

Monthly GK Digest

August 2019



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Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Postal Department has decided to convert the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** into **Small finance bank (SFB)**.
Note: Besides, the department also looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days. According to the Postal Department statement, the decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar.
2. The total gross revenue collected under **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** in the month of July 2019) was **Rs. 1,02,083 crores**.
Note: It consisted of Central GST component of 17,912 crore rupees and State GST 25,008 crore rupees along with the Integrated GST revenue which was 50,612 crore rupees and Cess collection was 8,551 crore rupees. During the period from April to July 2019, the domestic component has grown by 9.2 per cent while the GST on imports has come down by 0.2% and the total collection has grown by 6.83%. An amount of 17,789 crore rupees has been released to the states as GST compensation for the months of April and May last.
3. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty ranging between one to two crore rupees on Seven public sector banks**.
Note: According to **RBI press release**, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Union Bank of India were fined 1.5 crore rupees each, while **Allahabad Bank** and Bank of Maharashtra were penalized 2 crore rupees each. Oriental Bank of Commerce was penalized with **1 crore rupees**. In a separate release, RBI said a fine of **1 crore rupees** was levied on Corporation Bank for non-compliance of norms on cybersecurity framework as well as fraud classification and reporting.
4. **SBI** has become the **1st Indian bank** to link up with China's National Advance Payment System.
Note: The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in mainland China, as well as in all clearing banks in offshore yuan centres, such as Hong Kong. The CIPS already has participants from multiple countries across the globe.
5. The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) facility will be available for the customers **round-the-clock**.

Note: According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the RBI will make available the NEFT system on a 24x7 basis from December 2019. Currently, **NEFT payment system** operated by the Reserve Bank as a retail payment system is available for customers from 8 AM to 7 PM on all working days of the week except 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. RBI has also decided to create a central payments fraud information registry system to deal banking frauds adding that the details of the same will be shared later.

6. India contributed to the **UN Palestine refugee agency** and called for ensuring sustained fiscal support for the **organization work -- USD 5 million**.
Note: The cheque for the amount was handed over to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian Refugees by Representative of India (ROI) in Palestine, Sunil Kumar, at the Agency's headquarters in Jerusalem. The UNRWA has been providing health, education, relief and social services, as well as emergency humanitarian assistance, across its five areas of operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since 1950.
7. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cuts repo rate by **35 basis points**.
Note: **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2019-20 in Mumbai. The RBI reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75 per cent to 5.40 per cent with immediate effect. This is the fourth consecutive time that the Monetary Policy Committee has reduced the rates (25 basis points each). Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 5.15 per cent. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 5.65 per cent. The MPC also decided to maintain the accommodative stance of monetary policy.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	5.40%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.15 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.65%
Bank Rate	5.65%

8. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has launched a new term insurance plan called -- **Jeevan Amar**.
Note: It is a **non-linked**, nonparticipating, **life term assurance plan** and offers greater **flexibility to policyholders** in comparison to other insurance plans. The plan is available for ages **18-65 years** with the maximum age **maturity at 80 years** offering policy terms from **10 years** to a maximum of **40 years**. The **insurance premium** can either be paid only once, for a limited premium paying term or regularly or regularly throughout the policy term.
9. India's **central bank** will set up a Central Payment Fraud Registry -- **Reserve Bank of India**.
Note: This **Registry will monitor digital payments** related frauds on a real-time basis and provide customers with periodic aggregated data of risks associated with individual payments operators. This will improve **customer confidence** in these channels. A **detail framework** on the proposed registry would be released by the regulators in October. Currently, **RBI has a mechanism** in place for banks to report all banking frauds to the Central Fraud Monitoring Cell of the Reserve Bank. The proposed registry may extend the platform to all payments operators.
10. SBI Life Insurance and **Indian Bank** have entered into a **Bancassurance pact** to offer **holistic financial planning** solutions to the **banks customers**.
Note: SBI Life will work with **Indian Bank** to ensure sales training, product support and smooth operational processes in order to offer life insurance policies to its customers. Indian Bank's customers will have access to an array of **life insurance products** from SBI Life catering to varied life stage needs of the customer. With Indian Bank's widespread presence and **SBI Life's extensive** product portfolio, this partnership will ensure easier accessibility of life insurance to consumers.
11. The **State Bank of India** (SBI) has reduced its **landing rates to 15-basis points**.
Note: After this cut, SBI home loans have become cheaper by 35 bps since April. The bank is offering repo linked home loans since 1st July 2019.
12. **SBI General Insurance** has launched new **cyber insurance scheme** for the customers, to **safeguard their online bank account** or of ATM fraud.
Note: Pushan Mahapatra is new MD, CEO of SBI General Insurance.
13. **Global payment** and technology company launched an Identity Check Express solution -- **Mastercard**.
Note: It is a next-generation, mobile-first authentication solution to secure online transactions. The solution will help eliminate unnecessary friction and enhance the security of online transactions. Mastercard Identity Check Express combines the latest technology, including device intelligence and behavioural biometrics, with the latest EMV 3-D Secure and FIDO authentication standards. Identity Check Express was showcased at the Global Mastercard Cybersecurity Summit, held for the first time in India.
14. Traders body **Confederation of All India Traders** (CAIT) has launched an initiative **Digi Vyapari-Safal Vyapari**.
Note: This is to accelerate acceptance of digital payments among merchants across the country. For this the CAIT has partnered with HDFC Bank, Mastercard, Common Service Centres (CSCs) of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and Global Linkers.
15. **RBL Bank** and **digital healthcare platform** have partnered to launch an industry-first co-branded health credit card -- **Practo**.
Note: This credit card is powered by Mastercard and is available on both Practo & RBL mobile apps and websites. It offers benefits like unlimited and round-the-clock online consultations with experienced and qualified doctors, one free full body health check-up, while users can use the card to earn points that can be redeemed for availing Practo services like ordering medicine, tests and online consultations.
16. According to **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI), **Aadhaar enabled Payment System** (AePS) has crossed the milestone transactions **Over 220 million (22 crores)** during July 2019.
Note: Top five services provided by **AePS model** are cash withdrawal, cash deposit, Aadhaar to Aadhaar funds transfer, balance enquiry, gateway authentication service. AePS is a bank-led model which allows basic banking transactions at point of sale. AePS empowers a bank customer to use **Aadhaar as identity to** access respective Aadhaar enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions like cash withdrawal, intrabank or interbank fund transfer and balance enquiry.
17. Capital market regulator SEBI is planning to ease its norms for -- **Muni Bonds**.
Note: It will help smart cities and other registered entities working in areas of city planning and urban development work, like municipalities, raise funds through issuance and listing of their debt securities. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued its Issue and Listing of Debt Securities by Municipalities (ILDLM) Regulations nearly five years ago. Now, The regulator is proposing to allow this route for a larger

- number of entities including special purpose vehicles set up under the central government's ambitious 'Smart Cities Mission'.
18. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed a **USD 500-million loan agreement** with cash-strapped **Pakistan** to support the country's trade competitiveness and exports. **Note:** The Manila-based ADB also approved a USD 750,000 technical assistance package to support the preparation and implementation of the programme in the country. The agreement was signed by Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed and the ADB's Country Director Xiaohong Yang in the presence of Minister for Economic Affairs Muhammad Hammad Azhar
 19. As per the latest data of Reserve Bank of India, country's foreign exchange reserves reach all time high at **USD 430.572 billion**. **Note:** Expressed in dollar terms, foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation/depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the reserves. The country's gold reserves surged by \$1.591 billion to \$26.754 billion. Special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund were up by \$6.7 million to \$1.441 billion.
 20. Indian ride-hailing giant **Ola** has acquired an artificial intelligence start-up from Bengaluru -- **Pikup.ai**. **Note:** As part of the deal, Ola will hire Pickup.ai's team following the acquisition. Pickup.ai is co-founded by Inder Singh and Ritwik Saikia. The start-up uses autonomous technologies like artificial intelligence, computer vision and sensor fusion to provide seamless AI-powered solutions for businesses.
 21. **Reserve Bank of India** has asked banks not to **count failed transactions** at ATMs due to technical reasons as part of "free ATM transactions" permitted every month. **Note:** Use of ATMs for balance enquiry and fund transfers too should not be part of the free transactions facility given to a customer. Banks provide a certain number of free transactions at ATMs to their customers and beyond that impose charges. The RBI clarified that transactions which fail on account of technical reasons, non-availability of cash, and any other reason attributable to the bank should not be counted as valid ATM transactions for the customer.
 22. Consumer price index-based retail inflation eased marginally in July -- **3.15%**. **Note:** Retail inflation was 3.18 per cent in June 2019, while it stood at 4.17 per cent in the year-ago period. Currently, the retail inflation is well below the RBI's comfort level. The government has asked the central bank to keep inflation in the range of 4 per cent.
 23. Australia and **New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)** slashed its forecast for India's economic growth in the financial year ending next March -- 6.2%. **Note:** The bank's estimate of gross domestic product (GDP) growth is now well below the expectations of other banks. The forecasts all badly lag the government's longer-term target of getting the economy humming at rates above 8%. India's quarterly GDP growth slowed to a five-year low of 5.8% in January-March as a result of sluggish domestic and global demand and little growth in private investment.
 24. **BookMyForex.com** has announce to launch a co-branded **Multi-Currency Forex Travel-card** in partnership with **YES Bank** and Visa to offer a seamless experience to Indian overseas travelers. **Note:** Travelers can load up to 10 currencies on the card. Customers can buy forex travel cards using the **BookMyForex platform** and get free doorstep delivery across major cities in India. **BookMyForex** is the world's first and largest **marketplace** for foreign exchange and remittances.
 25. **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has announced a reward of up to one crore rupees for informants willing to provide credible information regarding insider trading cases. **Note:** This will be a part of the detailed set of rules for the new '**Informant Mechanism**' under the Prohibition of Insider Trading Regulations that was approved by the SEBI board. The norms also propose a possible amnesty or settlement for minor wrongdoings in return for cooperation in the probe. SEBI will establish an Office of Informant Protection, which will be responsible for the receipt, registration and processing of the disclosure form and for ascertaining its authenticity.
 26. **Bandhan Bank** has launched a **co-branded credit card** in association with **Standard Chartered bank** to offer a complete suite of services to its existing customers. **Note:** The **credit card** would be offered to **40 lakh savings bank account holders** across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank. As part of the tie-up, **Bandhan Bank** will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers.
 27. **The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has **constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)** headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud of over 50 crore rupees. **Note:** The panel in its **previous avatar** called the **Advisory Board** on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds. It will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or

references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks. The **banks will refer all large fraud cases** above 50 crore rupees to ABBF and on receipt of its recommendation, they concerned will take further action in such matter.

- 28. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the transfer of record **Rs 1.76 lakh crore** dividend and surplus reserves to the union government.

Note: This fund will comprise Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF). The excess reserve transfer is in line with the recommendation of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan-led panel constituted to decide size of capital reserves that the central bank should hold. It is the highest-ever surplus amount transferred by the RBI to govt. Since 2013-14, the RBI has been paying 99 per cent of its disposable income to govt

- 29. Public sector lender Indian Bank and Tata AIG General Insurance** has entered into an agreement to offer a variety of general insurance products to bank's customers.

Note: The agreement was signed in the presence of Ms Padmaja Chunduru MD and CEO of Indian Bank and Mr Saurabh Maini, Senior Vice President and Business Head-Key partnership Group, Tata AIG General Insurance. The partnership will see around 2,900 branches of the bank spread across India, offering a diverse range of insurance policies benefiting its customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings.

- 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased the timing for **Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** Payment System by changing the Open for **Business timing for RTGS from 8:00 AM to 7:00 AM.**

Note: At present, the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** System is available for customer transactions from 0800 hours to 1800 hours and for inter-bank transactions from 0800 hours to 1945 hours. This timing has been applicable from **August 26, 2019**. Currently, the NEFT, a retail payment system, is available for customers from 8 am to 7 pm on all working days except second and fourth Saturdays of a month.

- 31. Managing Director (MD) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has announced his resignation citing personal reasons -- **Parthasarathi Mukherjee.**

Note: Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is considering a proposal of merger of Indiabulls Housing

Finance with Lakshmi Vilas Bank. On 5 April 2019, the board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank approved a merger of the bank with the country's second-largest housing finance company, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.

- 32. The central board of trustees** has allowed the **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** to exercise an exit option for recovering the pending **Rs 600 crore** from **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL).**

Note: The proposal to double the minimum pension to Rs 2,000 has been put on hold, with labour minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar suggesting the issue be taken up with the finance ministry. The board also approved the appointment of three fund managers to manage its corpus.

- 33. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will allow customers to make recurring payments of less than Rs. 2000 without the two factors authentication process by giving an e-mandate from September.

Note: According to RBI Circular, it has been decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments). The move has been made to make digital payments to the merchant, typically at Kirana and grocery stores where ticket sizes are small, more convenient. This circular is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards (debit or credit).

- 34. The Union government** unveiled major reforms in the banking sector to strengthen the **Foundation of the banks.**

Note: The Union government announced the merger of Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank and United Bank of India. Once these three banks are merged it will create a bank with a business of Rs 17.95 lakh crore and have 11,437 branches. After the Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank are merged into the Punjab National Bank, it will become India's second-largest bank (SBI remains India's largest bank). Once the Syndicate bank is merged into the Canara Bank, the resultant bank will become India's fourth-largest public sector bank with Rs 15.20 lakh crore business. Union Bank, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank to merge to become India's fifth largest public sector bank with Rs 14.59 lakh crore business. The 12 public sector banks: State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, Indian Bank, UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

1. The founder of cafe chain **Cafe Coffee Day (CCD)** has passed away -- **V G Siddhartha**.
Note: The body of Mr. Siddhartha was found in the Netravati river in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. He served as the Chairman and Managing Director of CCD. Cafe Coffee Day (CCD) is an Indian cafe chain owned by Coffee Day Global Limited, a subsidiary of Coffee Day Enterprises Limited.
2. Former legendary left-arm bowler **Malcolm Nash** passed away.
Note: He was Glamorgan's legendary left-arm bowler who took 993 first-class wickets in career between 1966 and 1983. Malcolm Nash became famous after Garfield Sobers hit him for six sixes in an over. It was the first time any batsman had hit six sixes in an over in first-class cricket.
3. Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist **Kanti Bhatt** passed away in Mumbai.
Note: He worked as journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitralekha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan. Kanti Bhatt was born on 15th July 1931 in Sachra village in the erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat.
4. Cricket **commentator** passed away in Mumbai -- **Anant Setalvad**.
Note: Setalvad had started his radio commentary stint in the pre-TV days and had shared the mike with the likes of former Test opener and ex-selection panel chief Vijay Merchant on All India Radio. He used to draw pictures of the game's progress on airwaves with his fine command of the English language.
5. Veteran BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** passed away in New Delhi after suffering a massive cardiac arrest.
Note: Sushma Swaraj has been elected Member of Parliament (LS& RS) 7 times and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for 3 times. In 2014 when Narendra Modi lead NDA won the General Election, she became the first women External Affairs Minister. She was also the 1st woman Chief Minister of Delhi (5th) from 13th October to 3rd December 1998. Sushma Swaraj was awarded the Best Parliamentarian award two times in 2008 & 2010. Swaraj was called India's "best-loved politician" by the US daily Wall Street Journal.
6. Nobel laureate **Toni Morrison** passed away following a short illness.
Note: Morrison was one of the most iconic writers of her time, excelling as a novelist, essayist, editor, and short story writer. Her most celebrated works are 'Beloved', 'Song of Solomon' and The Bluest Eye. She was the 1st African American woman to win the Nobel in literature (in 1993). For her acclaimed book 'Beloved' she also awarded with the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. Her book Song of Solomon has received the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977.
7. **WWE's professional wrestler** passed away due to lung Cancer -- **Harley Race**.
Note: He became a mainstay of the wrestling circuit, winning numerous individual and tag-team titles in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. Race was pitted in high-profile matches against Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan and other marquee names.
8. **Bollywood** veteran director and actor **Hrithik Roshan's grandfather** passed away -- **J Om Prakash**.
Note: He is best known for his films "Aap Ki Kasam" (1974), "Apnapan" (1977), "Aasha" (1980), "Apna Bana Lo" (1982), "Arpan" (1983) "Aakhir Kyon?" (1985) and "Aadmi Khilona Hai" (1993).
9. Singer-**songwriter** who formed the indie group '**Silver Jews**' in the 1990s passed away -- **David Berman**.
Note: Berman had suffered from drug addiction for years and had survived several overdoses and one suicide attempt. The 'Silver Jews' that recorded six studio albums between 1994 and 2008 rarely performed live. Berman also authored two books of poetry, 'Actual Air,' and 'The Portable February.'
10. Noted freedom fighter who struggled against the British Government during the Quit India movement passed away -- **Dayanidhi Nayak**.
Note: One of the 32 freedom fighters from **Panimora**, he joined the Quit India movement against the British government and was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi. During the Quit India movement, he was jailed for nine months.
11. Ivorian musician **Houon Ange Didier** passed away after getting involved in an ugly road accident.
Note: DJ Arafat(33-year) issued 11 albums, mainly of "coupe-decale", a dance music form combining rapid percussion, choppy rhythms with hip hop-style vocals. He was also named "Best Artist of the Year" at the Ivorian "Coupe-decale" Awards in 2016 and 2017.
12. Senior advocate and former **Additional Solicitor General** passed away -- **Amarendra Sharan**.
Note: Sharan was the Additional Solicitor General in the Supreme Court from 2004 to 2009. In 2008, Sharan won the award for "outstanding contribution for the development of scientific jurisprudence" on National

- Law Day. The senior advocate was amicus curiae in the Supreme Court in the case related to the SC/ST Act last year and another related to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.
13. Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning defender passed away following a long battle with Alzheimer -- **Jose Luis Brown**.
Note: Brown made 36 appearances for his country, the most famous of which came in the 1986 World Cup final in Mexico. Jose Luis Brown knew by his nickname "Tata", dislocated his shoulder in the match but refused to be substituted.
 14. Former India and Tamil Nadu cricket opener passed away -- **V.B. Chandrasekhar**.
Note: He was the cricket manager of Chennai Super Kings in the franchise's first three years and was instrumental in getting the iconic M.S. Dhoni to CSK. He was a National selector from 2004 to 2006.
 15. Veteran **Bollywood actress** passed away after a brief lung-cum-heart ailment -- **Vidya Sinha**.
Note: She was known for her role in Basu Chatterjee's film 'Rajnigandha' (1974). This film catapulted Sinha to instant fame. Among her other notable films were: 'Hawas' (1974), 'Chhoti Si Baat' (1975), 'Mera Jeevana' (1976), the crime-thriller 'Inkaar', 'Kitaab' (both 1977), 'Pati, Patni aur Woh' and Basu Chatterjee's 'Safed Jhooth' (both 1978), a horror flick 'Saboot' (1980), 'Love Story' and as a gangster in 'Josh' (both 1981) and Salman Khan's mega-hit 'Bodyguard' (2011).
 16. Renowned **Bangladeshi novelist** and the Ekushey Padak winning author passed away in Dhaka -- **Rizia Rahman**.
Note: She wrote in all genres of creative work including short stories, poems, essays and children's fiction but she was renowned for her novels. Bong Theke Bangla, Rokter Okshor and Ghar-Bhanga-Ghar are among some of her more well-known novels.
 17. Noted social worker and Padma Shri award winner passed away at a hospital in Chhattisgarh -- **Damodar Ganesh Bapat**.
Note: He dedicated his life to the treatment and service of leprosy patients. Damodar Ganesh Bapat served leprosy patients at an ashram run by the Indian Leprosy Prevention Association at village Sothi (8-kilometers away from Champa) in Chhattisgarh. He was awarded Padma Shri (the fourth highest civilian award) by in 2018 for his service to the society.
 18. Doordarshan Anchor and **Nari Shakti Award Winner** passed away due to cancer -- **Neelum Sharma**.
Note: Neelum Sharma was known for her programmes like 'Tejaswini' and 'Badi Charcha'. Through her show Tejaswini, Neelum focused on woman achievers of India. She had been awarded the Nari Shakti Puruskar (highest civilian award for the woman in India) by President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.
 19. Veteran **Congress leader** and three-time Bihar Chief Minister passed away at a hospital in Delhi -- **Dr Jagannath Mishra**.
Note: Dr Mishra became Chief Minister in 1975, 1980 and 1989. Before joining politics, Mishra was an economics professor at Bihar University.
 20. Veteran music director-composer passed away after a prolonged illness at a hospital in Mumbai -- **ohammed Zahur Khayyam Hashmi**.
Note: He was best known for his music in classic films such as 'Umrao Jaan' and 'Kabhi Kabhi'. Besides 'Kabhi Kabhi' and 'Umrao Jaan', the musician's other notable works include films such as "Trishul", "Noorie" and "Shola Aur Shabnam". In 2007, Khayyam was honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Creative Music by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
 21. Three-time Oscar winner & triple **BAFTA winner legendary** animation director passed away -- **Richard Williams**.
Note: He debuted in 1958 with "The Little Island" which won him BAFTA. He received his first Oscar for his animated adaptation of Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" in 1971. Williams is best known for his 1988 animated film "Who Framed Roger Rabbit". "The Return Of The Pink Panther" and "The Pink Panther Strikes Again" are some of his famous works.
 22. Eminent Punjabi writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Professor **Niranjan Singh Tasneem** passed away at his residence in Ludhiana, Punjab.
Note: Tasneem was awarded Sahitya Akademi award in 1999 for his novel 'Gawache Arth' (The Lost Meaning) which was based on Punjab and lives of Punjabis in 1984. He was also awarded Punjab's highest literary honour "Punjabi Sahit Rattan" in 2015. Tasneem had served as a professor at SCD Government College, Ludhiana.
 23. Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Babulal Gaur** passed away in Bhopal.
Note: Gaur served as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh from August 2004 to November 2005. He was elected in 10 Assembly elections from the seat of Govindpura (in Bhopal) before retiring from electoral politics in 2018 due to old age.

24. Veteran BJP leader and **former Union Minister** passed away at AIIMS hospital in New Delhi -- **Arun Jaitley**.
Note: Arun Jaitley held the cabinet portfolios of Finance, Defence, Corporate Affairs, Commerce and Industry and Law & Justice in the Vajpayee government and Narendra Modi government. Mr Jaitley was the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India from 2014 to 2019.
25. India's first woman **Director General of Police (DGP)**, passed away in Mumbai -- **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya**.
Note: Bhattacharya, a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of

Uttarakhand. She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country, the first being Kiran Bedi.

26. Goa Naval **war hero** and **Kirti Chakra awardee** passed away in **Porvorim, Goa -- Commander Noel Kelman**.
Note: Kelman was a founder member of the **Goa branch** of the All India Anglo Indian Association. He was involved in an operation to **flush out** the Portuguese from the Anjadip Island. **Commander Kelman** was honoured with the Kirti Chakra for his bravery during the Indian Navy's conquest of Anjadip Island of the coast of Goa in 1961

Important Days

- Freedom fighter and the **designer of** Indian national flag was **born on this day** in 1876, near **Machilipatnam** in Andhra Pradesh -- **Pingali Venkaiah**.
Note: Venkaiah's design for the **National Flag (143rd birth anniversary)** was finally approved by **Mahatma Gandhi** in a Congress meeting in Vijayawada in 1921. A postage stamp was issued to commemorate him in 2009.
- The **"Aadi Perukku" festival** (or Aadi monsoon festival) was celebrated in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: People performed Puja on the **banks of larger water bodies** including sea-coasts lakes and rivers. The festival is to show reverence by the public to rivers, as the traditional season of sowing of seeds for the next crops. At the Hogenakkal Waterfalls in Dharmapuri, tourists and pilgrims participated in the "Aadi Perukku" festival. Aadi is the name of the current Tamil month, and **Perukku** is the term for the flooding of waters
- Japan marked the **74th anniversary** (6th August) of the **atomic bombing of Hiroshima**.
Note: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe led commemorations at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima as residents offered silent prayers, lit candles and placed wreaths to remember those killed in the August 6, 1945 bombing. Japan suffered two nuclear attacks (1st Hiroshima & 2nd Nagasaki) by the United States at the end of World War II. The bombings claimed 1 Lakh 40 thousand lives in Hiroshima and 74 thousand in Nagasaki.
- The Women and **Child Development Ministry** are observing the World Breastfeeding Week on **1-7th August**.
Note: The objective of the WBW is to create awareness among parents about breastfeeding, the importance of initiation, exclusive breastfeeding, and adequate and appropriate complementary feeding. The ministry is organizing a number of activities on the theme "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding".
- The National Handloom Day (5th) is being observed annually on **7th August**.
Note: In this occasion Union Textile and Women & Child Development Minister, Smriti Jubin Irani, presided over a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. National Handloom Day seeks to focus on the contribution of handloom to the socio-economic development of the country and increase the income of weavers.
- The 77th anniversary of the **August Kranti Din**, was observed all across the country on **8th August 2019**.
Note: On this date in 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai. Gandhiji gave the call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai.
- The **International Day of the World's Indigenous People** is being observed each year on **9th August**.
Note: The theme of this year is '**Indigenous Languages**'. On December 23, 1994, The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 9th August as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples through its resolution 49/214.
- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on **10th August**.
Note: The day create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- The **World Elephant Day (WED)** is celebrated every year on **12th August**.
Note: The goal of International Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants and to share knowledge and management of captive & wild elephants. On 12 August 2012, the first international Elephant Day was celebrated. As per the census conducted in 2017, the Elephant population in India is estimated at 29,964.
- The **International Youth Day (IYD)** is observed every year on **12th August**.

- Note:** The theme for International Youth Day 2019 is “**Transforming education**”. International Youth Day 2019 will examine how Governments, young people and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, as well as other stakeholders, are transforming education and how these efforts are contributing to the achievement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
11. The festival of sacrifice ‘**Eid-ul-Azha**’ is being celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety across the country.
Note: The faithful will offer Eid prayers in Eidgahs and mosques. The festival is an ode to the virtues of devotion, faith and sacrifice and inspires feelings of brotherhood, compassion and unity. In the Islamic lunar calendar, Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah and lasts for three days. In the international (Gregorian) calendar, the dates vary from year to year shifting approximately 11 days earlier each year.
 12. The **World Humanitarian Day** (WHD) is observed annually across the world on **19th August**.
Note: The day recognize the work of humanitarian personnel and those who have lost their lives working for humanitarian causes. The day provides an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. The world humanitarian day 2019 theme is ‘**Women Humanitarians**’.
 13. The ‘**World Photography Day**’ being observed to inspire photographers across the planet -- **19th August**.
Note: On this day, camera persons take stock of the different kind of photography that has come to the fore. On August 19 in 2010, World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery.
 14. **Sadbhavana Diwas** is being celebrated every year on **20th August**.
Note: This year will be the 75th Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. This day is observed to encourage the national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was born on 20th August 1944, in Bombay.
 15. The **World Senior Citizen's Day** is celebrated every year on **21st August**.
Note: The main purpose of the **World Senior Citizen's Day** is to raise awareness of the condition of older people and to support them throughout the ageing process. It was first proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14th December 1990.
 16. The **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism** is being observed on **21st August**.
Note: The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017. In 2017 alone, nearly three-quarters of all deaths caused by terrorism were in just five countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia and Syria
 17. United Nations’ International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is being observed every year on **22nd August**.
Note: International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce the achievements of humanity.
 18. United Nations “**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**” is being observed every year on **23rd August**.
Note: The day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
 19. The **National Sports Day** is observed every year on **29th August**.
Note: Padma Bhushan Dhyan chand Known as ‘The Magician’ of hockey for his superb ball control and extraordinary goal-scoring feats. He won three Olympic gold medals in Hockey field in the years 1928, 1932, and 1936. In his Sports career spanning over 22 years, he scored over 400 goals. On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Sports Awards, National Adventure Awards and other awards including Arjuna, Khel Ratna to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Indian athletes.
 20. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is being observed every year on **29th August**.
Note: The day was established on 2nd December 2009 at the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly by the resolution 64/35, which was adopted unanimously.

New Appointments

1. **Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri** has been **unanimously elected** as the Speaker of the **Karnataka Legislative Assembly**.
Note: The post fell vacant after KR Ramesh Kumar resigned as the Speaker of the Assembly shortly after the BJP government won the trust vote. Kageri, who

represents the Sirsi constituency in Uttara Kannada. The Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly is the presiding officer of the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka, the main law-making body for the Indian state of Karnataka.

2. **Atanu Chakraborty** has been nominated as a Director on the **Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
Note: Currently, he is a Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Shri Rajiv Kumar (new Finance Secretary) is also a Director on the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India.
3. The 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 will be held at **Shillong**.
Note: The theme of the Conference is "Digital India: Success to Excellence". It would provide opportunities to civil servants and others to showcase their successful interventions in improving end-to-end service delivery. 21st National Conference on e-Governance was held on 26- 27 February 2018 in Hyderabad, Telangana.
4. Former **Intelligence Bureau officer** Mr. R N Ravi was sworn in as the **Governor of Nagaland**.
Note: Acting Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Arup Kumar Goswami administered him the oath of office. Earlier, R.N Ravi served as a former Intelligence Bureau officer and an interlocutor for the Naga peace talks.
5. **Mr Jagdeep Dhankar** has been sworn in as the Governor of West Bengal (28th).
Note: The Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Mr T.B Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office and Secrecy to him. Mr. Dhankhar succeeded Mr Keshari Nath Tripathy.
6. **Noel Quinn** has been appointed as interim CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and Director of HSBC.
Note: Noel Quinn will replace **John Flint** as the interim CEO. Mr Quinn qualified as an accountant in 1987. HSBC Bank India is a bank with its operational head office in Mumbai. It is a foreign bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and thus is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
7. **Siddhartha Mohanty** has assumed charge as **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL)**.
Note: He has replaced Shri Vinay Shah. Earlier, he was the COO (chief operating officer) of LIC HFL. LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL) is one of the largest housing finances (mortgage loan) companies in India having its Registered and Corporate office at Mumbai.
8. Congress **Rajya Sabha MP** Bhubaneshwar Kalita resigned from the membership of the House.
Note: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu announced in the House that he has accepted Mr Kalita's resignation. Mr Kalita was upset with the Congress when he was asked to issue a whip to party members against the government's move on the Kashmir issue.
9. **S.N. Subrahmanyan** has become new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Mindtree Ltd..
Note: The S.N. Subrahmanyan (CEO of Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) has been appointed as non-executive vice-chairman. Mindtree Limited is an Indian multinational information technology and outsourcing company headquartered in Bangalore, India and New Jersey, USA. The company deals in e-commerce, mobile applications, cloud computing, digital transformation, data analytics, enterprise application integration and enterprise resource planning.
10. **Kandikuppa Sreekant** has been appointed as Chairman and managing director (MD) of the State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India.
Note: Previously he was working as Director (Finance) in the Power Grid Corporation. According Ministry of Power order, the tenure of Kandikuppa Sreekant will be till 31st December, 2023.
11. **Valentina Elangbam** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Chief Minister's Green Manipur Mission.
Note: Manipur's Valentina Elangbam (12-years) was seen weeping profusely in a viral video after two trees that she had planted were cut down. Kakching district's Valentina is a class 5 student of Amutombi Divine Life School in Hiyanglam Wabagai. She had planted two Gulmohar trees when she was in class 1 near the bank of a river in her locality. Valentina was inconsolably upset after the trees she had planted were cut down while the river- bank was being cleaned.
12. Right-wing **candidate Alejandro Giammattei** has been elected as the new President of Guatemala.
Note: He defeated former First Lady Sandra Torres from the centrist National Unity of Hope party. Giammattei will succeed corruption-tainted outgoing President Jimmy Morales. Alejandro Giammattei will assume office on **14th January 2020**.
13. Former India cricketer **Ravi Shastri** has been appointed as the coach of the Indian cricket team for second successive term.
Note: Three-member Cricket Advisory Committee- Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy- made the announcement. Shastri's new tenure has been extended till T20 World Cup, to be held in 2021 in India. There were a total six candidates in the competition for the post and those were Robin Singh, Lalchand Rajput, Mike Hesson, Tom Moody, Phil Simmons, and Ravi Shastri.

- 14. Harshad Pandurang Thakur** has been appointed as the Director of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare.
Note: Harshad Pandurang Thakur is a Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. The NIHF, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, acts as an apex technical institute as well as a think tank for the promotion of health and family welfare programmes in the country.
- 15. Paytm promotes CFO Madhur Deora** has been appointed as **President of the company**.
Note: Prior to joining Paytm (in 2016), Mr. Deora has served as Managing Director (MD) in Citigroup's investment banking business in New York, London and Mumbai. Paytm have grown over 20x in the last 3 years by creating a payments-led lifestyle and financial services app in our country. Paytm was founded in August 2010 with an initial investment of USD 2 million by its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- 16. Congress leader and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh** has been elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from **Rajasthan**.
Note: The election for a seat in Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan comes after demise of BJP's unit president Madan Lal Saini in June. With this Manmohan Singh has become the sole Congress candidate amongst 10 Rajya Sabha Members in Rajasthan.
- 17. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan** has approved an **extension of three years** in the tenure of Pakistani Army chief **General Qamar Javed Bajwa**.
Note: Qamar Bajwa was appointed the chief of the Pakistani Army in November 2016 by then Prime minister Nawaz Sharif. The decision has been taken in view of the regional security environment. The Chief of Army Staff is a military appointment and statutory office held by the four-star rank army general in the Pakistan Army.
- 18. Ravinder Takkar** has been appointed as the **MD and CEO of Idea-Vodafone** with immediate effect.
Note: He has replaced Balesh Sharma after his resignation as the chief executive officer of Vodafone Idea (VIL). Currently, Mr Takkar is a board member of Vodafone Idea and Indus Towers, where he is responsible for all Vodafone Group interests in India.
- 19. Senior IAS officer appointed** as new Cabinet Secretary -- **Rajiv Gauba**.
Note: Mr. Gauba will replace P.K. Sinha (1977 batch -UP cadre), who was appointed Cabinet Secretary in 2015. Currently, Mr Gauba is serving as Home Secretary of India.
- 20. IAS officer Ajay Kumar** (1985 batch-Kerala cadre), Secretary, **Defence Production**, has been shifted as **Secretary, Defence**.
Note: He will replace Sanjay Mitra.
- 21. Senior IAS officer Another Brij Kumar Agarwal** (1985 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre) has been appointed as **Secretary, Lokpal**.
Note: The approval was given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**.
- 22. Ajay Kumar Bhalla** has been appointed as **new Home Secretary**.
Note: The Union government has appointed senior IAS (Indian Administrative Service officer) Ajay Kumar Bhalla (1984 batch - Assam Meghalaya cadre) as new Home Secretary. He succeeds Mr Rajiv Gauba who will move out as Cabinet Secretary. 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.
- 23. Abdalla Hamdok** has taken the oath as the prime minister of **Sudan**.
Note: This comes a month after Sudan embarked on a three-year transition to civilian rule. Hamdok was sworn in before Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, chairman of the newly-formed Sovereign Council, at the presidential palace in the capital Khartoum in presence of the chief justice.
- 24. Senior IAS officer Pramod Agarwal** has been selected as the next **Chairman-cum-Managing Director** of Coal India Limited.
Note: He will succeed incumbent Chairman Anil Kumar Jha (retire in January 2020). Currently, Mr Agrawal is working as principal secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh. The Coal India Limited (CIL) is an Indian state-controlled coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.
- 25. The Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) -- Pramod Chandra Mody**.
Note: The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is ex-officio special secretary and is under the direct charge of the revenue secretary of India. It frames a policy for the Income-Tax Department.
- 26. Senior diplomat Pavan Kapoor** has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Note: Mr. Kapoor will replace Navdeep Suri, heading the Indian mission in UAE since October 2016. Earlier, Mr. Kapoor has served in different capacities in the Indian Missions in Moscow, Kyiv, London and Geneva. An ambassador is especially a high-ranking diplomat who

represents a state and is usually accredited to another sovereign state.

27. **Shri Prabhakar Singh** has been chosen for the 'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019' by the Institution of Engineers (India).
Note: This Prestigious Award shall be conferred to him on the 'Engineers Day' (15th September) New Delhi.

28. Former human rights lawyer **Lionel Aingimea** has won the **Presidential election** of the pacific nation Nauru.
Note: The President of Nauru is elected by Parliament from among its members. Nauru's unicameral Parliament has 19 members, with an electoral term of 3 years.

Important News – India

- Culture and Tourism Minister **Mr Prahlad Singh Patel** has flagged off mobile library bus service in **New Delhi**.
Note: The objective of the mobile library bus service to reach out to readers in Delhi, especially those in slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas. The five-bus mobile library service was launched under the "Ghar Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak" Scheme of the Delhi Public Library (DPL). These buses have been procured under CSR (corporate social responsibility) assistance from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting (I&B)** has launched a competition for designing a Postage Stamp along with the First Day Cover to commemorate Golden Jubilee edition of **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**.
Note: An interested person may log in to **www.mygov.in (MyGov platform)** to participate in the competition from 1st August to 15th August 2019. The winner will receive a **Certificate of appreciation** and travel and hospitality for 2 nights and 3 days to become a part of 50th IFFI. **IFFI showcases** a collage of the best of contemporary and classic films from around the globe. Golden Jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India will be organized from **20th-28th November 2019** at Goa.
- The **Union Government** has launched the **One Nation-One Ration Card scheme** on a pilot basis in **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat**.
Note: Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. Their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service. The white Ration Cardholders in Telangana have been getting the portability facility, enabling them to buy their subsidized rice and other food grains from any Fair Price Shop in the state.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) would set up a Pashmina testing centre in **Leh**.
Note: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will setup testing centre in partnership with the lab of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh. The standards testing will have **lab, machines** and scientists to check the **quality of pashmina** collected. BIS would train the locals, with the cooperation of Leh Hill Council, in marking of the standards to save the time and money. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.
- Delhi Chief Minister **Arvind Kejriwal** has announced **free electricity** for people consuming up to **200 units** under a domestic connection from **1st August 2019**.
Note: In Delhi, people who consume up to 200 units will not have to pay electricity bills. Those consuming 201-400 units of electricity will get about 50% subsidy.
- Scientists at **IIT Hyderabad** have developed **low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells** by employing an **off-the-shelf dye** used to make **kumkum in India**.
Note: The dye-sensitised solar cell (DSSC) is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes. The most familiar solar cells today are made up of silicon and can be seen in the various overhead panels and other places.
- The **Union Cabinet** has given nod to the setting up of **ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU)** at **Moscow, Russia**.
Note: The unit will collaborate with Space agencies and industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes. ITLU will also support the ongoing bilateral programmes of cooperation in space technology and act on behalf of ISRO. The Cabinet also approved MoU between ISRO and the Bolivian Space Agency on Cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- Human Resources Development (HRD) Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** has inaugurated the Technology Expo at **IIT Delhi**.
Note: It showcases the latest innovation in the field of science and technology. Over 80 latest innovations and 90 research posters by institutions from across the country are showcasing the prototypes developed by the investigators in the day-long exhibition.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released the first set of pictures of the earth, captured by **Chandrayaan-2**.
Note: The **pictures** were captured by **L 14 camera** onboard Chandrayaan II. The LI-4 camera onboard the lander Vikram of the spacecraft show the crystal clear and panoramic view of the earth, around which it is still revolving. It will move away from the earth's sphere of

influence on the 14th of this month and reach the moon's orbit on the 20th. Its pictures of the moon from then on would be still more fascinating, given its proximity to the earth's only natural satellite.

10. India **successfully test-fired** its all-weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) from **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha**.
Note: It was the second developmental trial (first- 26th Feb, 2019) of the missile in this year from the same test range. It was jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Ltd, the QR-SAM weapon system is a quick reaction, network-centric missile system capable of search-on-the-move. The QR-SAM system can also engage multiple targets within a range of around 25 to 30 km with two vehicle configurations for area air defence. It is a truck-mounted missile with a 360 degrees rotatable, electro-mechanically operated, turret-based launch unit.
11. The 3rd edition of India's largest education brainstorming event ScooNews Global Educators Fest (SGEF) held in **Udaipur**.
Note: The theme for this year's fest is 'Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity'. It will bring together over 500 educators to discuss the way towards establishing India as the next global education powerhouse. SGEF will also be recognizing individuals and organizations excelling at innovation in the field of Education by assisting the industry with trendsetting solutions and best practices.
12. The **Ministry of Culture and Tourism Minister** has celebrated the Lalit Kala Akademi's 65th Foundation Day in **New Delhi**.
Note: Ministry also inaugurated **art camp, artwork & painting exhibition** and released a book '**Mithila Ki Lok Chitrakala**'. **Lalit Kala Akademi** (or National Academy of Art) was established in **New Delhi in 1954** by the government to promote and propagate understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country. **LKA provides scholarships** and a fellow program, and sponsors and organizes exhibitions in India and overseas.
13. ISRO **Chairman K Sivan** laid the foundation stone for Space Situational Awareness Control Centre at Peenya in **Bengaluru**.
Note: Isro has set up a **directorate of space situational awareness** and management aiming at protecting high valued space assets from space debris close approaches and collisions. The control centre would facilitate the intensified **activities foreseen for SSAM**, in view of increasing debris population and operational space assets. The **control centre** would host a range of activities pertaining to the protection of Indian space assets from inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, near-earth asteroids and adverse space weather conditions.
14. Union HRD Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched **Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha** to create **awareness** about Water Conservation among all school Children in the country.
Note: Inspired by Prime Minister's impetus to Jal Sanchay, Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives.
15. Researchers from the **IIT Madras** and **National Institute of Ocean Technology** (NIOT) are developing turbines that can harness the power of ocean waves to **generate electricity**.
Note: India's long coastline and many estuaries and gulfs provide ample opportunities to harness wave power to meet rising energy needs. The Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, under the aegis of the Indian Government's Department of Ocean Development has been working to bring wave energy closer to reality since 1983. The most recent research IIT Madras in collaboration with National Institute of Ocean Technology, is being funded by ministry of earth sciences.
16. **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE)**, has signed an agreement with **United Nations Industrial Development Organization** (UNIDO) to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
Note: Under the agreement NISE and UNIDO will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material. The agreement is part of the ongoing MNRE-GEF-UNIDO project implemented jointly by UNIDO and to support capacity building and skill development of technical manpower in the Concentrated Solar Thermal Energy Technologies (CST).
17. PIBA special postage stamp to be released to commemorate golden jubilee of **IFFI**.
Note: The festival will take place from the **20th to 28th November** in Goa. Competition for designing the Postage Stamp and First Day Cover has been launched by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on MyGov platform. Those interested may log in on to www.mygov.in to participate in the competition. The contest is open till 15th August. The winner will receive a Certificate of Appreciation along with travel and hospitality for three nights and three days to Goa to attend the Festival.
18. The e-version of **Rozgar Samachar** has been launched by **Shri Prakash Javadekar**.
Note: It has been launched with a view to make aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises. It will also provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts. It can be accessed by visiting the website www.employmentnews.gov.in and clicking on the e-version tab.

19. Under the second phase of FAME India scheme, The Union Government has sanctioned **5595** electric buses in 64 cities for intracity and intercity operations.
Note: The objective of the scheme is to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront incentives on purchase of electric vehicles. Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in a release said, this will give a further push to clean mobility in public transportation.
20. Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book titled '**Listening, Learning & Leading**'.
Note: The book was released in Chennai at a function organised by Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The book also showcases the Vice President's feat as the Rajya Sabha Chairman in enhancing its effectiveness and promoting its efficiency. The book captures the glimpses of the Vice President's 330 public engagements across the country in the last two years.
21. The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has increased the fees (from Rs 50 to Rs 1,200) of Class 10th and 12th board examinations for **SC and ST students**.
Note: According to the revised norms, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students will have to pay Rs 1,200 for five subjects, while earlier they were supposed to pay Rs 50 for the same, a hike of 24 times. The general category students who were paying Rs 750 earlier, will now pay Rs 1,500 for five subjects. The students enrolled in CBSE schools abroad will have to pay Rs 10,000 for five subjects for both Class 10 and 12. Earlier it was Rs 5000.
22. Union ministers **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** and **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** have launched the **Suraksha drive** to promote **water conservation** activities among school students **Samagra Shiksha-Jal**.
Note: They have launched the drive at Kendriya Vidyalaya Number 2 at Delhi Cantonment. The Department of School Education and Literacy under the HRD Ministry has started the drive to promote water conservation activities among school students so that they can become competent, conscientious and committed citizens of the nation. The department has prepared a detailed outline to implement the programme in all the schools of the country.
23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **Bhutan**.
Note: During the two-day visit, Prime Minister Mr Modi hold talk with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering. Besides, the Prime Minister also inaugurated a hydropower project and roll out RuPay Cards.
24. The Union **Information and Broadcasting** Minister **Prakash Javdekar** has released a nearly **five-minute-long** patriotic music video **Watan**.
Note: The song is sung by singer Javed Ali penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by **Doordarshan**. The song highlights several **paths breaking initiatives** of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of "Chandrayaan 2". It also shows **PM**
- Modi** flagged off India's fastest train - the **Vande Bharat Express** as well as **Yoga Day celebrations**.
25. The book, titled '**Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar**' will be launched on cinema legend Sridevi's **56th birth anniversary**.
Note: The book is written by author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak and approved by the actor's producer husband Boney Kapoor. The book recounts the life and times of the iconic actor who changed how women stars were perceived in the male-dominated film industry. The book will be published under the Ebury Press imprint of Penguin Random House in October 2019.
26. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the Dynamic Facade Lighting of the **Parliament House Estate**.
Note: As many as **875 energy-efficient** LED lights have been installed in the Parliament Complex. These are power efficient and uses only one-fifth of the electricity compared to other types of lights. These excellent intensities LED bulbs are capable of creating 16 million colours combinations and the LED lighting is programmable and electronically controlled through computers.
27. The **Indian Army** has launched a **mission in Jammu** to ensure necessities and **essential services** are available in the region **Mission Reach Out**.
Note: A high-level Mission Reach Out conference to review the prevalent situation in the region was held in the Nagrota Military Station was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh. The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment.
28. Two newly created **Union Territories** (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh) will officially come into existence on **31st October 2019**.
Note: On 31st October, the President's assent to the newly passed Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act comes into effect. According to the new Act, UT J&K will have Assembly while Ladakh will be UT without a Legislature. The Ladakh UT will have three districts that are Leh, Kargil and Ladakh while the rest 12 districts will remain with J&K UT. Each UT will be governed by a separate **Lieutenant Governor (LG)**.
29. Jammu and Kashmir government will host a three-day Global Investors Summit 2019 in **Srinagar**.
Note: The first-ever summit in the state will provide J&K with an opportunity to showcase its strengths, strategies and potential. The summit will provide an opportunity to allay fears and apprehensions in the minds of outside trade and the business community.
30. India has contributed **one million US Dollars** to the **United Nations Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System**.
Note: According to the UN information, Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN

Secretariat, established to receive, consolidate, manage all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way. SPTF web portal, displays in real-time all commitments, contributions and expenditures recorded for the fund.

31. In his sixth consecutive Independence Day speech, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the nation from **Red Fort**.
Note: PM Modi on I-day announced the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who will be above the three Service Chiefs. The CDS will be a single-point military adviser to the government and synergise long term planning, procurements, training and logistics of the three Services. The CDS is also one of the 99 recommendations made by the Lt. General D.B. Shekatkar (retd.) Committee which submitted its report in December 2016.
32. Inter-State Council has been reconstituted with Prime Minister as **Chairman**.
Note: The Inter-State Council (mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states) has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members. Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj).
33. A New mobile app launched to provide location, and crop and livestock-specific weather-based agro advisories to farmers in local languages -- **Meghdoot**.
Note: Initially the service would be available for 150 districts in different parts of the country. The Ministries will provide forecast to farmers relating to temperature, rainfall, humidity, and wind speed and direction. It has been developed by experts from the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical meteorology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
34. **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** has been collaboration with World Health Organization and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to expand its India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) across the country.
Note: This initiative was launched in November 2017, in which more than three lakh patients with high blood pressure enrolled in government health facilities in 25 selected districts in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, and Maharashtra. The expansion is expected to accelerate the implementation of quality hypertension treatment for over 15 crore population over the next four years.
35. President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the underground '**Bunker Museum**' at Raj Bhavan in **Mumbai**.
Note: '**Bunker Museum**' has virtual reality booths to give insight to visitors about the 19th century when the bunker was created to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships. The President also inaugurated the Presidential Guest House named Jal Kiran at Raj Bhavan which will serve as the accommodation for the President and the Prime Minister during their visits to Mumbai. On the occasion, President Kovind also laid the foundation stone of reconstruction of Maharashtra Governor's Office-cum-Residence known as Jal Bhushan.
36. India has got its first **National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)** finalized by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.
Note: The purpose of this list to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that does not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD). This will create stringent national pre-qualification specifications and processes that are necessary to ensure the availability of safe, effective, affordable tests of good quality as well as improving access to new diagnostics in resource-constrained settings.
37. Union HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has inaugurated an international conference on teacher education in **New Delhi**.
Note: The two-day event is being organized by the National Council of Teacher Education as part of silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995. According to Mr Nishank, India has traditionally been known for leadership in education and teacher preparation. The Union Human Resource Development Ministry will launch the world's biggest project for teacher training on 22nd August to train over 42 lakhs schoolteachers across the country.
38. India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in **Gujarat**.
Note: The CICET will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat. The Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilisers also announced setting up of another campus of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET) in Valsad at the cost of Rs 54 crore for the benefit of tribal students and the plastic industry.
39. **Railway Board** has asked all its **zonal offices** to enforce a strict plastic ban at **all stations** from **2nd October 2019**.
Note: As per the circular, all **zonal railway offices** should enforce a ban on single-use plastic. The staff should be encouraged to use inexpensive reusable plastic bags when possible and refuse plastic in most cases. IRCTC should implement the return of plastic drinking water bottles and plastic bottle crushing units should be procured as fast as possible.
40. **Wipro Limited** has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** for advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and 5G space -- - 'WIRIN'.
Note: For this purpose, the two organization have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN) as an industry-academia collaboration unit. They will focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine

Learning, Visual Computing, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X).

- 41. Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has launched a Special Drive with a Code Name - Operation -- **Number Plate**.
Note: It has been launched to identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parking and even in the 'No Parking' areas for a longer duration. The unidentified vehicles are considered as a serious threat to the security and safety of passengers and other stakeholders of railways. 3943 Vehicles were found parked unattended/unclaimed for more than 05 days in the authorized parking lots of Railway stations. A fine of Rs. 59000/- have been recovered as the charges for unauthorized parking.
- 42. India's first Space Science Museum** opened in **Hyderabad**.
Note: It is a collaborative effort between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the BM Birla Science Centre. The BM Birla Science Centre has given 9000 square feet of space in its Science Museum building. This museum exhibits scale models of Indian Launch vehicles GSLV Mark III, GSLV Mark II and PSLV, Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter spacecraft, APPLE, Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Rohini RS-1 and a model of the International Space Station (ISS).
- 43. The Indian Navy** would be hosting a multilateral naval exercise in Visakhapatnam in March 2020 -- **MILAN**.
Note: The MILAN series of biennial exercises, which commenced in 1995 and conducted at Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) until last year. Last year's edition was conducted for the first time on the mainland at the eastern naval command (ENC).
- 44. Union Minister of Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri** announced that the Hollongi Airport in Itanagar will be completed by **31st March, 2022**.
Note: Mr Puri made the announcement while reviewing the status of Civil Aviation in Arunachal Pradesh through a video conference with Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Greenfield Airport at Hollongi near Itanagar on 9th of February this year.
- 45. HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has launched the **National Initiative for School Heads'** and Teachers' Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA).
Note: NISHTHA is the world's biggest such project and will focus on training 42 lakh teachers from across the country. The objective of the initiative aims to reskill the teaching workforce and is the world's biggest project for teacher training.
- 46. Power Minister R K Singh** has launched the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index -SARAL** in **New Delhi**.
Note: As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy survey, Karnataka has emerged as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project according to the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL. The state

rooftop solar attractiveness index (SARAL) released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Four states (Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) have been graded A++. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.

- 47. FASTags** will become mandatory for all vehicles from **December 2019**.
Note: FASTag enabled vehicles can cruise through the dedicated FASTag lane without stopping at toll plazas on National Highways. According to Mr Gadkari over 52 lakh FASTags have been issued till date. FASTags are being issued by 22 certified banks through various channels such as Point-of-Sale at NH toll plazas and selected bank branches.
- 48. The Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik** has inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Varmam Science in **Chennai**.
Note: All Indian traditional medical systems are being promoted by the Centre to ensure holistic health care. The National Health Policy unveiled by the Centre in March 2017 gives importance to all the Indian systems of medicine. He informed that the Union Ministries of Labour, Defence and Railways have been asked to have AYUSH units in the clinics being run by them. 'Varmam' is a constituent of the Siddha system of medicine, that also doubles up as a martial art.
- 49. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** fifth stand-alone 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' has become operational on dry run basis at **Hisar, Haryana**.
Note: Till now, five Aadhaar Seva Kendras are operational and two more will be operative by next week. Out of these five Kendras, two are in Delhi, while one is at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and remaining one at Agra in Uttar Pradesh. These Kendras will function along with other 35 thousand Aadhaar Kendras currently being run in banks, post offices and other designated State Government offices.
- 50. Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel** has launched the book '**The Diary of Manu Gandhi**' at a function in **New Delhi**.
Note: The book has been brought out by National Archives of India, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press. The **first volume covers the period 1943-1944**. The **Diary of Manu Gandhi** (Grandniece of Mahatma Gandhi) originally in Gujarati has been edited and translated by Dr Tridip Suhrud, a well-known scholar engaged in understanding the Gandhian Intellectual tradition.
- 51. Guinness Award for Blessy's documentary film** on Mar Chrysostom **100 years of Chrysostom**.
Note: The documentary '100 years of Chrysostom' is an about 102-year-old longest-serving bishop in India named Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan. Dr. Chrysostom is Emeritus Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Kerala. Dr.

- Chrysostom was born on April 27, 1918, at Eraviperoor in Pathanamthitta, Kerala and was consecrated in May 1952.
- 52. The Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** has distributed the '**Poshan Abhiyaan Awards**' for 2018-19 in different categories in **New Delhi**.
Note: The objective of the award to motivate the primary stakeholders and encourage large scale citizen participation in creating awareness to combat malnutrition. The awards were given to the States, Districts, Blocks and Anganwadi Workers for their contributions in scaling up the Abhiyaan and ensuring that it reaches every household in the country.
- 53. R K Singh (Minister of New and Renewable Energy)** has approved a proposal to declare **ocean energy** as **Renewable Energy**.
Note: The decision will give a boost to ocean energy in the country. The New and Renewable Energy Ministry has also clarified to all stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion will be considered as Renewable Energy. It will be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations.
- 54. The Indian Navy** will organize the multilateral naval exercise **MILAN** at Visakhapatnam in **March 2020**.
- 55. E-commerce giant Amazon India** has launched a **Military Veterans Employment programme** in the country.
Note: It will create employment opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across the company's fulfilment centres, sort centres and delivery centres in India. Amazon India is partnering with the office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across the country. Globally, Amazon has over 17,500 military veterans and spouses actively engaged in the programme.
- 56. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** and **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** has signed a MoU to enhance outreach on **AIDS prevention**.
Note: The MOU will also catalyze in achieving the national goals and objectives of HIV prevention and impact mitigation. AIDS Control Organization (NACO), under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) is under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)
- 57. The seventh "Community Radio Sammelan"** is being held in **New Delhi**.
Note: It is being organized by Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting** and the theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'. The 'Sammelana' will witness participation of all operational community radio stations across the country. Union minister **Prakash Javadekar** has presented **National Community Radio Awards 2019** on this occasion.
- 58. Intel Corp** has launched its latest processor designed for large computing centres -- **Springhill**.
Note: The chip, developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel, is known as Nervana NNP-I or Springhill. It is based on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor that will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy. Intel Corporation is an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California, in the Silicon Valley.
- 59. HRD Ministry** under its **National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT)** has launched the **National Digital Library of India project**.
Note: It is to develop a framework of **virtual repository of learning resources** with a single-window search facility. As of now, there are more than 3 crore digital resources available through the National Digital Library. More than 50 lakh students have registered themselves in the National Digital Library with about 20 lakh active users. **National Digital Library** has been integrated with **UMANG App** and users can register through www.ndl.gov.in or through the mobile app
- 60. Indian Railway ministry** have been installed **over 2 lakhs** bio-toilets in **60,906 train coaches** of Indian Railways.
Note: The 'Bio-Toilet project' of Indian Railways is an innovative and indigenous development of technology. It has been developed jointly by Indian Railways' Engineers & DRDO's scientists. The bio-toilet system utilizes anaerobic bacteria which consume the waste material and convert it into water and gas.
- 61. Defence minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated **26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela** in **Leh**.
Note: The event is being organised to share research-generated farming technology with locals of Ladakh to make their life easier. Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela showcasing crops and grains suitable for growing in high altitude areas. The science fair is being organised at the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (a research unit of DRDO in Ladakh).
- 62. India** has become the **first country** in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)** capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers.
Note: Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State for Shipping) has launched the project in New Delhi.
- 63. A mobile app 'IndTokyo'** has been launched to help para-athletes to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics Games.
Note: The application 'IndTokyo' was launched by Arhan Bagati, Awareness and Impact Ambassador of Paralympic Committee of India, at the '**Countdown to Tokyo 2020**'. It has features like information on para-athletes and accessible places in Tokyo among others.
- 64. As per Economics Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index (SCI)-2019**, Who occupied top spots in the Safe Cities Index 2019 -- **Tokyo**.

Note: Mumbai (45th rank) and New Delhi (52nd) are the only two Indian cities that made an appearance on the list. The report is based on the third iteration of the index, which ranks 60 cities across 57 indicators covering digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security. The Safe Cities Index 2019 is a report from The Economist Intelligence Unit, sponsored by NEC Corporation.

65. The 12th India Security Summit was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: The theme of the summit was “**Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy**”. During the summit, many issues were discussed such as protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response. Union Home Ministry has launched a scheme ‘Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)’ to combat cyber-crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.

66. Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched one of world’s largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education -- **Shagun**.

Note: The app will provide all the details about the education system in the country as well as detailed information about schools with a feedback procedure structured for the parents. The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crores, students. Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ also announced the setting up of the Integrated National School Education Treasury (INSET) which envisages a fully integrated, instantly accessible and seamless information network for all parameters relating to the students, teachers, and schools in the country.

Important News – State

1. Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Governor’s Administration has approved operationalization of the Toll-Free Ambulance Service -- **102-108**.

Note: **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Governor’s Administration** has decided to bring a fleet of 416 Ambulances under the ambit of this service, which will be operationalized through a centralized Call Centre working on a 24x7 basis. The project will be operational by 15th October 2019. It will provide round the clock transportation to the patients requiring immediate medical care especially critical, Trauma, accidental victims, pregnant women & sick children. 102 Ambulance Service will provide free of cost service to the targeted population.

2. West Bengal Government has launched an **awareness campaign** for preserving the **greenery** and keeping the **environment clean**.

Note: The State Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** launched the campaign named as ‘**Save Green, Stay Clean**’ in Kolkata. The State Government will distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

3. The Maharashtra government has granted infrastructure project status for a **USD 10 billion** (about Rs. 70,0000 crores) plan to establish the **world’s first ultra-fast hyperloop** project

Note: The projects aim to link Mumbai with the neighboring city of Pune. Hyperloops use magnets to levitate pods inside an airless tube, creating conditions in which the pods can shuttle people and freight at speeds of up to 1,200 km per hour. The status could help fast-track land acquisition for the project over a 117.5 km stretch that will shuttle people between the cities in about 35 minutes.

4. Kolkata Metro has constructed the first-ever transport tunnel in the country which will pass through underwater.

Note: The East-West Metro corridor will pass through under Hooghly river and it will become the first such river crossing in the country. Two tunnels are being constructed on the up and down line, which is about 1.4 kilometres long. The width of the Hooghly river here is about 520 meters and this tunnel passes through the bottom of the river bottom. Kolkata metro is spending Rs 8,572 crore on this entire project. The metro line between Salt Lake Sector-5 to Salt Lake Stadium has Karunamayi, Central Park, City Center and Bengal Chemical metro stations.

5. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched a **welfare scheme** for the girl child -- **Vhali Dikri Yojna**.

Note: It is a statewide cash incentive scheme for every girl child born in Gujarat, with a view to raising the female birth rate at par with male to achieve gender equality. The **State Government** will pay Rs. 4,000 to every girl child at the time of admission to Standard 4th, Rs. 6,000 at the time of taking admission to Standard IX, Rs. 1 lakh at the time of taking admission for higher education at the age of 18 and another Rs. 1 lakh at the time of marriage.

6. The Union Government has approved a project worth **Rs. 4,900-crore Kosi-Mechi river** interlinking project in **Bihar**.

Note: This is the second major river interlinking project in the country to be approved after the Ken-Betwa project in Madhya Pradesh. The project will prevent recurring floods in north Bihar and also irrigate over 2.14 lakh hectares of cultivable land in Bihar. The central government has approved construction of 76.20 km canals on the eastern bank of Kosi for irrigation purpose. The project is aimed at alleviating hardships of the people resulting from the floods and has the potential to usher in a green revolution in the Seemanchal region.

7. Mohali traffic police has launched the 3-D Smart Traffic Signal system based on **Artificial Intelligence**.

- Note:** This 3-D technique is first of its kind in the country. The new system called 'Intelights' will have sensors which would automatically switch on the green and red signals depending upon the number of vehicles coming from that particular side. It will regulate with a smart bird's eye view wireless sensor system.
8. **Manipur** has topped the ranking in **Breastfeeding** and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country. **Note:** Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the **bottom positions** in the report card. **National capital Delhi** is also among the worst-performing States. The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.
 9. An **expedition team of mountaineers** were flagged off by Union Minister of State for Defense **Shripad Yesso Naik to Mount Elbrus, Russia.** **Note:** The team is aiming to hoist the Indian national flag atop the mountain on Aug 15, on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of India. The expedition team of eight professionals from Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) in Darjeeling, led by its principal GP Captain Jaikishan. The team will also perform 'asanas' atop the mountain in an attempt to showcase the importance of Yoga to the international community.
 10. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the Jharkhand government's **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana.** **Note:** The objective of the 'Chief Minister Krishi Aashirwad Yojana' is to provide financial assistance to the farmers of Jharkhand and to help the farmers facing problems in agriculture due to loans. The target of providing financial assistance of Rs. 3 thousand crores to 35 lakh farmers of the state are set. In the first phase of this scheme, 15 lakh farmers of the state will be given the benefit of the scheme.
 11. **Thousands of students** and members of several social organizations unfurled a **15-km long national flag** by forming a human chain in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh.** **Note:** Thousands of people and students from various schools created a human chain while holding the 15-km long tri colour from Amapara Chowk to Pt Ravishankar Shukla University. The event has been organized by **Vasudgaiv Kutumbakam Foundation.**
 12. **Punjab Agriculture Department** has initiated a massive drive to provide more than **28000 agro-machines/farm equipment** to farmers. **Note:** Subsidy component of 278 crore rupees will be provided for the scheme during the current fiscal year under the first phase for in-situ management of paddy residue. Subsidy ranging from 50 per cent to 80 per cent is being provided to the farmers under the scheme with 80 per cent subsidy to cooperative societies and farmers groups while 50 per cent for individuals. The Agriculture Department has fully geared up to complete the task of distribution of this equipment before 15th September this year.
 13. **Karnataka Government** has launched an initiative to empower student start-ups **E-Step.** **Note:** The "E-Step" initiative has been launched by The Department of IT, BT and S&T in Karnataka, through Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS). Under the E-step initiative boot camps, mentoring and training programmes will be organised which will cover various aspects of entrepreneurship. The programme is specially crafted for students/start-ups/entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from experienced trainers.
 14. **West Bengal** Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** has inaugurated the **world's first museum** in Kolkata on Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. **Note:** The museum has been constructed by Baghbazar Gaydiya Mission. The Chaitanya museum has paintings on one of the aspects of Lord Krishna's life known as 'Vrindavan Leela'. Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was the 16th-century Bengali Hindu mystic and saint and the chief proponent of the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
 15. National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' held in **Leh-Ladakh.** **Note:** Tribal Affairs Ministry and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) are jointly organizing a 9 - Day Aadi Mahotsav. The theme of this celebration is "A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce". 9-day Adi mahotsav will showcase traditional art and handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country.
 16. The **Andhra Pradesh** Government has launched the state's flagship program "Village Volunteers System". **Note:** The aim of this program is to provide government services at doorsteps of people. This was announced by the chief minister on the eve of independence-day celebration in Vijayawada. Each volunteer will be paid Rs 5,000 per month and the person has to
 17. Manipur Chief Minister **N Biren Singh** has launched a scheme to improve the infrastructure of government schools in the state -- **School Fagadaba.** **Note:** The objective of the "**School Fagadaba**" Scheme is to ensure better infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools to make them model schools. In the first phase of the scheme, one school from each of the 60 Assembly constituencies in the state have been selected. Biometric devices would be installed in schools in ensuring regular attendance of teachers.
 18. Maharashtra Transport Minister **Diwakar Raote** has launched a tracking system for **MSRTC buses.** **Note:** Currently, it is ready on the Mumbai-Nashik route for all Shivneri buses, the premium brand of MSRTC. The cost of the project, including the deployment of GPS machines, tracking software, and putting up screens to display information at bus stops, is 32 crore rupees. The

- mechanism will help** the corporation to efficiently deploy services, inform passengers about delays, and provide the driver information about congestion on the route and suggest alternatives.
19. Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** announced Mo Sarkar initiative during Independence Day celebration in the state.
Note: The new initiative will commence from October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Under the new initiative, the chief minister and other ministers will call common citizens to seek their feedback on the kind of response and service they received when they visited the government facilities. The program, in its first phase, will be implemented for all police stations and district headquarters hospitals and will later take up all other departments by March 5, 2020.
20. **Rajasthan** has won the “**best innovation and initiative leadership award**” for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019.
Note: Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati received the award at the summit. Representatives of eight countries and 17 States of India attended the two-day summit. The third higher education and human resource conclave would be organised in Rajasthan in November this year.
21. According to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami, Vellore district will be trifurcated and two new districts, -- **Ranipet and Tirupattur**.
Note: Vellore will be the headquarters of these two new districts. The Chief Minister also announced that a new taluk will be formed with K V Kuppam as its headquarters. With the creation of two more districts, the total number of districts in Tamil Nadu mounts to 37.
22. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the first-ever CNG fuel station of the state in **Dibrugarh**.
Note: With the inauguration of this clean and green fuel station, it will reduce environmental pollution. Mr. Sonowal has given much emphasis to make the state free from pollution.
23. Chief Minister of Punjab **Amarinder Singh** has launched a flagship universal health insurance scheme **Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana** to mark the 75th birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi.
Note: The mega health insurance scheme combines Centre’s Ayushman Bharat plan to provide annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases. The scheme with 1,396 treatment packages will be implemented through over 450 empanelled hospitals, including 200 government hospitals. With this, Punjab has become 1st state to offer medical insurance for such a large proportion of its population.
24. **Defence Research and Development Organization** (DRDO) handed over the design of **Mobile Metallic Ramp** (MMR) to the **Indian Army**.
Note: With a **load-bearing capacity** of 70 metric ton (MT), the MMR has been designed and developed by DRDO’s premier research laboratory, Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES). The ramp will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.
25. Researchers of the Indian **University** have discovered **five new fish species** in various districts of the state -- **Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: Fisheries and an aquatic ecology research team from the zoology department of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) led by Professor DN Das. The scientific names of the newly discovered fish species are *Mystus prabini*, found in Sinkin and Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district and *Exostoma kottelati*, found in Ranga river in Lower Subansiri district. The details of the discovery have been published in various journals of international repute, a release from RGU’s zoology department stat
26. Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated **FSSAI’s National Food Laboratory** (NFL) in **Ghaziabad**.
Note: This national lab is a result of a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), the first-of-its-kind in the food laboratory sector. The lab is equipped with the latest technologies and facilities to conduct analysis as per global accreditation standards for testing and calibration. NFL is one of the two premier referral laboratories under the direct administrative control of the apex food regulator named, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).
27. The President **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the **first World Youth Conference** on Kindness in **New Delhi**.
Note: The World Youth Conference on Kindness is being organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The objective of the conference to impart critical competencies (i.e. empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry) in global youth to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities. Youth leaders, representing over 27 countries, are participating in this Conference.
28. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palaniswami** has launched its exclusive education **TV channel** named ‘**Kalvi Tholaikkatchi**’.
Note: The channel will telecast various programmes, including rhymessongs, video lessons and coaching classes. It is an initiative of the School Education Department aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII. ‘Kalvi Tholaikkatchi’ will telecast programmes from 6 am to 9.30 pmevery day. Soon, cable connections will be installed at primary and middle schools as well for its full coverage.
29. **Gujarat state** has retained its first position in the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) 2.0 announced by the NITI Aayog.

- Note:** Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Union Jal Shakti Minister) and Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog) have jointly released Composite Water Management Index report in New Delhi. This is the 3rd consecutive year that the state has retained its position in the water management sector. NITI Aayog has conceptualized and launched the Composite Water Management Index as a tool to install the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states.
- 30. Dr. Harsh Vardhan** and Trivendra Singh Rawat have **jointly inaugurated** a waste-plastics to diesel plant in **Dehradun**.
Note: The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel. It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.
- 31. Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transportation Raghbir Mahaseth** and Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri flagged off the bus from **Kathmandu**.
Note: The 44-seater air-conditioned deluxe bus will complete 650 Kilometre-journey between Kathmandu and Siliguri in 18 hours. The bus will leave Kathmandu daily at 3 P.M. and reach Siliguri via Kakarvitta-Panitanki border next day at around 9 A.M. The bus fare is 2,000 Nepali Rupees and tickets would be available on-line. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Nepal visit in 2014, a Motor Vehicle Agreement for Passenger Traffic was signed to facilitate the seamless and hassle-free movement of people of both countries and promote tourism.
- 32. The Maharashtra government** has decided to **grant exemption** from the state **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** to Bollywood film '**Mission Mangal**'.
Note: The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, in
- Mumbai. The film conveys a positive message about science and to take the message further to common people. 'Mission Mangal' is loosely based on the life of scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) who contributed to the Mars Orbiter Mission, India's first interplanetary expedition.
- 33. Maharashtra Higher & Technical Education Minister** has launched the database portal to serve as a resource centre for educational institutions to make better policy decisions -- **academisthan.com**
Note: The portal will serve as a resource centre for educational institutions in government, semi-government and private sectors to develop their policies and other activities. This will open a new window of resources for educational institutes.
- 34. India's 1st garbage cafe** to be opened in **Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh**.
Note: The Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh will open India's first 'Garbage Cafe' within a few days. Under this, the Municipal Corporation will provide food to the poor and homeless in lieu of plastic waste. In this unique 'Cafe' poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe. According to the Mayor of Ambikapur Ajay Tirkey, the collected garbage will be sold at Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre.
- 35. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma** has launch the campaign of Fit India Movement -- **walk to work**.
Note: The Chief Minister took a two-kilometre walk from his residential quarters to his office chamber at Main Secretariat, Shillong. The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO2 emission, reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness.

Important News – World

- 1. Foreign Ministers from South East Asia** has attended the **52nd ASEAN summit** in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
Note: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr Don Pramudwinai chaired the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) plenary session. The annual meeting opened with a call from the host Thailand for deeper integration to expand trade and bolster prosperity in the region amid rising global challenges.
- 2. India is among 48 countries** whose citizens have been **exempted from visa** fees for tourism purposes by the **Sri Lankan government**.
Note: According to Sri Lankan tourism minister John Amarasinghe, visa fees (20 to 40 US dollars) will not be charged for grant of one-month visa for tourism. The tourists can apply for electronic travel authorisations online or apply for visa on arrival. Sri Lankan tourism has been impacted after the Easter Sunday attacks but the tourism authorities have claimed that there is a revival seen since last month.
- 3. Saudi Arab** will allow women to obtain **passports** and **travel abroad** without approval from a male "**guardian**".
Note: A passport will be granted to any **Saudi national** who submits the application. The regulation will be applicable to women over the age of **21 years**. Women's rights activists have campaigned for decades against the guardianship system. The decision comes amid a wide-ranging liberalisation drive spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.
- 4. The WorldSkills International Competition 2019** (Olympics for Skills) will be held in **Kazan, Russia**.
Note: The competition will bring together Competitors, Experts, and industry, education, and government leaders from around the world. The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government

- of India has announced 48-member Indian contingent to represent the country at the biggest showcase of skills excellence in the world. The programme will be participated by more than 1,500 competitors from 60 countries in 55 skill competitions.
5. The **4th South Asian Speaker's Summit** will be held in **Male, Maldives**.
Note: The theme of the event is "**Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**". A **parliamentary delegation** led by Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** will represent India. The fourth South Asian Speaker's Summit will be jointly organized by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Maldivian Parliament (22 to 27th August 2019).
 6. The **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)** led by the Union **Earth Sciences Ministry** will commence from **31st October 2019**.
Note: The mission has received a go-ahead from the government. **Expenditure plans** will be drawn and circulated to **various institutions** affiliated to the Ministry for executing programmes. The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences had unveiled a blueprint of the programme in July 2018. A major thrust of the mission will be looking for metals and minerals.
 7. The US will impose an additional **10% tariff** on 300 billion US Dollars in **Chinese imports**.
Note: The US President accused China of not being serious in arriving at the trade deal and failing to keep its promise to buy more American agricultural products. The new tariff, in **addition to the 25%** on goods worth **250 billion US dollars** that was previously in place, would come into effect from 1st of next month. Since the commencement of trade war last year China and the US have so far hit each other with punitive tariffs covering more than USD 360 billion in two-way trade.
 8. **The Netherland** banned **face-covering cloth** (burqa or niqab) in **public buildings** and on **transport** as a **contentious law** on the garment came into force.
Note: Between **100** and 400 women are estimated to wear a **burqa or niqab** in the European country of **17 million** people. The legislation - which was passed in June last year after more than a decade of political debate on the subject - also applies to other face coverings such as full-face helmets, balaclavas or ski mask.
 9. American carrier rocket Falcon 9 lifts off successfully the Israeli communication satellite into the orbit -- **AMOS-17**.
Note: The rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Amos-17 is set to replace Amos-5 satellite launched in 2011. Communication with Amos-5 was lost in 2015. Amos-17, built by Boeing, will provide Ka, Ku and C-band signal transmission and expand Israeli communications satellite operator Spacecom's coverage in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.
 10. India and Bangladesh have agreed to **set up a Joint Technical committee** for optimum utilization of **Ganges water**.
Note: Both the countries also agreed to prepare a framework for interim water-sharing agreement for eight rivers including Feni, Gumti and Teesta. Both the countries also discussed issues related to pollution of trans boundary rivers. It is an important step in enhancing bilateral cooperation in the water resources sector between India and Bangladesh. The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-basin is the second largest hydraulic region in the world.
 11. **University of Leeds Scientists** has created the world's thinnest gold measuring just two atoms thick or million times thinner than a fingernail.
Note: In its 2D form, gold becomes flexible that adds to its potential of being used more efficiently such as in bendable screens, electronic inks, medical diagnostic tests, and water purification systems.
 12. **Indian Railways** has cancelled train after **Pakistan** suspended operations on its side -- **Samjhauta Express**.
Note: According to Northern Railway, Pakistan has cancelled the Samjhauta Express running between Lahore and Attari. The railways run the train on Sundays from Delhi to Attari and back, while Pakistan used to run the train between Lahore and Attari. The train (Samjhauta Express) was started on 22 July 1976 following the Shimla Agreement and ran between Amritsar and Lahore, a distance of about 52 km. On 14 April 2000, in an agreement between Indian Railways and Pakistan Railways (PR), the distance was revised to cover just under three km.
 13. India and Russia to **boost ties** to achieve **USD 30 billion** bilateral trade by **2025**.
Note: Piyush Goyal (Commerce and Industry Minister) led a high-power delegation of Chief Ministers of Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Goa and about 140 Indian companies to Vladivostok, Russia (11-13 August 2019). Goyal underlined the need to diversify and deepen trade links in priority sectors, in order to meet the trade target of USD 30 billion by 2025. The 5th Eastern Economic Forum will be held in September in Vladivostok, Russia.
 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day visit to **UAE, France and Bahrain**.
 15. The 5th meeting of **India-Nepal Joint Commission** held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Note: Dr S. Jaishankar (India's Minister for External Affairs) and Pradeep Kumar Gyawali (Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs) co-chaired the meeting and lead their respective delegations. The Joint Commission Meeting will review the overall state of bilateral relations and various areas of cooperation such as connectivity and economic partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources, culture, education and other matters of mutual interest. India-Nepal Joint Commission was established in June 1987.

16. Chad President **Idriss Deby** has declared a state of emergency in two eastern provinces after violent. **Note:** The state of emergency will run for three months in Sila and Ouaddai regions. The Republic of Chad is a landlocked country in north-central Africa. It is bordered by Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon and Nigeria to the southwest, and Niger to the west.
17. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Zambian President **Edgar Lungu**. **Note:** Several agreements have been signed after the talks. President Lungu's visit will provide an opportunity to further energize India's mutually beneficial partnership with Zambia. The Republic of Zambia (Southern African country) is a landlocked country of rugged terrain and diverse wildlife, with many parks and safari areas.
18. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Bhutanese counterpart **Dr Lotay Tshering** jointly inaugurated the **720-Megawatt** Mangdechu hydroelectric plant in **Thimphu**. **Note:** This is the fourth plant built by India in Bhutan. They also inaugurated the Ground Earth Station of South Asian Satellite, developed by Indian Space Research Organization. India and Bhutan also signed 10 Memorandum of Understanding in science, technology, engineering and maths and judicial sectors.
19. **Nepalese authorities** have banned **single-use plastics** in the **Everest region** in a bid to cut down on waste left by climbers by **2020**. **Note:** It will curb excessive pollution on the highest point of the Earth's surface. Earlier, International environmentalists have expressed their concern that Nepal has not done enough to protect the fragile environment of the world's highest peak. Nepal is also marking the "Visit Nepal" campaign next year which aims to draw 2 million foreign visitors. Last year, 56,303 foreign trekkers and mountaineers visited the Everest region.
20. US-based e-commerce giant **Amazon.com Inc.** inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in **Hyderabad**. **Note:** The new campus is spread over 9.5 acres and is its largest tech base outside the Seattle headquarters, which has about 155,000 contract employees. The e-commerce firm will house more than 15,000 employees out of the over 62,000 members of the India team.
21. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** held talks with French President **Emmanuel Macron** to expand cooperation in areas of **counter terrorism and security**. **Note:** The two leaders first held a one-on-one meeting which was followed by the delegation-level talks at Chateau de Chantilly, about 50 km north of Paris. Both leaders reviewed the entire gamut of the dynamic and multi-faceted bilateral relations during their more than 90-minute long one-on-one meeting. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a red-carpet welcome on his arrival in Paris, France.
22. **Russia** has launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named Fedor with identification number Skybot F850. **Note:** It will spend **10 days learning** to assist astronauts on the International Space Station. Fedor blasted off in a **Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft** from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in **Kazakhstan**. It is a silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilogrammes (353 pounds). Fedor is described as potentially useful on Earth for working in high radiation environments, de-mining and tricky rescue missions.
23. Iranian President **Hassan Rouhani** has inducted a locally built air-defence system -- **Bavar-373**. **Note:** This is also Iran's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system which has been inducted into the country's missile defence network. Bavar-373 is a mobile missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy incoming hostile targets. The system employs missiles that have a maximum range of 300 kilo metres.

Honor & Awards

1. **Kapil Dev** has been conferred with the **East Bengal's highest honor**, 'Bharat Gaurav'. **Note:** India's **first World Cup-winning cricket captain** Kapil Dev (60 years) has been conferred with the East Bengal's highest honour, 'Bharat Gaurav'. Kapil had signed for East Bengal on June 22, 1992 and played for 27 minutes six days later as a substitute forward in an exhibition match against arch-rivals Mohun Bagan. Bhaichung Bhutia honoured with "identifying and nurturing the icon" award, while former India captains, Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Bhaskar Ganguly have given Lifetime Achievement awards.
2. UK's capital **London** has been named as the **world's best city** for students for the **second consecutive** year. **Note:** As per new **worldwide rankings**, London beat international cities like **Tokyo** and **Melbourne** that came second and third respectively. According to the rankings, **India's best student city is Bangalore** (81st), followed by Mumbai (85th), Delhi at 113 and Chennai at 115 out of a total of 120 cities ranked in the list. The 'QS Best Student Cities Ranking' compiled by global education consultancy QS Quacquarelli Symonds highlights each city's performance across six categories - the number of top-ranked universities; the proportion of a city's population.
3. Renowned entrepreneur, co-founder and Director of **Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd Ruhan Rajput** was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019.

- Note:** He won award o in the category of 'Entrepreneur of the Year in Service Business - BPO/KPO'. His company, namely, Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry. Besides business, Ruhan Rajput also excels as an actor and model in Bollywood. He made a debut in the film industry with Pravat Rout's film, 'Prarabdh', followed by three music albums: 'Mohabataiyan', 'Khidaki ka Parda' and 'Saiyan Re'.
4. According to the **World Bank's Report**, India has been **pushed** to the **7th place** in the global GDP rankings in 2018.
Note: The **US remains** the top economy with a GDP of **USD 20.5 trillion** in 2018. China was the **second-largest economy** with **USD 13.6 trillion**, while Japan took third place with **USD 5 trillion**. India's GDP was at **USD 2.7 trillion** in 2018, while UK and France were at **USD 2.8 trillion**.
 5. India's **TV journalists Ravish Kumar** has won the '**Magsaysay award 2019**' for his news show '**Prime Time**'.
Note: Show '**Prime Time**' deals with real-life, **under-reported problems** of ordinary people. **Ravish Kumar** (NDTV India's senior executive editor) is among the five recipients of the 2019 Magsaysay award, which recognises the "greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia". The four other winners of the **2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award** are Ko Swe Win (Myanmar), Angkhana Neelapajit (Thailand), Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab (Philippines) and Kim Jong-Ki (South Korea). The **Magsaysay award** is given every year to individuals or organisations in Asia who manifest the same selfless service and transformative influence that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.
 6. **Statue of Unity** has been shortlisted for 'The Structural Awards 2019' of the UK-based Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE).
Note: The Objective of the award to increase awareness of the important work that structural engineers do. Statue of Unity (memorial to Sardar Patel) was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Gujarat's Kevadia town on 31st October 2018. It is among the 49 structures that will vie for the prestigious award. Past winners of this award include iconic structures such as the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Severn Bridge in England.
 7. India's **transsexual women** has won the **Miss World Diversity beauty pageant 2019** for third consecutive year -- **Naaz Joshi**.
Note: The **transsexual beauty** has won the title in 2017 and 2018 as well to become the first person ever to win the title for three consecutive years. This **beauty contest** was held in **Port Louis, Mauritius**. She has also been crowned as **Miss Republic International Beauty Ambassador 2017** and Miss United Nationals Ambassador.
 8. As part of **centenary year celebrations** of **Dr Vikram Sarabhai**, the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has announced **two categories** of awards in **Journalism**.
Note: The **first category holds** a cash price of **Rs 5,00,000**, a medal and citation and two journalists or freelancers of print media will be awarded. The **second category of the award** holds 3 cash prizes of Rs 3,00,000, 2,00,000 and 1,00,000 and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media. "**Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award** in Space Science, Technology and Research" is to recognize and **reward journalists** who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
 9. A team of researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G)** has developed a portable device to detect bacteria without **Microbiological assays**.
Note: The hand-held device, with bio-compatible sensor can also diagnose time-critical illnesses such as meningitis. The present techniques are extremely time-consuming. Currently, cells derived from a patient are cultured or grown in laboratories to detect and microanalyse bacteria. The research has enabled rapid detection of bacteria, which is not just important in healthcare but also in anti- bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring.
 10. President Ram Nath Kovind conferred country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna to **Pranab Mukherjee, Bhupen Hazarika & Nanaji Deshmukh**.
Note: **Pranab Mukherjee** received the award from the President, at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan. Bhupen Hazarika's son Tej Hazarika received the award on his behalf. While a relative of Nanaji Deshmukh, Virender Jeet Singh received the award for him. Nanaji Deshmukh was born in 1916 in a Marathi family in Parbhani, Maharashtra. As a child, he was inspired by freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Nanaji established India's first Saraswati Sishu Mandir at Gorakhpur in 1950. Bharat Ratna Awardee receives a certificate known as 'Sanad' signed by the President of India and a medallion.
 11. **NITI Aayog** has launched the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards.
Note: The **Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards** is being **organized in collaboration** with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India. This year's theme is '**women and Entrepreneurship**', in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018. During the launch Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Coordinator in India and partners of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) were present.
 12. Indian Air Force's (IAF) Wing Commander has been honoured with Vir Chakra -- **Abhinandan Varthaman**.
Note: The Vir Chakra is the third highest wartime gallantry award after the Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir

- Chakra. Wg Cdr Abhinandan had sustained injuries while ejecting from his MiG-21 Bison during the aerial combat between Indian and Pakistani air forces on February 27. IAF Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal will also be honoured with Yudh Seva Medal for her role as a fighter controller during the 27th February aerial conflict between India and Pakistan. Indian Army's Sapper Prakash Jadhav of 1 Rashtriya Rifles (Mahar) will also be conferred Kirti Chakra (posthumously), for the role he played in an operation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 13.** The first Indian chef has been awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mrite Agricoleto -- **Priyam Chatterjee**.
Note: The Order of Agricultural Merit is an order of merit bestowed by the French Republic for outstanding contributions to agriculture. He has been awarded for his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India. Priyam is known for revisiting the traditional dishes from his native state of West Bengal and giving it a French twist.
- 14.** IIT Madras researchers have develop a **multi-modal robot** with Industrial and field applications called '**GraspMan**'.
Note: This robot has various industrial applications and can be used in search-and-rescue operations. GraspMan consists a pair of graspers, which provide morphological adaptation, enabling it to conform to the geometry of the object being grasped. This allows the grasper to hold objects securely and manipulate it much like the human hand.
- 15.** The **Kirti Chakra** will be conferred on **soldier -- Prakash Jadhav (posthumously)**.
Note: Prakash Jadhav died in a gunfight with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018. It is third highest military honour awarded during peacetime. **Jadhav, a sapper** with the Indian Army who succumbed to bullet injuries sustained in **Kulgam** district.
- 16.** **K. Sivan** has been awarded **Tamil Nadu** government's Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Award 2019.
Note: He is the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). under his leadership, the ISRO launched its Chandrayaan-2 mission. A native of Kanniyakumari district, Mr. Sivan is known popularly known as the 'Rocket Man'.
- 17.** President Awards Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for **2019**.
Note: Sanskrit: (1) Dr. Ashok Thapliyal; (2) Prof. SujataTripathi; (3) Dr.Sanju Mishra; (4) Dr. Abhijit Hanmant Joshi; (5) Dr. Shara chchandra Dwivedi
- Pali: Ms. AnomaShriramSakhare
 - Prakrit: Shri Ashish Kumar Jain
 - Arabic: Dr. Fauzan Ahmad
 - Persian: ER.M. ShahbazAlam
 - Classical Kannada: (1) Shri G.B. Harisha; (2) Shri S. Karthik; (3) Dr. M. Byrappa
 - Classical Telugu: (1) Dr. Addanki Srinivas (2) Dr. V. Triveni; (3) Dr. D.K. Prabhakar
- Classical Malayalam: (1) Dr. Rajeev R.R.; (2) Shri Santhosh Thottingal
 - Classical Odia: Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty.
- 18.** **Dr K Thangaraj** was awarded JC Bose Fellowship for 2019.
Note: Thangaraj was given this fellowship for his outstanding contributions in the field of population and medical genomics. The JC Bose Fellowship is awarded to scientists in recognition for their outstanding performance by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology.
- 19.** **Ms Ankita Gulati** has received the award under **category 'B'** (for Working Professionals) for Touch Vision's contribution towards empowering visually impaired people.
Note: Ms Gulati got this award for developing a multisensory kit which narrates the content in the raised picture when a visually impaired person touches it. TouchVision aims at digital inclusion for 253 million persons with visual impairment globally.
- 20.** **Prasar Bharti** has announced to introduce two awards-the Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award and the Achyutananda Sahoo Award.
Note: The awards will be launched to remember Senior DD News anchor Neelum Sharma who passed away on the 17th of August. Neelum Sharma was remembered with fondness and great affection as friends, colleagues and acquaintances from across the networks of Doordarshan paid her glowing tributes.
- 21.** As per '**Forbes**' world's 10 highest-paid actors in 2019 list, who has topped in the list -- **Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson**.
Note: Hollywood actor Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson (WWE's Rock) has topped the list with an earning of USD 89.4 million (between 1st June 2018 to 1st June 2019). Indian actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the fourth position with USD 65 million. Chris Hemsworth is second in the list with USD 76.4 million and Robert Downey Jr. is third in the list with earnings of USD 66 million.
- 2.** Tawlhlohpuan & Mizo Puanchei (from Mizoram), and Tirur betel vine (from Kerala) has received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
Note: GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. The **Geographical Indication** comes under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- 22.** **Professor Meeta Narain** has been conferred with the **Pushkin Medal 2019** for her contribution to Russian studies abroad.
Note: Pushkin Medal is the **highest International Award** given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad. Narain has contributed towards re-writing of Russian studies textbooks for graduate students after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

23. Indian - American teenager **Navneeth Murali** has won 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest.
Note: New Jersey-based Navneeth Murali won after correctly spelling the word 'flype' and earned the national title and USD 3,000 grand prize. He has become the first winner "on an APPEAL", in the spelling history. Flype is defined as "to strip off by or as if by peeling" according to the dictionary. Over 600 spellers from these centres participated from which 15 finalists took the stage at the finals.
24. For the second consecutive year, Hollywood Actress **Scarlett Johansson** has topped the **Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors** in the world.
Note: Spurred by the success of her Marvel film Avengers: Endgame, her earning reached USD 56 million. At number two is Modern Family star Sofia Vergara with USD 44.1 million earnings.
25. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** conferred with the highest civilian award of the United Arab Emirates, the -- **Order of Zayed**.
Note: Prime Minister Modi launched Rupay Card in the UAE to promote cashless transactions abroad. With this, UAE has become the first country in the Middle East to have this facility. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemorative stamp was jointly released by Mr Modi and the Crown Prince at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi. The Order of Zayed is the United Arab Emirates' highest civil decoration named after Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE.
26. Former Manchester United forward **Eric Cantona** will be awarded the Uefa President's Award for his commitment to helping improve the lives of others.
Note: He will receive the award in Monaco during the Champion's League group stage draw. Cantona won four Premier League titles in five years with United in the 1990s and scored 64 goals for the Old Trafford club in 143 appearances. Cantona won the old First Division title with Leeds United in 1992 before joining Manchester United, where he won four Premier Leagues and two FA Cups.
27. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited (Incuspaze) to open a first-of-its-kind co-working space.
Note: This coworking space exclusively designed for MSMEs and startups. This coworking space is fully furnished office equipped with training and conference room, fast-speed internet, reception, refreshment, recreational area, housekeeping facilities etc.
28. Indian Air Force's **Wing Commander** has become the first female officer in the country to become the **Flight Commander** of a flying unit-- **S Dhami**.
Note: Recently, Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase. She is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force and has been flying choppers. Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit meaning that she is the number two in the unit after the commanding officer.
29. Indian **documentary film** has won the top award in the '**Under 30 minute**' category at the **14th edition** of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues' -- **I'm Jeeja**.
Note: The film tells the story of specially-abled activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy. The documentary directed by Swati Chakraborty attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability. Another Indian film "Post Dark" received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category. A total of 36 films were selected for the finals out of which 10 films were awarded in different categories.
30. **Maitri** won bronze medal at global tech competition in the US.
Note: Maitri application connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes. The app, called Maitri, is aimed at bringing together individuals suffering from loneliness and depression and those lacking the nurturing love of elderly role models. The app also allows users to volunteer and donate to old-age homes and orphanages through it.

Sports News

1. India cricketer and **Andhra Pradesh Ranji team** skipper **Venugopal Rao** has announced retirement from **all forms** of the game.
Note: Venugopala Rao has represented India in 16 ODIs, and 65 IPL matches. Rao played 121 first-class matches scoring 7,081 runs with 17 hundred and 30 fifties to his credit. From 2008-2014 he played for Deccan Chargers and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL
2. Australian **all-rounder Ellyse Perry** has become the **first cricketer** of either gender to reach the **rare milestone** of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in the T20 format.
Note: Perry is the **youngest person** to represent Australia in cricket and the first Australian to have appeared in both cricket and football World Cups. Currently, Former Pakistani all-rounder **Shahid Afridi** (1416 runs and 98 wickets) stands closest to achieving the feat. Bangladesh's **Shakib al Hasan**, with 1471 runs and 88 wickets, stands next in line to join Perry.
3. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named two new umpires Michael Gough (England) and Joel Wilson (West Indies) in the elite panel for 2019-20.
Note: Gough having officiated in nine Tests, **59 ODIs** and 14 T20Is and Wilson having stood in 13 Tests, 63 ODIs and 26 T20Is. The other members of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Umpires are Aleem Dar, Kumar Dharmasena, Marais Erasmus, Chris Gaffaney, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Nigel Llong, Bruce

- Oxenford, Paul Reiffel and Rod Tucker. The Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees remains unchanged with David Boon, Chris Broad, Jeff Crowe, Ranjan Madugalle, Andy Pycroft, Richie Richardson and Javagal Srinath the seven officials on that list.
4. **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar** has clinched **Gold medal** in Men's Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at 12th Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters competition.
Note: He posted a comfortable victory with a score of 459.9 and a class 10.7 in the end. Tinjit Dhanota (Punjab) and Esha Singh (Telengana) won the Men's and Women's 10 metres Air Pistol gold medals. India's most accomplished 3P shooter Sanjeev Rajput had to be satisfied with silver, finishing with a score of 455.5, a clear 4.4 behind Aishwary.
 5. **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty** have become the **first Indian pair** to win a BWF Super **500 badminton tournament** in Bangkok, Thailand.
Note: They beat the reigning **World Champions** and third seeds **Li Jun Hui** and **Liu Yu Chen** of China in three hard-fought games 21-19, 18-21, 21-18 to win the men's doubles category. The **2019 Thailand Open** was a badminton tournament which took place at Indoor Stadium Huamark in Bangkok, Thailand and had a total purse of USD 350,000. **This tournament** was organized by the **Badminton Association of Thailand** with sanction from the BWF.
 6. **Vinesh Phogat** has won the gold medal in women's **53kg category** of the **Poland Open wrestling tournament** in Warsaw.
Note: **Vinesh Phogat** prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition. This was her third consecutive gold in the 53 kg category after winning Gold at Grand Prix of Spain and at the Yasar Dogu International at Istanbul, Turkey.
 7. **British racing driver Lewis Hamilton** has won the **Formula 1**, Hungarian Grand Prix 2019.
Note: Mercedes driver Hamilton hunted down Max Verstappen to win the Hungarian Grand Prix for a record-extending seventh time. The 2019 Hungarian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race which was held at the Hungaroring in Mogyorod, Hungary. The race was the twelfth round of twenty-one of the 2019 Formula One World Championship and the 35th running of the Hungarian Grand Prix.
 8. India's opening batsman **Rohit Sharma** has become the batsman with the **most- number of sixes** in the T20I format.
Note: He blasted two sixes to go past West Indies' Chris Gayle at the top spot. Now, the right-handed batsman Rohit Sharma has 106 sixes in the format whereas Gayle has 105. Kiwi opening batsman Martin Guptill sits on the third position with 103 sixes. Currently, Rohit Sharma holds the record for most number of centuries (four) and highest run-scorer in the T20I format.
 9. Australia's player **Nick Kyrgios** has won the ATP Washington Open title.
Note: He defeated Russia's 10th-ranked Daniil Medvedev. Nick Kyrgios claimed the USD 365,390 top prize and his 6th career ATP crown at the US Open tune-up event.
 10. German **cancer researcher Fiona Kolbinger** has won the mixed annual **4,000 km** cycling Transcontinental race.
Note: She managed to complete the route, which travelled from Burgas on the eastern coast of Bulgaria to Brest in northwest France, in a time of just 10 days, two hours and 48 minutes. The race was the cyclist's first ever ultra-distance challenge.
 11. **M C Mary Kom & Lovlina Borgohain** have been selected for the upcoming **women's world boxing championships** to be held in Russia.
Note: **Mary Kom** (36-years) has already claimed two gold medals this year India Open and a recent tournament in Indonesia, has been selected in the 51kg category. While World and Asian bronze-medallist Borgohain will be competing in the 69kg category.
 12. Former **Uruguay captain Diego Forlan** has announced his official retirement at the age of 40-years.
Note: In 2011, the striker helped Uruguay win the Copa America, a competition both his father and grandfather won. He was also named the best player at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa where Uruguay finished fourth. He scored 36 goals in 112 matches for his country.
 13. **South African** player **Hashim Amla** announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
Note: Hashim Amla made his international debut in a Test match vs India in Kolkata in 2004. Amla played 349 matches across three formats for the Proteas, scoring more than 18 000 runs. Amla is the fastest batsman to reach 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000 and 7000 ODI runs
 14. **World Archery (WA)** suspended the **Archery Association of India (AAI)** for defying its guidelines by electing **two parallel** bodies.
Note: The decision is effective from **12th August** and the last event in which the archers can participate under the Indian flag is the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid from 19th to 25th of this month. Olympic quota places will be up for grabs at the Asian Championships and Asian Para Championships, to be held in Bangkok in November. India so far have three men's places secured for the next Olympics but has yet to win a women's spot.
 15. Former **New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum** has announced his retirement from all forms of competitive cricket.
Note: McCullum, who is playing for Toronto Nationals, had retired from all forms of international cricket in 2016 but continued to ply his trade in various T20 leagues across the globe. The 37-year-old former Black Caps skipper has played 101 Tests in which he scored 6453 runs with 12 hundred and highest score of 302. In 260 ODIs, he scored 6083 runs with five hundred while 71 T20 Internationals fetched him 2140 runs.

16. As per Forbes list of the highest-paid female athletes 2019, Who has topped in the annual list for a 4th the consecutive year-- **Serena Williams**.
Note: She has topped the annual list for a 4th the consecutive year with estimated total earnings of USD 29.2 million. Naomi Osaka (Japan) was 2nd on the list with earnings of USD 24.3 million. Indian badminton player P.V. Sindhu came in tied for 13th (USD 5.5 million) rounding out the top 15 of Forbes list of best-paid female athletes. US World Cup-winning striker Alex Morgan is the first non-tennis player at 12 after earning \$5.8m (£4.77m).
17. Indian junior shuttlers have won **six medals** (gold-3, silver-1 and bronze-2) at the Bulgarian Junior International Championships in **Pazardzhik, Bulgaria**.
Note: The gold medals were won by Samiya Imad Faruqui in women's singles, the duo of Edvin Joy and Shruti Mishra in Mixed Doubles and pair of Tanisha Crasto and Aditi Bhatt in women's doubles. Men's doubles combination of Ishan Bhatnagar and Vishnuvardhan settled for the silver medal. Malvika Bansod and Meiraba Luwang won a bronze each in other singles events.
18. **Sourabh Verma** clinched the **Men's Singles title** in the Hyderabad Open Badminton title.
Note: He beat Singapore's Loh Kean Yew 21-13, 14-21, 21-16 in a 52-minute final clash. Earlier, Sourabh had won two Super 100 titles last year at the Dutch Open and Russian Open. Top seeds Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy, however, finished runners up in women's doubles. The 2019 Hyderabad Open was a badminton tournament which took place at G. M. C. Balayogi SATS Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, India.
19. India's **top wrestler Bajrang Punia** has won the **gold medal** at Tbilisi Grand Prix in Georgia.
Note: He defeated Iran's Peiman Bibyani by 2-0 in the 65 kg final of the men's freestyle competition. It is fourth gold of the season for Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament. Tbilisi Grand Prix of V. Balavadze and G. Kartoza is organised by the Georgian Wrestling Federation at the New Sports Palace, Georgia.
20. The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has agreed to **come under** the ambit of the **National Anti-Doping Agency**.
Note: This landmark decision makes Indian Cricket's governing body a sports federation as per government norms despite being financially autonomous. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is the national organization responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring the doping control program in sports in all its forms in India.
21. **Aishwarya Pissay** has become the **first Indian** to claim a world title in **motorsports** in women's category.
Note: Earlier, Aishwarya has won the first round in Dubai. Aishwarya, who won the first round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), fifth (Spain) and fourth (Hungary) in the subsequent outings, finished with a tally of 65 points, just four ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira in the final overall standings for women.
22. **Chennai Lions** won the **2019 Ultimate Table Tennis league title** at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
Note: Chennai Lions beat Dabang Delhi 8-1 to claim the 2019 Ultimate Table Tennis league title at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) is a professional level table tennis league in India launched in 2017.
23. **Virat Kohli** has become the **second highest run getter** for Indian in ODI.
Note: Kohli surpassed Ganguly's record in his 238th game while Ganguly took 311 ODIs to score 11,363 runs. Tendulkar has 18,426 runs, most in the ODI cricket by any batsman in the world. Kohli also became the highest run-scorer against West Indies in the ODIs.
24. Spanish **professional tennis player Rafael Nadal** has won the Men's single Rogers Open.
Note: Canadian Bianca Andreescu (19-years) has won the Women's Singles title at the Canadian Open (Tennis) 2019. The 2019 Rogers Cup (Canadian Open) presented by National Bank is a tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. It is the 139th edition (for the men) and the 128th (for the women) of the Canadian Open. The women's event is taking place at the Aviva Centre in Toronto and the men's event is being held at the IGA Stadium in Montreal.
25. Women's Twenty20 cricket, **beach volleyball** and **Para-table tennis** have been included in the **2022 Commonwealth Game**.
Note: Commonwealth Game 2022 scheduled to be held in Birmingham, England (27th July to 7th August 2022). This time shooting and archery events will not take place in the 2022 Commonwealth Game. The last time cricket (50 overs) was played in 2018 Commonwealth Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
26. Commonwealth Games Federation has decided to exclude shooting from **2022 Commonwealth, Birmingham**.
Note: Regarding this Commonwealth Games chief Louise Martin has said that shooting will not be part of the 2022 edition in Birmingham. Shooting has been a high-yielding discipline for India, with shooters accounting for 16 of the country's 66 medals, including seven golds, at last year's Gold Coast Games.
27. **Deepak Punia** has won gold medal at the **Junior World Wrestling Championships** in Talinn, Estonia.
Note: Deepak beat Russia's Alik Shebzukov to win the 86kg junior freestyle title which follows the silver he won in the category in 2018. Vicky Chahar, on the other hand, won bronze in the 92 kg category by beating Mongolia's Batmagnai Enkhtuvshin. Both Deepak and Chahar had won gold and bronze respectively in the 2016 Cadet World Championships that was held in Tbilisi, Georgia.
28. **Liverpool** won the UEFA Super Cup by defeating Chelsea by 5-4 in Istanbul, Turkey.

- Note:** The Match ended in draw at 2-2 following extra-time. In Penalty shootout Liverpool won by 5-4 beating Chelsea.
- This was Liverpool's fourth victory in this competition. The UEFA Super Cup is an annual super cup football match organised by UEFA and contested by the reigning champions of the two main European club competitions, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League.
29. Indian sprinters have won a gold each in 300m races at the Athleticky Mitink Reiter event in the Czech Republic -- **Hima Das and Mohammad Anas.**
Note: Hima won the gold in women's event and Mohammad Anas claimed the Gold medal in men's category. This was Hima's sixth gold in 2019 in European races since last month. Mohammad Anas won the gold clocking 32.41 seconds. India's Nirmal Tom clinched a bronze medal in the same event by clocking a timing of 33.03 seconds.
30. Australian Cricket player **Marnus Labuschagne** has become the **concussion substitution player** in the history of Test cricket.
Note: A Concussion Replacement is a player who takes the place of a player who has been replaced for the remainder of the match. In Ashes Series 2019, Labuschagne replaced Steve Smith in Australia's XI on the last day of the Lord's Test. A Concussion Replacement Request is a notification made to the ICC Match Referee in accordance with the process set out by ICC.
31. **India** has won the gold medal at the Under-12 Asian Tennis Team championship held in Kazakhstan.
Note: India defeated Chinese Taipei (2-1) in the summit clash to win the title. The final comprised of three matches including 2 singles and one doubles. India won both the singles matches (Manas and Rethin) while lost the doubles encounter. The Indian team comprised Manas Dhamma(12-year), Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin.
32. Former South African Coach **Russel Domingo** has been appointed as the Head Coach for the national cricket team for two years.
Note: He succeeds Steve Rhodes whose tenure was cut short after Bangladesh finished at the 8th position in the 10-nation World Cup this year. Russel Domingo has served as the Head Coach for South Africa's T20 side in 2012. He later replaced Gary Kirsten as South Africa Coach in the Tests and ODIs in 2013.
33. **Ashish Kapoor** has claimed gold medals in both **singles** and **doubles** titles in Tennis events during the 2019 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) at Chengdu in China.
Note: Ashish Kapoor is the Assistant Inspector General (AIG) in Vigilance Bureau of Punjab. WPFG is a biennial event taking place every two years in which officers or officials from police and Fire Departments from all over the world compete in the different events. The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) is a biennial athletic event, open to active and retired law enforcement and fire service personnel throughout the world.
34. Former **Australian cricketer** has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodians of the game's laws__ **Mitchell Johnson.**
Note: Johnson represented Australia in 153 One Day Internationals picking up 239 wickets, 73 international Test matches claiming 313 wickets and 30 T-20 Internationals in which he takes 38 wickets. Johnson made his ODI debut for Australia in 2005 and hung up his boots a decade later in 2015.
35. **Divyang Satendra Singh Lohia** has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the Cataline Channel of America.
Note: Satendra holds the Asian record of crossing both the English and Catalina channels. Gwalior born Satendra led the Indian Para Relay team along with five teammates and crossed the Catalina Channel in 11 hours 34 minutes. The Indian Para Relay Team started 42 km of swimming at 10.57 p.m. from St. Catalina Island and finished swimming at Los Angeles at 10.30 a.m.
36. **Indian Army** has won the 5th International Army Scout Masters competition.
Note: The games were held at Rajasthan's Jaisalmer's Military station under the aegis of Southern Command of Indian Army. A total of eight teams from India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Sudan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, and Belarus participated in the competition. This was the first time the Indian Army participated in the competition.
37. Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise has appointed Brendon McCullum as its new head coach-- **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).**
Note: Former New Zealand batsman McCullum was closely associated with the KKR as a player first from 2008 to 2010 and again from 2012-13. He was part of the IPL Championship squad in 2012. KKR finished at the fifth spot in the latest edition of the IPL.
38. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijiju** and former Indian Football Captain **Baichung Bhutia** flagged off the Delhi leg of **Op-Blue Freedom.**
Note: Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as the able-bodied. The dive sessions for civilians will be kept open from 22-25 August (from 9 am-5pm) for the civilians. The program aims to train adventure enthusiasts in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.
39. Indian **Women's** and **Men's hockey teams** have won the Olympic Test event in **Tokyo.**
Note: Women's team defeated Japan 2-1 in the finals. Indian men's hockey team also won the Olympic Test event beating New Zealand 5-0. The 2019 Ready Steady Tokyo Hockey Tournament was field hockey tournament, consisting of a series of test matches held in Tokyo, Japan. The tournament served as a test event for the field hockey tournament at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

40. Mobile payments and e-commerce company **Paytm** has retained the title sponsorship rights for five years.
Note: Paytm has retained the title sponsorship rights for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for 5 years. Paytm has signed the deal for Rs. 326.80 crores which will pay BCCI over a period ranging between 2019 and 2023. The deal period will begin from 5th September 2019 until 31st March 2022.
41. In football, who won Durand Cup 2019 -- **Gokulam Kerala FC**.
Note: Gokulam Kerala FC won the Durand Cup 2019 defeating heavyweights Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata. A total of 16 teams (Indian Super League-5, I-League- 6, 2nd division club - 1 and armed forces teams- 4) participated in this year's competition. The 2019 Durand Cup (129th edition) of the Durand Cup, oldest football tournament in Asia, since the tournament's founding in 1888.
42. **Komalika Bari** has become **recurve cadet world champion** at the World Archery Youth Championships in **Madrid, Spain**.
Note: She defeated higher-ranked Sonoda Waka of Japan 7-3 in the final and earn India's second gold on the final day of the Championships. Now Komalika is India's second recurve cadet world champion (under-18) after Deepika Kumari who won the title in 2009.
43. Badminton star has become the **first Indian** to win **BWF World Championships** Gold medal -- **V Sindhu**.
Note: PV Sindhu defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-7, 21-7 in the women's singles final to become the first Indian to win Gold at the BWF World Championships. With the win, Sindhu has a full set of medals at World Championships - two bronze medals, two silver medals and a gold medal.
44. **B. Sai Praneeth** has become the **bronze medal** in the BWF World Championships in 2019.
Note: Sai Praneeth was outclassed by defending champion **Kento Momota** (World No. 1) by 13-21, 8-21. Japanese Kento Momota has won the Gold medal of 2019 Badminton World Championship. Danish badminton player **Anders Antonsen** has won the Silver medal at 2019 Badminton World Championship. The men's singles tournament of the 2019 BWF World Championships held at St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland (19 to 25 August).
45. Constable Monali Jadhav has won three medals at World Police and Fire Games International Championship in -- **Chengdu, China**.
Note: Jadhav is attached to the Jalamb police station in Buldhana district of Maharashtra. She won the gold in target and field archery while settled for a bronze medal in the '3D Archery'. Maharashtra Director General of Police Subodh Jaiswal has congratulated Jadhav on her achievement
46. Former Indian cricketer will replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach -- **Vikram Rathour**.
Note: Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches. The senior national selection committee headed by MSK Prasad recommended three names each for all the support staff positions. Mr. Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs in 1996 without much success but was a domestic heavyweight for Punjab.
47. The **Delhi & District Cricket Association** (DDCA) has announced that the **Feroz Shah Kotla cricket stadium** will be renamed after **Mr. Arun Jaitley**.
Note: The decision was taken to honour Mr Jaitley who served as DDCA's president (from 1999 to 2013). The renaming of the stadium will be done on 12th September 2019. Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium is a cricket ground located at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in New Delhi.
48. Minister **Kiren Rijiju** presented **10 lakh rupees cheque** to Badminton star **P.V. Sindhu**.
Note: Sindhu had defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in a lop-sided World Championships final. The Minister also extended his congratulations to Sai Praneeth besides rewarding him with a cheque of four lakh rupees for winning a bronze medal at the Championships.
49. West **Indies pacer Cecil Wright** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
Note: Wright made his first-class debut for Jamaica against a Barbados side which had legends Wes Hall and Sir Garfield Sobers. He claims to have taken over 7,000 wickets in professional cricket. Wright's longest purple patch span five seasons as he ended up taking as many as 538 wickets in five seasons.
50. Sri Lankan spinner has announced his retirement from all formats of the Cricket after not having played for his country in almost 4 years -- **Ajantha Mendis**.
Note: He was known as the 'mystery spinner' due to the unusual bowling action. Mendis played 19 Tests (70 - wickets), 87 One-Day Internationals (152 ODI wickets) and 39 T20Is (66 T20I wickets) for Sri Lanka. He also played for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Mendis was renowned in the cricketing world for his 'carrom ball' and various other variations.
51. Indian shooter **Abhishek Verma** has won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro.
Note: Abhishek Verma shot 244.2 in the eight-man finals, while Saurabh Chaudhary's 221.9 was good enough to get him the bronze. The young Elavenil Valarivan opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event. Sanjeev Rajput claimed a silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final to secure India's Olympic quota. India was placed at the top of the medals tally with two gold, one silver and a bronze.
52. The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship will be held in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The **tournament** will be held in the oldest town of the state **Pasighat in East Siang District**. A total of 30 teams from across the country, representing various States, Union Territories and Indian Railways will

participate in the tournament. The inaugural match will be played between Railways and Mizoram.

53. Indian sprinter **VK Vismaya** clinched gold medal in the **400m run** at the International Athletic Meeting – Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic.

Note: VK Vismaya produced her personal best timing of 52.12s to clinch the gold medal. Compatriots Poovamma Machettira (53.47s) and Subha Venkatesan (53.67s) finished second and third respectively.

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