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Current Affairs For TNPSC Examinations

JUNE - 2019

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TAMIL NADU

➤ **Free Wi-Fi in all railway stations likely by September**

- ❖ A total of 218 more stations in Southern Railway will offer free Wi-Fi connectivity to passengers by the first week of September, taking the number of stations with the facility to 500 in the zone.
- ❖ This is part of a scheme to provide access to the internet at 4,791 stations across the country.
- ❖ Google is likely to provide the solution for Authorizing, Authenticating and Accounting of customers accessing the Wi-Fi, which will initially be of 1 Mbps speed.

➤ **Bar Council adopts online enrolment**

- ❖ Supreme Court judge Indira Banerjee and Chief Justice of Madras High Court Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani inaugurated online enrolment of advocates with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and online verification of their antecedents through the police.

➤ **Tamil Nadu slips 6 places in health index**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has slipped six places in the health index released by NITI Aayog. The State has registered the largest decline in its ranking, from third in 2015-16 to ninth in 2017-2018.

➤ **Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program**

- ❖ The Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and the World Bank signed here today in New Delhi a \$287 Million Loan Agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program.
- ❖ The Program aims to improve the quality of health care, reduce the burden of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), and fill equity gaps in reproductive and child health services in the State of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu ranks third among all Indian States in the NITI Aayog Health Index which is reflected in vastly improved health outcomes.

➤ **Robert Foote**

- ❖ On May 30, 1863 British geologist Robert Foote discovered Palaeolithic tools at Chennai Pallavaram.
- ❖ Foote donated more than 4,000 artefacts to Government museum, Chennai.

➤ **Third Gender - Multi specialty Hospital**

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai will have a full-fledged wing to attend to the healthcare requirements of persons of the 'third gender'.
- ❖ This is for the first time in the country for a hospital to have separate wing for transgenders.
- ❖ The clinic would attend to the health care needs of the transgender on all days.
- ❖ Ten years ago, for the first-time free sex-change surgery was done on a transgender at the RGGG hospital in May 2009.

➤ **24 Hours shop**

- ❖ The Government has allowed Shops and commercial establishments in Tamil Nadu to operate 24 hours on all seven days.
- ❖ The order has been passed under Section 6 of Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act.
- ❖ The order will extend for a three-year period and is expected to give a boost to the trader's community.

➤ **V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust**

- ❖ VOC Port Trust in Thuthukudi and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed a MoU for facilitating Direct Port Entry (DPE).
- ❖ DPE would enable direct movement of containers from factories to Container Terminal on a 24 * 7 basis without any intermediate handling at Container freight station.
- ❖ VOC Port Trust is the second largest port in Tamilnadu and is located in Gulf of Mannar.

➤ **Avadi Corporation**

- ❖ The Avadi special grade municipality in Tiruvallur district has been upgraded as the 15th Municipal corporation on 18.06.19.
- ❖ This new corporation will have a Mayor, a council, a standing committee, awards committee and a Commissioner.
- ❖ The provisions of the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920, will not be applicable to Avadi anymore.
- ❖ The provisions of the Avadi Corporation will be in line with the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981, since the provisions of the latter have been adopted for Avadi.
- ❖ Other Corporations in Tamilnadu are - Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Salem, Thanjavur, Tirupur, Thoothukudi, Vellore, Nagercoil and Hosur.

➤ **Distinction to Chennai Meteorological Department**

- ❖ Chennai's two meteorological centres in Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam have been recognised as long-term observing stations by the World Meteorological Organisation.
- ❖ They have been chosen among 5 other stations in India that have made weather observations for more than 100 years.
- ❖ It is a recognition for maintaining 100 years of data that could be used as vital records to assess climate variability and understand changes in the climate system.
- ❖ The first meteorological station in the country was established at Chennai in 1792.

➤ **Guidelines to end bonded labour**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has passed an order approving the labour department's proposal for a standard operating procedure to end bonded labour in the state.
- ❖ TN, incidentally, has recorded the fifth highest number of human trafficking cases in the country.

- ❖ The government has come up with a uniform procedure in identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labourers to guide the implementing agencies of the Bonded Labourer System (Abolition) Act and the Central Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers 2016 .

➤ **Green Award 2018**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu state government presented green awards to Collectors, industrial houses and officials who played a key role in protecting the environment.
- ❖ It recognises the excellent contribution towards protection of environment by Industries in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Nilgiris Collector J Innocent Divya, former Collector of Madurai G Veera Raghava Rao and former Collector of Tirunelveli Sandeep Nanduri received the award for 2018.
- ❖ The green awards for industrial houses for efficient pollution prevention and environment protection for 2018:
 - ❖ Adani Marine Infrastructure Developer Private Limited,
 - ❖ Jayavishnu Tex Processors Private Limited and,
 - ❖ Ramco Cements Limited.
- ❖ The green awards for educational institutions were bagged by:
 - ❖ Sri Venkateswara Engineering College in Kancheepuram,
 - ❖ Mepco Schlenk Engineering College,
 - ❖ Ramco Vidyalaya, Virudhunagar district.
- ❖ Green awards for efficiently implementing the State government order on banning throwaway plastics.
- ❖ Food Protection and Drug Control Commissioner-P Amutha,
- ❖ Tirunelveli District Collector-Shilpa Prabhakar Satheesh.

➤ **Water from Jolarpettai**

- ❖ The Southern Railway has begun preparations for bringing 10 million litres of waters per day from Jolarpettai, Vellore district to Chennai.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister has allotted Rs. 65 crores for the project to tide over the water crisis in Chennai.

➤ **Fifth Reservoir**

- ❖ The fifth reservoir for Chennai is being built by linking Kannankottai and Thervoykandigai lakes in Thiruvallur district.
- ❖ Chennai is already supplied by Poondi, Cholavaram, Redhills and Chembarambakkam reservoirs.

➤ **Drought Assessment**

- ❖ WWF's Global Water Stewardship program has done a study on water management initiatives and water scarcity in 400 mega cities around the world.
- ❖ Chennai emerged in top position as the mega city facing the most severe water scarcity and drought.

➤ **Third Desalination Plant**

- ❖ In collaboration with German agency, Tamilnadu government plans to construct a third desalination plant with a capacity of 150 million litre per day (MLD)
- ❖ It will be constructed near the existing desalination plant at Nemmeli in East Coast Road, Kanchipuram district.
- ❖ Partial subsidy will be obtained under the Atal Mission for Urban Rejuvenation and Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- ❖ Two 100 MLD desalination plants already exist at Minjur and Nemmeli.

➤ **Tamizh Maravan**

- ❖ Tamil Maravan (*Cirrochroa thais*) butterfly has been declared as the State Butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This tawny-coloured butterfly with a dark brown outer ring is endemic to the Western Ghats and is one of the 32 butterfly species found in Western Ghats.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has become the 5th state in the country to announce its state butterfly.
- ❖ Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

❖ **Srivilliputhur Andal temple tower**

- o Animal: Niligiri Tahr
- o Bird: Emerald Dove
- o Flower: Flame lily
- o Tree: Palm tree
- o Fruit: Jack fruit
- o Sport: Kabbadi
- o Dance: Bharata natiyam

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

❖ Government develops National Strategic Plan to eradicate TB by 2025

- The government has developed a National Strategic Plan with the goal for ending Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.
- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey said, India accounts for 27.4 lakh estimated new TB cases annually, which is the highest in terms of absolute numbers.
- He said, the estimated cases of TB in the country is 204 per lakh population for the year 2017 as per the last year's Global TB report.
- However, India ranks 35th in the world in terms of TB cases per lakh population. Over 5 lakh 62 thousand patients were cured of TB last year.

❖ Government set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras to double farmers' income by 2022

- The Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community.
- This is aimed at meeting the target of doubling the farmers' income by 2022.
- An inter-ministerial committee for the purpose has recommended the use of digital technology to transform and modernize agricultural activities.
- The technologies include Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics and Block Chain Technology.

❖ India to be most populous by 2027: UN

- India is set to overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050, says a United Nations report.
- Globally, people aged above 65 are the fastest growing age group, putting pressure on social protection systems as the proportion of the working-age population shrinks.

❖ DD India programmes to be available in Bangladesh, South Korea

- Government has decided to show BTV World, a channel owned by Bangladesh TV, on the Doordarshan Free Dish which will be available for the viewers of Doordarshan in our country.
- At the same time, DD India would be made available in Bangladesh for being viewed by the people in that country. An official release said this arrangement is a result of an MoU signed between Prasar Bharati and Bangladesh TV (BTV) on 7th of May.

❖ Integrated Grievance Cell & Call Center of Department of Pensions

- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Integrated Grievance Cell & Call Center for Pensioners set up by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare.

- The Center has been launched for Central Government pensioners at Janpath Bhawan, in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Centre lifts landholding limit, extends PM-KISAN scheme to all farmers**
 - Central Government notified a decision to extend the benefit of Rs.6,000 per year under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to all 14.5 crore farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.
 - The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers and uploading their data on PM-KISAN portal lies entirely with the State Governments.
- ❖ **CPWD to install solar trees in residential complexes of central govt employees**
 - The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has directed its officials to explore the possibility of installing —solar treesll in residential complexes of government employees.
 - The move intends to promote renewable energy and reduce carbon footprint by the CPWD, the prime construction agency of the central government.
 - The concept of —solar treesll was first implemented at the National Salt Satyagraha Memorial built by the CPWD at Dandi in Gujarat.
- ❖ **PM asks target oriented five-year plan document for each Ministry**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked top bureaucrats to prepare a five-year plan document for each Ministry with well-defined targets and a significant impactful decision in each Ministry for which approvals will be taken within 100 days.
 - He also urged secretaries to use technology to improve outcomes and efficiency in each department.
- ❖ **Cyclone VAYU intensifies into very severe cyclonic storm**
 - Cyclone VAYU over East-Central Arabian sea has intensified into a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm. It currently lays centred about 420 kilometres west-northwest of Goa, 320 kilometres south-southwest of Mumbai and 420 kilometres south of Veraval in Gujarat.
 - The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has mobilized 35 teams in Gujarat and four in Diu in coordination with local administration. Rescue teams of State Disaster Response Force, Army, Coast Guard and BSF are also on standby.
- ❖ **Training programme of Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change**
 - The Hyderabad-based National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has launched a training programme of Sustainable Livelihoods and Adaptation to Climate Change (SLACC) to help Rural Poor Farm Holds adapt to Climate Change and sustain their livelihoods.

❖ IBSD opens up their state-of-the-art orchidarium in Shillong

- In Meghalaya, the Institute of Bio-resource and Sustainable Development (IBSD) a national institute of Department of Biotechnology opened up their state-of-the-art orchidarium in their research facility in Upper Shillong.
- One of its kind orchidarium, the first in the country was constructed within a span of three months after the institute was established last year. The orchidarium houses over 20 varieties of orchids which are found in Meghalaya and its neighbouring States.

❖ Food Corporation of India plans to boost storage space

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has commissioned a new roadmap to speed up silo construction to meet its target of 100 lakh tonnes of storage space by 2022.
- With record harvests and high procurement over the last few years, the FCI is sitting on a reserve stock of foodgrains that is almost double the required level, straining capacity and forcing the use of cover and plinth storage which is not entirely weather-proof.

❖ Tripura state government imparts training to rural women on making bamboo based handicrafts

- To make the state economically rich with bamboo-based products, the state government is imparting training to rural women on making bamboo based handicrafts with new designs and polishing.
- Some entrepreneurs have also come up with Startup ventures for widespread marketing of handicraft and handloom products.
- Two engineering graduates Shiba Prasad Ghosh from NIT Warrangle and Shubhajit Chowdhury from NIT Agartala have begun a startup venture, through e-commerce platform, namely, Yongmung Commerce Ltd and their web portal OGOCRAFT.COM.

❖ Voluntary blood donation becomes social movement

- In Mizoram, voluntary blood donation has become a social movement. In this movement, youths are playing a key role.
- The number of enthusiastic youths towards voluntary blood donation is getting increased year after year. So far, 85 percent of state demands of blood units have been met through voluntary donations in 2018- 19. The Church and NGOs along with government blood transfusion cells are playing a big role in motivating youths towards blood donations.

❖ Extension of President's rule in J&K for another six months

- The Cabinet has approved extension of President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for six months with effect from 3rd of next month.
- The present term of President's rule is expiring on 2nd July and the Governor has recommended that the President's rule in the state may be extended for a further period of six months. The extension has been approved based on the prevailing situation in the state .

❖ Main event of International Yoga Day celebrations to be held in Ranchi

- The main event of International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations will be held at Prabhat Tara in Ranchi on 21st of this month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main function.
- Jharkhand government has planned to celebrate the day in grand manner by organising a week-long programme starting June 15.

❖ Manipur man detects WhatsApp bug, enters FB „Hall of Fame“

- Facebook has honoured a Manipuri man for discovering a WhatsApp bug that violated the privacy of a user.
- Zonel Sougaijam, a 22-year-old civil engineer, said that the social media giant awarded \$5000 to him and also included him in the ‘Facebook Hall of Fame 2019’, for detecting the WhatsApp bug.
- Mr. Sougaijam’s name is currently at the 16th position in a list of 94 people, in the ‘Facebook Hall of Fame’ for this year.

❖ Green Mizoram Day celebrated throughout the state

- In Mizoram, Green Mizoram Day was celebrated throughout the state today with distribution and planting trees and taking pledge to work for green environment and maintaining ecological balance.
- The state has been celebrating the day for the last 20 years.

❖ J&K approves 2nd phase of comprehensive plan for flood management work on Jhelum

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved the second phase of a comprehensive plan for flood management work on the Jhelum river at a cost of over 5,400 crore rupees.
- This multi-pronged strategy was adopted for flood mitigation in Kashmir Valley following the devastating floods of September 2014 and on the recommendations of a high-level committee, constituted by the Centre

❖ Dzükou Valley becomes Plastic Free Zone

- In Nagaland, the scenic Dzükou Valley has become Plastic Free Zone on the occasion of World Environment Day.
- The much-appreciated initiative on declaring this scenic valley as a ‘plastic-free zone’ was taken by Southern Angami Youth Organisation (SAYO) in accordance with its pledge to conserve and protect the environment.

❖ NDMA to conduct Multi-State Earthquake Mock Exercise in Delhi

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the State Governments will conduct a Mock Exercise on earthquake preparedness on June 28, 2019.
- The exercise aims to improve preparedness and response mechanisms of the local administration in the event of an earthquake. It will cover Delhi (all 11 districts), Haryana (4 districts - Jhajjar, Faridabad, Gurugram and Sonapat) and Uttar Pradesh (3 districts - Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ghaziabad and Meerut).

❖ J&K Government to open 18 AMRIT stores

- Jammu and Kashmir Government is planning to open 18 AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) stores in all the Medical colleges' Hospitals and prominently associated hospitals of the State. The purpose of the initiative is to provide quality and affordable medicines to the end users.
- AMRIT pharmacies, operating under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, offer more than 5200 drugs, implants, surgical disposables and other consumables at average discounts up to 60% of the maximum retail price. In the previous year, 118.52 lakh people in country availed its services at a lesser price than its MRP.

❖ Vaishno Devi shrine to get dedicated in-house disaster response force

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Mata Vaishno Devi shrine will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September next year.
- The shrine board is planning to train 180 employees by September next year to prepare a dedicated disaster response force for the shrine.
- The shrine board is also planning to set up an emergency operation centre as part of its disaster preparedness.
- Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is a religious pilgrimage atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu region that attracted 86 lakh pilgrims from across the world last year.

❖ Centre to provide CNG, PNG infrastructure in 406 districts

- The Centre has chalked out a plan to provide CNG and PNG infrastructure in 406 districts of the country.
- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, till 2014, only 66 districts of the country were covered under Compressed Natural Gas and Piped Natural Gas infrastructure.
- He said that after expanding this facilities, 70 per cent of the population will get clean energy.

❖ Government to launch Universal Smart Card Driving License

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to laminated card without chip or smart card type driving licences..
- The Ministry has prescribed a common standard format and design of the Driving Licence for whole of the country which includes the placement of information, standardization of fonts etc.

❖ Government moving towards One Nation One Ration Card

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said, the government is moving towards One Nation One Ration Card. He said the national portability of Ration cards will ensure all beneficiaries especially the migrants in getting access to Public Distribution System (PDS) across the nation.

❖ WAPCOS celebrates Golden Jubilee

- WAPCOS, which was incorporated as Public Sector Enterprise in 1969 by the Government of India celebrated its Golden Jubilee at Siri Fort, New Delhi. In commemoration of this historic occasion, the Company organized Golden Jubilee Celebrations with a theme titled —Transcending Boundaries- Touching LivesII.
- WAPCOS is a leading technology driven consultancy and EPC organization with strong global presence in the fields of Water, Power and Infrastructure Sectors. WAPCOS has successfully completed/on-going consultancy assignments in countries covering Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America and Pacific Island and is operating in more than 47 Countries, at present.

❖ Singhey Khababs Sindhu Festivals

- In the Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir, Singhey Khababs Sindhu Festivals is being celebrated on the bank of Indus River in Leh. Governor Sayta Pal Malik inaugurated the festival.
- The main attraction of the festival is local Folk songs and dances, exhibitions of handicrafts, and ethnic food items.

❖ Bihar cabinet sanctions Rs 384 cr for old age pension scheme

- In Bihar, the cabinet has sanctioned 384 crore rupees for payment of pension under the Chief Minister Old Age Pension Scheme for the financial year 2019-20.
- Those who are in the age group of 60-79 will get 400 rupees per month while those above 80 will get 500 rupees per month as pension under the scheme.

❖ Gujarat govt to increases DA of employees and pensioners by 3%

- Gujarat government has decided to increase the Dearness Allowance (DA) of its over nine lakh employees and pensioners by three per cent.
- Now, the employees and pensioners will get a total 12 percent dearness allowance from the existing 9 per cent with retrospective effect from the 1st of January this year.

❖ National Communal Harmony Awards

- Nominations for the National Communal Harmony Awards-2019 are being invited from eligible individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution for promotion of communal harmony and national integration. The National Communal Harmony Awards have been instituted by the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

❖ Sahitya Akademi announces Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar 2019

- Sahitya Akademi has selected 22 writers for the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019.

- For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (i.e. between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2017).
- However, during the initial ten years i.e. from 2010 to 2019, the award may also be given to an author based on his/her total contribution to Children Literature.
- ❖ **Awards for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion & Development of Yoga 2019**
 - Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga - 2019 has been announced. Ayush Ministry in a release said, Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan are the recipients of the Award.
 - The award is given for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga.
- ❖ **Second Term - Narendra Modi**
 - Narendra Modi was sworn in as 15th Prime Minister for a second consecutive five-year term on May 30th.
 - The portfolios allocation of Union Council of Minister includes 24 Cabinet ministers, 9 Minister of State with Independent charge and 24 Minister of State.

	Cabinet Minister	Department		Cabinet Minister	Department
1	Rajnath Singh	Defence.	15	Dr. Harsh Vardhan	Health and Family
2	Amit Shah	Home Affairs.			Science and Technology;
3	Nitin Jairam	Road Transport and Highways; and			Earth Sciences.
4	D.V. Sadananda	Chemicals and Fertilizers.	16	Shri Prakash Javadekar	Environment, Forest and
5	Smt. Nirmala	Finance; and Corporate Affairs.			Information and
6	Shri Ramvilas	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public	17	Shri Piyush Goyal	Railways; and
7	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare;			Commerce and Industry.
		Rural Development; and	18	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum and Natural
		Panchayati Raj.			Steel.
8	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law and Justice;	19	Shri Mukhtar Abbas	Minority Affairs.
		Communications; and	20	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Parliamentary Affairs;
		Electronics and Information			Coal; and
9	Smt. Harsimrat	Food Processing Industries.			Mines.
10	Shri Thaawar	Social Justice and Empowerment.	21	Dr. Mahendra Nath	Skill Development and
11	Dr. Subrahmanyam	External Affairs.	22	Shri Arvind Ganpat	Heavy Industries and
12	Shri Ramesh	Human Resource Development.	23	Shri Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry,
13	Shri Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs.	24	Shri Gajendra Singh	Jal Shakti.
14	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Women and Child Development; Textiles.			

	Person	Ministers of State (Independent Charge) in Ministry of
1	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Labour and Employment.
2	Rao Inderjit Singh	Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Planning
3	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	AYUSH); Defence
4	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Development of North Eastern Region; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space.
5	Shri Kiren Rijiju	Youth Affairs and Sports; Minority Affairs
6	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Culture; Tourism
7	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Power; New and Renewable Energy; and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
8	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Housing and Urban Affairs; Civil Aviation; and
9	Shri Mansukh L. Mandav	Shipping; Chemicals and Fertilizers.

International MoUs and Agreements

S.No	India with ____country	Field	Country Details
1	India and World Bank	The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank, signed a \$147 Million Loan Agreement to provide basic urban services to the people of Jharkhand and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the State.	President - Jim Yong Kim
2	Indian Railway and French National Railways	AFD a French agency, has agreed to provide in-kind grant financing up to 7,00,000 EURO, through French National Railways (SNCF)-Hubs and Connexions as a Technical Partner to IRSDC to support the Railway Station Development Program in India. This will impose no financial liability on IRSDC or Indian Railways.	President - Emmanuel Macron
3	India and Kyrgyzstan	The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Collaboration, MoC between India and Kyrgyzstan for collaborative research work on High Altitude	President -Sooronbay Jeenbekov

		Biology and Medicine. The MoC will help in understanding the physical and mental picture of soldiers at high altitude and mitigate the related maladies by using Yoga practice, herbals and neutraceuticals.	
4	India and Bolivia	The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between India and Bolivia on cooperation regarding Bioceanic Railway Integration Corridor Project. The MoU will facilitate exchange of information, expert meetings, seminars, technical visits and implementation of jointly agreed cooperation projects.	President - Evo Morales
5	India and Thailand	The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between India and Thailand in the field of Astronomy / Astrophysics / Atmospheric Science. The MoU will lead to new scientific	Monarch - Maha Vajiralongkorn

results, human
resource development
through increased
scientific interaction
and training, joint use
of scientific
infrastructure etc.

NATIONAL AGREEMENTS

❖ **MoA signed to set up Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology**

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and IIT, Kharagpur for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology. The Centre will focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing.

❖ **MoU between The North Eastern Council (NEC) and the National Productivity Council (NPC)**

- The North Eastern Council (NEC) and the National Productivity Council (NPC) have agreed on a tie-up venture in the area of capacity building and evaluation of projects.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to train officials in the area of project implementation and management including third-party evaluation of projects, energy auditing, and digitization for smart governance .

❖ **4 Plastic Parks approved for implementation in Phase-I**

- Shri Gowda stated that in phase-I of the scheme, four Plastic parks in the States of Assam (Tinsukia), Madhya Pradesh (Raisen), Odisha (Jagatsinghpur) & Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur) are approved for implementation till 2019-20.

❖ **NSIC signs MoU with Common Service Centres– eGovernance Services India**

- The National Small Industries Corporation signed an MoU with Common Service Centres (CSC) e-Governance Services India in New Delhi, for enhancing new offerings for the MSME sector by synergizing each others' competence.
- This MoU will have special focus on providing services to village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) and would lead to exponential growth of Village Entrepreneurs in the country. The MoU will also enable CSCs to utilize plethora of NSIC offerings through the NSIC portal www.msmemart.com .

❖ **Punjab to prepare water management plan with Israel**

- Punjab Minister Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria met a team of experts from Israel in Chandigarh to prepare a comprehensive water management master plan for the state.

- Earlier, the Israeli team visited various parts of the state to assess the present situation and the challenges in the water sector in the State.
- The National Water company of Israel M/s Mekorot and Punjab Government had signed an agreement in April 2019 after the visit of Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh to Israel in October 2018.

- ❖ **Shri RK Singh approves Dispute Resolution Mechanism for solar/wind sector**
- In a major decision to facilitate the solar and wind energy projects, Shri RK Singh, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has approved a proposal to set up a Dispute Resolution Committee to consider the unforeseen disputes between solar/wind power developers and SECI/NTPC, beyond contractual agreement

- ❖ **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approves Cancer Institute at GMC Jammu**
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has formally approved 120 crore rupee Cancer Institute at Government Medical College, Jammu for strengthening the tertiary level cancer services in the State.

- ❖ **V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin inks MoU with Central Warehousing Corporation**
- The V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for facilitating Direct Port Entry (DPE) of e-sealed factory stuffed export container to the port under 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- The Direct Port Entry (DPE) facility would enable direct movement of containers from factories without intermediate handling requirement at any Container Freight Station on 24*7 basis.

- ❖ **Cabinet approves the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 by replacing the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Second Ordinance, 2019 (Ord.4 of 2019).
- The Bill would ensure gender equality and gender justice to Muslim women. The Bill would also help in protecting the rights of married Muslim women and prevent divorce by practice of 'talaq-e-biddat' by their husbands.

- ❖ **Cabinet approves the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved to introduce a Bill, namely, the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, 2019 that is the Bill to replace the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 (12 of 2019).
- After the amendment of sub-section (v) of section 2 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, a trust or any entity notified by the Central Government will be eligible to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in Special Economic Zones.

❖ Centre approves setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam

- The Centre has approved setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam. The CEO of e-FT Mission Anand Prakash Tiwari said that the proposed integrated e-FT IT system will be implemented across the state for effective monitoring and resolution of cases registered with Foreigner Tribunal.
- The main objective of the project is to maintain a statewide bio-metric and biographic data, to capture the illegal migrants' data to computerize data flow for all the stakeholders. It will also help in the legalization of eligible beneficiaries for welfare schemes.

❖ DGT, Cisco and Accenture sign MoU

- Directorate General of Training under the aegis of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry has joined hands with Cisco and Accenture to skill the youth for the digital economy through its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- Nearly 15 lakh students across all the ITIs in India can access the digital learning module via the Bharat Skills portal. This programme will equip students enrolled in ITIs across India with skills for the digital economy over the next two years.

❖ India signs USD 400M loan agreement with World Bank to eliminate TB

- India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.
- In India, around five lakh people died every year due to Tuberculosis. Finance Ministry said the World Bank supported program will cover nine States and it will support the government's National Strategic Plan to end TB in India by 2025

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

❖ India, Australia, Japan, US call for an open Indo-Pacific region

- Senior officials of India, US, Japan and Australia met in Bangkok to hold consultations on their collective efforts for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and reaffirmed their shared commitment to preserving and promoting the rules-based order in the region.
- China claims almost all of the South China Sea whereas Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have also counter claims over it.

❖ US withdraws special tax exemption to Pakistani diplomats

- The United States has withdrawn its special tax exemption to Pakistani diplomats. This move comes over a year after the Trump administration imposed travel restrictions on them.
- The Diplomatic Tax Exemption programme is usually granted to foreign diplomats and consulars. It provides sales and use, food, utility and other tax exemptions to eligible foreign officials on assignment in the US.
- Tax exemption privileges are generally based on two international treaties: The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

❖ BIMSTEC Day celebrated in Dhaka

- Members of the 7 countries regional grouping Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated the BIMSTEC Day in Dhaka.

❖ Tanzania latest African nation to ban plastic bags

- A plastic bag ban comes into force in Tanzania as Africa leads efforts to stem the tide of plastic pollution. Tanzania is banning the importation, production, sale and use of plastic bags.
- It becomes the 34th African country to implement such restrictions, according to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). Globally, 127 countries have some sort of plastic bag legislation. 91 of these include a ban or restriction on manufacturing, importation and retail distribution, according to the UNEP.

❖ Council of Europe restores Russia's voting rights

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has voted in favour of restoring Russia's voting rights, five years after they were revoked over its illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.
- Despite strong opposition from Ukraine, the assembly voted 118 in favour and 62 against, with 10 abstentions. The move paves the way for Russia to participate in the election of a new secretary general for the pan-European rights body.

❖ South Korea, UK agree to sign free trade deal ahead of Brexit

- South Korea and Britain have agreed in principle to sign a separate free trade deal ahead of Britain's exit from the European Union in late October. The deal includes keeping zero-tariffs on South Korean exports such as auto parts and automobiles.
- As of 2018, South Korean exports to Britain amounted to about \$6.4 billion in 2018, making up 1.05% of the country's total exports.

❖ Women peacekeepers team from India assumes duties in UN mission in Congo

- A team of women peacekeepers from India has assumed duties in the UN mission in Congo with a focus on working with women and children worst affected by conflict.
- The Female Engagement Team from India, comprising nearly 20 women peacekeepers began its deployment with the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission Democratic Republic of Congo also known as MONUSCO which is considered one of the most challenging peacekeeping missions under the UN flag.

❖ UAE launches UN-developed anti-money laundering platform

- The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes.
- The UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit launched the new anti-money laundering platform 'goAML', which has been open for registration since May. This was announced by officials of UAE Central Bank in Abu Dhabi.

❖ Sri Lanka to hold election later this year

- The presidential elections in Sri Lanka would be held between November 15 and December 7. According to the constitutional provisions, the polls must be held one month before the end of the current President's term.

❖ 55 Asia-Pacific countries unanimously back India's bid for non-permanent seat at UNSC

- Fifty-five countries of the Asia-Pacific group at the United Nations unanimously endorsed India's candidature for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for a two-year term in 2021-2022.
- Until now, India has been a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for seven terms: 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and most recently in 2011–2012 under the leadership of former Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri.

❖ Campaign "Zero Chance"

- The Australian government is launching a campaign 'Zero Chance' to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats.
- Those who wish to enter the country must apply through refugees resettlement programmes, and Australia works with the UNHCR to identify those people.

❖ India-Pakistan clash over Nizam of Hyderabad funds in UK

- A decades-old legal dispute between India and Pakistan over around 35 million pounds belonging to the Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition in 1947 and deposited in a London bank account has reached an important stage in the UK High Court.

❖ First Bangladesh International Theatre Festival being held in Dhaka

- The first international theatre festival of Bangladesh is being held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka.
- It was inaugurated by the Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid. The festival is being organised at the initiative of the Culture Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh. Theatre troupes from India, Bangladesh, Russia, China, France, Vietnam and Nepal are participating in the festival.

❖ FATF warns Pak to complete action plan on terror financing by October 2019

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has said that Pakistan failed to complete its action plan on terror financing.
- The FATF strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan by October 2019 or face consequences. FATF is responsible for issuing international standards, policies and best practices to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation.

❖ US unveils 50 Billion Dollar Economic Plan for Palestine

- United States today unveiled a 50 billion dollar global investment plan for the Palestinians under the Middle East peace plan.
- The scheme, which calls for a mix of public and private financing and intends to create at least a million new jobs for Palestinians, was posted to the White House website ahead of a two-day conference in Bahrain. The plan calls for projects 27.5 billion dollars in the West Bank and Gaza, and 9.1 billion dollars for Palestinians in Egypt, 7.4 billion dollar Palestinians in Jordan and 6.3 billion dollars for Palestinians in Lebanon.

❖ Voluntary Euthanasia becomes legal in Australian state

- Victoria has become the first state in Australia to enact Euthanasia laws that would now allow terminally ill patients suffering from intolerable pain to legally ask their doctor for lethal drugs to end their lives.

❖ Awami League of Bangladesh celebrated 70th foundation day

- The ruling Awami League of Bangladesh celebrated its 70th founding day on June 23. Prime Minister and President of the Awami League of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has greeted the countrymen on this occasion.
- Awami League was founded on June 23, 1949 in Dhaka of the then East Pakistan. It led a number of major movements such as the Language Movement in 1952, anti- Ayub movement in 1962 and mass surge in 1969.

❖ Saudi launches residency scheme to boost revenue

- Saudi Arabia launched a new special residency scheme aimed at luring wealthy expats as the petro-state seeks to boost non-oil revenue.
- The scheme offers a permanent residency for 800,000 riyals (\$213,000) and a one-year renewable residency costing 100,000 riyals (\$27,000), according to the online portal for registrations. The scheme will allow expats to do business without a Saudi sponsor, buy property and sponsor visas for relatives.

❖ China's largest ever Picasso exhibition

- The largest Picasso exhibition ever held in China opens, featuring more than 100 works, many of them from the artist's early years.
- Featured works include paintings, sculptures and drawings, and are accompanied by photos of the young Pablo in Barcelona and Paris. The first Picasso exhibition in China was held in 1983. This year's exhibition, which runs until September 1 at the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, focuses on the artist's first 30 years.

❖ Palau changes ocean sanctuary plan to allow Japan fishing

- The Pacific nation of Palau has amended plans to create a huge marine reserve so Japanese fishing boats still have partial access to its waters.
- Fish stocks are overexploited around the world, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation warned this year, and Palau has long been regarded as a pioneer in ocean conservation.
- The island nation will close 80 per cent of its exclusive economic zone — a 500,000 square kilometre (193,000 square mile) area, roughly the size of Spain — to commercial fishing from next year.

❖ Programmes being organised to celebrate 5th International Day of Yoga in Nepal

- In Nepal, many programmes are being organised to celebrate the 5th International Day of Yoga. Embassy of India in Kathmandu organised a programme on Yoga Day.
- Yoga students from Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Kathmandu, Patanjali Yoga Peeth, Nepal Yoga Home and Himalayan Yoga Academy performed various Yoga Asanas

❖ US approves deployment of 1,000 additional troops in West Asia

- The US has approved the deployment of 1,000 additional troops in West Asia for defensive purposes amidst tensions with Iran.
- The acting US Defence Secretary Patrick Shanahan said the deployment is being done to ensure the safety and welfare of US military personnel working throughout the region and to protect America's national interests.

❖ Ranjit Singh's sculpture was unveiled in Lahore

- Maharaja Ranjit Singh's sculpture was unveiled in Lahore to mark his 180th death anniversary.

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- Around 500 people crossed the Wagah border to attend the unveiling event. The main ceremony will take place at Gurdwara Dera Sahib. The sculpture is the result of collaboration between Fakir Khana Museum and Sarkar Khalsa Foundation.

 - ❖ **Bangladesh emerged as fastest growing economy among 45 countries of Asia-Pacific region**
 - Bangladesh has emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region according to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
 - In the financial year 2018-19 Bangladesh attained growth rate of 7.9 % which is its fastest rate since 1974. The bank predicted that the growth will be 8% in the next financial year.

 - ❖ **First Bangladesh International Theatre Festival being held in Dhaka**
 - The first international theatre festival of Bangladesh is being held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka.
 - It was inaugurated by the Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid.
 - The festival is being organised at the initiative of the Culture Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh. Theatre troupes from India, Bangladesh, Russia, China, France, Vietnam and Nepal are participating in the festival.

 - ❖ **Mexico ratifies US-Mexico-Canada agreement**
 - Mexico has ratified the US-Mexico-Canada agreement. This makes it the first country to give the new North American trade deal final approval despite recent tensions with the US. The Mexican government called the deal's passage a clear message in favor of an open economy and deepening economic integration in the region.
 - President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador claimed the deal would bring in more foreign investment and jobs in Mexico, and access to the US market. The deal aims to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which helped turn Mexico into an exporting powerhouse over the past 25 years.

 - ❖ **FATF warns Pak to complete action plan on terror financing by October 2019**
 - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has said that Pakistan failed to complete its action plan on terror financing. The FATF strongly urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan by October 2019 or face consequences.
 - FATF is responsible for issuing international standards, policies and best practices to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation.

 - ❖ **UAE Cabinet adopts "National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031"**
 - The UAE Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi. One of the most important initiatives is the development of the first 'National Wellbeing Observatory' to support the policymaking process.

- It also aims to promote an integrated concept of wellbeing, thus supporting the vision of the UAE Vision 2021 and the UAE Centennial 2071. The Strategy is based on a national framework of three main levels - individuals, society and the country.
- ❖ **Canada to ban single use plastics from 2021**
 - Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021. Single-use items represent some 70 percent of the plastic waste littering the marine environment.
 - Canada, France, Germany, Britain and Italy, along with the European Union, subscribed at last year's G7 summit in Quebec to a new charter against pollution in the world's oceans. The United States and Japan did not join the pact.
- ❖ **China launches Internet „clean-up“ campaign**
 - China has launched a campaign to clean up its Internet, state media said. Authorities have, in recent days, blocked more foreign media websites and shut down domestic accounts on social media.
 - The campaign will punish and expose websites for —illegal and criminal actionsll, failing to —fulfil their obligationll to take safety measures or the theft of personal information. The campaign follows a series of shutdowns and blockages of certain websites and social media accounts.
- ❖ **Algeria's Constitutional Council cancels presidential elections**
 - Algeria's Constitutional Council has extended interim President Abdelkader Bensalah's powers. The presidential elections scheduled next month have been cancelled by the Constitutional Council.
 - The Council said that a presidential election would not be held because it had rejected the only two candidates' documents who had applied to run for the elections.
- ❖ **US imposes major new restrictions on travel to Cuba**
 - The US has imposed major new travel restrictions on its citizens visiting Cuba, banning cruise ships and ending a heavily used form of educational travel as it seeks to further isolate the communist government.
 - The Treasury Department has announced that the US will no longer allow cruises to Cuba or the group educational and cultural trips known as "people to people" travel to the island. Along with the cruise ships, the US will also now ban most private planes and boats from stopping the island.
- ❖ **ICA issues first UAE Permanent Residency 'Golden Card' in Abu Dhabi**
 - UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in Abu Dhabi, as part of the Investors Permanent Residence System aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.

❖ Russia launches first Arctic train service

- In Russia, the first tourist train traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway, set off from St. Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.
- The train, named "Zarengold" ("The Tsar's gold" in German) complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through Petrozavodsk, the historic town of Kem and Murmansk.

❖ UK Foreign Office Board gets first Indian-origin member

- Kumar Iyer has been appointed by the UK government as the Chief Economist of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), making him the first Indian-origin member of the department's management board.

❖ Russia prepared to drop nuclear weapons agreement treaty with US: Putin

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia was prepared to drop a nuclear weapons agreement treaty with the US. He said Washington showed no genuine interest in conducting talks on extending the New START treaty which caps the number of nuclear warheads well below Cold War limits.
- The treaty was signed by US President Barack Obama and Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Prague in 2010. It expires in 2021.

❖ 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace' organised in Saudi Arabia

- To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy in Saudi organized 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace' in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.

❖ US deploys F-22 stealth fighters to Qatar for 1st time

- The United States has deployed F-22 stealth fighters to Qatar for the first time. The announcement adds to a buildup of US forces in the Gulf amid tensions with Iran. The US Air Forces Central Military Command stated that the Air Force F-22 Raptor stealth fighters have been deployed to defend American forces and interests. The number of hi-tech planes sent was not specified.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

❖ Bitcoin use causing huge CO2 emissions

- The use of Bitcoin, a popular virtual currency emits over 22 megatonnes of carbon dioxide annually, comparable to the total emissions of cities such as Las Vegas and Vienna, a study has found.
- Researchers from Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany carried out a detailed calculation of the carbon footprint of the Bitcoin system. Bitcoin mining has increased rapidly in recent years, raising the question of whether it is imposing an additional burden on the climate.

❖ Scientists create a global map of where groundwater meets oceans

- Scientists have created high-resolution maps of points around the globe where groundwater meets the oceans and the first such analysis of its kind that may help protect both drinking water and the seas.
- In a study published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, researchers from The Ohio State University in the U.S. showed that nearly one-half of fresh submarine groundwater discharge flows into the ocean near the tropics. The findings may help coastal communities better protect and manage their drinking water.

❖ International Space Station to be open to tourists from next year

- U.S. space agency NASA said on Friday that it would open up the International Space Station to business ventures including space tourism.
- There will be up to two short private astronaut missions per year. The missions will be for stays of up to 30 days. As many as a dozen private astronauts could visit the ISS per year according to NASA.

❖ NCRA to host International Pulsar Timing Array meet

- The city-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune is all set to host the five-day annual International Pulsar Timing Array (IPTA) meet from June 17 to 21.
- The meet is a collaboration of radio astronomers from a dozen countries across the globe. India has been an associate member of the IPTA since the last four years. But this is the first time that India is hosting the annual meeting.
- The IPTA is a collaboration of radio astronomers from a dozen countries across the globe. It uses more than 12 radio telescopes all over the world with an aim to detect ultra-low frequency gravitational waves.
- More than 40 expert international astronomers and 30 international students are expected to participate in the event, besides several Indian participants.

❖ Einstein's relativity document gifted to Nobel museum

- The Nobel Museum in Stockholm has been gifted Albert Einstein's first paper published after he received the Nobel Prize in 1922 and discussing his then still controversial relativity theory.
- The paper, written in November 1922 while Einstein was attending conferences in south-east Asia, was published a month later by the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

❖ BS-VI norms released for two-wheelers

- Bharat Stage-VI (BS - VI) norms for two-wheelers have been released. The Director, International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) Dinesh Tyagi released India's first Type Approval Certificate for (BS - VI) norms in New Delhi.
- In order to curb air pollution through the vehicular emissions, the government has decided to implement the BS VI norms with effect from 1st April 2020.

❖ DRDO launches Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched a Technology Demonstrator Vehicle to prove a number of critical technologies for futuristic missions from Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. Various radars, telemetry stations and electro optical tracking sensors tracked the vehicle through its course.
- The data has been collected and will be analysed to validate the critical technologies.

❖ 20 new species of Balsam in Eastern Himalayas

- 23 new species of group of plants commonly known as Balsams or jewel-weeds discovered 23 new species from the eastern Himalayas.
- Consisting of both annual and perennial herbs, balsams are succulent plants with high endemism. Because of their bright beautiful flowers, these group of plants are of prized horticultural significance.

❖ Ai-Da, the robot

- Ai-Da is the brainchild of Aidan Meller, who claims she is the world's first ultra-realistic humanoid artist, able to draw creatively thanks to in-built artificial intelligence (AI) technology.
- The humanoid uses artificial intelligence to make images that have been sold for over £1 million.

❖ ISRO for 1st time opens its laboratories for Indian school students

- The Indian Space Research Organization ISRO has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year.
- The first batch of 108 students drawn from all states and Union Territories recently completed their exposure in its laboratories in Bengaluru, Sriharikota, Thiruvananthapuram and other places.
- The training module has been devised as part of its new Young Scientists Programme, or Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram, YUVIKA.

❖ ISRO to launch Chandrayaan-2 between July 9-16

- The Indian Space Research Organisation has found a suitable window to launch India's second spacecraft to the moon, 'Chandrayaan-2' between July 9 and July 16 with an expected soft landing on the moon on September 6.
- ISRO sources have confirmed that GSLV Mark-III will launch Chandrayaan-2 from Sriharikota during the favoured window time. ISRO has said that all three modules of the moon mission, Orbiter, Lander-Vikram and Rover-Pragyan are ready.

❖ Lander and rover meant for Chandrayaan-2 reaches ISRO's launch pad at Sriharikota

- The lander and rover meant for India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 reached the ISRO's launch pad at Sriharikota. The rover called Pragyan is installed within the lander known as Vikram.
- Chandrayaan-2 will be launched aboard India's most powerful booster GSLV-Mark-3 tentatively early in the morning on July 15th with the aim of making the lander to soft-land on the South Pole of the moon by September 6th. India would be the fourth country to have its probe soft-land on the moon.

❖ China launches its first sea-based space rocket

- China launched a space rocket from sea for the first time. A Long March 11 rocket was launched from a ship in the Yellow Sea.
- China now spends more than Russia and Japan on its civil and military space programmes — unveiling ambitious plans for missions to the moon and beyond in the coming decade.

❖ ISRO to launch India's own space station

- India is planning to launch its own space station. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, ISRO chief K Sivan said, the ambitious project which will enable the agency to send more humans to space when executed.
- He said, India will not join the International Space Station and the mission will also be an extension of the Gaganyaan project implying that there will be several phases to the human space mission project. The weight of the space station is likely to be 20 tonnes. A space station is a spacecraft capable of supporting crew members, designed to remain in space for an extended period of time and for other spacecraft to dock.

❖ NASA to open sealed moon rock samples

- The restricted lab of NASA is home to hundreds of kilos of moon rocks collected by Apollo astronauts close to a half-century ago.
- And for the first time in decades, NASA is about to open some of the pristine samples and let geologists take a crack at them with new technology.

❖ NASA's PUNCH mission

- NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun. This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona.
- Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission. PUNCH, which stands for —Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere, is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

❖ AYUSH Ministry launches App to locate yoga centres, instructors

- AYUSH Ministry has launched a mobile application to enable people to locate yoga events and centres providing training and instructors. The app 'yoga locator' is a map-based location app which will also enable yoga instructors to register themselves and reach out to a large number of people.

❖ Assam State Transport Corporation's Chalo app

- Assam Transport Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary launched the State Transport Corporation's Chalo app for Guwahati.
- The app will help commuters to know about the live arrival time of their bus so they can plan their travel accordingly. People can also track the live GPS position of their bus on a map. It will also ensure safe travel with features such as Emergency SOS.

❖ Goa government to launch digital agriculture platform „Agricloud

- The Goa government will soon launch 'Agricloud', a digital platform for agriculture management and tracking of farm subsidies.
- 'Agricloud' is a three-way interface that will allow the agriculture ministry to register farmers and track subsidies and inputs to them, while helping cultivators to get information on official advisories, weather, market prices among other things. 'Agricloud' will create an e-commerce platform allowing farmers to sell directly to customers.

❖ E-Governance Initiatives for ST Welfare Schemes

- Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the —e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed online portals namely DBT Tribal (<https://dbttribal.gov.in/>) and NGO Grants Online Application & Tracking System (<https://ngograntsmota.gov.in/>) for bringing in greater e-Governance in implementation of welfare schemes for STs.

❖ SARATHI application

- This Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through its flagship application called SARATHI (for Driving License) developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre) have a common countrywide database of all driving license holders.
- Almost 15 crore driving license records are available in its central repository (National Registry). The SARATHI application has the feature to identify duplicate records in real time online basis and access information about the challans if any, which facilitates the licencing authority that delinquent drivers do not get a duplicate driving licence.

❖ HPFS Mobile App

- Union Minister of Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched an online portal <http://haj.nic.in/pto/> and a mobile App (HPFS) for the better organisation and experience of all Indian pilgrims.
- The quota for Indians to perform Haj has increased from 1,32,000 pilgrims to two lakh pilgrims in the last five years.

❖ Complaint Management System (CMS) application

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched the Complaint Management System (CMS) is a software application. This application is for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.
- Mr Das said application also improves transparency by keeping the complainants informed through auto-generated acknowledgements and enabling them to track the status of their complaints and file appeals online against the decisions of the Ombudsmen, where applicable.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

❖ Admiral Karambir Singh – 24th Navy Chief

- Admiral Karambir Singh took charge as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) from Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.
- The tenure of a Service Chief is three years or 62 years of age, whichever is earlier.

❖ Hawk Eye – Lt. Mohana Singh

- Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.
- She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal.
- A week back, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became fully operational by day on MiG-21 Bison.

❖ Joan Miro Prize 2019

- Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the 7th Joan Miro Prize for 2019.
- She became the first Indian artist to win this most prestigious contemporary art awards in the World.
- This prize was given by the Barcelona-based Fundacio Joan Miro.
- She was awarded for her impressive body of work that gave a voice to "the silenced and the dispossessed all over the world, most particularly women".
- It recognises present-day work by artists who show the same spirit of exploration, innovation, commitment and freedom that characterised Spanish painter and sculptor Joan Miro's life and work.

❖ Highest Civilian Award of Mexico for foreigners

- The Former President of India Pratibha Patil has been conferred "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners.
- She is the second Indian President after S. Radhakrishnan to receive this honour.
- Patil was India's first women President (2007-2012).

❖ National Security Advisor

- The government reappointed retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser (NSA).
- He has been accorded the Cabinet rank.
- He becomes the first NSA to get Cabinet status in the table of precedence.
- The NSA's post was first created in 1998 when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister.
- Brajesh Misra, an Indian Foreign Service Officer, was the first NSA of India.
- Ajit Doval is a 1968-batch IPS officer who retired as Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) in 2005.

❖ Global Leadership Award

- Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and NASDAQ president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019 by USIBC.
- This award recognises top corporate executives from the United States and India whose companies play a major role in promoting growth in business and commerce between the two countries.
- US-India Business Council (USIBC) is a Washington-based business advocacy group which awards them.
- The award is given annually since 2007.

❖ Yoga Awards

- The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted the Antarrashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman Awards.
- This award aims to encourage the media to help propagate yoga during the run-up to International Yoga Day on June 21.
- In total 33 awards will be given out, 11 each in the three main formats - print, radio and television.
- Media houses working in all the 22 eighth schedule languages and English will be eligible for consideration of the awards.

❖ UN Equator Prize

- The women sangams (groups) of the Deccan Development Society of the Telangana state have bagged the United Nation's Equator Prize for 2019.
- These women farmers have been building their own seed banks and growing millets in the predominantly rain-fed villages of Sangareddy district.
- They were awarded as an outstanding example of a local, nature-based solution to climate change and sustainable development.

❖ About the Prize

- The Equator Prize is organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme.
- It is awarded biennially to give global recognition to community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

❖ Women's Prize for Fiction

- American author Tayari Jones has won the Women's Prize for Fiction for her book, "An American Marriage".
- The book portrays a young African American's wrongful conviction and how it affects his marriage.
- Last year's Booker prize winner "Milkman" by Anna Burns and former Booker winner Pat Barker's new novel, "The Silence of the Girls", were also shortlisted for the women's award.

❖ Women's Prize for Fiction

- The prize was set up in 1996 to celebrate and promote international fiction by women throughout the world to the widest range of readers possible.
- It is annually awarded to a female author of any nationality for the best original full-length novel written in English, published in the United Kingdom in the preceding year.

❖ Amitav Ghosh

- One of India's leading contemporary English writers, Amitav Ghosh has been honoured with 2018 Jnanpith Award for his outstanding contribution towards literature.
- He has earlier won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel The Shadow Lines (1988).
- The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide and Ibis Trilogy of "Sea of Poppies" are some of his other famous works.

❖ About Jnanpith

- Jnanpith is conferred by literary and research organization Bhartiya Jnanpith.
- This annual award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English.
- Sahitya Akademi has selected 22 writers for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 and 23 writers for Yuva Puraskar 2019.
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar in Maithili language will be declared on a later date.
- For the Bal Sahitya Puraskar, the Awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of Award (between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2017).
- Yuva Puraskar is a literary honour annually conferred on young writers of outstanding works in the twenty-four major Indian languages that is 22 scheduled languages with English and Rajasthani.
- Instituted in 2011, the Yuva Puraskar recognises young writers under the age of 35 years.
- From Tamilnadu, Writers Sabarinathan and Devi Nachiappan have been conferred Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar awards for 2019.
- While Mr. Sabarinathan has been awarded for his poetry collection 'Vaal (Tail)' published in 2016, Ms. Nachiappan has received the award for her contributions to children's literature.

❖ Akshya Patra – BBC Awards

- Akshaya Patra has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.
- It is a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India.
- The award recognises a person or project that is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

❖ Order of the distinguished rule of Nishan Izzudeen'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the "Order of the distinguished rule of Nishan Izzudeen" (Nishan Izzudeen Award) by the Maldivian Government

- The award was given in recognition of his services in the past to cement the long-standing and amicable ties between the two countries.
- Nishan Izzudheen Award is the highest award offered by the Maldivian Government to foreign dignitaries.

❖ **Maitri Shree Awards**

- Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism.
- The Matri Shree Media Awards was constituted during the Emergency.

❖ **Yoga Development Award**

- Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga - 2019 has been announced.
- The award is given for outstanding contribution for promotion and development of Yoga.
- The awardees are: Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan.

❖ **Indian representative to ICAO**

- Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as representative of India (JS Level) in council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Montreal, Canada.
- It is charged with coordinating and regulating international air travel.
- ICAO was established in 1944 by Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

❖ **Ranjith Singh Statue – Lahore**

- On the 180th death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a statue was unveiled at the Lahore Fort.
- Around 500 people crossed the Wagah border to attend the unveiling event.

❖ **Cyrus Poonawalla - Oxford honour**

- Cyrus Poonawalla is the founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India.
- He has received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.
- Founded in 1966, the Serum Institute is the world's largest manufacturer of life-saving vaccines by number of doses.
- Headquarters – Pune, India.

❖ **President's award - NALCO**

- Odisha based Navaratna NALCO has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.
- In 2015 it started a program called "Aliali Jiha" similar to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

- It paid education expense from Class 8 to 10 for 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages in Anugul and Koraput districts.
- ❖ **Lifetime Achievement Award - Mark Tully**
- Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was conferred with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at UK-India Awards in London for his contributions to UK-India relationship.
- He was the former Chief of BBC in New Delhi and was conferred Padma Shree in 1992, Padma Bhushan in 2005.

Appointments

National New Appointments:

Name

- Ajit Doval
- Sonia Gandhi
- K S Dhatwalia
- Amitabh Kant
- PB Acharya
- K. Shanmugam
- Rishad Premji
- Parminder Singh Dhinds
- Justice Prasanta Kumar Saikia
- Keshni Anand Arora

Designation

- National Security Adviser (NSA)
- Elected as leader of Congress Parliamentary Party
- Director General of IIMC
- NITI Aayog CEO
- Manipur Governor
- New Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary
- Executive Chairman of Wipro
- Cycling Federation of India (CFI)
- Chairperson of Lokayukta in Arunachal Pradesh
- Chief Secretary of Haryana

International Appointments:

Name

- Nayib Bukele
- Nigeria's envoy Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
- Prayuth Chan-ocha
- Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed
- Zuzana Caputov
- Stephanie Grisham

Designation

- President of El Salvador
- President of 74th session of UNGA
- Prime minister of Thailand
- President of Kazakhstan
- Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency Chief
- President of Slovakia
- New White House Press Secretary

ECONOMY

❖ **Kasturirangan committee submits new draft education policy to HRD Ministry**

- Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
- The policy draft recommends incorporation of Indian knowledge systems in the curriculum, constituting a National Education Commission and curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.

❖ **GDP growth slumps to 5.8%**

- India's GDP grew at 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full year growth to a five-year low of 6.8%.
- The unemployment rate in the country rose to a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18, as per official data.

❖ **Food grains production for agricultural year 2018-19 estimated at over 283 million tonnes**

- Food grains production for the agricultural year 2018-19 has been estimated at over 283 million tonnes. It is higher by over 17 million tonnes than the previous five years average production of foodgrain.
- Production of wheat is also estimated at record over 101 million tonnes, which is higher by 1.33 million tonnes as compared to previous year and the total pulses production is estimated at over 23 million tonnes.

❖ **Government to enhance number of generic medical stores, supply of medicines**

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D V Sadananda Gowda has assured that the number of generic medical stores that number 5000 across the country will be increased and the supply of medicines to them will be improved and also the inventory of medicines in the Janaushadi kendras will also increase.

❖ **ONGC topples IOC to regain most profitable public sector company**

- ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer, has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.
- According to earnings statements of the listed companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) reported a 34 per cent jump in its 2018-19 fiscal net profit to 26,716 crore rupees.

❖ Govt contemplating integration of E-Way Bill mechanism of GST with FASTag system of NHAI

- Government is contemplating integration of E-Way Bill mechanism of GST with FASTag system of National Highway Authority of India.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a Committee of Officers was formed by GST Council comprising of officers from Central government, state Governments, Goods and Services Tax Network, National Informatics Centre to examine the issue of use of RFID data for strengthening of E-Way Bill mechanism under GST.

❖ ONGC topples IOC to regain most profitable public sector company

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❖ Economic Census -2019

- The Seventh Economic Census (7th EC) is being conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in 2019. In the current Economic Census, MoSPI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology as the implementing agency for 7th EC.

❖ Global growth to slow in 2019, says World Bank

- The World Bank Group has downgraded global real GDP growth to 2.6% for 2019, down by 0.3% age points from its previous forecast in January. Growth is expected to be increase marginally to 2.7% in 2020.
- India's growth forecasts are projected to be 7.5% per annum in 2019, 2020 and 2021 — not having been downgraded from their January estimates. A growth rate of 7.2% is estimated for 2018.

❖ China gives green light for local 5G rollout amid tensions with US

- China on Thursday gave its major state-owned companies the green light to start rolling out 5G services in its efforts to move ahead in the global race for setting up the super-fast telecommunications system, amid simmering tensions with the U.S. over technology and trade.
- 5G is the next generation cellular technology with download speeds stated to be 10 to 100 times faster than the current 4G LTE networks.

❖ Imports from Pakistan to India decline by 92% in March

- Imports from Pakistan to India has declined by 92 per cent to 2.84 million US dollars in March this year after imposition of 200 per cent customs duties on all products following Pulwama terror attack.
- India had revoked the MFN (Most Favoured Nation) status to Pakistan in the aftermath of the terror attack. It had granted the MFN status to Pakistan in 1996.

❖ Japan to invest Rs 13,000 cr in Northeast

- The Government of Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, equivalent to approximately Rs.13,000 crore, in several ongoing as well as new projects in different states of India's North- Eastern region. This was disclosed after a meeting which the DoNER Minister Dr Jitendra Singh had with the Japanese delegation led by Ambassador Mr Kenji Hiramatsu.

❖ India pitches for promoting MSMEs in developing countries

- India pitched for promoting micro, small and medium enterprises, MSMEs in developing countries as they are important for employment and income generation. This was emphasised by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal at G20 nations meet in Japanese city Tsukuba.
- MSMEs contribute around 45 per cent in India's exports, about 25 per cent to the GDP from service activities and over 33 per cent to the manufacturing output of India. G-20 is a grouping of 20 developed and developing nations.

❖ FDI flows to India grew 6% in 2018 to 42 billion: UN report

- A UN report said, Foreign Direct Investment to India grew by 6 percent to 42 billion dollars in 2018, with strong inflows in the manufacturing, communication and financial services sectors, and cross-border merger and acquisition activities. The report ranked India among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
- The World Investment Report 2019, released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said, Foreign Direct Investment inflows to South Asia increased 3.5 percent to 54 billion dollars

❖ Facebook to unveil new cryptocurrency

- Facebook is setting up a consortium called Libra, which has been joined by more than a dozen companies including Visa, Mastercard, PayPal and Uber. Facebook is set to unveil a bid to bring cryptocurrency payments into the mainstream, reportedly with the endorsement of governments and financial giants.

❖ Infosys opens design studio in London

- Infosys, a next-generation digital services and consulting major, has opened its experience design and innovation studio at Shoreditch in London on Monday.
- The studio will provide a state-of-the-art space for Infosys and its clients to ideate, collaborate and innovate together by combining design and the latest technology offerings, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality and 5G, the company said.

❖ Amazon India best place to work in the country

- E-com player Amazon India has been rated as the country's most attractive employer brand, as per a Randstad Employer Brand Research. The Randstad research this year covered 75% of the global economy with 32 participating countries and more than 2 lakh respondents worldwide.

❖ Libra is Facebook's cryptocurrency

- Libra is described as a new global currency was unveiled in a new initiative in payments for the world's biggest social network with the potential to bring crypto-money out of the shadows and into the mainstream.
- An eponymous nonprofit association based in Geneva will oversee the blockchain-based Libra, maintaining a real-world asset reserve to keep its value stable.

❖ India has the highest data usage per smartphone

- India has the highest average data usage per smartphone, reaching 9.8 GB per month at the end of 2018, according to a new study by Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson.
- The report, released, also forecasts that this figure is likely to double to 18 GB per month per smartphone by 2024.

❖ Sinha panel on MSMEs submits report

- The U. K.Sinha-led panel, formed by the Reserve Bank of India to look into the issues of micro, small and medium enterprises, has submitted its report, the central bank said.
- The eight member panel, headed by former SEBI Chairman U.K. Sihha, was formed in January to review the current institutional framework in place to support the MSME sector and to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the sector, among others.

❖ RBI to observe financial literacy week from June 5-9

- The Reserve Bank of India will observe Financial Literacy Week across the country from 3rd to 7th of this month. **The theme this year is – „Farmers and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system“.**

❖ World Bank retains growth forecast for Indian economy at 7.5%

- The World Bank retained its forecast of India's growth rate at 7.5 per cent for the current financial year. In its Global Economic Prospects report, the World Bank also said growth rate is expected to remain the same for the next two fiscals.

❖ RBI cuts interest rate by 25 bps, revises GDP growth to 7%

- The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India reduced the repo rate at its third meeting this year by 25 basis points to 5.75% to address growth concerns. The RBI has revised GDP growth projection for the current financial year from 7.2% to 7%.

❖ Bank of China starts India operations

- Bank of China, one of the four largest state-run commercial banks of China, has started India operations with a maiden branch in Mumbai. —The launch of Chinese bank in India comes after a series of successful meetings between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2018 to strengthen the strategic engagement between the 2 countries.

❖ RBI constitutes committee to review ATM pricing

- The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a six-member committee to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees.
- The RBI said, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association VG Kannan will chair the committee consisting of senior officers from National Payments Corporation of India, SBI, HDFC Bank, Confederation of ATM Industry and Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited.

❖ RBI issues new guidelines for resolution of bad loans

- The Reserve Bank has issued a new framework for resolution of bad loans, offering a 30-day gap for stress recognition instead of the one-day default earlier. In case a borrower is reported to be in default, the lenders should undertake a prima facie review of the account within 30 days from the day of default.

❖ RBI waives off charges for transactions using NEFT, RTGS

- With an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the Reserve Bank has waived off all charges for transactions using National Electronic Funds Transfer - NEFT and Real Time Gross Settlement - RTGS systems. In a press release issued in Mumbai this evening, RBI has advised banks to pass on the benefits to their customers with effect from 1st July, 2019.

❖ International Summit & Conference: Global Entrepreneurship Summit:

- The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2019 on June 4 is being hosted by the governments of the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and is the first edition of the event to be held in the European Union.

- The ninth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit is being held in The Hague with a number of entrepreneurs from across the world, including 27 from India, gathering to share their insights and showcase their ideas on a world stage.
- ❖ **India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament & Non-Proliferation:**
 - The 6th round of India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in New Delhi.
 - The two sides exchanged views on a variety of issues of mutual interest related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. They decided to continue the dialogue at regular intervals in future.
- ❖ **2nd Global Disability Summit:**
 - The —2nd Global Disability Summitll to be held at Buenos Aires, Argentina during 6-8 June 2019.
 - The objective of the summit is to deliberate on issues across the world concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to work out a mechanism for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life. The Union Minister had also attended the ‘1st Global Disability Summit’ held in London in July 2018.
- ❖ **G-20 Finance Ministers Meeting**
 - Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the two-day meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors in Japan on June 8 and 9, according to a government official. The meeting is likely to focus on risks and challenges being faced by the global economy, investment in infrastructure and international taxation.
 - The deliberations at the meeting would be followed by the G-20 Leaders’ Summit scheduled on June 28-29 at Osaka.
- ❖ **SCO summit**
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has left for Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan this morning to attend the meeting of Council of Heads of States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization - SCO.
 - Important issues including global security situation, multilateral economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and topical issues of international and regional importance will be discussed during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit. Afghanistan will also be one of the focus areas in the summit.
- ❖ **“12th Conference of States Parties to Convention to Rights of PwDs”**
 - Mrs Shakuntala Doley Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment participated in —12th Conference of States Parties to the Convention to Rights of Persons with Disabilitiesll at the UN Headquarters, New York.
 - She informed the international community that India is fully committed to the implementation of UNCPRD and SDGs.

- The main focus of India has been to create accessibility, provide aids and appliances and rehabilitation services to meet psychosocial challenges, and finding IT solutions to make the lives of Divyangjans more simple and satisfying.
- ❖ **16th Asia media summit**
 - The 16th Asia media summit that kicked-off in Cambodia is deliberating on many issues pertaining to the media and broadcasting industry.
 - The plenary discussed on the current situations in developing markets as to adapt to the new technological possibilities.
- ❖ **CICA Summit**
 - External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar, will attend the two days 5th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, CICA, Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
 - CICA is a pan-Asia forum for enhancing cooperation and promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
 - India is a member of CICA since its inception and late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had participated in the first CICA Summit held in 2002 in Almaty. India has been actively participating in various activities conducted under the aegis of CICA.
- ❖ **India-Kyrgyz Business Forum**
 - PM Narendra Modi and Kyrgyzstan President Jeenbekov inaugurated Indian-Kyrgyz Business forum in Bishkek. The two leaders also asked their business communities to explore the untapped potential for deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.
- ❖ **Kimberley Process Intersession Meeting 2019:**
 - The Intersessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) is being hosted by India from 17th to 21st June, 2019 in Mumbai.
 - Besides meetings of different Working Groups and Committees of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), two special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes, will be held during the Intersessional.
 - Around 300 delegates from the Government of India and other participating countries, industry and civil society will be attending the five-day Meeting.
 - India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019 with Russian Federation as Vice Chair. India had earlier chaired KPCS in the year 2008.
- ❖ **G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth**
 - The G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth being held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, Japan on 15-16 June, 2019.

- Shri RK Singh, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship highlighted the pathbreaking achievements in household electrification and providing energy access to all in India.
- The Minister also mentioned about the progressive steps towards the achievement of our target to fulfill our commitment made in Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

❖ **African Union summit**

- India has extended 15 million dollars grant assistance to Niger in support of organizing of the African Union summit scheduled from 7th of July in capital Niamey.
- The External Affairs Ministry in a statement said, the support of grant assistance was in response to a specific request made by Government of Niger. Niger is hosting the AU Summit for the first time. The AU Summit in Niamey is also expected to launch the historic African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA.

❖ **14th G20 Summit in Osaka on June 28 and 29**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 14th G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan on 28th and 29th of this month. More than 20 countries will be participating in the G20 Summit.
- Informal meeting of the BRICS leaders and bilateral meetings with other leaders would also take place on the sidelines of the summit. India has participated in all the G20 Summits held so far. It will host the G20 summit in 2022 for the first time.

❖ **32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)**

- The 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) was started in Hyderabad with Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary formally inaugurating the 8-day event. The Seed Congress is being held for the first time in South Asia.

❖ **Third Indo-French cyber dialogue**

- The third Indo-French cyber dialogue was held in Paris with the intergovernmental meeting co-chaired by Henri Verdier, French Ambassador for Digital Affairs, and Upender Singh Rawat, Joint Secretary in charge of e-Governance, Information, Technology and Cyber Diplomacy at the Ministry of External Affairs.
- During this dialogue, both parties shared their threat analysis and presented the latest developments in their respective cyber policies and steps taken for the protection of critical national infrastructure. They also exchanged views on the fight against cybercrime and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. France and India will maintain a continuous dialogue on cybersecurity in order to address their shared concerns.

❖ **International workshop on piracy related issues**

- A two-day international workshop on issues related with piracy and armed robbery began in New Delhi.

- The workshop is being organised by the Indian Coast Guard in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).
- Presently, 20 countries are members of the ReCAAP. Officials of concerned ministries and members of the Diplomatic Corps are attending the workshop. The participants are being trained on issues related to piracy and armed robbery such as international laws, prosecution process, forensics and emerging threats.
- ❖ **Meeting of Expert Working Group of Paris Pact Initiative of UNODC**
 - The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance hosted in New Delhi a Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Meeting consists of Sessions spread over two days on 27th and 28th June, 2019 and was organised with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC).
- ❖ **G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy**
 - The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, is leading the Indian delegation for the G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy being held on 8th – 9th June, 2019 in Tsukuba city, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.
 - The Indian Commerce Minister will discuss developments in the global trade situation, WTO matters and digital trade. He will also hold dialogue with other participating Trade Ministers on current international trade and investments. For the first time Ministers of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Commerce will participate in a joint session on Digital Economy at the G20 Ministerial Meeting.
- ❖ **Business leaders forum**
 - Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur addressed prominent business leaders of UAE during a business leaders forum in Dubai. He said that the state offers attractive incentives under its industrial policy to boost investments. An MoU was signed between Sharaf Group and Government of Himachal Pradesh to explore investment possibility in the logistic park, dry port and supporting infrastructure.
- ❖ **National Summit / Conference: International Convention in New Delhi to Mark International MSME Day**
 - The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises is organizing an international convention on the theme —Indian MSMEs, Global Aspirations in New Delhi to observe the International MSME Day. Further, as part of continued celebrations, the second edition of the International SME Convention 2019 will be held from 28th - 29th June .
- ❖ **Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019**
 - A Defence Ministry release said that over 41 delegates from 29 countries of the Indian Ocean Region, IOR and beyond are participating in the two-day event. In the course of two days, the

MISW aims to acquaint participants about Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region, IFC-IOR, its information sharing mechanisms and promote sharing of best practices in this field.

❖ **Conference of SVEEP Nodal Officers:**

- A two-day National Conference of SVEEP or Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Nodal Officers was organized by the Election Commission of India on June 10-11, 2019 at TERI Retreat in Gurugram to review the strategy and implementation of outreach programmes during Lok Sabha Election 2019 and to chalk out the blueprint for the next 5 years.

❖ **Governing Council of NITI Aayog**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the fifth Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on 15th of this month at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The agenda before the Meeting include rain-water harvesting, drought situation and relief measures, aspirational districts programme, transforming agriculture, and security-related issues with a specific focus on Left Wing Extremism districts.

❖ **World Food India to be held in New Delhi**

- Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal World Food India will be held in New Delhi from 1st of November this year. She said, the event which will continue till 4th November, will position India as Food Processing Destination of the World.

❖ **Fourth edition of National Yoga Olympiad**

- A three day National Yoga Olympiad of school children, organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training is being held at Chacha Nehru Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The Olympiad was inaugurated by the Director and UNESCO Representative for India, Mr. Eric Falt in the presence of Director NCERT, Professor Hrushikesh Senapaty. This is the fourth edition of National Yoga Olympiad. It was first started in the year 2016.

❖ **20th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council**

- The 20th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
- The Meeting reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues including, inter-alia, those concerning Banking and NBFCs.

❖ **National Workshop on Experience Sharing under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission**

- The Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated a one day workshop on experience sharing under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) in New Delhi. SPMRM focuses on cluster based

integrated development through Geo – spatial Planning for holistic development of the region while encouraging innovation and integrated and inclusive rural development.

❖ **Training Workshop for implementing teams of Van Dhan Yojana Organized**

- A workshop to flag the 100 days' plan for implementation of the Van Dhan Scheme was organised by TRIFED of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated and chaired by Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda. The Van Dhan program workshop was organised for training of implementing teams of Van Dhan Yojana.

❖ **Conclave on „Transforming North East India through Science and Technology'**

- In Meghalaya, a two-day North East Conclave 2019 on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' began at Shillong. It has been organised by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD).

DEFENCE

❖ **Indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II**

- India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II as part of a user trial by the Army from a test range off the Odisha coast.
- The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range, ITR at Chandipur. The missile is capable of carrying 500 to 1000 kg of warheads and is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.

❖ **Indian Navy steps up anti-piracy patrol**

- In an expansion of its Mission Based Deployments (MBD) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Navy deployed its P-8I long-range maritime surveillance aircraft for anti-piracy sorties from Salalah in Oman to patrol the Gulf of Aden. Since 2008, India has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the commercially crucial Gulf of Aden.
- This was the second time the P-8I operated from Salalah for anti-piracy this year. It was operated there from first January.

❖ **Indian Navy steps up anti-piracy patrol**

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- Since 2008, India has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the commercially crucial Gulf of Aden. This was the second time the P-8I operated from Salalah for anti-piracy this year. It was operated from there first January.

❖ 20TH Anniversary of The Victory at Kargil

- The year 2019, marks the 20th anniversary of victory in ‘Operation VIJAY’ popularly known as the ‘Kargil War’.
- The Kargil War is a saga of strong political, military and diplomatic actions. The Nation shall be celebrating the 20th anniversary of victory this year in Kargil War with pride, honour and inspiration. This year, 20th anniversary of victory in ‘Operation VIJAY’ is being celebrated with the theme ‘Remember, Rejoice and Renew’.

❖ Government issues EOI for shortlisting Strategic Partners for P-75(I)

- As a major initiative towards Make in India, the government has issued the Expression of Interests for shortlisting of potential Indian Strategic Partners for construction of six conventional submarines for P-75(I) Project of the Indian Navy. The project cost is about 45 thousand crore rupees. It is the second project being undertaken under the latest Strategic Partnership Model, with the first being the procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters.

❖ “Operation sunrise 2”:

- The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a three-week-long coordinated operation from May 16 in their respective border areas, targeting several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.
- The first phase of —Operation Sunrisell was conducted three months ago along the Indo-Myanmar border, during which a number of camps of north-east-based militant groups were busted.
- During —Operation Sunrise 2II, the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland(Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland.

❖ Navy launches operation in Gulf for Indian vessels' security

- Indian Navy has deployed Ships INS Chennai and INS Sunayna in the Gulf of Oman to re-assure Indian Flagged Vessels operating or transiting through the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman following the maritime security incidents in the region.

❖ Indo-French Joint Naval Exercise

- The latest edition of bilateral maritime exercise ‘Varuna’ between Indian and French Navy was held in May 2019. The exercise was conducted in two phases with the objective of conducting advanced exercise for a significant period at sea.

❖ Operation Bandar, code name of Balakot strike

- The air strike by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, was code-named ‘Operation Bandar’.
- It was code-named Operation Bandar but was known to very few, ll a defence source said . As a response to the Pulwama terror attack which claimed the lives of 40 security personnel, 12

IAF Mirage-2000 fighter jets struck on Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot inside Pakistan in the early hours on February 26 with precision guided munitions.

❖ **Indian Navy steps up anti-piracy patrol**

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- This was the second time the P-8I operated from Salalah for anti-piracy this year. It was operated from there first January.

SPORTS

❖ **ICC announces content partnerships with Facebook, YouTube, Twitter for World Cup**

- ICC has entered into content partnerships with global social media platforms Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to cater to the huge interest from fans in this event. Fans can enjoy recaps, reports, live scores, behind-the-scenes and other content across the ICC's digital channels.

❖ **Former CEC Gopalaswami named BCCI's electoral officer for AGM**

- Former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami has been appointed as an electoral officer for the BCCI's Annual General Meeting. The Committee of Administrators (CoA) had last month announced that the long-awaited elections of the BCCI will be held on 22nd October.

❖ **Yuvraj Singh announces his retirement**

- The Indian batsman announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 19-year career. During the 2007 World T20 in South Africa, Yuvraj hit six sixes in an over. He became the second player (after Herschelle Gibbs) to achieve this feat in an international match.

❖ **Women's cricket in 2022 Commonwealth games**

- Women's cricket is set to be part of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games as the CGF nominated its inclusion in the 2022 edition. The nomination was made at the Executive Board meeting of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF). Cricket has made just one appearance at the CWG previously, with men playing in 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, where South Africa stood on top of the podium.

❖ **First Bangladesh cricketer to score 1000 runs in World Cup**

- Shakib Al Hasan became to first Bangladesh cricketer to score 1,000 runs in World Cups against Afghanistan. Shakib is the highest run-getter so far in the World Cup with 476 runs in

six matches. Shakib, who already has two hundreds to his name in the competition, also became the 19th player overall to achieve the feat .

❖ **Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to score 20, 000**

- India captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs. Kohli reached the milestone in only his 417th international innings. Kohli, thus, became the 12th batsman and third Indian after Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid to reach 20,000 international runs.

❖ **ITF men"s Futures tennis**

- Third seed Sidharth Rawat outplayed Rio Noguchi of Japan 7-5, 6-0 to clinch his maiden title in the \$25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament.

❖ **Rafael Nadal lifts Men's Singles title for 12th time**

- In Tennis, world number two Rafael Nadal has lifted the French Open Men's Singles title for the 12th time. Nadal, the Spaniard defeated Austrian Dominic Thiem to win at the Roland Garros for the third straight year.
- He became the first player to win 12 Singles titles at the same Grand Slam and has now won 18 majors overall. Nadal is now just two titles behind Roger Federer's all-time record of 20 majors and is three ahead of world number one Novak Djokovic.

❖ **China will host 2023 Asian Cup**

- China will stage the 2023 Asian Cup football after South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia dropped their bids. This was confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation in Paris.

❖ **Portugal wins inaugural UEFA title**

- Portugal became the first team to win UEFA's Nations League tournament. Portugal beat Netherlands 1-0 in the final. Goncalo Guedes hit the single goal for Portugal team.

❖ **Former Liverpool and Chelsea striker Fernando Torres announces retirement**

- Former Liverpool and Chelsea striker Fernando Torres has announced his retirement from football. The 35-year-old Spaniard scored 81 goals across four seasons with Liverpool and won the Champions League, Europa League and FA Cup with Chelsea.

❖ International Federation of Hockey men's series finals

- International Federation of Hockey men's series Finals began in Bhubaneswar.
- In the first match held in the morning, USA defeated South Africa by 2 goals. The second match will be held between Poland and Uzbekistan at 5.00 pm today. Eight-time champions, India will start its campaign against Russia at seven in the evening.

❖ Indian Junior women's hockey team clinch Cantor Fitzgerald U21

- The Indian junior women's hockey team clinched the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland 1-0 in the final at Dublin, Ireland.

❖ Indian women's hockey team clinches FIH Series Finals

- Indian women's hockey team beat Asian Games champions and hosts Japan 3-1 in the summit clash of the FIH Series Finals in Hiroshima. Indian men had won the FIH Series Finals in Bhubaneswar recently.

❖ Pankaj Advani clinches men's Asian Snooker Championship

- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship in Doha to complete a career grand slam in cue sports. Pankaj will now take part in IBSF World Cup next week in Doha.

❖ Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship

- In Gymnastics, India's Pranati Nayak clinched a bronze medal in vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

❖ Indian archers bag four berths for Tokyo Paralympics

- Indian archers secured two quota places each in the recurve and compound sections for next year's Tokyo Paralympics after dishing out superb performances at the World Para Championships in the Netherlands.
- Punjabi University's Harvinder Singh and Uttar Pradesh's Vivek Chhikara finished joint ninth to bag the two available berths in the recurve men's open section. In the compound men's open category, Jammu's Rakesh Kumar was first to qualify and he was later joined by Rajasthan's Shyam Sundar Swami after his joint ninth finish.

❖ Viswanathan Anand to Magnus Carlsen in Armageddon

- Viswanathan Anand suffered defeat against world champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the Armageddon game at the Altibox Norway Chess Tournament.

❖ International Olympic Committee opens new headquarters in Switzerland

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived. The new headquarters costs 145 million US Dollars. Renewable energy is provided using solar panels on the roof and pumps taking water from Lake Geneva.

❖ Indian women's rugby team claims 1st-ever international Rugby 15s victory

- The Indian women's rugby team claimed a historic first-ever international Rugby 15s victory with a 21-19 win over Singapore to finish third in the Asia Women's - Division 1 Rugby XV's Championship in Manila. The tournament was one of the qualifying rounds for the 2021 Women's Rugby World Cup to be held in New Zealand.

❖ Flying taxis to ease Olympic traffic in 2024 Paris Olympics Sports

- Paris aims to give visitors to the 2024 Paris Olympics a flying start by offering airborne taxis to tournament sites straight from the airport. Arrivals in the City of Light currently face an hour-long haul by train or bus from Charles de Gaulle airport to the north of Paris. Vertical take-off & landing vehicles can cut travel time during the 2024 Games in Paris

❖ IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics

- World athletics' governing body, the IAAF, is to rebrand as World Athletics. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was initially founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation. The body, currently presided over by Britain's two-time Olympic 1500m gold medallist Sebastian Coe.
- The new brand identity will begin its rollout in October after the world championships in Doha and following congress' approval of the change to the federation's legal name.

❖ Canadian Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton secured a record-breaking seventh win at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix after Sebastian Vettel was penalised for dangerous driving.

❖ Asian junior squash championship

- The Asian junior squash championship is to be staged in Macau from June 26 to 30. The under-19 players will also compete in the World junior squash championship to be held in Malaysia in August. The selection trials were held at the Shiv Nadar University in May, and the players are training in the preparatory camp under British coach Chris Ryder at the same facility.

❖ Indian men's archery team secure Olympic quota

- Indian men's archery team secured the Olympic quota for the 2020 Tokyo Games by storming into the quarterfinals of the World Championships with a 5-3 win over Canada in the Netherlands. This is for the first time after 2012 London Olympics that Indian men could secure a team quota.

❖ Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship

- Gymnastics Federation of India announced the Indian team for the Senior Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championships to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 19th to 22nd of this month.

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- The four men's team comprises Rakesh Kumar Patra, Yogeshwar Singh, Debang Dey and Arik Dey. Pranati Nayak, Shraddha Talekar, Pranati Das and Papiya Das are in the women's team.

 - ❖ **Badminton star Lee Chong Wei retires after cancer battle**
 - Cancer-hit badminton star Lee Chong Wei announced his retirement, ending a brilliant career in which he collected a swathe of honours but never won a world or Olympic title. Lee was ranked first as a singles player for 199 consecutive weeks from 2008 to 2012, but lost six worlds and Olympic Finals

 - ❖ **Archery World Championships**
 - The Indian men's recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in The Netherlands. The men's recurve team was playing in the final of World Championships after a gap of 14 years.

 - ❖ **Black Forest Cup**
 - In Boxing, India's junior women pugilists clinched seven medals, including five gold, while the team was adjudged the best of the tournament in the Black Forest Cup in Villingen, Schwenningen, Germany. Ten countries including India, Ukraine, Germany, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Hungary, Lithuania, Mongolia, Greece, and Poland took part in this tournament. India's powerful performances helped the contingent win the best team trophy.

 - ❖ **Girish Koushik is India's 63rd Grandmaster**
 - Girish A. Koushik from Mysuru became India's 63rd Grandmaster at the 37th Balaton International Chess Festival in Hungary.

 - ❖ **India Proposes to host 2023 IOC session in Mumbai**
 - India proposed to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose the host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics.
 - Italian city named as host of 2026 Winter Olympics.
 - India has earlier hosted an IOC Session in 1983 in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Important Details
June 1	Global Day of Parents	<p>The Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 and honours parents throughout the world. The day provides children with an opportunity to appreciate parents for their lifelong sacrifice and endless love.</p>
2019 Theme – —Honor Your Parents		
June 2	American Indian Citizenship Day	<p>On June 02, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law the Indian Citizenship Act, which granted citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States, thousands of whom had served in the armed forces during World War I. Ponseti International Association (PIA) has designated June 3rd as World Clubfoot Day. The date was chosen to commemorate the birthdate of Dr. Ignacio Ponseti, (1914-2009) the developer of the Ponseti Method to treat clubfoot. Clubfoot is the most common musculoskeletal birth deformity, affecting 200,000 newborn children each year, 80 percent in developing countries. There are also hundreds of thousands of children and young adults who are living with this debilitating condition worldwide.</p>
June 3	World Clubfoot Day	

June 4**International Day of Innocent
Children Victims of
Aggression**

On 19 August 1982, UN General Assembly decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. Its work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

June 5**World Environment Day**

World Environment Day is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries. The theme Each World Environment Day is organized around a theme that draws attention to a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2019 is —Beat Air Pollution.

June 5**International day for the fight
against Illegal, Unreported &
Unregulated fishing**

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11–26 million tonnes of fish each year. To curtail this impact, Target 4 of Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Agenda adopted in 2015 by the UN General Assembly, specifically urges the international community to —effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020.

June 7**World Food Safety Day**

The first-ever World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, will be celebrated on 7 June 2019 under the theme "**Food Safety, everyone's business**". WHO, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to facilitate Member States effort to celebrate the World Food Safety Day this year and in coming years.

June 8**World Oceans Day**

World Oceans Day takes place every 8 June. The concept was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) and the Ocean Institute of Canada (OIC) at the Earth Summit – UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The purpose of the Day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

June 8**World Brain Tumor Day**

World Brain Tumor Day is celebrated annually on 8th of June. This day was set aside to be celebrated globally by an association of brain tumor that is based in Germany. World Brain Tumor Day helps in raising awareness to the public and educating them on brain tumor, a type of cancer that is not common and most people do not know about it. It is also a day that helps the people who are suffering from brain tumor in facing their challenges.

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June 12**World Day Against Child Labour**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

2019 theme: Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!

June 13**International Albinism Awareness Day**

On 18 December 2014, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/69/170 proclaiming, with effect from 2015, 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day. The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution in 2013 calling for the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism.

Albinism Awareness Day 2019 Theme-"Still Standing Strong"

June 14**World Blood Donor Day**

World Blood Donor Day is celebrated around the world on 14 June. The event serves to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood and also to raise awareness of the need for regular blood donations to ensure that all individuals and communities have access to affordable and timely supplies of safe and quality-assured

blood and blood products.

World Blood Donor Day 2019 Theme : **“Safe blood for all”**

June 15

**World Elder Abuse
Awareness Day**

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 66/127, designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations. Elder abuse is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community.

June 16

**The International Day of
Family Remittances (IDFR)**

The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/72/281) and celebrated every year on 16 June. The day recognizes the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.

June 16**World Sea Turtle Day**

June 16 is World Sea Turtle Day. Sea turtles have existed for more than 100 million years and are critical to a healthy ocean ecosystem, playing a key role in the marine environment. All seven species of sea turtles depend on the health of the oceans and land to reproduce and survive. Yet with everything from climate change to pollution, habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade threatening their very existence, many species of sea turtles are being pushed closer to extinction.

June 17**World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought**

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification. The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels

2019 Theme “Let’s Grow the Future Together”**June 18****Sustainable Gastronomy Day**

UN General Assembly adopted on 21 December 2016 its resolution A/RES/71/246 and designated 18 June as an international observance, Sustainable Gastronomy Day. Sustainable Gastronomy Day emphasizes the need to focus the world’s attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It also reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are

contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development.

June 19

World Sickle Cell Day

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is celebrated on June 19th of each year to raise the public awareness about the sickle cell disease and its treatment methods. Sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited genetic abnormality of hemoglobin (the oxygen-carrying protein found in red blood cells). This abnormality causes stuck in small blood vessels, which can slow blood flow and oxygen to parts of the body.

June 20

World Productivity Day

June 20th is the World Productivity Day, in which people from all over the world celebrate productivity .It's a celebratory day encouraging people everywhere to boost their productivity. It's also an opportunity for productivity-related companies to promote their products and services, and show people how they can help them be more productive. The purpose of World Productivity day is to remind people how being productive is important to leading the best possible life.

June 20**World Refugee Day**

The United Nations' (UN) World Refugee Day is observed on June 20 each year. This event honors the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence

2019 Theme: StepWithRefugee- Take A Step on World Refugee Day**June 21****International Day of Yoga**

On 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga. Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

2019 Theme: Climate Action**June 21****World Music Day**

Music Day is a connected set of free public events which takes place each year on the 21st June, our midsummer. Each year there are events in over 120 countries and 700 cities around the world, not including France where there were too many events to count! It was originated in France in 1982.

June 21**Summer Solstice**

The summer solstice is on June 21 and it will be the longest day of 2019 for anyone living north of the equator. The summer

June 23**United Nations Public
Service Day**

solstice occurs when the sun is directly over the Tropic of Cancer, or 23.5 degrees north latitude.

The UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/277, designated 23 June as Public Service Day. The UN Public Service Day celebrates the value and virtue of public service to the community; highlights the contribution of public service in the development process; recognizes the work of public servants, and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

June 23**OLYMPIC DAY**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was formally established on 23 June 1894 through the efforts of Pierre de Coubertin promoting competitive sport as a revival of the ancient Olympic Games. Olympic Day was held for the first time on 23 June with a total of 9 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) hosting ceremonies in their respective countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay and Venezuela. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will officially inaugurate its new headquarters on 23 June during the celebration of Olympic day. In 2019 this symbolic day will mark the 125th anniversary of the creation of the IOC.

June 24**International Widows' Day**

International Widows' Day was adopted by the United Nations in 2010, and was held on June 23rd the following year. Prior to being officially recognized by the United Nations, it had been held by the Loomba Foundation since 2005, which had been working for its adoption at the UN. The day —is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows. The aim is to raise awareness of the effects, many times invisible, of widowhood on women throughout the world.

June 25**International Day of the Seafarer**

In 2010, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), decided to designate June 25th as the International Day of the Seafarer as a way to recognize that almost everything that we use in our daily lives has been directly or indirectly affected by sea transport. The purpose of the day is to give thanks to seafarers for their contribution to the world economy and the civil society; and for the risks and personal costs they bear while on their jobs.

2019 campaign - I Am On Board with gender equalit**June 26****International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**

By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free

of drug abuse. This global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.

June 26

**International Day in Support
of Victims of Torture**

On 12 December 1997, by resolution 52/149, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. 26 June is an opportunity to call on all stakeholders including UN Member States, civil society and individuals everywhere to unite in support of the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have been victims of torture and those who are still tortured today.

June 27

**Micro-, Small and Medium-
sized Enterprises Day**

The General Assembly, recognizing the need to improve small business access to microfinance and credit, decided to designate 27 June as Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day. The goal is to encourage member states to facilitate observance of the day by increasing awareness and actions to support small business. The resolution was introduced by

the delegation of Argentina, co-sponsored by 54 member states and adopted without a vote by the 193-member General Assembly on 6 April 2017.

June 29**National Statistics Day**

The National Statistics Day was observed across India on June 29 with an aim to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation. It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis, on 29th June, in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System.

The theme of Statistics Day, 2019 is “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

June 29**International Day of the Tropics**

The International Day of the Tropics celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face. It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

June 30**International Asteroid Day**

In December 2016 the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution and declared 30th June as International Asteroid Day in order to "observe each year at the international level the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation, on 30 June 1908, and to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard." International Asteroid Day aims to raise public awareness about the asteroid impact hazard and to inform the public about the crisis communication actions to be taken at the global level in case of a credible near-Earth object threat.

June 30**International Day of
Parliamentarism**

June 30 is the day designated to celebrate the International Day of Parliamentarism. It is also the date, in 1889, on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of parliaments was established. This Day celebrates parliaments and the ways in which parliamentary systems of government improve the day-to-day lives of people the world over. It is also an opportunity for parliaments to take stock, identify challenges, and ways to address them effectively.