

CURRENT AFFAIRS

September 2019



Summary and Multiple Choice Questions

Current Affairs – September 2019

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **September 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

1. Major General Joyce Gladys took charge as ADG of Military Nursing Service

Major General Joyce Gladys Roach has assumed charge of the post of Additional Director General (ADG), Military Nursing Service (MNS). Prior to her appointment, she was holding the post of Principal Matron, Army Hospital Research & Referral, the apex quaternary care hospital of the Armed Forces.



Major General Roach has an experience of more than 37 years. She is the first and the only OT Matron to be posted in high altitude, 153 GH from April 1988 to March 1990. She has served as a Cardio Thoracic OT Matron for 15 years.

2. Lt Gen MM Naravane assumed appointment of VCOAS

Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane assumed the charge of Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS) on 01 Sep 2019. He succeeds Lt Gen Devraj Anbu. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Indian Military Academy.



Lt Gen Naravane has been awarded with the 'Sena Medal' (Distinguished) for command of his Battalion in J&K, the 'Vishisht Seva Medal' for his services as the Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) in Nagaland, the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' for command of a prestigious Strike Corps and was honoured with 'Param Vishisht Seva Medal' for his distinguished services as the GOC-in-C of the Army Training Command.

3. New Governors appointed in five states

President Ram Nath Kovind announced the appointment of five new Governors in the states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana. Prominent Muslim face and former Congress leader Arif Mohammed Khan has been appointed the new Kerala Governor. He will replace P. Sathasivam.



Tamil Nadu BJP president Tamilisai Soundararajan has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana. He will replace E.S.L. Narasimhan. Former Union minister Bandaru Dattatreya has been put in charge of Himachal Pradesh, replacing Kalraj Mishra. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari has been appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra. Kalraj Mishra replaced Kalyan Singh in Rajasthan.

4. Vivek Kumar Johri took charge as BSF DG

Vivek Kumar Johri took charge as the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF). He is a 1984-batch IPS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

Johri became the 25th chief of BSF. Prior to his appointment, he had been serving as the Special Secretary in the external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), under the Cabinet Secretariat. Johri will replace Rajni Kant Mishra who retired from the post. Mishra took over as the BSF DG in October 2018.



5. Madhukar Kamath elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Madhukar Kamath was elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2019-20. He is the Chairman emeritus of DDB Mudra group and mentor of Interbrand India. Kamath has also been the president of Advertising Agencies Association of India.

With over four decades of experience in advertising and marketing services, Kamath helped Omnicom acquire the Mudra Group and integrate it into DDB Worldwide Network.



6. Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva appointed new IMF chief

Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva has been selected as the new head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She is the first person from an emerging market economy to lead the IMF. The economist succeeds Christine Lagarde for a five-year term from October. Her immediate priority is to help countries minimize the risk of crises and be ready to cope with downturns.

The International Monetary Fund is an international organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 189 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation.



7. Jaideep Sarkar concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Lesotho

India's High Commissioner to South Africa, Jaideep Sarkar, has been concurrently accredited as the country's next High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Lesotho. He is a 1987 batch-IFS officer.

Sarkar was appointed India's High Commissioner to South Africa earlier in 2019. He has served as envoy to Israel and Bhutan. He has also served in Indian missions in Tokyo, Seoul and Bangladesh. In 2006, he was selected to serve as Private Secretary to then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.



8. Dr. B. Bala Bhaskar appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway

Senior diplomat B Bala Bhaskar was appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Norway. Dr Bhaskar is an IFS officer of 1993 cadre. He will replace Krishan Kumar, who has been heading the Indian mission in Norway since July 2018.

Prior to this appointment, Dr Bhaskar served as a Joint Secretary of the WANA division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The WANA region comprises of 19 countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya and South Sudan.



9. Shri PK Sinha appointed Principal Advisor to Prime Minister

Shri PK Sinha, currently functioning as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Prime Minister's Office, has been appointed the Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Sinha served as Cabinet Secretary from 13th June 2015 to 30th August 2019. He was a 1977 Batch IAS officer from Uttar Pradesh Cadre.

At the State Government level, Shri Sinha has held various assignments such as District Magistrate of Jaunpur and Agra and Commissioner of Varanasi. He has served in the Central Government, mainly in the Energy and Infrastructure Sectors. He has specialised in the areas of Energy, Infrastructure, and Finance.



10. PK Mishra takes over as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister

Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra, has been appointed as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India. He has varied work experience in the management of programmes relating to agriculture, disaster management, power sector, infrastructure financing, and regulatory issues and has an outstanding career profile comprising research, publications, policy formulation and programme/project management.



As Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister during 2014-19 Dr Mishra is credited with introducing innovation and transformative changes in human resource management, particularly appointments to senior positions. He was conferred with the United Nations SASAKAWA Award 2019 for disaster management.

11. Microsoft appointed Rajiv Kumar as Managing Director for Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd

Microsoft announced the appointment of Rajiv Kumar as the new Managing Director of Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt Ltd (MIRPL). He is currently Corporate Vice President of Microsoft's Experiences and Devices (E+D) Group. He will take over from Anil Bhansali.



Rajiv joined Microsoft, Redmond in 1992 as a campus-hire. As the Managing Director, Rajiv is expected to further build upon the capability of the engineering division and reinforce the culture of inclusion, innovation and collaboration. Microsoft India Development Center (IDC) in MIRPL is one of Microsoft's largest R&D centers outside the Redmond headquarters.

12. Vijay Kumar Chopra & Vineet Jain elected as Chairman and Vice Chairman of PTI respectively

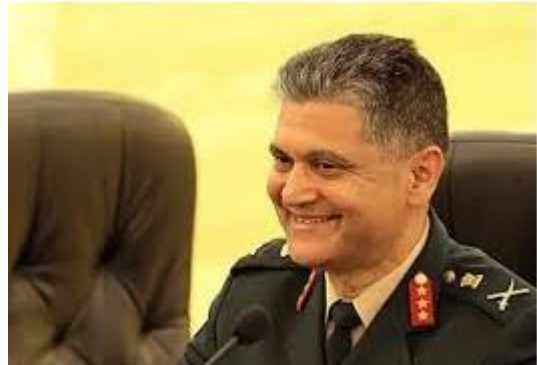
Vijay Kumar Chopra, Chief Editor of the Punjab Kesari Group of newspapers was unanimously elected Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI). He succeeds N Ravi, publisher and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu.



Vineet Jain, Managing Director of Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited (BCCL), the publisher of Times of India, was elected Vice-Chairman. Chopra was earlier Chairman of PTI in 2001-02 and 2009-10. He was also past President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS).

13. Indian Army veteran Abhijit Guha appointed as head of Hodeidah mission by UN

Lieutenant General (Retired) Abhijit Guha of the Indian Army has been appointed as the head of the UN mission in Hodeidah, Yemen by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Guha will also assume the chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC), tasked with redeploying forces of the Yemeni warring parties in accordance with their agreement.



Guha will succeed Danish Lieutenant General Michael Lollsgaard. He retired from the Indian Army in 2013 and served on the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping (2014) and the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (2015).

14. Kapil Dev appointed as chancellor of Rai Sports University

Kapil Dev was appointed first Chancellor of Haryana Sports University at Rai in Sonapat district by the governor of Haryana. The Assembly recently established Haryana's first sports university at Rai. The University would promote courses such as training for sports management, sports infrastructure engineering, sports psychology, sports nutrition, sports journalism and sports marketing by adopting best international practices.



Kapil Dev is regarded as the greatest all-rounder to play the game. He was named by Wisden as the Indian Cricketer of the Century in 2002.

15. Justice P Lakshmana Reddy appointed as first Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh (AP) government appointed Justice P Lakshmana Reddy, a former judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court as the first Lokayukta of the state for five years. He is known for his campaign against corruption. He has served as vice-chairman of the Central administrative tribunal at Hyderabad from April 2007 to April 2010.



The Yuvajana Sramika Rythu (YSR) Congress government amended the Lokayukta Act in the recent budget session, enabling appointment of a retired judge as Lokayukta, paving the way for constituting the corruption-probing body.

16. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy appointed as CMD of Cognizant India

Cognizant Technology Solutions has appointed Ramkumar Ramamoorthy as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cognizant India and head of India Operations. He has been with Cognizant for over 21 years.



Mr. Ramamoorthy is a member of the company's global Executive Leadership Team (ELT) responsible for driving the company's strategy and operations. He has held various senior positions in the company, including executive director, India, senior vice president (marketing and communications) and chief knowledge officer.

17. Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria appointed as new Air Chief

Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria was appointed as the next chief of Indian Air force. Air Marshal Bhadauria, who took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force in May 2019, will take charge from the incumbent Chief Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa on 30th of September.



An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Bhadauria was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF in June 1980. He won the coveted Sword of Honour for standing first in the overall order of merit.

18. Robert O'Brien became National Security Adviser of US

Robert O'Brien replaced John Bolton to become Trump's fourth national security adviser. Robert O'Brien is seen as a low-profile loyalist and for his work on extracting Americans illegally held abroad. Prior to this appointment, O'Brien had served as a representative to the UN general assembly in 2005 and was involved judicial reform in Afghanistan in the last year of the Bush administration.



O'Brien had a long career in foreign policy working for both main US parties and currently heading the hostage negotiations at the State Department.

19. IDBI Bank appointed Samuel Joseph as Deputy Managing Director

IDBI Bank has appointed Samuel Joseph Jebaraj as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) for a period of 3 years. The DMD position became vacant after KP Nair superannuated in May 2019.

Samuel Joseph joined the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) in 1998. He was heading the Loan Administration and Human Resources Management Groups of the Bank as Chief General Manager. He holds more than 27 years of experience, of which 21 years had been with Exim Bank.



Awards

1. President Kovind honoured with National order of Merit, highest award of Republic of Guinea

President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded with the "National order of Merit" by the President of Guinea, Alpha Condé. He was awarded for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between India and Guinea and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.



This is the highest award of Republic of Guinea. Indian President announced a new Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million for Water Supply Project of Conakry city, the capital of Republic of Guinea.

2. Railways adjudged as the Best Ministries for implementation of Swachhata Action Plan for 2018-19

The Indian Railways was awarded as the best ministry for implementation of Swachhata action plan for 2018-19. The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) Mumbai received the best Swachh iconic Place award under the Swachh Bharat Mission initiative.



Jodhpur, Jaipur & Tirupati were ranked as the three best stations as per Cleanliness Ranking Survey for 2018. Indian Railways had spent about 3000 Crore Rupees on cleanliness drives on its various properties during 2018-19.

3. Recipients of Visitor's Awards 2019 announced by President's Secretariat

President's Secretariat announced Visitor's Awards 2019 for research in various fields.

Visitor's Award for Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences	Prof. Sibnath Deb (for research in the field of child protection)
Visitor's Award for Research in Physical Sciences	Prof. Sanjay Puri (for research in the field of nonequilibrium statistical physics and nonlinear dynamics)
Visitor's Award for Research in Biological Sciences	Prof. Asad Ullah Khan (for identifying Antimicrobial resistance problem) Dr Partima (for research on nanobiosensors)
Visitor's Award for Technology Development	Dr Shaon Ray (for developing miarobial biofilm reactor)

4. Pawan Munjal to be honoured with Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame

Managing Director and Chairman of Hero MotoCorp, Pawan Munjal will be inducted into the 2019 Asia Pacific Golf Hall of Fame. He will be inducted for his support to "Golf" in India and around the world.



Munjal joins legendary players such as Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and other leading personalities such as David Chu, the founder of Mission Hills golf resort, to have been bestowed with the highest honour in the Asia Pacific golf industry. Hero Motocorp is sponsor and co-host of tournaments like 'Hero World Challenge', Indian Open for men and Women's Indian Open.

5. Former England captains Andrew Strauss, Geoffrey Boycott receive knighthoods

Former England cricket captains Andrew Strauss and Geoffrey Boycott have been given knighthoods in former Prime Minister Theresa May's resignation honours list. Boycott and Strauss both received the honour for their services to sport after outstanding careers for England.



Strauss played 100 tests for England from 2004-12, scoring more than 7,000 runs at an average of 40.91. Boycott played in 108 tests from 1964-82 and scored 8,114 runs at an average of 47.72.

6. Odia writer Pradeep Dash won Sarala Puraskar award 2019

Noted Odia writer Pradeep Dash will be conferred with the 40th edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his poetry work Charu Chibar O Charjya. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.



Pandit Harmohan Khuntia will be awarded 'Ila Panda Sangeet Samman' and Lalat Mohan Patnaik will receive 'Ila Panda Chitrakala Samman'. They will receive a cash award of Rs 1,50,000 each along with citations. Sarala Puraskar is recognised as the foremost literary award of Odisha. This award is one of the finest contributions of impact to glorify Odia literature.

7. Royal Society honour for Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied

Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, U.K. for his service to the cause of science. Dr. Hamied has been instrumental in the growth and development, implementation and adoption of science in indigenous pharma industry in India.



Dr. Hamied graduated with honours from Cambridge University in 1957 and continued a Ph.D in 1960 under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate Alexander Todd. The Society is a Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.

8. 76th Venice International Film Festival Awards announced

Todd Phillips' dark comic book film Joker won the Golden Lion Award for best film at the 76th Venice International Film Festival. 'An officer and a Spy' by Roman Polanski won the Silver Lion - Grand Jury Prize. Roy Anderson won the Silver Lion award for best director for 'About Endlessness'.



Winners in other categories:

- Volpi Cup for Best Actress: Ariane Ascaride in 'Gloria Mundi' (a French domestic drama)
- Volpi Cup for Best Actor: Luca Marinelli in 'Martin Eden'
- Best Screenplay Award to: 'No. 7 Cherry Lane', written and directed by Yonfan
- Special Jury Prize to: 'The Mafia Is No Longer What It Used to Be', directed by Franco Maresco
- Marcello Mastroianni Award for Young Actor to: 'Toby Wallace in Babyteeth', directed by Shannon Murphy

9. Five Indian women police officers honoured by United Nations

Five Indian women police officers were honoured by the United Nations (UN) for their commendable services in UN mission and for upholding the UN mandate of protection of civilians in conflict-ridden South Sudan. The women officers are engaged in community policing, administrative, operational duties and capacity building of local authorities.



- Reena Yadav, Inspector, Chandigarh Police
- Gopika Jahagirdar, DSP, Maharashtra Police
- Bharati Samantray, DSP in the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ragini Kumari, Inspector in the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Kamal Shekhawat, ASP, Rajasthan Police

10. PM Hasina receives Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award

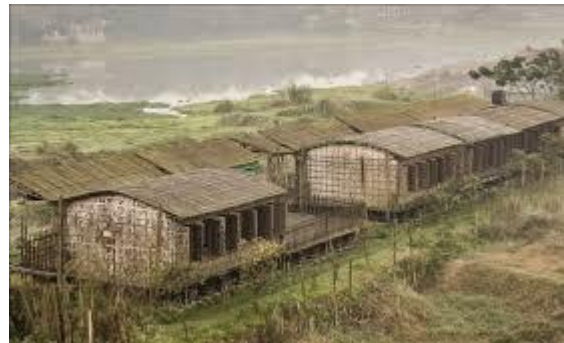
Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, was conferred the Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019 in Dhaka for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, free of tension, conflicts and terrorism. The award has been instituted in the memory of former Indian President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.



This award is given every year to honour statesmen or leaders who have shown excellence in their fields to achieve the best for their countries. Earlier, the Presidents of the Maldives, Ghana and Mauritius received the prestigious award since its introduction in 2015.

11. Bangladesh School project wins Aga Khan Architecture Award

Arcadia Education Project in South Kanarchor of Bangladesh, an innovative project for constructing a floating school for marginalised children in Bangladesh, has been awarded the prestigious Aga Khan Architecture Award 2019. The project involved construction of a school in an area which is under water during the monsoon months.



The architect of the project, Saif Ul Haque designed a school which remains on the ground during dry season and floats when the area is submerged in water during monsoon.

12. Railway Board awarded with Eminent Engineers Award on 52nd Engineers' Day

The Union Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, awarded Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board with **Eminent Engineers Award**. The award was presented at the special event to mark the 52nd Engineers' Day organised by the Institution of Engineers in New Delhi. He was awarded for his outstanding contributions in the field of engineering.



The theme of 52nd Engineers' Day was "Engineering for change". Engineer's Day is observed in several countries on various dates of the year.

13. Neena Gupta won two awards at Indian International Film Festival of Boston

Bollywood actor Neena Gupta won two awards at Indian International Film Festival of Boston. She won the Best Actress award for the film "The Last Color" while the film emerged victorious in Best Feature Film category.



"The Last Color" is the directorial debut of world-renowned chef Vikas Khanna. It deals with taboo surrounding widows in Vrindavan and Varanasi in India. The film's first look was unveiled at the Cannes Film Festival.

14. Agnes Kharshiing Gets Hrant Dink Award in Istanbul

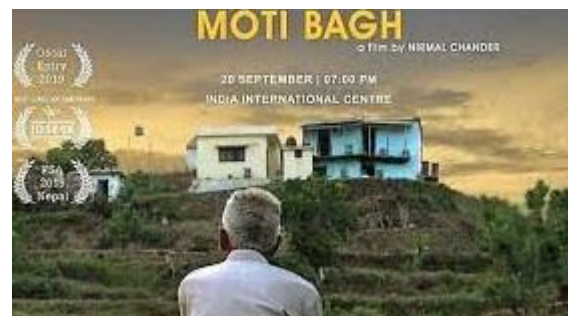
Meghalaya's Right to Information (RTI) activist Agnes Kharshiing was awarded the 11th International Hrant Dink Award at the Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Istanbul. Turkish human rights activist Nebahat AkkoA was also awarded the 11th International Hrant Dink Award.



Kharshiing was assaulted by a group of 40 people for complaining against illegal mining and transport of coal in the East Jaintia Hills district. AkkoA has launched a comprehensive support centre for women in south-eastern Anatolia, Turkey's most oppressive region for women.

15. Documentary film based on life of Uttarakhand farmer nominated for Oscars

A documentary film based on life of a Uttarakhand farmer has been nominated for Oscars. The documentary film named Moti Bagh is based on the life of Vidyadutt, a farmer living in Pauri Garhwal region of the state who works towards sustaining himself in harsh conditions of the Himalayas.



The film had also won the 1st prize at International short film festival in Kerala. It highlights the tough life of Holly terrains, unavailability of jobs and problems of migration from the state. The director of the film is Nirmal Chander Dandriyal.

16. Shri Pralhad Joshi conferred the National Geoscience Awards

The National Geoscience Awards 2018 for outstanding contributions in the field of geosciences, mining and allied areas were presented by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Shri Pralhad Joshi to 22 scientists. The National Geoscience Awards were given in 10 disciplines.



Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), received the Award for Excellence for his significant global contributions in the field of aquatic biogeochemical research. Dr. Sohini Ganguly, of Goa University was conferred with the Young Scientist Award-2018 for her significant work in the fields of petrology, volcanology and geochemistry.

17. Centre institutes National Unity award named after Sardar Patel

The Centre has instituted the highest civilian award for contribution to the unity and integrity of India, in the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The award will be announced on the occasion of the National Unity Day on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel on 31st of October.



The award seeks to recognize notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India.

18. Prime Minister Modi received "Global Goalkeeper" award for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the "Global Goalkeeper" award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by his government. Over 11 crore toilets were built in the country in the last five years. The campaign was launched by the Modi government during its first term on October 2, 2014.



The Global Goalkeeper Award celebrates a political leader who has "demonstrated their commitment to the Global Goals through impactful work in their country and/or globally."

19. Amitabh Bachchan named for Dada Sahab Phalke award

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan has been named for the prestigious Dada Sahab Phalke award for his outstanding contribution to the film industry. In a career spanning five decades, Amitabh Bachchan has acted in nearly 200 movies, and is a four-time National Film Award winner.



The award is conferred by the Government for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema. The award comprises of a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

20. President Kovind conferred National Service Scheme Awards 2017-18

President Ram Nath Kovind felicitated 41 people with the prestigious National Service Scheme awards 2017-18 in recognition of their exemplary and commendable social service. NSS programme coordinators A Lakhmi Prabha of Tamil Nadu and K Ramesh Reddy from Andhra Pradesh were awarded the first and second programme coordinator awards respectively.



NSS, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student, youth through voluntary community service.

21. International Emmy Awards 2019

The key winners of the 71st Emmy Awards:

- Outstanding Drama Series: Game of Thrones (HBO)
- Outstanding Comedy Series: Fleabag (Amazon)
- Lead Actor, Drama: Billy Porter, Pose
- Lead Actress, Drama: Jodie Comer, Killing Eve
- Lead Actor, Comedy: Bill Hader, Barry
- Lead Actress, Comedy: Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Fleabag
- Supporting Actor, Drama: Peter Dinklage, Game of Thrones
- Supporting Actress, Drama: Julia Garner, Ozark
- Outstanding Television Movie: Black Mirror: Bandersnatch (Netflix)
- Outstanding Limited Series: Chernobyl



22. 20th Edition of IIFA Awards 2019

The 20th Edition of NEXA International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA Awards) for 2019 was held at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The list of key winners:

- Best Film: Raazi
- Best Actor in a leading role (Female): Alia Bhatt (Raazi)
- Best Actor in a leading role (Male): Ranveer Singh (Padmaavat)
- Best Director: Sriram Raghavan (Andhadhun)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Legendary actor and comedian Jagdeep Jaffery



23. Kerala Tourism bagged 3 PATA gold awards

Kerala Tourism was bestowed three prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold awards. The awards were given during the PATA Travel Mart 2019 at Nur-Sultan (Astana) in Kazakhstan.

While the three gold awards included one for an ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom in Kottayam under Responsible Tourism Mission (RTM), two other gold awards were for an advertisement campaign of Kerala Tourism — Come Out and Play — and for its website (www.keralatourism.org).



24. Bangla PM Hasina honoured with 'Vaccine Hero' award

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with the prestigious 'Vaccine Hero' award. Hasina was applauded for the success in immunisation in Bangladesh, especially for her role in eliminating polio and curtailing diphtheria, Hepatitis-B and rubella.

Hasina hoped to reach the target of 'vaccines for all' in the country well ahead of 2030. Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), a Switzerland-based organisation, works to save the lives of millions of children globally by providing vaccines to them.



25. Ravish Kumar received first Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award

Senior journalist and Ramon Magsaysay awardee Ravish Kumar received the first Gauri Lankesh Memorial Award by the Gauri Lankesh Memorial Trust for his sharp news analysis and uncompromising secular stance.



Three books were launched at the event titled 'Delhi Nota' by senior journalist D Umapathi, Ravish Kumar's 'Free Voices' translated as 'Maatige Enu Kadime', and 'Neera Nade' by Prof. Vinaya Okkunda.

26. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019 presented by President

President of India, Mr Ram Nath Kovind, announced the winners of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards 2019, the highest multidisciplinary science awards in India.

Biological Sciences	Dr. Kayarat Sai Krishnan and Dr. Soumen Basak
Chemical Sciences	Dr. Raghavan B Sunoj and Dr. Tapas Kumar Maji
Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences	Dr. Subimal Ghosh
Engineering Sciences	Dr. Manik Varma
Mathematical Sciences	Dr. Dishant Mayur and Dr. Nina Gupta
Medical Sciences	Dr. Dheeraj and Dr. Mohammad Javed
Physical Sciences	Dr. Aninda Sinha and Dr. Shankar Ghosh

27. Payal Jangid became the first Indian to receive the Changemaker Award 2019

Rajasthan state's 17-year-old Payal Jangid became the first Indian to receive the Changemaker Award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards held in New York, for her continuous efforts towards the abolition of child marriage in her Hinsla village. Payal became an advocate against child labour as well as child marriage and has successfully made her village a child-friendly village (Bal Mitra Gram).



Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards honors young activists, campaigners, and innovators across the globe for sparking change, as per the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Bills and Acts

1. Parliament passed Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, (Amendment) Bill - 2019

Parliament has passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, AERA (Amendment) Bill- 2019. The bill increases the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakhs to over 35 lakh passengers.

The Bill seeks to amend the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008. The threshold has been increased as the number of air traffic passengers have increased from 117 million in 2008 to 345 million now.



2. Parliament passed Code on Wages Bill, 2019

Parliament has passed the Code on Wages Bill, 2019, after it was passed in the Rajya Sabha. The Code universalises the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.

Under the Code, the tripartite committee comprising representatives of trade unions, employers and state governments would fix a floor wage for workers throughout the country and no state government can fix the minimum wage below it.



3. President approved Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019

President Ram Nath Kovind has signed the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019. Parliament adopted resolutions to scrap Article 370 and Article 35A in Jammu and Kashmir. The Bill seeks to scrap Article 370 and to make Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with the legislature and Ladakh Union Territory without legislature.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill 2019 having provisions of 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections of upper caste in the state was also passed by the parliament.



4. Lok Sabha passed bill to ban commercial surrogacy

Lok Sabha has passed the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, that prohibits commercial surrogacy, but allows only close relatives of infertile couples to volunteer for "ethical altruistic" reasons. The purpose of the Bill is to ensure effective regulation of surrogacy.

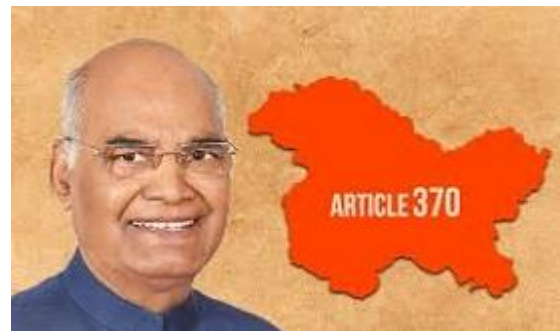


It defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after the birth to the intending couple.

The offences under the Bill include undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy, exploiting the surrogate mother and abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child.

5. President issued Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 2019 superseding 1954 Order

The President has issued Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019. The Order comes into force at once and supersedes Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order 1954 as amended from time to time.



The Order adds several clauses to Article 367. These include, the Constituent Assembly of the State shall become Legislative Assembly of the state as mentioned in Clause 2 of the Article.

The Governor of the state shall act on the advice of his Council of Ministers. The order reads that the President, acting on the advice of the Legislative Assembly of the State shall henceforth be construed as references to Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

6. Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill passed in Lok Sabha

Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. The Bill provides a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgenders. A transgender person will have to make an application to the District Magistrate, who will issue a certificate of identity to the transgender person.



The Bill states that a transgender person shall have the right to self-perceived gender identity. It also states that every establishment will have to appoint a complaints officer to deal with complaints relating to the violation of any provisions.

7. President accords approval to increase number of Supreme Court judges

President Ram Nath Kovind passed a bill which seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present 30 to 33 besides the Chief Justice of India. The Parliament had earlier passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill.



There are almost 60,000 cases pending in the apex court. Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi had also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to increase the number of judges in the top court.

8. Consumer Protection Rule to be implemented by Dec 30

Union Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Ram Vilas Paswan, announced that Consumer Protection Rule will be implemented by 30 December 2019. Under this rule Consumer Protection Authority will be made powerful for consumer interests and consumer can complain to authority not only after buying any product but before and during buying also.



The Consumer Protection Bill, 2019, introduced in Lok Sabha in July 2019 replaces the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

9. The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 comes into force

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Parliament has come into effect. It will facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorized occupants from Government residential accommodations and ensure retrieval of these residential accommodations from unauthorized occupants.



As per the Amendment Act, the Estate officer will issue short Show cause notice of three days before eviction of the unauthorized occupant from Government accommodation.

10. Cabinet approved Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance

The Union Cabinet has approved the Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement) Ordinance, 2019. It will help protect population, especially the youth and children, from the risk of addiction through E-cigarettes.



Electronic-cigarettes are battery-operated devices that produce aerosol by heating a solution containing nicotine, which is the addictive substance in combustible cigarettes. These include all forms of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Heat Not Burn Products, e-Hookah and the like devices.

11. Cabinet approved Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees

The Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days wages to over 11.52 Lakh eligible non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19 at an expenditure of Rs. 2024.40 crores to the exchequer.

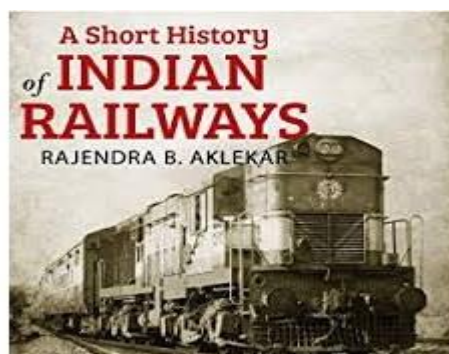


This is the sixth consecutive year that the government has maintained a bonus of 78 days' wages. PLB to all non-gazetted railway employees is an acknowledgement of their contribution to the efficient running of the Railways.

Books & Authors

1. "A Short History of Indian Railways" book penned by Rajendra B Aklekar released

A new book named "A Short History of Indian Railways" has been penned by veteran journalist and author Rajendra B Aklekar. The book chronicles the journey of the national transporter from the 1830s to the new high-speed Train 18 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious bullet train project.



The book documents several untold stories of the first train, the role of Railways in India's freedom struggle, including incidents like the Kakori train dacoity, a plot to blow up Mahatma Gandhi's train, and also quirkier stories of rail ghosts, demons and haunted rail lines.

2. VP M. Venkaiah Naidu released book titled 'Glorious Diaspora - Pride of India'

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, released the Coffee Table Book titled 'Glorious Diaspora - Pride of India' in New Delhi. The book contains brief profiles of the recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards from 2003 to 2019.



The book has been brought out by Indian Diaspora Club. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards is the highest honour conferred upon by the Indian Government to overseas Indians.

It is conferred by President of India as part of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention.

3. I&B Minister released booklet 'Jan Connect' and inaugurated Exhibition on 'Furthering India's Development'

Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar released the booklet 'Jan Connect' and inaugurated an Exhibition on 'Furthering India's Development - 100 days of Bold Initiatives & Decisive Actions'.



The Booklet contains a compendium of key decisions of the government in 100 days such as abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, legislation against Triple Talaq, transparency in GST and IT return filing process, Jal Shakti Abhiyaan, Fit India Movement, vision of making India \$5 trillion economy, Jan Bhagidari movements and several other historic and landmark decisions.

4. Book titled “Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924” released

A book titled Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924 was released. It is written by Bengaluru-based historian Vikram Sampath and published by Penguin.



Savarkar: Echoes from a forgotten past, 1883-1924 book describes the life of freedom fighter and Philosopher Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. It expresses and explains the incidents from his birth in 1883 to his conditional release to Ratnagiri in 1924. Sampath's first book, Splendours of Royal Mysore: The Untold Story of the Wodeyars has been widely acclaimed across India.

5. 'Fortune Turners: The Quartet That Spun India to Glory' launched

A new book "Fortune Turners: The Quartet that Spun India to Glory" was released in Mumbai. The book is authored by Aditya Bhushan and Sachin Bajaj. It chronicles the careers of the famous four - Bishan Singh Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwath Chandrasekhar and Srinivas Venkataraghavan, who dominated Indian bowling in the 1960s-70s and were instrumental in some of the team's famous victories of the time.



Together, the four spinners took 853 Test wickets from 231 matches between them. The book has been published by Global Cricket School.

6. 38th Sharjah International Book Fair organised

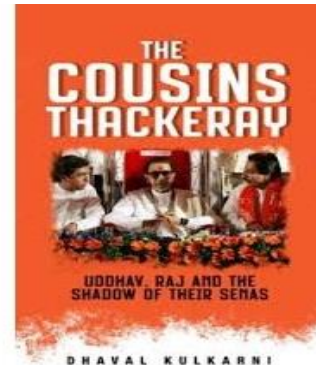
The 38th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) was organised where authors, publishers, intellectuals and artists worldwide brought their experiences and expertise to this prominent event. UNESCO has named Sharjah as the World Book Capital City for the year 2019 in recognition of the city's continuous efforts in promoting books and literacy.



The SIBF was organized under the theme 'Open Books, Open Minds'. It was an exceptional edition of the book fair, where the events and discussions reflected a spotlight on the book's ability to ignite peoples' minds, appreciate cultural differences and bring them closer.

7. The book titled “The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas” released

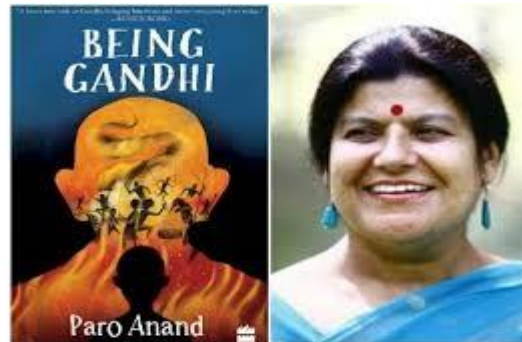
The book titled "The Cousins Thackeray: Uddhav, Raj and the Shadow of their Senas" penned by the journalist Dhaval Kulkarni was released. Published by Penguin Random House, this book describes the political journey, the competition and political war of Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray.



The Shiv Sena's birth had its roots in a campaign 'Ghar vapsi or re-conversion to Hinduism' launched by Prabodhankar, grandfather of Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray, through his periodical in 1922.

8. “Being Gandhi” written by Paro Anand released

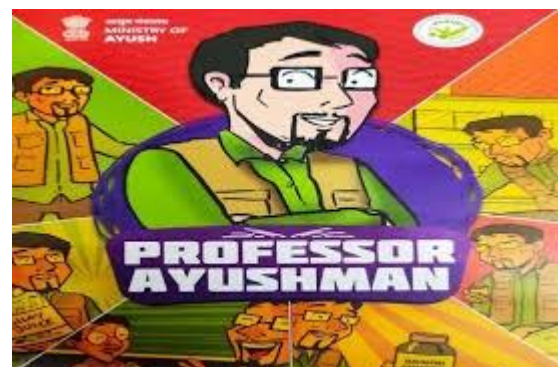
A new book titled 'Being Gandhi', was released to mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The book has been written by award-winning author Paro Anand.



The book explores "not Gandhi the man or his life as a leader, but really the Gandhian way that must remain relevant to us." The book is published by Harper Collins Children's Books. Paro Anand has won the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puruskar in 2017[1] for her anthology Wild Child and Other Stories.

9. ‘Professor Ayushman’ comic book released by Ayush Ministry in New Delhi

The Ayush ministry has released a new comic book series 'Professor Ayushman'. It was conceived by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). This book will raise awareness in children about the importance of medicinal plants and their use of home remedies.



The book talks about plants like Aloe Vera, Tulsi, Amla, Giloy, Neem, Ashvagandha and Brahmi. It will be available for free. The Ayush Ministry has set a target to operationalise 4,200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat Scheme during 2019-20.

10. Pranab Mukherjee launched the book titled ‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’

Former President Pranab Mukherjee released a book titled - ‘Reset: Regaining India’s Economic Legacy’. The book is written by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy. The book describes the country's economic development over the years and offers solutions for future growth.

Subramanian Swamy is an Indian politician and economist. Swamy has served as a member of the Planning Commission of India and was a Cabinet Minister in the Chandra Shekhar government. Swamy was Chairman of the Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade by former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.



Committees

1. Steering Committee on Fintech related issues submitted its Final Report

The Steering Committee on Fintech (Financial Technology) related issues submitted its Final Report to Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Ministry. The Committee has recommended for putting in place a comprehensive legal framework for consumer protection keeping in mind the rise of Fintech and digital services.



The Steering Committee recommended adoption of regulation technology by all financial sector regulators to develop standards and facilitate adoption by financial services providers. A dedicated team on digital economy and fintech is being set up in the Investment Division, Department of Economic Affairs for coordination on fintech with relevant ministries.

2. Centre constituted Task Force for drawing up National Infrastructure Pipeline

The Union Government has constituted a task force for drawing up the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) of Rs 100 lakh crore from the fiscal year 2019-20 to 2024-25. It will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary.



The Task Force will identify technically feasible and economically viable infrastructure projects that can be initiated during the current fiscal. India needs to spend about 1.4 trillion dollars (Rs 100 lakh crore) to achieve the GDP of five trillion dollars by 2024-25. The Task Force will submit its report by October 31 for the fiscal year 2019-20 and on the indicative pipeline for fiscal years 2021-25 by December 31, 2019.

3. NGT formed committee to stop illegal groundwater extraction

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has set up a committee to formulate steps required to prevent unauthorised extraction of groundwater levels. The NGT bench was headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.



The NGT bench directed the committee to evolve a robust mechanism to ensure that groundwater is not illegally extracted and to monitor manning and functioning of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA). The nodal agency will be the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources for coordination and compliance.

4. NDA government sets up two Cabinet committees to make India 5 trillion economy

With an objective to make India a five trillion-dollar economy, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has set up two Cabinet committees to spur investment and create new employment opportunities in the country. It has also formed a high-powered Committee on structural reforms in the agriculture sector.



To boost the automobile sector, Government has increased the allowable depreciation to 30% on all vehicles acquired from now till March 2020. The ban on the purchase of new vehicles by Government Departments has also been lifted.

5. CoA of BCCI appoints a committee to run BCA and conduct elections

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) of the BCCI has appointed a three-member Independent Supervisory Committee to run the cricketing affairs of Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) and also to conduct fresh elections.



The Committee will have the power to supervise, regulate and suspend the powers, duties and functioning of all post holders in the BCA, appoint or replace electoral officer, ombudsman and ethics officer. It will also have the power to appoint selectors, team officials and match officials and also assign auditors to investigate utilisation of funds granted by the BCCI.

Deaths

1. Emmy Award-winning actress Valerie Harper passed away

Four times Emmy Award winning actress, Valerie Harper passed away at the age of 80 years. She collected four Emmy Awards and one Golden Globe for playing the brash New Yorker on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and then on her own spin-off series "Rhoda".

Valerie began her career as a dancer on Broadway, making her debut in the musical "Take Me Along" in 1959. She competed on the "Dancing with the Stars" show and made an appearance on "2 Broke Girls" in 2015.



2. Veteran Gujarati journalist Kanti Bhatt passes away

Veteran Gujarati journalist, author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away at the age of 88 years. He was born on 15th July 1931 in Sachra village in erstwhile Bhavnagar state of Gujarat.

Kanti Bhatt joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai. He also worked as journalist, writer, columnist and editor in various Gujarati publications like Chitralekha, Mumbai Samachar, Janshakti, Sandesh, Yuva Darshan, Jansatta, Vyapar and Abhiyan. He must have written more than 45,000 articles in the course of his journalistic career.



3. Former President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe died

Former President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe died at the age of 95 years. Mugabe was a former guerrilla chief who took power after the end of white minority rule in 1980. He was ousted in a military coup in November 2017 when Emmerson Mnangagwa took over as the new President of the country.

Mugabe led Zimbabwe's fight for independence in the 1970s. His 37-year rule was criticised for repression of dissent, election rigging, and for causing the country's economic collapse.



4. Noted novelist, playwright Kiran Nagarkar passed away

Noted novelist and playwright Kiran Nagarkar passed away at the age of 77 years. Nagarkar was known for his books 'Cuckold,' and 'Bedtime Story'. His latest novel in English, 'The Arsonist', was published in 2019.



Nagarkar was one of the leading lights of modern Indian literature. He wrote eight novels in English and Marathi. His works include 'God's Little Soldier' (2006), 'The Extras' (2012) and 'Rest in Peace' (2015). He won the 2001 Sahitya Akademi Award for his epic novel 'Cuckold' (1997).

5. Abdul Qadir, Pakistan's master leg-spinner, passed away

Pakistan's master leg-spinner Abdul Qadir passed away in Lahore at the age of 63 years. Qadir, who played in 67 Tests and 104 ODIs, had a total 368 wickets in his international career. Imran Khan used him as an attacking weapon in the 1983 World Cup held in England.



Qadir took 9 wickets for 56 in one test against West Indies at Faisalabad. Those figures are still the best by a Pakistan bowler in a Test innings. He played last of his international matches in 1993.

6. Veteran Congress leader Sukhdev Singh Libra passed away

Veteran Congress leader and former MP Sukhdev Singh Libra passed away at the age of 87 years. He was the member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabhas. He was also a Punjab MLA in 1985. He was a member of Rajya Sabha from 1998-2004.



Mr Libra had contested elections on Congress ticket, but later, he rejoined the Shiromani Akali Dal. He had also served as a member of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC).

7. Former union minister Ram Jethmalani passed away

Noted lawyer and former Union Minister Ram Jethmalani passed away at age of 95 years due to ill health. Jethmalani served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha and as Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president in 2010. He earned the distinction of being the youngest advocate allowed to practice law and was known for his techniques of cross-examination of witnesses.



Jethmalani served as the Union minister for law from 1999 to 2000 and the minister of urban development in Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government.

8. Veteran Tamil actor-director Rajasekar passed away

Tamil actor-cum-director S Rajasekar passed away at the age of 61 years. Rajasekar in partnership with Director Robert had delivered many hits in 1980s, which include 'Palaivanacholai', 'Chinnapoove Mella pesu', Manasukkul Mathappu.



Rajasekar had made his Telugu film debut in 1985 with 'Vande Mataram.' In a career spanning more than thirty years, the actor, who has acted in over eighty films in various roles, gave many blockbuster films. He also acted in a number of successful television serials.

9. Former AP Speaker Kodela Siprasada Rao passes away

Former Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Dr. Kodela Siprasada Rao passed away at the age of 72 years. He was the senior most leader of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP).



Mr Kodela joined the Telugu Desam Party in 1983 and was a six time MLA from Narsaraopet constituency in Guntur district. In 2014, post-bifurcation of AP, he was made the first Speaker of the Assembly.

10. Former bureaucrat B.N. Yugandhar passed away

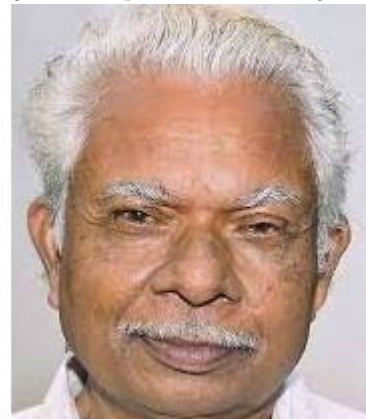
Former bureaucrat B N Yugandhar, father of Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, passed away at the age of 82 years. He had served in the Prime Minister's Office during late P V Narasimha Rao's regime, as a member of the Planning Commission and also as director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration at Mussorie.



Yugandhar was known for upliftment of the marginalised sections of the society and to improve life in rural India.

11. Renowned writer of Kerala Sivaraman Cheriyanad passes away

Kerala's renowned writer Sivaraman Cheriyanad passed away. He received the Abu Dhabi Sakthi Award in 1988, the A.P. Kalakkad Award in 2009 and National Teachers Award in 1989. He was honored with Kerala Sahithya Akademi scholarship in 1990-91 for his study on the works of writer Parappuram.



Sivaraman was known for several novels, stories, children's literature etc. He had served as State office-bearer of the Purogamana Kala Sahithya Sangham and held the office of president of Sahithya Pravarthaka Co-operative Society and vice president of A.R. Rajaraja Varma Memorial Committee.

12. Veteran Malayalam Actor Sathar passed away

Veteran Malayalam actor Sathar passed away at the age of 67 years. He acted in over 300 movies including Tamil and Telugu films. He produced three movies, Revenge (1985), Black Mail (1985) and Kambolam (1994).



Some of his popular movies were 22 Female Kottayam in 2012, Natholi Cheriya Meenalla, Ee Raavil, Roudram, Kanalkireedam, Pranayakalathu, Nadodi and Ayiram Chirakulla Moham. His last movie in which he acted was Parayaan Baakki Vechathu in 2014.

13. Tunisia's former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali passed away

Tunisia's former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali passed away at the age of 83 years. He led the country for 23 years. He was known for delivering stability and some economic prosperity to his country. He had served as President of Tunisia from 1987 until his fall in 2011.



Ben Ali was appointed Prime Minister in October 1987. He was honored with more than 8 foreign honors such as Egypt's Order of the Nile, Japan's Order of the Chrysanthemum and Romania's Order of the Star. He was honored with four Tunisian national honours.

14. Veteran cricketer Madhav Apte passed away

Veteran cricketer Madhav Apte passed away in Mumbai at the age of 86 years. Apte made his Test debut against Pakistan at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai in November 1952 and played his last test against West Indies at Kingston in April 1953. He was the first Indian opener to aggregate over 400 runs in a Test series. He played along with several legendary cricketers, including Vinoo Mankad, Polly Umrigar, Vijay Hazare and Rusi Modi.



Apte served as president of the iconic Competition Commission of India (CCI) and 'Legends Club', a group formed to celebrate the achievements of different sportspersons.

15. Filmmaker Shyam Ramsay died

Popular filmmaker Shyam Ramsay from the Ramsay Brothers passed away at the age of 67 years. The Ramsay Brothers were considered the pioneers of horror genre in Hindi cinema during the 80s and 90s.



The films made by Ramsay Brothers - Tulsi, Kumar, Shyam, Keshu, Arjun, Gangu and Kiran included films such as Purana Mandir, Veerana, Do Gaz Zameen Ke Neeche, Band Darwaza, Purani Haveli, Andhera and Saboot.

16. Veteran actor S.K. Padmadevi passed away

Veteran actor and multi-faceted artiste S.K. Padmadevi passed away at the age of 95 years. She played the role of Bhoo Devi in the first Kannada talkie to go on sets Bhakta Dhruva in 1934. She began her career in theatre as a child artiste in 1930s.



Ms. Padmadevi also built a theatre troupe and wrote and directed plays. She was awarded the R. Nagendra Rao award for lifetime achievement by Karnataka Chalachitra Academy in 2016.

17. Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Skinner Boyd died

Noted American Journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Skinner Boyd passed away at the age of 91 years. He and Clark Hoyt won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for uncovering the fact that Senator Thomas Eagleton had severe psychiatric problems and had undergone three shock treatments.



Boyd spent 20 years as Washington bureau chief of Knight Ridder. Boyd toured the Bay of Pigs battlefield with Fidel Castro in 1961 and spent two weeks in North Vietnam in 1970. Boyd was a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford.

18. Telugu Comedian Venu Madhav passed away

Noted Telugu comedian Venu Madhav passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 39 years. The actor has appeared in blockbusters like Master, Tholi Prema, Yuvaraju, Nuvve Nuvve, Dil, Simhadri and Arya to name a few.



Venu Madhav was last seen in Dr Paramanandaiah Students (2016). He has acted in over 600 films in Tollywood. He started his career as a mimicry artist. Before entering into Tollywood, Venu Madhav was a telephone operator in Telugu Desam Party-TDP office.

19. Emmy Award Winner J. Michael Mendel passed away

Emmy award-winner, J. Michael Mendel, passed away at the age of 54 years. Mendel had earned four Emmys for his contribution as an animation director to "The Simpsons" and "Rick and Morty".

Joel Michael Mendel was also an American television producer. For his work on The Simpsons, Mendel won three Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Animated Program in 1995 ("Lisa's Wedding"), 1997 ("Homer's Phobia"), and 1998 ("Trash of the Titans"). In 2013, he joined Rick and Morty, where he won his fourth Emmy Award for the episode "Pickle Rick" in 2018.



20. Former French President Jacques Chirac passed away

Former French president Jacques Chirac passed away at the age of 86 years. Chirac served as President of France and ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra from 1995 to 2007. He was previously the Prime Minister of France from 1974 to 1976 and from 1986 to 1988, as well as the Mayor of Paris from 1977 to 1995.

Jacques Chirac earned the nickname "Le Bulldozer" early in his career due to his drive and ambition. He was also nicknamed "Chameleon Bonaparte" and "Houdini". He was also known for his stand against the American-led assault on Iraq.



1. DRDO successfully test fires Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile

India successfully test-fired a sophisticated all-weather and all-terrain Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) against live aerial targets from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. The state-of-the-art missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the India Army.



The systems are equipped with indigenously developed Phased array radar, Inertial Navigation System, Data Link & RF seeker. The system is being developed for Indian Army with search and track on move capability with very short reaction time.

2. Indo-Sri Lanka maritime fleet exercise - SLINEX 2019

The annual Joint Indo-Lanka maritime fleet exercise - SLINEX 2019 was held at Visakhapatnam. The exercise was held from 7th September to 14th September. Sri Lanka Navy's offshore patrol vessels, SLNS Sindurala and Suranimala, participated in the exercise.



The exercise features wide ranging naval exercises including helicopter operations. It was attended by 323 SLN personnel including the Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Fleet. It will enable both navies to rehearse and improve own capabilities and enhance operational effectiveness required to maintain maritime security in the Indian Ocean region.

3. Indo-US joint military Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2019

The joint military exercise between India and US, Yudh Abhyas 2019, was held at the Joint Base Lewis McChord, in Washington, USA. The exercise is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours between India and USA. This was the 15th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.



The Indian side was represented by "The Assam Regiment". Both sides jointly trained, planned and executed a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered in UN peace keeping operations.

4. 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) held in Bangkok

The 28th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand. Indian Naval (IN) Ship Kesari and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the CORPAT.



The 28th cycle of Indo-Thai CORPAT is poised to further enhance strong bilateral ties and maritime cooperation between India and Thailand. The Objectives of the Indo-Thai CORPAT are to ensure effective implementation of United Nations Conventions on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

5. IAF resurrects 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' for Rafale

The Indian Air Force (IAF) resurrected the Air Force Station Ambala-based 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows', which will operate the first squadron of Rafale fighter jets in the near future. The resurrection ceremony was presided over by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa.



The squadron was formed at Ambala on 01st Oct 1951 under the command of Flight Lieutenant D L Springett and was then equipped with Harvard-II B aircraft. Under the command of then Wing Commander BS Dhanoa, Golden Arrows participated actively in Operation Safed Sagar in 1999.

6. Indo-Thailand Joint Military Exercise Maitree - 2019

Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-2019 between India and Thailand was conducted at Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya). Indian and Royal Thailand Army (RTA) comprising 50 soldiers each participated in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter terrorism operations in their respective countries.



Exercise MAITREE is an annual training event which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India since 2006. Exercise MAITREE with Thailand is a significant in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations.

7. India began exporting bulletproof jackets to over 100 countries

India has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own standards to over 100 countries including European nations. India is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on the bulletproof jacket which provides 360-degree protection.



Bureau of Indian Standards has set standards better than international standards for bulletproof jackets, made under the Make in India campaign. India's lightest bullet-proof jacket weighing 9.2 kgs 'Bhabha Kavach', was launched at International Police Expo 2019.

8. INS Khanderi to be commissioned into the Indian Navy

India's second Scorpene-class attack submarine INS Khanderi will be commissioned into the Navy by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Mumbai on September 28. The first Scorpene-class submarine INS Kalvari was commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 2017. The third Scorpene-class submarine INS Karanj will join the Indian Naal fleet in Jan 2020.



Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd has built its diesel-electric submarine. Under the Project 75 programme, India is committed to building six Scorpene-class submarines at the cost of \$ 3 billion contract signed between French company Naval Group, DCNS, and MDL.

9. DRDO handed over second 'Netra' (AEWC) aircraft to IAF

Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) handed over the second airborne warning plane, Netra to Indian Air Force. The Netra, an Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft had played a stellar role during the Balakot air strikes. It provided surveillance and radar coverage to the five Mirage jets that bombed terror launch pads in Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.



Netra is useful for surveillance, tracking, identification and classification of airborne and sea surface targets and is useful in detecting incoming ballistic missile threats.

10. INS Tarkash at Walvis Bay, Namibia

In continuation of the Indian Navy's overseas deployment to Africa, Europe and Russia, Indian Naval Ship Tarkash made a port call at Walvis Bay, Namibia for a three days' visit. The port call by INS Tarkash at Walvis Bay is a demonstration of India's warm ties with Namibia and its commitment to enhance operational reach, maritime security and its solidarity with friendly nations.



INS Tarkash is part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet and is under the operational Command of Flag Officer Commanding – in – Chief, Western Naval Command, based at Mumbai.

11. War-gaming software handed over to Indian Navy

Institute for Systems Studies and Analysis (ISSA) Delhi, a premier DRDO laboratory, has designed and developed a new generation War-gaming Software in collaboration with Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam to meet the contemporary operational and tactical level war-gaming requirement for the Indian Navy. The War-gaming Software was handed over by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy to Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar at ISSA.



The key focus enables Maritime Warfare Centres (MWCs) to train using the latest technological and computing tools.

12. DAC approved Capital Procurement of Rs 2,000 crores

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has accorded approval for Capital Procurement for the Services amounting to approximately Rs 2,000 crores. DAC accorded approval for indigenous development and production of the main gun 125mm Armour Piercing Fin Stabilised Discarding-Sabot (APFSDS) ammunition for T-72/T-90 tanks by the Indian Industry, which would substantially enhance the enemy armour penetration capability.



DAC also approves procurement of DRDO developed and Industry manufactured Mechanical Mine Layer (Self Propelled) to improve automated minelaying capability with the Indian Army.

13. First-ever ‘arrested landing’ of Naval Tejas successfully executed

DRDO and the Aeronautical Development Agency successfully executed the first-ever arrested landing of Light Combat Aircraft(LCA) Tejas (Navy) at the shore-based test facility in Goa. This will allow the naval variant of the Tejas to eventually operate from an aircraft carrier. With this, India became among a select group of nations having the capability to design a jet which can land on an aircraft carrier.



This will pave the way for this indigenous platform to undertake Aircraft Carrier landing demonstration onboard the Indian aircraft carrier, Vikramaditya.

14. ISRO signed MoUs with DRDO

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for development of human centric systems for the Human Space Mission to demonstrate its human space flight capabilities.



Some of the critical technologies to be provided by DRDO to ISRO include space food, space crew health monitoring and emergency survival kit, radiation measurement and protection, parachutes for safe recovery of crew module and others. ISRO aims to demonstrate human spaceflight capability before the 75th anniversary of India’s independence in 2022.

15. Air-to-Air missile Astra successfully flight tested from Su-30 MKI

The indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile, ASTRA, has been successfully flight tested off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from Su-30 MKI as a part of User trials.



The Astra missile has a range of over 70 kilometers and can fly towards its target at a speed of over 5,555 kilometres per hour (4.5 Mach). The missile has a 15 kilogramme high-explosive pre-fragmented warhead. IAF is also in the process to integrate the Astra with its Dassault Mirage 2000, Mikoyan-Gurevic MiG-29 fighters as well as the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.

16. SITMEX- Trilateral Maritime exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand held

A 5-day maiden trilateral exercise of Singapore, India and Thailand named SITMEX was held from September 16, 2019 at Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exercise aimed to strengthen the maritime relationships of the three countries and to enhance security.



The exercise had two phases:

- Shore phase at Port Blair which involved activities like professional exchanges and sports fixtures.
- Sea phase at the Andaman sea that involved activities like surface and air operations with Gunnery, force protection measures and communication drill.

17. Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat takes over as Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat received the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) baton from outgoing Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa. General Bipin Rawat has been a member of COSC since January 2017. During his tenure in COSC, the Committee has deliberated on a number of diverse issues ranging from operations, training and administration.



As the next Chairman COSC, General Rawat is focused to operationalise the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), enhance Tri-Service integration and synchronisation of modern war fighting capabilities.

18. DRDO and Central University of Jammu sign MoU

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence and Central University of Jammu (CUJ) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of Kalam Centre for Science and Technology (KCST) at the university.



The main objective of the MoU is to undertake and facilitate multidisciplinary directed basic and applied research and technology development in the identified research verticals namely; Computational System Security and Sensors. The centre will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and equipment leading to increase in research scholars in these areas.

19. Sea Phase of maiden IN-RSN-RTN Trilateral Exercise began

Sea Phase of maiden SITMEX-19 (Singapore India Thailand Maritime Exercise), between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) commenced in the Andaman Sea.



IN Ships Ranvir, a Guided Missile Destroyer, Kora, a Missile Corvette, Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel along with Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft P8I are jointly exercising with RSS Tenacious, a Formidable-class Guided Missile Stealth Frigate and HTMS Kraburi, a Guided Missile Frigate to enhance maritime interoperability between the participating navies. Sea Riders have also been exchanged between participating ships to provide experience sharing of best practices.

20. Indian army conducted exercise ‘Chang Thang’ in Eastern Ladakh

The Indian Army conducted a massive rare exercise ‘Chang Thang’ involving all its arms and services including tanks, artillery and helicopters, in Eastern Ladakh, for testing and improving its war-fighting capabilities. It was conducted at an altitude of over 12,000-feet near the Line of Actual Control.



First of its kind exercise involved the use of infantry, mechanised forces, T-72 tanks, with force multipliers such as artillery guns and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The army will conduct another major exercise, Him Vijay, in Arunachal Pradesh in Oct 2019.

21. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Varaha

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Varaha at a special function held at Chennai Port. The ship is the fourth in the series of seven offshore patrol vessels of the Coast Guard. It can attain a maximum speed of 26 knots and has endurance of 5000 nautical miles.



The 98-metre offshore patrol vessel ICGS Varaha has been designed and constructed indigenously. It is equipped with 30-millimetre gun and has an integrated bridge system, platform management systems, automated power management system and high power external fire fighting system.

22. Exercise MALABAR 2019

The 23rd edition of the trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India started on 26th September off the coast of Japan. The Indian Navy was represented by stealth frigate INS Sahyadri, AsW corvette INS Kiltan and a Boeing P-8I Neptune aircraft.

The aim of the Malabar exercise is to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability among the three navies in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region.



23. India-US Tri-Services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" to be held in November

India and the United States will hold their first tri-services exercise called "Tiger Triumph" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in November 2019.

Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) concluded at Headquarters Eastern Naval Command on September 20. This is for the first time, the US and India will be holding the tri-service military exercise. India earlier conducted such tri-service exercise with Russia.



1. Record 49.29 lakh e>Returns filed in a single day on 31st August 2019

The Income Tax department has made history with a quantum jump in the e-filing of Income-Tax Returns (ITRs) with an all time high record of 49 lakhs 29 thousand and 121 ITRs filed in a single day on 31st August 2019.

On 31 August, 2019, the peak filing rate per second was at 196 ITRs and peak filing rate per minute was at 7,447 ITRs, while peak filing rate per hour was at 387,571 ITRs.



2. GST collection up 4.51% in August at Rs 98,202 crore

The gross goods and services tax (GST) collection in August, 2019 stood at Rs 98,202 crore, up 4.51% compared to Rs 93,960 crore in August 2018. Of the total collection, CGST is Rs 17,733 crore, SGST is Rs 24,239 crore, IGST is Rs 48,958 crore (including Rs 24,818 crore collected on imports) and Cess is Rs 7,273 crore (including Rs 841 crore collected on imports). The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of July up to 31st August, 2019 is Rs 75.80 lakh.



The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of August, 2019 is Rs 40,898 crore for CGST and Rs 40,862 crore for the SGST.

3. Mukesh Ambani rolled out JioFiber

Reliance Jio Infocomm has commercially launched its wired broadband service JioFiber. It offers high-speed internet, landline phone and HD television. Broadband services offer a minimum internet speed of 100 Mbps with plans starting at Rs.699 per month for 100 GB, while higher plans come with freebies like high definition television (TV) sets and set-top boxes.

Jio's offer is a game-changer that poses considerable threat to DTH service providers such as Airtel Digital TV, Tata Sky and Dish TV.



4. CRISIL revised India's GDP growth to 6.3% in fiscal 2020

Crisil Research revised downwards its India Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for fiscal 2020 to 6.3% from earlier estimation of 6.5% due to less domestic private consumption demand, slump in manufacturing and halving of merchandise exports growth. Fiscal 2020's first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth was estimated at 5%, the slowest in 25 quarters.



The sharpest dip was seen in exports, where growth nearly halved to 5.7% from 10.6% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2019. The sharpest slowdown was in the real estate, financial and professional services segment, which slipped to 5.9% from 9.5%.

5. Wipro bagged \$300-million deal from ICICI Bank

IT Major Wipro signed strategic seven-year deal valued at \$300 million from ICICI Bank to provide a suite of digital services. With the help of this deal, Wipro HOLMES, the company's Artificial Intelligence platform will provide differentiated technology and digital capabilities to ICICI bank.



Wipro entered into a business transfer agreement for an all cash consideration of Rs 321 crore, with Vara Infotech, who was presently providing the IT services to bank. ICICI Bank will get these services from September 2019.

6. India among top 10 nations in gold reserves

According to the World Gold Council, India has pipped Netherlands to move into the list of top ten countries in terms of total gold reserves. India has a total of 618.2 tonnes of gold reserves while Netherlands has 612.5 tonnes.



US tops the list with 8,133.5 tonnes followed by Germany with 3,366.8 tonnes. IMF ranks third in the list with a holding of 2,451.8 tonnes. Italy (2,451.8 tonnes), France (2,436.1 tonnes), Russia (2,219.2 tonnes), China (1,936.5 tonnes), Switzerland (1,040 tonnes) and Japan (765.2 tonnes) complete the top ten list.

7. IFC signed MoU with FIDC for training NBFCs

International Finance Corporation, a part of the World Bank Group signed a MoU with the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), a representative body of asset and loan Financing NBFCs, to collaborate on training of NBFCs on topic of Commercial Credit Reporting. The training is aimed at building capacity of NBFCs to enhanced reporting and enquiring on Commercial Credit Information Data from the Credit Bureaus.



MoU will facilitate more informed credit appraisals thereby improving the asset quality and improve large number of small and medium sized NBFCs.

8. Government announced fresh incentives to boost exports and housing sector

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a fresh set of measures worth 70,000 crore rupees to boost exports and housing sector. The government will provide a 10,000 crore rupees special window with an aim to help complete ongoing affordable and middle-income housing projects.



The other key incentives include extending the scheme of reimbursement of taxes and duties for export promotion, fully automated electronic refund for Input Tax Credits (ITC) in GST, revised priority sector lending norms for exports and expanding the scope of Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS).

9. Government announced scheme for Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product

In a bid to boost the economy, the government has formed an inter-ministerial working group to monitor export finance. Accordingly, the scheme for Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) was announced which will replace Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for textiles. In effect, RoDTEP will more than adequately incentivise exporters than existing schemes put together.



Textile and all other sectors which currently enjoy incentives up to 2 per cent over MEIS will transit into RoDTEP from January 1, 2020.

10. ECGC Introduced Nirvik to Enhance Loan Availability for Exporters

Ministry of Commerce & Industry through Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) has introduced a new Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process. The ECGC cover provides additional comfort to banks as the credit rating of the borrower is enhanced to AA rated account.



Enhanced cover will ensure that Foreign and Rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4% and 8% respectively for exporters. Under ECIS, insurance cover percentage has also been enhanced to 90% from the present average of 60% for both Principal and Interest.

11. Commerce and Industry Minister launched Steel Import Monitoring System

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal launched Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) in New Delhi. The system has been developed in consultation with Ministry of Steel on the pattern of US Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.



The SIMS will provide advance information about steel imports to Government and stake holders including, steel industry (producers), steel consumers (importers) to have effective policy interventions. In this system, the importers of specified steel products will register in advance on the web portal of SIMS providing necessary information.

12. Commerce and Industry Minister launched Common Digital Platform for Issuance of Electronic Certificates

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched Common Digital Platform for Issuance of electronic Certificates of Origin (CoO) in New Delhi. This platform will be a single access point for all exporters, for all FTAs/PTAs and for all agencies concerned. Certificate of Origin will be issued electronically.



Benefits include

- Real-time tracking of FTA utilization at product level, country level etc.
- Possible to electronically exchange CoO with the partner countries.
- Reduces transaction cost and time for the exporters.

13. Wholesale price-based inflation unchanged at 1.08% in August

Wholesale price-based inflation was unchanged at 1.08% in August. The increase in prices of certain food items was partially neutralised by static prices of manufactured goods during August 2019. The Wholesale Price Index based inflation was 1.08% in July 2019 and 4.62% in August 2018.



Inflation in food articles rose to 7.67% during the month as against 6.15% in July mainly on account of rise in prices of vegetables and protein-rich items. The retail (CPI) inflation in August rose marginally to 3.21% as against 3.15% in the previous month mainly due to costlier food items.

14. Government scrapped 5 % import duty on open cell TV panel

In a bid to boost domestic manufacturing, the government has removed 5% custom duty imposed on import of open cell (15.6 inch and above) for use in the manufacture of Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) TV panel. The move would also help to reduce the price of TV panel by around 3%.



The government has also waived custom duty on import of Chip on Film, Printed Circuit Board Assembly and Cell (glass board or substrate) which are used to manufacture open cell TV panels.

15. Government allows SAIL to sell 25% of iron ore output

Ministry of Mines has allowed Steel Authority of India Limited, SAIL to offload in a year up to a quantity equivalent to maximum 25% of total iron ore production in the previous year. It will be subject to clearance from the respective State Governments, where the mines are located, after following due procedure. It is valid for a period of 2 years.



Around 7 Million tonnes of iron ore, produced at its different mines in the States of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chattisgarh, can be offloaded by SAIL to the domestic market.

16. BEML signed MoU with Wipro Infrastructure

BEML Ltd and Wipro Infrastructure Engineering (WIN) signed a MoU to work together in Aerospace, Industrial Automation, 3D Printing, Artificial Intelligence and Hydraulic System Engineering.

The MoU entails working together on projects, products, systems, services and projects in Defence, DRDO labs, DPSUs and other relevant government entities in India as well as export customers. Key focus areas include aerospace components and parts through SEZ, metal additive manufacturing and design optimisation for new critical aggregates, legacy components & spares, and process automation.



17. Government cuts corporate tax rate for domestic investors

Government has cut the corporate tax from nearly 35 to about 25% for domestic investors. Also, such companies shall not be required to pay Minimum Alternate Tax.

Under the new provision a new domestic company incorporated on or after 1st October 2019 making fresh investment in manufacturing and commences their production on or before 31st March, 2023, will have to pay income tax at the rate of only 15%. Finance Minister has also announced the government decision to expand the scope of 2% CSR spending.



18. Google announced new AI research lab in India's Bengaluru

Google announced Google Research India, an artificial intelligence (AI)-based research lab to be set up in India's Bengaluru. The Indian AI lab will be led by Dr. Manish Gupta, a SEM (Society for Experimental Mechanics) scientist in the country.

Google already has various AI research labs across the world, under its Google AI arm. The Bengaluru lab will be the first in India. AI-based lab will create products not just for India but for the rest of the world.



19. Telecom body approved Rs 8500 crore for mobile towers & optical fibres

Digital Communication Commission, the highest decision making body in the Department of Telecom has approved multiple projects worth over Rs 8,500 crore for setting up 1917 mobile towers and laying of optical fibre in the North East uncovered villages.



The projects include laying of BharatNet fibre in Tamil Nadu and Telangana, at an estimated cost of Rs 1,815 crore and Rs 2,065 crore. This includes 2,215 villages in Arunachal Pradesh and 763 villages in two districts of Assam.

20. Ola drivers to get healthcare benefits under Ayushman Bharat

Ola, India's largest mobility platform and Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) announced a partnership to facilitate comprehensive health insurance for Ola's 2 million driver-partners.



Through this collaboration, hundreds of thousands of eligible driver-partners will be able to access in-patient care for serious illnesses at a country-wide network of 18,073 government and private hospitals empanelled under PM-JAY. Driver-partners can get their AB-PMJAY e-cards issued at the nearest Ola office.

21. Tata Communications partnered with Cisco

The leading global digital infrastructure provider Tata Communications and Cisco have extended their partnership to enable enterprises to transform their legacy network to a customised and secure multi-cloud native hybrid network.



The combination of Tata Communications' IZO™ cloud enablement platform and Cisco SD-WAN is a fully-managed, global solution that gives businesses greater control over their digital infrastructure, the ability to securely connect any user to any application location and provide the assurance of application performance needed to support successful digital transformation.



22. Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting sets up startup venture fund

Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting has launched "Wipro Consumer Care-Ventures", a startup venture fund to invest in startups in the consumer brands space. It will involve investment in companies of India and Southeast Asia that have "strong entrepreneurs" and startups with a "sound business model."



Wipro Consumer Care & Lighting has presence in 19 countries and is among the fastest growing fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) businesses in India.

23. CBDT sets up NeAC

Government announced setting up of a national e-assessment centre (NeAC) in New Delhi to focus on e-assessment. The NeAC will be an independent office looking after the exclusive work of e-assessment headed by a Principal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax (PCCIT) as its chief.



Central Board of Direct Taxes
(CBDT)

1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer K M Prasad has been appointed as the chief or PCCIT of the new Centre. The initiative is a part of government efforts to reduce human discretion in assessments and scrutiny.

24. ADB slashed India growth forecast to 6.5% for 2019-20

The Asian Development Bank slashed its growth forecast for India for fiscal 2019-20 to 6.5% from 7% projected in July 2019 owing to slowdown in consumption and investment activities, sluggish manufacturing demand and liquidity crunch. However, proactive policy interventions, Corporate tax cuts and recovery in domestic demand and investments will likely see the economy pick up to 7.2% in 2020-21.



ADB announced India to remain fastest-growing economies due to government's implementation in policy reforms.

Environment

1. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to UNCCD

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 12-day 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. India took over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years till 2021.



The objective of the COP 14 is to discuss on various issues of land such as sustainable land management, reversing land degradation, mitigating drought, halting desertification, addressing sand and dust storms, linkages with gender, tenure, etc. and guide the Convention as global and national circumstances needs change.

2. Russia formally accepted 2015 Paris climate accord

Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev gave formal support to the Paris climate agreement. The Paris Agreement gives countries a choice in how to join the accords by ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the agreement, depending on their national legislation.



Russia is the world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the biggest emitter not to have ratified the landmark global climate deal.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016.

3. Rohit Sharma launched campaign to conserve rhinos

Ace Indian batsman, Rohit Sharma, has launched Rohit4Rhinos campaign, in partnership with WWF India and Animal Planet, to help build awareness for the need to conserve the Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros or the Indian Rhino. It was launched on September 22 to commemorate World Rhino Day.



Rohit Sharma joined WWF India as its Brand Ambassador for Rhino Conservation in 2018.

Of the estimated 3500 Indian rhinos left in India and Nepal, 82% are found in India. The Indian rhinoceros faces several threats, including poaching, habitat loss and mass mortality from in-breeding and disease.

4. NGT directs government to prepare plan for protection of the Great Indian Bustard

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Union Government to prepare a time-bound action plan within two months for protection of the Great Indian Bustard.



A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel constituted a joint committee to prepare the action plan for implementation of suggestions submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) over the issue. According to the plea filed, 75% of the birds have died due to collision with power lines in the past 30 years.

5. Cryodrakon boreas reported as the largest flying animal of all time

The study conducted by scientists of Queen Mary University in London reported Cryodrakon boreas, plane-sized reptile as the largest flying animal of all time. With a wingspan of 10 meters and weighing 250 kgs, Cryodrakon boreas is a new species of pterosaur.



Cryodrakon boreas remains were first discovered more than 30 years ago in Alberta, Canada and it flew over North America 77 million years ago. C. boreas, also known as "frozen dragon of the north wind" was carnivorous and probably fed on lizards and baby dinosaurs.

6. Exercise of rehabilitating deer population begin in Kodiakkarai Wild Life sanctuary

A unique exercise of rehabilitating deer population has been started in the Kodiakkarai Wild Life sanctuary in Tamilnadu. This follows upgradation works being undertaken at the cost of eight crores rupees in the Sivagangai Gardens of Thanjavoor under the smart city scheme of the Central government.



The graceful deers, which have been brought up in the protected environment in the Sivagangai park, have been transported by using special trucks to Kodiakkarai, in Vedaranyam district, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal.

7. Five-year period ending 2019 set to be hottest on record

According to a new UN report, the five-year period ending 2019 is set to be the hottest ever. It is currently estimated to be 1.1 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial [1850-1900] times and 0.2 degrees Celsius warmer than 2011-2015. The report is titled United in Science, a synthesis of key findings.



The report also suggested that the amount of ice lost from the Antarctic ice sheet increased by a factor of six each year between 1979 and 2017, while glacier loss for 2015-19 is also the highest for any five-year period on record.

8. Gujarat unveiled India's first emissions trading scheme to curb air pollution

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched India's first emission trading scheme (ETS) to combat particulate air pollution. The programme is a market-based system where the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap.



The ETS was initiated in Surat by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB). Industrial plants can trade permits with each other, just like any other commodity on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).

1. IDBI Bank introduced repo-linked home and auto loans

IDBI Bank has introduced Repo linked home loan and car loan-Suvidha Plus Home Loan and Suvidha Plus Auto Loan effective from September 10.

RBI, on September 4, had mandated banks to link fresh retail loans to external benchmark. The three external benchmarks the RBI has proposed for linkage of new home and auto loans are its policy repo rate, the Government of India's three-month and six-month treasury bill yields published by Financial Benchmarks India Private (FBIL), or any other benchmark market interest rate published by FBIL.



2. SBI, Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with China National Advance Payment System

The State Bank of India's (SBI) Shanghai branch became the first Indian Bank to connect to China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS). The CNAPS provides real-time settlement services for all payments cleared in China.

The CNAPS was launched in 2008 by People's Bank of China (PBOC). SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency. The SBI had obtained the PBOC approval in December 2016 for implementation of the CNAPS and it was made live on July 8, 2019.



3. RBI allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country. It has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act. In another notification, 'Jana Small Finance Bank Limited' too has been included in the Second Schedule.

Further, the name of 'The Royal Bank of Scotland plc' has been changed to 'NatWest Markets Plc' in the Second Schedule while 'National Australia Bank' has ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act.



4. Government launched updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for MSMEs

The government launched the updated Credit linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) to allow micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) access to capital. The government has approved an outlay of Rs 2,900 crore for the scheme in February 2019.



The CLCSS offers an upfront subsidy of 15 % on institutional credit up to Rs 1 crore for MSMEs sectors in the specified 51 sub-sectors.

In the new updated scheme, there is an additional 10 % subsidy for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) entrepreneurs while special provisions have been offered for 117 'aspirational' districts, hill states and the northeastern region in India.

5. RBI Makes External Benchmark Based Interest Rate mandatory from October 1, 2019

Reserve bank of India mandated banks to link all new floating rate personal or retail loans and floating rate loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark to improve transmission of interest rate to be effective October 1, 2019. The banks are free to choose one of the several benchmarks and choose their spread over the benchmark rate.



At present, banks were pricing loans as per MCLR framework but report of the RBI constituted an Internal Study Group recommended that the transmission of policy rate changes under the current MCLR framework has not been satisfactory.

rate changes under the current MCLR framework has not been satisfactory.

6. India Post Payments Bank announced rollout of AEPs at the 1st Anniversary of its Business Operations

The Union Minister for Communications Shri Ravi Shankar announced the rollout of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) Services by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) for expanding access to financial services for millions of unbanked and underbanked customers. IPPB achieved the milestone of 1 Crore customers and exhorted them to achieve 5 crore target in next one year.



India Post

With the launch of AEPS services, IPPB has now become the single largest platform for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank.

7. RBI to come out with mobile app for visually challenged

The Reserve Bank of India will come out with a mobile application to help visually challenged people in identifying currency notes. At present, banknotes in the denominations of ₹10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000 are in circulation, besides Re 1 notes issued by the Centre.



The proposed mobile app would be able to identify the denomination of notes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of mobile camera.

8. Finance Ministry introduced code of conduct and peer review for non-official directors of PSBs

The Finance Ministry has introduced a code of conduct and peer review for non-official directors of public sector banks (PSBs) to enhance governance in public sector banks (PSBs) through improved effectiveness of non-official directors (NODs).



Peer review of NODs has been stipulated upon completion of one year from the date of his/her nomination. The PSBs will now have to file performance report of the NODs to Finance Ministry. NODs are directors nominated by the government, as promoter, at PSBs.

9. Government to recapitalise Public Sector Insurance companies

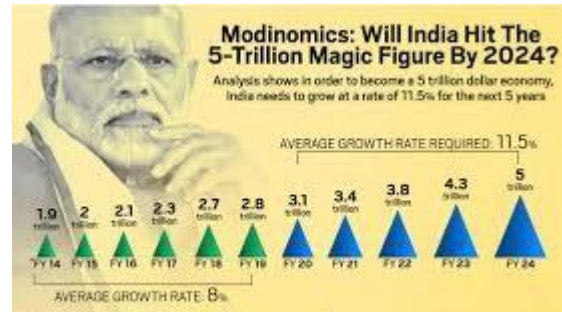
The government is going to infuse public sector insurance companies -- National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance with funds worth ₹12,000 crores to boost their capital base and meet regulatory norms.



The three Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) insurers have more than 200 insurance products with a total premium of Rs 41,461 crore and a market share of around 35 per cent as on March 31, 2017. The Budget had provisioned ₹70,000 crores for Public Sector Banks (PSB) recapitalisation and last week a ₹55,250-crore infusion was announced in several PSBs for regulatory and growth requirements.

10. NDA government takes key steps to make India 5 trillion economy

With an objective to make India a five trillion-dollar economy, the NDA government has undertaken several measures to boost the economy.



- Cabinet committees set up to spur investment and create new employment opportunities in the country.
- A high-powered Committee setup on structural reforms in the agriculture sector.
- To boost the automobile sector, it has increased the allowable depreciation to 30% on all vehicles acquired from now till March 2020.
- Customs duty is being exempted on certain parts of electric vehicles to further incentivise e-mobility.
- 70,000 crore rupees will be released to public sector banks.

11. Centre to give support of Rs 8,500 crore to ECGC

The Central government will give support of 8,500 crore rupees to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India, ECGC, in the next five years. The interest rates will be 3.5%. ECGC has introduced a scheme called Niryat Rin Vikash Yojana - NIRVIK to enhance loan availability to exporters.



Under the new scheme NIRVIK, up to 90% of the principal amount and interest will be covered through insurance. It will cover both pre and post-shipment credit.

12. Commerce Ministry raised Insurance cover for Banks up to 90% for Working Capital Loans

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal informed about the details of the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) in New Delhi. Ministry of Commerce & Industry has enhanced Insurance cover for Banks up to 90% for the working capital loans and moderation in premium incidence for the MSME sector. Enhanced cover will ensure that Foreign and Rupee export credit interest rates will be below 4% and 8% respectively for exporters.



The existing covers issued by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) will continue for the existing customer banks.

13. MFIN, Sa-Dhan jointly launch ‘Code for Responsible Lending’ for microfinance industry

Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) and Sa-Dhan along with FIDC (Finance Industry Development Council) have jointly launched the ‘Code for Responsible Lending’ (CRL) for the micro credit industry. The CRL was launched at Sa-Dhan’s 15th Annual National Conference held in New Delhi.



Sa-Dhan is Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recognised self-regulatory organisation and industry association for the microfinance industry. A common CRL unveiled would bar more than three lenders offering loans to a single borrower and cap the size of total lending to Rs.1 lakh per borrower.

14. RBI expands scope of Bharat Bill Payment System

The Reserve Bank of India has expanded the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) by adding other categories of recurring payments through the portal like school fees, insurance premiums and municipal taxes.



Currently, the facility of payment of recurring bills through BBPS is available only in five segments—direct to home (DTH), electricity, gas, telecom and water. The system will provide multiple payment modes and instant confirmation of payment. BBPS functions under the aegis of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

15. Public Sector Banks to organise ‘loan melas’ in 400 districts

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to organise ‘loan melas’ or “Shamiana meetings” in 400 districts by Public Sector Banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions. The first will be held between October 3 and 7 in 200 districts, while the remaining 200 will be covered October 11 onwards, for consumers who may want a loan.



Each and every bank will be allotted a number of districts such as SBI is expected to hold the most in 50 districts and Syndicate Bank will operate in 25 districts.

16. Airtel Payments Bank launched 'Bharosa' savings account

Airtel Payments Bank launched Bharosa Savings Account, which has been designed to serve the unique needs of underbanked and unbanked customers. Bharosa Savings Account offers free Personal Accident Insurance cover worth Rupees Five Lakhs on maintaining a balance of just Rs 500 along with one debit transaction per month.



Customers will be also eligible for cashback - if they decide to receive government subsidies in their Bharosa Account or if they make cash deposits in it. Airtel Payments Bank was the first payments bank to launch operations in India.

17. Digital Payment Abhiyan launched by DSCI, MeitY and Google India

Nasscom's Data Security Council of India (DSCI), electronics and IT ministry (MeitY) and Google India collaborated to launch nationwide awareness campaign 'Digital Payment Abhiyan' to make people aware of digital frauds and adopt security and safety best practices.



DSCI has onboarded various digital payments ecosystem partners such as representation partners from banking, card networks as well as fin-tech segment. Campaign will educate people about the dos and don'ts for different payment channels including UPI, wallets, cards as well as netbanking and mobile banking.

18. RBI puts Mumbai-based PMC Bank under directions

The Reserve Bank of India has placed the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra under Directions. According to the Directions, depositors will be allowed to withdraw a sum not exceeding 1,000 rupees of the total balance in every savings bank account or current account or any other deposit account, subject to conditions stipulated in the RBI Directions.



The bank will also not be able to grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, without prior approval in writing from the Reserve Bank. The Directions shall remain in force for a period of six months from the close of business of the bank on 23rd September, 2019.

Important Days

1. National Nutrition Week observed from 1st to 7th September

The National Nutrition Week was observed throughout the country from 1st to 7th September. The week is used to celebrate for making people to know about the proper Health by eating proper Nutrition Foods and to get them the Importance of the Nutrition to their Body.



The basic objective of this annual event is to intensify awareness generation on the importance of nutrition for health which has an impact on development, productivity, economic growth and ultimately National development.

2. World Breastfeeding Week 2019

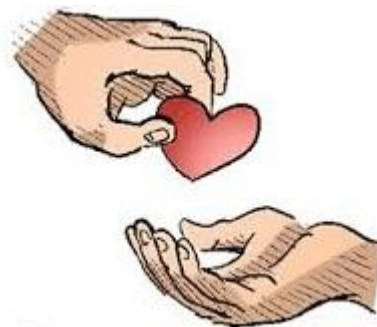
World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world. The Women and Child Development Ministry of India also observed the World Breastfeeding Week with a focus on protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding with the theme "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding".



World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old.

3. International Day of Charity

The International Day of Charity is observed annually on 5th September to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world to alleviate poverty worldwide.



The International Day of Charity was declared officially by the UN General Assembly in 2012. 5th September is the selected date as it commemorates the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa who worked tirelessly to overcome poverty, distress and suffering of the poorest in the world.

4. World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)

The World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed annually on 10th September. It is organised by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.

The WHO has launched a “40 seconds of action” campaign to raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the world and the role that each of us can play to help prevent it.



5. International Literacy Day

The International Literacy Day is observed annually on 8th September to promote and support the development of literacy and skills, universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people’s lives. The theme for 2019 is 'Literacy and Multilingualism'.

September 8th was proclaimed as International Literacy Day (ILD) at the 14th session of UNESCO’s General Conference on 26 October 1966. The purpose was not only to combat illiteracy but also to promote literacy as a tool that could empower individuals as well as whole communities.



6. National Hindi Divas observed on 14th September

National Hindi Divas was celebrated all over India on 14th September. The day is observed annually to promote and propagate the Hindi language. Its importance is demonstrated by feasts, events, competitions and other services held on this day.

The event also serves as a patriotic reminder to Hindi-speaking populations of their common roots and unity. Hindi is spoken as a mother tongue by around 258 million people and is known as the 4th largest language of the world.



7. World Ozone Day observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated annually on 16th September. The theme for this year was "32 Years and Healing". India's National Cooling Action Plans has been recognized by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr António Guterres in his message on World Ozone day 2019.



The India Cooling Action seeks to (i) reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% by 2037-38, (ii) reduce refrigerant demand by 25% by 2037-38, (iii) Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38, (iv) training of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23.

8. International Day of Democracy observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Democracy is observed annually on 15th September to raise public awareness about democracy. The theme of International Day of Democracy 2019 is 'Participation'. According to the UN, Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation – and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights.



The day was created by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy.

9. World Bamboo Day observed on September 18

World Bamboo Day is observed every year on the 18th of September by the World Bamboo Organisation to generate awareness about conserving and promoting the bamboo industry.



The World Bamboo Organisation aims to bring the potential of bamboo to a more elevated exposure – to protect natural resources and the environment, to ensure sustainable utilisation, to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions around the world, as well as promote traditional development.

uses locally for community economic

10. First World Patient Safety Day observed by WHO on September 17

World Health Organization (WHO) declared September 17, 2019 as the first World Patient Safety Day. On the first-ever World Patient Safety Day on 17 September 2019, WHO launched a global campaign to create awareness of patient safety and urge people to show their commitment to making healthcare safer. The theme was "Patient Safety: a global health priority" and the slogan was "Speak up for patient safety."



The campaign aimed to mobilise patients, health workers, policymakers, academics, researchers, professional networks and the health-care industry to speak up for patient safety.

11. International Day of Sign Languages observed

The International Day of Sign Languages was observed on 23rd September. It is observed annually. The objective of the day is to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.



Sign languages are fully-fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages. The theme of the day in 2019 was "Sign Language Rights for All". According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

12. International Day of Peace observed

The International Day of Peace is observed annually all around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.



The Day's theme for 2019 is 'Climate Action for Peace'. The theme focuses on the need of combating climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. The day is sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day. To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City).

13. World Rhino Day observed

The World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22 every year. World Rhino Day was actually started by World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-South Africa. The theme of the day in 2019 is "Five Rhino Species Forever" that celebrates both the African and Asian rhino species.



Rhinoceros are characterised by a very large horn, for which they are killed by humans. Rhino horns are bought and sold on the black market for their presumed therapeutic properties. Due to extensive poaching, three of the five rhino species are listed as critically endangered.

14. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed annually on 26th September across the globe. The day is celebrated in voice of global nuclear disarmament as a high priority.



There are growing variations on the future of multilateral nuclear disarmament. There are at least 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world today. The day also provides an opportunity to educate the public-and their leaders-about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.

15. World Maritime Day

The World Maritime Day is celebrated every year on 26th September. The World Maritime Day theme for the year is "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community". This provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and to highlight the important - yet under-utilised - contribution of women within the maritime sector.



According to the United Nations, at present women represent only 2% of the world's 1.2 million seafarers and 94% of female seafarers are working in the cruise industry.

16. World Tourism Day

World Tourism Day is commemorated each year on 27 September. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The theme for World Tourism Day 2019 is "Tourism and jobs: a better future for all". India, for the first time, is hosting the World Tourism Day in 2019.

The day of September 27 was chosen for World Tourism Day because the Constitution of the World Tourism Organization was accepted on this day in 1970.



International

1. Sri Lanka signed four agreements with Maldives

Maldives and Sri Lanka have exchanged an Agreement of Cooperation and three Memoranda of Understanding. They are:

- facilitation of visa arrangements allowing for free 90-day on-arrival visas for visitors between the two countries.
- an MoU on Cooperation in the area of Social Protection to provide support and protect vulnerable members of society, including children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- an MoU on Higher Education to expand education opportunities for students of both countries.
- an MoU on Vocational Training and Youth Development to increase knowledge and experience sharing pertinent to helping youth develop their social and leadership skills.



2. Indonesia to move capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan

Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced that the country's capital will move from Jakarta to a site in East Kalimantan province on Borneo island. Jakarta is the centre of government, business, finance, trade and services.



Jakarta is home to 10 million people, and is overcrowded and heavily polluted. It is prone to earthquakes and flooding, and parts of the city are sinking as much as 25cm a year as a result of subsidence. The Borneo Island is known for rainforests and orangutans.

3. India, US agree to pursue collaboration between their defence industry & start-ups

Indian and US officials have agreed to pursue a policy environment conducive to collaboration between the defence industry and start-ups in both countries. An understanding in this regard was reached during the 15th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington.



The Defence Policy Group or DPG is the top official-level meeting mechanism between India and the US on defence issues, which comprehensively reviews and guides all aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

4. Netherlands bans face-covering clothing

The Netherlands banned face-covering clothing, such as a burqa or niqab, in public buildings and on transport. The Netherlands is the latest European country to introduce such a ban, following the likes of France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark.

The legislation also applies to other face coverings such as full-face helmets, balaclavas or ski mask. France was the first European nation to ban the public use of veils, both face-covering niqabs and full-body burqas.



5. 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok

The 10th Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India.

The Ministers adopted the new MGC Plan of Action 2019-2022 that envisages project-based cooperation in the seven areas of MGC cooperation, namely tourism and culture, education, public health and traditional medicine, agriculture and allied sectors, transport and communication, MSMEs as well as three new areas of cooperation, i.e. water resources management, science and technology, skill development and capacity building.



6. India, South Korea sign two major agreements

India and South Korea signed two memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further defence educational exchanges and extend logistical support to each other's Navies.

The logistics agreement will help the Indian Navy in interoperability, especially when it operates in the Indo-Pacific Region in the ports of South Korea. The agreements were signed after the talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his South Korean counterpart Jeong Kyeongdo in Seoul.



7. South Africa temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria

South Africa has temporarily closed its diplomatic missions in Nigeria following reprisal attacks by Nigerians triggered by xenophobic violence in South Africa. Nigeria too introduced plans to evacuate its nationals from South Africa following a wave of attacks on foreigners.



South African-owned businesses were targeted by protesters in several Nigerian cities as a reprisal to the killing of Nigerians in South Africa. Rioting in South Africa against foreign businesses has killed at least many people in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

8. India Pavilion inaugurated at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival 2019

High Commissioner of India to Canada, Vikas Swarup, inaugurated the India Pavilion at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2019. It will provide a platform to showcase Indian Cinema in the overseas market and facilitate new business opportunities.



IFFI 2019 poster and brochure were also released on the occasion. The year 2019 marks the Golden Jubilee Edition of IFFI which is to be held in Goa later this year. TIFF provides ideal platform for global outreach of 50th IFFI 2019.

9. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh addressed 8th Seoul Defense Dialogue in South Korea

Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh delivered the keynote address at Plenary session of the 8th Seoul Defense Dialogue in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The theme of Defence Dialogue was- 'Building Peace Together: Challenges and Vision'.



The Seoul Defense Dialogue was launched in 2012 as a vice ministerial level multilateral security consultation regime for talks on Asia-Pacific cooperation and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

10. US Federal Trade Commission fines YouTube with \$170 million

Google LLC and its subsidiary YouTube was fined with \$170 million by US's Federal Trade Commission for violating Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). YouTube earned millions by illegally tracking viewers of children's channels using cookies without their parents' consent and used those cookies to deliver millions of dollars in targeted advertisements. Cookies track user behavior across the internet.



As per COPPA act, it is required to obtain parental consent for collecting information on children under age 13 from child-directed sites to disclose data practices.

11. Russia, Ukraine exchange prisoners

Russia and Ukraine have completed a long-awaited exchange of prisoners between them. A total of 70 prisoners were involved in this landmark exchange. This is the first major exchange of prisoners between Russia and Ukraine since the conflict over eastern Ukraine erupted in 2014.



It could be a crucial step in easing tensions between the ex-Soviet neighbours over Russia's annexation of Crimea and the subsequent war that has left more than 13,000 dead in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

12. College building, constructed with Indian aid, inaugurated in Kathmandu

Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Manjeev Singh Puri, inaugurated a new building of Koteshwor Multiple Campus in Kathmandu. It was constructed with the Government of India's grant assistance of 45.10 million Nepali rupees. The new three-storey building comprises 18 classrooms and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls among other facilities.



Koteshwor Multiple Campus, established in 1990, is a non-profitable non-governmental, service-oriented community college situated at Koteshwor in Kathmandu district. The Campus has over 3,700 students, about 60% of whom are girls.

13. Iran fired up advanced centrifuges in latest nuclear step

Iran has fired up advanced centrifuges to boost its enriched uranium stockpiles. According to the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, it had activated 20 IR-4 and 20 IR-6 centrifuges.

The move could lead to Tehran enriching uranium much faster and gaining the means to build atom bombs. Under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran was allowed to enrich uranium, using only first-generation or IR-1 centrifuges.



14. Amazon countries meet to bolster rainforest protection

Presidents and Ministers from seven Amazon countries met in Colombia to take measures on protecting the world's biggest rain-forest from wildfires and rampant deforestation. The representatives of the seven nations signed the "Leticia Pact for the Amazon".



The new measures include the establishment of an "Amazonian cooperation network" to share information on deforestation, including weather data to mitigate the effects of climate change, and threats from illegal mining and logging.

15. US states announced antitrust probe of Facebook

A coalition of US states announced an antitrust investigation of Facebook to determine if the social media giant has hindered competition and put users at risk. The states include - New York state, District of Columbia, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee.



The move marks the first official US antitrust action against one of the big tech companies - although a landmark case had targeted Microsoft back in the 1990s.

16. Argentina invites India for Mar del Plata Film Festival and Ventana Sur 2019

The Instituto Nacional de Cine y Artes Audiovisuales (INCAA) has invited India for the Mar del Plata Film Festival and Ventana Sur 2019. INCAA is the National Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts in Argentina.



The Mar del Plata International Film Festival will be held between November 9 and November 18. The Indian delegation met the Argentine

delegation at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2019 as part of the outreach for the Golden Jubilee edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

17. India hosts 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

India hosted the three-day 6th India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue in New Delhi from 7-9 September. It is an annual event attended by NITI Aayog of India and National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) of China. It is held alternatively in New Delhi and Beijing.



The dialogue comprised of round table meetings of joint working groups (JWG) on infrastructure, energy, high-tech, resource conservation, pharmaceuticals and policy coordination. The bilateral trade between the countries stood at USD 87 billion in 2018-19. The trade deficit stood at USD 50 billion in favour of China.

18. 4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 held in Male

4th Indian Ocean Conference 2019 was recently held in Male, Maldives. The theme of the two-day conference was 'Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges'. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was one of the speakers at the event.



The conference was chaired by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and it was organised by India Foundation (based in New Delhi), in association with Government of Maldives and S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore.

19. 5th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) held in Vladivostok

The 5th edition of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) was held in Vladivostok, Russia from September 4-6. It was aimed at providing a platform for discussing issues aimed at expanding international cooperation in Asia-Pacific region and developing the economy of Russia's Far East.



The participants in Summit were India, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, and South Korea. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Chief Guest at the event being hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin. EEF is annual event held at Vladivostok, Russia to encourage foreign investment in the Russian Far East.

20. Heartland International Film Festival, USA to explore “Special Focus on India”

The Indian Delegation met prominent representatives from the International Film Fraternity on the third day of Toronto International Film Festival 2019. The discussions included participation at the Golden Jubilee Edition of IFFI, possibility of taking forward Government thrust of “Ease of filming in India”, recent initiatives to promote film facilitation etc.



Ms Hannah Fisher, Programming Head of Heartland International Film Festival of USA discussed the possibility of special focus on India for the Festival commencing from 10th October 2019 under the 'Foreign Language Category.

21. India announced USD 1 million humanitarian aid for Bahamas

India announced a humanitarian assistance of USD 1 million to help people in the Bahamas affected by Hurricane Dorian. Hurricane Dorian the fifth tropical cyclone devastated the northwestern Bahamas and caused significant damage to the Southeastern United States and Atlantic Canada. The death toll from the calamity has risen to over 40 and at least 70,000 people were left homeless.



Hurricane Dorian is the first major hurricane of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season and had caused property damages of \$7 billion to the Bahamas.

22. India participated in Thessaloniki International Fair in Greece

An Indian delegation led by Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce and Industry, Hardeep Singh Puri participated in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Greece. The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry highlighted the prospects for the development of Indian business in Greece and the wider region of Southeast Europe to strengthen bilateral trade relations between the two countries.



During the TIF Fair a large number of exhibitors from ISRO, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Agricultural Produce Export Development Authority (APEDA), companies from MSMEs and tiles and ceramics industry.

23. 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting Held in Bangkok

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Piyush Goyal participated in 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) gathered in Bangkok to review developments in the RCEP negotiations and recognised that negotiations have reached a critical milestone. RCEP will provide the much-needed stability and certainty to the market, which will in turn boost trade and investment in the region.



The Ministers made the collective call to negotiators to handle uncertainties in trade and investment environment.

24. Motihari-Amlekhganj (Nepal) pipeline inaugurated by PM Modi and PM Oli of Nepal

PM Modi and PM Oli of Nepal jointly inaugurated a cross-border petroleum products pipeline. It is South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari in India to Amlekhganj in Nepal. 69-km Motihari-Amlekhganj pipeline, having a capacity of 2 million metric ton per annum, will provide cleaner petroleum products at affordable cost to the people of Nepal.



Prime Minister Oli announced to reduce the price of petroleum products by Rs. 2 per litre in Nepal. The consumers on both sides are set to benefit from the reduction in costs once this pipeline becomes operational.

25. India and Iceland signed agreements

India and Iceland signed agreements to enhance cooperation in the field of sustained fisheries development and organise cultural exchange programme between 2019 and 2022. Iceland also declared exemption from Visa for Indian diplomatic and official passport holders. The agreements and MoUs were signed in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind and his Iceland counterpart Gudni Johannesson in Reykjavik in Iceland.



Iceland was invited to be part of the international solar alliance led by India to promote solar energy worldwide.

26. North Korea confirmed 2nd test of multiple rocket launcher

North Korea confirmed test-launch of a "super-large multiple rocket launcher" system, the latest in a series of weapons tests performed by Pyongyang amid stalled diplomacy over its nuclear programme. It was the second known test of a super-large multiple rocket launcher, needed to cope with outside military threats. The first test of the weapon occurred in August 2019.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the two rounds of test-firings at an unidentified place. The unidentified projectiles launched by North Korea flew approximately 330 kilometres.

27. Scotland Court ruled Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament as unlawful

Scotland's highest civil court has ruled that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's suspension of the UK Parliament is unlawful. A panel of three judges at the Court of Session gave the ruling in favour of a cross-party group of politicians.



Court of Session judges unanimously called Prime Minister's decision to suspend Parliament was motivated by improper purpose of stymying Parliament. MPs are not currently scheduled to return to Parliament until 14 October, when there will be a Queen's Speech outlining Mr Johnson's legislative plans. The UK is due to leave the EU on 31 October.

28. US Prez Trump issued new executive order to combat terrorism

United States President Donald Trump has issued a new executive order on the eve of the 9/11 terror attacks eighteenth anniversary that would enhance the country's ability to target terrorists and those who finance their activities to deter perpetrators of terrorism worldwide. Utilizing the new order, the Treasury sanctioned over two dozen individuals and entities from 11 terrorist groups.



It allows the US Government to better target terror group leaders and provides new tools to pursue individuals who participate in terrorist training.

29. New satellite images show increase in air pollution in Amazon after fires

New satellite images published by the European Space Agency show an increase in air pollution in the Brazilian Amazon while fires burned in the region in August. Several maps showed more carbon monoxide and other pollutants increased in September as compared to August. Fires released carbon dioxide once stored in the Amazon forests back into the atmosphere, potentially having an impact on the global climate and health.



Data from Brazil's National Institute for Space Research showed the number of fires in all of Brazil has surpassed 1 Lakh in 2019, up by 45% than 2018.

30. 24th World Energy Congress began in Abu Dhabi

The 24th World Energy Congress commenced in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. The theme 'Energy for Prosperity' represents the ambitious and dynamic energy transition of the country.



The four-day World Energy Congress aimed to bring together international energy stakeholders, including governments, private and state corporations, academia and media. With over 15,000 participants expected, the Congress welcomed over 250 high-level speakers, 72 Ministers, 500 CEOs, 1000 media persons with 40,000 square-metre exhibition space that covered the entire energy spectrum.

31. Saudi Arabia appointed Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman as new Energy minister

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appointed Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman as its new Energy minister, one of the most important positions in the government. He replaced the long time oil industry veteran Khalid Al Falih.



Prince Abdulaziz is the son of the King of Saudi Arabia. He had earlier served as the Deputy and State Energy Minister for several years. It is the first time a member of the ruling Al Saud family has held the energy minister post in the world's top oil exporter.

32. FATF evaluated Pakistan's compliance on its 27-point action plan in Bangkok

The Asia-Pacific Group, the regional affiliate of the FATF evaluated Pakistan's compliance on its 27-point action plan in Bangkok. The exercise is a prelude to Pakistan's final review by the FATF, the working group meeting scheduled for October 13-18 in Paris.



FATF has already put it on notice in its Grey list. The Asia Pacific Group held its last meeting in Canberra on 23rd August and found that Pakistan was non-compliant on 32 of the 40 parameters of terror financing and money laundering. Pakistan could not convince the 41-member plenary to upgrade it on any parameter.

33. 22nd Session of UN Committee on CRPD held at Geneva

The 22nd Session of UN Committee on Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held at Geneva. The UN Committee on CRPD in its 22nd Session took up India's First Country Report for consideration.



India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). It ratified this Convention on 01-10-2007 in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention. India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.

34. India joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub

India joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member. This expands the global partnership working to address challenges and improve coordination and collaboration in global AMR R&D to 16 countries, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers).



The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 in the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly. The Global AMR R&D Hub supports global priority setting and evidence-based decision-making on the allocation of resources for AMR R&D.

35. Global leaders call for urgent action on Climate adaptation at concluding day of Cop 14

At the closing of the 14th Conference of Parties under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, global leaders called for urgent action on Climate adaptation. The 'Delhi Declaration' will also be adopted by the parties.



The 12-day Conference witnessed quality dialogues and stronger partnership to address land degradation and mitigating climate change. The core agenda of the Conference was to reverse land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems.

36. UAE Prez bestows First Class Order of Zayed II award to Navdeep Singh Suri

UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has bestowed the First Class Order of Zayed II award to the outgoing Indian Ambassador, Navdeep Singh Suri, for his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between the two friendly countries.



The award is given in recognition of his contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries. It is a rare honour given to any diplomat. Suri has been heading the Indian mission in the UAE since October 2016.

37. Pakistan likely to miss IMF's tax refund condition

Cash strapped Pakistan is set to miss the International Monetary Fund's condition to refund Rs. 75 billion to taxpayers despite an incentive by the global lender. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had offered to soften the tough primary budget deficit reduction target if the country performs better in tax refunds.



Under the IMF's six-billion-dollar loan deal, Pakistan is required to reduce the primary budget deficit, calculated by excluding interest payments, to Rs. 276 billion in the current fiscal year 2019-20 from last year's level of Rs. 1.350 trillion.

38. Thailand becomes 1st country in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging

Thailand became the first country in Asia to roll out plain cigarette packaging to reduce the appeal of smoking. Australia was the first country to have made such law to require tobacco products to be sold without colourful brand logos in 2012.

Plain packaging was included in guidelines to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). On 31 May 2016, on World No Tobacco Day, the WHO called on governments to get ready for plain packaging of tobacco products.



39. Vietnam opens Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm

Vietnam inaugurated Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm, The Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex, which has the capacity to produce 688 million kWh of electricity annually. The Dau Tieng Solar Power Complex which is a joint venture with the Thai industrial group B.Grimm Power Public Company, has an investment of more than \$391 million.

Southeast Asia's largest solar power farm is expected to generate 10% of the country's solar energy to guarantee supply to 320,000 homes and can prevent the emission of 595,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere every year.



40. Sri Lanka flagged off Pulathisi Express, a 'Make In India' train

Sri Lanka flagged off Pulathisi Express, a 'Make In India' train, from Colombo Fort Railway station. The rake of the train was manufactured in the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai. It has been inducted under an Indian Line of Credit.

ICF will manufacture six DEMU rakes consisting of 78 coaches in five variants. The order is being jointly executed by RITES and ICF under the India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation agreement.



41. India conducted special training programme for Maldivian civil servants

India conducted a two-week special training programme for Maldivian civil servants in Delhi and Mussoorie as a part of a bilateral MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission (CSC).



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to the Maldives in June, had emphasised India's Neighbourhood First policy. The MoU envisages capacity building activities for 1,000 civil servants of the Maldives at the National Centre for Good Governance over the next five years.

42. President of India in Slovenia; Attends Bilateral Meetings; Leads Delegation Level Talks

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind reached Ljubljana, Slovenia and discussed possible collaboration between the two nations on a wide range of issues such as high technology, especially clean technology, robotics and artificial intelligence. On the issue on Climate change and environment, the President urged Slovenia to join the International Solar Alliance and strengthen India's efforts to combat climate change.



India and Slovenia signed and exchanged seven MoUs and Programmes of Cooperation in the fields of Investment, Sports, Culture, River Rejuvenation (Clean Ganga Mission), Science & Technology and Standards in the presence of the two Presidents.

43. UNESCO announced to publish anthology of Guru Nanak Dev's writing in world languages

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has decided to translate and publish an anthology of the writings of Guru Nanak Dev in world languages to mark his 550th birth anniversary.



Indian government will hold a series of events and has initiated projects to mark 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev such as construction of Kartarpur Corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district, development of the historic town of Sultanpur Lodhi as a heritage town, upgradation of Sultanpur Lodhi railway station and release of commemorative coins and postage stamps.

44. Bangladesh PM instructs government officials to fly by Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that government officials must fly by Biman Bangladesh Airlines on the routes where the government-run carrier operates flights.

Bangladesh inducted the fourth Boeing-787-8 dreamliner Rajhangsha in the Biman Bangladesh fleet at the Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. With the new aircraft, the fleet strength of Biman Bangladesh has gone up to 16. It is part of a 2.1-billion-dollar agreement signed with Boeing in 2008 to purchase 10 new aircraft.



45. Sri Lanka unveiled South Asia's tallest tower

Sri Lanka unveiled South Asia's tallest tower built at a cost of over \$100 million, 80% of which has been funded by China under the controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The 350-metre-tall 17-storey Lotus Tower comprises a television tower, a hotel, a telecommunications museum, restaurants, auditorium, an observation deck, a shopping mall and a conference centre. Sri Lanka and China signed the Lotus Tower agreement in 2012, with China National Electronics Import and Export Corporation (CEIEC) being the general contractor.



46. 55th ITEC Day celebrated in Dhaka

The 55th Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day was celebrated at the High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Around 300 ITEC alumni attended the programme. ITEC offers opportunities to participants to avail of short and medium term courses in premier institutions like IITs and IISCs in India. It was instituted in 1964 as part of India's Development Assistance offering for developing countries.



Every year more than 10,000 training slots are offered to 161 partner countries for training courses in various areas.

47. India announced 12 million dollar grant to Pacific Island countries

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met leaders of the Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS) on the sidelines of the UNGA session in New York and announced allocation of 12 million US Dollar grant towards the implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice.



In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of 150 Million dollars which can be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects based on each country's requirement was announced.

48. Bangladesh, Myanmar & China to form tripartite mechanism for Rohingya Repatriation

Bangladesh, Myanmar and China have agreed to form a tripartite joint working mechanism to oversee the repatriation process of Rohingyas to Myanmar. The proposal was mooted by China which was also agreed to by Myanmar and Bangladesh.



Bangladesh and Myanmar had signed two agreements in November 2017 for repatriation of the Rohingyas within two years but two repatriation attempts have failed as the Rohingyas refused to return without the guarantee of citizenship and safety in Myanmar.

49. World's first camel hospital at Dubai set to expand its facilities

World's first camel hospital at Dubai is set to expand its facilities by an additional 50%. It is a unique hospital catering specifically to the needs of the burgeoning camel industry. The camel hospital, built at an estimated cost of 40 million Dirhams, opened in 2017 to meet the demand in the UAE for an advanced medical facility dedicated to treating camels.



Camels are an integral part of the United Arab Emirates' heritage. Historically, camels, known as the 'Ship of the Desert' were a source of transport as well as food and milk in the region.

50. International tour operator Thomas Cook collapsed

International tour operator Thomas Cook has collapsed after last-minute negotiations aimed at saving the 178-year-old holiday firm failed. The firm collapsed after it failed to meet the demand of the Royal Bank of Scotland and a range of other banks to pay them 250 million US dollar.



Since May 2018, shares have fallen by more than 96% amid Brexit uncertainty and intense competition in the tourism sector. Cabinet maker Thomas Cook created the travel firm in 1841.

51. Abu Dhabi awards licences to 18 non-Muslim places of worship

The Department of Community Development (DCD) in Abu Dhabi has awarded licences for the existing 18 non-Muslim places of worship in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; 17 churches and the BAPS Hindu Mandir which is under construction in Abu Dhabi.



The country's Christian population currently stands at 13%. There are two Hindu temples in Dubai — to accommodate the roughly 3.3 million Indians in the country — and one Sikh gurdwara. Construction of Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple is currently underway, and is expected to open its doors in 2020.

52. Prime Minister announced Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, announced a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 held in New York City, USA.



Developed through consultations with more than 35 countries, CDRI envisions enabling measurable reduction in infrastructure losses from disasters, including extreme climate events. CDRI will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships to facilitate and encourage investment in disaster resilient infrastructure systems.

53. 'Gully Boy' selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2020

The Film Federation of India (FFI) has chosen 'Gully Boy' as India's official entry to the Oscars. The film was directed by Zoya Akhter and the lead cast featured Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt.



Celebrated actor-filmmaker Aparna Sen was the head of the jury for this year's selection committee. The last Indian film that made it to the final five in the Best Foreign Film category list was Ashutosh Gowariker's "Lagaan" in 2001. No Indian film has ever won an Oscar.

54. 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Uganda

The 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference 2019 was held at Kampala, Uganda and was hosted by the Parliament of Uganda. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is one of the largest gatherings of Commonwealth parliamentarians and is a unique and valuable opportunity to network with legislators for shared-learning and to build diplomatic relations.



The theme of this year's conference was: "Adaption, engagement and evolution of parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth".

55. "Howdy, Modi!" event in Houston, Texas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the "Howdy Modi" event organised by the non-profit Texas India Forum at the NSG stadium in Houston, Texas. US President Donald Trump too participated in the event. The tagline of the event was 'Shared Dreams, Bright Futures'.



The event witnessed the largest gathering ever with over 50,000 Indian-Americans, for an elected foreign leader visiting the US. It threw light on the tremendous contribution of Indo-Americans in United States and the strong and lasting partnership between the US and India.

56. Saudi Arabia to offer tourist visas for first time

Saudi Arabia will offer tourist visas for the first time opening up the kingdom to holidaymakers as part of a push to diversify its economy away from oil. It will open applications for online tourist visas to citizens of 49 countries. Visas are currently restricted to expat workers, their dependents and Muslim pilgrims travelling to holy sites in Mecca and Medina.



The kingdom will ease its strict dress code for foreign women, allowing them to go without the body-shrouding abaya robe that is still mandatory public wear for Saudi women.

57. The World University of Design hosted 3rd - edition of Global Goals Jam

The India edition of the Global Goals Jam 3.0 (GGJ) was successfully conducted from September 20 to 21 by the World University of Design (WUD). This year's theme focused on the growing issue of #eWaste. It is in-line with #SDG12 - Responsible consumption and ethical production.



World University of Design (WUD) is India's first and only University dedicated to education in the creative domain. GGJ is an international platform for inclusive learning where people from all around the world contribute to the 17 global goals for sustainable development of UNDP.

Miscellaneous

1. Varun Dhawan's upcoming movie "Coolie No. 1" became the first Bollywood film to go plastic-free.
2. The elite Fire and Fury Corps celebrated its 20th raising day at Leh.
3. The Election Commission of India hosted the 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies at Bengaluru.
4. The Election Commission of India hosted International Conference on "Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections".
5. Gujarat government has given in-principle approval for an air-conditioned passenger ferry service between Hazira port in Surat and Bandra in Mumbai to start from November 2019.
6. In Uttar Pradesh, rainwater harvesting will be made compulsory in all medical and engineering colleges, educational and business institutions along with government building.
7. After abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, the Mini Conclave of First Jammu and Kashmir Investor Summit-2019 was held in Leh.
8. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) organised by the Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
9. President Ramnath Kovind embarked on three-nation tour from Aug 9th to 17th to Iceland, Switzerland and Slovenia.
10. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and climate change Prakash Javdekar inaugurated the new building of Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
11. Typhoon Lingling hit Seoul, South Korea. The typhoon hit Japan before moving towards the Korean peninsula.
12. Hurricane Dorian made landfall in North Carolina Island, USA. It earlier hit the Bahamas causing 30 deaths.
13. President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the National Youth Summit in New Delhi organised by the Youth Awakening Mission, a youth wing of Paavan Chintan Dhara Charitable Trust, Ghaziabad.
14. PM Narendra Modi unveiled a book titled "Transforming Rural Maharashtra".
15. Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves arrived in New Delhi on a five-day official visit to India.
16. Britain's Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd quit the Boris Johnson cabinet due to his failure to pursue a deal with the EU.
17. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur conferred the state-level award to the entire team of Pangaan Anganwadi Center of Child Development Project Katrain Unit for better work under the campaign Poshan Abhiyaan in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.
18. State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has put up for sale 11 NPA accounts (non-performing assets) to recover dues of more than 1,234 crore rupees. It has invited bids from asset reconstruction companies NBFCs, banks, financial institutions etc.
19. Prime Minister also launched the Swachhta Hi Seva Programme with focus on reducing the usage of Single Use Plastic in the country.
20. Prime Minister Modi launched several other programmes concerning Livestock Health, Nutrition and Dairy Farming.
21. I&B Minister announced implementation of Accessibility Standard for TV Programmes for the Hearing Impaired.

22. The 25th Delhi Book Fair held in Delhi, is based on theme 'Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi'.
23. Ministry of Railways is observing 'Swachhta-Hi-Seva Pakhwada' across its entire network from 11th September to 2nd October.
24. Government has decided not to serve Income Tax notices to the tax payers directly. Notices will first go to a centralized system for examination and scrutiny and then only move further to tax payer. With this the unfettered discretion of Income Tax officers will not be there.
25. Bihar began the campaign against single used plastic through mass awareness campaign and holding Swachha Hi Seva campaign till 1st of October from Urban areas to villages.
26. Russian tennis player Oksana Selekhmeteva paired with Latvian player Kamilla Bartone won junior doubles trophy at US Open.
27. Prime Minister launched 462 Ekalavya Model Schools across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas. The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas.
28. ONGC will invest more than 13,000 crore rupees to raise its oil and gas exploration in Assam. ONGC will be drilling more than 220 oil and gas wells throughout the state in next five years.
29. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that odd-even road rationing scheme will be implemented in Delhi from November 4 to 15.
30. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated Wi-Fi facility at 6 railway stations including Amethi.
31. Ministry of Human Resource and Development has prepared a module to introduce the study of Artificial Intelligence at the school level by joining hands with the technology leaders like Intel.
32. 17 Indian peacekeepers deployed with the UN mission in South Sudan have been awarded medals in recognition of their service to the people in the world's youngest country.
33. Army launched recruitment drive for the first batch of women soldiers, who will be inducted in non-combat roles.
34. Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ' Nishank' presented CBSE Teacher Awards - 2018 to 34 teachers of the country.
35. Life Insurance Corporation of India and IDBI Bank to launch a co-branded credit card which will be marketed to customers, agents, and employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
36. Union Minister for Environment and Forest and Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar flagged off a Jaldoot vehicle in Pune. The van carrying the 'SAVE WATER' message will travel to different parts of the state.
37. President Ram Nath Kovind has invited Swiss companies to invest in India for mutual benefit in technology and skill development.
38. Drones attacked the world's largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia and an oilfield operated by Saudi Aramco.
39. World Bank will provide 3000 crore rupees assistance to finance, mini and mega food parks across the country.
40. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held from 2nd to 21st November 2020.
41. Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank, has been inducted to the managing committee of Indian Banks' Association.
42. Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), laid the foundation stone for Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Mumbai.

43. Jammu and Kashmir administration booked National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) to maintain law and order.
44. The Government of India has launched a major programme offering 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students at IITs in India.
45. Chief of Indian Coast Guard Director General Krishnaswamy Natarajan went to a four-day visit to Bangladesh.
46. Railways undertook - Massive Shramdan drive with main focus on collection of plastic waste.
47. The Great Ganga Run-2019 was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi to create awareness about the river Ganga.
48. Saint Vincent and Grenadines became the 79th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an initiative by India aimed at combating the threats of climate change and global warming.
49. The GST Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020 to check malpractices in GST.
50. President Ram Nath Kovind, while on a five-day visit to Switzerland, inaugurated a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Villeneuve.
51. The US has confirmed that Hamza bin Laden, son of terror group al-Qaeda's founder Osama bin Laden, was killed in a US counter-terrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.
52. Drone attacks sparked fires at two Saudi Aramco oil facilities. Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for the attack.
53. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today announced that odd-even road rationing scheme will be implemented in Delhi from November 4 to 15.
54. ONGC will invest more than 13,000 crore rupees to raise its oil and gas exploration in Assam.
55. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah awarded Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar and Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar to government departments and public sector units respectively for their contribution to Hindi.
56. Film editor Sanjib Kumar Datta, who has movies like Iqbal, Ek Hasina Thi and Mardaani to his credit, passed away.
57. Shri Shah launched the E-Saral Hindi Vakya Kosh and E-Maha Shabda Kosh Mobile App, both initiatives of the Department of Official Language that aim to harness information technology for the growth of Hindi.
58. Bangladesh government has proposed to set up a monument in Tripura in memory of the martyrs of 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
59. The 63rd Annual Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was held from 16 to 20 September 2019 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna, Austria.
60. The 5th International Ramayan Festival was organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), in New Delhi.
61. Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board has been awarded with the Eminent Engineers Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of engineering.
62. The Scotland Yard of the London police has returned a 12th-century bronze statue of Buddha solen in 1961 from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) museum in Nalanda.
63. An unmanned aerial vehicle or UAV called 'Rustom-2' of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) crashed during a trial in an agriculture field in Karnataka's Chitradurga district.
64. The annual Center-2019 International Command Exercise involving six nations was held in Russia from 16 to 21 September 2019.

65. Corporate tax rates slashed to 22% for domestic companies and 15% for new domestic manufacturing companies and other fiscal reliefs.
66. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga jointly unveiled a statue of Lord Buddha at Gandan Monastery in Ulaanbaatar.
67. Union Power Minister RK Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik jointly inaugurated 15 power projects and laid the foundation stone for 20 others worth 10,000 crore rupees in the state, to ensure 24 hours electricity supply to all the citizens of the country.
68. Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya qualified for 2020 Tokyo Olympics
69. Super 30 founder and noted mathematician Anand Kumar has been felicitated in the US with a prestigious Education Excellence Award 2019.
70. Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur announced that a cricket and sports academy will be set up in Leh, Ladakh.
71. International Cricket Council has banned Sri Lankan off-spinner Akila Dananjaya from bowling in international matches for 1 year due to illegal bowling action.
72. National Seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Public Architecture' was held in New Delhi.
73. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Gandhi Solar Park at the UN headquarters.
74. India's steel production has increased from 22 million tonnes in 1990 to nearly 140 million tonnes.
75. Former Netherlands footballer Fernando Ricksen died at the age of 43 years.
76. The Election Commission (EC) announced the schedule for elections in Maharashtra and Haryana on 21 October and counting for both the states will happen on 24 October.
77. Indian Bank has signed a bancassurance agreement with Max Bupa.
78. Indian wrestler Rahul Aware has won a bronze medal in men's 61-kilogram freestyle category at the World Championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
79. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala founder Vaidyaratnam P S Varier at Kottakkal in Malappuram district in Kerala.
80. Union Minister Amit Singh laid the foundation stone of Jagananna Bhawan in New Delhi.
81. Iconic Bollywood playback singer Sonu Nigam has been honoured with 'Magnificent Performing Arts Award' at the 21st Century Icon Awards in London, United Kingdom (UK).
82. Adille Sumariwalla has been elected as the member of the International Association of Athletics Federations council.
83. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath announced an annual support of ₹6,000 to the victims of triple talaq till their rehabilitation and they will get free legal aid.
84. Airtel Payments Bank has joined hands with India's leading private sector general insurance company, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company to offer unique Mosquito Diseases Protection Policy (MDPP) to protect against mosquito-borne diseases.

1. ECI launched one-stop solution to verify and authenticate voter details

The Election Commission of India launched Electors Verification Programme with the aim of strengthening electoral roll in the country. The main aim of the programme is to improve the health of Electoral rolls and to provide better electoral services to citizens and increase the level of Communication between voters and the Commission.



The program has been launched at all Levels starting from the State/UT Headquarters by 32 CEOs, District level by about 700 DEOs and at around 1 million Polling Stations by BLOs/EROs and will continue from September 1, 2019 to October 15, 2019.

2. CGHS services to be made available in 100 cities by 2022

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a new scheme of Annual Health Check-up for CGHS beneficiaries who are pensioners of the age of 75 years and above. He also inaugurated state-of-the-art CGHS Bhawan in New Delhi. The government has plans to make the CGHS services available in 100 cities by 2022.



The CGHS services which started in 1954 from Delhi has been expanded to 71 cities from only 25 cities in the last five years. Also, under the Ayushman Bharat, 150000 Health and Wellness Centres are planned to come up by 2022.

3. KVIC launched 'Terracotta Grinder' to reuse broken, wasted pottery

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched first-ever 'Terracotta Grinder' at Sewapuri in Varanasi. This machine can be used to grind wasted and broken pottery items for re-use in pottery-making.



The Terracotta grinder was designed by the KVIC Chairman and fabricated by a Rajkot-based engineering unit. It will make grinding of wasted pottery items faster than the traditional mortar and pestle. It will lessen the cost of production, and will also help in solving the problem of shortage of clays.

4. DG Shipping completed 70 years of Powering the Shipping Industry in the Country

The Directorate General of Shipping celebrated its 70th Foundation Day on 3rd September, 2019. The Directorate has made significant contributions since its inception in 1949.



The Directorate has taken several initiatives in the past which include revamping of old Acts, easing of norms for Coastal Shipping, quality training and employment of seafarers and complete revamp of e-Governance modules. The Ship registration in India has gone up by around 200 in the last 4 years. The seafarers' employment number touched a figure of 2,08,000.

5. MeitY and Google tie up to "Build for Digital India"

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Google signed a statement of intent (SoI) to roll-out 'Build for Digital India' programme. It will provide engineering students a platform to develop market-ready, technology-based solutions that address key social problems.



Build for Digital India programme will invite ideas from students to focus on areas of healthcare, agriculture, education, smart cities and infrastructure, women's safety, smart mobility and transportation, environment, accessibility and disability, and digital literacy.

6. UGC recommends 20 educational centres for status of Institutions of Eminence

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has released a list of 20 institutes - 10 public and 10 private for the grant of the status of Institutions of Eminence (IoE) made the recommendations on the report of the Empowered Expert Committee set up by the government under the chairmanship of N Gopalaswami.



The institutions which are given IoE status from public category includes, Delhi University, BHU, Hyderabad University and IIT Madras and Kharagpur. The Institute of Eminence scheme aimed at developing 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map.

7. Union HRD Minister inaugurated TechEx at IIT Delhi

Union Human Resource Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the TechEx - technology exhibition at IIT Delhi. TechEx was organized to demonstrate products and prototypes developed under the two flagship schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) namely IMPacting Research, INnovation and Technology (IMPRINT) and UchhatarAvishkar Yojana (UAY).



50 models/prototypes under IMPRINT and 26 under UAY were showcased during the exhibition in addition to 142 posters. IMPRINT provides solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges. UAY aims to promote innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry and thereby improves the competitive edge of Indian manufacturing.

8. PM launched National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis in Mathura. He also launched National Artificial Insemination Programme.



National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis is a 100% centrally funded programme, with a total outlay of Rs.12,652 crore from 2019 to 2024. It aims to control Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by 2025 with vaccination and eventual eradication by 2030.

9. NCSM organised exhibition: 'Superbugs: The End of Antibiotics?'

National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in collaboration with Science Museum, Group, London, Wellcome (UK) organised exhibition 'Superbugs: The End of Antibiotics?'. It was organised at National Science Centre, New Delhi. The exhibition is supported by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and British Council, India.



Bacteria, tiny organisms capable of causing disease are becoming resistant to our most powerful weapon against them, antibiotics and turning into Superbugs. Today antibiotic-resistant 'Superbugs' kill up to 7,00,000 people a year. By 2050 that could rise to 10 million.

10. Ujjwala Yojana achieved target of 8 crore LPG connections 7 months ahead of target date

The government achieved the target of giving 8 crore free cooking gas (LPG) connections nearly seven months ahead of schedule. Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the 8-croreth connection at an event organised in Sendra, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.



Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on May 1, 2016, with a target to give 5 crore connections by March 2019 and later raised to 8 crore connections by March 2020. The States of UP (1.46 crore), West Bengal (88 lakh), Bihar (85 lakh), MP (71 lakh) and Rajasthan (63 lakh) have topped the list with highest number of beneficiaries under the PMUY.

11. HRD Ministry awarded IoE tag to IIT-Madras, Kharagpur, DU, BHU and Hyderabad University

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has awarded Institute of Eminence (IoE) tag to five institutes, which are Delhi University (DU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), University of Hyderabad, IIT-Madras and IIT-Kharagpur.



According to the scheme, Rs. 1000 cr. grant will be given to public institutions. Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched in order to implement commitment of Union Government to empower Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.

12. Rs 125 crore allotted to IIT Kharagpur for Centre's SATHI initiative

The union government has nominated IIT Kharagpur to set up a Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute (SATHI) with a budget of Rs 125 crore over a period of three years. It is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology.



SATHI will be developed as a state of the art shared, professionally managed Science and Technology infrastructure facility. The primary objective of the centre is to extend help to the neighbouring academic Institutes, research establishments and the industries. IIT Delhi has also been chosen for the DST initiative.

13. Delhi's IGI Airport gets India's Tallest ATC Tower

Delhi Airport (DEL) gets India's tallest ATC tower with tower height of 102 meters to not only enable air traffic controllers and better visibility of all the three runways but also to enhance safety and efficiency of air transport management services. India's tallest Air Traffic Control tower was inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri at IGI Airport.



The tower consists of additional control positions and control room set-up in the Aerodrome Control Tower, Area & Approach Control Services Building and the Administrative Block, build at the cost of ₹250 crores.

14. Government sets up a task force for drawing up National Infra Pipeline of Rs 100 lakh cr

The government has constituted a task force for drawing up National Infrastructure Pipeline of Rs 100 lakh crore from the fiscal year 2019-20 to 2024-25. The Task Force will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary. It has been set up to make the country 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25.



The task force will identify technically feasible and financially/ economically viable infrastructure projects that can be initiated in 2019-20. It will list the projects that can be included in the pipeline for each of the remaining five years between fiscals 2021-25.

15. PM Modi inaugurated first metro coach manufactured by Bharat Earth Movers in Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first metro coach manufactured by the state-run Bharat Earth Movers in flat 75 days. Over 500 of these coaches will be used for Mumbai Metro's soon to be completed corridors. He also inaugurated the Bandongri metro station on the Andheri-Dahisar Metro-7.



Mr Modi also laid the foundation stones for three Metro corridors worth over Rs 19,000 crore - Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk; Wadala-CST and Kalyan-Taloja. He also performed Bhoomi poojan of the 32-storey Metro Bhavan, which will serve as the integrated operations and control centre for all the proposed 14 metro lines of Mumbai.

16. Project 'Bal Basera' deployed at AIIMS Rishikesh

A Crèche (Bal Basera) has been deployed at AIIMS Rishikesh. The project, executed by CPWD, will work for the welfare of Children of Construction Workers deployed at the site. Bal Basera shall accommodate about 35 Children and shall be run by the CPWD Officers' Wives Association.



CPWD has signed a MoU with CPWD Officers' Wives Association for organising health camps and managing crèches at construction sites in a formal and organised manner on large scale and on pan India basis so that workers and their children could lead a healthy and productive life.

17. Kargil to Kohima ultra-marathon to mark 20 years of 'Vijay Diwas': IAF

The Indian Air Force organised an ultra-marathon spanning over 4,500 km from Kargil to Kohima in order to commemorate 20 years of 'Vijay Diwas'. The marathon commenced on September 21 and will culminate on November 6.



The run -- Kargil to Kohima (K2K): Glory Run -- will be from Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Jammu and Kashmir, and Kohima War Cemetery in Nagaland. Kohima and Kargil are the two forward most outposts of India in the east and the north where two of the fiercest battles of modern India were fought in 1944 and 1999, respectively.

18. Center to spend Rs 3.5 lakh cr on Jal Jeevan Mission

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced spending 3.5 lakh crore rupees in the next five years on 'Jal Jeevan Mission' to deliver potable water at every household across the country while addressing the state-level Mahila Saksham Melava or Empowered Women's Meet of Self Help Groups (SHG) organised by Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission.



Jal Jeevan Mission has been launched to free women from the trouble of having to toil hard to fetch water. Marathwada Water Grid initiated by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to make the region drought-free was lauded at event.

19. PM addressed the High Level Segment of the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14)

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the High Level Segment of the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The Conference is being held at a time when India has assumed the COP Presidency from China for two years.



Around 30 decisions with actions that aim to strengthen land-use policies worldwide were announced. PM Modi announced to set up a centre for excellence at the Indian Council for Forest Research and Education to develop a scientific approach and facilitate induction of technology to land degradation issues.

20. National Conference on Crop Residue Management organized

Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare inaugurated the National Conference on Crop Residue Management to address concerns of farmers and State Governments for the farmers from the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Delhi. More than 1000 farmers attended the conference from the 4 states.



The Minister launched a multilingual Mobile App “CHC Farm Machinery” for the farmers to avail the custom hiring services of CHCs. Around 20 farmers from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were honoured for their valuable contribution in management of crop residue.

21. DPIIT launched plastic waste management campaign for Swachhta Hi Sewa 2019

Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade launched plastic waste management campaign based on theme of ‘Swachhta hi Sewa’, beginning from 11th September, 2019. DPIIT will ensure recycling of plastic waste collected in cement kilns and collect plastic waste through nationwide shramdaan on 2nd October 2019.



DPIIT has requested State Governments to sensitize Industrial Parks by focusing on Plastic Waste Management on a sustained and continuous basis for collection of plastic waste across all Industrial Estates, Parks, Corridors, Nodes and Industrial Areas.

22. Prime Minister launched National Animal Disease Control Programme and National Artificial Insemination Programme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NACDP) to control and eradicate the Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country, at Mathura. The 12,652 Crore fully Central Government sponsored programme will vaccinate over 600 million cattle in the country in an effort to mitigate the two diseases.



He also launched the National Artificial Insemination Programme and a country wide workshop in all the KrishiVigyanKendras(KVKs) in all the 687 Districts of the country on vaccination and disease management, Artificial Insemination and Productivity.

23. Union HRD Minister launched several initiatives of MIC and AICTE

Union Human Resource Development Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' organized the first Annual Innovation Festival in coordination with AICTE. During this festival, Innovation cell showcased more than 70 top students' innovations from across India.



Union Minister also launched the Smart India Hackathon 2020, Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020, and Institution's Innovation Council 2.0. The event also witnessed the release of the Start-Up Policy Document and SIH Report, launch of Technical Teacher's Training Module, ATAL Academies, Protsahan Mudra Scheme and Vishwakarma Award.

24. Niti Aayog roped in McKinsey & Company for first digital capability centre

Niti Aayog has partnered with McKinsey & Company to set up India's first digital capability centre (DCC). It will include advanced technologies and offer a testbed for the upcoming technological innovations to reform the country's manufacturing sector to provide a boost to the country's manufacturing sector.



Niti Aayog
नीति आयोग
National Institution for Transforming India

McKinsey supports five such digital capability centres across the globe – Aachen, Chicago, Singapore, Venice, and Beijing. DCC is a unique digital manufacturing learning centre offering company leaders and their workforces hands-on experience and workshops in next generation technology.

25. Visakhapatnam railway station sets up 'fun zone' for kids

Indian Railways has set up a fun zone at the Visakhapatnam railway station with an aim to cut down the monotony of prolonged waiting periods on railway stations and to make it an enjoyable experience. The gaming zone has various sets of interesting games to enthrall children as well as adults.



The fun zone will have all the high-tech gaming activities at par with game parlours. The fun zone has games ranging from video shooting to other indoor games. The fun zone is the first of its kind in the country.

26. Union Government announced plans to set up National Genomic Grid (Cancer)

The Union Government has plans to set up a National Genomic Grid, which will study genomic data of cancer patients from India. The grid will collect samples from cancer patients to study genomic factors influencing cancer and identifying the right treatment modalities for the Indian population.



The grid to be formed will be in line with the National Cancer Tissue Biobank (NCTB) set up at the Indian Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. NCTB, which has the capacity to stock 50,000 genomic samples from cancer patients, already has samples from 3,000 patients.

27. Union HRD Minister launched CBSE's portal 'Vidyadhan' on Diksha App

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched CBSE's portal 'Vidyadhan' on Diksha App, a Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing's (National Forum for Teachers) and released CBSE's annual activity calendar.



Apart from this, Minister released 10 CBSE Manuals on various subjects like art integration, experiential learning, enjoyable teaching and learning of maths, new initiatives, school quality assessment and assurance, 10 + 2 post-academic courses, artificial intelligence, hubs of learning and eco-club and water conservation.

28. Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Scheme shall secure the lives of 5 Crore Small and Marginal Farmers by providing a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month, to those who attain 60 years of age.



Prime Minister also launched the National Pension Scheme for the traders and self-employed. The scheme aims at providing a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000, to small traders and self-employed after attaining the age of 60 Years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated the Multi-Modal Transport Terminal at Sahibganj.

29. Centre removed 312 Sikh foreign nationals from Adverse List

Government has reviewed the Adverse List containing 314 foreign nationals belonging to Sikh community and brought it down to just two. Now, these Sikh foreign nationals can visit India.



During 1980s, many Sikh Indian nationals and foreign nationals belonging to Sikh community fled India and took asylum outside India. They were placed in the adverse list till 2016, making them ineligible to avail visa services to visit India. All Indian Missions abroad have been advised to grant an appropriate visa to all categories of asylees whose names do not figure in the Central Adverse List.

30. President Kovind addresses Indian community in Berne, Switzerland

President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the Indian community and friends of India in Berne at Switzerland, as part of his three nation tour to enhance political, cultural and trade ties.



President emphasized that India is making new strides in the fields of startups and smart solutions, hosting the third largest start up network in the world with over 21,000 enterprises working on subject as varied as robotics and vitiligo and on India's lead on International Solar Alliance to promote solar energy worldwide.

31. BPR&D organized 2-day National Conference on ‘Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails

The Bureau of Police Research and Development organized a two-day National Conference on ‘Criminal Activities and Radicalization in Jails: Vulnerability of Inmates and Jail Staff and their Protection’. During conference, various challenges in the field of correctional services and the need for a conscious policy to improve prison systems and associated human resources were discussed.



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy announced ‘Modernization of Prisons’ – a Central Government scheme with an outlay of 1800 crore rupees that aims to create 199 new jails, 1572 additional barracks and 8568 prison staff quarters.

32. Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Maritime Communication Services in India

Union Minister for Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched the maritime communication services at Mumbai. Maritime Connectivity will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology. Nelco, India's leading VSAT solutions provider is the first Indian company that will now provide quality broadband services to the maritime sector.



Government of India announced the licenses for In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) that allows voice and internet services while flying over the Indian skies and sailing in Indian waters.

33. Union Minister for Communications launched web portal for reporting of stolen mobiles

Union Minister for Communications, Shri Prasad launched a web portal for reporting of stolen mobiles and tracing purposes. International Mobile Equipment Identity is supposed to be a unique identity of a mobile phone device. IMEI number being programmable, some miscreants do reprogram the IMEI number, which results in cloning of IMEI causing multiple phone devices with same IMEI number. Thus, there is a need to eliminate duplicate/fake IMEI mobile phones from the network.



Accordingly, a project called Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) system has been undertaken by the DoT for addressing security and theft.

34. Indian Railways signed MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

Indian Railways signed MoU with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) for facilitation of green initiatives in Indian Railways. Three Coffee Table Publications – one each on Energy Efficiency, GreenCo Rating and Green Buildings were also released.



The objectives of the MoU:

- Energy efficiency in manufacturing facilities and railway workshops.
- Greening of Railway properties.
- Demonstrative pilots of 'net-zero energy buildings/ railway stations'.
- Capacity and skill development by sharing of best practices on energy and environment
- Development of Green procurement policy, waste management policy, solid waste disposal, carbon neutrality, phytoremediation.

35. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched Tribal Movement at 'COP 14 UNCCD

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** launched the biggest tribal movement to promote tribal enterprise through Bamboonomics for combating desertification and the climate change at "The Indian Perspective through Bamboonomics" session at 'COP 14 UNCCD: TRIFED-GIZ' organized at Greater Noida Expo.



TRIFED introduced the "The 4P1000 Initiative: The Tribal Perspective through Bamboonomics" during the global meet (COP 14 of UNCCD) in New Delhi. TRIFED will involve the tribal community of India for rehabilitating the degraded land. Bamboonomics has been designed in such a way that while doing the environmental services, the tribals will be earning.

36. Center launched 'Seva Saptah' to mark birthday of PM Modi

BJP President and Home Minister Amit Shah launched a week-long programme 'Seva Saptah' to mark the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the week-long programme, BJP leaders and workers will organize blood donation and health camps and also visit hospitals and orphanages to provide help and relief.



Three pledges will also be administered among the people related to Swachata Abhiyan, save water and shunning single-use plastic. Exhibitions on Prime Minister Modi's life journey and service works will also be organized.

37. Centre to set up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country

Union Government has set a target of setting up 12500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country. Out of which 4000 will be set up during 2019. The government is taking special interest towards health care of the people through AYUSH systems of medicine.



Ministry of AYUSH

Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit will provide holistic health care to patients visiting Safdarjung Hospital from different parts of the country. Ministry of Ayush will cater to 1.5 Lakh Health and Wellness Centres across the country as part of Ayushman Bharat.

38. Government notified e-assessment process for income-tax payers

The Centre notified the ambitious e-assessment scheme for income-tax payers. The scheme envisages the creation of a National E-Assessment Centre. The centre will serve notices to the assessee specifying the issues for selection of their case for assessment and after a response is received from them within 15 days, the centre will allocate the case to an assessing officer using an automated system.



A person will not be required to appear either personally or through authorized representative in connection with any proceedings under this scheme before the income-tax authority.

39. India, Slovenia sign seven agreements and MoUs in various fields

India and Slovenia signed seven agreements and MoUs in diverse fields in the presence of President Ram Nath Kovind and his Slovenian counterpart Borut Pahor.



- Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sport
- Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Sports and Mass Media
- Programme of Cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Slovenian Institute for Standardization (SIST) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Standardization
- MoU between Invest India and SPIRIT Slovenia
- MoU between IIT Kanpur (for cGanga / India) and VGB (Slovenia)
- MoU between IIT Kanpur (for cGanga / India) and Space-SI (Slovenia)
- Cooperation Agreement between Chamber Of Commerce And Industry Of Slovenia (CCIS) and the Associated Chambers Of Commerce And Industry Of India (ASSOCHAM)

40. Doordarshan completed 60 years of existence

Doordarshan completed its 60 years of existence. The public broadcaster started its journey in 1959 from Delhi. Over 90% of Indian population receives DD programmes.



Over the years, Doordarshan has grown into a network operating 34 satellite channels, besides providing free-to-air DTH service having 104 in its bookings. Doordarshan has served people as a major source of information, education and entertainment since years.

41. Renovated Jayakar Bungalow in NFAI Pune inaugurated

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the renovated Jayakar Bungalow, a classic heritage site situated inside the premises of National Film Archives of India in Pune.



The bungalow, situated inside the campus of NFAI, comprises digital library, three film review rooms, and some antique articles of value. The bungalow has been renovated with an outlay of Rs 3 crore. The grade I heritage structure, which was built in 1945, has a distinct Tudor style of architecture.

42. Railways announced slew of Freight incentives to give boost to economy

Indian Railways announced certain Freight incentives to give a boost to the economy. The busy season surcharge of 15% on freight, which is levied between 1st of October to 30th June was deferred. The 5% Supplementary charges applicable on loading on mini and two-point rakes has also been waived off. This is likely to boost loading of smaller cargo sizes and help cement, steel, food grains and fertilizers loading.



A discount of 25% in haulage charge of containers was given to encourage the movement of empty and flat to ports thereby increasing loaded container traffic in return.

43. Unique Travelling Exhibition flagged off by I & B Minister

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar flagged off the 'Jaldoot' a travelling exhibition arranged by Regional Outreach Bureau, Pune under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Jaldoot will visit 8 districts of Maharashtra in next 2 months will also tell about the work done by the government in last 100 days. The exhibition highlights bold initiatives and decisive actions taken by the government.



Jaldoot is a part of JALSHAKTI ABHIYAN, a water conservation campaign focusing on 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts across the country.

44. Ministry of Coal signed allotment agreement with WBPDC

The Central Government entered into an Allotment Agreement with the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC) regarding the Deocha Pachami Dewanganj-Harinsingha coal block. WBPDC has been allocated the Deocha Pachami Dewanganj-Harinsingha coal block located in the State of West Bengal containing an area of 12.28 sq. km. with estimated reserves of 2102 Million tonnes for generation of power.



The project is slated to generate both direct and indirect employment in West Bengal considerably and also contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

45. HRD Minister launched Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) – 2019

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) - 2019 and Annual Refresher Programme in Teaching (ARPIT) - 2019 under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMNMTT) in New Delhi.



LEAP programme can develop administrative capabilities and leadership for organizations through this programme. ARPIT is a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the MOOCs platform SWAYAM.

46. Centre to set up 12,500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres

Union Government has set a target of setting up 12500 Ayush Health and Wellness Centres across the country. Out of which 4000 will be set up during 2019. Unani Medical Centre and Siddha Clinical Research Unit inaugurated at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi, will provide holistic health care to patients visiting Safdarjung Hospital from different parts of the country.



Ministry of AYUSH

Ministry of Ayush will cater to 1.5 Lakh Health and Wellness Centres across the country as part of Ayushman Bharat.

47. 10 crore beneficiaries received e-cards for cashless treatment under Ayushman Bharat

According to Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, 22 thousand health and wellness centres have been made functional and 10 crore beneficiaries have received e-cards under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.



The scheme provides a health assurance cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care for serious and catastrophic illnesses.

48. India joined global antimicrobial resistance research hub

India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R & D) hub as a new member. The hub is aimed at helping countries decide the allocation of resources for research and development (R&D) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



The hub will also promote coordination among governments in the fight against AMR. AMR is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication that once could successfully treat the microbe.

49. National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development inaugurated

Union Minister of Science & Technology Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the National Centre for Clean Coal Research and Development at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. NCCCR&D is a national consortium on clean coal research and development.



The major problem Indian power plants are facing is a high level of pollutants and low thermal efficiency. Target beneficiaries of NCCCR&D include organisations such as NTPC, GAIL, BHEL, TATA power etc. NCCCR&D would play an important role in fulfilling “nationally determined contributions” like reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by 33% to 35% by 2030.

50. Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research launched

Union Minister of Science & Technology Harsh Vardhan dedicated the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research (ICER) equipped with modern facilities for conducting a wide spectrum of energy research through the knowledge network. ICER is a first of its kind in India which is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.



ICER will help realise the vision of affordable, efficient, compact and reliable clean energy systems. Research conducted here would be in line with various national missions to have more reach.

51. International Speed Post to New Countries

The Department of Posts has announced commencing of International Speed Post (EMS) Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia. The EMS service to these countries will henceforth be available at major Post offices across India.



EMS or Express Mail Service is a premium service that enables its users to send documents and merchandise faster and with the added facility of being able to track the movement of the item on the internet.

52. Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched WAVE Summit 2019

Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE Summit 2019) and 360-degree Feedback of Faculty. It will be held in November-December 2019. It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.



Theme: Make your own bag – empowering women to take up income generation activity and entrepreneurship in waste management through making a business out of this record creating concept.

53. International Workshop for National Water Museum in New Delhi

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India organized an International Workshop on 19th – 20th September 2019, at New Delhi. Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken an initiative to develop National Water Museum to increase awareness among people on conservation of the natural resource.



During the workshop, possible broad composition, content of the museum including highlighting importance of water and its current state in different regions of the country, possible solutions, traditional and modern water management practices and localised success stories were discussed.

54. Skill India and IBM come together for nationwide Train-the-Trainer program in Artificial Intelligence

The Directorate General of Training (DGT) division of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, has signed an agreement with Global IT major IBM to carry out a nationwide Train-the-Trainer in Basic Artificial Intelligence Skills.



This program aims at enabling the trainers with basic approach, workflow and application of artificial intelligence that they can apply in their training modules. IBM aims at training 10,000 faculty members from ITIs across the country and the program will be executed over a period of one year with 14 trainers across 7 locations with over 200 workshops.

55. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched MIS Portal under Accessible India Campaign

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has developed a Management Information System (MIS) for stakeholders of Accessible India Campaign (AIC).



The MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries, and States/UTs on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of AIC. It will also be useful in maintaining all the function on digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis. The portal is made fully accessible for Divyangjans.

56. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana crossed one crore beneficiaries

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) has achieved a significant milestone by crossing one crore beneficiaries and total amount disbursed to the beneficiaries under the scheme has crossed 4000 crore rupees. The PMMVY is a direct benefit transfer scheme under which cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.



Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Rajasthan are the top five States and Union Territories in the country in implementation of the scheme.

57. Jal Shakti Ministry mulls to develop National Water Museum

Jal Shakti Ministry has taken an initiative to develop National Water Museum to raise awareness among people on conservation of the natural resource. Ministry organized a two day International Workshop for establishing the proposed National Water Museum under the aegis of Jal Shakti Ministry.



During the workshop, possible broad composition, content of the museum including highlighting importance of water and its current state in different regions of the country, possible solutions, traditional and modern water management practices and localised success stories were discussed.

58. DoNER Ministry approved more than 200 projects worth Rs 3,000 cr

DoNER Ministry approved more than 200 projects worth Rs 3,000 crores in the Entire North East including ASSAM. 110 projects worth Rs 1699 crore were sanctioned for the development of the North East states where 66 projects costing 820 crores have been completed.

Projects includes construction of double-lane road from Lanka to Umrangso costing 199.50 crore, Digboi town water supply scheme construction worth Rs 44.52 crores, the first Bamboo Industrial Park in Assam.



59. Union Minister of Fisheries Shri Giriraj Singh released “Handbook on Fisheries Statistics – 2018

The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Giriraj Singh released the “Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018” published by the Department of Fisheries of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India. The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018 is the 13th edition which presents useful statistical information for various aspects of Fisheries sector. The last (12th edition of) Handbook was published in 2014.



The latest edition provides information on year wise fish production from 1990-91 to 2017-18, trend of fisheries exports, fisheries resources, fishing craft etc.

60. Ministry of HRD announced National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme

Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new PPP Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) for using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education. The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalised and customised as per the requirements of the learner. This requires development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.



MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions. AICTE would be the implementing agency for NEAT programme.

61. Government reconstituted Economic Advisory Council to the PM

The government has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister for a period of two years with effect from 26.09.2019. Dr Bibek Debroy will continue to be the Chairman and Ratan P. Watal will continue to be the Member Secretary of the reconstituted EAC-PM.



Apart from these two Full-Time Members, the EAC-PM will have two Part-Time Members. While Dr. Ashima Goel continues to be one of the Part-Time Members, Dr. Sajjid Chinoy has been made as another Part-time Member.

62. Jitendra Singh launched CPGRAMS of Department of Posts in New Delhi

Minister for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension Dr Jitendra Singh launched Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System, CPGRAMS of Department of Posts in New Delhi. The launch of the system has marked the successful implementation of the 100 days' agenda of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.



CPGRAMS is an on-line web-enabled system developed by NIC. The system primarily aims to enable submission of Grievances by citizens from anywhere and anytime.

63. Fit India Plog Run to be organized in more than 1,500 locations on 2nd October

Fit India Plog Run will be organized in more than 1,500 locations across the country to mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd of October. It is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Fit India Movement.



Plogging as a concept brings together fitness and cleanliness as participants pick up plastic and other waste from road while jogging. Panchayats, Municipal Corporations, Institutions, Schools and Corporates are joining in to organize these runs.

64. HM Amit Shah launched Private Security Agency Licensing Portal

Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Private Security Agency Licensing Portal at a function in New Delhi. The portal will become functional in all official languages like Hindi, Gujarati, Telugu and Tamil within three months.



The number of licensed agencies in the states will also be available on the portal so that people do not fall prey to the fraudulent private security agencies. It will also help the people cross check police verification of each and every security guard.

65. Narendra Singh Tomar launched two agriculture-related Mobile Apps

Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched two agriculture-related Mobile Applications - CHC Farm Machinery and Krishi Kisan in New Delhi. The Custom Hiring Service Centers or CHC App will allow farmers to avail the custom hiring services of CHCs located in the radius of 50 Kilometers. Using this App, small level farmers can avail agriculture Machinery on rental basis to enhance their production. The App connects the farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centers in their area.



Krishi Kisan App will provide farmers information of best demonstration of high-yielding crops and seeds at nearby area. The App will also help in geo-tagging and geo-fencing of crop and give weather forecast message to farmers.

66. First corporate run train from Lucknow to Delhi 'Tejas Express' to hit tracks on Oct 4

India's first corporate run train from Lucknow to Delhi, Tejas Express, is all ready to hit the tracks on 4th of October. The train will be run by IRCTC. It would be the fastest train between Lucknow and New Delhi with travel time of about six hours and fifteen minutes.



The train will work on flexi-fare system. It will run six days in a week with advance coaches which will have call bell and toilet indicator facilities and it will be the fastest train between Lucknow and Delhi.

67. Dr Harsh Vardhan launched 'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched the new "TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign", along with the National TB Prevalence Survey. The government has established patient forums in over 95% of all districts in the first 100 days. The Union Health Minister also flagged off a van for the National TB Prevalence Survey.



The Union Minister also announced a partnership with the World Bank which is providing a \$400 million credit for accelerating TB response in 9 states through private sector engagement and other critical interventions.

68. Government launched 'UMMID' initiative to tackle inherited genetic diseases of new born babies

Union Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) initiative and inaugurated NIDAN (National Inherited Diseases Administration) Kendras, which is being supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), M/o Science and Technology.



DBT has started the UMMID Initiative which is designed on the concept of 'Prevention is better than Cure'. The UMMID initiative aims (i) to establish NIDAN Kendras to provide counselling, prenatal testing and diagnosis, management, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more, (ii) to produce skilled clinicians in Human Genetics, and (iii) to undertake screening of pregnant women and new born babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts.

69. National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) to be ready by January 2020

The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is expected to start functioning by January 2020. NATGRID is set up to track any terror suspect and prevent terrorist attacks with real time data. It is a robust intelligence gathering mechanism related to banking, immigration, individual tax payers, air and train travels.



सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID

In 1st phase, 10 user agencies and 21 service providers will be connected with NATGRID. It is being set up at a cost of Rs 3400 crore.

70. India to host the second edition of joint international hackathon 'Singapore India Hackathon 2019'

India held the second edition of joint hackathon with Singapore, the 'Singapore India Hackathon 2019' at IIT Madras on Sep 28 and 29, 2019. The aim of this joint international hackathon was to promote engagement and collaboration of student community in India with the rest of the world and to develop innovative and out-of-the-box solutions for some of the daunting problems faced by our societies.

Narendra Modi addressed the participants and gave away prizes to the winning teams of Singapore India Hackathon- 2019.



Persons in News

1. Indian-Origin Doctor Bhasha Mukherjee Crowned Miss England 2019

23-Year-Old Indian-Origin British Doctor Bhasha Mukherjee has been crowned Miss England 2019. She will compete in the 69th Miss World contest to be held in December in London. She has a Bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham.



Bhasha has an IQ of 146, making her officially a "genius". Her family shifted base to the UK when she was 9 years old. She now stays in Derby.

2. France's Franky Zapata successfully crosses English Channel on hoverboard for 1st time

French inventor Franky Zapata successfully crossed the English Channel on his Flyboard Air, a jet-powered hoverboard. He departed from Sangatte, France and arrived in Dover, England.



Zapata invented the Flyboard in 2011, a device that uses a water jet to propel the rider through the air behind a boat. He later invented the Flyboard Air, a board powered by four turbo jet engines that allows a rider to fly through the air untethered, using a computer to keep it stabilized.

3. Hima Das roped in as brand ambassador of Gatorade India

Gatorade India has appointed ace sprinter Hima Das as its brand ambassador. She joins P.V. Sindhu and star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as the brand ambassador of the US sports drink in India.



Gatorade has been actively working with sportspersons across the world. It has worked with Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, Argentine professional footballer Lionel Messi, and American tennis star Serena Williams and Real Madrid's James Rodriguez, among others.

4. Wing Commander Anjali Singh becomes India's first female military diplomat

Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become the first female officer from the armed forces to be posted as a military diplomat in any of the Indian missions abroad when she joined the Indian Embassy in Moscow as a Deputy Air Attache.



Singh is from the aeronautical engineering branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with 17 years of service. She is trained on MiG-29 aircraft. The role of a defence attache is to assist in cooperation, training and procurement in the field of defence between the country she represents and the country in which she is posted.

5. US swimmer criss-crossed English Channel in 54-hour feat

An American breast cancer survivor, Sarah Thomas, became the first person to swim across the English Channel four times non-stop in a 54-hour feat of endurance. She is an open water marathon swimmer from the US state of Colorado.



Only four swimmers have previously completed the approximately 21-mile Channel crossing between Britain and France three times without stopping. Sarah was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago.

6. Govinda appointed as brand ambassador of Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh government has appointed actor Govinda as brand ambassador to promote state's traditions and tourist places. Govinda was a Congress Lok Sabha MP from Mumbai North constituency in 2004.



Madhya Pradesh is a state of vivid culture, historical places, hill stations, and rich wildlife experiences. With three world heritage sites, plenty of national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries, it is a true adventure destination of central India.

7. Ponung Doming becomes first woman officer from Arunachal Pradesh to become Lieutenant Colonel in Indian Army

Ponung Doming of Arunachal Pradesh became the first woman officer from the state to be elevated to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army. Ponung joined the Officers Training Academy, Chennai in 2008.



After joining as Lieutenant, Doming rose to the position of Major within four-and-half years. In April 2014, she had also joined the UN peacekeeping mission at the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the armed forces, women are recruited only in the officer's rank. They constitute 3.8% of total number Army officers.

8. Visa appointed PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

Visa has signed up world badminton champion Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu) as its brand ambassador for two years. Sindhu has also become an athlete member of Team Visa for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.



PV Sindhu is India's first ever world champion in badminton, who struck gold at the 2019 World Championships. Sindhu is also the recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award. Visa has been supporting the Olympic Games as a worldwide sponsor since 1986.

Places in News

1. 'Namaste Pacific' Cultural Event held in New Delhi

The High Commissions of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji jointly organised a cultural event 'Namaste Pacific' in New Delhi to showcase the culture of the Pacific countries.



The event saw the participation of members of the diplomatic community, government officials, business leaders, and cultural personalities. There was also showcase of the International Solar Alliance and Pollinate Energy based in Australia, Nepal and India, and solar lanterns from Barefoot College in Rajasthan.

2. Regional Conference on Good Governance to be held at Jaipur on November 14-15, 2019

The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) will organize the Regional Conference on Good Governance with the theme "Strengthening State Institutes of Public Administration" on 14th-15th November, 2019 at Jaipur, Rajasthan. It will bring National and State level organizations on the same platform to share experiences and implementation of good governance initiatives.



Discussions will be held on 6 sub-themes during the Conference: Refurbishing Personnel Administration and Capacity Building Programs, Training of Trainers, Online Training Programs & e-Governance Modules, Development of a Training Index, Centers of Excellence in the State Institutes of Public Administration and Training Vision 2024.

3. New Delhi to host 1st conference on Military Medicine for SCO member states

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states 1st military medicine conference will be held in Delhi. The conference conducted by the Indian Armed Forces will be the first military co-operation event hosted by India, under the SCO Defence Co-operation Plan 2019-2020, after it became an SCO member-state in 2017.



The conference aims to focus on building capacities in the field of military medicine, humanitarian assistance during disasters, measures to improve patient safety and demonstrate the Rapid Action Medical Team by Indian Armed forces to the senior military medical practitioners of member states.

4. 'ANGAN'- A three-day international Conference on Energy Efficiency held in Delhi

An international conference ANGAN (Augmenting Nature by Green Affordable New-habitat) focussed on Energy Efficiency in Building Sector was held in Delhi. Speakers, Delegates, Experts and Policy Makers across 16 countries participated in conference. Research Institutions displayed an exhibition on Energy Efficient Building Material Suppliers.



The Experts discussed various alternative options and technologies in the field of design and construction of energy efficient buildings. It is estimated that an investment of Rs. 2000 billion in Building energy efficiency activities would lead to a cumulative savings of 388bn units of electricity for the next 10 yrs.

5. Sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue concluded

The sixth India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue concluded in New Delhi with both sides agreeing that the SED has emerged as a crucial mechanism to facilitate bilateral trade and investment flows and enhance economic cooperation between the two sides.



The two sides arrived at following mutual agreements:

- Policy Coordination
- Working Group on Infrastructure
- Working Group on High-Tech and Energy
- Working Group on Pharmaceuticals
- Working Group on Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection

6. White Water Rafting Expedition – 'Rudrashila' Flagged off at Jaisalmer

The white water Rafting Expedition christened 'RUDRASHILA' being undertaken by Kalidhar Battalion under the aegis of Battle Axe Division was Flagged Off on 11 September 2019 at Jaisalmer Military station. The expedition christened 'Rudrashila' has been organised to commemorate the 75th Raising day of the Kalidhar Battalion.



The expedition team led by Major Ravi Kant Gaurav displayed the spirit of adventure, team work, leadership and ability to discharge operational tasks under stress and highlighted the need to spread awareness towards ' Preservation of River Eco-system' .

7. National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Public Architecture" - Year of Construction Technology

As a part of Nationwide Awareness Campaign during ongoing 'Construction Technology Year', Central Public Works Department organized a National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Public Architecture" on September 18, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The seminar facilitated knowledge sharing of the latest developments and capacity building in the field of Architecture design and planning in construction industry.



The Prime Minister had announced that April 2019 - March 2020 as the 'Year of Construction Technology' in a bid to increase the use of modern technologies in the construction sector.

8. Ooty to host 2nd flower festival during North East Monsoon

Udhagamandalam - Ooty - in Tamilnadu will be hosting the second flower festival of the year during the North East Monsoon in October and November. The preparatory works for the elaborate exhibition of colourful and fragrant flowers have started in the famous Botanical Gardens in Udhagamandalam.



More than eighty five exotic varieties, including predominantly English flowers like Dahlia, Marigold, Calentula and Daisy will be exhibited during the festival.

9. 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union

The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between India and Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) was convened in New Delhi. The Session was co-chaired by Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary with Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg.



India and BLEU side reiterated the importance of the JEC towards the development of bilateral economic and trade relations on a wide range of issues such as, transportation and logistics, renewable energy, aerospace and satellites, audio and visual industry, agro and food processing industry, life sciences, etc.

10. India's first central police university will be set up in Greater Noida

India's first central police university will be set up by the Union home ministry off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida. Centre had given in-principle approval for the university and a 100-acre plot at a cost of Rs 372 crore has been identified in Sector Techzone to set up an institute that can tackle modern-day policing challenges, help in improving police personnel training, skills, research and also policymaking with regard to policing in India.



India did not have any central university for police yet though states like Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jharkhand have dedicated police varisities.

11. 9th India-China Financial Dialogue held

The 9th India-China Financial dialogue was held in New Delhi. The India-China Financial Dialogue is a mechanism between the two countries with an aim to promote cooperation in the financial sector. During this dialogue, both sides had in-depth exchange of views on macroeconomic situation & policy, cooperation in multilateral framework, bilateral investment and financial cooperation.



A Joint Statement was issued at the conclusion of the Financial Dialogue. The next round of India-China Financial Dialogue is to be held in China.

12. President inaugurated 6th India Water Week 2019

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated 6th India Water Week 2019 in New Delhi. The theme was "Water cooperation: Coping with 21st Century Challenges".



About 1500 delegates from India and abroad participated in the event. Japan and European Union have been associated as partner countries for this mega event. Ministry of Jal Shakti has been organizing India Water Week since 2012 as an international event to focus on water related issues.

Regional

1. Haryana government announced about Rs 4,750 cr interest, penalty waiver on crop loans

The Haryana Government has announced a Rs 4,750 crore waiver on interest and penalty on crop loans. This will benefit around 10 lakh farmers of the state.

Around 85,000 farmers had taken loans worth 3,000 crore rupees from the District Cooperative Central Banks. Out of which, accounts of 32,000 farmers involving an amount of 800 crore rupees have turned NPAs. Farmers will have to pay 2% interest for loans less than Rs five lakh, 5% for loans between Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh and 10% for bigger loans.



2. Gujarat CM launched 'Vhali Dikri Yojna'

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched the 'Vhali Dikri Yojna' for the welfare of girl child with a view to raising the female birthrate at par with male to achieve gender equality. Rs.133-crore has been allocated for this scheme.

According to scheme, 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.



3. First set of anti-riot vehicles introduced in Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh State Home Minister Bamang Felix flagged off Five Anti-Riot police vehicle, also known as Vajra, from Police Headquarter in Itanagar. This is the first set of anti-riot vehicles introduced in the state police department.

These vehicles come with special features for quick response, automatic multi-barrel launchers for tear gas, with a capacity of 12 persons and a battery backup for long hours stuck in the rioting crowd.



4. “Aadi Perukku” festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu

The “Aadi Perukku” festival was celebrated in Tamil Nadu. It is celebrated on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Adi (mid-July to mid-August) to pay tribute to water's life-sustaining properties. It is celebrated near river basins, water tanks, lakes and wells etc.

The festival is to show reverence by the public to rivers, as the traditional season of sowing of seeds for the next crops begin.



5. UNESCO signed MoU with Rajasthan government

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has signed a MoU with Rajasthan state government with the aim to revive traditional cultural heritage and improve livelihoods.

According to the MoU, now UNESCO with an NGO, Contact Base will build a special tourist circuit in Jodhpur, Bikaner, Barmer and Jaisalmer for around three-and-a-half years. Under this, 10 new cultural hubs will be developed, which help promote various types of cultural heritage through hosting of events, performances, and sale of handicrafts.



6. Chandrayaan-2 orbiter located Lander Vikram on surface of moon

ISRO lost communication from the Lander, after reaching up to 2.1kms above the surface and few minutes before its scheduled soft-landing due to which ISRO made efforts to restore contact with it. In a significant development, the Lander Vikram was located on the surface of the moon and a thermal image of the Lander was captured by the Orbiter of Chandrayaan-2.



The Imaging Infra-Red Spectrometer added to orbiter, is for studying the nature of minerals on the moon, confirm the presence of water and help locating Lander.

7. India & ADB signed \$200 million loan to improve rural connectivity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a \$200 million loan to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of Maharashtra to improve road safety and better connect rural areas with markets and services.



The project will improve the condition of about 2,100 kms of rural roads to all-weather standards, connecting rural communities with productive agricultural areas and socioeconomic centers. The loan is a technical assistance grant of \$1 million for institutional strengthening of the MRRDA in areas such as road asset management, road safety, climate-resilient design.

8. GeM and Punjab Government signed MoU for setting up project management unit

Government e Marketplace (GeM) under the Department of Commerce and Government of Punjab, signed MoU to set up a GeM Organizational Transformation Team (GOTT) Project Management Unit (PMU) in the state Punjab. GeM, the national public procurement portal launched in August 2016 has facilitated procurement worth over Rs. 34,000 crore of goods & services by various Government Departments, Organisations and PSUs.



Government of Punjab is the first State which will establish GOTT PMU for effectively utilising this transformational initiative towards inclusive, efficient and transparent procurement.

9. 313 Anganwadi centres developed as Child Education Centre in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, 313 Anganwadi centres have been developed as Child Education Centre under Rashtriya Poshan maah - National Nutritional Campaign. These centres are now providing primary education along with distribution of nutritious food. 27000 smartphones have also been provided in the state for monitoring by loading photos of inspection in the app of nutritional food distribution in Anganwadi centres.



Women and child department introduced a Whatsapp number for complaints and suggestions regarding Anganwadi and distribution of food, to take action through the special cell formed at the state level.

10. J&K govt rolled out Special Market Intervention Price Scheme to procure Apple crop

Jammu and Kashmir Governor's administration rolled out the Special Market Intervention Price Scheme (MISP) of Government of India to procure nearly 12 lakh metric tons of apple from farmers of Kashmir on remunerative prices for 6 months. Under this scheme, 60% of the estimated annual apple production will be procured from the apple growers nearer their doorsteps directly by central government.



The scheme costing 8000 Crore rupees is expected to enhance the income of the growers in Kashmir Valley by about 2000 crore rupees.

11. Bandaru Dattatreya sworn in as governor of Himachal Pradesh

BJP senior leader Bandaru Dattatreya was sworn in as 27th full-time governor of Himachal Pradesh succeeding Kalraj Mishra, who has been appointed the governor of Rajasthan.



Dattatreya got elected to the Lok Sabha from Secunderabad four times and served as Union Minister of State for Urban Development in the second Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and as Minister of State for Labour and Employment in Narendra Modi government. He served as joint secretary of A. P. Cyclone Committee and general secretary for Voluntary Organisations, India.

12. UP state government announced Agriculture Export policy 2019 PICS

In a major step towards doubling the income of farmers in the state, Uttar Pradesh Government announced its maiden Agriculture Export policy, 2019.



The government aims at doubling the export of agricultural commodities by 2024 with the help of farmer producer organisations and various steps like giving incentives and promoting startups. In another major decision, government had for the first time decided to allow procurement of paddy from contract farming and share croppers with certain riders to ensure payment of minimum support price to genuine farmers.

13. Kalraj Mishra took oath as Rajasthan Governor

Former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra took oath of as 22nd governor of Rajasthan state replacing Kalyan Singh who has completed the tenure of 5 years at Governor's office. Prior to this, Kalraj Mishra served as Governor of Himachal Pradesh.



Kalraj Mishra served as Cabinet Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the BJP-led NDA government (2014-2017) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and as President of Uttar Pradesh state unit of the BJP. He was known for playing an important role in the formation of Uttarakhand.

14. Centre sets up 3-member panel to oversee bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories

Centre has set up a three-member panel to oversee the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. The committee will look into the distribution of assets and liabilities of Jammu and Kashmir between two successor Union territories, which will come into existence on 31st of October 2019.



The committee headed by Former Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra will have Retired IAS officer Arun Goyal and Retired Indian Civil Accounts Service officer Giriraj Prasad Gupta as members. Centre had announced bifurcation of the state into the two UTs in August 2019.

15. Kerala to set up India's first iWTC in Kozhikode

India's first Global Trade Centre for Women will be set up in Kozhikode, Kerala under the Gender Park in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to provide a safe space away from home for women and encourage their entrepreneurial capabilities. The project is part of state's gender park "Vision 2020" under the department of social justice, scheduled to be completed by 2021.



iWTC, a first-of-its-kind space in India will have world class shopping destination, women's start-up and incubation centre, health & wellness centers and high-tech environment with fully-automated private and shared offices.

16. Gurugram Police collaborated with tech giant Google

The Gurugram traffic police collaborated with Google maps for dissemination of traffic related information in real time for public use so as to let commuters make their commuting experience hassle-free. Gurugram traffic police will share information on planned road closures, diversions, traffic alerts regarding road crash, road accidents etc. with Google Maps which will be immediately updated on its public maps.



Google Maps is a web mapping service developed by Google. It offers satellite imagery, aerial photography, street maps, real-time traffic conditions, and route planning for traveling.

17. First-ever helicopter summit held in Uttarakhand

The Aviation Ministry organised the country's first helicopter summit in Uttarakhand's Dehradun where issues related to "enhancing connectivity through helicopters" were discussed. The Indian Air Force was invited to talk on 'Role of IAF helicopters in MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) at National level'.



The conclave was attended by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. Several officials of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), many leaders from the tourism industry and officials from all Indian helicopter operators were present at the conclave.

18. Madhya Pradesh government to allow people to adopt cows online

The Madhya Pradesh government is going to launch an online service for those wanting to adopt a cow through its 'Project Gaushala'. People can adopt a cow for a minimum of 15 days and can go on supporting it till the animal's lifetime.



The cost of adoption for lifetime is Rs 3 lakhs, for a year is Rs 21,000, for a month is Rs 2,100 and for 15 days is Rs 1,100. The state government has announced to build 1000 gaushalas for a budget of Rs 132 crore.

19. Maharashtra state to draft sustainable rehab plan for flood-hit areas

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met representatives of the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) and announced to draft a sustainable rehabilitation plan for the flood-hit parts of the state with the help of the World Bank and ADB. The state had sought financial assistance of Rs 6,000 crore for carrying out the rehabilitation and relief works in the flood-hit regions.



Maharashtra announced the implementation of Rs 16,000 crore water grid scheme for the Marathwada region, where a sizeable amount of water from western Maharashtra will be diverted to meet the irrigation and drinking water demands.

20. Maharashtra CM approved Rs 1680 cr water supply scheme for Aurangabad

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis approved a 1680.50 crore rupees water supply scheme for Aurangabad in Marathwada region. Around 16 lakh people of Aurangabad will be benefitted by the scheme which envisages supply of water directly from the Jayakwadi dam. Marathwada comprising eight districts has traditionally been a low-rainfall area. The region has been reeling under drought conditions for the last four years.



The state Cabinet had approved for the first phase recently of 4,293-crore rupees Marathwada Water Grid Project to mitigate water woes in the region.

21. Haryana launched two insurance schemes for traders

The State Government of Haryana launched two insurance schemes for registered small and medium traders named as "Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana" (cover of Rs 5 lakh) and "Mukhyamantri Vyapari Kshatipurti Beema Yojana"(Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh). State government will bear the cost of premium covering accidental death, permanent disability and partial disability.



About 3.13 lakh registered small and medium traders would benefit from the scheme on the basis of their turnover to compensate for loss of stock due to fire, theft, flood and earthquake.

22. J&K: Rs 827-crore plan approved under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes

In Jammu & Kashmir, a plan of 827 crore rupees has been approved under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. State Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam reviewed the implementation of the schemes during 2018-19 and subsequently approved the Action Plan for 2019-20.



Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Indian Army has been conducting various people-friendly campaigns in the state to highlight the benefits of removing Article 370 among the local population. These include community empowerment drives, medical aid camps and communal harmony workshops.

23. West Bengal to implement 6th Pay Commission from Jan 1, 2020

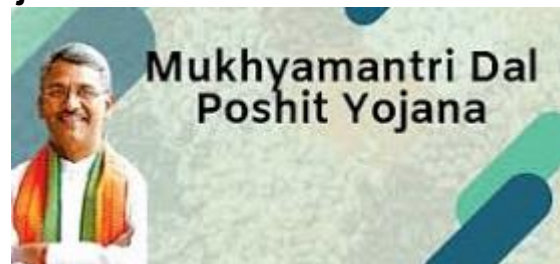
The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission for West Bengal Government Employees will come into effect from January 1, 2020. As per Recommendations of the Pay Commission, the Minimum Gross Pay of an Employee will stand at Rs. 20146.



The Government also accepted the recommendations for hiking the ceiling of Gratuity from 6 lakh to 10 lakh rupees and the merger of Dearness Allowance with new Pay Bands. Around 10000 crore rupees will be spent additionally from State exchequer for implementing the Pay Commission's recommendations.

24. Uttarakhand launched Dal Poshit Yojana

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Dal Poshit Yojana'. As a part of the scheme, ration card holders in the state will get two kgs of pulses at subsidised rates every month.



23.32 lakh ration card holders of the state will benefit from the scheme. They will get two kgs of Chana dal (chickpeas split) at the rate of Rs 44 per kg as against Rs 65-Rs 70 per kg in the open market.

25. Telangana Assembly passed resolution against proposed Uranium mining in Nallamala forest area

Telangana State Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution against proposed Uranium mining in Nallamala forest area. The state Government has proposed the resolution following an assurance by Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao to the Congress members.



The Assembly urged the Central Government to withdraw proposal of Uranium mining in Nallamala Forest Area in view of the possible threat to the habitation and biodiversity in and around Nallamala due to mining besides public fears of air and water pollution due to Uranium mining.

26. Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath laid foundation stone for metro rail project in Indore

In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Kamal Nath laid the foundation stone for around 7,500 crore rupees metro rail project in Indore. Mr Kamal Nath formally started the construction work of this project near the toll block on MR-10 Road in the city.



A total of 31.55-kilometre-long ring corridor is proposed to be built under the metro rail project in the largest city in terms of population in the state. The metro rail project will be completed by August 2023 in a phased manner.

27. Arunachal Pradesh CM dedicated Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to people of state

In Arunachal Pradesh, Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the people of the state. The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District. The State Govt will be getting 10% as free power from the 2nd year of its operation.



The project comprises of a 20-metre-long diversion structure across Phudung river with an intake structure located on the right bank to divert and regulate the waters into 337-metre-long feeder channel.

28. J&K: Govt launched awareness campaign to list benefits of Article 370 move

Jammu and Kashmir government launched an awareness campaign through local news papers in Valley to assure people they won't be compelled to sell off their land while highlighting the need & reasons for scrapping the special status of J&K under Article 370 & 35 A.



Most of the local newspapers carried front page state government advertisements for several days both in English and Urdu highlighting the reasons for scrapping the Articles and reassuring people that their interests won't be harmed.

29. Rajasthan launched “Jan Soochna Portal-2019”

Rajasthan launched first-ever public information portal named as “Jan Soochna Portal-2019” to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. It will provide 23-24 types of information pertaining to 13 departments on a single platform.



Jan Soochna Portal-2019, would ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act mandating the public authorities to disclose information in the public domain, so that the people need not file applications under the law to obtain information

30. US company TI to set up research lab at NIT in Trichy

Texas Instruments (TI), a US company, engaged in the design and development of semiconductors and software will set up a hi-tech, cutting edge research lab at National Institute of Technology (NIT) in Trichy, Tamilnadu.



As a part of the MoU, TI will deliver products and EVMs worth USD 25,000. It envisages joint R&D projects over a period of three years for the development of new technologies in various engineering domains.

31. Activists of Aarey protests write to Japanese PM to scrap the project

A group of activists protesting felling of trees for the upcoming metro car shed in Mumbai's Aarey Colony has written a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe seeking his intervention to scrap the project. The project to build the car shed in Aarey, one of the city's prime green tract involved felling of more than 2,600 trees over a 30-hectare plot in the area.



The Rs. 23,136 crore Colaba-Bandra-Seepz Metro Line 3 project is part-funded to the tune of Rs. 13,235 crore by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

32. BMC announced cash prizes ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to 1 crore to encourage waste management

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has declared cash prizes ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to 1 crore to encourage waste management. The prize will be given to public representatives, NGOs, institutions and schools working in the field of waste management.



The civic body will be picking one Corporator from each of the seven zones whose ward emerges as the best performer and will award him or her Rs. 1 crore as additional development fund for the ward. Apart from this, the BMC will select six NGOs per zone, of which the best performing NGO will be awarded Rs. 50 lakh, the second Rs. 25 lakh, the third Rs. 10 lakh and the others Rs. 5 lakh each.

33. HP government launched Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jairam Thakur has launched the Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline, "1100" (Chief Minister's Service Resolution Helpline). The objective of this helpline is to provide timely help to the citizens of the state using modern technology.



Complaints can be registered on the helpline from 7 am to 10 pm. About 6500 officers of 56 departments have been added in this software. All the officers have to resolve the complaint within seven days to 14 days.

34. Hyderabad-Karnataka region renamed as Kalyana Karnataka

The Karnataka government has approved to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka region of the state as Kalyana Karnataka to do away with any remnants of colonial nomenclature or connection with the Nizams to refer to the six districts on the north eastern part of the state.



The Hyderabad Karnataka region comprises of six north-eastern districts of the State — Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal and Ballari. The region enjoys special status under the Constitution (Article 371J) owing to its backwardness.

35. Arunachal Pradesh CM dedicates Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to people of state

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the Dikshi Hydroelectric Project to the state. The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District.



The DHP is a Run-of-the-River project constructed on the river Phudung by Devi Energies Private Limited. It was completed in a record time of four years with an investment of about 430 crore rupees. Government of Arunachal Pradesh is the sole beneficiary of the power generation from this project. The State Govt will be getting 10% as free power from the 2nd year of its operation.

36. Kerala government signed MoU with Maldives on cancer care

Kerala state government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Maldives to strengthen cancer care in the island nation. Kerala government and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) have jointly signed the MOU with the health ministry of Maldives.



The state health department and RCC would also provide support in setting up cancer care centres in Maldives and their doctors, nurses, pharmacists and para medical staff would be provided training at RCC. Maldives has also sought RCC's support to create a cancer registry.

37. Shri Amit Shah launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) - Dial 112

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah launched three citizen centric services of the Chandigarh Police, in Chandigarh. The services include the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS - Dial 112), 'E-Beat Book' System and the 'E-Saathi App'. ERSS provides a single emergency number (112).



The 'E-Beat Book' is a web and mobile based application which will ease the collection, updation and analysis of the information related to crime and criminals in a real time. The 'E-Saathi' App would help the general public to remain in touch with the police and also give suggestions to facilitate participative community policing.

38. Ministry of Railways entered into MoU with Government of Odisha

East Coast Railway under the aegis of Ministry of Railways signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Odisha for development of Bhubaneswar station as Multi-Modal Transport Hub in New Delhi. The multi-modal Hub expected to completed in three years shall have new terminal building for Railway Station, City Bus terminal, Public Car parking and other allied public utilities.



Under this MoU, Bhubaneswar station will be redeveloped as Multi-modal transport hub, jointly by Ministry of Railways and Government of Odisha.

39. Delhi Police's launched Tatpar app for citizen-centric services

In order to facilitate delivery of citizen-centric services, Delhi Police launched app called as 'Tatpar' app, developed by the Delhi Police. It is one-stop destination for access to over 50 citizen-centric services.



The Tatpar App has included all the important websites, mobile applications and helpline numbers of Delhi Police. With the help of this app, people can navigate to their nearest police station, traffic pit and prepaid taxi booth and share information to police about a suspicious vehicle or person or of a crime. The app amalgamates all the websites and mobile applications of Delhi Police.

40. First ever ‘Jammu International Film Festival’ to be held in Jammu

For the first time Jammu is going to host two day long international film festival from September 26 to September 27 to represent the aspirations of the art and cinema loving people. It will showcase 37 short films and documentaries from 11 countries.



The festival will also present an annual 'Inspiring Icon Award', which will be given to a person, who hails from the region and has made it big in the film industry. Film producers Rakesh Roshan Bhat and Rohit Bhat will be the Jammu Film festival directors.

41. Telangana announced to celebrate 2020 as Year of AI

Telangana government decided to celebrate the year of 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence by organising various activities related to the emerging technology. Recently, IIT-Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) has selected Hyderabad as the place to set up their regional centre to train students in AI in partnership with the State government and Nasscom had announced the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in AI and Data Sciences in Hyderabad.



Telangana government will organize hackathons and meetings, will give challenges to make available data threats to run algorithms for the AI enthusiasts.

42. 112 single emergency helpline number launched in Delhi

The government has launched a single emergency number -112- for police, fire and ambulance emergency services in Delhi. Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy inaugurated the Emergency Response Support System.



The government has also launched PRAKHAR which is street crime patrol van, for patrolling at crime hot spot locations. Prakhhar vans are different from PCRs as these vans carry more firepower and are equipped with modern technology. Initially, one van will be deployed in each district.

43. Assam Government launched housing loan subsidy scheme

The Assam Government has launched a housing loan subsidy scheme to provide financial assistance on purchase or construction of the first house for a family. Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the scheme - Aponar Apon Ghar yesterday in Guwahati.



The scheme provides subsidy up to Rs 2,50,000 for loan amounts from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 40 lakh. This scheme is meant for the loan sanctioned in this financial year.

44. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna completed one year in Assam

The ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, PMJAY, has completed one year of its existence in Assam and has started the third phase of the scheme. The two phases of the scheme saw claims of close to 47 crore rupees in the state.



The third phase of PMJAY covers over 26 lakh families as beneficiaries. The state also has increased the empanelled hospitals from 179 to well over 300 under the phase 3 of the scheme. An MoU was also signed with HLL Life care limited in November 2018 to provide medicines and consumables to the beneficiaries free of cost.

45. Swachhata hi Seva Abhiyan to be observed in Madhya Pradesh till Oct 25

Madhya Pradesh government has launched a month-long Swachhata hi Seva Abhiyan from September 25 to till October 25, against the single-use plastic. During the campaign, various awareness programmes will be conducted in urban bodies.



The campaign will encourage alternatives by eliminating single-use plastic and non-standard polythene in markets, malls and shops etc. The campaign aims to administer oath to at least 50 lakh citizens against the use of single-use plastic.

46. J&K becomes first state to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat scheme

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first state in the country to issue highest number of golden cards under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Over 11 lakh golden cards have been generated within first 90 days of the launch of the scheme with 60% families having at least one golden card which is highest in the country.



Under the scheme, 155 Hospitals including 126 public and 29 private hospitals have been empanelled to provide free and cashless treatment to the entitled beneficiaries while as per Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 6.30 lakh poor and vulnerable families of J&K are entitled for it.

47. NTPC to build India's biggest solar park in Gujarat

NTPC Ltd plans to set up a 5 gigawatt solar park in Gujarat, which would be the biggest in the country at the cost of 250 billion rupees (\$3.5 billion) and begin operations by 2024. The plan is part of the NTPC's aim to build 32 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2032.



This will reduce the share of fossil fuels in its energy mix to 70% from about 96% now. NTPC is also considering building a new 500-megawatt hydropower project in Himachal Pradesh.

48. Ladakhi Shondol dance created history

Ladakhi Shondol dance has created history by breaking into the Guinness book of world records as the largest Ladakhi dance. 408 women artists in traditional dresses performed gracefully the Shondol dance on the occasion of the Annual Naropa Festival.



Shondol is famous dance, which used to be performed by artists for King of Ladakh on special occasion. It was organised by the Live to Love India, Drukpa Charitable Trust and Young Drukpa Association.

49. AAI takes up projects of Rs 3,500 cr for upgradation of airports in North East region

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has taken up projects of Rs. 3,500 crore for expansion and upgradation of the airports in the North East region. AAI has allocated Rs 1,250 crore for Guwahati airport, Rs 650 crore for Imphal (Manipur), Rs 500 crore for Agartala (Tripura), Rs 650 crore for a Greenfield airport at Hollongi in Arunachal Pradesh, and Rs 450 crore for Lengpui Airport in Mizoram and other airports in the region.



AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

The air connectivity developments in North East Region will play a 'change agent' role towards overall development of the region.

50. Delhi HC launched official mobile app for lawyers, litigants

The Delhi High Court launched an official mobile application for providing digital access of its services to lawyers and litigants. It provides details of case status, display board, cause list and access to other important links of the high court website. The advocates registered with the High Court's e-filing software will also be able to apply for e-inspection and online gate pass.



The advocates and litigants will also be able to view the display board of the High Court and the Supreme Court using the app.

51. Assam government notified setting up of 200 additional Foreigners Tribunals

The Assam government has notified setting up of 200 additional appellate Foreigners Tribunals for hearing of appeals of those persons who have been excluded from the final NRC. They will be set up in the districts of the state which already have 100 Foreigners Tribunals.



19 lakh people were excluded from the final NRC in Assam published on 31st of August.

The excluded people could challenge their exclusion in the Foreigners Tribunals.

52. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched ‘champions campaign’ against dengue

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched “champions campaign” in the fight against dengue and urged people to call 10 of their friends and encourage them too to inspect their homes and be a Champion in the fight against Dengue.

The campaign is an anti-dengue drive. It is a community-driven campaign and will ensure the citizens are encouraged to take initiative and responsibility for their fellow citizens. Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus.



Reports

1. Mumbai ranked 45th, Delhi 52nd on world's safe cities list

According to a report by Economist Intelligence Unit, Mumbai has been ranked as the 45th safest city on the Safe Cities Index (SCI). Delhi was ranked 52nd in the list. Tokyo, Singapore and Osaka were placed in the top-three position.

The Safe Cities Index (SCI) 2019 ranks 60 countries worldwide across five continents and measures the multi-faceted nature of urban safety, with indicators categorised as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.

Tokyo safest city, Delhi at 52nd:

Tokyo is the safest city on the planet for the third year in a row, and six of the world's top 10 safest cities in the world are located in the Asia-Pacific, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index released on Thursday. Mumbai and Delhi rank low in the index even as the study points out that India and China will see the fastest rise in population—of 1.4%—over the next decade. The index ranks 60 countries across five continents and measures on urban safety indicators such as digital, infrastructure, health and personal security.

OVERALL SCORE

RANK	1	2	45	52	59	60
City	Tokyo	Singapore	Mumbai	New Delhi	Caracas	Lagos

2. India ranked 9th on Happiness among 28 global markets

According to the Global Happiness Survey by IPSOS, India at 77% has ranked 9th in the list on Happiness, among 28 nations. Australia and Canada tied at the top spot (at 86%) have emerged as the happiest nations of the world, followed by China (83%), Great Britain (82%), France (80%), US (79%), Saudi Arabia (78%) and Germany (78%).



Argentina (34%), Spain (46%) and Russia (47%) were ranked at the bottom of the list. These are the findings of a 28-country Ipsos survey conducted via Ipsos's Global Advisor online survey platform.

3. Sex ratio improved from 918 to 931 in five years

Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani said that Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has improved by 13 points from 918 to 931 at the national level in last five years since the launch of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign.

Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh received honours for improving sex ratio at birth. Nine districts which included East Kameng of Arunachal Pradesh, Mahendragarh and Bhiwani in Haryana, Udham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu's Namakkal, and Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, were also awarded for better sex ratio at birth.



4. Delhi, Mumbai fall in EIU's Global Liveability Index 2019

An annual survey called as Global Liveability Index 2019 released by *the Economist Intelligence Unit* (EIU) unveiled that India's capital city Delhi and Mumbai fell six places to rank 118th and 119th out of 140 cities on basic indicators like stability, healthcare, education, infrastructure, culture and environment.

Austria's Vienna city topped the index followed by Austria's Melbourne and Australia's Sydney at second and third place respectively.



5. Times Higher Education released "World University Rankings 2020"

Times Higher Education World University Rankings released by United Kingdom (UK) based Times Higher Education unveiled that University of Oxford topped the rankings for the fourth consecutive year followed by California Institute of Technology at 2nd place and University of Cambridge at 3rd place.

India's Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore were ranked among the 56 Indian institutes on the list of the best universities of the world. The new data revealed that the funding gap between the UK sector and other major higher education systems is widening.



6. Anurag Kashyap's 'Gangs Of Wasseypur' in the Guardian Best 100 list

The Guardian released their top 100 films of this century. Indian Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's cult film *Gangs Of Wasseypur* became the only Indian film to feature in The Guardian list of 100 Best Films of the 21st century.

The two-film *Gangs Of Wasseypur* series was released in 2012, and narrated the saga of a coal mafia family in the town of Wasseypur in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand. Both the series received popularity. The Guardian top 100 list was topped by 2007 *There Will Be Blood* based on 1927 novel *Oil*.



7. Indian diaspora largest in the world: UN report

India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora. The International Migrant Stock 2019, a dataset released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.



As per the report, migrants from Mexico constituted the second largest diaspora with 11.8 million people followed by China with 10.7 million people and Russia with 10.5 million people.

Resignations & Retirements

1. Dinesh Mongia announced retirement from all forms of cricket

Former India all-rounder Dinesh Mongia announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He last played for India in an ODI against Bangladesh. He made his ODI debut against Australia in March 2001.



Mongia represented India in 57 ODIs, scoring 1230 runs at an average of 27.95. He played only one T20I. Dinesh Mongia was suspended by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for joining the Indian Cricket League (ICL). He enjoyed a prolific first-class career, amassing 8,028 runs at an average of 48.95 from 121 matches, in which he scored 21 centuries.

2. ADB president Takehiko Nakao resigned

Takehiko Nakao announced his resignation as the President of Asian Development Bank, effective 16 January 2020. He assumed office as President on 28 April 2013. As President, he expanded ADB's operations (increase in new lending and grant from \$14 billion in 2013 to \$22 billion in 2018 and led the merger of Ordinary Capital Resources and concessional lending operation of the Asian Development Fund.



Nakao launched of Strategy 2030 and improved financial sustainability of the staff pension system by introducing defined contribution plan for new hires.

Science & Technology

1. ISRO sets up Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

Indian Space Research Organisation (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. A control centre is being established at Bengaluru. The Control Centre would facilitate the intensified activities foreseen for SSAM.



ISRO is currently dependent on North America Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) data for keeping track of space debris and monitoring our active and passive (dead) satellites.

2. ISRO lost contact with Moon lander "Vikram"

Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that it lost contact with the Moon lander "Vikram". Chandrayaan-2 consisted of three components — an orbiter, a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan.



The three components were together launched to the moon on July 22 atop a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) rocket. The lander separated from the orbiter on September 2 to begin its descent to the lunar surface.

3. "Oscar Of Science" Award for team behind world's first Black Hole image

A team of 347 scientists from the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration project won the 'Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics' for having produced the world's first image of a black hole. The award carries prize money of \$3 million dollars and is considered to be the "Oscars of science."



The winners in other categories:

- 2020 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences Awarded to Jeffrey M. Friedman, F. Ulrich Hartl and Arthur L. Horwich, David Julius, and Virginia Man-Yee Lee.
- 2020 Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics Awarded to Alex Eskin.
- Six New Horizons Prizes Worth \$100,000 Each Awarded for Early-Career Achievements in Physics and Math.

4. DRDO successfully flight-tests indigenously developed Antitank Guided Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully flight tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) in the ranges of Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. The missile was launched from a man portable Tripod launcher and the target was mimicking a functional tank. The missile hit the target in top attack mode and destroyed it with precision. All the mission objectives were met.



This is the third series of successful testing of MPATGM. The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.

5. Water discovered on habitable ‘super-Earth’ K2-18b

Researchers from University College London have discovered water vapour on a potentially habitable super-Earth called K2-18b. The scientists analysed data from the Hubble Space Telescope. The discovery has been published in Nature Astronomy. This is the first successful atmospheric detection of water on an exoplanet.



K2-18b orbits a cool dwarf star and is about 110 light years away from Earth in the Leo constellation. The super-Earth is eight times the mass of Earth and was located in 2015.

6. First Indigenous Fuel Cell System launched on CSIR Foundation Day

The President of India, Shri Ram NathKovind, unveiled the first Indigenous High Temperature Fuel Cell System developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India’s flagship program named “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)”.



The Fuel Cells developed are based on High Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (HTPEM) Technology. This system will also meet the requirement of efficient, clean and reliable backup power generator for telecom towers. The Fuel Cells fit well in India’s mission of replacing diesel with green and alternate fuels.

7. 5th India International Science Festival to be held in Kolkata

The 5th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 will be held at Kolkata from 5th to 8th November, 2019. The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India – Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.



The IISF 2019 is the fifth edition since its inception in 2015 and expects to host a gathering of approximately 12,000 participants from India and abroad. It is organised jointly by science & technology- related Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), 2019.

8. Japan launched "World's Biggest Transport Space Ship" for Space Station

Japan's space agency JAXA has launched 'the world's biggest transport space ship' called Kounotori8. It will help replenish essential supplies at the International Space station (ISS) and was launched by Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI).



The unpiloted cargo ship carried more than 4 tons of supplies, batteries, and a prototype laser-communications system. The launch took place from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Tanegashima Space Centre in southwestern Japan.

1. Shot putter Tejinderpal Singh Toor clinched silver in Czech Republic

Asian Games gold medallist shot putter Tejinderpal Singh Toor won a silver medal at an athletic meet at Decin, Czech Republic. Tejinder came up with the best throw of 20.09m in his last attempt at the event. He has been awarded the Arjuna Award this year.



The 24-year-old Indian, who has a personal best of 20.75m, has already qualified for World championship being the Area champion following his gold-winning feat at Asian Athletics Championships in April this year.

2. India defeat Nepal to win SAFF U-15 2019 Championship

India defeated Nepal 7-0 to win the SAFF U-15 2019 Championships held at the Kalyani Stadium in West Bengal. Striker Sridarth Nongmeikapam scored a hat-trick for the side while Maheson Singh, Amandeep, Sibajit Singh and Himanshu Jangra scored one goal each.



With this win, India are now the most successful team in the tournament's history. They won the title for a record third time after previous wins in 2013 and 2017.

3. Jasprit Bumrah becomes 3rd Indian to register a hat-trick in Test cricket

Jasprit Bumrah became the third Indian to register a hat-trick in Test cricket, following Harbhajan Singh against Australia in Calcutta in 2001, and Irfan Pathan against Pakistan in Karachi in 2006. Bumrah took three wickets in successive balls against West Indies in the second Test at Kingston, Jamaica.



Bumrah claimed the wickets of Darren Dravo, Shamarh Brooks and Roston Chase in the 9th over of the Windies innings to achieve the milestone. Bumrah was also only the third bowler to take a hat-trick in West Indies, after Jermaine Lawson and Matthew Hoggard. His hat-trick was the 44th in Test history.

4. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won Belgian Grand Prix

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari won the Belgian Grand Prix from pole position. It was the first victory of his Formula One career. Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes was second followed by his teammate Valtteri Bottas at third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel at 4th position.



This was the first win for Ferrari after former driver Kimi Raikkonen's victory at the U.S. GP in October 2018. Lewis Hamilton extended his lead at the top with 268 points followed by Valtteri Bottas at 203 points in the driver's ranking for 2019.

5. Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix to earn his 81st Formula One race victory. He is now only 10 wins behind seven-time F1 champion Michael Schumacher. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was second in the race followed by Sebastian Vettel.



Hamilton leads the driver's table this season with 8 wins and 250 points way ahead of Valtteri Bottas with 2 wins and 188 points. Mercedes leads the Constructor's ranking 2019 with 10 wins and 438 points in total followed by Ferrari with 288 points and Red Bull at 244.

6. Satwiksairaj, Chirag 1st Indian doubles pair to win Super 500 title

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian pair to win a BWF Super 500 badminton tournament. The duo beat World champions Li Jun Hui and Liu Yu Chen of China in the summit clash of Thailand Open 21-19, 18-21, 21-18 in Bangkok to win the men's doubles category.



With this win, the Indian pair broke into the top ten of the world ranking for the first time, making it the first-ever Indian men's doubles duo to enter the elite bracket. The win was also the most prestigious doubles title for India since the inception of the ranking system.

7. FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Official Emblem revealed

The Official Emblem of the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup was unveiled in Doha. The design is a stylised Arabic white unisex shawl with maroon patterning, which is displayed in a figure-of-eight symbolising infinity while creating a heart shape above the words "FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022".



According to tournament organisers, the swooping curves of the emblem represent the undulations of desert dunes and the unbroken loop depicts both the number eight - highlighting the eight stadiums that will host the World Cup matches - and the infinity symbol, which reflects the interconnected nature of the event.

8. Misbah-ul-Haq appointed Pakistan coach and chief selector

Former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has been appointed as the head coach and chief selector of Pakistan for three-year contract. Former fast bowler Waqar Younis has been appointed as the bowling coach for a three-year stint.



Misbah has featured in 75 Tests and 162 one-day internationals, scoring over 10,300 international runs. He has captained Pakistan in 56 Tests. Waqar was the Pakistan head coach twice before: between 2010 and 2011, and 2014 and 2016.

9. India Red beat India Green to clinch Duleep Trophy title

India Red beat India Green by an innings and 38 runs to clinch the Duleep Trophy title at Bengaluru. India Red had scored 388 in their first innings while India Green compiled 231 runs in their first innings and 119 in their second innings.



Vidharbha off-spinner Akshay Wakhare returned with a five-wicket haul in the second innings of India Green. Abhimanyu Easwaran, who made a brilliant 153 for India Red, was named player of the match.

10. Payas Jain won Silver medal in the 25th Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships

India's Payas Jain won silver medal in the 25th Asian Junior and Cadet Table Tennis Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He lost to top-seed and world number 1 Yuanyu Chen of China 0-4 in the final.



Jain's silver medal earned him a berth in the Asian squad which will participate in the World

Cadet Challenge at Wladyslawowo (Poland) in October. India's campaign at the championships ended with two silver medals - one by the junior boys' team and another by Jain.

11. Wrestler Deepak Punia named world No.1 in 86 kg category

In the latest rankings issued by the International Wrestling Federation, World Championship silver medalist Deepak Punia has jumped to world number one position in 86 kilogram category but Bajrang Punia lost the top rank in the 65-kilogram category.



The 20-year-old, Punia, now has 82 points, four more than World Champion Yazdani. Russia's Gadzhimurad Rashidov, who won gold in Nur Sultan, is the new world number one in 65 kilogram. Vinesh Phogat has jumped to number two in 53-kilogram category, gaining four places.

12. Rashid Khan becomes youngest ever Test captain

Ace leg-spinner Rashid Khan of Afghanistan became the youngest player ever to lead a Test side. Khan, at the age of 20 years and 350 days, was captaining the national team in the one-off Test against Bangladesh.



Rashid surpassed the record of Tatenda Taibu who led Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka at Harare in 2004 at the age of 20 years and 358 days. Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi is third in the list who captained India at the age of 21 years and 77 days against West Indies in Bridgetown in 1962.

13. Kraigg Brathwaite reported for suspected illegal bowling action

West Indies Cricketer Kraigg Brathwaite was reported for a suspected illegal bowling action during the second Test against India. Brathwaite, bowls part-time off-spin and had earlier been reported for a suspect bowling action in August 2017 against England in Birmingham but was cleared following an independent assessment.



With Brathwaite being reported again, he will be required to submit to further testing by September 14 and has been allowed to continue bowling in international cricket until the results of the testing are known.

14. Eighth edition of Ladakh Marathon held in LehEWS

The eighth edition of Ladakh Marathon with more than 6000 runners from 25 countries was organized in Leh. It is the highest marathon in the world as it is held at over 11, 000 feet above the mean sea level. The Marathon was held in the categories of 42KM Full Full Marathon, 21KM half marathon and 7 km long Run for Fun.



The 9th Edition to be held in 2020 will be a qualifying race for the Abbot World Marathon Majors. Ladakh Marathon became a full member of Association of International Marathons and Distance Races in 2015.

15. Indian men's hockey team at 5th spot in FIH rankings

The Indian men's hockey team retained its 5th place while the women's team climbed to 9th place in the FIH rankings, released following the conclusion of the Oceania Cup.



Australia's Oceania Cup triumph topped the rankings followed by Belgium at 2nd place. European bronze medallists the Netherlands remain third in the rankings, followed by the Pan American Games gold medallists Argentina at 4th place. Germany climbed one place to take 6th position from England, who are now at 7th place.

16. India topped the medals tally in Track Asia Cup cycling

In Cycling, India's Ronaldo Laitonjam created an Asian record in men's junior 200m time trial event and won a gold medal in the junior men's sprint event of Track Asia Cup competition in New Delhi.



India emerged overall champions as its players picked up three medals (two gold and one bronze) in the concluding day. Overall, India topped the medals tally with 10 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals. Uzbekistan finished second, with 4 gold and 3 silver. Malaysia secured third place, with 4 gold and 1 silver medal.

17. Sports Ministry derecognised Paralympic Committee of India

The Sports Ministry has de-recognised the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), citing a violation of the National Sports Code in the body's decision to sack President Rao Inderjit Singh. PCI has been penalised for misgovernance.



The Ministry had received a complaint from Mr. Singh, who was removed by a majority vote, and it found the federation's response to it unsatisfactory. The PCI had changed its byelaws to bar public servants from it during a May 4 Annual General Meeting. Singh is Minister of State (Planning) in the Union Government.

18. Rafael Nadal won the men's final of US Open 2019

Rafael Nadal won his 19th Grand Slam title after defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev in a five-setter final. It was the 19th Grand Slam trophy and fourth US Open crown for Nadal. He is now just one major away from Roger Federer's record mark of 20.



The other winners:

- Men's doubles final: Juan Sebastián Cabal and Colombia Robert Farah
- Women's doubles final: Elise Mertens and Belarus Aryna Sabalenka
- Mixed doubles final: Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Jamie Murray

19. Kenya's Brigid Kosgei runs fastest-ever women's half-marathon

Kenya's Brigid Kosgei ran the fastest half-marathon ever by a woman winning the Great North Run in a time of 1 hour, 4 minutes and 28 seconds. Magdalyne Masai and Linet Masai of Kenya stood second and third in the race.



Mo Farah won the men's elite race for a record sixth successive year finishing the 13.1-mile course in 59min 7sec. Tamirat Tola of Ethiopia was second while Abdi Nageeye of the Netherlands was third.

20. Malinga became first bowler to take 100 T20I wickets

Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga became the first bowler in Twenty20 internationals to claim 100 wickets as he took four wickets in four balls in the third match against New Zealand.



Malinga surpassed Pakistan spinner Shahid Afridi's tally of 97 scalps to become the leading T20 wicket-taker. He bowled Colin Munro for 12 to claim a century of wickets in his 76th match.

He took the wickets of Hamish Rutherford, Colin de Grandhomme and Ross Taylor in the remaining three successive balls.

21. IOC emerge as champions of Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey 2019

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) successfully defended the title after it defeated Punjab National Bank (PNB) 3-1 in the final to win the 93rd All-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai.



MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey is the 2nd oldest hockey tournament in country after Beighton Cup in Kolkata. Ten teams participated in the tournament this year. While the winners receive cash prize of Rs 6 lakhs, the runner ups get Rs 3.5 lakhs as prize money.

22. Megan Schutt became the first woman to claim two hat-trick in white-ball cricket

Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt scripted history by becoming the first Australian women to claim two hat-tricks in white ball cricket after she cleaned up the West Indies tail in the third ODI. Schutt had claimed her first hat-trick in a Twenty20 game against India in March 2018.



It's the 11th hat-trick taken in women's ODIs, while Schutt is the seventh Australian, male or female, to achieve the feat in one-dayers. Only three Australian women have claimed international hat-tricks, with Betty Wilson and Rene Farrell – who both took Test hat-tricks – joining Schutt.

23. Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched Belgian International Challenge

In Badminton, rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge. Lakshya was at his best as he notched up a comfortable 21-14, 21-15 win over Svendsen in the title clash.



The 18-year-old Lakshya had earlier beaten Denmark's Kim Bruun 21-18, 21-11 to win in a 48-minute semifinal clash. The *Belgian* International is an international badminton open tournament, held since 1958. It became an International Challenge tournament within the Badminton Europe tournament circuit.

24. Pankaj Advani clinched IBSF Billiards Championship

Pankaj Advani clinched a record 22nd world titles by winning a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Myanmar. Advani defeated Nay Thway of Myanmar.



In semifinal against Russell, Advani scored three back-to-back centuries but managed to convert only two of those frames as the Briton took advantage of Advani's error on 142 and made a 150. In the short format of billiards, this is Advani's fifth title in the last six years.

25. Sourabh Verma clinched Vietnam Open Men's Singles title

In Badminton, Sourabh Verma clinched the USD 75,000 Vietnam Open Super 100 Men's single title, defeating China's Sun Fei Xiang in a thrilling Men's Singles summit clash at the Ho Chi Minh City. Second seed Verma recovered from a mid-game slump to beat Sun 21-12, 17-2, 21-14.



This victory marks Verma's second Super 100 win in the 2019 and 3rd title of the year 2019 after the Hyderabad Open and Slovenian International. World no. 38 Sourabh will now play the USD 400,000 Korea Open World Tour Super 500 event to be held from September 24 to 29.

26. Kaushal Dharmamer clinched Myanmar International Series

Indian shuttler Kaushal Dharmamer clinched the Myanmar International Series with a come-from-behind win over Indonesia's Karono Karono in a thrilling men's singles final in Yangon.



World no. 187th Kaushal who had won the Hatzor International in October 2018 recovered after dropping the opening game to outwit Karono 18-21, 21-14, 21-11 in a match that lasted an hour. Myanmar International Series 2019 is a part of 2019 BWF International Series.

27. India clinched U-19 Asia Cup title

India clinched the Under-19 Asia Cup title, with a thrilling five-run win over Bangladesh in a low-scoring final at Colombo. Defending a paltry total of 106, India dismissed Bangladesh for 101 in 33 overs.



Left-arm spinner 18-year-old Atharva Ankolekar, emerged as the star of the Indian

team, with figures of 5 for 28 from 8 overs. Other players such as skipper Dhruv Jurel (33) and lower-order batsman Karan Lal came up with useful contributions to help India cross the 100 mark.

28. Ronaldo Laitonjam won fourth gold in Track Asia Cup cycling

India's Ronaldo Laitonjam won his fourth gold medal on the concluding day of Track Asia Cup competition in New Delhi. India emerged overall champions as its players picked up three medals in the day, two gold and one bronze.



Overall, India topped the medals tally, with 10 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze as the tournament came to an end at the IGI Sports Complex. Uzbekistan finished second, with 4 gold and 3 silver. Malaysia secured third place, with 4 gold and 1 silver.

29. Feroz Shah Kotla stadium renamed after Arun Jaitley

DDCA President Rajat Sharma announced to rename Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in Delhi as Arun Jaitley Stadium in memory of its former president Arun Jaitley who passed away recently. The Stadium will be named Arun Jaitley Stadium but the name of the ground will remain as Ferozeshah Kotla Ground.



During Arun Jaitley's tenure at DDCA, he is credited with renovating Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium into a modern facility, increasing its capacity to accommodate more fans besides constructing world-class dressing rooms.

30. Andrew Strauss became chairman of ECB's cricket committee

England cricket legend has been appointed Chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board's cricket committee, a position that will require him to monitor the sport's progress at every level in the country. He will drive the development of the game at all levels as part of his new role.



Strauss is known for playing 100 Tests for England, scoring 7,037 runs at an average of 40.91. Under his leadership, England won two Ashes series and also attained the number one Test ranking.

31. Spain beats Argentina to win Basketball World Cup

Spain beat Argentina for the first time since 2006 to win FIBA World Cup held in Beijing, China. This was its second title win after 13 years. Three-time All-Star Marc Gasol became only the second man to win an NBA crown and the World Cup in the same year. Spain marked victory of 95-75.



Point guard Ricky Rubio racked up 20 points. Marc Gasol and Willy Hernangomez swatted three shots each as Spain pulled down 47 rebounds, 20 more than Argentina.

32. Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

India's star wrestler Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian wrestler to qualify for the 2020 Olympics after beating Sarah Hildebrandt of the USA in the World Championships in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan. She scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist.



Earlier, she had stormed to a 5-0 win over Ukraine's Yuliya Khalvadzhy in the first round of the 53kg category to remain in contention for an Olympic quota and a bronze medal.

33. Amit Panghal became first Indian to enter World Men's Championships finals

In Boxing, Asian Champion Amit Panghal became the first Indian to make the finals of the World Men's Championship while Manish Kaushik signed off with a bronze medal after going down in the semifinals in Ekaterinburg, Russia.



India had never won more than one bronze medal in a single edition of the world championships but Panghal and Manish Kaushik changed that by making the semifinals. The past Indian medal-winners at the world meet are Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

34. Bajrang Punia won bronze medal at the World Championships

In Wrestling, Bajrang Punia and Ravi Dahiya won bronze at the World Championships in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. This is Bajrang's second consecutive medal at the Worlds and third overall while Dahiya has managed to win bronze in his very first appearance at the senior championships, beating Iran's reigning Asian champion Reza Atri 6-3 to win his maiden Worlds medal.



Both Bajrang and Dahiya had sealed a spot at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics by qualifying for the bronze medal round. This took India's haul to three medals with Vinesh Phogat winning bronze in the women's 53kg.

35. Beijing 2022 Paralympic and Olympic mascots unveiled

Beijing released its mascot for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Chinese lantern Shuey Rhon Rhon was declared as the official mascot for Winter Paralympics 2022 and giant panda Bing Dwen Dwen was revealed as the official mascot for Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.



Shuey Rhon Rhon is a Chinese lantern child who is looking forward to welcome friends from around the globe for the mega event. Bing Dwen Dwen, is a chubby giant panda wearing a suit of ice, encased in a stylized sports helmet meant to "make the animal appear more athletic."

36. India slipped to 104th spot in Latest FIFA ranking

FIFA rankings released recently place India at 104th position, playing under the leadership of new coach Igor Stimac whereas Qatar held on to its ranking 62nd and Oman was placed at 84th spot.



Belgium retained its top position, while France has surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot. Some other teams who form part of top 10 in the rankings include England at 4th place, Portugal at 5th, Uruguay at 6th, Spain at 7th, Croatia at 8th, Colombia at 9th and Argentina at 10th.

37. Pankaj Advani-Aditya Mehta pair won World Team Snooker title

The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta won the IBSF World Snooker Team title at Myanmar. The Indian pair beat Thailand's team comprising C. Pongsakorn and D.Poraminn 5-2 in the final. This takes Advani's world title tally to 23rd world title while Aditya claimed his maiden title.



Advani-Mehta duo defeated the Thai pair of Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon and Kritsanut Lertsattayathorn 4-1 in the semi-final. The IBSF World Snooker Championship is the premier non-professional snooker tournament in the world.

38. PT Usha honoured with IAAF Veteran Pin

International Association of Athletic Federations honoured the Indian track and field legend PT Usha with a Veteran Pin in recognition of her contribution to the growth of the sport. IAAF chief Sebastian Coe presented her the Veteran Pin during the 52nd IAAF Congress at Doha.



Usha was one of three persons from Asia to receive the honour. At the Asian Championships in Kuwait City in 1983, she won gold in 400m. In the 1985 Jakarta Asian Championships, Usha won six medals - five gold and a bronze.

39. Manipur clinched 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship

Manipur have clinched the title of the 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship for the 20th time. Manipur defeated Railways by 1-0 to clinch to become the national champions. The first half witnessed no goals from either side. Bala Devi is the highest scorer in the tournament with 20 goals.



Railways' Sanju was declared the Player of the tournament. Elangbam Panthoi Chanu of Manipur won the best goalkeeper of the tournament award. Arunachal Pradesh had hosted the tournament for the first time.

40. Ministry of Sports announced to create 20 National Centres of Excellence to groom athletes

Ministry of Sports will create 20 National Centres of Excellence to groom athletes for 2024 and 2028 Olympics. Each Centre of Excellence will offer funds for four to six specific sports. The new scheme will ensure that athletes in the same premises have access to similar facilities unlike before.



Twenty Sports Authority of India (SAI) facilities has been identified as National Centers of Excellence such as Patiala, Trivandrum, Chandigarh, Sonapat, Lucknow, Guwahati, Imphal, Kolkata, Bhopal, Bengaluru etc.

41. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2019

The Best FIFA Football Awards 2019 were held at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy. The key winners are:



- The Best FIFA Men's Player: Lionel Messi
- The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper: Alisson
- The Best FIFA Men's Coach: Jürgen Klopp
- The Best FIFA Women's Player: Megan Rapinoe
- The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper: Sari van Veenendaal
- The Best FIFA Women's Coach: Jill Ellis
- FIFA Fair Play Award: arcelo Bielsa and the Leeds United squad
- FIFA Puskás Award: Dániel Zsóri
- FIFA Fan Award: Silvia Grecco

42. Sebastian Vettel won Singapore Grand Prix

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won the Singapore Grand Prix. It was a record 5th victory in Singapore for Vettel and a consecutive thord victory for Ferrari this season. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc took the second position.



Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished 3rd while championship leader Lewis Hamilton was 4th followed by teammate Valtteri Bottas at 5th. Lewis Hamilton with 322 points tsand at the top of the table among the drivers for this season followed by Valtteri Bottas at second place with 249 points.

43. Divij Sharan won St. Petersburg doubles title

India's Divij Sharan with his doubles partner Igor Zelenay of Slovakia won his fifth ATP career title after winning the St Petersburg Open doubles crown. The duo defeated Italian pair of Matteo Berrettini and Simone Bolelli.

The champions collected 250 ATP points and USD 66,740. It was the fifth Tour doubles title for Divij. It was the third title of the season for Divij. He had won the Maharashtra Open in Pune earlier this year alongside Rohan Bopanna.

