

# **MANTHAN**

## **Current Affairs Supplement**

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# Preface

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**Dear Readers,**

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

**Best Wishes**

**Team CL**

# Contents

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1.	<b>POLITY AND GOVERNANCE .....</b>	<b>1–23</b>
	• National	
	• International	
2.	<b>ECONOMY AND FINANCE.....</b>	<b>24–39</b>
	• Economy News	
	• Banks in News	
	• Firms in News	
3.	<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY .....</b>	<b>40–46</b>
	• Inventions/Discoveries	
	• Health/ Disease	
4.	<b>ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT .....</b>	<b>47–50</b>
5.	<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>51–59</b>
	• Sports Personalities in News	
	• Sport Events	
6.	<b>AWARDS.....</b>	<b>60–61</b>
7.	<b>PERSONS IN NEWS .....</b>	<b>62–65</b>
8.	<b>MISCELLANEOUS .....</b>	<b>66–70</b>
9.	<b>IMPORTANT DAYS .....</b>	<b>71–72</b>
10.	<b>QUESTIONNAIRE.....</b>	<b>73–111</b>
	• Questions	
	• Answer Key & Explanation	

## **POLITY AND GOVERNANCE**

### **National**



#### **Maharashtra ranks first in NITI Aayog's ease of doing farm business**

- **Maharashtra achieved first rank in NITI Aayog launched “Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI)**, which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
- **The State has implemented most of the marketing reforms and it offers best environment for doing agri-business among all the States/UTs. Gujarat ranks second with a score of 71.5 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.**
- **No state in the country has implemented the entire set of market reforms.** Also, land leasing and harvest and marketing of some tree species on private farm land are subjected to various degrees of restrictions in almost all the States/UTs.
- **Agriculturally developed State of Punjab ranks 14th with a score of 43.9.** This is because of poor implementation of market reforms in the State.

**NITI Aayog launched in 2016 an index to rank States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act like joining e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis. AMFFRI has a score that can have minimum value “0” implying no reforms and maximum value “100” implying complete reforms in the selected areas. States and UTs have been ranked using this index.**

#### **Bengal introduces 10% quota in jobs, education**

- **The West Bengal government announced a 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to people belonging to the economically weaker sections (EWS).**
- **“There will be a 10% reservation for them [EWS] in government service. However, those who are already covered under the SC, ST and OBC category will not be eligible.**
- **The decision comes six months after the Narendra Modi government approved a 10% quota in jobs and educational institutions for economically weaker sections (EWS) among general category.**

**The Union Cabinet approved a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide 10% reservation to the economically backward sections in the general category. The Bill will also cover those from the Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist and other minority communities. The quota will be over and above the existing 50% reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes (OBC). Who have an annual salary of less than Rs. 8 lakh per year and possess less than 5 acres of land will be able to avail themselves of reservation in educational institutions and jobs. Gujarat is the first state in India to implement the 10% reservation to the economically backward sections in the general category.**

## Indian Railways releases new All India Railway Time Table “TRAINS AT A GLANCE”

- Ministry of Railways has released its new All India Railway Time Table known as 'Trains At A Glance'. In addition to the “Trains at a Glance”, all the 17 Zonal Railways has also released their respective Zonal Railway Time Tables (5 Zonal time tables in all, each Zonal Time Table comprising 3-4 Zonal Railways) which comes into effect from today i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019. .
- The new Trains at a Glance is available on Indian Railways’ official website - [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in).

Indian Railways introduced the first self-propelled semi high speed train Vande Bharat Express between New Delhi and Varanasi on 14.02.2019. The introduction of this train has resulted in the reduction of travel time between New Delhi and Varanasi by about 40%. Piyush Goyal of the Bharatiya Janata Party is the **current Minister of Railways**, serving since 3 September 2017. The railway minister is usually accorded a cabinet rank, and is responsible for Indian Railways, one of the largest employers in the world.

## Rajasthan: Kalu Police station bags first Rank in assessment by Home ministry

- In Rajasthan, Kalu police station in the Bikaner district has set an example towards crime control and preventive action.
- Kalu Police station recently bagged First Rank in an assessment by the Home ministry of 15 thousand 666 police stations across the country.
- Due to preventive action, effective crime detection, Crime control, quick response and humanitarian behaviour and high-tech working made this police station,

## Centre constitutes chief ministers’ panel for agriculture reforms

- Centre has constituted a high powered committee of Chief Ministers of several states for the transformation of Indian Agriculture.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be the convenor of the committee, while the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members.
- Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister will also be a member of the committee. Besides, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been named the Member Secretary. The Committee will discuss measures for the transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income. It will suggest the modalities for adoption and time-bound implementation of agriculture sector reforms.

## Operation Khumaar launched in Jammu & Kashmir to make panchayats tobacco-free

- In Jammu and Kashmir a campaign has been launched in Rajouri, a border district of Jammu division called “Operation Khumaar” to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free.
- The programme is run by the district administration to make panchayats free from tobacco and tobacco-based products. Under this programme, even the headmaster of the schools have been authorised to impose a fine on the sale of tobacco within 100 yards of school limits.
- Block Medical Officers have been directed to set up counselling centres at all Community Health Centres (CHCs) to help tobacco consumers to quit this habit. The district officers have been urged upon to work in a mission mode so as to make the society free from the injurious tobacco and tobacco-based products.

Satya Pal Malik is the current Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Mehbooba Mufti is the first women and former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The state has special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. Srinagar is the summer capital and Jammu is the winter capital. In a major decision, the Jammu and Kashmir administration created a separate division for Ladakh, which was part of the Kashmir division till now.

## Campaign to eradicate AES launched in UP

- In Uttar Pradesh, a large scale campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease was launched.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath kick started the campaign against communicative diseases and also start DASTAK campaign which will run from 1st to 31st July.
- Under this state-wide campaign teams will go door to door in every village of the 75 districts of the state to create awareness about the communicable diseases as well as JE and AES.

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the Republic of India. It was created on 1 April 1937 as the United Provinces during British rule, and was renamed Uttar Pradesh in 1950. Lucknow is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. Ram Naik is currently the 24th Governor of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath is the current Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

## Rajasthan government to set up board for vedic education, culture

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said it will establish a vedic education and culture board in the state. The board will help future generations take inspiration from vedic culture, tradition and values.
- The state-level convention was organised to honour the contribution of individuals who brought a change in the education sector.

Rajasthan is India's largest state by area, Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert; More than 60% of the desert lies in the state of Rajasthan, and extends into Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana. Kalyan Singh is the current Governor of Rajasthan. India's first global counter terrorism and anti-insurgency centre will come up in Jaipur.

## Passport-like Aadhaar centres in Delhi, Vijayawada

- Making it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has opened its first 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' in Delhi and Vijayawada.
- The new Aadhaar centres, which will soon be rolled out across 53 cities of India, are similar to Passport Seva Kendras run by the Ministry of External Affairs. UIDAI tweeted that the first Aadhaar Seva Kendra has been opened at Akshardham Metro station in New Delhi. The centre has the capacity to handle upto 1,000 Aadhaar-related requests daily.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric ID system, with over 1.19 billion enrolled members as of 30 November 2017. J. Satyanarayana is the current chairman of UIDAI. He also served as the Communications and Information Technology Secretary of India.

## Rural sanitation coverage jumped to 99% from 38% in 2014

- Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), nine crore 62 lakh individual household toilets have been constructed so far. The sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country has increased to more than 99 per cent, which was over 38 per cent on 2nd October 2014.
- He said, 632 Districts, 30 States, over 2.50 lakh Gram Panchayats and five lakh 67 thousand 498 villages have been declared open defecation Free.

Sikkim became India's first open defecation free state in 2008 followed by Himachal Pradesh and Kerala were declared ODF states.



### **NRI's with Indian Passport to get Aadhaar card on arrival instead of mandatory 180 days wait**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to issue Aadhaar cards to non-resident Indians holding Indian passport on their arrival in the country.
- Under the present rule, NRIs with Indian passport are required to wait for 180 days to get the Aadhaar card. Four new embassies to be opened in 2019-20, to improve footprint of India's overseas presence and to provide better public services to local Indian communities.
- Aadhaar card for NRIs with Indian passports will be issued after their arrival in India, without waiting for the mandatory 180 days.

As on May 31, 2019, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) had generated a total of 123.82 crore Aadhaar to residents of the country. Overseas Indians, officially known as Non-resident Indians (NRIs) or Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), are people of Indian birth, descent, or origin who live outside the Republic of India. Overseas Indians are various individuals or ethnic groups associated with India, usually through ancestry, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship or other affiliation and live abroad overseas. According to a Ministry of External Affairs report, there were 30,995,729 NRIs and PIOs residing outside India as of December 2018

### **UP government launches toll-free CM helpline 1076**

- In Uttar Pradesh, the State government launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline 1076 that will enable people from across the state to register their complaints and will ensure a time-bound action on the complaints also.
- The CM helpline number 1076 will work 24x7 and anyone from any part of the state can call on this number anytime.

### **Jaipur gets UNESCO World Heritage tag**

- The Walled City of Jaipur, known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, celebrated for its grid plan-based architecture and buildings of pink façades entered the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The announcement was made after the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, underway at Baku (Azerbaijan) from June 30 to July 10, examined the nomination of the Walled City of Jaipur for inclusion in the World Heritage list.
- The World Heritage Committee is composed of representatives of 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention who meet annually. The Committee is in charge of implementing the Convention. To date, 1,092 sites in 167 countries have been inscribed on the World Heritage List," it said.

The historic walled city of Jaipur in Rajasthan was founded in 1727 AD under the patronage of Sawai Jai Singh II. It serves as the capital city of the culturally-rich state of Rajasthan. "The city was proposed to be nominated for its value of being an exemplary development in town planning and architecture that demonstrates an amalgamation and important exchange of ideas in the late medieval period. In town planning, it shows an interchange of ancient Hindu, Mughal and contemporary Western ideas that resulted in the form of the city," UNESCO Office in New Delhi had earlier said. In addition, Jaipur City is an exceptional example of a late medieval trade town in South Asia and defined new concepts for a thriving trade and commercial hub. In addition, the city is associated with living traditions in the form of crafts that have national and international recognition

### **BSF launches operation 'Sudarshan' to fortify Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu**

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named 'Sudarshan', to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu. The exercise will see the entire BSF's senior field brass, thousands of troops and machinery being deployed in these forward areas.

- The operation was launched on July 1, 2019 and will cover the entire over the 1,000-km length of the India-Pakistan International Border. While Jammu shares about 485-km of the border with Pakistan, about 553-km of the front is in Punjab. It further runs down towards Rajasthan and Gujarat on India's western flank.

The Border Security Force (BSF) is a Border Guarding Force of India. Established on December 1, 1965, it is a paramilitary force charged with guarding India's land border during peace time and preventing transnational crime. It is a Union Government Agency under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs. It is one of many law enforcement agency of India. It currently stands as the world's largest border guarding force. Rajni Kant Mishra is the current Director General of BSF.

### Tejas Express is first Lucknow-Delhi train to be run by private players

- The first train, operated by private players, to be run between Lucknow and Delhi will be the Tejas Express.
- The Tejas Express will offer premium services and comforts to the passengers. The train will have aircraft-like personalised LCD entertainment-cum-information screens, on-board Wi-Fi facility, comfortable seats, mobile charging points, personalised reading lights, modular bio-toilets and sensor tap fittings.
- The new Tejas Express train will have 23 chair cars and executive class coaches. The first Tejas train is running between Mumbai and Goa since 2017.

### 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme: Uttarakhand among best performing states

- Uttarakhand has been adjudged as one of the country's five best performing states in 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', a central scheme aimed at addressing declining child sex ratio and issues of women empowerment.
- The state will be felicitated, along with the other selected states, in recognition of its consistent performance in respect of sex ratio at birth, according to a letter from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. Consistent performance in respect of SRB indicates that the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme is gaining ground.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana as one of the flagship programmes of the Government, to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of women on a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial, convergent effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

### Indian Army to buy American howitzer ammo for long-range accurate strikes

- The Indian Army is in the process of acquiring Excalibur guided long-range artillery ammunition which can strike targets more than 50 km away. "The Indian Army is planning to acquire the Excalibur artillery ammunition from the Americans under the emergency procurement procedures".
- The Army has also started inducting the US-made M-777 ultra-light howitzers which can be used for firing the Excalibur ammunition. The Army has also gone ahead with the purchase of the Spike anti-tank guided missiles which can be used against the enemy armoured columns.

The acquisition by the Air Force includes the Balakot airstrike-fame Spice 2000 bombs, made by Israel, including the version which can penetrate and destroy fortified structures. The IAF has also acquired the Strum Ataka anti-tank guided missiles for its Mi-35 attack helicopters.

### Uttarakhand CM accepts proposal to establish Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines & High Altitude Rescue

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat agreed to a proposal to establish Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue at Rudrapur.



- "This mountain institute will create 1,200 employment, Specialised healthcare, advance education and Rescue Training in the Uttarakhand," the release said. "Six Sigma team also handed over the Kedarnath Medical Intelligence Report to the Chief Minister," it added.

Uttarakhand is often referred to as the Devbhumi, due to many Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state. On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

### Rajya Sabha clears bill on voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof

- The Rajya Sabha passed The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, allowing voluntary linking of the 12-digit identification number as part of know your customer guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection.
- The law ensures no individual is ever denied any service for not having or producing Aadhaar for authentication. An Aadhaar holder can now opt for offline verification through QR code with consent.

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### India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi

- The second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi. The first Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg in November, 2018.
- It was held under the chairmanship of NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar and Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of Russia, Timur Maksimov.
- The meeting will focus on six core areas of cooperation, including development of transport infrastructure and technologies, agriculture and agro-processing sector and small and medium business support.

The IRSED was established following a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation during the 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Annual India-Russia Bilateral Summit, which was held on October 5, 2018, in New Delhi.

### The Aditya Birla World Academy is the Only Indian School to Feature in 'The Commonwealth at 70' Book

- The Aditya Birla World Academy, India's leading International school is the only Indian school to be featured in 'The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World' book published by the popular London publishers St James's House and the History of Parliament Trust.
- Neerja Birla, Chairperson of The Aditya Birla World Academy attended the event 'Commonwealth at 70', that commemorated 70 years of the Commonwealth on 25th June 2019, at Westminster Abbey, UK.

The Aditya Birla World Academy is a pioneering educational institute that strives to create a cohesive learning environment that is conducive to developing a child's innate talents. Being one of the top international schools in Mumbai, they focus on academic excellence, as well as encourage their students to think critically and stimulate them to be mindful, sensitive and responsible members of society. The signing of the London Declaration in 1949 heralded the birth of the Commonwealth of Nations.

## Government initiates proposal to establish first National Police University

- Centre has initiated a proposal to establish the first National Police University in the country. It will be dedicated to imparting education in policing and internal security.
- The university will conduct undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate academic programmes in specialized subjects. Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have set up dedicated universities for conducting courses in police services and internal security.

## Cabinet approves PMGSY phase III, amendments to POCSO Act

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the launch of the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Under PMGSY third it is proposed to consolidate one lakh twenty-five thousand-kilometre road length in the states. He said the scheme would facilitate easy and faster movement to and from Gramin Agricultural markets.
- Cabinet has approved the Amendments to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, POCSO, Act, 2012. It will make punishment more stringent for committing sexual crimes against children including the death penalty. The amendments also provide for levy of fines and imprisonment to curb child pornography.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a nationwide plan in India to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages. This Centrally Sponsored Scheme was introduced in 2000 by the then-prime minister of India Atal Behari Vajpayee. The PMGSY is under the authority of the Ministry of Rural Development.

## Meghalaya becomes first state to have water policy

- Amid the water crisis in the country, the Meghalaya cabinet became the first state to approve a draft water policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state.
- The policy intends to achieve sustainable development, management and use of water resources with community participation. This will improve health and livelihood and reduce vulnerability among the people.

Meghalaya is a state in northeastern India. The name means "the abode of clouds" in Sanskrit. The capital of Meghalaya is Shillong. During the British rule of India, the British imperial authorities nicknamed it the "Scotland of the East". Meghalaya was previously part of Assam, but on 21 January 1972, the districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya. Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the 12th and current Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya. Tathagata Roy is currently serving as Governor of Meghalaya since August 2018.

## ‘Navaratnalu’ shine in YSRCP’s maiden budget

- In its first-ever budget, the YSRCP Government has focussed largely on its election manifesto’s Navaratnalu — the nine welfare schemes covering farmers, women, medical and health, education and Special Category Status (SCS).
- The government also named a slew of schemes after former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) and a couple of schemes in the name of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- Of the total outlay of Rs. 2,27,974.99 crore, more than Rs. 73,000 crore has been allotted to important major and new schemes, including YSR Rythu Bharosa (Rs. 8,750 crore), Jagananna Amma Vodi (Rs. 6,455 crore), mid-day meal scheme (Rs. 1,077 crore), YSR Arogyasri (Rs. 1,740 crore), YSR Gruha Vasathi (Rs. 8,615 crore), YSR Pension Kaanuka, YSR Kalyana Kaanuka (Rs. 716 crore), subsidy on rice, village volunteers, Agrigold victims, interest-free loans to SHGs (Rs. 1,788 crore) YSR Bhima.

Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to be formed under the State reorganisation act in 1956 and first state to be created based on the language in India. On 2 June 2014, the north-western portion of Andhra Pradesh was separated to form the new state of Telangana. The longtime capital of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, was transferred to Telangana as part of the division. Amaravati is the de facto capital city of the Andhra Pradesh. Nara Chandrababu Naidu was first chief minister of the state since it was divided from Telangana.

### Government of India has launched “LaQshya” (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative)

- Government of India has launched “LaQshya” (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities. It's a multipronged approach focused at Intrapartum and immediate postpartum period.
- It aims to reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care. Till date 2427 Public health facilities across country have been identified for implementation of LaQshya Program.

### West Bengal government observes Save Water Day

- 'Save Water Day' was observed by the West Bengal government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participated in a march in the city to raise awareness on conservation.
- Mamata Banerjee urged the people to take "precautionary measures" to save the natural resource as water scarcity has become a major issue in the world.
- She also stressed on conservation of rainwater and said her government would observe July 12 as 'Save Water Day' in every year.

Keshari Nath Tripathi is the present Governor of West Bengal and Mamata Banerjee is the current and 8th Chief Minister of West Bengal. She is the first woman to hold the office. The British East India Company cemented their hold on the region following the Battle of Plassey in 1757, and Calcutta served for many years as the capital of British India.

### India's Gujarat state launched the world's first programme to trade particulate air pollutant quotas

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani launched India's first trading programme to combat particulate air pollution on World Environment Day 2019, which has air pollution as its theme. India is now home to the world's first trading programme for particulate air pollution quotas.
- Under the programme, the government first caps the total amount of air particulate matter that can be emitted over a period of time by all the plants together. Then, permits, which allow a certain quantity of emissions, are allotted to each plant. These permits can be bought and sold on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) starting August 1, 2019.
- Being initiated in Surat by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB), the emission trading scheme (ETS) was designed with the help of a team of researchers from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), the Economic Growth Center at Yale University and others from The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a longest coastline of India 1,600 km (990 mi). Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is a business district promoted by the Government of Gujarat through a joint venture company. GIFT City is India's first operational smart city in the Ahmedabad and international financial services centre. Om Prakash Kohli is Governor of Gujarat and a former member of Rajya Sabha.



## Tamil Nadu will become first state to manufacture electric cars

- Korean automobile giant Hyundai's plans for its Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.
- Tamil Nadu ranks third in the amount of invested capital in the industrial sector, at Rs 4.02 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 8.14 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 5.02 lakh crore). The State ranks third in terms of total industrial output, with Rs 7.66 lakh crore, after Gujarat (Rs 12.22 lakh crore) and Maharashtra (Rs 10.74 lakh crore). The Tamil Nadu state has 37,220 factories--the most in India, while Maharashtra (27,010 units) and Gujarat (25,966 units) follows

Tamil Nadu formerly Madras State, is one of the 29 states of India. Its capital and largest city is Chennai (formerly known as Madras). Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent. The state shares a maritime border with the nation of Sri Lanka. Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest Indian state by area and the sixth largest by population. Banwarilal Purohit is the current Governor of Tamil Nadu. Edappadi K. Palaniswami is the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

## Madhya Pradesh gets first international flight, Air India takes off from Indore to Dubai

- Madhya Pradesh got its first international flight when an Air India flight took off from Indore's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport to Dubai.
- The flight was flagged off by Air India chairman Ashwani Lohani along with local Parliamentarian Shankar Lalwani in the presence of former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, among others.

Madhya Pradesh (meaning Central Province) is a state in central India. Its capital is Bhopal. Nicknamed the "Heart of India" due to its geographical location in India. Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state in the country by area after Rajasthan. This state was the largest in India by area until 2000, when its southeastern Chhattisgarh region was made as a separate state. MP has the largest reserves of diamond and copper in India.

## Amended Motor Vehicles Bill reintroduced

- Amendments to the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act and the Surrogacy Regulation Bill were re-introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the Lok Sabha. These bills had lapsed since they had not been passed by the Rajya Sabha.
- The proposed amendments to the MV Act seeks to provide a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh for death and Rs. 2.5 lakh for grievous injury in a motor vehicle accident case.
- Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan re-introduced the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha, which seeks to prohibit commercial surrogacy in the country.
- The Bill seeks to “allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years and 26-55 years for female and male, respectively.”
- The Bill states that a woman should be allowed to act as a surrogate only once, should be a close relative of the intending couple and “should be an ever-married woman having a child of her own and between the age of 25-35 years”.

## Tamil Nadu hosted first global school debate tourney

- An international debating tournament for schoolchildren was held in Chennai from July 18 to July 21. As many as 15 teams from various countries are participating in the first-ever international event, called “Mini Worlds”, which is being organised by the Indian Schools Debating Society (ISDS).
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## Over 30 lakh persons enrolled under PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme till July 10

- Union Government said that **total thirty lakh 85 thousand 205 persons** have been **enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Scheme, PM-SYM**, till 10th of this month.
- Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said the government has **launched the PM-SYM a voluntary and contributory pension scheme for the benefit of unorganized workers in February this year in the country**

The new pension scheme, **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)**, announced in the interim budget **for unorganised workers** has now been **rolled out. It guarantees a monthly pension amount of Rs. 3,000 from the age of 60 years.** However, the scheme, which aims to cover **10 crore unorganized workers**, is not for everyone as it has **multiple conditions in terms of eligibility.** You can apply for the plan only if your **monthly income is Rs. 15,000 or less** and you are **between the age of 18 years and 40 years.** If you are covered under any existing **pension plans and products** such as the New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), you **will not be eligible.**

## Uttarakhand to host first-ever Himalayan states' conclave

- **Uttarakhand will host the first-ever Himalayan states' conclave here on July 28** where the prime focus will be on sustainable development.
- **The conclave will host the Chief Ministers of the Himalayan states - Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland,** along with administrators and specialists.

**Uttarakhand** is often referred to as the **Devbhumi**, due to many **Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres** found throughout the state. **On 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India,** being created from the Himalayan and adjoining **northwestern districts of Uttar Pradesh.** **Trivendra Singh Rawat** is the **eighth and current Chief Minister** of Uttarakhand. **Baby Rani Maurya** is serving as the **seventh governor of Uttarakhand** since 26 August 2018.

## Adhir, Sinha elected as members of Public Accounts Committee

- Congress leader **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** and former union ministers **Satya Pal Singh** and **Jayant Sinha** have been elected as members of **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** from **Lok Sabha** with **nine of 15 members belonging to the BJP.**
- **The other members elected to the committee from Lok Sabha are T R Baalu (DMK), Subhash Chandra Baheria, Sudheer Gupta, Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Ajay (Teni) Misra, Jagadambika Pal, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Ram Kripal Yadav (all BJP), Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD), Rahul Ramesh Shewale (Shiv Sena), Rajiv Ranjan Singh (JD-U) and Balashowry Vallabhnaneni (YSRC Party).**

## Ambikapur launches India's first garbage café

- **By launching India's first garbage cafe, Ambikapur, a city in the state of Chhattisgarh,** is bringing out the 'best out of waste'.
- This innovative **idea birthed by the Municipal Corporation** will not only tackle the ever rising problem of **waste management but will also address the issue of food access to the poor and homeless.**
- Under this program, **any person fetching a kilo of plastic waste to the garbage cafe** will be assured of a **full meal while those collecting at least 500 grams** will benefit from a substantial breakfast. **The city of Ambikapur ranked second cleanest city in India after Indore.**



## DefExpo India-2020 to be held in Lucknow for the first time

- The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020. The four-day event, beginning from 5th of February, will offer an excellent opportunity for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential.

## Odisha to get first desalination plant

- Odisha will get its first desalination plant in Paradip with a capacity of 10 million litres per day.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the project was signed between the Paradip Port Trust (PPT) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- According to the MoU, Saline water would be made potable for consumption in the PPT Township through Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) process. The first-of-its-kind drinking water venture in the State.

The modern state of Odisha was established on 1 April 1936, as a province in British India. The ancient kingdom of Kalinga, which was invaded by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in 261 BCE resulting in the Kalinga War, coincides with the borders of modern-day Odisha. Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres northeast from Puri on the coastline of Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty about 1250 CE. Dr. Senayangba Chubatoshi Jamir is current Governor of Odisha. Naveen Patnaik is the current and 14th Chief Minister of Odisha.

## Four new Governors appointed

- In a major reshuffle, President Ram Nath Kovind transferred two Governors and made four new appointments across six States.
- New Governors will take charge of the Raj Bhavans in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Madhya Pradesh Governor and former Chief Minister of Gujarat Anandiben Patel has been transferred to Uttar Pradesh, while the former interlocutor for the Naga talks R.N. Ravi has been appointed as Governor of Nagaland. Veteran BJP leader and Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon replaces Patel in Madhya Pradesh. Phagu Chauhan will replace Mr. Tandon as Bihar Governor.
- Senior Supreme Court advocate and former Member of Parliament Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the new Governor of West Bengal, replacing Keshari Nath Tripathi. BJP veteran from Chhattisgarh Ramesh Bais, who was denied a party mandate this year, has been appointed as the Governor of Tripura.

The governors and lieutenant-governors/administrators of the states and union territories of India have similar powers and functions at the state level as that of the President of India at Union level. The governor is appointed by the President of India for a term of five years, and holds office at the President's pleasure. The governor is de jure head of the state government; all its executive actions are taken in the governor's name. The governor appoints the chief minister of a state. The Constitution of India also empowers the governor to act upon his or her own discretion, such as the ability to appoint or dismiss a ministry, recommend President's rule, or reserve bills for the President's assent. He or she also appoints the Advocate General and the chairman and members of the State Public Service Commission. The union territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Delhi and Puducherry are headed by lieutenant-governors.

## Harichandan appointed A.P. Governor

- Biswabhusan Harichandan has been appointed the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Biswa Bushan Harichandan was sworn in as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Bhusan took over from ESL Narasimhan, who has served as Governor for Andhra Pradesh since December 2009.

- The oath of office to Mr. Harichandan was administered by the acting Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court C. Praveen Kumar after Chief Secretary L.V. Subramanyam read out the warrant of appointment issued by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- He is the State's second Governor post-bifurcation and the first full-time Governor functioning in Vijayawada. E.S.L. Narasimhan had been serving as the Governor of both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from Hyderabad.
- Mr. Harichandan is a resident of Bhubaneswar. He was leader of Opposition in the 13th Odisha Assembly (2004-09). Born in 1934, he worked as an advocate and has written many articles and books.

### IEA praises Ujjwala scheme for providing free cooking gas connection to poor

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ujjwala scheme for providing free cooking gas connection to poor came in for praise from the International Energy Agency (IEA).
- The Agency said it is a major achievement in improving the environment and health of women. **Providing access to LPG across India by 2020 is a major achievement.** It is not an energy issue, it is an economic issue, it is a social issue," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh in 2016. The scheme aims to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years.

### CRPF unveils India's first body protector for women personnel in combat

- The CRPF Director General R R Bhatnagar unveiled the country's first prototype of a body protector for women personnel which it has jointly developed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- The "gender-specific protective gear" weighs 6 kg and has a different design and layout from the regular fibre-made black coloured body protector which is worn by both men and women police and paramilitary personnel during riot-control duties and regulation of public protests.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force and also considered to be World's largest Paramilitary Force. It functions under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter insurgency. It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar is the current Director General of CRPF. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

### Human Rights Bill cleared amid protests

- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was cleared by a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha amid criticism from the Opposition that the legislation will ensure that **only the government's nominees are appointed to the National Human Rights Commission.**
- "The chairperson is not appointed by Prime Minister on recommendation of Home Minister. There is a committee which includes Prime Minister and Opposition leaders of both the Houses.
- The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 amends the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to include the provision that apart from a former CJI, a former judge of the Supreme Court can be the Chairperson of the NHRC. Under the Act, **only a person** who had been the CJI could be made the NHRC chairperson. Likewise, the amendment also paves the way for a former high court judge to chair a state human rights commission, as opposed to the earlier requirement of a high court chief justice for the post.
- The bill reduced the tenure of chairpersons of national and state human rights bodies from five years to three years.

**National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India** is a Statutory public body constituted on 12 October 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance of 28 September 1993. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (TPHRA). The NHRC is the National Human Rights Commission of India, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as "Rights Relating to Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants". H. L. Dattu is a former Chief Justice of India (CJI), and the current chairman of the National Human Rights Commission.

### According to the World Reputation Rankings, Manipal Academy of Higher Education is 3rd best in India

- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)**, Manipal took a giant leap in the World Reputation Rankings announced by Times Higher Education. From 704 last year, MAHE figures at 419 overall this year.
- The remarkable improvement has placed **MAHE third** behind IISc Bengaluru and IIT Madras and tops among the private institutions in India.
- The reputation table ranks institutions for their reputation in research and teaching. Accordingly, MAHE is ranked **414 in Teaching and 458 in Research**.

MAHE has done well in all the rankings this year. In NIRF, the University broke into the top ten and in Quacquarelli Symonds World University Ranking 2020 Manipal figured in the 701-750 bands which also placed MAHE top among the private universities in India.

### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates two bridges in J&K

- Ushering in a new revolution in the connectivity of roads and bridges in border areas, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 1000 meter long Ujh Bridge in Kathua district** and 617.40-meter Basantar Bridge in Samba district and dedicated them to the nation.
- **The 1000 metre long Ujh Bridge is the longest bridge constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** and also has the distinction of using the technology of Pre Cast Segmental Bridge with 60-metre span.

**Rajnath Ram Badan Singh** previously served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and as a Cabinet Minister in the Vajpayee Government. He has also served as the President of the BJP twice, 2005 to 2009 and 2013 to 2014. He has been representing the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Lucknow constituency. He served as the Home Minister of India from 2014 to 2019.

### Gujarat tops in solar rooftop installations

- In the area of solar rooftop installations, **Gujarat stood first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity** as on July 23, 2019. As per the Central government data, **total rooftop solar installations in India are 1700.54 MW**.
- **Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** have solar rooftop installations at 198.52 MW and 151.62 MW respectively. These two states stood second and third in the country.
- **The Government of India has set a target of installation of 40,000 MW of Rooftop Solar (RTS) projects by the year 2022** in the country including installation of RTS on rooftop of houses.

### Kumaraswamy government loses trust vote

- **The 14-month-old Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka collapsed**, with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy losing the confidence motion in the Assembly by six votes. He later tendered his resignation to Governor Vajubhai Vala



- With the BJP deciding to stake a claim to form the government, the return of its **State president B.S. Yeddyurappa as the Chief Minister is imminent.**
- **Twenty one MLAs-- Congress-JDS (17), BSP (1), Independents (2) skipped the proceedings,** reducing the effective strength of the House to 204. **The magic figure required was 103.**

**Hardanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy** serves as the MLA of Channapatna constituency. He is the **former Chief Minister** of Karnataka. **He resigned from the position of Chief Minister on 23 July 2019** after his coalition government lost a no trust motion in the 15th Assembly to the Bharatiya Janata Party. He is a former **president of the Karnataka State Janata Dal (Secular)** and son of former Prime Minister of India **H. D. Deve Gowda.**

### UP becomes No. 1 in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna

- **Uttar Pradesh has become number one in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country.**
- **As per the statement released by state government 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 March 2019.**

**Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** is one of three social security schemes that the government had announced in the 2015 Budget. Under PMSBY, the risk coverage available is **Rs 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent total disability, and Rs 1 lakh for permanent partial disability.** All individual (single or joint) bank account holders in the **18-70 year age group** are eligible to join PMSBY. The premium payable is **Rs 12 per annum per member** and will be deducted from his bank account through an 'auto debit' facility in one instalment on or before June 1 every year.

### Rajnath arrives in Mozambique in first overseas trip as defence minister

- **In his first overseas trip as Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh arrived in Mozambique** on a three-day visit during which three bilateral agreements will be signed to boost military cooperation.
- India is willing to forge a strong bilateral relationship with Mozambique by increasing regular engagement and cooperation in multiple spheres. **Bilateral relations between India and Mozambique are on an upswing after the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the southern African country in July 2016.**

### Government forms 3-member commission to chalk out modalities for RIIN exercise

- With an objective for studying, examining and recommending and advising into all issues relating to **Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)**, the state government has constituted a three-member commission under the chairmanship of former chief secretary, **Banuo Z Jamir (Retd) IAS.**
- Other members of the commission include **T Kiheto Sema, IAS (Retd)** and **C Shingwang Konyak** with Justice **Zelre Angami (Retd)** as advisor to the commission.
- According to a June 29 government notification, the **Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)** will help identify the citizens who settled in Nagaland prior to **December 1, 1963**, the day it became a full-fledged state.

**Nagaland** is a state in northeastern India. The state capital is **Kohima**, and the largest city is Dimapur. Nagaland became the **16th state of India on 1 December 1963.** **Neiphiu Rio** is the current Chief Minister of Nagaland. **RN Ravi** is the current Governor of Nagaland.

### Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar to be among first to be listed terrorists after UAPA changes

- **Under the country's newly proposed anti-terror law,** biographic and financial information of individuals designated as **"terrorists"** will be shared with Western agencies, officials said. They **maintained that 26/11**

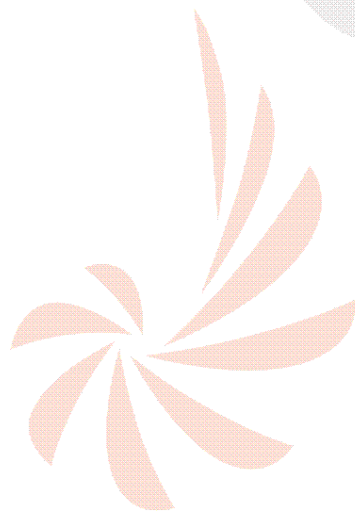
mastermind Hafiz Saeed and JeM Chief Masood Azhar would be among the first individuals to be designated as terrorists once the proposed amendments come into effect.

- Both Saeed and Azhar have been designated as ‘global terrorists’ by the United States (US), United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU). Allaying fears about misuse of the new provisions of the law, a home ministry official said, the individual designated as “terrorist” can at first appeal to the Union home secretary, who will have to dispose of the appeal within 45 days.

### BJP leader BS Yediyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka

- BJP leader BS Yediyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the fourth time at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru.
- The Congress-JDS coalition government headed by HD Kumaraswamy collapsed after losing the vote of confidence in the assembly after a three-week long intense power struggle triggered by the Karnataka lawmakers.
- Yediyurappa, who has changed the spelling of his name from Yeddyurappa, participated in the ceremony wearing a green shawl amid slogan-shouting by BJP workers. From winning municipal elections in 1975 till he was sworn in as the chief minister for the first time in 2007, the BJP leader spelt his name as Yeddyurappa.

Karnataka was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bangalore (Bengaluru). Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is the current Governor of the state of Karnataka.





## International



### Donald Trump becomes first sitting US President to enter North Korea

- **US President Donald Trump** became the first sitting US president to set foot in **North Korea** when he **met its leader, Kim Jong Un**, in the **Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)** between the two **Koreas** and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.
- The two men shook hands warmly and expressed hopes for peace when **they met for the third time in just over a year on the old Cold War frontier** that for decades has **symbolised the hostility between their countries**, which are technically still at war. **Trump, escorted by Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North.**
- **Trump and Kim met for the first time in Singapore in June last year**, and agreed to **improve relations and work towards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula**. But there has been little progress since then.
- **A second summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in February broke down** after the two sides failed to narrow differences between a **US. Demand for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons** and a **North Korean demand for sanctions relief.**

**United States of America (USA)** is a federal republic composed of **50 states** and capital is **Washington, D.C.,** **Donald John Trump** is the **45th and current President of the United States.** He became the **oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency**, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

### Senate Bill grants India NATO ally-like status

- **The U.S. Senate** has passed a **legislative provision that brings India at par with America's NATO allies** and countries such as **Israel and South Korea** for increasing defence cooperation. The **National Defense Authorisation Act, or NDAA**, for the fiscal year 2020, which contained such a proposal, was passed by the **U.S. Senate.**

### Japan resumes commercial whaling after 31 years

- **Japan** has resumed commercial whaling after 31 years, meeting a long-cherished goal of traditionalists that's seen as a largely lost cause.
- **Whaling boats embarked on their first commercial hunts since 1988**, when Japan switched to so-called research whaling, but will stay within the country's exclusive economic waters. **Japan's six-month notice to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission took effect on June 30, 2019.**
- The Fisheries Agency said the **catch quota through the end of this year is set at 227 whales, fewer than the 333 Japan hunted in the Antarctic in recent years.** The quota for this season's catch, planned for release in late June, was postponed apparently to **avoid criticism during the Group of 20 summit that concluded in Osaka.**

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Tokyo will host the 2020 Summer Olympics and the 2020 Summer Paralympics. Shinzo Abe is serving as the 57th Prime Minister of Japan and Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan.

### European Union signs free trade agreement with Vietnam

- Vietnam and the European Union signed a free trade agreement, opening opportunities to further boost trade between the euro bloc and one of Southeast Asia's biggest manufacturing nations.
- The agreement, which was signed by European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmstrom and Vietnamese Trade Minister Tran Tuan Anh in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, will eliminate almost all tariffs for goods traded between Vietnam and the EU's 28 member countries.

European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union. Jean-Claude Juncker is serving as President of the European Commission since 2014. Donald Franciszek Tusk has been the President of the European Council since 2014.

### Germany's Ursula von der Leyen nominated to lead EU Commission

- European Union (EU) leaders have put forward their nominations for the bloc's top jobs, with a woman proposed as European Commission Chief for the first time. German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been nominated for the post to replace Jean-Claude Juncker.
- Chief of International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde has been nominated as the first woman to head the European Central Bank.
- Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel is nominated to replace European Council President Donald Tusk, while Spain's Foreign Minister Josep Borrell is proposed as Foreign Policy Chief.

### Italian socialist Sassoli to be president of EU Parliament

- Italian socialist David-Maria Sassoli was elected to head the European parliament, completing the bloc's drawn-out and at times acrimonious appointment process for its top jobs.
- In the second round of voting at the Strasbourg-based legislature, Sassoli received 345 votes, well over the absolute majority required of the 667 available.

### World's largest burn and plastic surgery institute starts journey

- The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute in Dhaka started functioning.
- Named Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, the 500-bed hospital with 50 ICU and 12 operation theatres will provide advanced treatment to burn patients in Bangladesh. The institute has been built at a cost of over 500 crore Taka.

### French lawmakers approve 3% tax on online giants

- In France, the lower house of parliament approved a small, pioneering tax on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.
- The French government hopes that other countries will follow the suit. The bill foresees a 3 per cent tax on the French revenues of digital companies with global revenue of more than 750 million Euros. At present, the companies pay nearly no tax in countries where they have large sales like France.

France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Emmanuel Macron is serving as President of France and ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra since 14 May 2017. Edouard Philippe is serving as Prime Minister of France. The euro is the official currency of France. The euro is the second largest reserve currency as well as the second most traded currency in the world after the United States dollar.

### Nigeria signs Africa free trade agreement

- Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has signed up to the \$3 trillion Africa free trade agreement.
- As the largest economy on the continent, Nigeria's decision to sign the deal was a boost to the pact. It was one of the last countries to commit to the deal.
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) aims to unite 1.3 billion people, creating a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc that could usher in a new era of development.

Nigeria officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a federal republic in West Africa. Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria. Muhammadu Buhari is currently serving as the President of Nigeria, in office since 2015. The naira is the currency of Nigeria.

### Sri Lanka inaugurates first model village built with Indian assistance

- A model village built with Indian assistance as part of a housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers was inaugurated in Sri Lanka.
- India has partnered with the Ministry of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs to build 100 model villages consisting of a total of 2,400 houses all across Sri Lanka with Indian grant of Rs 1,200 million (USD 17.5 million).

Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. Maithripala Sirisena is the current and 7th and current President of Sri Lanka, in office since January 2015. Ranil Wickremesinghe is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka since 9 January 2015. Sri Lankan rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.

### Conservative leader Mitsotakis takes oath as Greece PM

- Greece's new conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in after a sweeping election victory put him in charge of the EU's most indebted member with promises to end a decade of economic crisis.
- The U.S.-educated conservative faces a hefty challenge as he takes over from leftist premier Alexis Tsipras, who imposed austerity measures required under a bailout to keep Greece in the eurozone. The country's public debt last year stood at €335 billion, or 180% of GDP.
- Former banker Mitsotakis has pledged to create jobs and "steamroll" obstacles to business. Those pledges wooed Greek voters, who handed him nearly 40 percent of the vote in election.

Greece, historically also known as Hellas is a country located in Southern Europe. Athens is the nation's capital and largest city, followed by Thessaloniki. Greece is considered the cradle of Western civilization being the birthplace of democracy and Olympic Games. Prokopios Pavlopoulos has been serving as the President of Greece since 2015. The euro is the official currency of the Greece.

### Sharjah issues first golden card visa to Indian expat

- Sharjah's first Golden Card visa was issued to an Indian expat businessman, as part of the permanent residency system tailored for investors.



- The visa was issued to **Lalu Samuel**, Chairman and Managing Director of **Kingston Holdings** and Chairman of **Sharjah Industry Business Group**, which functions under the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Golden Card is a 10-year long-term visa eligible for investors and entrepreneurs and aims to attract capital, investments, and owners of leading companies with international experts as well as professionals in all vital sectors of the national economy, researchers in scientific fields and outstanding students, so as to engage them in the renaissance and development of the UAE.

### UNESCO names 29 new World Heritage sites for 2019

- From the ruins of ancient Babylon in Iraq to the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright to the Prosecco region of northeast Italy, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee added 29 new cultural and natural sites to its World Heritage List at its annual meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- The United Nations' cultural body meets annually to approve the addition of cultural, natural and sites of mixed significance to its preservation list, which now has 1,121 sites of "outstanding universal value."
- UNESCO has been adding sites to the World Heritage List since 1978, when the first 12 sites -- including the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, Yellowstone National Park in the United States and the Island of Goree in Senegal -- were named to the list.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris. **Audrey Azoulay** appointed as the **Director-general** of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), becoming the **second female leader of the organization**. India is sixth on the list of countries with the most number of sites in the list. Italy leads with 53 sites followed by China with 52 sites.

### UNESCO delegation presents 'State of the Education Report for India 2019- Children with Disabilities' to Vice President

- A UNESCO delegation led by Director, UNESCO New Delhi **Mr. Eric Falt** has presented 'State of the Education Report for India 2019- Children with Disabilities' to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
- The report contains ten recommendations, including amendments to Right to Education Act to align with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act by incorporating specific concerns of children with disabilities. Mr. Falt also presented a map of the world heritage sites to the Vice President.

### WHO declares Sri Lanka 'measles-free' nation

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that measles disease has been eradicated in the island nation of Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka is the fourth country in the WHO South-East Asia Region, after Bhutan, Maldives, and Timor-Leste, to eliminate measles and control rubella.
- This year, the United States, where measles was declared eliminated in 2000, has experienced the highest number of measles cases since 1992.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The current Director-General of WHO is **Tedros Adhanom**, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

### France to impose green tax on plane tickets from 2020

- The French government is to impose a tax of up to €18 on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France to fund less-polluting transportation projects.

- The move, which will take effect from 2020, will see a tax of €1.5 imposed on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe, with the highest tariff applied to business-class travellers flying outside the bloc.
- A similar tax was introduced in Sweden in April 2018, which imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket in a bid to lessen the impact of air travel on the climate.

France is a unitary semi-presidential republic with its capital in Paris. Emmanuel Macron is serving as President of France and ex officio Co-Prince of Andorra since 14 May 2017. Edouard Philippe is serving as Prime Minister of France. The euro is the official currency of France. The euro is the second largest reserve currency as well as the second most traded currency in the world after the United States dollar.

### Global Conference on Media Freedom in London

- The UK government has committed 18 million pounds towards improving the media freedom across the world and announced the creation of a new Global Media Defence Fund.
- The Conference the first of its kind was also attended by Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament Swapan Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member, Press Council.
- On July 10 and 11, the governments of the United Kingdom and Canada hosted the event committed to promoting press freedom across the world.
- However, a heated exchange at the end of the session, “Religion and the Media: Telling the Untold Story,” between two Indians, at the conference has triggered a controversy.

### Commonwealth 70th anniversary: foreign ministers' affirmation

- The 19th meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers was held at Marlborough House in London.
- Representatives of all 53 member states reaffirmed their dedication to the core values and principles outlined in the Commonwealth Charter. They also committed to work towards deepening the impact that the connected Commonwealth brings.
- The next meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers will take place in New York in September 2019.

The Commonwealth of Nations, normally known as the Commonwealth is a political association of 53 member states, nearly all of them former territories of the British Empire. The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community, and established the member states as "free and equal". The human symbol of this free association is the Head of the Commonwealth, currently Queen Elizabeth II, and the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting appointed Charles, Prince of Wales to be her designated successor, although the position is not technically hereditary.

### Palau signs International Solar Alliance Framework agreement

- Palau signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement lauding India for its efforts in promoting sustainable development projects through South-South cooperation.
- Palau became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement, which till date has been ratified by a total of 54 of the 76 countries.

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India.



## European Commission elects first female president

- German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been elected as the European Commission's first female president. The 60-year-old German Minister called for a united and strong Europe, after being elected.
- Leyen's nomination was approved by 383 votes, a narrow margin of just nine votes over the required 374. Germany's former defense minister narrowly received the backing of Members in the European Parliament (MEPs) for the biggest job in Brussels.

European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The Maastricht Treaty established the European Union in 1993 and introduced European citizenship. A monetary union was established in 1999 and came into full force in 2002 and is composed of 19 EU member states which use the euro currency. Brussels is the de facto capital of the European Union. Jean-Claude Juncker has been replaced with Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission. Donald Franciszek Tusk has been the President of the European Council since 2014.

## Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister

- Benjamin Netanyahu becomes Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister as his 13-year rule surpasses that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion on July 20.
- Netanyahu was prime minister between June 18, 1996, and July 6, 1999, and has also been premier consecutively since March 31, 2009.

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu is serving as the 9th and current Prime Minister of Israel since 2009. Reuven Rivlin is current President.

## India to be first recipient of AIIB local currency funding

- India is set to be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB).
- India, which is the second largest shareholder of Beijing-based AIIB with a 7.5% stake, has received about \$2-billion funding for various projects so far. China holds 20.06% in the over-three-year-old bank.

AIIB is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. It is headquartered in Beijing, China. Jin Liqun is the current President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

## First ever use of Indian waterway to transport Cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh

- In the first ever use of an Indian waterway to transport cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh via India, a shipment of stone aggregates was formally received at Narayanganj by the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Riva Ganguli Das, along with Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh Sonam T. Rabgye.
- The transport of cargo through this route will cut short travel time by 8 to 10 days, and reduce transportation cost by 30 per cent. It will also be a more environment friendly mode of transport.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was created by Government of India on 27 October 1986 for development and regulation of Inland waterways for shipping and navigation. IWAI is the statutory authority in charge of the waterways in India. Its headquarters is located in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

National Waterway 1 or NW-1 or Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system is located in India and runs from Haldia (Sagar) to Allahabad across the Ganges, Bhagirathi and Hooghly river systems. It is 1,620 km (1,010 mi) long, making it the longest waterway in India. The NW-1 passes through West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

## Fuzhou to host 2020 session of World Heritage Committee

- **Abulfaz Garayev**, chairperson of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, announced on July 9 in Baku, Azerbaijan that the city of Fuzhou will host the next session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.
- **During this year's session**, the World Heritage Committee inscribed a total of 29 new sites on the World Heritage List (one in Africa, two in the Arab States, ten in the Asia Pacific region, 15 in Europe and North America and one in Latin America).

Since its ratification of the World Heritage Convention in 1985, China has been one of the fastest-growing countries in terms of the number of world heritage sites. China is now home to a total of 55 world heritage sites, the highest number in the world.

## Ukraine: Prez Volodymyr Zelenskyy's party leads in parliamentary election

- **In Ukraine**, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's party is leading in the parliamentary election. The Central Election Commission said Servant of the People has won 43.10 per cent of the vote as 90.89 per cent of ballots are counted so far.
- **The Opposition Platform - For Life** party comes second with 12.94 per cent of votes, followed by former President Petro Poroshenko's European Solidarity with 8.18 per cent.
- **The President's party** said it is on course to win about 250 of parliament's 450 seats. It will also be the best result by any party in Ukraine's post-1991 history.

Ukraine is a sovereign state in Eastern Europe. Its capital and largest city is Kiev. Volodymyr Zelensky is the sixth and current President of Ukraine since May 2019. Volodymyr Groysman has been the Prime Minister of Ukraine since 14 April 2016. The hryvnia, sometimes hryvnya has been the national currency of Ukraine since 2 September 1996. The Crimean peninsula was annexed from Ukraine by the Russian Federation in February–March 2014 and since then has been administered as two Russian federal subjects—the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol.

## Boris Johnson becomes Britain's Prime Minister

- **Boris Johnson**, the bombastic politician who played a decisive role in the 2016 Brexit referendum, is officially Britain's new Prime Minister.
- **The former London Mayor** easily beat his rival, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, in a vote of members of the governing Conservative Party. Theresa May formally tenders her resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. In accordance with British constitutional protocol, he was officially invited to form a government by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Boris Johnson is serving as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since July 2019. He also served as Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016 and Foreign Secretary from 2016 to 2018. In 2016, Johnson became a prominent figure in the successful Vote Leave campaign for Brexit, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. He was subsequently appointed Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by Theresa May, but resigned in criticism of May's approach to Brexit.

## Pakistan PM's US visit begins on an embarrassing note

- **The Pakistan Prime Minister**, on a three-day visit to the US to discuss Afghan peace plan among other regional issues, received a cold welcome with no US officials receiving him at the Washington airport.
- **No state protocol** was accorded to Imran Khan as he landed in the US for his maiden visit to the country as the PM, and people closely following his trip to Washington saw it as a snub.

Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi is the 13th and current President of Pakistan. Pakistan is a country in South Asia. It is the fifth-most populous country. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. Pakistani rupee is the currency.

### BRICS nations call upon States to prevent terror financing from their soil

- India along with other BRICS nations called on all states to prevent the financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories.
- The five nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations during the meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.
- The BRICS nations called for concerted efforts to fight terrorism under UN auspices on a firm international legal basis. India was represented by Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways VK Singh.

BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (China, Brazil, Russia and India), before the induction of South Africa in 2010. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

### Priti Patel appointed Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary

- New Prime Minister Boris Johnson sacked most of Britain's Cabinet as he took office vowing to get a new divorce deal with the European Union or leave without one by October 31.
- His first Cabinet appointment was Sajid Javid, the son of Pakistani immigrants who has been moved from the Interior Ministry to become Finance Minister.
- Priti Patel, an ardent Brexiteer who was among the most vocal critics of Theresa May's Brexit strategy, took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin home secretary as part of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top team.

### US to resume capital punishment after a gap of nearly two decades

- In a major decision, the Trump Administration announced to resume capital punishment after a gap of nearly two decades and has set execution dates for five death-row inmates convicted of murdering.
- "Under Administrations of both parties, the Department of Justice has sought the death penalty against the worst criminals, including these five murderers, each of whom was convicted by a jury of his peers after a full and fair proceeding," US Attorney General William Barr said in a statement.

United States of America (USA) is a federal republic composed of 50 states and capital is Washington, D.C., Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States. He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

### Nepal invited to become partner country for Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be the partner country for this year's "Gita Jayanti Mahotsav", scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra from December 3 to 8.
- Mauritius organised Gita Mahotsav in February 2019 and the same will be organised in the United Kingdom from August 7 to August 9 this year.
- The chief minister said Haryana has been celebrating Gita Jayanti Mahotsav for the last three years and every year a country is invited to become the partner country for the mega event.

Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was the first elected prime minister under the newly adopted Constitution of Nepal. Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia located in the Himalaya. Nepalese rupee is the official currency of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.



## **ECONOMY AND FINANCE**



### **Economy News**

#### **Government to introduce new return system for GST on trial basis**

- The second anniversary of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is celebrated 1st of July, 2019. It was launched on the 1st of July, 2017 at a function held in the Central Hall of Parliament on the midnight of 30th June, 2017.
- Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur presided over the function held in New Delhi to mark the occasion.
- The introduction of GST played an important role in the Indian economy as it has replaced multi-layered, complex indirect tax structure with a simple, transparent and technology-driven tax regime. The Ministry said it will introduce the new return system on a trial basis from 1st of July, 2019 and on a mandatory basis from 1st of October.

The GST tax came into effect from July 1, 2017 through the implementation of One Hundred and First Amendment of the Constitution of India by the Indian government. The tax replaced existing multiple cascading taxes levied by the central and state governments. The GST has a four-tier structure for taxation of services, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, in line with what has been done for goods. As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A. GST Council is headed by Union Finance Minister.

#### **India drops down to 74th rank in money parked in Swiss banks, UK maintains top spot**

- India dropped one place in the annual banking statistics report released by the Swiss National Bank (SNB). India is now positioned at the 74th rank in terms of money parked by the Indian individuals and enterprises in the Swiss banks. While India has slipped one place, the United Kingdom continued to maintain its top position in the rankings based on money in Swiss banks.
- India was ranked 73rd in 2018 after it jumped 15 places from its 88th position a year ago. India has ranked "very low" when it comes to money parked in the Swiss banks, the analysis shows. Currently, India accounts for just 0.07 per cent of the aggregate amount parked by all foreign clients of Switzerland-based banks.
- Money parked by Indian clients fell by nearly 6 per cent in 2018 to 955 million Swiss francs (about Rs 6,757 crore) to hit its second-lowest level in over two decades. Among the five-nation BRICS, India is ranked the lowest while Russia is ranked the highest at 20th position. Notably, this the first time in the last four years that the funds linked to Pakistan in Swiss banks have slipped below that of Indians.

The United Kingdom, on the other hand, accounted for more than 26 per cent of the total foreign funds till December 2018. The United Kingdom is followed by the United States. The other countries in the top five are West Indies, France, and Hong Kong. According to the annual banking statistics report, the top-five countries alone account for more than 50 per cent of the aggregate foreign funds. On the other hand, the top 10 countries account for nearly two-thirds of the aggregate foreign funds parked in the Swiss banks. The top-10 countries also include Bahamas, Germany, Luxembourg, Cayman Islands and Singapore.

## India International Cooperatives Trade Fair to be held in October

- The first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair, IICTF, will be held in New Delhi between 11th to 13th October, 2019.
- The initiative is a part of the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 which aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains.
- Steered by NCDC, the Fair is being conducted with the support of one international organization (NEDAC), three Ministries, four State Governments and several apex level Indian cooperative organizations.

The Cooperative sector has a big role to play in doubling agriculture exports from present US \$ 30 billion+ to US\$ 60 billion+ by 2022 as envisaged in the Agriculture Export Policy. Towards this end a Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum has been set up in NCDC very recently. An estimated 94% of the Indian farmers are members of at least one cooperative institution.

## Government hikes Minimum Support Price of Kharif crops for 2019-20 season

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices, MSP for all Kharif crops for 2019-20 Season.
- MSP of paddy has been increased by 65 rupees per quintal, Jowar by 120 rupees and Ragi by 253 rupees per quintal.
- The MSP of Tur has been raised by 125 rupees, Moong by 75 rupees and Urad pulses raised by 100 rupees per quintal.

Minimum Support Price is the price at which government purchases crops for the farmers, to safeguard the interests of the farmers. In our country, MSP for 24 agricultural commodities of Kharif and Rabi season are announced by the Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices (CACP).

## IMF approves \$6 billion loan for Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund Executive Board approved a \$6 billion, three-year loan for Pakistan to try to right the nation's economy.
- The fund released \$1 billion to Pakistan immediately and said in a statement the programme aims to "support the authorities' economic reform programme" and to help "generate sustainable and balanced growth."
- The IMF will review Pakistan's performance quarterly over 39 months, phasing release of the additional aid over time.

The IMF, also known as the Fund, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., of ". At present, 189 countries are the member countries in IMF. The current Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund is noted French lawyer and former politician, Christine Lagarde, who has held the post since 5 July 2011.

## Gujarat FM Nitin Patel presents highest-ever Rs 2 lakh crore-plus budget

- Gujarat Finance Minister Nitin Patel presented Rs 2,04,815 crore budget - the state's highest-ever - for 2019-20, with an overall surplus of Rs 572 crore and additional taxes to the tune of Rs 287 crore.
- Presenting his seventh budget, Patel called it a "historical moment as the first time since the formation of the state, a budget size of over Rs two lakh crore is being presented in this house".



Gujarat is a state on the western coast of India with a coastline of 1,600 km (990 mi) – most of which lies on the Kathiawar peninsula – and a population in excess of 60 million. It is the **sixth largest Indian state by area and the ninth largest state by population**. Its capital city is Gandhinagar, while its largest city is Ahmedabad. Om Prakash Kohli is current Governor of Gujara and Vijay Ramniklal Rupani is the current chief minister of Gujara.

### Economic Survey projects 7% GDP growth in current fiscal

- Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey 2018-19 in both Houses of Parliament.
- The survey projects GDP to grow at 7 per cent in 2019-20. The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.8 per in 2018-19 while maintaining macro-economic stability.
- The fiscal deficit has been pegged at 3.4 per cent of GDP for 2018-19. The survey has provisionally estimated 2.9 per cent growth rate for the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector.

### Ravi Shankar Prasad launched commemoration of four years of Digital India initiative

- Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the commemoration of four years of Digital India initiative in New Delhi. The aim of this initiative is to bridge the digital divide and create awareness about Information Technology.
- Digital services being offered by the government as well as the private sector have improved the life of every citizen. Prime Minister Narendra had launched various initiative of Digital India on 1st of July, 2015.
- Digital India comprises various initiatives which are targeted to prepare India for becoming a knowledge economy and for bringing good governance to citizens through synchronized and coordinated engagement of the entire government. The Digital India Project aims to connect all gram panchayats by broadband connectivity under BharatNet Project to promote e-governance.

### Union Budget 2019 Highlights

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rose to present her maiden Union Budget 2019 in Parliament emphasizing on goals for people of India- economic growth and national security. FM Sitharaman also evoked an Urdu couplet ‘Yakeen ho to koi raasta niklata hai, hawa ki ot(protection) bhi le kar charagh jalta hai’ to begin her Union Budget speech.
- FM Nirmala Sitharaman said India became \$1 trillion dollar economy in over 55 years. But the under the tenure of the Narendra Modi government, another \$1 trillion dollar was added. She proposed that India enter the threshold of \$3 trillion economy in the current year itself. With this India will become the sixth largest economy in the world. FM Sitharaman claimed that five years back it was at 11th position.
- FM Sitharaman proposes FAME II scheme. Under this scheme there will be faster adoption of electric vehicles by right incentives.
- In a mega push to uplift the living standard of rural people, FM Nirmala Sitharaman proposes all families will have electricity and LPG connection connections by 2022.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed a change Aadhaar card rules. The Modi government has announced that Non-resident Indians (NRIs) with Indian passports will get Aadhaar number after arrival. So far, they are given Aadhaar card number after the completion of mandatory waiting period.
- The Modi government encourages women entrepreneurship. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Women Self Help Group(SHG) Interest Subvention Programme will be expanded to all across districts in India. FM Sitharaman stated ‘Naari tu Narayaani’.

- The central government was preparing ‘Gandhipedia’ with an aim to sensitize the youth about the Gandhian values and principles, proposed FM Sitharaman. FM Sitharaman also announced a new series of coins Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20. These will be available to common man soon.
- **PAN and Aadhaar now interchangeable:** More than 120 crore Indians now have Aadhar card, therefore for ease of tax payers I propose to make PAN card and Aadhar card interchangeable and allow those who don't have PAN to file returns by simply quoting Aadhar number and use it wherever they require to use PAN.
- **Public sector banks to be provided 70,000 crore rupees to boost capital** and improve credit. For purchase of high-rated pooled assets of financially sound **Non-Banking Finance Companies amounting to 1 lakh crore rupees during 2019-20**, one-time six-month partial credit guarantee to be given to public sector banks (PSBs).
- **Regulation authority over housing finance sector** to be returned from National Housing Bank to RBI.
- **Non-performing asset(NPAs) recovery of Rs.4 lakh crore over the last four years**, NPAs down by Rs.1 lakh crore in the last one year.
- **India's sovereign external debt to GDP is among the lowest globally at less than 5%.** Government will start raising a part of its gross borrowing program in external markets in external currencies.
- **Four new embassies to be opened in 2019-20**, to improve footprint of India's overseas presence and to provide better public services to local Indian communities.
- **India will be made open defecation free on 2 October 2019**, as per the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **9.6 crore toilets have been constructed since 2 October 2014.** More than 5.6 lakh villages have become open defecation free.
- **Jal Shakti Ministry** will look at the **mgmt of our water resources** and water supply in an integrated and holistic manner and will **work with states to ensure 'Har Ghar Jal'**, to all rural households by 2024 under 'Jal Jeevan Mission'.
- Government will invite suggestions for further **opening up of FDI in aviation sector, media, animation AVGC and insurance sectors** in consultation with all stakeholders. **100% FDI will be permitted for insurance intermediaries.**
- The Union Budget 2019-20 has **proposed to extend the lower rate of 25 % Corporate Tax to all companies with annual turnover up to Rs. 400 crore.** Currently, this rate is **only applicable to companies having annual turnover up to Rs. 250 crore.**
- The effective tax rates for the higher income group individuals having taxable income from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 5 crore and above is proposed to be **increased by around 3 percent and 7 percent respectively.** “Those having annual income upto Rs. 5 lakh are not required to pay any income tax”. This includes self-employed as well as small traders, salary earners, and senior citizens, she added.
- The government has proposed to increase budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare by over 78 per cent to 1.39 lakh crore rupees for the current fiscal. She said, out of the total amount, 75,000 crore rupees will be for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi.

### Connaught Place 9th most expensive office location in the world: CBRE

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- New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) is the **ninth most expensive office location in the world** with an annual rent of nearly USD 144 per sq ft, according to property consultant CBRE. CP, located in the heart of the national capital, was at the ninth position even last year.
- In its annual Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey, CBRE tracks the cost of leasing prime office space globally. The report added that six of the world's 10 most expensive office markets are in Asia.

- **Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and Nariman Point CBD** were ranked at 27th and 40th positions respectively. In the given position, the **current annual prime rent of BKC** is valued at **US\$ 90.67 per sq. ft per annum** and the **CBD Nariman Point** is valued at **\$ 68.38 per sq. ft per annum**

**For the second year, Hong Kong's Central district retained the top spot as the world's most expensive market for prime office rents, with the prime occupancy costs valued at \$ 322 per sq.ft. Per annum. The second position was taken by West End in London.**

### Kerala Startup Mission to host Women Startup Summit in Kochi on August 1

- Seeking to promote women entrepreneurship in a big way, the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** is **hosting the Women Startup Summit on August 1**, in association with the **Indian Women Network** floated by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, at the **Integrated Startup Complex, Kochi**.
- The **'Women Startup Summit 2019'** aims at **encouraging aspiring women professionals to take up their entrepreneurial journey** and developing an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem in the State.

### Lifting 271 mn out of poverty in 10 years, India fastest, Jharkhand No. 1 area: UN

- **India has registered the fastest absolute reduction in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value** among ten countries, spanning every developing region, whose combined population is two billion people. And **Jharkhand is among the poorest regions in the world improving the fastest**.
- According to the **global MPI 2019 report between 2005-06 and 2015-16, India, lifted 271 million out of poverty**, significantly reducing deprivations in many of the ten indicators, particularly in "assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition". **The MPI captures both the incidence and intensity of poverty**.
- The **global MPI tracks 101 countries on deprivations across ten indicators in health, education, and standard of living**. Developed in 2010 by the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, it looks beyond income poverty and tracks poverty in terms of the deprivation faced by people in their daily lives.

The report stated: **"Among selected countries with a significant reduction in MPI value, India demonstrates the clearest pro-poor pattern at the subnational level: the poorest regions reduced multidimensional poverty the fastest in absolute terms". Across the 101 countries, 23.1 per cent of the people are multidimensionally poor. Fifty per cent of multidimensionally poor people are children, and a third are children under age 10 with over 85 per cent of poor children living in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.**

### Balances in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs 1 lakh crore

- **The value of balances in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark**, as per updated data on the scheme's website.
- **A total of 36.06 crore beneficiaries held balances worth Rs 1,00,496 crore as on July 3, 2019**. This puts the average account balance of a Jan Dhan account at **Rs 2,787**.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is financial inclusion program of Government of India that aims to expand and make affordable access to financial services such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions. This financial inclusion campaign was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014. Run by Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, under this scheme 1.5 Crore (15 million) bank accounts were opened on inauguration day. The Guinness Book of World Records recognised this achievement.**



## L&T Finance arm becomes first NBFC to get \$100 million loan from AIIB

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing, has provided a \$100-million loan to L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (LTIF), a subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd and a leading non-bank financier of renewable energy in India.
- The overseas bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia, said that this deal with L&T Finance Holdings embarks as AIIB's first loan first loan to a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

## India to overtake Japan to become 3rd largest economy in 2025

- India was ranked 77 out of 190 countries that are included on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index for 2019.
- India will this year overtake the UK to become the world's fifth biggest economy, and is poised to surpass Japan to be the third largest in 2025, IHS Markit said in a report.

## Government infused over Rs 3.15 lakh crore into PSBs in 11 years

- The government has infused over Rs 3.15 lakh crore into Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in the 11 years through 2018-19.
- As per RBI guidelines, banks in India are required to maintain a minimum capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of 9 per cent. "As on March 31, 2019, all 18 PSBs meet this minimum CRAR requirement".

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) or Nationalised Banks in India are banks where a majority stake i.e. more than 51% is held by a government. In 1969 the Indian government nationalised 14 major private banks, one of the big bank was Bank of India. In 1980, 6 more private banks were nationalised. They dominate the banking sector because of their large size and widespread networks.

## Christine Lagarde resigns as managing director of IMF

- International Monetary Fund, IMF managing director Christine Lagarde has resigned ahead of a decision on her nomination to become head of the European Central Bank, ECB.
- Her resignation has been accepted by the IMF Executive Board, which will come into effect from 12 September, 2019. The former French cabinet minister has been head of the IMF since 2011.
- If the European Council approves her ECB nomination, she will become the central bank's first ever female leader, responsible for the euro and the monetary policy of the eurozone.

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy within the Eurozone, which comprises 19 member states of the European Union and is one of the largest monetary areas in the world. Established by the Treaty of Amsterdam, the ECB is one of the world's most important central banks and serves as one of seven institutions of the European Union, being enshrined in the Treaty on European Union (TEU). The current President of the ECB is Mario Draghi. Headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, the bank formerly occupied the Eurotower prior to the construction of its new seat.

## Arnault Tops Gates to become world's second-richest person

- Bill Gates has never ranked lower than No. 2 in the seven-year history of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. That run ended when the Microsoft Corp. co-founder dropped to No. 3 behind France's Bernard Arnault.
- LVMH, Arnault's luxury-goods maker, advanced to a record and pushed his net worth to \$107.6 billion and ahead of Gates by more than \$200 million. Arnault has added about \$39 billion to his fortune in 2019 alone, the biggest individual gain by far among the 500 people in Bloomberg's ranking.
- Arnault joined Gates and Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos, the world's richest person, in the most exclusive wealth club last month



## WEF Centre, Telangana government set to send medical supplies via drones

- **Telangana Government** and the **World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network** announced that they are set to launch an innovative project to deliver emergency medical supplies such as **blood and vaccines via drones**.
- It will help **facilitate decision-making in healthcare supply chains, focus on last-mile deliveries** and address issues that affect the medical distribution system. The **pilot project, called Medicine from the Sky**, will run in partnership with the state government and HealthNet Global Limited

**World Economic Forum (WEF)**, based in **Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland**, was founded in **1971** as a **not-for-profit organization**. It gained formal status in **January 2015** under the **Swiss Host-State Act**, confirming the role of the Forum as an **International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation**. The **WEF hosts an annual meeting at the end of January in Davos**, a mountain resort in **Graubunden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland**.

## Agri-Business Incubation Centre started in Chhattisgarh

- An **Agri Business Incubation Centre** has started in **Chhattisgarh**. The centre has been set up by the **Union Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur**.
- **Agri Business Incubation Centre** is set up under the **National Agriculture Development Scheme-RAFTAAR**.
- Under the scheme, **guidance, technology and infrastructure** will be provided to **youth and entrepreneurs for start-ups in different areas of agriculture**.

## Parliament passes NDIAC Bill, 2019

- **Parliament** has passed the **New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019**, with the **Rajya Sabha** approving it by a voice vote.
- The **Lok Sabha** has already passed the bill. **It replaces an ordinance which was promulgated in March** this year.
- It seeks to provide for the establishment and incorporation of **New Delhi International Arbitration Centre, NDIAC** for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalized arbitration.

## Piyush Goyal to launch Global Innovation Index on July 24

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** launched the **Global Innovation Index, GII** on **24th of July** in **New Delhi**.
- The **GII** has been a **charter for assessing the innovation capabilities of national economies worldwide**. The launch of **GII** will reveal the **innovation rankings of economies** and the findings for this year.
- This year's theme is **Evaluating the Medical Innovation Scenario of the Next Decade**.

**Piyush Vedprakash Goyal** is currently **minister of Ministry of Railways (India) and Commerce** in the Government of India.. He was elected as the **BJP candidate from Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha** on **3 June 2016**. He was also served as **Finance Minister** for short duration, **Minister of State with Independent Charge for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy** in the Government of India.

## FDI inflow registered growth of 79% during last 6 years

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow** has increased during the last six years from **36.05 billion US Dollars** in **2013-14** to **64.38 billion US Dollars** in **2018-19**, registering a growth of **79 per cent**. The intent is to make the **FDI policy more investor-friendly** and remove the policy bottlenecks.

A foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment in the form of a controlling ownership in a business in one country by an entity based in another country. Foreign investment was introduced in 1991 under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), driven by then finance minister Manmohan Singh. In 2018, 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading, 100% FDI under automatic route in Construction Development and Foreign airlines allowed to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India.

### Singapore's GIIS to launch India's first smart school campus in Pune

- The Singapore-headquartered Global Indian International School (GIIS) will launch India's first SMART campus in Pune as part of its Rs 420 crore investments in education in India over the coming years.
- GIIS said the concept of an international award-winning SMART Campus, launched in Singapore in 2018, will be implemented at Hadapsar and Balewadi campuses with the aim of providing students with NextGen learning to hone 21st century skills.
- Also, for the first time in India, GIIS will introduce Sports Analytics at the school level, to monitor and improve on-field performances of students through data and statistical information – a technique used by international sports teams in basketball and soccer.

The GIIS has more than 15,000 students across 21 campuses in Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam and India. Founded in 2002, GIIS offers a comprehensive range of International and Indian curricula for Kindergarten to Year 12 students.

### Inter-Ministerial Committee recommends ban on crypto-currencies in India

- A high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee has recommended a ban on all forms of private cryptocurrencies besides a fine of up to Rs 25 crore and imprisonment of as much as 10 years for anyone dealing in them. It also backed the use of blockchain in selected areas.
- The recommendations, if accepted by the government, will be a blow to digital currency aspirants in India such as Facebook as well as exchanges currently operating in the country by circumventing Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms by undertaking peer-to-peer trading. However, the committee wants the RBI and the government to look at the introduction of an official digital currency in the country.
- The committee recommends that all private cryptocurrencies, except any cryptocurrency which may be issued by the government, be banned in India," said the report by the high-level inter-ministerial committee, constituted in November 2017 under the chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg.

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency, a form of electronic cash. It is a decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user-to-user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries. Bitcoin was invented by an unknown person or group of people using the name Satoshi Nakamoto and released as open-source software in 2009.

### Maharashtra tops in ATM frauds, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka follow

- Maharashtra reported 233 cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19, the highest in the entire country.
- The data showed that Delhi grabbed the second spot with 179 cases, followed by Tamil Nadu with 147 cases of ATM fraud.

An automated teller machine (ATM) is an electronic telecommunications device that enables customers of financial institutions to perform financial transactions, such as cash withdrawals, deposits, transfer funds, or obtaining account information, at any time and without the need for direct interaction with bank staff. National Financial Switch (NFS) is the largest network of shared automated teller machines (ATMs) in India. It was designed, developed and deployed by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) in 2004, with the goal of inter-connecting the ATMs in the country and facilitating convenience banking. It is run by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

## US economy grew more slowly in 2018 than previously thought

- The US economy grew less than previously thought last year, missing President Donald Trump's target of 3%.
- Revised official figures show that GDP expanded by 2.5% during 2018. GDP grew at an annual rate of 2.1% between April and June, ahead of expectations but below 3.1% recorded in the first three months of the year.
- Growth in the second quarter was better than the 1.8% expansion forecast, and was supported by stronger consumer spending and a jump in government spending.

## All toll plaza lanes on national highways to be 'FASTag lanes' from Dec 1, 2019

- To ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas, the government has decided to declare all lanes at toll fee plaza on national highways as 'FASTag lanes' from December 1, 2019.
- However, among all lanes, one 'hybrid lane' will be allowed at every toll plaza to facilitate and monitor over-dimensional or oversized vehicles, where FASTag and other modes of payment will be accepted.

FASTag is an electronic toll connection device installed in the vehicle to help drivers to drive through toll plazas without having to stop. The move is part of the government's plan to promote digital payments at toll plazas and decongest national highways.

## India jumps 5 places to 52nd rank in global innovation index 2019

- India improved its rank in the Global Innovation Index to 52nd, in 2019, making a significant jump of 5 places in a year. It was at 57th position in 2018. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal released the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings.
- The Index ranks innovative performances of 129 economies around the world on 80 indicators including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.
- The index keeps Switzerland in the No. 1 spot - a position it has held since 2011 - followed by Sweden, the US, the Netherlands, the UK, Finland, Denmark, Singapore, Germany and Israel. The United States had fallen from fourth place in the 2017 rankings to sixth in 2018.

The GI rankings are published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GI Knowledge Partners.

## ADB sanctions about Rs 2000 Cr for power projects in Tripura

- Asian Development Bank has sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for upgradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura.
- Deputy Chief Minister and Power Minister Jishnu Dev Varma said that the project has been sanctioned for upgrading capacity of 63 MW Rokhia Project to 120 MW at an estimated cost of over 699 crore and modernising Gumti Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of nearly 1225 crore rupees.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

## Delhi to get country's most advanced, tallest ATC tower in August

- The capital's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport will soon sport the country's most technologically advanced and highest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower, which is expected to enhance the safety and the efficiency of air transport management services over the city's sky.

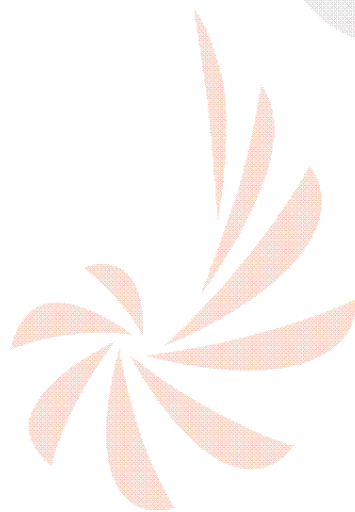
- The commissioning of the new tower is expected to **enhance the efficiency of air traffic management services at the IGIA** which is the **busiest airport in India**. On an average, Delhi Air Traffic Control handles more than one flight operation every minute throughout the day.

### Promoters get 90 days to retake company after insolvency proceedings begin

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- The **insolvency regulator** has **notified rules that will give promoters and other stakeholder 90 days** after the **commencement of insolvency proceedings** to re-take control of the company through agreements with creditors. The new rules also specify a limit of one year for the liquidation of such a company from the date of commencement of insolvency proceeding.
- **As many as 378 companies with total creditor claims of Rs. 2, 57,642 crore** have been sent into **liquidation under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code till March 31, 2019**.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was set up on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code). It is a **unique regulator: regulates a profession as well as processes**. It has regulatory oversight over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities. It writes and enforces rules for transactions, namely, corporate insolvency resolution, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency resolution and individual bankruptcy under the Code. Dr. M. S. Sahoo is currently serves as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.





## Banks in News

### Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at GIFT IFSC

- UK-based Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- Standard Chartered has received in-principle regulatory approvals to set up its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).

Standard Chartered PLC is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in London, England. It is a universal bank with operations in consumer, corporate and institutional banking, and treasury services. Despite its UK base, it does not conduct retail banking in the UK, and around 90% of its profits come from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Jose Vinals is the Group Chairman of Standard Chartered. Bill Winters is the current Group Chief Executive.

### HDFC Bank, CSC launch credit card for small traders, village entrepreneurs

- HDFC Bank and CSC launched a co-branded "Small Business MoneyBack Credit Card" for small traders and village level entrepreneurs (VLEs).
- The credit card is specifically designed for CSC's VLEs, and VLE-sourced customers, and will give users easy access to credit for their day-to-day business expenses. The card was launched by HDFC Bank MD Aditya Puri and CSC Chief Dinesh Kumar Tyagi.
- HDFC Bank and CSC had entered into a pact in July 2018 as part of which the bank will offer various products and services in remote locations to VLEs enrolled with CSCs.

At present, as much as Rs 70,000 crore worth of business is transacted through the network of Common Services Centres (CSCs), which apart from providing a platform for essential government and public utility services also deliver a range of social welfare schemes, financial services, education and skill development courses, healthcare, agriculture services and digital literacy.

### SBI waives RTGS, NEFT, IMPS charges

- The State Bank of India has waived charges on NEFT and RTGS transactions through Internet and mobile banking from July 1.
- The bank, which has about 25% market share and over 7 crore internet banking users, has also decided to do away with fund transfer charges on mobile phones transactions using IMPS from August.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India was the oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent, and was subsequently transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.

### RBI panel moots change in timings for foreign exchange market

- An internal committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up to review timings of different financial markets, suggested that the foreign exchange market could function from 9 am to 9 pm at present, the currency market works from 9 am to 5 pm.
- "Calibrated extension of market hours, and to begin with, revised market timings of 9 am — 9 pm, may be considered to gauge demand and potential benefits." The panel suggested call money market timings could be extended till 6 pm instead of the 5 pm now, to facilitate liquidity management by banks.

## SIDBI introduces web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds

- In order to improve turnaround time, **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, has introduced a **web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**.
- **The applications for contribution from various Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) will now be accepted online** and the status of the same shall be accessible to applicants, thereby increasing the transparency in the system.

**Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) set up on 2nd April 1990** under an Act of Indian Parliament, acts as the Principal Financial Institution for **Promotion, Financing and Development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector** as well as for co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities. It is **headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

## Jalan Panel wants transfer of RBI's surplus reserves over 3-5 years

- A **high-level committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on its economic capital framework (ECF)** has **recommended that surplus reserves held by the central bank be transferred to the government in tranches over three to five years**.
- **The six-member committee headed by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan** was tasked with examining the central bank's requirements on provisions, reserves and buffers.

**The six-member panel was set up on December 26 last year by the RBI to review its ECF** following several exchanges between the central bank and the finance ministry on the issue. **The government had invoked powers under the rarely used Section 7 of the RBI Act in October, seeking consultations with the central bank on 12 points, including the ECF.** The matter of the ideal level of RBI's reserves was examined by three committees previously — one headed by V Subrahmanyam in 1997, by Usha Thorat in 2004 and by YH Malegam in 2013.

## ICICI Bank launches digital banking platform 'InstaBIZ' for MSMEs

- **ICICI Bank announces the launch of a new digital platform curated specially for MSMEs and self-employed customers** to enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly.
- **Called, 'InstaBIZ', it allows customers to avail as many as over 115 products and services in a digital and secure manner** on their mobile phone or internet banking platform. **Many of the services are first-in-the-industry and are available instantly.**

**ICICI Bank, stands for Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India**, it is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company **headquartered in Mumbai**. As of 2018, **ICICI Bank is the second largest bank in India in terms of assets and market capitalisation**. **Sandeep Bakhshi is the current MD & CEO of Bank.**

## RBI names Kanungo to run monetary policy portfolio after Viral Acharya quits

- **With the exit of Viral Acharya**, the Reserve Bank rejigged portfolios of the other three deputy governors giving the important monetary policy and forecasting department to **B P Kanungo**. **Kanungo would become the sixth member of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee**, which will next convene on 5-7 August.
- Now, **all the other three deputy governors -- N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain -- have been made responsible for 12 departments each**. The RBI, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, has **four deputy governors**.

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution**, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI was **nationalised on 1 January 1949**. The inaugural officeholder was the **British banker Osborne Smith**, while **C. D. Deshmukh was the first Indian governor**. The bank's **15th governor, Manmohan Singh**, later became India's **13th prime minister**. The position is currently held by **Shaktikanta Das**.

## RBI to ease priority sector lending norms for exports

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to relax priority sector lending norms for exports by removing the turnover condition of Rs 100 crore and enhancing the maximum sanctioned limit to Rs 40 crore from Rs 25 crore now.
- This boost for the credit-strapped export sector comes amid slow global trade growth. The central bank will also review the threshold for export credit, which is capped at 2% of the total credit forwarded by banks, known as adjusted net bank credit (ANBC), to further ease the flow of credit.

## RBI panel for hike in collateral free lending, MUDRA loan limit to Rs 20 lakh

- A committee constituted by the RBI has recommended increase in the collateral free lending limit to Rs 20 lakh for MSMEs and self-help groups. The committee has also recommended revision of loan limit sanctioned under MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh.

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs. The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned above or can apply online through this portal [www.udyamimitra.in](http://www.udyamimitra.in). Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit / entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation / growth.

## RBI Deputy Governor gets extension

- The government has extended the tenure of N.S. Vishwanathan, one of the four Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India, (RBI) by one year.
- "The central government has re-appointed N.S. Vishwanathan as Deputy Governor, RBI, for a further period of one year beyond his currently notified period of appointment of three years that expires on July 3, 2019, i.e., till July 3, 2020.

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## RBI sets up committee to strengthen CIC framework

- The Reserve Bank of India constituted a six-member committee to strengthen the corporate governance framework of systematically important Core Investment Companies (CICs). These are Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have their assets predominantly as investments in shares for holding stake in group companies but not for trading. CICs also do not carry out any other financial activity.
- The six-member committee would be headed by former secretary of MCA Tapan Ray. Other members include Lily Vadera and T Ravishankar of RBI, Amarjeet Singh of SEBI, H K Jena of SBI and N S Venkatesh of Association of Mutual Funds in India.

## IMF's Lagarde 'honoured' to be tapped to head European Central Bank

- International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde announced she would step down from the global lender after being nominated to lead the European Central Bank.
- EU leaders have nominated International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde to be the new president of the European Central Bank.

The **European Central Bank (ECB)** is the central bank for the euro and administers monetary policy within the Eurozone, which comprises **19 member states** of the European Union and is one of the **largest monetary areas in the world**. Established by the **Treaty of Amsterdam**, the ECB is **one of the world's most important central banks** and serves as **one of seven institutions of the European Union**, being enshrined in the **Treaty on European Union (TEU)**. The current President of the ECB is **Mario Draghi**. Headquartered in **Frankfurt, Germany**, the bank formerly occupied the **Eurotower** prior to the construction of its new seat.

### India gives Central Bank more power to regulate shadow lenders

- The **Reserve Bank of India** will now be the **regulator of housing finance firms**, replacing the **National Housing Bank**.
- The government will also **provide a one-time partial credit** guarantee for loan losses to state banks that buy as much as **1 trillion rupees (\$14.6 billion)** of **high-rated pooled assets** of non-banking finance companies.
- India has **more than 9,000 NBFCs**, of which about **350**, including **deposit-taking firms**, are listed as systemically important by the **RBI**.

**National Housing Bank (NHB)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, was set up on **9 July 1988** under the **National Housing Bank Act, 1987**. NHB is an **apex financial institution for housing**. The **Head Office of NHB** is at **New Delhi**. **Sarada Kumar Hota** is the **current managing director** of **National Housing Bank**.

### RBI board finalises 'Utkarsh 2022'

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** board, which met in **New Delhi**, finalised a **three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision**, among other functions of the central bank.
- This **medium term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 —** is in line with the **global central banks' plan** to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
- “It is a **three-year road map for medium term objective to be achieved for improving regulation, supervision of the central bank**”. The board also approved the **RBI's budget for the July 2019—June 2020 period**. Other matters discussed by the board included issues relating to **currency management and payment systems**.

**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is India's central banking institution, which controls the **monetary policy of the Indian rupee**. It commenced its operations on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. **RBI** was nationalised on **1 January 1949**. **Foreign exchange reserves of India** are **India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee**. **Shaktikanta Das** is the **current Governor of RBI**.



## Firms in News

### TSK becomes 1st Indian firm to join WEF's Lighthouse Network

- **Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK)** has been **included in World Economic Forum's (WEF's) Global Lighthouse Network**, a community of manufacturers that are showing leadership in **applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies** to drive financial and operational impact.
- **TSK is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.**

**World Economic Forum (WEF)**, based in **Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland**, was founded in **1971** as a **not-for-profit organization**. It gained formal status in **January 2015** under the **Swiss Host-State Act**, confirming the role of the Forum as an **International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation**. The **WEF hosts an annual meeting at the end of January in Davos**, a mountain resort in **Graubunden**, in the **eastern Alps region of Switzerland**.

### RIL races past TCS to become most valued firm by m-cap

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** went past **Tata Consultancy Services** to become the **most-valued firm** in terms of **market valuation**.
- **RIL's market capitalisation (m-cap)** was at **Rs 8,11,048.27 crore** at the close of trade, which was **Rs 11,246.23 crore** more than that of **Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) Rs 7,99,802.04 crore** valuation on the **BSE**.

In the list of **top-five domestic firms**, **RIL** was placed at the **top of the pack** followed by **TCS**, **HDFC Bank (Rs 6,50,136.04 crore)**, **HDFC (Rs 3,85,207.96 crore)** and **HUL (Rs 3,76,545.49 crore)**. The **m-cap** of companies changes daily with stock price movement.

### TVS launches India's first ethanol-based motorcycle Apache RTR 200 Fi E100

- **TVS Motor Company** has **launched India's first motorcycle** which runs on ethanol, the **TVS Apache RTR 200 FI E100**, priced at **Rs. 1.2 lakh**.
- This version costs about **Rs 11,000** more than the comparable petrol variant. It is capable of running completely on ethanol and does not need to be blended with petrol at all.

**TVS Motor Company** is a **multinational motorcycle company** headquartered at **Chennai, India**. It is the **third largest motorcycle company in India** with a revenue of over **Rs. 20,000 crore (US\$2.9 billion)** in 2018-19. **TVS** was established by **Thirukkurungudi Sundaram Iyengar**.

### Bharti Airtel completes merger of Tata Tele's consumer mobile businesses

- **Bharti Airtel and Bharti Hexacom** announced the **merger of the consumer mobile businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) (TTML)** with the two **Bharti Group** companies.
- This move spells better synergies and increased customer base for the **country's third-largest mobile service provider**.

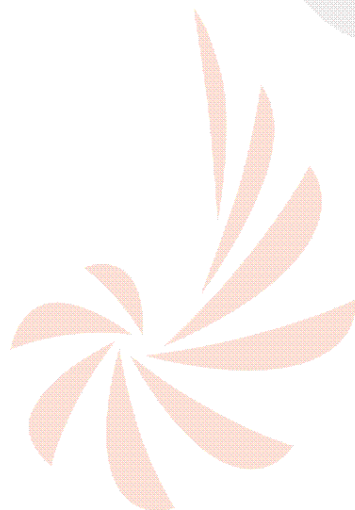
**Bharti Airtel Limited** also known as **Airtel** is an **Indian global telecommunications services company** based in **Delhi, India**. It operates in **18 countries** across **South Asia and Africa**, and also in the **Channel Islands**. It is the **third largest mobile network operator** in **India** and the **second largest mobile network operator in the world** with over **293.79 million subscribers**

### RIL bags top slot in Fortune Global 500 List 2019

- **RIL (Reliance Industries)**, the well-known conglomerate and the **largest private sector corporation in India**, has **amped up its position to No. 1** and **become the top-ranked Indian company to feature in the Fortune Global 500 list of 2019**.

- The oil-to-retail major has **overthrown state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**, which was **earlier the top-ranked Indian company of the list**.
- **RIL's revenue skyrocketed 32.1 percent from \$62.3 billion in 2018 to \$82.3 billion in 2019**. On the other hand, IOC has achieved 17.7 percent growth in revenue from \$65.9 billion to \$77.6 billion.
- On the global list, **ONGC has stepped up 37 places to achieve 160th rank, while SBI has stepped down 20 places to finally settle at 236th rank. Tata Motors has slipped 33 places to 265th position and BPCL, now on rank 275 has risen 39 places** from its earlier spot, while Rajesh Exports slipped 90 places to reach rank 495th.

**On the top of the Fortune 500 list this year is the U.S. giant Walmart Inc.** which is **followed by Sinopec Group**, a Chinese state-owned oil and gas company. **On rank third was Royal Dutch Shell Plc** followed by China National Petroleum and State Grid.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



### Total Solar Eclipse on July 2

- **Total Solar Eclipse/Surya Grahan 2019** occurred on July 2. The solar eclipse is last for four minutes and 33 seconds. This was the only total solar eclipse which will be taking place during this year.
- The July 2 solar eclipse is likely to last longer than the two minutes and 40 seconds solar eclipse which happened in August 2017. The solar eclipse will be going through a 6,000-mile path, however, only a narrow zone of the Pacific Ocean and South America comes in the path of totality.

A total solar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Moon and Earth are all in a straight line in such a way that the Moon blocks the Sun's rays from reaching the Earth. In a total eclipse, the disk of the Sun is fully obscured by the Moon. In partial and annular eclipses, only part of the Sun is obscured.

### Soon, first of its kind audiovisual archive on the northeast

- The first of its kind, Shillong will house the non-commercial venture, where users can access cinema, documentaries and anthropological material from October.

### India hosted 3rd global sunflower seed meets on July 19

- After China and Ukraine, India hosted 3rd International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 on July 19 and 20 in Mumbai.
- The conference, hosted by Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), will see participation from global industry leaders, experts, researchers, and government representatives.

### Homicide rate in Asia the lowest, says UN report

- Asia, which accounts for 60% of the global population, recorded the lowest rate of homicide in 2017 with only 2.3 killings per 1,00,000 people while the Americas had the highest homicide rate, according to a UN report.
- The Global Study on Homicide 2019 published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that about 4,64,000 people across the world were victims of homicidal violence in 2017, an increase from 395,542 in 1992. The number of homicides in 2017 far surpassed the 89,000 killed in armed conflicts in the same period.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a United Nations office that was established in 1997 as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention by combining the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division in the United Nations Office at Vienna. Yuri Viktorovich Fedotov currently serves as the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

## Russia launches powerful X-ray telescope into space to map cosmos

- Russia has launched a powerful telescope into space that maps X-rays across the entire sky in unprecedented detail after days of launch delays. The Spektr-RG took off on a Proton-M rocket from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

## IITM Pune: Predicting heat waves three weeks in advance

- Real time prediction of heat waves two to three weeks in advance is now possible, thanks to the extended range prediction system developed by researchers at Pune's Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).
- The prediction system has shown promise in indicating the date of onset, duration and demise of heat waves, with a small spatial and temporal error.
- "The extended range forecast can predict heat wave condition two weeks in advance with 70% probability. The short-range forecast two-three days before the onset of heat wave condition can provide more reliable information about the time and location of the heat wave condition".

## Greek find called earliest sign of our species out of Africa

- A 2,10,000-year-old skull (image shows computer-generated model) discovered in a cave in Greece has been identified as the earliest modern human remains found outside Africa, putting the clock back on mankind's arrival in Europe by more than 1,50,000 years.
- The remains are 16,000 years older than an upper jaw bone reported from Israel last year.

## Chandrayaan-2 launch called off due to technical snag

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has called off for the launch of India's second mission to Moon - Chandrayaan-2 onboard GSLV MkIII-M1 due to a technical snag.
- The Chandrayaan-2 was supposed to explore the uncharted lunar South Pole, 11 years after ISRO's successful first lunar mission - Chandrayaan-1. Chandrayaan-2 onboard the heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle GSLV-MkIII-M1, nicknamed Baahubali, would have taken 54 days to accomplish the task of landing on the Moon.

The Chandrayaan-II, a Rs 978-crore project, will place the country in a niche league of nations populated by the US, Russia and China that have successfully conducted a moon-landing. Beyond that, the lander will touch in the region of the south pole of the moon, an unexplored territory. Chandrayaan will primarily study the elements on the moon, map its topography through high-resolution pictures, study its minerals and most importantly, confirm sub-surface water/ice presence.

## Setting up of Neutrino Observatory

- The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in the Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
- The project aims to set up a 51000 ton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector to observe naturally occurring atmospheric neutrinos in a cavern at the end of an approximately 2 km long tunnel in a mountain.
- There is no other neutrino detector anywhere in India at present. ICAL at INO would be the first of its type.

## Chhattisgarh mulls plan to become first Indian state make biofuel from rice

- Chhattisgarh is planning to produce biofuel from rice and other agriculture products.
- If the project succeeds, the state, once known as the rice-bowl of the country, would be the first state to make biofuel from the grain.
- The state government and the Indian Institute of Technology (Bhilai) had inked a deal to explore the possibilities of designing the project.



### Indian Army successfully carries out summer user trials of third Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile- NAG

- **Indian Army** has successfully carried out summer user trials of third Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile- NAG at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
- The trials of NAG missile developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- NAG missile has been developed to engage highly fortified enemy tanks in all weather conditions with day and night capabilities and with a minimum range of 500 metres and maximum range of four kilometres. It is a third-generation fire and forget class missile and uses an imaging infrared seeker in lock-on-before-launch mode.

Nag is a third-generation, fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile developed to support both mechanised infantry and airborne forces of the Indian Army. Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) NAG, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), were successfully flight tested at Pokhran's field firing range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan.

### Perfect launch for Chandrayaan-2

- **India's second lunar journey** and its first-ever interplanetary mission to be spearheaded by two women, Project Director M. Vanitha and Mission Director RituKharidhal, got a boost after the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 mission, headed to the moon's South Pole region, and achieved an orbit 6,000 km more than what was targeted.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) put behind last week's setback and achieved a perfect launch at 2.43 p.m. from the second launch pad at SatishDhawan Space Centre, SHAR, in what was the GSLV-MKIII's first operational flight.
- Dr Sivan said the scientists would perform fifteen crucial manoeuvres to navigate the probe from an earth-bound elliptical orbit to the surface of the moon. Our correspondent reports, total cost of the mission is worked out to be 978 crore rupees.
- The mission objectives of Chandrayaan-2 include studying mineralogy and chemical composition of lunar soil, to search for water or ice in the near-South Pole of the moon, examining its atmosphere, studying lunar seismic activities and to carry out mapping of the moon using high-resolution cameras.

Chandrayaan-1 was India's first lunar probe. It was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation in October 2008, and operated until August 2009. India launched the spacecraft using a PSLV-XL rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh. Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1.

### World celebrates 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing

- World is celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing on 20th July 2019, when American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the Moon. Their lunar module, named Eagle, touched down on 20th July, 1969.
- A little over six hours later, Armstrong placed his left foot on the lunar surface, declaring that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were on the surface, ex-fighter pilot Collins remained in lunar orbit, where he was in touch with ground control, providing them s on his position.

### China launches first private rocket capable of carrying satellites

- A Chinese startup successfully launched the country's first commercial rocket capable of carrying satellites into orbit, as the space race between China and the US heats up.

- **Beijing-based Interstellar Glory Space Technology -- also known as iSpace --** said it launched two satellites into orbit from Jiuquan, a state launch facility in the Gobi desert. **The 20-metre (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named Hyperbola-1** reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles).

### ISRO now looks to solar mission Aditya-L1

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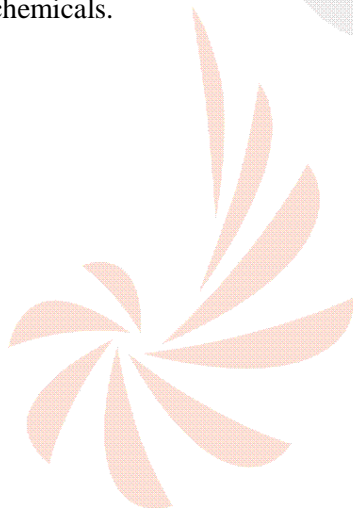
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** now has its eyes on the Sun with solar mission **Aditya-L1** in the pipeline. ISRO has **planned to launch the mission during the first half of 2020.**
- **Aditya-L1 is meant to observe the Sun's corona.** It will **image and study the sun from the First Lagrange point also known as L1 Lagrange point.**
- **L1 point is 1.5 million kilometres away from the Earth.** It is a point where the gravitational forces of the Earth and the Sun cancel out allowing the spacecraft to hover.

The **Aditya-1 mission** was conceived as a **400kg class satellite carrying one payload**, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and was **planned to launch in a 800 km low earth orbit.** A Satellite placed in the **halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system** has the **major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses.** Therefore, the **Aditya-1 mission** has now been revised to **“Aditya-L1 mission”** and will be inserted in a **halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth.** The satellite carries additional six payloads with enhanced science scope and objectives.

### IIT students develop ' Smart Agricopter' to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields

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- **Students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** have developed a **"smart agricopter"** to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields and **help identify crop health by using an imaging camera.**
- **The innovation will allow spraying pesticides ten times faster and with 100 percent precision** at the same cost as manual spraying.
- **Students at the Centre For Innovation, IIT Madras, identified manual pesticide spraying as an extremely hazardous activity as it endangered farmers' and laborers' health** and resulted in a massive overuse of toxic chemicals.



## Inventions/Discoveries

### Atmosphere of mid-size planet revealed for first time: NASA

- In a first, scientists have identified the detailed chemical “fingerprint” of a planet between the sizes of Earth and Neptune to uncover clues about its nature and origin, using NASA’s Spitzer and Hubble space telescopes.
- No planets like this can be found in our own solar system, but they are common around other stars.
- The planet, Gliese 3470 b (GJ 3470 b), maybe a cross between Earth and Neptune, with a large rocky core buried under a deep, crushing hydrogen-and-helium atmosphere.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established NASA in 1958. James Frederick Bridenstine is an American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He became the first member of Congress to lead NASA.

### Astronomers discover precise location of cosmic radio waves

- In a first, Australian scientists have determined the precise location of a powerful one-off burst of cosmic radio waves.
- The discovery was made with Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) radio telescope of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. A team of researchers made a high-resolution map showing that the burst originated in the outskirts of a Milky Way-sized galaxy about 3.6 billion light-years away.
- This is the big breakthrough that the field has been waiting for since astronomers discovered fast radio bursts in 2007," said Dr Keith Bannister, lead author of the study, which was published in the journal Science. In the 12 years since the radio bursts were first discovered, a global hunt has netted 85 of these bursts. Most have been 'one-offs' but a small fraction are 'repeaters' that recur in the same location.

### Physicists unveil first-ever photo of Quantum Entanglement

- In an incredible first, scientists have captured the world's first actual photo of quantum entanglement - a phenomenon so strange, physicist Albert Einstein famously described it as 'spooky action at a distance'. The image was captured by physicists at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, and it's so breathtaking we can't stop staring.
- Two particles which interact with each other — like two photons passing through a beam splitter, for example — can sometimes remain connected, instantaneously sharing their physical states no matter how great the distance which separates them.
- This connection is known as quantum entanglement, and is part of the branch of physics called quantum mechanics, a description of the way the world works at the level of atoms and particles that are even smaller.
- Quantum mechanics says that at these very tiny scales, some properties of particles are based entirely on probability. In other words, nothing is certain until it happens.

### Indian origin scientists develop AI system to curb deepfake videos

- A team of Indian-origin researchers led by Amit Roy-Chowdhury, professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of California has developed a system driven by artificial intelligence to identify altered content at the pixel level.
- The team is currently working on still images which will eventually help them detect “deepfake” videos.

### 17-year-old Mumbai boy creates India's first 3D printed artificial reef to save aquatic species

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- **The Indian marine ecosystem has been under threat for long due to climate change, pollution and destructive fishing practices.** As a result, aquatic species find it extremely difficult to survive.
- **In a unique attempt, 17-year-old Mumbai lad Siddharth Pillai has created an artificial reef model that is to become home to many aquatic species off the Puducherry coast.** Siddharth, a student of Mumbai's BD Somani school, is the **first Indian to create a modular artificial reef in Puducherry.**

### Experts visit Bihar's first megalithic site on Kaimur hills

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- **A team of top archaeologists visited the megalithic sites on Kaimur hills, the first such discovery in Bihar** in November last year by a researcher.
- **Megalithic period in India spanned from 1500 BC to 600 BC during copper and iron ages.** Megaliths are **specific ancient monuments of aboriginal people** in memory of their ancestors.
- They used to **keep bones of ancestors in an earthen pot and bury the same in earth.** Some black-red pottery, minor stone tools and animal bones were also kept in the burial covered with a large stone plate.
- Then stone pillars were installed at the burial for identification. **Stone Monolithic standing vertically is called Menhir while standing stones arranged in a circle are called Stone Circle.**

### Bangladesh: Scientists develop method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets

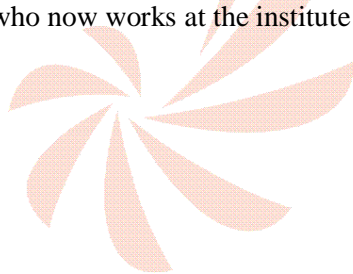
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- **Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali'** which can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.
- **The Eco-friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work** and they are not harmful for human health. The commercial production of these bags is likely to start by the year-end.
- The main challenge in the large scale adoption of Sonali sheet is the **relatively high cost of production which is almost double that of polythene.** However, production on a large scale is expected to bring down the cost.

### Indian scientists discover 28 new stars in Milky Way

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- **Scientists at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences have discovered 28 new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy.**
- **ARIES Director Wahab Uddin described the finding of the new variable stars, whose luminosity or brightness keeps changing, as a "rare achievement".** It is for the **first time that variable stars have been identified in Globular cluster NGC 4147 in the constellation of Coma Berenices,** said former director of ARIES, Anil Pande, who now works at the institute as a senior scientist.





## Health/ Disease

### WHO launches its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health in response to an estimate that by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers and the fact that currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group. Tedros Adhanom has been Director-General of the World Health Organization.

### MoU signed to eradicate TB by 2025

- Union Health Ministry has signed a MoU with Ministries of Ayush, Defence and Railways to strengthen the efforts towards a TB-Free India by 2025.
- Around 28 lakh people contract the disease every year in the country and four lakh people die every year. TB will be completely eradicated from the country in the same way polio was.

The global target for eliminating Tuberculosis is 2030; the target for India to eliminate Tuberculosis is 2025, five years before the global target. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease usually caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

### India to launch its first human genome cataloguing project

- India will launch its first human genome mapping project by October, a move that will help researchers get closer to developing effective therapies for treating diseases such as cancer. In the first phase of the initiative called the Genome India project, the genomic data of 10,000 Indians will be catalogued. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has initiated the project.
- A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all its genes. It contains all the information needed to build and maintain that organism. By sequencing the genome, researchers can discover the functions of genes and identify which of them are critical for life.

### Scientists find new gene linked to schizophrenia

- After 18 years of research, Indian and Australian scientists have identified a new gene directly linked to schizophrenia.
- Scientists from the University of Queensland in Australia and a team of Indian researchers searched the genomes of over 3,000 individuals and found those with schizophrenia were more likely to have a particular genetic variation.
- This study identified a gene called NAPRT1 that encodes an enzyme involved in vitamin B3 metabolism — we were also able to find this gene in a large genomic dataset of schizophrenia patients with European ancestry”.

## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **Tamil yeoman declared Tamil Nadu's state butterfly**

- **Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) butterfly** has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
- It is among the 32 butterfly species found in Western Ghats. It is endemic to Western Ghats. It is also known as Tamil Maravan which means warrior. These butterflies could be found mainly in hilly areas.

Tamil Nadu has become the fifth 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).

### **India is home to 1,256 species of orchid, says first comprehensive survey**

- The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.
- **Orchids of India: A Pictorial Guide**, a publication detailing all the species of India was unveiled earlier this month by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The 1,256 species or taxa of orchids belong to 155 genera and 388 species are endemic to India.

**Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, founded 13 February 1890, is Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's organization for survey, research and conservation of plant resources, flora and endangered species of India, including by collecting and maintaining germplasm and gene bank of endangered, patent and vulnerable plant species. BSI was formally instituted by East India Company (EIC) on 13 February 1890 under the direction of Sir George King who became first ex-officio Director, earlier he had been superintendent of Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta since 1871. The Calcutta Garden became the headquarters of the Survey.

### **Rs 105 crore elephant rehabilitation centre to come up in Kerala**

- India's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre at a cost of Rs 105 crore is reportedly coming up in Kottor, Kerala.
- The facility, housing an elephant museum, mahout training centre, a well-equipped veterinary hospital and crematorium, is being set up the Kerala government to take care of orphaned or abandoned elephants.

### **New species of ancient lizard named after Hindu god Indra**

- A team of researchers has discovered a new specimen of a microraptor with the remains of a nearly complete lizard preserved in its stomach.

- The lizard is unlike any previously known from the Cretaceous period and represents a new species: **Indrasaurus wangi**.
- The name **Indrasaurus** was inspired by a Vedic legend in which Hindu god **Indra** was swallowed by a dragon during a great battle.
- The lizard was also named after **Prof. Wang Yuan** from the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

### Fossil of Bird with unusually long toes from 99 million years ago found

- Researchers have discovered a bird foot from 99 million years ago that had a hyper-elongated third toe.
- This is the first time such a foot structure has been observed in birds, either extinct or living. This bird might have used its toes to hook food out of tree trunks.

### India to host UN conference on combating desertification

- India for the first time will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September.
- At present, 23% of the world's geographical area is affected by degradation while India faces this problem in nearly 30% of its land due to multiple reasons including deforestation. The Conference (COP14) will be held at Greater Noida from September 2-13.

### Warming threatens Greenland's archaeological sites, says study

- In Greenland, climate change isn't just a danger to ecosystems but also a threat to history, as global warming is affecting archeological remains, according to a study.
- There are more than 1,80,000 archaeological sites across the Arctic, some dating back thousands of years, and previously these were protected by the characteristics of the soil. The team behind the study, led by Jorgen Hollesen, has been examining seven different sites around the vast Arctic territory's capital Nuuk, since 2016.

Projections used in the study, which are based on different warming scenarios, predict that average temperature could increase by up to 2.6 degrees Celsius, leading to "higher soil temperatures, a longer thaw season, and increased microbial activity within the organic layers".

### Extinction of Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican: SC forms panel to frame emergency plan

- Taking serious note of the alarming extinction of two Indian birds, Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican, the Supreme Court has constituted a high powered committee to urgently frame and implement an emergency response plan for the protection of these species.

### Turtle with 2 heads born in Malaysia

- A two-headed turtle has been born in Malaysia, but it only survived a few days after being discovered.
- It was found on Mabul Island, off the Malaysian part of Borneo, in a nest alongside more than 90 other recently hatched green turtles.

Green turtles are one of the largest sea turtles, and are mainly found in tropical and subtropical waters. Classified as endangered, they are threatened by habitat loss as well as by poachers who hunt them for their meat and eggs.

### New species of shark squirts clouds of light

- A pocket-sized shark found in the Gulf of Mexico has turned out to be a new species.



- The pouches near its front fins squirt little glowing clouds into the ocean, scientists said. **Researchers from around the Gulf and in New York have named the species the American pocket shark, or *Mollisquama mississippiensis*.**
- It is **only the third out of more than 500 known shark species that may squirt luminous liquid** said R. Dean Grubbs, a Florida State University scientist who was not involved in the research. He said the **other two are the previously known pocket shark and the taillight shark, which has a similar gland near its tail.**
- **Like the only other 16- inch pocket shark known to science, this 5.6-inch newborn male fished out of the Gulf has a pouch next to each front fin.**

### 7,000 species added to IUCN ‘Red List’

- **Mankind’s destruction of nature is driving species to the brink of extinction at an “unprecedented” rate, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) warned as it added more than 7,000 animals, fish and plants to its endangered “Red List”.**
- The group has now **assessed more than 1, 05,000 species worldwide, around 28,000 of which risk extinction.**
- **More than 500 deep-sea bony fish and molluscs have been added to the list for the first time posing something of a conservation conundrum as the space they inhabit — 1,000 metres beneath the surface — is often beyond national boundaries.**

**International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** is an international organization **working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.** The organization is **best known** to the wider public for compiling and **publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

### India could lose the equivalent of 34 million jobs in 2030 due to global warming by ILO

- **India is projected to lose 5.8 per cent of working hours in 2030, a productivity loss equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs, due to global warming,** particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors, a report by the UN labour agency said.
- **The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report ‘Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work’, which said that by 2030, the equivalent of more than two per cent of total working hours worldwide is projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace.**

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** is a **United Nations agency** whose **mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards.** Juan Somavía was the ILO's Director-General from 1999 until October 2012 when **Guy Ryder** was elected. The **ILO Governing Body re-elected Guy Rider as Director-General for a second five year-term** in November 2016. **ILO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.**

### India’s first elephant rehabilitation centre in the works at Kerala’s Kottor

- **The Kerala government is working to set up the country’s first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. The first phase of the Rs 105 crore-project was launched by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.**
- **The centre, expected to have an elephant museum, mahout training centre, super-specialty hospital, a retirement home and crematorium for the animals, will house orphaned, injured and older elephants. It is being planned on the lines of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka.**

### India’s first cow sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh to be privatized

- **India’s first cow sanctuary, set up by the previous BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government in September 2017, will be privatised by the Congress-led government.**



- **Kamdhenu Gau Abhyaranya** in Agar Malwa, 190 km north west of Bhopal, was developed by the MP Gau Samvardhan Board by spending about Rs 32 crore. Around 4,000 cows are living in the sanctuary which is spread across 472 hectares.

### Soon, contraceptives for animals

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- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has launched a project for undertaking ‘immunocontraceptive measures’ for population management of four species of wild animals — elephant, wild boar, monkey and blue bull (Nilgai).
- **Human-animal conflict** has emerged as a major challenge in managing wildlife in the country and **human-elephant conflict causes the maximum** number of casualties every year. According to reply tabled in Parliament on June 28, 2019, **nearly 494 persons were killed by elephants last year alone. Between 2014 and March 2019, 2,398 people died in elephant attack in the country, with West Bengal accounting for maximum number of such deaths .**

### ‘Large-scale burning of grasslands detrimental to invertebrates’

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- A recent study on “prescribed burning” of large tracts of grassland for the conservation of threatened ungulates in the Eravikulam National Park (ENP), a biodiversity hotspot in the Western Ghats, reveals that such burning is detrimental to endemic invertebrates, including grasshoppers.
- Grasshoppers are sensitive to grasslands management and an indicator of grasslands quality, health and restoration success. “As grasshoppers represent a major faunal component of grasslands, effects of fire on them can be easily studied in grassland habitats,”.

### India’s first dragon blood-oozing tree

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- Assam has added to India’s botanical wealth a plant that yields dragon’s blood — a bright red resin used since ancient times as medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye.
- A trio of researchers led by Assam forest officer JatindraSarma has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana*, a dragon tree species in the DongkaSarpoo area of West KarbiAnglong. This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.

### Floating ocean plastics can contribute to global warming, find Indian researchers

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- Oceans choked with plastic are not just a health threat, but also contribute to global warming, according to a study by researchers at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa.
- The study found that floating plastics act similar to algae – which is the scum floating on water bodies – and prevent the absorption of sunlight by water bodies. This reflects the light back into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming.
- The research was led by T I Eldho at IIT-Bombay, while Renjith VishnuRadhan (also IIT-Bombay) and NCPOR’s T Divya David also worked on it. The study said that the presence of floating plastics could also reduce to the amount of oxygen dissolved in water and also affect photosynthesis and evaporation.

### Snails are first species at risk of extinction from deep-sea mining

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- The scaly-foot snail, which is also known as the sea pangolin, has been listed as endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
  - “These deep-sea marine animals like the scaly-foot snail are out of sight, out of mind, but they are still threatened by human activities.”
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## **SPORTS**



### **Sports Personalities in News**

#### **Rohit Sharma equals Sourav Ganguly's record with 3rd World Cup 2019 hundred**

- **Rohit Sharma became only the 2nd Indian batsman to score 3 hundreds in a single edition of World Cup** when he hit his 3rd of World Cup 2019 in India's crunch encounter against England in Birmingham.
- **Sourav Ganguly had scored 3 hundreds in World Cup 2003. Ganguly, who was India captain in the 2003 World Cup, got hundreds against Namibia and Kenya**, including the one against the African minnows in the semi-final of the edition held in South Africa.

#### **Virat Kohli becomes first captain to score 5 consecutive World Cup fifties**

- **Virat Kohli** looked in pristine touch during his innings of 66 off 76 balls against England in the World Cup match at Edgbaston in Birmingham. **Kohli became the first captain in the history of the Cricket World Cup to score five consecutive fifties.**
- He failed to make an impact in the first match, scoring just 18 against South Africa, but has scored a fifty in every match since then. **His scores are 82 vs Australia, 77 vs Pakistan, 67 vs Afghanistan, 72 vs West Indies and now 66 vs England.**
- **Only Steve Smith has scripted this feat of scoring five consecutive fifties in the World Cup.** He did this for Australia in the 2015 World Cup.

#### **Austrian Grand Prix: Max Verstappen wins thriller**

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** passed Charles Leclerc with two laps remaining to win a thrilling Austrian Grand Prix. The win was only confirmed three hours after the race finished following an investigation into whether Verstappen unfairly ran Leclerc off the track.

#### **Poznan Athletics Grand Prix: Hima Das wins Gold in women's 200 metres**

- **Indian sprinter Hima Das** won the women's 200m gold, while national record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland.
- **Hima, the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m** clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to the 200m gold. **This was Hima's first competitive 200m race of the year.**

#### **Arinjeeta Dey wins silver medal in World Youth Cup**

- **Arinjeeta Dey, a 10-year-old girl, has won a silver medal in the World Youth Cup.** The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association.
- **Arinjeeta won the medal in the under-12 age group category.** She hails from Barasat in West Bengal.

## Hima Das clinches gold in Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland

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- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland.
- Hima, who has been struggling with a back problem for the past few months, clocked 23.97 seconds to clinch the gold while VK Vismaya bagged the silver in 24.06.
- National record holder Muhammed Anas also won the gold in men's 200m race with a time of 21.18 seconds.
- This was Hima's second competitive 200m race of the year. She has a personal best of 23.10s, which she clocked last year. Hima is the reigning world junior champion and national record holder in 400m.

## P Kashyap losses to Li Shi Feng in title clash of Canada Open Badminton

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- In Badminton, India's Parupalli Kashyap lost to Li Shi Feng of China in the men's singles title clash of the Canada Open.
- Kashyap entered the final, defeating Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei in a semi-final encounter at Calgary.

## Vinesh, Divya win gold; Pooja bags silver at the Wrestling Grand Prix of Spain

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- India finished second with 130 points in team championship behind Russia who scored 165.
- Putting up a dominating show, India's top wrestler Vinesh Phogat won her first gold medal after shifting to 53kg category, while Divya Kakran claimed the top honours in the 68kg category at the Grand Prix of Spain here.
- Vinesh, one of India's medal hopefuls at the 2020 Tokyo Games, was competing only in her third tournament in the new category.
- In the eight-wrestler 53kg draw, Vinesh comfortably beat Peru's Justina Benites and Russia's Nina Minknova before getting the better of Dutch rival Jessica Blaszkas in the final.

## Dravid NCA appointment formalized

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- Rahul Dravid was formally appointed as the National Cricket Academy's Head of Cricket by the BCCI.
- "Dravid will oversee all cricket related activities at NCA and will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and support staff at the NCA,"

## Dutee Chand wins historic 100-metre gold in Naples

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- Dutee Chand won the gold medal in the women's 100-metre sprint at the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy, clocking a time of 11.32 seconds.
- This is India's first gold medal at this edition of the meet.
- This is also the first time an Indian has won a 100-metre gold at this global event.

## Sunil Chhetri and Ashalata Devi bag top honours in AIFF awards

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- Indian men's footballer Sunil Chhetri and women's footballer Ashalata Devi won the biggest prizes in their respective categories as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced awards for the 2018-19 season.
- Chhetri was declared as the men's footballer of the year whereas in the women's category Devi was announced as the footballer of the year.

## Dutee clinches 100m gold

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- National record holder Dutee Chand became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m.

- The 23-year-old Dutee clocked 11.32 seconds to win the gold as she led the race from start to finish. Running at lane No. 4, Dutee was the first one out of the eight athletes to blast off the starting blocks and she made most of it to fend off a late challenge from Del Ponte (11.33) of Switzerland.

### Rashid is Afghanistan's new captain

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- Star spinner Rashid Khan was appointed captain of the Afghanistan cricket team for all formats, while Asghar Afghan, who was unceremoniously removed as skipper before the World Cup, will be his deputy.

### Sathiyam-Amalraj Win Bronze at Australian Open

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- The Indian pair of G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open to top seed Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu in Geelong near Melbourne.
- This was India's first-ever medal in the Australian Open, which is a Platinum event.

### Lewis Hamilton wins sixth British Grand Prix

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- Lewis Hamilton made a thrilling victory in the Silverstone circuit to win his sixth British Grand Prix, his seventh victory in ten races in 2019.
- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc claimed an impressive third place after an intense, wheel-to-wheel battle with Max Verstappen throughout the race. But Sebastian Vettel's bid to stop Hamilton from winning a sixth world title is sinking without a trace after yet another error earned him a 10 second penalty for a crash with Verstappen.

### Djokovic beats Federer to win fifth Wimbledon title

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- Novak Djokovic, despite having been a four-time champion, has never quite felt loved at Wimbledon. All he had earned was grudging admiration.
- He gave the crowd at SW19, and the world at large, another chance to reassess that relationship with a performance for the ages to defeat eight-time winner Roger Federer and clinch his fifth crown and 16th Major overall.
- Djokovic is now level with Bjorn Borg in fourth spot on the all-time list of men's winners at Wimbledon and is only four Slams behind Federer, and two shy of Nadal.

### Vinesh Phogat wins gold at Yasar Dogu International

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- Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat won her second consecutive gold in 53kg, winning the Yasar Dogu International with a commanding victory over Russia's Ekaterina Poleschchuk.

### Amir Khan wins WBC international welterweight title

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- Olympic silver medallist Amir Khan clinched the WBC international welterweight title after knocking out Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League.

### Hima Das Wins 3rd Gold medal

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- Mohammad Anas bettered his own national record in men's 400m race to bag a gold while Hima Das won the women's 200m event for her third international triumph in 11 days at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno, Czech Republic.

### Deepika Kumari clinches silver at 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event

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- India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari clinched silver at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event.
- This was Deepika's first individual final in a world event since she won a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Salt Lake City in June, 2018.



## Hima Das wins fourth gold in 15 days

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- Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched her fourth gold as she won the 200m race with a creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.
- Hima won the race in 23.25 seconds, which had a mediocre field with most of the competitors representing clubs of Czech Republic.

## Sarabjot Singh wins India's ninth gold in ISSF Junior World Cup

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- In Shooting, extending India's domination at the ISSF Junior World Cup, Sarabjot Singh shot a 239.6 to bag the men's 10 metres air pistol gold. This is India's ninth yellow metal at the event in Suhl, Germany.

## Sachin Tendulkar inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

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- Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald.
- Joining Tendulkar and Donald in the Hall of Fame was two-time World Cup-winning Australian woman cricketer Cathryn Fitzpatrick.

## P V Sindhu loses to Akane Yamaguchi in Indonesia Open final

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- In Badminton, P V Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the finals of Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament in Jakarta.

## Li Na sets new mark, gets inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

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- Li Na has broken new ground at the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The 37-year-old former Chinese star became the first Asian-born player to be inducted.
- She was enshrined along with Mary Pierce of France and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

## Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Malik clinches Mr South Asia title

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- Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
- Malik, the winner of 80 kg category, was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of nine senior men's weight categories. Afghanistan won team championship by securing a top position with 535 points. Host Nepal finished second with 445 points, while India remained third with 380 points.

## Hima Das won her fifth gold of the month in the 400-metre race at the Czech Republic

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- Making a sensational comeback to her favourite event, Hima Das won her fifth gold of the month in the 400-metre race at the Czech Republic. The 19-year-old athlete whose season-best before the win was 52.88 seconds, recorded her best timing — 52.09 seconds — in the 400-metre event.
- Earlier in April, Das had failed to complete the 400-metre race in the Asian Athletics Championship due to a back spasm. However, this time, Das, fondly called the 'Dhing Express', turned heads and won praise for her performance from many politicians and celebrities.
- The qualifying mark for the Championships in 51.80s. Her personal best is 50.79 seconds, which she registered at the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. The 19-year-old has been participating in competitive races in Europe since July 2, and has already won five golds.

## Adam Peaty wins 100m breaststroke gold at world championships

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- Adam Peaty claimed the 100m breaststroke title at the world championships for a third time but was unable to break the record he set 24 hours earlier.

- Peaty became the first man to go under 57 seconds when he shattered his own world mark with a time of 56.88 in the semi-finals in Gwangju, South Korea.

### Ehsan Mani appointed chairperson of powerful ICC committee

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- Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Ehsan Mani has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs committee.
- The other members of this committee are Indra Nooyi (independent director), Amitabh Choudhury (BCCI acting secretary), Chris Nenzani (CSA president), Imran Khawaja (ICC vice-chairman), Earl Eddings (CA chairman) and Colin Graves (ECB chairman).

### Abhay, Tanvi win Bengal Open squash titles

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- Abhay Singh of Tamil Nadu and Asian Games medallist Tanvi Khanna clinched the men's and women's titles respectively in the sixth Bengal Open squash tournament in Kolkatta.

### Manny Pacquiao wins WBA welterweight title

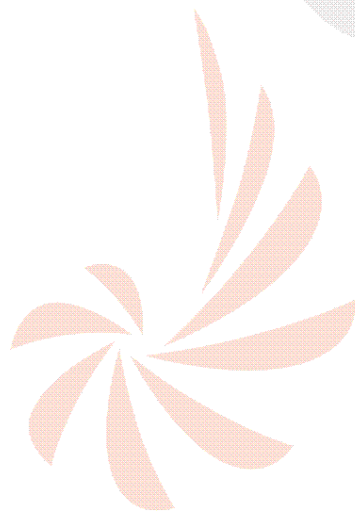
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- Pacquiao produced an impressive performance against the previously unbeaten Thurman at MGM Grand, where two judges had the fight 115-112 in favour of the 40-year-old veteran.

### Ashish Kumar clinches gold as India pick up 8 medals at Thailand Open Boxing

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- Asian Championships silver medallist Ashish Kumar (75 kg) put up a dominant display to collect his first international gold medal as Indian boxers finished their campaign with a rich haul of eight medals that included one gold, four silver and three bronze at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2019 in Bangkok.



## Sport Events

### Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav wins WBC Asia title

- Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand.

### Veer wins U-19 Asian Squash title

- In Squash, India won a gold as Veer Chotrani beat compatriot Yash Fadte to win the Under-19 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Macau, China.
- With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to win the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar.

### Pakistan dethrones India

- India failed to defend the men's team title at the IBSF Snooker World Cup, losing 3-1 to Pakistan in the summit clash.

### Copa America: Hosts Brazil beat Peru 3-1 to win the trophy for ninth time

- Brazil's Gabriel Jesus made one goal, scored another and was sent off in the second half as they beat Peru 3-1 to win the Copa America for the ninth time in a pulsating contest at the Maracana stadium.
- The hosts took the lead against the run of play after 15 minutes when Gabriel Jesus bamboozled two defenders on the right flank and crossed for the unmarked Everton to fire home from close range.

### FIFA Women's World Cup: United States becomes world champions for the fourth time

- The United States won a record-extending fourth women's World Cup with a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands as second-half goals from Megan Rapinoe and Rose Lavelle confirmed their status as the leading power in the women's game.

### Mexico beat USA 1-0 to win CONCACAF Gold Cup

- Jonathan dos Santos scored the only goal as Mexico defeated the United States 1-0 to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup for a record eighth time at Soldier Field.
- Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder dos Santos rifled home in the 73rd minute to settle a hard-fought encounter between the two arch-rivals of North American football in front of 62,493 fans.

### Central Govt to set up three CoE in Sports at Itanagar in AP

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has informed that central government is going to set-up three Sports Centre of Excellence in Itanagar very soon.
- Mr. Rijiju said that the three centre of excellence will be for Martial Arts, Weight Lifting and Boxing. He said these centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with residential facility.

### Indian Weightlifters win four gold in Commonwealth C'ships in Samoa

- In Weightlifting, Youth Olympics gold medallist Jeremy Lalrinnunga smashed three records in a power-packed performance but failed to register a clean and jerk lift on day three at the Commonwealth Championships in Apia, Samoa.
- Indian lifters continued impressive show by winning four golds, two silvers and a bronze.

## Mirabai Chanu wins gold at Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting Championship

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- **Former world champion Mirabai Chanu led the Indian medal rush by notching up a gold on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship.**
- **The Indian contingent won 13 medals that included eight gold, three silver and two bronze medals in senior, junior and youth categories.**
- **Mirabai lifted a total of 191kg (84kg + 107 kg) in the senior women's 49 kg event to win the gold medal in the Olympic qualifying event, the points from which will come in handy for the final rankings of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.**

## Croatia Grand Chess Tour

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- **Viswanathan Anand ended his campaign with a draw against Hikaru Nakamura as Magnus Carlsen won the Croatia Grand Chess Tour title with a victory over Maxime Vachier Lagrave.**

## Victorious USA debut for Vijender, clinches 11th consecutive win

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- **Indian boxing star Vijender Singh remained an unstoppable force, clinching a Technical Knockout over the more experienced Mike Snider on his debut in the US professional circuit.**
- **The triumph came in the second minute of the fourth round when Vijender cornered Snider with a flurry of straight punches, prompting the referee to stop the bout in the Indian's favour.**

## Four venues appointed for historic FIFA U-17 World Cup Brazil 2019

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- **The Estádio Bezerão in Brasília (Gama) will make football history on 26 October when it hosts the opening match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the first-ever edition of this prestigious tournament to be staged in Brazil.**

## England lift ICC Cricket World Cup

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- **England lifted their maiden ICC World Cup cricket trophy beating New Zealand in a nerve-wracking final that was decided via a dramatic Super Over in London.**
- **In the Super Over, England batted first and the duo of Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler made 15, and New Zealand also ended at the same score but for the loss of one wicket, paving the way for an English victory on boundary count.**
- **England's Ben Stokes is named player of the match for a heroic knock of 84 not out off 92 balls while New Zealand's skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged player of the tournament for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership.**

## India to host 2020 ISSF WC

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- **The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has confirmed the dates (March 15 to 26) for the World Cup in rifle, pistol and shot gun to be hosted at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, in 2020.**
- **This will be preceded by the Shotgun World Cup in Nicosia, Cyprus, from March 4 to 13.**

## India bags 2 Gold medals at ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany

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- **India bagged two Gold and one Silver medal in the Women's 10-metre Air Rifle event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.**

## 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis C'ship to start

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- **The 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship begins in Cuttack. In Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship held in Cuttack, India made a record by winning gold in both men's and women's category.**



- The Indian men won the final match defeating England 3-2. The Indian women team defeated England 3-0 in final match. The Indian women team won the gold for the first time in the history in the commonwealth games. Twelve countries including Australia, England and Malaysia are participated in the event.

### ICC suspends Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect

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- The International Cricket Council, ICC has suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.
- The current elected members of Zimbabwe Board were suspended by government agency Sports and Recreation Committee (SRC) which was a violation of relevant articles of ICC Constitution.

### CAP is a Full Member of BCCI

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- The Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) has been granted the status of a Full Member of the BCCI by the Committee of Administrators (CoA).
- CAP, which made its debut the last season, will now become a voting member of the BCCI.
- It was given Associate Member status last October and went on to take part in the Ranji Trophy and other age-group tournaments of the Board.

### Haryana to set up Sports University near Sonipat

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- Nearly three years after Haryana sports and youth affairs minister Anil Vij announced that the Sports School, Rai (Sonipat), will be upgraded to a Sports University, the State Cabinet approved the proposal. To be named the Sports University of Haryana, this will be the first full-fledged sports university in the state.
- The Sports University of Haryana will be the third sports university established by a state government in India after Swarnim Gujarat Sports University (Gandhinagar) and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Chennai).

### Table Tennis: India tops medal tally with seven gold at Commonwealth C'ships

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- In Table Tennis, hosts India completed a clean sweep, claiming all the seven gold medals at the 21st Commonwealth Championships.
- Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee won the men's and women's singles titles. Harmeet defeated favourite G. Sathyan 4-3 in a hard-fought final to claim the men's singles title.

### IOA pulls out of CGF General Assembly to protest dropping of shooting from 2022 CWG

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- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) pulled out of the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in September to protest the dropping of shooting from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games roster.
- In a letter addressed to Commonwealth Games Federation Chief Executive Officer David Grevemberg, the IOA also withdrew the nomination of its Secretary General Rajeev Mehta for the election of a regional vice-president as well as that of Namdev Shiragaonkar for Sports Committee member.
- The Commonwealth Games Federation last month left out shooting from the 2022 Birmingham Games in its Executive Board meeting while recommending the inclusion of three new sports. The decision to leave out shooting has dealt a big blow to India which had won as many as 16 medals out of 66 in the 2018 Gold Coast.

### India drops two places in FIFA rankings

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- The Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the FIFA rankings released. India lost two matches and drew one in the Intercontinental Cup earlier this month in Ahmedabad.
- The Indian team now lies at 18th among Asian countries. Overall, Belgium leads the chart, followed by Brazil, France, England and Uruguay.

### Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Guwahati in 2020

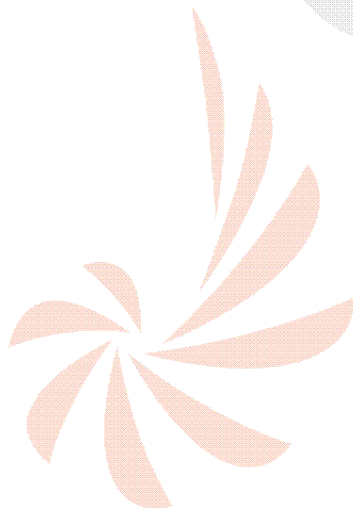
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- The third edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati in 2020. It will be conducted in partnership with IOA, SGFI & Assam as host State.”

### High-level committee formed to strategise preparations for 2020, 2024 Olympics

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- A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju to coordinate and strategise the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.
- The committee comprises prominent sportspersons like Olympic medallists -- tennis ace Leander Paes and shooter Gagan Narang.



Career  
Launcher

## AWARDS



### Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh awarded Luxembourg Peace Prize

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- The World Peace Forum has awarded a 2019 Luxembourg Peace Prize to famed Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh.
- Nhat Hanh is widely credited with having brought mindfulness to the West, and was nominated by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1967.
- The Luxembourg Peace Prize has been awarded every year since 2012 at the World Peace Forum. The forum is an initiative of the Schengen Peace Foundation, which was founded in 2005 with approval from Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg. The organization is dedicated to promoting peace, tolerance, and understanding.

### Kaushik Ganguly and Riddhi Sen win big 9th SAARC Film Festival

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- Director Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali outing 'Nagarkirtan', a love story of a transwoman and a flautist, has won big at this year's SAARC film festival, bagging four awards, including 'Best Feature Film'.
- The critically acclaimed movie, starring Riddhi Sen and Ritwik Chakraborty, had swept as many National Awards last year.
- At the ninth edition of the SAARC fest in Colombo, 'Nagarkirtan' was honoured with 'Best Feature Film', 'Best Director', 'Best Actor' and 'Best Original Score' awards.
- 'Na Bole Wo Haram', a 20-minute film by debutant director Nitish Patankar, bagged the 'Best Short Film' award, while 'Walking With the Wind' by Praveen Morchhale received the Special Jury award for direction and story.

### Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt's Gully Boy Wins NETPAC Award at BIFAN in South Korea

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- Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt starrer Gully Boy has now been recognised at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.
- The film directed by Zoya Akhtar was honoured with NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film.
- The film revolves around the underground rap movement in India also stars Kalki Koechlin, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Vijay Raaz in pivotal roles.
- 'Gully Boy' is inspired by the lives of Mumbai street rappers Vivian Fernandes aka Divine and Naved Shaikh aka Naezy.

## Zakir Hussain, Sonal Mansingh selected as 2018 Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows

- **Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, dancer Jatin Goswami and scientist K Kalyanasundaram Pillai have been selected as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows.**
- **The General Council also selected 44 artists from the field of music, dance, theatre, puppetry and overall contribution in performing arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards or Akademi Puraskar for the year 2018. These 44 artists include three joint awardees**

## Governments "Find the Incredible You" campaign wins PATA award

- **The "Find the Incredible You" campaign of the Tourism Ministry, has won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award, 2019.**
- **The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of niche tourism products of the country. The campaign won the award under the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category.**

## Rushdie's book in 2019 Booker prize longlist

- **British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie's yet-to-be-published novel Quichotte has made it to the longlist of this year's Booker Prize.**
- **Mr. Rushdie had won the Booker in 1981 for Midnight's Children.**
- **Canadian writer Margaret Atwood, who had earlier bagged the award in 2000 for Blind Assassins, is another former winner on the list. Her 2019 nominated work, The Testaments, is a sequel to her acclaimed book The Handmaid's Tale. This year's list was chosen from 151 novels published in the U.K. or Ireland.**

**Man Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize and commonly known simply as the Booker Prize) is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the UK. The prize was originally known as the Booker–McConnell Prize, after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1968; it became commonly known as the "Booker Prize" or simply "the Booker". In 1970, Bernice Rubens became the first woman to win the Booker Prize, for The Elected Member.**

## Carnatic vocalist S. Sowmya chosen for SangitaKalanidhi award

- **Noted vocalist S. Sowmya has been chosen for the SangitaKalanidhi award of the Music Academy and she will preside over 93rd annual conference of the Academy to be held between December 12, 2019, and January 1, 2020. She was the youngest musician to receive the coveted award in recent times after Sanjay Subramaniam.**
- **A student of Dr. S. Ramanathan and T. Mukta, Ms. Sowmya equally excelled in her academic pursuit and obtained a doctorate from the Madras University.**
- **Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalists Seetha Narayanan and M.S. Sheela.**

## Shonali Bose's The Sky is Pink makes it to the TIFF first list

- **Shonali Bose's The Sky Is Pink, starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas, FarhanAkhtar and ZairaWasim, will have its world premiere in the Gala Presentation section at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival that runs from September 5–15 this year.**
- **Produced by Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP and Siddharth Roy Kapur's Roy Kapur Films, in association with Ivanhoe Pictures and Ms Chopra Jonas' Purple Pebble Pictures, the film is the love story of a couple, spanning 25 years, told through the lens of their teenage daughter, diagnosed with terminal illness.**



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### IPS officer Aparna Kumar scales highest peak in North America

- **Aparna Kumar**, Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer, who became the first woman Indian Police Service (IPS) DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully conquer the South Pole, has now scaled the highest peak in North America.
- **Aparna Kumar** scaled the Mount Denali in North America which has a summit elevation of 20,310 feet above sea level.
- The IPS officer has also completed her 7th summit in the "7 Summits" challenge. She has, hence, become the first civil servant and IPS officer to achieve the feat.

### ‘Chowringhee’ author Mani Sankar Mukherji appointed as the Sheriff of Calcutta

- The Governor of West Bengal has appointed **Mani Sankar Mukherji**, better known as Sankar, as the Sheriff of Calcutta on the recommendation of Calcutta High Court.
- This is one of the oldest positions in the country since the eighteenth century. In 1775, **James MacRabey** was appointed the Sheriff of Calcutta when **Sir Elijah Impey** took over as the Chief Justice of Supreme Court in Calcutta.

### IMF appoints economist David Lipton as interim leader, replacing Lagarde

- American economist **David Lipton** will serve as interim leader of the International Monetary Fund, replacing **Christine Lagarde** who was nominated to head the European Central Bank.

### Mark Tully Gets Lifetime Achievement Award For Role In UK-India Ties

- Veteran British journalist **Sir Mark Tully** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in London for his contributions to the UK-India relationship.
- The annual UK-India Awards, which celebrate special talents and organisations who use their worldwide influence to strengthen UK-India ties, included wins for **British Telecom (BT)** in the Social Impact category and **Indian hospitality start-up Oyo** in the Market Entrant of the Year category.

### Akshay Kumar only Indian to feature in Forbes highest-paid celebrities list; surpasses Rihanna, Katy Perry

- Bollywood superstar **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian to find a spot in the Forbes list of the world's highest paid actors, among 99 other international celebrities.
- Securing the 33rd rank with earnings worth \$65 million, Akshay has surpassed popular international figures such as **Rihanna**, **Jackie Chan**, **Scarlett Johansson**, **Chris Evans** and **Katy Perry**.
- Meanwhile, international singer **Taylor Swift** has been named as the world's highest-paid celebrity with her earnings of \$185 million over the past year, beating reality TV star **Kylie Jenner**, who ranked second on the Forbes Celebrity 100 list.
- Superstar **Salman Khan**, who has been a regular on the list in recent years, does not find a spot in the top 100 this year.

## Anshula Kant is World Bank MD and CFO

- World Bank Group President David Malpass announced the appointment of Anshula Kant as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank Group. Ms. Kant, an Indian national, is currently a Managing Director of the State Bank of India (SBI), where she previously served as Chief Financial Officer.
- Ms. Kant will be the first woman CFO of the bank. As Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, Kant will be responsible for financial and risk management of the World Bank Group, reporting to the President. Among other key management duties, her work will include oversight of financial reporting, risk management, and working closely with the World Bank CEO on mobilization of IDA and other financial resources.
- Kant, a native of India, is a graduate in Economic Honours from Lady Shri Ram College for Women and a Post-Graduate in Economics from Delhi School of Economics.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. David Malpass has been serving as the 13th President of the World Bank since April 9, 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world's poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries.

## Kalraj Mishra appointed Himachal Pradesh Governor

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kalraj Mishra as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
- The President's house said, Acharya Devvrat has been transferred from Himachal Pradesh and appointed Governor of Gujarat.

## Justice Sikri Appointed As Judge of Singapore International Commercial Court

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court.
- The President of the Republic of Singapore, on the advice of the Prime Minister, has made the appointment of Justice Sikri from August 1, 2019.

## Shah Rukh Khan to receive honorary doctorate from Melbourne's La Trobe University

- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive an honorary doctorate degree from Melbourne-based La Trobe University for his contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment through Meer Foundation and his achievements in the Indian entertainment industry.

## Khushhal Kaushik the first Indian to write for UNESCO's annual magazine on cyber-security

- Khushhal Kaushik is the first Indian cyber security expert, whose article has been featured by UNESCO's Annual Magazine.
- The magazine accepted articles from authors and industry experts from many countries around the globe and selected an article written by him to be featured in UNESCO's annual magazine.
- His article on Cyber security was selected after a rigorous evaluation process spanning over seven months.

## Rajya Sabha MP D Raja appointed as CPI General Secretary

- Rajya Sabha MP D Raja was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI). The veteran leader, who replaced S Sudhakar Reddy, said he wants all communist parties to come together and rework strategies. The change in leadership comes after the party's worst-ever performance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

## M.M. Naravane to be next Vice-Chief of Army

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- Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane, currently General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army Command, has been appointed the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff in a series of changes in the Army's top brass. He will take over from Lt. Gen. D. Anbu when he retires on August 31.

## Kohli, Priyanka Chopra among Instagram's highest-paid celebs; Ronaldo tops the list

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- According to scheduling tool Hopper HQ's Instagram Rich List; sports stars earn the most for sponsored posts on the Facebook-owned platform, with football legend Cristiano Ronaldo leading the list. Indian skipper Virat Kohli also made it to the list at number 9.

## Ajay Bhalla to be Home Secretary

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- Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a 1984-batch IAS officer and currently Secretary, Ministry of Power, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect.
- He will take over as Home Secretary from incumbent Rajiv Gauba and will have a fixed two-year tenure till August 2021.

## Mark Esper appointed Pentagon chief

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- The U.S. Senate confirmed former soldier Mark Esper as Secretary of Defense, filling America's longest-ever Pentagon leadership vacuum as Washington faces mounting tensions with Iran.

## Lt Gen Paramjit Singh to be new DGMO of Army

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- Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, who has vast experience in counter-terror operations, will be the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.

## Badri Narain Sharma re-appointed as chairperson of National Anti-profiteering Authority

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- The government re-appointed Badri Narain Sharma as chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) which ensures that consumers get benefit of reduced prices under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

## Grammy Award-winning Indian musician Ricky Kej named Global Ambassador for Kindness by UNESCO

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- Grammy Award-winning Indian musician and environmentalist Ricky Kej has been named the Global Ambassador for Kindness by UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development).
- In his role as Kindness Ambassador, Kej will amplify the message of the campaign globally at UNESCO MGIEP's upcoming World Youth Conference in Delhi.

## Obituary

### Sheila Dikshit passed away

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- **Political leaders from across party lines said farewell to three-time Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, who died** after a cardiac arrest at the age of 81.
- **Sheila Dikshit** was one of the **longest-serving chief ministers of Delhi**, as well as the **longest-serving female chief minister of any Indian state**, serving for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013. **Dikshit led Congress party to three consecutive electoral victories in Delhi.**
- **In the December 2013 elections to the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Dikshit was defeated in New Delhi constituency by Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, who replaced her as Delhi's chief minister. After her stint as Delhi chief minister, she went to Kerala's as the Governor in 2014, but resigned in just six months.**

### Trade union leader, three-time MP A.K. Roy passed away

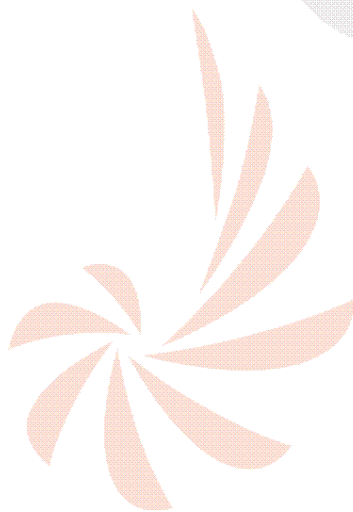
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- **Veteran trade union leader Arun Kumar Roy, who won from the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat thrice and was a major propounder of the Jharkhand movement, passed away** due to multiple organ failure.
- **At a time when an overwhelming 87% of country's MPs are crorepatis, three-time Jharkhand MP A.K. Roy of the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) had no bank account, did not have more than two sets of trousers and shirts and lived in a desolate party office without electricity. Mr. Roy, thrice MLA of the Bihar Assembly, and three-time MP from Dhanbad, passed away.**

### IAEA chief Yukiya Amano dies at 72

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- **The head of the global nuclear watchdog, Yukiya Amano, has died** at the age of 72.
- **He has led the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 2009, and was due to step down in March because of an unspecified illness. During his tenure he had overseen a period of tense negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear programme.**





## MISCELLANEOUS

### Amarnath yatra begins

- The annual Amarnath Yatra was flagged off from both Baltal and Pahalgam routes in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The first batch of around 1200 yatris was flagged off from Nunwan Pahalgam base camp by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag Khalid Jehangir. He said all requisite arrangements are in place to ensure smooth and safe Yatra.
- Children below 13 years, elderly persons above 75 years and pregnant lady with 6 weeks pregnancy shall not be permitted to undertake the pilgrimage. Over 2 lakh 85 thousand Yatris had darshan of Shivlingam last year.

### Non-subsidised LPG price reduced by over Rs 100 per cylinder

- The price of non-subsidised LPG was cut by over Rs 100 per cylinder on the back of softening international rates, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) said. The cooking gas in Delhi will be priced at Rs 637 per cylinder from midnight tonight as against Rs 737.50 currently, IOC said in a statement. Subsidised cooking gas price will be Rs 494.35 per cylinder.

### 27% of children with disabilities have never been to school: UNESCO

- More than one in four children with disabilities between ages 5 and 19 in India have never attended any educational institution, while three-fourths of five-year-olds with disabilities are not in school.
- A report by UNESCO and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences released recommends structural, funding and attitudinal changes to ensure that no child is left out of the right to education.

### DiCaprio helps create environmental alliance

- Leonardo DiCaprio is joining with philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth to create a nonprofit environmental powerhouse charged with tackling climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The organisation, Earth Alliance, “will work globally to protect ecosystems and wildlife, ensure climate justice”.

### Mastercard's Banga, Wipro's Premji to receive excellence awards from USISPF

- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) said that Mastercard CEO and President Ajay Banga and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards at its Second Annual Leadership Summit in Washington on July 11.

### UGC approves new initiative STRIDE to boost research culture

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a new initiative - Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) to boost research culture in the country.
- STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development.

### UP govt to set up Committees in all 25 districts situated on banks of river Ganga

- In Uttar Pradesh, State Government has decided to set up Ganga Committees in all 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga. This step is part of the large scale program to clean the holy river.
- CM Yogi Adityanath said that the state has listed 15 rivers which gone dry at present and will be revived under the action plan.

## First investors' summit to be held in J&K

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- Jammu and Kashmir will host its first ever investor summit in September-October of this year in Srinagar — with a chapter in Jammu — to attract investment and counter perceptions about the State.

## Railways targets to install CCTV cameras in over 7,000 passenger train coaches by 2021

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- The railways have set a target to install CCTV cameras in more than 7,000 coaches of mainline passenger trains by March 2021.
- CCTV cameras have already been installed in coaches of premium, mail, express and suburban trains. The cameras have also been installed in 1,300 coaches of mainline passenger trains.
- "CCTV cameras in another 7,020 coaches of such (passenger) trains have been planned during Phase-I, targeted for completion by March 2021.

## BJP candidates win by-polls of two seats of Rajya Sabha in Gujarat

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- BJP candidates External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jayshankar and Jugalji Thakor won the by-polls of two seats of Rajya Sabha in Gujarat.

## Curtain Raiser: Fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition

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- The fifth edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition is being held at Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of Southern Command of Indian Army.
- The competition is a part of International Army Games and consists of five stages of competitions which will be conducted over a period of nine days from 06 August 2019 to 14 August 2019 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- It is the first time that India has got an opportunity to host and participate in this prestigious event.

## Army, NeGD ink pact for developing revamped app

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- The Army and the National eGovernance Division inked a pact for developing a revamped application to maintain the centralised database for personnel, equipment and major stores to provide management-related information to the force.
- The National eGovernance Division is a part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

## Book titled 'Vivekadeepini' released in ten languages

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- Addressing the gathering after releasing the books – Vivekadeepini, a concise book of aphorisms that contains glimpses of India's wisdom in English and nine Indian languages, the Vice President said that Indians have been fortunate that spiritual leaders like Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda have shaped our country's ethical foundations.
- The Vice President also complimented Vedanta Bharati for spreading the wisdom of Sri Adi Sankaracharya in English, Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia and Gujarati languages. Stating that the message should reach people in its true sense, he expressed the hope that Vivekadeepini would be brought out in all the Indian languages.

## Italy's Prosecco hills join UNESCO Heritage list

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- Italy's Prosecco hills, which have been cultivated for centuries, were added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. The grapes grown on Conegliano and Valdobbiadene hills produce the famous prosecco wine.
- Also added to the list were eight buildings designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, including Guggenheim Museum in New York.

### 'War over Words: Censorship in India' explores censorship in pre and post-colonial India

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- A new book looks at state censorship in India in the transition period from colonial to national rule, when historical actors behaved in unpredictable ways.
- **War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960** by Devika Sethi, who teaches modern Indian history at IIT-Mandi, explores the diverse mechanisms and motivations for censorship and its role in the shaping of the modern Indian republic.

### Railway's 'Plan Bee' Using Amplified Version Of Honey Bee Buzz To Keep Elephants Away From Tracks Wins Innovation Award

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- Based on the finding that elephants are scared of swarming bees, the NRF installed devices at several level crossings in the state to play the sound of buzzing honey bees to drive away the elephants.
- The simple yet effective technique has been recognised as the 'Best Innovation Award' by the Indian Railways. The prize comprises of a citation and a cash award of Rs 3 lakh.

### National Museum of Indian Cinema's news bulletin launched

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- A fortnightly bulletin of the National Museum of Indian Cinema, brought out by the Films Division, was launched with veteran film maker Jahn timer Barua hoping that it will become a platform for movie buffs and other stakeholders. Barua described the newsletter "NMIC Bulletin" as a fantastic initiative by the Films Division

### PM Modi launches plantation drive in Varanasi; Uttar Pradesh govt to plant 22 crore trees

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a tree plantation drive in Varanasi. Under the drive, Uttar Pradesh government will plant 22 crore trees in the state. Mr Modi also unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at Babatpur airport in Varanasi.

### Assam Government to develop over three hundred tourist spots

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- Assam government has taken a step to develop 316 tourists spot in the state. Managing Director of Assam Tourism Development Corporation Bhaskar Phukan said that 150 crore rupees will be spent to develop these locations under Axom Darshan.

### Maximum senior citizens come from UP followed by Maharashtra

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- There are over 10.38 crore senior citizens in the country. Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than one crore 54 lakh followed by Maharashtra one crore 11 lakh.
- This information was given by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. He said the Ministry is implementing the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana since April 2017 for senior citizens belonging to BPL category, who are suffering from age-related disabilities.

### Centre prepares Rs 14,000 cr plan to reduce accidents on National Highways

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- Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that the government has prepared a 14 thousand crore rupees project to identify accident black spots and plug gaps on National Highways to reduce casualties.

### Six candidates from Tamil Nadu elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

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- In Tamil Nadu, six candidates were elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha. They include two candidates each from the AIADMK and DMK and one each from the PMK and MDMK.

- From the ruling AIADMK, the former State Minister Mohamed Jan and the party's Salem town functionary Chandrasekharan were elected along with Dr Anbumani Ramadoss of the PMK, its ally.
- From the DMK, the former Additional Solicitor General P.Wilson and the party's trade union leader Shanmugam were elected to the Upper House along with the leader of its ally MDMK, Mr Vaiko.

### Prasar Bharati signs MoU with IIT Kanpur for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies

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- Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi.
- The move is likely to boost research activities in the broadcasting field.

### 11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Meeting

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- The 11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting (11th MGC SOM) was held in New Delhi.
- The meeting, which was attended by Senior Officials from all 6 MGC Member States.
- The MekongGanga Cooperation (MGC) was established in 2000 and it comprises six member countries -- India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

### IFFI's Golden Jubilee Edition to be held from Nov 20 till 28 in Goa

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- The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from 20th Nov till 28th November 2019 in Panaji, Goa.

### New book to tell untold stories from Kargil War

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- On the 20th anniversary of the Kargil War, a new book will revisit the freezing battle grounds of the 1999 conflict through untold stories of its bravest soldiers.
- Titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War", the book published by Penguin Random House, is authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat. The book that is based on Rawat's interviews with war survivors and martyrs' families.

### Culture Min inaugurates architectural illumination of Safdarjung Tomb

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- Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi.

### Second Vande Bharat Express likely from next month, Delhi to Katra in 8 hours

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- The much-awaited second Vande Bharat Express will be run on the high traffic Delhi-Katra route three days a week, likely from next month.
- The Delhi-Katra route was chosen by the Railway Board in a bid to capitalise on the high traffic volume owing to the Vaishno Devi temple pilgrimage. The high-speed train will bring down the travel time between Delhi and Katra, the last station on the way to Vaishno Devi temple, to eight hours from 12 hours it takes currently.

### PMs' museum gets ready at Teen Murti

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- The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has set a target for March 2020 for constructing the "Museum on Prime Ministers of India" in the Teen Murti Bhavan complex, which houses the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).

### Fourth anniversary of Skill India Mission being observed

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- The fourth anniversary of the Skill India Mission is observed on 15th July. Several functions are being organised across the country to mark the occasion.



## Cabinet approves Rs 1,600 cr for Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal

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- **Union Cabinet** has approved 1,600 crore rupees for Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh. The Centre has given a green signal to the Dibang dam — set to be the largest hydro-power project in India at 278 metres — which was put on hold during the United Progressive Alliance regime due to environmental concerns.
- The NDA government in its two terms has sent to the chopping block 1,824 old laws which had become redundant.

## Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill introduced in Lok Sabha

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- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** introduced the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive mechanism to ban the unregulated deposit schemes, other than deposits taken in the ordinary course of business, and to protect the interest of depositors.

## Digitization of Archaeological Museum

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- The **National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums** is developed and hosted by **Human Centres Design and Computing Group, C-DAC, Pune**, as per the agreement with Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- There are 48 (forty-eight) Archaeological Site Museums under Archaeological Survey of India out of which two Archaeological Site Museums, namely - Velha Goa; and Nagarjunakonda, have been digitised during the first phase through JATAN: Virtual Museum software and the data has been up-loaded in public domain through National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.

## Centre Proposes Light Urban Rail 'Metrolite' for Smaller Cities

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- The Centre has proposed light urban rail transit system - 'Metrolite' - in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has issued standard specifications of the 'Metrolite' system which will be developed on surface and elevated stretches. The 'Metrolite' system will have a dedicated path separating the road traffic with it. For segregation with road traffic, fencing can be provided on either side of network.

## Ministry of mines organises a workshop on Effective utilization of Red Mud

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- In a step towards productive utilisation of bauxite residue, commonly known as the 'Red Mud', an interactive workshop called 'Waste To Wealth' was organized by Ministry of Mines in the capital. The present status regarding the generation of Red Mud and its safe disposal and utilization were discussed. Red Mud is a solid waste generated during the aluminium production process.

## Arunachal CM launches statewide tree plantation programme

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- **Chief Minister Pema Khandu** launched the statewide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar. The campaign under the State Forest department will plant 1-lakh tree saplings in the next 24 hours. The campaign is being held as part of Van Mahotsav celebration and has set the target of planting 1 Crore tree within the next five years.

## PM Modi releases book on former PM Chandra Shekhar

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has invited the families of all former Prime Ministers to share the important aspects of their lives to be put on display at the museum on Prime Ministers of India. The museum is being built at the Teen Murti Bhavan complex in the national capital.
  - The book titled 'Chandra Shekhar- the Last Icon of Ideological Politics' is written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai.
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## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Doctors' Day in India

- **National Doctor's Day** is observed every year on **1st July** in India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, **Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy**. On this day we acknowledge the contributions of doctor's humane service to mankind.
- The theme of **Doctor's Day 2019** is **"Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment"**. **Indian Medical Association** announces the theme every year.

### World Sports Journalists Day

- The **World Sports Journalists Day** is observed on **July 2** every year to recognise the contribution of sports journalists in promoting sports.

### International Day of Parliamentarism: 30 June

- **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.

### World Population Day: 11 July

- **World Population Day**, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the **United Nations Development Programme** in **1989**, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the **Day of Five Billion**, which was observed on **11 July 1987**.
- No specific theme has declared for **World Population Day 2019** but this year's **World Population Day** calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the **1994 International Conference on Population and Development**.

### Nelson Mandela International Day: 18 July

- **Mandela Day**, celebrated on **July 18**, is an annual international day adopted by the **United Nations**. It is more than a celebration of Nelson Mandela's life and legacy, it is a global movement to take his life's work into a new era and change our world for the better. Mandela Day asks us all to **"Take Action; Inspire Change; Make Every Day a Mandela Day."**
- To mark the first global celebration of **Mandela Day** on **18 July 2009**, Mandela's 91st birthday, a series of educational, art exhibit, fund-raising and volunteer events leading up to a concert at **Radio City Music Hall** on **18 July** were organised by the **46664** concerts and the **Nelson Mandela Foundation**. **In November 2009**, the **United Nations General Assembly** formally declared **18 July** to be **"Nelson Mandela International Day"**.

### World Day for International Justice

- Every year on **July 17**, **World Day for International Justice** is observed all around the world.
- The aim of the day is to **promote international criminal justice** and as a way of supporting the work of the **ICC**.

### Malala Day 2019

- **Malala Day** is commemorated on **July 12** each year to honor women and children's rights around the world.

- **July 12 is the birthday of Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani woman who was shot in the head on October 9, 2012, by Taliban gunmen after she publically advocated for the education of girls.**

### National Broadcasting day

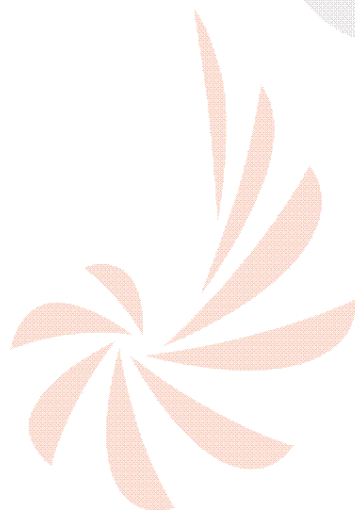
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- **23rd July is National Broadcasting day. On 23rd July in 1927, the first ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company. On 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio.**
- **All India Radio has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses since it's inception, truly living up to its motto - Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya.**

### World Hepatitis Day observed on 28th July

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- **World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on 28 July to raise awareness about the disease which causes inflammation of the liver and claims around 1.4 million lives every year.**
- **During World Hepatitis Day 2019 campaign, WHO is urging all countries and partners to promote the theme “Invest in eliminating hepatitis”.**



## QUESTIONS

1. Digital India initiative was launched on:  
(a) 1st of July, 2013      (b) 1st of July, 2014      (c) 1st of July, 2015      (d) 1st of July, 2016
2. In June 2019, US President Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to set foot in:  
(a) North Korea      (b) South Korea      (c) China      (d) Japan
3. Which of the following countries has resumed commercial whaling after 31 years, meeting a long-cherished goal of traditionalists that's seen as a largely lost cause?  
(a) USA      (b) South Korea      (c) China      (d) Japan
4. Vietnam and the \_\_\_\_\_ signed a free trade agreement, opening opportunities to further boost trade between the euro bloc and one of Southeast Asia's biggest manufacturing nations.  
(a) European Union      (b) African Union      (c) IMF      (d) WTO
5. Goods and Services Tax (GST) was launched on the:  
(a) 1st of July, 2015      (b) 1st of July, 2016      (c) 1st of July, 2017      (d) 1st of July, 2018
6. The total solar eclipse occurred on:  
(a) July 2      (b) July 3      (c) July 4      (d) July 21
7. In a first, Scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have determined the precise location of a powerful one-off burst of cosmic radio waves.  
(a) USA      (b) Australia      (c) Israel      (d) China
8. Who has become the first captain in the history of the Cricket World Cup to score five consecutive fifties?  
(a) SPD Smith      (b) Virat Kohli      (c) Sourav Ganguly      (d) Jason Holder
9. Who has become the only second Indian batsman to score 3 hundreds in a single edition of World Cup?  
(a) Rohit Sharma      (b) Virat Kohli      (c) K.L.Rahul      (d) M.S.Dhoni
10. The price of non-subsidised LPG was cut by over \_\_\_\_\_ per cylinder on the back of softening international rates.  
(a) Rs 50      (b) Rs 100      (c) Rs 150      (d) Rs 200
11. Recently, Centre has constituted a high powered committee of Chief Ministers of several states for the transformation of Indian Agriculture. Who will be the convener of the committee?  
(a) H.D. Kumara swami      (b) Kamalnath      (c) Bhupesh Baghel      (d) Devendra Fadnavis
12. Recently, which of the following has approved a new scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) to boost research culture in the country?  
(a) CBSE      (b) ICSE  
(c) University Grants Commission (UGC)      (d) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
13. At present there are \_\_\_\_\_ Zonal Railways in India.  
(a) 13      (b) 14      (c) 17      (d) 19



14. Recently, India dropped down to \_\_\_\_\_rank in money parked in Swiss banks.  
(a) 73rd (b) 88th (c) 74th (d) 89th
15. The first of its kind audio-visual archive on the Northeast will house in:  
(a) Shillong (b) Dispur (c) Gangtok (d) Aizwal
16. Recently, Cirrochroa thais butterfly has been declared the state butterfly of:  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Karnataka
17. Who won the Austrian Grand Prix Formula 1 recently?  
(a) Charles Leclerc (b) Max Verstappen (c) Lewis Hamilton (d) Valtteri Bottas
18. Name the Indian pro boxer who became the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight champion.  
(a) Vaibhav Yadav (b) Deepankar Jain (c) Atulya Patnaik (d) Sandeep Raheja
19. Name the Indian who won the Under-19 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Macau, China.  
(a) Yash Fadte (b) Deepak Dumbalikar (c) Veer Chotrani (d) Ananat Chhatterjee
20. In India, National Doctor's Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 27th June (b) 29th June (c) 30th June (d) 1st July
21. Which Indian state has recently launched "Operation Khumaar" to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free?  
(a) Odisha (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand
22. Kalu Police station recently bagged First Rank in an assessment by the Home ministry of 15 thousand 666 police stations across the country. Kalu Police station is in:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Nagaland (c) Gujarat (d) Rajasthan
23. In Uttar Pradesh, a large scale campaign \_\_\_\_\_was launched to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease.  
(a) DASTAK (b) RAAHAT (c) ROG NAAS (d) AAHAT
24. Recently, Ursula von der Leyen nominated to lead EU Commission. Ursula von der Leyen belongs to:  
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Switzerland (d) Finland
25. The first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair, IICTF, between 11th to 13th October will be held in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru
26. Recently, who has been nominated to be the new president of the European Central Bank?  
(a) Charles Michel (b) Donald Tusk (c) Christine Lagarde (d) N.S. Vishwanathan
27. Name the IPS officer who has completed her 7th summit in the "7 Summits" challenge and hence become the first civil servant or IPS officer to achieve the feat.  
(a) Dr. Kajal Malhotra (b) Deepika Bharadwaj (c) Merine Joseph (d) Aparna Kumar
28. Who won the men's team title at the IBSF Snooker World Cup recently?  
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Nepal
29. Name the veteran British journalist who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in London for his contributions to the UK-India relationship.  
(a) Sir Mark Tully (b) Sir Thomas Bach (c) Sir Andrew Doter (d) Sir Philip Buchnam

30. World Sports Journalists Day is observed every year on:  
(a) 1st July (b) 2nd July (c) 3rd July (d) 4th July
31. Which Indian state is to establish a vedic education and culture board in the state?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Uttarakhand (d) Uttar Pradesh
32. In Uttar Pradesh, State Government has decided to set up Ganga Committees in all \_\_\_\_\_ situated on the banks of river Ganga.  
(a) 15 districts (b) 20 districts (c) 25 districts (d) 35 districts
33. Jammu and Kashmir will host its first ever investor summit in September-October of this year in:  
(a) Jammu (b) Srinagar (c) Anantnag (d) Baramula
34. The Reserve Bank of India constituted a six-member committee to strengthen the corporate governance framework of systematically important Core Investment Companies (CICs). The six-member committee will be headed by:  
(a) Tapan Ray (b) T Ravishankar (c) Lily Vadera (d) Amarjeet Singh
35. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices, MSP for all Kharif crops for 2019-20 Seasons. MSP of paddy has been increased by \_\_\_\_\_ per quintal.  
(a) 30 rupees (b) 45 rupees (c) 65 rupees (d) 80 rupees
36. The International Monetary Fund Executive Board approved a \_\_\_\_\_ three-year loan for Pakistan to try to right the nation's economy.  
(a) \$4 billion (b) \$5 billion (c) \$6 billion (d) \$8 billion
37. According to International Labour Organisation, India is projected to lose \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of working hours in 2030.  
(a) 3.1 (b) 3.9 (c) 4.4 (d) 5.8
38. Recently, The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health in response to an estimate that by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare workers.  
(a) 5 million (b) 7 million (c) 9 million (d) 13 million
39. The International Day of Parliamentarism is observed on:  
(a) 23rd June (b) 30th June (c) 2nd July (d) 4th July
40. Name the Hollywood actor who is joining with philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth to create a nonprofit environmental powerhouse "Earth Alliance" charged with tackling climate change and the loss of biodiversity.  
(a) Johnny Depp (b) Leonardo DiCaprio (c) Tom Cruise (d) Robert Downey, Jr.
41. Recently, Making it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has opened its first 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' in:  
(a) Meerut (b) Gulbarga (c) Solapur (d) Vijaywada
42. The sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country has increased to more than \_\_\_\_\_ which was over 38 per cent on 2nd October 2014.  
(a) 99 per cent (b) 95 per cent (c) 89 per cent (d) 84 per cent

43. Recently, the lower house of parliament of \_\_\_\_\_ approved a small, pioneering tax on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.  
(a) Germany (b) France (c) Greece (d) Bulgaria
44. Which is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network recently?  
(a) Tata Steel Sivakasi (b) Tata Steel Jharsuguda  
(c) Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) (d) Tata Steel Jamshedpur (TSJ)
45. Recently, Gujarat Finance Minister Nitin Patel presented \_\_\_\_\_ budget - the state's highest-ever - for 2019-20.  
(a) Rs 2, 04,815 crore (b) Rs 2, 10,400 crore (c) Rs 3, 05,560 crore (d) Rs 5, 07,490 crore
46. After 18 years of research, Indian and Australian scientists have identified a new gene called NAPRT1 directly linked to:  
(a) Tuberculosis (b) Typhoid (c) Schizophrenia (d) Flu
47. The Economic survey projects GDP to grow at \_\_\_\_\_ in 2019-20.  
(a) 6 per cent (b) 7 per cent (c) 8 per cent (d) 9 per cent
48. Who won the women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix held in Poland recently?  
(a) Deepika Rashi (b) Hima Das (c) Swapna Burman (d) Anita Kumari
49. According to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), who will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards at its Second Annual Leadership Summit in Washington?  
(a) Shiv Nadar (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Ajay Piramal (d) Azim Premji
50. Recently, who has been appointed as the Sheriff of Calcutta on the recommendation of Calcutta High Court by the Governor of West Bengal?  
(a) Mani Sankar Mukherji (b) Deepak Bharadwaj  
(c) Arun Chatterjee (d) Ashok Chhatopadhaya
51. Recently, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jayshankar has been elected as the Rajya Sabha member from:  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Karnataka
52. Recently, which Indian state achieved first rank in NITI Aayog's "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI), which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
53. Recently, The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman focused on government's \_\_\_\_\_ vision for the next decade to take India to newer heights.  
(a) 5-point (b) 7-point (c) 10-point (d) 15-point
54. In Uttar Pradesh, the State government launched a toll-free Chief Minister Helpline \_\_\_\_\_ that will enable people from across the state to register their complaints and will ensure a time-bound action on the complaints also.  
(a) 1076 (b) 1079 (c) 1088 (d) 1095
55. Recently, who has been elected as President of the European parliament?  
(a) David Malpas (b) Johnson Verghese (c) David-Maria Sassoli (d) Anthony Golbart

56. Recently, The latest Henley Passport Index 2019 ranked the Indian passport on the \_\_\_\_\_ position with a mobility score of 58.  
(a) 34th (b) 47th (c) 68th (d) 86th
57. Recently, The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute started functioning in:  
(a) Berlin (b) New Delhi (c) Dhaka (d) Karachi
58. Recently, Reliance Jio Infocomm has partnered with US social media giant \_\_\_\_\_ to launch a countrywide digital literacy drive, christened, Digital Udaan, for its growing base of JioPhone users and other first-time internet users.  
(a) Twitter (b) Facebook Inc (c) Google Inc (d) Yahoo
59. Recently, India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in:  
(a) Ludhiana (b) Surat (c) Ahmedabad (d) Mumbai
60. Which of the following railway zones has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel, measuring 6.6 Kms between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations?  
(a) South Western Railway (b) Southern Railway  
(c) South Central Railway (d) South East Central
61. Which of the following Indian cities has made its entry into the UNESCO World Heritage Site list?  
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) Jaipur (d) Chennai
62. The fifth edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition is held at:  
(a) Jaisalmer (b) Beijing (c) Tokyo (d) New York
63. The Union Budget 2019-20 has proposed to extend the lower rate of \_\_\_\_\_ % Corporate Tax to all companies with annual turnover up to Rs. 400 crore.  
(a) 15 (b) 25 (c) 20 (d) 30
64. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman announced that it is being contemplated to permit \_\_\_\_\_ % Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for insurance intermediaries.  
(a) 49 (b) 71 (c) 90 (d) 100
65. The effective tax rates for the higher income group individuals having taxable income from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 5 crore and above is proposed to be increased by around 3 percent and \_\_\_\_\_ percent respectively.  
(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 12
66. Which of the following Indian states is working to set up the country's first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottoor, an ecotourism village near the state capital?  
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Assam
67. Which of the following countries will host 3rd International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019?  
(a) China (b) Ukraine (c) India (d) Japan
68. Which of the following countries football team wins the Copa America for the ninth time in July 2019?  
(a) Brazil (b) Argentina (c) Cuba (d) Peru
69. Arinjeeta Dey has won a silver medal in the World Youth Cup. She hails from:  
(a) Kerala (b) West Bengal (c) Haryana (d) Telangana



70. Who has become first batsman to score 5 centuries in a World Cup?  
(a) SPD Smith (b) Virat Kohli (c) Sourav Ganguly (d) Rohit Sharma
71. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a tree plantation drive in\_\_\_\_\_, where the state government will plant 22 crore trees in the state.  
(a) Haryana (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
72. Which of the following countries has signed up to the \$3 trillion Africa free trade agreement recently?  
(a) Nigeria (b) Liberia (c) Chad (d) Uganda
73. According to government data, the maximum senior citizens come from which of the following Indian states?  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Telangana (d) Uttar Pradesh
74. Which of the following will now be the regulator of housing finance firms, replacing the National Housing Bank?  
(a) Finance Ministry (b) SIDBI (c) RBI (d) NABARD
75. Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has launched a project for undertaking 'immunocontraceptive measures' for population management of four species of wild animals. Which of the following animals is not in the list?  
(a) Monkey (b) Elephant (c) Jackal (d) Blue Bull
76. India's first cow sanctuary is located in:  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
77. Recently, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has informed that central government is going to set-up \_\_\_\_\_Sports Centre of Excellence in Itanagar.  
(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Five
78. Who clinched the Canada Open Badminton men's singles title recently?  
(a) Li Shi Feng (b) Parupalli Kashyap (c) Lin Dan (d) Wang Tzu-wei
79. Who won a record-extending fourth women's World Cup recently?  
(a) USA (b) Great Britain (c) Netherlands (d) France
80. Who won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland recently?  
(a) Deepa Raj (b) Anupma Jaswal (c) Deepika Rajawat (d) Hima Das
81. Recently, Prosecco hills were added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Prosecco hills are located in:  
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Italy (d) USA
82. Recently, The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named \_\_\_\_\_to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.  
(a) Vaibhav (b) Sudarshan (c) Utkarsh (d) Pradhaan
83. Recently, A model village built with Indian assistance as part of a housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers was inaugurated in:  
(a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar (c) Sri Lanka (d) Mauritius

84. Recently, Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of:  
(a) Finland (b) Greece (c) Ireland (d) Netherland
85. The Indian Army is in the process of acquiring Excalibur guided long- range artillery ammunition which can strike targets more than \_\_\_\_\_away.  
(a) 20 km (b) 50 km (c) 100 km (d) 150 km
86. In 2019, International Day of Cooperatives was observed on:  
(a) 3rd July (b) 4th July (c) 6th July (d) 8th July
87. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board finalised a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank. This medium term strategy named \_\_\_\_\_is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.  
(a) Utkarsh 2022 (b) Vaibhav 2020 (c) Dwij 2020 (d) Pataka 2022
88. According to a recent report by the Global Study on Homicide 2019 published by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which continent recorded the lowest rate of homicide in 2017?  
(a) Africa (b) Europe (c) North America (d) Asia
89. Name the Indian cricketer who was formally appointed as the National Cricket Academy's Head of Cricket by the BCCI recently.  
(a) Saurav Ganguly (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Mohammad Kaif
90. Recently, the book titled 'Vivekadeepini' was released in ten languages. Who released the book?  
(a) Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu (b) Shri Narendra Modi  
(c) Shri Ramnath Kovind (d) Shri Peeyush Goyal
91. Which is the first train to be operated by private players and to be run between Lucknow and Delhi?  
(a) Vande Bharat (b) Train 2019 (c) Tejas Express (d) Atal Express
92. Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue will be established at:  
(a) Shimla (b) Karnaprayag (c) Manali (d) Rudraprayag
93. Recently, Sharjah's first Golden Card visa was issued to an Indian expat businessman:  
(a) Deepak Raheja (b) Mohammad Anees (c) Lalu Samuel (d) Anas Ahmed
94. Recently, the Rajya Sabha passed the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, allowing voluntary linking of the \_\_\_\_\_identification number as part of know your customer guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection.  
(a) 8-digit (b) 10-digit (c) 12-digit (d) 14-digit
95. The second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Shimla (d) Bhopal
96. Recently, India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers' meeting was held in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) New Delhi
97. Who won the Indian medal rush by notching up gold on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship?  
(a) Dutee Chand (b) Rekha Rani (c) Mirabai Chanu (d) Beena Mehta

98. Who won the gold medal in the women's 100-metre sprint at the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy?  
(a) Dutee Chand (b) Beena Mehta (c) Geetika Mehra (d) Rekha Rani
99. Who won the CONCACAF Gold Cup international men's football championship for a record eighth time recently?  
(a) USA (b) Chile (c) Peru (d) Mexico
100. "War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960" is a book authored by:  
(a) Reema Malik (b) Jainendra Atri (c) Devika Sethi (d) Abhilasha Rajpoot
101. Which of the following films has now been recognised with NETPAC Award for Best Asian Film at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea?  
(a) Kabir Singh (b) Bharat (c) Gully Boy (d) Article 15
102. Recently, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee added \_\_\_\_\_ new cultural and natural sites to its World Heritage List at its annual meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.  
(a) 13 (b) 17 (c) 29 (d) 34
103. Name India's leading International school, which is the only Indian school to be featured in 'The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World' book published by the popular London publishers St James's House.  
(a) Aditya Birla World Academy (b) Laxman Public School  
(c) Woodstock School (d) Oak Grove School
104. Recently, A UNESCO delegation led by Director, UNESCO Mr. Eric Falt has presented 'State of the Education Report for India 2019- Children with Disabilities' to:  
(a) Shri Ramesh Pokariyal Nishank (b) Shri Narendra Modi  
(c) Shri Ramnath Kovind (d) Shri Venkaih Naidu
105. According to property consultant CBRE, which is the ninth most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly USD 144 per sq ft?  
(a) Marine Drive, Mumbai (b) Hazratganj, Lucknow  
(c) Dalal Street Mumbai (d) Connaught Place, New Delhi
106. Recently, An internal committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up to review timings of different financial markets, suggested that the foreign exchange market could function from:  
(a) 9 a.m to 5 p.m (b) 10 a.m to 6 p.m (c) 11 a.m to 11 p.m (d) 9 am to 9 pm
107. Name the Indian women footballer who has been announced as the footballer of the year recently.  
(a) Ashalata Devi (b) Sangita Basfore (c) Aditi Chauhan (d) Jabamani Tudu
108. Who won Croatia Grand Chess Tour title recently?  
(a) Viswanathan Anand (b) Hikaru Nakamura (c) Magnus Carlsen (d) Maxime Vachier Lagrave
109. Who became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m race?  
(a) Swaroopa Beena (b) Dutee Chand (c) Swapna Burman (d) Deepa Sankooli
110. The fortnightly bulletin of the National Museum of Indian Cinema, brought out by the Films Division is:  
(a) Abhaar (b) NMIC Samachar (c) NMIC Bulletin (d) Soochna
111. Who is the only Indian Bollywood actor to find a spot in the Forbes list of the world's highest paid actors, among 99 other international celebrities?

- (a) Ajay Devgan                      (b) Amitabh Bachchan                      (c) Salman Khan                      (d) Akshay Kumar
112. Who topped Forbes Celebrity 100 list and becomes highest-paid star with over \$185 million-earning?  
(a) Chris Evans                      (b) Katy Perry                      (c) Taylor Swift                      (d) Scarlett Johansson
113. Recently, World Population Day is observed on:  
(a) 5th July                      (b) 7th July                      (c) 9th July                      (d) 11th July
114. Recently, Prasara Bharati and \_\_\_\_\_ signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur                      (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur  
(c) Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi                      (d) Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
115. Recently, A 2,10,000-year-old skull discovered in a cave in \_\_\_\_\_ has been identified as the earliest modern human remains found outside Africa, putting the clock back on mankind's arrival in Europe by more than 1,50,000 years.  
(a) Portugal                      (b) Greece                      (c) Bulgaria                      (d) India
116. In a first, scientists have identified the detailed chemical "fingerprint" of a planet between the sizes of Earth and \_\_\_\_\_ to uncover clues about its nature and origin, using NASA's Spitzer and Hubble space telescopes.  
(a) Mars                      (b) Jupiter                      (c) Neptune                      (d) Uranus
117. Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that measles disease has been eradicated in:  
(a) Sri Lanka                      (b) Seychelles                      (c) Maldives                      (d) Mauritius
118. Recently, The value of balances in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ mark.  
(a) Rs 1 lakh crore                      (b) Rs 2.5 lakh crore                      (c) Rs 4 lakh crore                      (d) Rs 5 lakh crore
119. Which of the following countries is ready to impose a tax of up to €8 on plane tickets for all flights from airports to fund less-polluting transportation projects?  
(a) United Kingdom                      (b) France                      (c) Germany                      (d) Belgium
120. According to the global MPI 2019 report between 2005-06 and 2015-16, India, lifted \_\_\_\_\_ out of poverty, significantly reducing deprivations in many of the ten indicators, particularly in "assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition".  
(a) 65 million                      (b) 113 million                      (c) 271 million                      (d) 356 million
121. Who is the newly appointed Indian woman CFO of the World Bank group?  
(a) Gargi Sharma                      (b) Anshula Kant                      (c) Satya Malhotra                      (d) Meenakshi Devburman
122. Recently, Global Conference on Media Freedom was held in:  
(a) New York                      (b) Berlin                      (c) Mumbai                      (d) London
123. Which of the following Indian states has focused largely on its election manifesto's "Navaratnalu" the nine welfare schemes covering farmers, women, medical and health, education and Special Category Status (SCS) recently?  
(a) Telangana                      (b) Andhra Pradesh                      (c) Tamil Nadu                      (d) Karnataka
124. Recently, the 11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting (11th MGC SOM) was held in:  
(a) Naypyidaw                      (b) Bangkok                      (c) New Delhi                      (d) Phnom Penh



125. Which of the following Indian banks has waived charges on NEFT and RTGS transactions through Internet and mobile banking from July 1?  
(a) SBI (b) Canara Bank (c) PNB (d) Union Bank of India
126. Which of the following motorcycle companies launched India's first ethanol-based motorcycle recently?  
(a) TVS (b) Suzuki (c) Hero Motocorp (d) Bajaj Motors
127. Which of the following country will host a UN conference on combating desertification (COP14) in September 2019?  
(a) Bhutan (b) South Africa (c) India (d) Argentina
128. Recently, The World Peace Forum has awarded 2019 Luxembourg Peace Prize to famed Buddhist teacher:  
(a) Asmier Thein (b) Bushin Herter (c) Nachy Teru (d) Thich Nhat Hanh
129. Name the Bengali film which received the award for Best Feature Film at the 9th SAARC Film Festival recently.  
(a) Nagarkirtan (b) Durgeshgorer Guptodhon  
(c) Mahalaya (d) Mukherjee Dar Bou
130. Who has been recently appointed captain of the Afghanistan cricket team for all formats?  
(a) Mohammad Nabi (b) Mohammad Shehzad (c) Asghar Afghan (d) Rashid Khan
131. Which Indian state became the first state to approve a draft water policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state?  
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Meghalaya (d) Maharashtra
132. Who has launched "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities recently?  
(a) AIIMS Delhi (b) NITI Aayog  
(c) Uttar Pradesh State Government (d) Government of India
133. Recently, which Indian state government announced to celebrate every year on July 12th as 'Save Water Day'?  
(a) Assam (b) West Bengal (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
134. Recently, The 19th meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers was held in:  
(a) London (b) New York (c) Auckland (d) Ottawa
135. Which is the first Indian NBFC to get \$100 million loan from AIIB?  
(a) Power Finance Corporation Limited (b) Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd  
(c) L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (d) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
136. According to a report by IHS Markit, India will this year overtake the \_\_\_\_\_ to become the world's fifth biggest economy.  
(a) France (b) Germany (c) UK (d) Japan
137. The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is hosting the Women Startup Summit in association with the Indian Women Network floated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in:  
(a) Ernakulam (b) Kochi (c) Thissur (d) Thiruvananthapuram
138. Name the Indians who won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open.  
(a) G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj (b) D. Gopinath and Fedrick Nertw  
(c) Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (d) Akshay Dutta and Ashwin Talreja

139. Which of the following countries launched powerful X-ray telescope Spektr-RG into space to map cosmos?  
(a) China (b) Russia (c) Japan (d) India
140. The 2019 FIFA U-17 Football World Cup will be held in:  
(a) Argentina (b) Nigeria (c) Spain (d) Brazil
141. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has set a target for March 2020 for constructing the "Museum on Prime Ministers of India" in the:  
(a) Parliament House (b) Red Fort  
(c) Teen Murti Bhavan complex (d) Gateway of India
142. Recently, An Agri Business Incubation Centre has started in:  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Odisha
143. Chandrayaan-2 onboard the heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle GSLV-MkIII-M1, nicknamed \_\_\_\_\_ would have taken 54 days to accomplish the task of landing on the Moon.  
(a) Baahubali (b) Fat Boy (c) Heavy One (d) Mahabali
144. The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to:  
(a) 789 (b) 890 (c) 1045 (d) 1256
145. Who won his sixth British Grand Prix Formula 1 recently?  
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Kimi Räikkönen (c) Sebastian Vettel (d) Max Verstappen
146. Name the cricketer who has been adjudged player of the tournament in ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.  
(a) Trent Boult (b) Rohit Sharma (c) David Warner (d) Kane Williamson
147. Who won the fifth Wimbledon title in Men's Single?  
(a) Roger Federer (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Rafael Nadal (d) Andy Murray
148. Name the Indian star grappler who won her second consecutive gold in 53kg, winning the Yasar Dogu International recently.  
(a) Geeta Phogat (b) Babita Phogat (c) Vinesh Phogat (d) Geeta Rani
149. Who clinched the WBC international welterweight title recently?  
(a) Ashghar Khan (b) Amir Khan (c) Dushyant Rana (d) Deepak Rathi
150. The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in November 2019 in:  
(a) Panaji (b) Gangtok (c) Lucknow (d) Mumbai
151. Name the Bollywood actor who is set to receive an honorary doctorate degree from Melbourne-based La Trobe University for his contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment.  
(a) Salman Khan (b) Shahrukh Khan (c) Aamir Khan (d) Amitabh Bachchan
152. Recently, Kalraj Mishra has been appointed as the Governor of:  
(a) Assam (b) Bihar (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
153. Recently, Amendments to the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act was re-introduced in the Lok Sabha, the proposed amendments to the MV Act seeks to provide a compensation of \_\_\_\_\_ for death in a motor vehicle accident case.  
(a) Rs. 3 lakh (b) Rs. 4 lakh (c) Rs. 5 lakh (d) Rs. 8 lakh

154. World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 10th July (b) 12th July (c) 15th July (d) 16th July
155. Recently, New species of ancient lizard is named after Hindu god:  
(a) Varuna (b) Indra (c) Agni (d) Akash
156. Which of the following cities will host the next session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020?  
(a) Shanghai (b) Baku (c) Kuala Lumpur (d) Fuzhou
157. The much-awaited second Vande Bharat Express will be run on the high traffic \_\_\_\_\_route three days a week.  
(a) Delhi-Katra (b) Delhi-Bengaluru (c) Mumbai-Pune (d) Surat-Ahmedabad
158. India's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre at a cost of Rs 105 crore is coming up in:  
(a) Etawa (b) Jamui (c) Dispur (d) Kottoor
159. Who won the women's 200m event for her third international triumph in 11 days at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno, Czech Republic?  
(a) Deepa Yadav (b) Hima Das (c) Geeta Rawat (d) Jyoti Randhawa
160. In 2020, the World Cup in rifle, pistol and shot gun will be hosted by:  
(a) Russia (b) Germany (c) USA (d) India
161. Name the former Supreme Court judge who has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court.  
(a) Justice A K Sikri (b) Justice Madan Bhimrao Lokur  
(c) Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel (d) Justice Kurien Joseph
162. Who has been recently elected as the European Commission's first female president?  
(a) Serela Howk (b) Anthony Marchez  
(c) Ursula von der Leyen (d) Devier Niret Buseter
163. Which Indian state has hosted first global school debate tourneys?  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh
164. Which Indian state will host the first-ever Himalayan states' conclave where the prime focus will be on sustainable development?  
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Sikkim (d) Arunachal Pradesh
165. Who has been recently appointed as the Governor of Andhra Pradesh?  
(a) Biswabhusan Harichandan (b) Anusuiya Uikey  
(c) Baby Rani Maurya (d) Kalraj Mishra
166. Who among the following is not the elected members of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) from Lok Sabha?  
(a) Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (b) Harish Dwivedi  
(c) Jayant Sinha (d) Satya Pal Singh
167. Which country is set to be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)?  
(a) China (b) India (c) Japan (d) South Korea

168. The 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship begins in:  
(a) Chennai (b) Bengaluru (c) Kochi (d) Cuttack
169. Which of the following banks and CSC launched a co-branded "Small Business Money Back Credit Card" for small traders and village level entrepreneurs (VLEs)?  
(a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) IDFC Bank (d) Yes Bank
170. Nelson Mandela International Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 14th July (b) 15th July (c) 16th July (d) 18th July
171. Recently, The Centre has given a green signal to the \_\_\_\_\_ set to be the largest hydro-power project in India at 278 metres.  
(a) Dibang dam (b) Turial Dam (c) Rihand Dam (d) Son Dam
172. Recently, In order to improve turnaround time \_\_\_\_\_ has introduced a web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS).  
(a) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)  
(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)  
(c) State Bank of India (SBI)  
(d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
173. A high-level committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on its economic capital framework (ECF) has recommended that surplus reserves held by the central bank be transferred to the government in tranches over three to five years. The six-member committee is headed by:  
(a) Dr. C. Rangarajan (b) Dr. D. Subbarao (c) Dr. Urjit Patel (d) Bimal Jalan
174. Recently, International Court of Justice, ICJ ruled in favour of India and stayed \_\_\_\_\_ death sentence.  
(a) Sarabhjit's (b) Kulbushan Jadhav's (c) Deepak Mahatam's (d) Arjun Rana's
175. The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in the:  
(a) Theni (b) Ariyalur (c) Kanchipuram (d) Dharmapuri
176. Who has become the Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister?  
(a) Benjamin Netanyahu (b) Avigdor Lieberman (c) David Ben-Gurion (d) Shimon Peres
177. Name the woman archer who clinched silver at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event.  
(a) Bombayla Devi Laishram (b) Dola Banerjee  
(c) Madhumita Kumari (d) Deepika Kumari
178. Recently, Tabor Athletics Meet was held in:  
(a) Finland (b) Czech Republic (c) Iceland (d) Ireland
179. World Day for International Justice is observed all around the world on:  
(a) 11th July (b) 13th July (c) 14th July (d) 17th July
180. Who has not been selected among the 2018 Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows?  
(a) Zakir Hussain (b) Amitabh Bachchan (c) Jatin Goswami (d) Sonal Mansingh



181. Which of the following countries became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement?  
(a) Monaco (b) San Marino (c) Palau (d) Marshall Islands
182. Recently, an Indian waterway is used for the first time to transport cargo from \_\_\_\_\_ via India.  
(a) Bhutan to Bangladesh (b) Nepal to Bhutan  
(c) Bhutan to Myanmar (d) Nepal to Bangladesh
183. In the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, who has been ranked World's Second-Richest Person recently?  
(a) Bernard Arnault (b) Orman Artega (c) Laxmi Nivas Mittal (d) Mukesh Ambani
184. Which bank recently announced the launch of a new digital platform curated specially for MSMEs and self-employed customers to enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly called 'InstaBIZ'?  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) Yes Bank
185. Union Health Ministry has signed a MoU with Ministries of Ayush, Defence and Railways to strengthen the efforts towards a TB-Free India by:  
(a) 2020 (b) 2022 (c) 2025 (d) 2029
186. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), how many species have been added to IUCN 'Red List' recently?  
(a) 4,000 (b) 5,500 (c) 7,000 (d) 8,200
187. Recently, A two-headed green turtle was born in:  
(a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) India (d) Bhutan
188. Recently, The International Cricket Council, ICC has suspended \_\_\_\_\_ with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.  
(a) USA Cricket (b) Zimbabwe Cricket (c) Afghanistan Cricket (d) UAE Cricket
189. Malala Day is commemorated on \_\_\_\_\_ each year to honor women and children's rights around the world.  
(a) July 12 (b) July 15 (c) July 18 (d) July 21
190. A new book titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War", is authored by:  
(a) Bhoopendra Singh Negi (b) Geeta Singh Chauhan  
(c) Rachna Bisht Rawat (d) Amrita Nath Sanyal
191. Name the Indian cricket legend who has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald recently?  
(a) Kapil Dev (b) Mohinder Amarnath (c) Ajay Jadeja (d) Sachin Tendulkar
192. Name the first Indian cyber security expert, whose article has been featured by UNESCO's Annual Magazine.  
(a) Khushhal Kaushik (b) Rakesh Asthana (c) Amit Rastogi (d) Deepak Vashist
193. Which is the first full-fledged sports university of Haryana?  
(a) Haryana Sports University (b) Sports University of Haryana  
(c) Chotu Ram Sports University (d) Jindal Sports University
194. Which of the following Indian state launched the world's first programme to trade particulate air pollutant quotas?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Bihar (d) Assam

195. Which of the following Indian cities launches India's first garbage cafe recently?  
(a) Gurugram (b) Ambikapur (c) Indore (d) Guntur
196. Which is the first state in India to manufacture electric cars?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Gujarat (d) Telangana
197. Which of the following Indian states and the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced that they are set to launch an innovative project to deliver emergency medical supplies such as blood and vaccines via drones?  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Telangana
198. Madhya Pradesh got its first international flight when an Air India flight took off from:  
(a) Bhopal (b) Khajuraho (c) Indore (d) Jabalpur
199. The first Indian state planning to make biofuel from rice is:  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Chhattisgarh
200. Name the Indian who created India's first 3D printed artificial reef to save aquatic species off the Puducherry coast.  
(a) Amit Ranjan Dubey (b) Siddharth Pillai (c) Shilesh Dhar (d) Anwarul Haq
201. Recently, which of the following Modi government's schemes was praised by the International Energy Agency (IEA)?  
(a) Beti Padhao Beti Badhao (b) Ujjwala Scheme  
(c) Swacchh Bharat Abhiyan (d) Zero Defect Zero Effect
202. Who became the India's first gold-medallist in Kazakhstan President's Cup in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63kg?  
(a) Amardeep Singh (b) Deepak Sharma (c) Shiva Thapa (d) Arjun Kathiyar
203. Recently, A pocket-sized pocket shark "Mollisquama Mississippiensis" was found in:  
(a) Strait of Hormuz (b) Strait of Gibraltar (c) Gulf of Oman (d) Gulf of Mexico
204. Who has been appointed as the new Governor of Uttar Pradesh?  
(a) R.N. Ravi (b) Keshari Nath Tripathi (c) Anandiben Patel (d) Jagdeep Dhankhar
205. The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in:  
(a) Lucknow (b) Varanasi (c) Patna (d) Guwahati
206. What is the theme of the Global Innovation Index, GII 2019?  
(a) Innovation Feeding the World  
(b) Evaluating the Medical Innovation Scenario of the Next Decade  
(c) Winning with Global Innovation  
(d) Energizing the World with Innovation
207. Recently, Indian Army has successfully carried out summer user trials of third Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile \_\_\_\_\_ at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.  
(a) NAG (b) AGNI (c) VAYU (d) SHENAZ
208. Who won the women single's finals of Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament in Jakarta recently?  
(a) P V Sindhu (b) Akane Yamaguchi (c) Tai Tzu-ying (d) Ratchanok Intanon

209. Who inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi recently?  
(a) Prahlad Singh Patel (b) Mahesh Sharma (c) Narendra Modi (d) Mansukh Lal Mandaviya
210. Who is the first Asian-born player to be inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame recently?  
(a) Li Na (b) Naomi Osaka (c) Sania Mirza (d) Qiang Wang
211. Who is the longest-serving female chief minister of any Indian state?  
(a) Jayalalithaa (b) Sheila Dikshit (c) Mayawati (d) Sucheta Kriplani
212. Which is the first country visited by the Imran Khan on 21st July 2019 after becoming Prime Minister of Pakistan?  
(a) USA (b) India (c) China (d) Saudi Arabia
213. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow has increased during the last six years from 36.05 billion US Dollars in 2013-14 to \_\_\_\_\_ US Dollars in 2018-19.  
(a) 54.38 billion (b) 64.38 billion (c) 74.38 billion (d) 84.38 billion
214. What is the total cost of the Chandrayaan-2 mission?  
(a) 578 crore (b) 778 crore (c) 878 crore (d) 978 crore
215. World is celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing on:  
(a) 19th July (b) 20th July (c) 21st July (d) 22nd July
216. Which of the following countries will launch its first human genome mapping project by October, a move that will help researchers get closer to developing effective therapies for treating diseases such as cancer?  
(a) USA (b) China (c) India (d) Israel
217. Who won the Mr. South Asia title 2019?  
(a) Ravinder Kumar Malik (b) Subramanyam BADRI  
(c) Shreyas Ram (d) Vishnu Vardhan
218. Who won her fifth gold of the month in the 400-metre race at the Czech Republic in July 2019?  
(a) Garima Avtar (b) Hima Das (c) Dute Chand (d) Ria Dabas
219. Who has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI)?  
(a) S. Sudhakar Reddy (b) MP D Raja (c) K. Subbarayan (d) Sitaram Yechury
220. Veteran trade union leader Arun Kumar Roy was passed away, he was the Lok Sabha MP from:  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Bihar (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Kerala
221. Which of the following will be the first foreign bank to launch its operations at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)?  
(a) Standard Chartered (b) Bank of Scotland  
(c) HSBC Bank (d) Development Bank of Singapore Bank
222. The Singapore-headquartered Global Indian International School (GIIS) will launch India's first SMART campus in \_\_\_\_\_ as part of its Rs 420 crore investments in education in India over the coming years.  
(a) Mumbai (b) Pune (c) Nagpur (d) Amravati
223. According to the World Reputation Rankings Manipal Academy of Higher Education, which of the following Indian institutions topped the rankings?  
(a) IIT Madras (b) IISc Bengaluru (c) IIT Bombay (d) King George Medical College

224. In Table Tennis, India completed a clean sweep, claiming all the \_\_\_\_\_ gold medals at the 21st Commonwealth Championships.  
(a) 4 (b) 7 (c) 11 (d) 15
225. Recently, the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 mission, headed to the moon's South Pole region, and achieved an orbit \_\_\_\_\_ more than what was targeted.  
(a) 4,000 kms (b) 5,000 kms (c) 6,000 kms (d) 8,000 kms
226. Recently, who has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy?  
(a) S. Sowmya (b) M. Subbulaxmi (c) T Shrijeeta (d) J Shreeyangi
227. Recently, Yukiya Amano has died at the age of 72. Since 2009, he was the head of:  
(a) World Bank (b) Bank of Japan  
(c) International Solar Alliance (d) International Atomic Energy Agency
228. Recently, National Broadcasting day was observed on:  
(a) 11th July (b) 14th July (c) 19th July (d) 23rd July
229. Who has been appointed as the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff recently?  
(a) Lieutenant-General K Malaviya (b) Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane  
(c) Lieutenant-General Deepak Rajawat (d) Lieutenant-General Amar Singh Dhanoa
230. Which has become the first state in the country to reserve jobs for locals in all private industrial units and factories, irrespective of whether or not these companies get financial or other help from the government?  
(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana
231. Name the Indian Paramilitary force which unveiled the India's first prototype of a body protector for women personnel which it has jointly developed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation?  
(a) Border Security Force (b) Assam Rifles  
(c) Central Industrial Security Force (d) Central Reserve Police Force
232. Name the longest bridge constructed by BRO and where technology of Pre Cast Segmental Bridge with 60 m spans was used.  
(a) Basohli Bridge (b) Ujh Bridge (c) Basantar Bridge (d) Chenab Bridge
233. Recently, The \_\_\_\_\_ Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka collapsed, with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy losing the confidence motion in the Assembly by six votes.  
(a) Six-month-old (b) Eight-month-old (c) Fourteen-month-old (d) Seventeen-month-old
234. Who has become Prime Minister of Britain?  
(a) Boris Johnson (b) Sadik Khan (c) David Cameroon (d) Jeremy Hunt
235. According to data released by RBI, which Indian state reported highest cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra
236. To ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas, the government has decided to declare all lanes at toll fee plaza on national highways as \_\_\_\_\_ from December 1.  
(a) FASTag lanes (b) LEAPfrog lanes (c) QUICKPass lanes (d) BYPASS lanes
237. Name the head of the panel which called for ban on cryptocurrencies and wants 10-year-jail for violations.  
(a) Subhash Garg (b) Shaktikanta Das (c) Deepak Garg (d) Ashmit Thakur

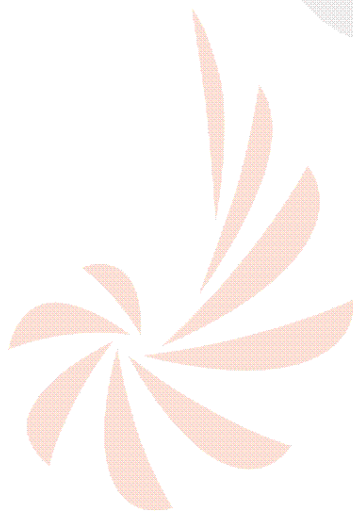


238. Name the swimmer who claimed the 100m breaststroke title at the world championships for a third time.  
(a) Thomas Bach (b) Richard Morrison (c) Desterd Beric (d) Adam Peaty
239. Recently, Scientists in \_\_\_\_\_ have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali' which can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.  
(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) Japan (d) Canada
240. Who has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs committee recently?  
(a) Amitabh Chaudhry (b) Ehsan Mani (c) Shashank Manohar (d) Ranjan Jagdale
241. Who has been appointed as Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary recently?  
(a) Deepa Shah (b) Anukriti Modi (c) Priti Patel (d) Rakshanda Khan
242. Who has been appointed as the the new Home Secretary?  
(a) Ajay Kumar Bhalla (b) Bhaskar Chhatterjee (c) Avanish Awasthi (d) Deepak Agarwal
243. In the recent released Global Innovation Index 2019, which of the following country topped the Index?  
(a) Mauritius (b) Switzerland (c) Sweden (d) Finland
244. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released book titled 'Chandra Shekhar- The Last Icon of Ideological Politics' written by:  
(a) Pranab Mukherjee (b) Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai  
(c) Neeraj Shekhar and Satish Singhal (d) Om Birla and Mukul Roy
245. Recently, India improved its rank in the Global Innovation Index to \_\_\_\_\_ in 2019.  
(a) 32nd (b) 42nd (c) 52nd (d) 57th
246. Who has been named by the Reserve Bank of India to run monetary policy portfolio?  
(a) M. K. Jain (b) B P Kanungo  
(c) Subhash Chandra Garg (d) Attanu Das
247. At present, how many Archaeological Site Museums are there under Archaeological Survey of India?  
(a) 25 (b) 31 (c) 37 (d) 48
248. Recently, for the first time a dragon tree species has been reported from India in:  
(a) Assam (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Meghalaya (d) Goa
249. Recently, Asian Development Bank has sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for upgradation of power generation and distribution in:  
(a) Assam (b) Tripura (c) Maharashtra (d) Andhra Pradesh
250. According to scheduling tool Hopper HQ's Instagram Rich List, who topped the list?  
(a) Leonel Messi (b) Paris Hilton (c) Priyanka Chopra (d) Cristiano Ronaldo
251. In the area of solar rooftop installations, which of the following states stands first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity as on July 23, 2019?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

252. Recently, The Centre has proposed light urban rail transit system \_\_\_\_\_ in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.  
(a) Metrolife (b) Metrojia (c) Metrolite (d) Quicklife
253. Which of the following states has become number one in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country?  
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar
254. Who launched the statewide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar recently?  
(a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (b) Chief Minister Pema Khandu  
(c) President Ramnath Kovind (d) Governor Brigadier B. D. Mishra
255. Recently, A committee constituted by the RBI has recommended increase in the collateral free lending limit to \_\_\_\_\_ for MSMEs and self-help groups.  
(a) Rs 10 lakh (b) Rs 20 lakh (c) Rs 50 lakh (d) Rs 75 lakh
256. Name the company which has amped up its position to No. 1 and become the top-ranked Indian company to feature in the Fortune Global 500 list of 2019.  
(a) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited  
(c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (d) Reliance Industries Limited
257. Name the species which has been listed as endangered due to deep sea mining in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.  
(a) Sea Pangolin (b) Mauritian Flying Fox (c) Sea Bass (d) Beluga
258. Which of the following countries successfully launched the country's first commercial rocket "Hyperbola" capable of carrying satellites into orbit recently?  
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) China (d) France
259. Who won World Boxing Association welterweight title?  
(a) Manny Pacquiao (b) Thurman (c) Dectros Gubriel (d) Dexter Musaia
260. Name the Grammy Award-winning Indian musician and environmentalist who has been named the Global Ambassador for Kindness by UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development).  
(a) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (b) A. R. Rahman (c) Ricky Kej (d) Zakir Hussain
261. BJP leader BS Yediyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the \_\_\_\_\_ time at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru.  
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth
262. Which of the following countries is not a member in BRICS nations?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Russia (d) South Korea
263. Which of the following countries is announced to resume capital punishment after a gap of nearly two decades?  
(a) USA (b) France (c) China (d) Iran
264. The insolvency regulator has notified rules that will give promoters and other stakeholder \_\_\_\_\_ days after the commencement of insolvency proceedings to re-take control of the company through agreements with creditors.  
(a) 30 (b) 45 (c) 60 (d) 90

265. The US economy grew less than previously thought last year, missing President Donald Trump's target of:  
(a) 3% (b) 4% (c) 5% (d) 6%
266. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to relax priority sector lending norms for exports by removing the turnover condition of Rs \_\_\_\_\_ and enhancing the maximum sanctioned limit to Rs 40 crore from Rs 25 crore now.  
(a) 50 crore (b) 100 crore (c) 150 crore (d) 500 crore
267. Scientists at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences have discovered \_\_\_\_\_ new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy.  
(a) 18 (b) 22 (c) 28 (d) 36
268. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) pulled out of the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in September to protest the dropping of shooting from the \_\_\_\_\_ Birmingham Commonwealth Games roster.  
(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2025
269. What is the India rank in the latest FIFA rankings?  
(a) 98 (b) 100 (c) 101 (d) 103
270. Under the country's newly proposed anti-terror law, who would be among the first individuals to be designated as terrorists once the proposed amendments come into effect?  
(a) Hafiz Saeed (b) Masood Azhar  
(c) Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar (d) Both a and b
271. Recently, With an objective for studying, examining and recommending and advising into all issues relating to Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), the Nagaland government has constituted a three-member commission under the chairmanship of:  
(a) Banuo Z Jamir (b) T Kiheto Sema (c) C Shingwang Konyak (d) Zelre Angami
272. Rajnath Singh visited \_\_\_\_\_ for his first overseas trip as the defence minister of India.  
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Fiji (c) Afghanistan (d) Mozambique
273. Recently, In a step towards productive utilisation of bauxite residue, commonly known as the 'Red Mud', an interactive workshop called 'Waste To Wealth' was organized by:  
(a) Ministry of Mines (b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
(c) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
274. Which of the following countries has been invited to be the partner country for this year's "Gita Jayanti Mahotsav", scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra?  
(a) Nepal (b) Myanmar (c) Singapore (d) Fiji
275. Which of the following Indian airports is to sport the country's most technologically advanced and highest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower?  
(a) Kempegowda International Airport (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport  
(c) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, (d) Indira Gandhi International Airport
276. Recently, Students at the \_\_\_\_\_ have developed a "smart agricopter" to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields and help identify crop health by using an imaging camera.  
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay

- (c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi      (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
277. In 2020, The third edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in:  
(a) Itanagar      (b) Shillong      (c) Guwahati      (d) Cuttack
278. Recently, A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_ to coordinate and strategise the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.  
(a) Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju      (b) Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
(c) President Ramnath Kovind      (d) Vice President Venkai Naidu
279. World Hepatitis Day was observed on:  
(a) 25th July      (b) 26th July      (c) 27th July      (d) 28th July
280. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) which ensures that consumers get benefit of reduced prices under the Goods and Services Tax (GST)?  
(a) Ameesh Tripathi      (b) Badri Narain Sharma      (c) Deepak Luthra      (d) Ajay Singh Rawat





## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the commemoration of four years of Digital India initiative in New Delhi. The aim of this initiative is to bridge the digital divide and create awareness about Information Technology. Digital services being offered by the government as well as the private sector have improved the life of every citizen. Prime Minister Narendra had launched various initiative of Digital India on 1st of July, 2015.
2. a US President Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to set foot in North Korea when he met its leader, Kim Jong Un, in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.
3. d Japan has resumed commercial whaling after 31 years, meeting a long-cherished goal of traditionalists that's seen as a largely lost cause.
4. a Vietnam and the European Union signed a free trade agreement, opening opportunities to further boost trade between the euro bloc and one of Southeast Asia's biggest manufacturing nations.
5. c The second anniversary of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is celebrated 1st of July, 2019. It was launched on the 1st of July, 2017 at a function held in the Central Hall of Parliament on the midnight of 30th June, 2017.
6. a Total Solar Eclipse/Surya Grahan 2019: The total solar eclipse occurred on July 2. The upcoming solar eclipse is likely to last for four minutes and 33 seconds. This is going to be the only total solar eclipse which will be taking place during this year.
7. b In a first, Australian scientists have determined the precise location of a powerful one-off burst of cosmic radio waves.
8. b Virat Kohli looked in pristine touch during his innings of 66 off 76 balls against England in the World Cup match at Edgbaston in Birmingham. Kohli became the first captain in the history of the Cricket World Cup to score five consecutive fifties.
9. a Rohit Sharma became only the 2nd Indian batsman to score 3 hundreds in a single edition of World Cup when he hit his 3rd of World Cup 2019 in India's crunch encounter against England in Birmingham. Sourav Ganguly had scored 3 hundreds in World Cup 2003.
10. b The price of non-subsidised LPG was cut by over Rs 100 per cylinder on the back of softening international rates, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) said.
11. d Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be the convenor of the committee, while the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members.
12. c The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a new initiative - Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy (STRIDE) to boost research culture in the country.
13. c Ministry of Railways has released its new All India Railway Time Table known as 'Trains at a Glance'. In addition to this, all the 17 Zonal Railways have also released their Zonal Railway Time Tables.

14. c India was ranked 73rd in 2018 after it jumped 15 places from its 88th position a year ago. India has ranked "very low" when it comes to money parked in the Swiss banks, the analysis shows.
15. a Shillong will house the non-commercial venture, where users can access cinema, documentaries and anthropological material from October.
16. b Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) butterfly has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
17. b The win was only confirmed three hours after the race finished following an investigation into whether Verstappen unfairly ran Leclerc off the track.
18. a Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav became the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight champion after defeating Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak in the title bout held in Pattaya, Thailand.
19. c In Squash, India won gold as Veer Chotrani beat compatriot Yash Fadte to win the Under-19 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Macau, China
20. d National Doctor's Day is observed every year on 1st July in India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy. On this day we acknowledge the contributions of doctor's humane service to mankind.
21. b In Jammu and Kashmir a campaign has been launched in Rajouri, a border district of Jammu division called "Operation Khumaar" to make 312 panchayats tobacco-free. The programme is run by the district administration to make panchayats free from tobacco and tobacco-based products.
22. d In Rajasthan, Kalu police station in the Bikaner district has set an example towards crime control and preventive action.
23. a Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath kick started the campaign against communicative diseases and also start DASTAK campaign which will run from 1st to 31st July.
24. a Germany's Ursula von der Leyen nominated to lead EU Commission.
25. b The first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair, IICTF, will be held in New Delhi between 11th to 13th October.
26. c EU leaders have nominated International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde to be the new president of the European Central Bank.
27. d Aparna Kumar, Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer, who became the first woman Indian Police Service (IPS) DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully conquer the South Pole, has now scaled the highest peak in North America.
28. b India failed to defend the men's team title at the IBSF Snooker World Cup, losing 3-1 to Pakistan in the summit clash.
29. a Veteran British journalist Sir Mark Tully was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in London for his contributions to the UK-India relationship.
30. b The World Sports Journalists Day is observed on July 2 every year to recognise the contribution of sports journalists in promoting sports.

31. b Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said it will establish a vedic education and culture board in the state.
32. c In Uttar Pradesh, State Government has decided to set up Ganga Committees in all 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga.
33. a Jammu and Kashmir will host its first ever investor summit in September-October of this year in Srinagar - with a chapter in Jammu - to attract investment and counter perceptions about the State.
34. a The six-member committee would be headed by former secretary of MCA Tapan Ray. Other members include Lily Vadera and T Ravishankar of RBI, Amarjeet Singh of SEBI, H K Jena of SBI and N S Venkatesh of Association of Mutual Funds in India.
35. c MSP of paddy has been increased by 65 rupees per quintal, Jowar by 120 rupees and Ragi by 253 rupees per quintal.
36. a The International Monetary Fund Executive Board approved a \$6 billion, three-year loan for Pakistan to try to right the nation's economy.
37. d India is projected to lose 5.8 per cent of working hours in 2030, a productivity loss equivalent to 34 million full-time jobs, due to global warming, particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors, a report by the UN labour agency said.
38. d The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health in response to an estimate that by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers and the fact that currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.
39. b 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.
40. b Leonardo DiCaprio is joining with philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth to create a nonprofit environmental powerhouse charged with tackling climate change and the loss of biodiversity. The organisation, Earth Alliance, "will work globally to protect ecosystems and wildlife, ensure climate justice,".
41. d Making it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has opened its first 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' in Delhi and Vijayawada.
42. a The sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country has increased to more than 99 per cent, which was over 38 per cent on 2nd October 2014.
43. b In France, the lower house of parliament approved a small, pioneering tax on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook.
44. c Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the WEF's Lighthouse Network.
45. a Gujarat Finance Minister Nitin Patel presented Rs 2,04,815 crore budget - the state's highest-ever - for 2019-20, with an overall surplus of Rs 572 crore and additional taxes to the tune of Rs 287 crore.
46. c After 18 years of research, Indian and Australian scientists have identified a new gene directly linked to schizophrenia.

47. b The survey projects GDP to grow at 7 per cent in 2019-20.
48. b Indian sprinter Hima Das won the women's 200m gold, while national record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland.
49. d The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) said that Mastercard CEO and President Ajay Banga and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards at its Second Annual Leadership Summit in Washington
50. a The Governor of West Bengal has appointed Mani Sankar Mukherji, better known as Sankar, as the Sheriff of Calcutta on the recommendation of Calcutta High Court.
51. b BJP candidates External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jayshankar and Jugalji Thakor won the by-polls of two seats of Rajya Sabha in Gujarat.
52. d Maharashtra achieved first rank in NITI Aayog launched "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI), which ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing.
53. c The Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman focused on government's 10-point vision for the next decade to take India to newer heights.
54. a In Uttar Pradesh, the State government launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline 1076 that will enable people from across the state to register their complaints and will ensure a time-bound action on the complaints also.
55. c Italian socialist David-Maria Sassoli was elected to head the European parliament, completing the bloc's drawn-out and at times acrimonious appointment process for its top jobs.
56. d The latest Henley Passport Index 2019 ranks the Indian passport on the 86th position with a mobility score of 58. The score points out that Indian passport holders can access 58 countries around the world without a prior visa.
57. c The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute in Dhaka started functioning.
58. b Reliance Jio Infocomm has partnered with US social media giant, Facebook Inc, to launch a countrywide digital literacy drive, christened, Digital Udaan, for its growing base of JioPhone users and other first-time internet users.
59. b India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' was launched in the Textile city Surat recently to promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.
60. c South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel, measuring 6.6 Kms between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations and is part of the recently completed Obulavaripalli - Venkatachalam new railway line.
61. c Jaipur, celebrated for its grid plan-based architecture and buildings of pink façades entered the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was among the seven sites worldwide to have made it to the list.
62. a The fifth edition of International Army Scout Masters Competition is held at Jaisalmer Military Station under the aegis of Southern Command of Indian Army. It is the first time that India has got an opportunity to host and participate in this prestigious event.



63. b The Union Budget 2019-20 has proposed to extend the lower rate of 25 % Corporate Tax to all companies with annual turnover up to Rs. 400 crore. Currently, this rate is only applicable to companies having annual turnover up to Rs. 250 crore.
64. d It is being contemplated to permit 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for insurance intermediaries. This was announced by the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2019-20 in the Parliament
65. b The effective tax rates for the higher income group individuals having taxable income from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore and Rs. 5 crore and above is proposed to be increased by around 3 percent and 7 percent respectively.
66. a The Kerala government is working to set up the country's first elephant rehabilitation centre in Kottoor, an ecotourism village near the state capital Thiruvananthapuram. The first phase of the Rs 105 crore-project was launched last month by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
67. c After China and Ukraine, India will host 3rd International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 on July 19 and 20 in Mumbai.
68. a Brazil's Gabriel Jesus made one goal, scored another and was sent off in the second half as they beat Peru 3-1 to win the Copa America for the ninth time in a pulsating contest at the Maracana stadium.
69. b Arinjeeta Dey, a 10-year-old girl, has won a silver medal in the World Youth Cup. The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association. Arinjeeta won the medal in the under-12 age group category. She hails from Barasat in West Bengal.
70. d Rohit Sharma becomes first batsman to score 5 centuries in a World Cup.
71. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a tree plantation drive in Varanasi. Under the drive, Uttar Pradesh government will plant 22 crore trees in the state.
72. a Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has signed up to the \$3 trillion Africa free trade agreement.
73. d There are over 10.38 crore senior citizens in the country. Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than one crore 54 lakh followed by Maharashtra one crore 11 lakh.
74. c The Reserve Bank of India will now be the regulator of housing finance firms, replacing the National Housing Bank.
75. c The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has launched a project for undertaking 'immunocontraceptive measures' for population management of four species of wild animals - elephant, wild boar, monkey and blue bull (Nilgai).
76. b India's first cow sanctuary, set up by the previous BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government in September 2017, will be privatised by the Congress-led government.
77. c Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju has informed that central government is going to set-up three Sports Centre of Excellence in Itanagar very soon.
78. a In Badminton, India's Parupalli Kashyap lost to Li Shi Feng of China in the men's singles title clash of the Canada Open.

79. a The United States won a record-extending fourth women's World Cup with a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands as second-half goals from Megan Rapinoe and Rose Lavelle confirmed their status as the leading power in the women's game.
80. d Star Indian sprinter Hima Das won her second international gold in women's 200m with a top finish at the Kutno Athletics Meet in Poland.
81. c Italy's Prosecco hills, which have been cultivated for centuries, were added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.
82. b The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named 'Sudarshan', to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.
83. c A model village built with Indian assistance as part of a housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers was inaugurated in Sri Lanka.
84. b Greece's new conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was sworn in after a sweeping election victory put him in charge of the EU's most indebted member with promises to end a decade of economic crisis.
85. b The Indian Army is in the process of acquiring Excalibur guided long- range artillery ammunition which can strike targets more than 50 km away.
86. c The International Day of Cooperatives is an annual celebration of the cooperative movement that takes place on the first Saturday of July since 1923. Since 1995, the United Nations and the International Cooperative Alliance have been setting the theme for the celebration of #CoopsDay through the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC), a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that champions and supports people-centred and self-sustaining cooperative enterprises as leaders in sustainable development.
87. a The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, which met in New Delhi, finalised a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank. This medium term strategy - named Utkarsh 2022 - is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
88. d Asia, which accounts for 60% of the global population, recorded the lowest rate of homicide in 2017 with only 2.3 killings per 1,00,000 people while the Americas had the highest homicide rate, according to a UN report.
89. b Rahul Dravid was formally appointed as the National Cricket Academy's Head of Cricket by the BCCI.
90. a Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu releases book titled 'Vivekadeepini' in ten languages.
91. c The first train, operated by private players, to be run between Lucknow and Delhi will be the Tejas Express.
92. d Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue will be established at Rudraprayag.
93. c The visa was issued to Lalu Samuel, Chairman and Managing Director of Kingston Holdings and Chairman of Sharjah Industry Business Group, which functions under the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
94. c The Rajya Sabha passed The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, allowing voluntary linking of the 12-digit identification number as part of know your customer guidelines to open bank accounts or get a mobile connection.

95. a The second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
96. d India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers' meeting was held in New Delhi for informal consultation on the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
97. c Former world champion Mirabai Chanu led the Indian medal rush by notching up a gold on the opening day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship.
98. a Dutee Chand won the gold medal in the women's 100-metre sprint at the 30th Summer University Games in Naples, Italy, clocking a time of 11.32 seconds.
99. d Jonathan dos Santos scored the only goal as Mexico defeated the United States 1-0 to win the CONCACAF Gold Cup for a record eighth time at Soldier Field.
100. c War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960 by Devika Sethi, who teaches modern Indian history at IIT-Mandi, explores the diverse mechanisms and motivations for censorship and its role in the shaping of the modern Indian republic.
101. c Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt starrer Gully Boy has now been recognised at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in South Korea.
102. c From the ruins of ancient Babylon in Iraq to the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright to the Prosecco region of northeast Italy, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee added 29 new cultural and natural sites to its World Heritage List at its annual meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan.
103. a The Aditya Birla World Academy, India's leading International school is the only Indian school to be featured in 'The Commonwealth at 70: From Westminster to the World' book published by the popular London publishers St James's House and the History of Parliament Trust.
104. d A UNESCO delegation led by Director, UNESCO Mr. Eric Falt has presented 'State of the Education Report for India 2019- Children with Disabilities' to Vice President Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
105. d New Delhi's Connaught Place (CP) is the ninth most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly USD 144 per sq ft, according to property consultant CBRE.
106. d An internal committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was set up to review timings of different financial markets, suggested that the foreign exchange market could function from 9 am to 9 pm At present, the currency market works from 9 am to 5 pm.
107. a Indian men's footballer Sunil Chhetri and women's footballer Ashalata Devi won the biggest prizes in their respective categories as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced awards for the 2018-19 season.
108. c Viswanathan Anand ended his campaign with a draw against Hikaru Nakamura as Magnus Carlsen won the Croatia Grand Chess Tour title with a victory over Maxime Vachier Lagrave.
109. b National record holder Dutee Chand became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to clinch a gold medal in the World Universiade after she won the 100m.
110. c Barua described the newsletter "NMIC Bulletin" as a fantastic initiative by the Films Division

111. d Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar is the only Indian to find a spot in the Forbes list of the world's highest paid actors, among 99 other international celebrities.
112. c Taylor Swift tops Forbes Celebrity 100 list, becomes highest-paid star with over \$185 mn-earning.
113. d World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.
114. a Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research collaboration in newly emerging technologies and broadcasting-related areas in New Delhi.
115. b A 2,10,000-year-old skull discovered in a cave in Greece has been identified as the earliest modern human remains found outside Africa, putting the clock back on mankind's arrival in Europe by more than 1,50,000 years.
116. c In a first, scientists have identified the detailed chemical "fingerprint" of a planet between the sizes of Earth and Neptune to uncover clues about its nature and origin, using NASA's Spitzer and Hubble space telescopes.
117. a The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that measles disease has been eradicated in the island nation of Sri Lanka.
118. a The value of balances in bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark, as per updated data on the scheme's website.
119. b The French government is to impose a tax of up to €18 on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
120. c According to the global MPI 2019 report between 2005-06 and 2015-16, India, lifted 271 million out of poverty, significantly reducing deprivations in many of the ten indicators, particularly in "assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition".
121. b The World Bank Group announced that Anshula Kant, an Indian national, had been appointed its next MD and CFO.
122. d Global Conference on Media Freedom was held in London.
123. b In its first-ever budget, the YSRCP Government in Andhra Pradesh has focussed largely on its election manifesto's Navaratnalu - the nine welfare schemes covering farmers, women, medical and health, education and Special Category Status (SCS).
124. c The 11th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Senior Officials' Meeting (11th MGC SOM) was held in New Delhi.
125. a The State Bank of India has waived charges on NEFT and RTGS transactions through Internet and mobile banking from July 1.
126. a TVS launches India's first ethanol-based motorcycle Apache RTR 200 Fi E100 at Rs 1.2 lakh.
127. c India will host a UN conference on combating desertification in September. At present, 23% of the world's geographical area is affected by degradation while India faces this problem in nearly 30% of its land due to multiple reasons including deforestation.



128. d The World Peace Forum has awarded a 2019 Luxembourg Peace Prize to famed Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh.
129. a Kaushik Ganguly's Bengali film Nagarkirtan adds yet another feather to its cap. The film received awards for Best Feature Film, Best Original Score (Prabuddha Banerjee), Best Actor (Riddhi Sen) and Best Director (Kaushik Ganguly) at the 9th SAARC Film Festival.
130. d Star spinner Rashid Khan was appointed captain of the Afghanistan cricket team for all formats, while Asghar Afghan, who was unceremoniously removed as skipper before the World Cup, will be his deputy.
131. c Amid the water crisis in the country, the Meghalaya cabinet became the first state to approve a draft water policy to address water issues, conservation, and protection of water sources in the state.
132. d Government of India has launched "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities. It's a multipronged approach focused at Intrapartum and immediate postpartum period.
133. b Save Water Day' was observed by the West Bengal government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee participated in a march in the city to raise awareness on conservation.
134. a The 19th meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers was held at Marlborough House in London.
135. c The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a multilateral development bank headquartered in Beijing, has provided a \$100-million loan to L&T Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (LTIF), a subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd and a leading non-bank financier of renewable energy in India.
136. c India will this year overtake the UK to become the world's fifth biggest economy, and is poised to surpass Japan to be the third largest in 2025, IHS Markit said in a report.
137. b Seeking to promote women entrepreneurship in a big way, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is hosting the Women Startup Summit on August 1, in association with the Indian Women Network floated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), at the Integrated Startup Complex, Kochi.
138. a The Indian pair of G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the World Tour Platinum Australian Open to top seed Korean pair of Jeong Youngsik and Lee Sangsu in Geelong near Melbourne.
139. b Russia has launched a powerful telescope into space that maps X-rays across the entire sky in unprecedented detail after days of launch delays.
140. d The Estádio Bezerrão in Brasília (Gama) will make football history on 26 October when it hosts the opening match of the FIFA U-17 World Cup, the first-ever edition of this prestigious tournament to be staged in Brazil.
141. c The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has set a target for March 2020 for constructing the "Museum on Prime Ministers of India" in the Teen Murti Bhavan complex, which houses the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML).
142. c An Agri Business Incubation Centre has started in Chhattisgarh. The centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry in Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur.
143. a Chandrayaan-2 onboard the heavy-lift rocket Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle GSLV-MkIII-M1, nicknamed Baahubali, would have taken 54 days to accomplish the task of landing on the Moon.

144. d The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.
145. a Lewis Hamilton made a thrilling victory in the Silverstone circuit to win his sixth British Grand Prix, his seventh victory in ten races in 2019.
146. d New Zealand's skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged player of the tournament for his excellent returns with the bat and inspiring leadership.
147. b Novak Djokovic beats Roger Federer in epic match to win fifth Wimbledon title.
148. c Star India grappler Vinesh Phogat won her second consecutive gold in 53kg, winning the Yasar Dogu International with a commanding victory over Russia's Ekaterina Poleshchuk.
149. b Olympic silver medallist Amir Khan clinched the WBC international welterweight title after knocking out Australian Billy Dib in the fourth round of his bout in the inaugural Super Boxing League.
150. a The Golden Jubilee Edition of International Film Festival of India, IFFI will be held from 20th Nov till 28th November 2019 in Panaji, Goa.
151. b Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive an honorary doctorate degree from Melbourne-based La Trobe University for his contributions and efforts towards underprivileged children, women's empowerment through Meer Foundation and his achievements in the Indian entertainment industry.
152. c President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kalraj Mishra as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
153. c The proposed amendments to the MV Act seeks to provide a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh for death and Rs. 2.5 lakh for grievous injury in a motor vehicle accident case.
154. c World Youth Skills Day is commemorated every year on July 15.
155. b A team of researchers has discovered a new specimen of a microraptor with the remains of a nearly complete lizard preserved in its stomach. The lizard is unlike any previously known from the Cretaceous period and represents a new species: *Indrasaurus wangi*.
156. d Abulfaz Garayev, chairperson of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, announced on July 9 in Baku, Azerbaijan that the city of Fuzhou will host the next session of the World Heritage Committee in 2020.
157. a The much-awaited second Vande Bharat Express will be run on the high traffic Delhi-Katra route three days a week, likely from next month.
158. d India's first-ever elephant rehabilitation centre at a cost of Rs 105 crore is reportedly coming up in Kottoor, Kerala.
159. b Mohammad Anas bettered his own national record in men's 400m race to bag a gold while Hima Das won the women's 200m event for her third international triumph in 11 days at the Kladno Memorial Athletics Meet at Kladno, Czech Republic.

160. d The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has confirmed the dates (March 15 to 26) for the World Cup in rifle, pistol and shot gun to be hosted at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi in 2020.
161. a Former Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri has been appointed as an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court.
162. c German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been elected as the European Commission's first female president. The 60-year-old German Minister called for a united and strong Europe, after being elected.
163. b An international debating tournament for school children will be held in Chennai from July 18 to July 21.
164. b Uttarakhand will host the first-ever Himalayan states' conclave on July 28 where the prime focus will be on sustainable development.
165. a Biswabhusan Harichandan has been appointed the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.
166. b Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and former union ministers Satya Pal Singh and Jayant Sinha have been elected as members of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) from Lok Sabha with nine of 15 members belonging to the BJP.
167. b India is set to be the first recipient of local currency financing by the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB).
168. d The 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship begins in Cuttack.
169. b HDFC Bank and CSC launched a co-branded "Small Business MoneyBack Credit Card" for small traders and village level entrepreneurs (VLEs).
170. d UN General Assembly declares 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day".
171. a Union Cabinet has approved 1,600 crore rupees for Dibang Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh. The Centre has given a green signal to the Dibang dam - set to be the largest hydro-power project in India at 278 metres - which was put on hold during the United Progressive Alliance regime due to environmental concerns.
172. a In order to improve turnaround time, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), has introduced a web-based application system for contribution from Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS).
173. d The six-member committee headed by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan was tasked with examining the central bank's requirements on provisions, reserves and buffers.
174. b International Court of Justice, ICJ ruled in favour of India and stayed Kulbushan Jadhav's death sentence. In its verdict the Court has directed Pakistan to provide effective review and reconsideration of his conviction and sentences. Court affirmed Jadhav's right to consular access and notification and directed Pakistan to give him consular access.
175. a The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in the Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
176. a Benjamin Netanyahu is set to become Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister as his 13-year rule surpasses that of Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion on July 20.

177. d India's top-ranked woman archer Deepika Kumari clinched silver at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games test event.
178. b Star Indian sprinter Hima Das clinched her fourth gold as she won the 200m race with a creditable timing in the Tabor Athletics Meet in Czech Republic.
179. d Every year on July 17, World Day for International Justice is observed all around the world.
180. b Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, dancer Jatin Goswami and scientist K Kalyanasundaram Pillai have been selected as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellows.
181. c Palau became the 76th country to sign the ISA Framework Agreement, which till date has been ratified by a total of 54 of the 76 countries.
182. a In the first ever use of an Indian waterway to transport cargo from Bhutan to Bangladesh via India, a shipment of stone aggregates was formally received at Narayanganj.
183. a Bill Gates has never ranked lower than No. 2 in the seven-year history of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. That run ended when the Microsoft Corp. co-founder dropped to No. 3 behind France's Bernard Arnault.
184. c ICICI Bank announces the launch of a new digital platform curated specially for MSMEs and self-employed customers to enable them to undertake their business banking transactions digitally and instantly. Called, 'InstaBIZ', it allows customers to avail as many as over 115 products and services in a digital and secure manner on their mobile phone or internet banking platform.
185. c Union Health Ministry has signed an MoU with Ministries of Ayush, Defence and Railways to strengthen the efforts towards a TB-Free India by 2025.
186. c Mankind's destruction of nature is driving species to the brink of extinction at an "unprecedented" rate, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) warned as it added more than 7,000 animals, fish and plants to its endangered "Red List".
187. b A two-headed turtle has been born in Malaysia, but it only survived a few days after being discovered. It was found on Mabul Island, off the Malaysian part of Borneo, in a nest alongside more than 90 other recently hatched green turtles.
188. b The International Cricket Council, ICC has suspended Zimbabwe Cricket with immediate effect over violation of global body's constitution which doesn't allow any government intervention.
189. a Malala Day is commemorated on July 12 each year to honor women and children's rights around the world.
190. c Titled, "Kargil: Untold stories from the War", the book published by Penguin Random House, is authored by Rachna Bisht Rawat.
191. d Indian batting icon Sachin Tendulkar has been inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame alongside South African pace legend Allan Donald.
192. a Khushhal Kaushik is the first Indian cyber security expert, whose article has been featured by UNESCO's Annual Magazine.



193. b Nearly three years after Haryana sports and youth affairs minister Anil Vij announced that the Sports School, Rai (Sonipat), will be upgraded to a Sports University, the State Cabinet approved the proposal. To be named the Sports University of Haryana, this will be the first full-fledged sports university in the state.
194. a India's Gujarat state launched the world's first programme to trade particulate air pollutant quotas.
195. b By launching India's first garbage cafe, Ambikapur, a city in the state of Chhattisgarh, is bringing out the 'best out of waste'.
196. b Korean automobile giant Hyundai's plans for its Chennai facility will help make Tamil Nadu the first state in India to manufacture electric cars.
197. d Telangana Government and the World Economic Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Network announced that they are set to launch an innovative project to deliver emergency medical supplies such as blood and vaccines via drones.
198. c Madhya Pradesh got its first international flight when an Air India flight took off from Indore's Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport to Dubai.
199. d Chhattisgarh is planning to produce biofuel from rice and other agriculture products.
200. b Siddharth Pillai, a student of Mumbai's BD Somani school, is the first Indian to create a modular artificial reef in Puducherry.
201. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ujjwala scheme for providing free cooking gas connection to poor came in for praise from the International Energy Agency (IEA).
202. c Four-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa became India's first gold-medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan
203. d A pocket-sized pocket shark found in the Gulf of Mexico has turned out to be a new species.
204. c Madhya Pradesh Governor and former Chief Minister of Gujarat Anandiben Patel has been transferred to Uttar Pradesh, while the former interlocutor for the Naga talks R.N. Ravi has been appointed as Governor of Nagaland.
205. a The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020.
206. b This year's theme is Evaluating the Medical Innovation Scenario of the Next Decade.
207. a Indian Army has successfully carried out summer user trials of third Generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile- NAG at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
208. b In Badminton, P V Sindhu's hopes of breaking a seven-month title drought came crashing down as the Indian lost in straight games to Akane Yamaguchi in the finals of Indonesia Open BWF Tour Super 1000 tournament in Jakarta.
209. a Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the architectural illumination of the historic Safdarjung Tomb in New Delhi.
210. a Li Na sets new mark, gets inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame.

211. b Political leaders from across party lines said farewell to three-time Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, who died after a cardiac arrest at the age of 81. Sheila Dikshit was one of the longest-serving chief ministers of Delhi, as well as the longest-serving female chief minister of any Indian state, serving for a period of 15 years from 1998 to 2013. Dikshit led Congress party to three consecutive electoral victories in Delhi.
212. a The Pakistan Prime Minister, on a three-day visit to the US to discuss Afghan peace plan among other regional issues, received a cold welcome with no US officials receiving him at the Washington airport.
213. b Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow has increased during the last six years from 36.05 billion US Dollars in 2013-14 to 64.38 billion US Dollars in 2018-19, registering a growth of 79 per cent.
214. d India's expedition to the moon is all set to begin with the launch of Chandrayaan-2 by using the heavy-lift launch vehicle GSLV-Mark-Three. Dr Sivan said the scientists would perform fifteen crucial manoeuvres to navigate the probe from an earth-bound elliptical orbit to the surface of the moon. Our correspondent reports, total cost of the mission is worked out to be 978 crore rupees.
215. b World is celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 moon landing, when American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the Moon. Their lunar module, named Eagle, touched down on 20th July, 1969.
216. c India will launch its first human genome mapping project by October, a move that will help researchers get closer to developing effective therapies for treating diseases such as cancer. In the first phase of the initiative called the Genome India project, the genomic data of 10,000 Indians will be catalogued.
217. a Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu.
218. b Making a sensational comeback to her favourite event, Hima Das won her fifth gold of the month in the 400-metre race at the Czech Republic. The 19-year-old athlete whose season-best before the win was 52.88 seconds, recorded her best timing - 52.09 seconds - in the 400-metre event.
219. b Rajya Sabha MP D Raja was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (CPI).
220. a Veteran trade union leader Arun Kumar Roy, who won from the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat thrice and was a major propounder of the Jharkhand movement, passed away due to multiple organ failure.
221. a UK-based Standard Chartered will be the first foreign bank to launch operations at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
222. b The Singapore-headquartered Global Indian International School (GIIS) will launch India's first SMART campus in Pune as part of its Rs 420 crore investments in education in India over the coming years.
223. b The remarkable improvement has placed MAHE third behind IISc Bengaluru and IIT Madras and tops among the private institutions in India.
224. b In Table Tennis, hosts India completed a clean sweep, claiming all the seven gold medals at the 21st Commonwealth Championships.

225. c India's second lunar journey and its first-ever interplanetary mission to be spearheaded by two women, Project Director M. Vanitha and Mission Director Ritu Kharidhal, got a boost after the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 mission, headed to the moon's South Pole region, and achieved an orbit 6,000 km more than what was targeted.
226. a Noted vocalist S. Sowmya has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy and she will preside over 93rd annual conference of the Academy to be held between December 12, 2019, and January 1, 2020.
227. d The head of the global nuclear watchdog, Yukiya Amano, has died at the age of 72. He has led the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) since 2009, and was due to step down in March because of an unspecified illness.
228. d National Broadcasting Day was observed on 23 July 2015 across the country. It is on this day in 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company started radio broadcasting from Bombay station.
229. b Lieutenant-General M.M. Naravane, currently General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army Command, has been appointed the next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff in a series of changes in the Army's top brass.
230. b Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to reserve jobs for locals in all private industrial units and factories, irrespective of whether or not these companies get financial or other help from the government.
231. d The CRPF unveiled the country's first prototype of a body protector for women personnel which it has jointly developed with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
232. b The 1000 metre long Ujh bridge is the longest bridge constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and also has the distinction of using the technology of Pre Cast Segmental bridge with 60-metre span.
233. c The 14-month-old Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in Karnataka collapsed, with Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy losing the confidence motion in the Assembly by six votes. He later tendered his resignation to Governor Vajubhai Vala.
234. a Boris Johnson won the race to become Britain's next Prime Minister heading straight into a confrontation over Brexit with Brussels and Parliament.
235. d Maharashtra reported 233 cases of ATM fraud in 2018-19, the highest in the entire country.
236. a To ensure seamless traffic and prevent congestion at toll plazas, the government has decided to declare all lanes at toll fee plaza on national highways as 'FASTag lanes' from December 1.
237. a The panel, headed by Finance Secretary Subhash Garg, however makes a clear distinction between the private cryptocurrencies and an official one that the government may consider issuing in the future.
238. d Adam Peaty claimed the 100m breaststroke title at the world championships for a third time but was unable to break the record he set 24 hours earlier.
239. a Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low-cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali' which can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.
240. b Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Ehsan Mani has been appointed as the head of the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs committee.
241. c Priti Patel appointed Britain's first Indian-origin Home Secretary.

242. a Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a 1984-batch IAS officer and currently Secretary, Ministry of Power, has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to the Ministry of Home Affairs with immediate effect.
243. b The index keeps Switzerland in the No. 1 spot - a position it has held since 2011 - followed by Sweden, the United States, the Netherlands and Britain. The United States had fallen from fourth place in the 2017 rankings to sixth in 2018.
244. b The book titled 'Chandra Shekhar- The Last Icon of Ideological Politics' is written by Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh and Ravi Dutt Bajpai.
245. c India improved its rank in the Global Innovation Index to 52nd, in 2019, making a significant jump of 5 places in a year. It was at 57th position in 2018.
246. b With the exit of Viral Acharya, the Reserve Bank rejigged portfolios of the other three deputy governors giving the important monetary policy and forecasting department to B P Kanungo.
247. d There are 48 (forty-eight) Archaeological Site Museums under Archaeological Survey of India out of which two Archaeological Site Museums, namely - Velha Goa; and Nagarjunakonda, have been digitised during the first phase through JATAN: Virtual Museum software and the data has been up-loaded in public domain through National Portal and Digital Repository for Indian Museums.
248. a Assam has added to India's botanical wealth a plant that yields dragon's blood - a bright red resin used since ancient times as medicine, body oil, varnish, incense and dye.
249. b Asian Development Bank has sanctioned 1,925 crore rupees project for upgradation of power generation and distribution in Tripura.
250. d According to scheduling tool Hopper HQ's Instagram Rich List, sports stars earn the most for sponsored posts on the Facebook-owned platform, with football legend Cristiano Ronaldo leading the list.
251. a In the area of solar rooftop installations, Gujarat has stood first in the country with total 261.97 megawatts (MW) of installed rooftop solar capacity as on July 23, 2019. As per the Central government data, total rooftop solar installations in India are 1700.54 MW.
252. c The Centre has proposed light urban rail transit system - 'Metrolite' - in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.
253. c Uttar Pradesh has become number one in implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna in the country.
254. b Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched the statewide tree plantation programme 'Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign 2019' in Itanagar.
255. b A committee constituted by the RBI has recommended increase in the collateral free lending limit to Rs 20 lakh for MSMEs and self-help groups.
256. d RIL (Reliance Industries), the well-known conglomerate and the largest private sector corporation in India, has amped up its position to No. 1 and become the top-ranked Indian company to feature in the Fortune Global 500 list of 2019.



257. a The scaly-foot snail, which is also known as the sea pangolin, has been listed as endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
258. c A Chinese startup successfully launched the country's first commercial rocket capable of carrying satellites into orbit. The 20-metre (66-foot) rocket designed by iSpace named Hyperbola-1 reached an altitude of 300 kilometres (186 miles).
259. a Pacquiao produced an impressive performance against the previously unbeaten Thurman at MGM Grand, where two judges had the fight 115-112 in favour of the 40-year-old veteran.
260. c Grammy Award-winning Indian musician and environmentalist Ricky Kej has been named the Global Ambassador for Kindness by UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development)
261. d BJP leader BS Yediyurappa took oath as the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the fourth time at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru.
262. d India along with other BRICS nations called on all states to prevent the financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories.
263. a In a major decision, the Trump Administration announced to resume capital punishment after a gap of nearly two decades and has set execution dates for five death-row inmates convicted of murdering.
264. d The insolvency regulator has notified rules that will give promoters and other stakeholder 90 days after the commencement of insolvency proceedings to re-take control of the company through agreements with creditors.
265. a The US economy grew less than previously thought last year, missing President Donald Trump's target of 3%. Revised official figures show that GDP expanded by 2.5% during 2018.
266. b The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to relax priority sector lending norms for exports by removing the turnover condition of Rs 100 crore and enhancing the maximum sanctioned limit to Rs 40 crore from Rs 25 crore now.
267. c Scientists at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences have discovered 28 new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
268. c The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) pulled out of the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly in September to protest the dropping of shooting from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games roster.
269. d The Indian football team slipped two places to 103rd in the FIFA rankings released. India lost two matches and drew one in the Intercontinental Cup earlier this month in Ahmedabad.
270. d Under the country's newly proposed anti-terror law, biographic and financial information of individuals designated as "terrorists" will be shared with Western agencies, officials said. They maintained that 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed and JeM chief Masood Azhar would be among the first individuals to be designated as terrorists once the proposed amendments come into effect. Both Saeed and Azhar have been designated as 'global terrorists' by the United States (US), United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU).
271. a With an objective for studying, examining and recommending and advising into all issues relating to Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), the state government has constituted a three-member commission under the chairmanship of former chief secretary, Banuo Z Jamir (Retd) IAS.

272. d Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Maputo on a three-day visit to Mozambique.
273. a In a step towards productive utilisation of bauxite residue, commonly known as the 'Red Mud', an interactive workshop called 'Waste To Wealth' was organized by Ministry of Mines in the capital.
274. a Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be the partner country for this year's "Gita Jayanti Mahotsav", scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra from December 3 to 8.
275. d The capital's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport will soon sport the country's most technologically advanced and highest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower, which is expected to enhance the safety and the efficiency of air transport management services over the city's sky.
276. a Students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have developed a "smart agricopter" to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields and help identify crop health by using an imaging camera.
277. c The third edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati next year.
278. a A high-level 10-member Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju to coordinate and strategise the preparation for the 2020 and 2024 Olympics.
279. d World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on 28 July to raise awareness about the disease which causes inflammation of the liver and claims around 1.4 million lives every year.
280. b The government re-appointed Badri Narain Sharma as chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) which ensures that consumers get benefit of reduced prices under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

