cards, citizens will have to link them to Aadhaar. A person will be permitted to use Aadhaar instead for filing returns and while making other high-value transactions, specified under the Income Tax Act. At present 180 out of the existing 400 million PAN cards are not linked to Aadhaar.

15. RBI's **Working Group** recommends extension of market hours from **9 am to 9 pm**.

Note: 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 for both **Over the Counter (OTC)** and Exchange Traded. At present the **markets close at 5 pm**.

16. The **Kerala Govt.** has set up **Non-Resident Keralites Investment** company.

Note: 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.

17. **Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC)** has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with BRICS of Commerce and Industry for promoting trade and investments between **BRICS countries** and eastern part of India.

Note: It was signed by Sitaram Sharma, BCC president and B B L Madhukar, BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General.

18. As per the Ministry of **Statistics and Programme Implementation data**, Retail inflation increased marginally to **3.18% in June**.

Note: The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.05 per cent (in May) and 4.92 per cent (in June) last year. As per the CPI data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the food inflation was 2.17% in June this year, up from 1.83 per cent in the preceding month. The **Reserve Bank of India** mainly factors in retail inflation while deciding the bi-monthly monetary policy.

19. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has penalized **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Union Bank of India** for violating certain regulatory guidelines.

Note: SBI was fined **Rs. 7 crores** for non-compliance with the **directions issued by the RBI** on Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, code of conduct for opening and operating current accounts and reporting of data on Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC), 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 cybersecurity framework in banks.

20. The Union government has lowered the interest rate on the General Provident Fund (GPF) by 10 basis points at the rate of **7.9%**.

Note: This is at par with the **Public Provident Fund (PPF)**, the small saving scheme with the longest maturity. All government employees who joined service on or before December 31, 2003, contribute to GPF. GPF (General Provident Fund) is a savings scheme available to government employees. GPF is managed by the **Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare** under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

21. Andhra Bank MD & CEO **J Packirisamy** has launched an **Artificial Intelligence** interactive assistant chatbot named -- **ABHi**.

Note: Customers can connect and know details from 'ABHi' through website andhrabank.in over Mobile/Desktop browser, Facebook Messenger and over voice using Google Assistant. With ABHi, customers will be able to get the information **instantaneously 24x7**. The Bank's AI-powered chatbot-ABHi uses latest **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithm to understand the customer query and fetch the relevant information from the possible knowledge base in a matter of milliseconds

22. According to the **latest weekly RBI data**, India's foreign currency assets, which are a major component of the overall reserves, slipped by **USD 1.11 billion to USD 399.697 billion**.

Note: The central bank said that despite an ongoing massive rally in gold prices, the country's gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 24.304 billion. It stated that the Special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund fell by USD 1.2 million to USD 1.450 billion. The country's reserve position with the fund also declined by USD 1.5 million to USD 3.345 billion.

23. **NABARD** will raise long-term funds of **Rs 60,000 crore** through nonconvertible debentures in the current financial year 2019-20.

Note: The own requirement of funds for NABARD is assessed at Rs 30,000 crore. The remaining Rs 30,000 crore will be for the Centre to cover the shortfall in various schemes in rural development and sanitation in FY20. NABARD has already raised Rs 11,000 crore in the first quarter ended June 30, 2019. Chairman of NABARD- Harsh Bhanwala.

24. US-based software firm '**Ebix**' has announced acquisition of travel portal Yatra Online for USD 337.8 million.

Note: Now, Yatra will become part of Ebix's travel portfolio '**EbixCash**' and will continue to serve customers under the Yatra brand.

25. HDFC Bank and **Common Services Centres** launched a co-branded '**Small Business Money-Back Credit Card**' for small traders and **village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs)**.

Note: The card was launched by **Aditya Puri** (HDFC Bank MD) and **Dinesh Kumar Tyagi** (CSC Chief). The credit card is specifically designed for CSC's VLEs and VLE-sourced customers. It will give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses. At present, as much as **Rs 70,000 crore worth** of business is transacted through the network of Common Services Centres (CSCs).

26. Larsen & Toubro Infotech Ltd acquires AI firm Lymbyc for **Rs 38 crore**.

Note: Lymbyc's expertise in data discovery, agile analytics and ability to process large data sets, will enhance LTI's Mosaic platform to provide differentiated analytics solutions. Lymbyc is a Bengaluru-headquartered company known for its capabilities in analytics and data sciences space.

27. According to the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, India's projected **GDP growth rate** for the current fiscal year from 7.2% to **7%**.

Note: The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a regional development bank established on **19th December 1966**, Headquartered in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. The **ADB is a social development organization** that is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. ADB has **68 members** (as of 23 March 2019): **49 members from the Asian and Pacific Region**, 19 members from Other Regions.

28. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflow has increased **USD 64.38 billion** during the year 2018-19.

Note: According to commerce ministry sources, it has been the endeavor of the government to put in place an enabling and investor friendly FDI policy. The intent is to make the FDI policy more investor-friendly and remove the policy bottlenecks that have been hindering investment inflow into the country.

29. The **GST Council** has decided to reduce **GST Rate on Electrical Vehicles** from 12% to **5%**.

Note: The **GST Council** also decided to reduce the rate on **Electric Vehicle Chargers** from 18% to 5%. The **new rates** will come into effect from the **1st of this month**. The Council also approved an exemption from GST on the hiring of **Electric Buses** by local authorities.

30. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a fine of about 26 lakh rupees on two online payment solutions providers **Mobikwik Systems Private Limited & Hip Bar Pvt Ltd** for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.

Note: According to Reserve Bank of India, Mobikwik Systems Private Limited has been slapped a fine of 15 lakh rupees while Hip Bar Pvt Ltd faced a fine of 10.85 lakh rupees. These two prepaid payment instrument

- (PPI) issuers were levied a monetary penalty for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
31. **Reserve Bank of India** has liberalized the end-use stipulations for the External Commercial Borrowings both for corporates as well as liquidity starved non-banking lenders.
Note: Liberalization will be **applicable to ECBs taken** for working capital, general corporate purpose loans or repayment of rupee loans. Corporate borrowers will be able to avail of ECBs to repay rupee loans taken for Capital expenditures if they are into manufacturing or infrastructure building and classified as Special Mention Account, SMA-2 or Non-Performing Asset, under any one-time settlement arrangement with lenders.
 32. Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** and Insurance giant **LIC (Life Insurance Corporation)** has agreed to offer **Rs 1.25 trillion lines** of credit by 2024, to fund highway projects.
Note: The fund will be a part of **innovative modes of financing** to meet India's huge infrastructure appetite. The **Road Transport and Highways Ministry** been looking to harness various sources of finances including pension and insurance funds. The fund will be provided for the timely execution of the **Rs 8.41 trillion ambitious** Bharatmala project that aims to lay a grid of highways pan-India.
 33. **Digital Communications Commission (DCC)** has approved the cumulative penalty of **Rs 3,050 crore** on Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.
Note: The penalty was imposed by **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** for not providing points of interconnection to **Reliance Jio** when it entered the market.
 34. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has tightened norms that governs resolution professionals (RPs), when they are in possession of authorization to take up work under insolvency law.
Note: Restrictions will also be in place for relatives of RPs in accepting employment after completion of resolution process.
 35. **Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries** has jumped 42 places to become the **highest-ranking Indian** firm on the Fortune Global 500 list.
Note: US giant Walmart continues to top the Fortune 500 list followed by Chinese state-owned oil and gas company Sinopec Group, which moved one rank up. Dutch company **Royal Dutch Shell** was ranked third followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid. This year, ranked 106, Reliance Industries (RIL) has replaced IOC (117) as the top-ranked Indian company on the Global 500 list.
 36. **US regulators** formalized a record 5 billion US Dollar fine on **Facebook**.
Note: US regulators found the violation of users' privacy in the Cambridge Analytica data scandal involving 87 million users. According to Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the penalty was the largest ever imposed on any company for violating consumers' privacy and one of the largest penalties ever assessed by the US government for any violation. The FTC initiated the investigation after a scandal involving former British consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, which was accused of illegally accessing data of more than 87 million Facebook users without their prior knowledge.

Obituaries

1. **Telugu story writer Abburi Chaya Devi** passed away in Kondapur, Hyderabad.
Note: Some of her **popular stories** are Bonsai Bathuku, Prayanam Sukhantam, Akhariki Aidu Nakshatralu, and Wood Rose. She won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005 for her book 'Thana Margam.' She also won Vasireddi Ranganayakamma award (in 1993) and Telugu University's best woman writer award (in 1996) for her book, Mrythyunjaya. Chayadevi worked as Deputy Librarian at JNU, New Delhi, and took voluntary retirement in 1982.
2. Malayalam director **Babu Narayanan** passed away at Thrissur in Kerala.
Note: He directed several Malayalam hits such as 'Kudumba Vishesham' and 'Welcome to Kodaikanal'. Babu Narayanan was also part of the Anil-Babu duo that made several box office hits like Sthreedhanam, Pattabhishekam. Babu Narayanan was born to **Narayana Pisharody** and **Devaki Pisharasiar** at Calicut.
3. Professional motorcycle racer **Carlin Dunne** passed away during Ducati Streetfighter V4 prototype run at Pikes Peak Hill Climb.
Note: He had earned the title of "King of the Mountain" after becoming the first motorcycle rider in the history of the race to achieve a sub-10-minute time in 2012 while piloting a modified Ducati.

4. Legendary **American automobile executive Lee Iacocca** passed away.
Note: Mr Iacocca is best known for the development of Ford Mustang and Pinto cars and saving Chrysler Corporation from bankruptcy. Iacocca began his career in 1946 at the Ford Motor Company, first as an engineer and then in sales.
5. Veteran **industrialist Basant Kumar Birla** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: He was the Chairman of the BK Birla Institute of Engineering and Technology, Krishnarpan Charity Trust and about 25 other educational trusts and institutes. BK built educational institutions ranging from schools and colleges to engineering and management institutes across the country.
6. Brazilian singer, guitarist and songwriter **Joao Gilberto** passed away.
Note: He was considered one of the fathers of the bossa nova genre that gained global popularity in the 1960s and became an iconic sound of the South American nation. Bossa nova is a fusion of samba and jazz that emerged in the late 1950s and gained a worldwide in the 1960s. Over his career, he won two Grammy awards and was nominated for six, and the US jazz magazine Down Beat in 2009 named him one of the 75 great guitarists in history and one of the five top jazz singers.
7. Former **Goa minister Wilfred Mesquita** passed away at a hospital in Mumbai after a brief illness.
Note: Mr Mesquita was the founder vice president of the then ruling Maharashtra Gomantak Party (youth wing) in 1974. He served as the cabinet minister in late 1990s in the then Congress-led state government. Mr Mesquita held various portfolios like revenue, environment, sports and youth affairs, power, law and judiciary and legislative affairs.
8. Former **Indian football team goalkeeper A. U. Celestine** passed away after a brief illness.
Note: Celestine played for the Tamil Nadu men's team in the Senior Nationals as a goalkeeper (in 1965) and National Championships (in 1969). He had represented India in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in 1969.
9. Former **Bengal leg-spin** great **Soumendranath Kundu** passed away.
Note: Former Bengal and Railway leg-spinner **Soumendranath Kundu** (77-years) passed away in Kolkata. Kundu was bestowed with the **Lifetime Achievement award** by the Cricket Association of Bengal in 2013-14. Kundu took **127 wickets** in 30 First-Class matches between 1958-59 and 1968-69.
10. **Telugu story writer Abburi Chaya Devi** passed away in Kondapur, Hyderabad.
Note: Some of her **popular stories** are Bonsai Bathuku, Prayanam Sukhantam, Akhariki Aidu Nakshatralu, and Wood Rose. She won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005 for her book 'Thana Margam.' She also won Vasireddi Ranganayakamma award (in 1993) and Telugu University's best woman writer award (in 1996) for her book, Mrythyunjaya. Chayadevi worked as Deputy Librarian at JNU, New Delhi, and took voluntary retirement in 1982.
11. Malayalam director **Babu Narayanan** passes away at Thrissur in Kerala.
Note: He directed several Malayalam hits such as 'Kudumba Vishesham' and 'Welcome to Kodaikanal'. Babu Narayanan was also part of the Anil-Babu duo that made several box office hits like Sthreedhanam, Pattabhishekam. Babu Narayanan was born to Narayana Pisharody and Devaki Pisharasiar at Calicut.
12. Former **Olympic boxing gold medalist** and four-weight World Champion **Pernell Whitaker** passed away after he was hit by a vehicle in Virginia.
Note: **Pernell Whitaker** won world titles at lightweight, light **welterweight**, welterweight and light middleweight.
13. Bangladesh's former **military dictator Hussain Muhammad Ershad** passed away due to complications from old age in Dhaka.
Note: Ershad (Former army chief) took over the state power in a **bloodless coup in 1982** and subsequently ran the country for eight years until he was forced to quit in a pro-democracy mass upsurge in 1990. **Ershad emerged** as one of the most powerful political leaders in the 1990s after his Jatiya Party became the country's third-biggest political outfit.
14. **Lok Janshakti Party MP Ram Chandra Paswan** passed away at the **Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital** in New Delhi.
Note: He was the younger brother of Union minister and LJP chief Ram Vilas Paswan. In May 201, he was elected to the Lower House of Parliament from Samastipur in Bihar for the fourth time on LJP ticket.
15. Former BJP Delhi President **Mange Ram Garg** passed away.
Note: He played a pivotal role in strengthening BJP in Delhi. Garg represented the Wazirpur Assembly

- constituency in the national capital between 2003 and 2008.
- 16. Former Delhi Chief Minister** and veteran Congress leader **Shiela Dikshit** passed away at Escorts Fortis hospital in Delhi.
Note: She was suffering from a heart ailment for a long time. Dikshit served as the Chief Minister of Delhi for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013. Presently she was holding the office of Delhi Congress President.
- 17. One of the founders** of the radical outfit **Dalit Panther** passed away at his residence in Mumbai -- **Raja Dhale**.
Note: Mr. Dhale along with others in **1972 founded Dalit Panther** with an aim to raise the voice of Dalits more aggressively in the State. **Dalit Panther** is a youth-based organization inspired by the Black Panther outfit of African Americans in the US.
- 18. Former Japanese diplomat** and **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** chief **Yukiya Amano** passed away.
Note: Amano (72-years) who had wide experience in disarmament, non-proliferation diplomacy and nuclear energy, had been chief of the key **U.N. agency** that regulates nuclear issues worldwide since 2009. He was deeply involved in the years-long negotiations that led to the landmark Iran nuclear deal with world powers that restricted the country's nuclear uranium enrichment. As Head of the IAEA, Amano also dealt with the aftermath of the devastating 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan.
- 19. Australia's tennis champion 'Peter McNamara'** passed away after a quiet **battle with cancer** in Germany.
Note: Peter McNamara won three doubles Grand Slam titles and became a prominent coach after hanging up his racquet. McNamara won five singles titles and 19 in doubles and teamed up with compatriot Paul McNamee to win the Australian Open doubles in 1979 and Wimbledon twice in 1980 and 1982.
- 20. Dutch film actor** Rutger Hauer passed away at his home in the **Netherlands**.
Note: He acted in both Dutch and English-language TV series and films. Hauer's roles included a terrorist in 'Nighthawks' with Sylvester Stallone, Cardinal Roark in 'Sin City' and playing an evil corporate executive in 'Batman Begins.' Hauer founded the Rutger Hauer Starfish Association, an AIDS awareness organization.
- 21. Russian boxer** passed away following injuries suffered in his IBF light-welterweight -- **Maxim Dadashev**.
Note: Dadashev was reportedly unable to walk to the dressing room after his bout was stopped by trainer Buddy McGirt at the end of the 11th round. He was hospitalized with bleeding on the brain and underwent emergency surgery but failed to recover. Dadashev had won all of his previous 13 fights but had to absorb a barrage of punches from Puerto Rican Matias during the course of the fight in Maryland.
- 22. Tunisia's President Beji Caid Essebsi** passed away in a military hospital.
Note: He was the major figure in the country's transition to democracy after the Arab spring. Essebsi was the oldest head of state after the Queen, has been a major figure in Tunisian politics since the uprisings that led to the overthrow of the long-time despot Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. Tunisia is often described as the lone success story of the revolutions of 2011 because of its slow but steady progress towards democracy, despite extended economic problems.
- 23. King Salman's elder half-brother** Prince Bandar passed away.
Note: He was the **eldest living son** of the late King **Abdulaziz Al Saud**. Prince Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud was not an active political royal within the ruling Al Saud family and had been passed over in the line of succession to the throne.
- 24. Meghalaya Assembly Speaker Donkumar Roy** passed away in Gurgaon following a brief illness.
Note: Mr. Donkumar Roy was elected as the assembly speaker in March 2018. Donkumar Roy served as Chief Minister of Meghalaya (from 19th March 2008 to 18th March 2009). He was the head of the **United Democratic Party**, a political party recognized in Meghalaya.
- 25. Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister S Jaipal Reddy** passed away in a hospital in Hyderabad.
Note: He was a **four-term MLA**, member of **Lok Sabha for five terms** and member of **Rajya Sabha** for two terms.
- 26. Noted economist and former RBI Deputy Governor** passed away -- **Subir Vithal Gokarn**.
Note: Gokarn served as the Deputy Governor of the RBI between 2009 and 2013, during the tenure of Governor D Subbarao. Gokarn was also Chief Economist of Standard & Poor's Asia-Pacific and Chief Economist of CRISIL. In 2015, he was appointed as Executive Director on the board of the IMF (International Monetary Fund).



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