

# **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**

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## POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

### National



#### P S Golay sworn in as Sikkim chief minister

- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as P S Golay, took oath as the chief minister of Sikkim.
- Eleven SKM MLAs were also administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium. Golay, who is not a member of the state assembly at present as he did not contest the polls, was elected as the SKM Legislature Party leader. The SKM, founded in 2013, won a slender majority in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by the SDF.
- Mr. Golay is the sixth Chief Minister of the Himalayan State, started his career as a school teacher. Mr. Golay was elected to the Assembly in 1994 as an SDF candidate when he was just 26 and went on to serve as Minister holding several portfolios for three consecutive terms till 2009.

Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. In 2003, Sikkim decided to convert fully to organic farming statewide, and achieved this goal in 2015, becoming India's first "organic state". A referendum in 1975 led to Sikkim joining India as its 22nd state. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. The 36th Amendment repealed the 35th Amendment, and made Sikkim a full state, adding its name to the First Schedule of the Constitution.

#### IAF all-woman crew flies Mi-17 chopper for first time

- In yet another achievement by women officers, an all-woman crew flew a medium-lift helicopter for the first time in India, the Indian Air Force (IAF) said.
- The crew, comprising Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (flight engineer), flew a Mi-17 V5 helicopter for a Battle Inoculation Training Mission, taking off and landing from restricted areas at a forward air base in the South Western Air Command.
- Flight Lieutenant Bhardwaj hails from Mukerian in Punjab and is incidentally also the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5. Flying Officer Nidhi hails from Ranchi and is also the first woman IAF pilot from Jharkhand while Flying Officer Jaiswal hails from Chandigarh and is the first woman Flight Engineer of the IAF.

Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air forces of the world. Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict. It was officially established on 8 October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honoured India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed after only three years. Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

## Pema Khandu took oath as Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister for second term

- **Pema Khandu** has been sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time. Khandu was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Brig (Retd) B D Mishra at the Dorjee Khandu Convention Centre.
- After having a **landslide victory in the Assembly elections with 41 seats in the 60-seat house**, the BJP held its Legislature Party Meeting in Itanagar.

**Arunachal Pradesh** is the northeastern-most state of the country. Itanagar is the capital of the state. Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra is the present Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Pema Khandu is the current Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. The McMahon Line is the demarcation line between the Tibetan region of China and the North-east region of India proposed by British colonial administrator Henry McMahon at the 1914 Simla Convention signed between British and Tibetan representatives.

## India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly

- **India** has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly started in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities".

UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya. It is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

## BIMSTEC leaders invited to Prime Minister designate Modi's oath-taking ceremony

- **India** has invited the leaders of the BIMSTEC Member States for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Invitations have also been sent to the President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbay Jeenbekov who is the current Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, the Chief Guest at this year's Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

BIMSTEC was set up in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration and includes India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The theme includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search, and each side will bring in some 30 soldiers. BIMSTEC countries held a disaster management exercise in 2017, but this is the first military exercise of the grouping which brings together important neighbours of India in South and Southeast Asia. BIMSTEC permanent secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Madhya Pradesh's Orchha makes it to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.
- According to the rules, to be a part of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, the heritage or any historical site first has to be on the tentative list. After it makes to the tentative list, another proposal is sent to the UNESCO.

**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.

## Telangana to have India's first blockchain district

- With an eye on the emerging market opportunities in Blockchain, the **Telangana government** is going to **set up the country's first 'Blockchain district'** to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.
- Though the **Blockchain technology** encompasses all domains, the district would focus on **banking, financial services and insurance; pharma and healthcare; logistics and supply chain; and the government sectors.**

**Telangana is the newly formed 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its permanent capital in 2014. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao is the first and the current Chief Minister of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.**

## Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha

- The **highest-ever number of women** have been elected in the **2019 Lok Sabha polls**. Out of 542 MPs who will take oath as members of the lower house in the next few days, **78 are women with Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal leading at 11 each.**
- According to the Election Commission, the **number has grown from the previous 62 women who were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014.**
- **In the country's first general elections in 1951, twenty-four women** were elected to the Lower House, and since then, the number has been increasing.
- **With over 14 per cent female MPs, the 17th Lok Sabha will have the highest number of women candidates since 1952. In 16th Lok Sabha, 64 women had won, while 52 women were elected to the 15th Lok Sabha.**
- **A total of 724 women candidates contested from across the country with Congress fielding the maximum women at 54 followed closely by BJP at 53.**
- **As many as 27 out of 41 sitting women MPs, including Sonia Gandhi, Hema Malini and Kirron Kher, retained their seats in Lok Sabha polls, but the likes of Smriti Irani and Pragya Thakur stole the show with their victories over their more renowned rivals. Irani emerged as a giant-slayer -- this time scripting a historic win by dethroning Rahul Gandhi in the Congress' home turf Amethi.**

**In 14th Lok Sabha 52 women candidates won, in 13th Lok Sabha 52 women candidates won, in 12th Lok Sabha 44 women candidates won, in 11th Lok Sabha 41 women candidates won. In 10th Lok Sabha 42 women candidates won. There were 28 women in 9th Lok Sabha while the 8th Lok Sabha had 45 women MPs. Before that, the maximum of 37 women won in 3rd Lok Sabha. There were 24 women MPs each in the first and the second Lok Sabha.**

## Jagan Mohan Reddy sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

- **YSR Congress party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been sworn-in as **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Governor ESL Narasimhan administered him the oath of office and secrecy at Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium in Vijayawada. Mr Reddy is the second Chief Minister of bifurcated Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Governor E S L Narasimhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 46-year-old leader, whose party emerged victorious in 151 seats in the 175-member strong state assembly.**

**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.**



## Goa celebrates its statehood day

- **Goa celebrates its Statehood Day on 30th May.** People's demand for full statehood was attained on 30th May 1987, when Goa became India's 25th state. Daman and Diu were separated from Goa and continue to be administered as a union territory.
- **Earlier, Goa was a union territory, namely, Goa, Daman and Diu for all administrative and governance considerations.** Attaining statehood opened several windows of development for the state.

Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the **Konkan**, in Western India. **It is India's smallest state by area and the fourth smallest by population.** Panaji is the state's capital, while Vasco da Gama is its largest city. Mridula Sinha is the current Governor of Goa.

## IAF chief's squadron to be first Rafale combat aircraft unit

- The **first Rafale combat aircraft** would be inducted into the Indian Air Force's 'Golden Arrows' 17 Squadron which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999.
- "The first unit to receive the Rafale combat aircraft would be the 17 Squadron which was earlier located in Bhatinda in Punjab and will now be shifted to Ambala in Haryana".

## A bid to re-green Meghalaya

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma announced on social media the launch of the 'One Citizen One Tree' campaign ahead of the World Environment Day for re-greening the State affected by unregulated coal and limestone mining.
- "All districts will be covered in the mass plantation drive wherein all indigenous plants raised by the communities across the State will be provided to citizens who want to participate in the campaign".

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". Conrad 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.

## Modi takes oath with 57 Ministers at glittering event

- Narendra Modi took oath as Prime Minister for the second term along with 57 Ministers, at a grand swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- The size of the event, however, was not the only thing that made news, with BJP chief Amit Shah finally deciding to join the Union government, and former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar making a surprise entry into the Union Cabinet, among the top 10 Ministers.

Narendra Damodardas Modi is serving as the 14th and current Prime Minister of India since 2014. He was the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014, and is the Member of Parliament for Varanasi. Modi is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation. He is the first prime minister outside of the Indian National Congress to win two consecutive terms with a full majority, and the second one to complete five years in office after Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik resigns from Bijepur constituency

- Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has resigned from Bijepur assembly constituency. Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patra has accepted his resignation.
- Mr Patnaik had contested assembly elections from Hinjili and Bijepur constituencies and won both the seats. The chief minister had contested from two assembly constituencies for the first time.

Section 33(7) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, allows a person to contest a general election or a group of by-elections or biennial elections from two constituencies, whereas Section 70 of the RPA specifies that if a person is elected to more than one seat in either House of the Parliament or in either House of the state Legislature, then he/she can only hold on to one of the seats that he/she won in the election.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Maldives and Sri Lanka

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought to deepen India's ties with the Maldives** stressing New Delhi's commitment to assisting the atoll nation in its development and security goals as the two countries signed a slew of agreements in areas ranging from defence, health and connectivity strengthen their bilateral partnership.
- **Modi is in Male on a day long visit, his first visit abroad after taking office for a second term** on 30 May, underlining New Delhi's "neighbourhood first" foreign policy focus that has continued from his first term in office.
- **Prime Minister Modi also visited Sri Lanka** on June 9, 2019 at the invitation of Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, **President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**. On second leg of PM's first foreign visit to Sri Lanka, he was received by the Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- **India's "neighborhood-first" policy, however, excludes Beijing and Islamabad**, with whom New Delhi has territorial and geopolitical disputes.

### Telangana celebrates State formation day

- **In Telangana, people celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Formation Day on 2 June** with enthusiasm and fervour.
- **Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao hoisted the tri-colour** at a ceremonial programme held on the lawns of Jubilee Hall at Public Gardens in Hyderabad. Later addressing people, he appealed to them to play a greater role in making the governance corruption free. **The celebrations are held in all the 30 districts of the state.**

Telangana is the newly formed 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its permanent capital in 2014. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhar Rao is the first and the current care taker Chief Minister of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Telangana is a landlocked state in the country.

### Ajit Doval reappointed NSA with Cabinet rank

- **Union Government reappointed** retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser (NSA)**, according him a Cabinet rank.
- **He becomes the first NSA to get Cabinet status** in the table of precedence. In his **previous stint as an NSA**, he had the stature of a Minister of State (MoS).

National Security Adviser (NSA) is the senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) of India, and the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security policy. The National Security Advisor (India) is now the most powerful bureaucrat in the Government of India. **Brajesh Mishra was appointed the first National Security Adviser of India. The post was created on 19 November 1998** by the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and has become increasingly influential and powerful over the years with the rise of India on the world stage.

### Mandatory Hindi goes out of draft education policy

- The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) released a revised draft of the National Education Policy 2019, which offers flexibility over the choice of languages in schools under the three-language model, following protests over the perceived imposition of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States.



- The clause recommending mandatory teaching of Hindi in all schools was dropped from the draft National Education Policy after the Union government faced an intense backlash from Tamil Nadu and protests from some other States.
- However, the revised draft uploaded by the Human Resource Development Ministry retains the recommendation to introduce a three-language formula from Class 1 onwards, merely having removed the clause stipulating the specific languages that students must choose.

On May 31, former ISRO Chairman K Kasturirangan, who is the Chairman of the Committee for Draft National Education Policy, along with other members, submitted the report to the newly appointed HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

### World Bank to provide USD 287 million loan for health care improvement in Tamil Nadu

- The World Bank will provide USD 287 million to improve health care in Tamil Nadu.
- The central government, the state government and the World Bank signed a loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program. Tamil Nadu ranks third among all Indian states in the NITI Aayog Health Index, which is reflected in vastly improved health outcomes.

### Army's training exercise in Punjab ends

- A major training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Punjab ended. The exercise "Kharga Prahar", which began on May 27, was undertaken in the plains of Punjab by various units and formations of Army's Kharga Corps.

### India, France to hold mega air exercise 'Garuda' in July

- The Indian and French air forces will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise 'Garuda' beginning July 1 in France in a boost to military-to-military ties between the two countries.
- A fleet of Sukhoi 30 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force will engage in dogfights with France's Rafale multirole aircraft in simulated scenarios as part of the 'Garuda' exercise

India had signed a government-to-government deal with France in 2016 to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of about the Rs 58,000-crore. The first Rafale jet is scheduled to be delivered in September. India and France have been also carrying out discussions on possibility of launching a tri-services military exercise between the armed forces of the two nations. The first edition of the Garuda exercise was held in February 2003 in Gwalior.

### NITI Aayog reconstituted

- Government of India has reconstituted NITI Aayog. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the re-constitution of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog as follows: Chairperson: Prime Minister, Vice-Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Kumar.
- Full-Time Members: Shri V.K. Saraswat, Prof. Ramesh Chand and Dr. V.K. Paul: Ex-officio Members: Shri Raj Nath Singh, Minister of Defence, Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; Minister of Panchayati Raj.

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.

### Commerce Minister to Lead Indian Delegation for G20 Ministerial Meeting in Japan

- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, is led the Indian delegation for the G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy held on 8th – 9th June, 2019 in Tsukuba city, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.

- Ever since G20 was formed India has been actively participating in the meetings. Although there are no binding commitments in G20, it sets the agenda for multilateral trade relations. G20, for the first time, witnessed the participation of over 50 Trade and Digital Economy Ministers to discuss how G20 economies can promote trade and investment and maximize benefits to ensure sustainable growth of the global economy.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU).

### 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' launched

- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 'Swachh Survekshan League 2020' (SS 2020), saying parameters pertaining to wastewater treatment, reuse and fecal sludge management have been given special focus in the survey.
- This will be integrated with Swachh Survekshan 2020, the 5th edition of the annual cleanliness survey of urban India to be conducted from January–February 2020 by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U).

### Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have five Deputy Chief Ministers

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy expanded his Cabinet. 25 ministers were sworn-in by Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan. Andhra Pradesh is the first state in India to have five Deputy Chief Ministers.
- The new Council of Ministers, including the five Deputy CMs, each representing the SC, ST, BC, Kapu and Minority communities are P Rajanna Dora, M. Sucharitha, A Nani, Amjad Basha, and K Parthasarathy took oath at a public function in Amaravati.

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.

### NPP is the first party from N-E to get national party status

- The Election Commission of India declared the National People's Party led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma as a national party.
- This made the NPP, formed by his father and former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A. Sangma in 2013, the first from the north-eastern region to earn the tag.
- In its order, the ECI said that the NPP was given the national party status for fulfilling conditions such as polling more than 6% of the total votes in the last general election and being recognised as a State party in at least four States. The NPP is recognised as a State party in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Before NPP's elevation, India had seven national parties. Trinamool Congress, led by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, became the seventh in September 2016. A political party shall be eligible to be recognized as a national party if it fulfills the condition of: At the last general election to the Lok Sabha, the party has won at least 2% of the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha, any fraction exceeding half being counted as one, and the party's candidates have been elected to that House from not less than three states.

## ASI declares Chaukhandi Stupa as of national important monument

- Notification issued by Union Ministry of Culture, the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has declared **Chaukhandi Stupa** as a ‘protected area of national importance’. Chaukhandi Stupa is one of the important ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- **The stupa got its name Chaukhandi’ because of its four armed plan.** It is a lofty mound of brick whose square edifice is surrounded by an octagonal tower. Chaukhandi Stupa was built to mark the place where Lord Buddha met his first disciples panchavargiya bhikshus (Buddha’s five companions) who had previously deserted him at Rajgir, as he traveled from Bodhgaya to Sarnath.
- **The stupa is an ancient Buddhist site which evolved from burial mounds** and served as a shrine for a relic of Buddha. It appears to be in ruins and was **originally constructed in 5th Century AD.** It also finds mention in account of Hiuen Tsang, celebrated Chinese traveler of 7th century AD.
- **The Chaukhandi Stupa** is said to be **originally a terraced temple during the Gupta period, that 4th to 6th Century.** Govardhan, the son of Raja Todarmal gave the present shape to the Chaukhandi Stupa. He built an octagonal tower to commemorate the visit of Humayun, the great Mughal ruler.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation. It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

## India gets its India’s first Dinosaur Museum equipped with 3D Projection in Gujarat

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated India’s first dinosaur museum and Fossil Park at Raiyoli village near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
- According to government officials, Raiyoli is globally known to be the third largest fossil site and the second largest dinosaur hatchery from where about 10,000 dinosaur eggs have been found. The museum would have 3D projection, 360 degrees virtual reality presentations, interactive kiosks, gaming consoles and other facilities.

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.

## All States can now constitute Foreigners Tribunals

- With Assam’s National Register of Citizens as the backdrop, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has laid out specific guidelines to detect, detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally across the country.
- The MHA has amended the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, unique to Assam, to determine if a person staying illegally is a “foreigner” or not. In other parts, once a ‘foreigner’ has been apprehended by the police for staying illegally, he or she is produced before a local court under the Passport Act, 1920, or the Foreigners Act, 1946, with the punishment ranging three months to eight years in jail.

## PM Kisan Pension Scheme: Farmers' contribution to be Rs 100 per month

- Farmers will have to contribute 100 rupees per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide a minimum fixed monthly pension of 3,000 rupees on the attainment of 60 years.



- The central government will also contribute an equal amount to the pension fund to be managed by the LIC, which will be responsible for the pension payout. The government in its first cabinet meeting had approved a separate pension scheme for farmers with an aim to cover 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years.
- Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar urged all states and union territories to roll out the programme at the earliest. Tomar urged the states to start enrolling farmers in the age group of 18-40 years besides taking measures to create awareness about the scheme.
- Farmers can also opt to allow contribution to be made directly from the benefits drawn from the PM-Kisan scheme.

### Narendra Modi accepts Macron's invite to attend outreach session of G7 Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee, said a senior official. The 45th summit of the G7 group of countries will take place from August 24 to August 26 in Biarritz, France.
- Lemoyne is currently visiting India and it is the first French ministerial trip to the country after the Narendra Modi government assumed office for a second term.

The Group of Seven or G7 is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. These countries, with the 7 largest advanced economies in the world, represent more than 62% of the global net wealth (\$280 trillion).

### Udupi's Amasebailu becomes Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat

- Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat.
- Over 1800 houses were provided solar lamps at a total cost of 2.13 crore rupees. The project was funded by Centre and State Government in the ratio of 30:20 and the rest was paid by the Panchayat and charitable organizations.

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It 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 Bengaluru (Bangalore). Hardanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy is the current Chief Minister of the State of Karnataka. Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala is the current Governor of the state of Karnataka.

### Bancha, the first solar kitchen only village in India

- Bancha in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh is the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs, claims social activist Mohan Nagar.
- The project of installing solar power plates, batteries and stoves in all the 74 houses was started in September 2017 and got completed by December 2018.

### India slips 5 places to 141 on Global Peace Index 2019

- India's rank has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019, while Iceland remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation, says a report.
- Iceland remains the most peaceful country in the world, a position it has held since 2008. It is joined at the top of the Global Peace Index (GPI) by New Zealand, Austria, Portugal, and Denmark.
- Afghanistan is now the least peaceful country in the world, replacing Syria, which is now the second least peaceful. South Sudan, Yemen, and Iraq comprise the remaining five least peaceful countries.

Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness based on three thematic domains -- the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation.

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

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

### Bihar Government Launches Pension Scheme for Poor above 60 Years of Age

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above 60 years of age in the state.
- Poor people above 60 years of age will get Rs. 400 per month and those above 80 years will get Rs. 500 per month. The scheme, which is effective from April 1, 2019, will not cover retired government employees.

Bihar is the third-largest state of India by population, according to the census 2011. It is a land-locked state, although the outlet to the sea through the port of Kolkata is not far away. Nalanda University is located in the town of Rajgir, in the northern Indian state of Bihar. It was a Buddhist center of learning from 427 to 1197 CE. It has been called "one of the first great universities in recorded history. Lalji Tandon is the current Governor.

### World's largest lift irrigation 'Kaleshwaram Project' inaugurated in Telangana

- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), claimed as the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at Medigadda where the first barrage of the project is located in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district.
- It was built at about Rs 80,000 crore, aimed at meeting over two-thirds of state's agriculture, drinking and industrial water needs.
- Built on fast-track mode by the infrastructure firm Megha Engineering and Infrastructures (Meil), the world's biggest engineering marvel was inaugurated by three chief ministers - K Chandrashekhara Rao of Telangana, Devendra Fadnavis of Maharashtra and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Kaleshwaram project on Godavari river surpasses the records of the world's biggest lift irrigation projects till date - Colorado in the US and Great Man-Made River in Libya that took decades for completion.

Telangana is the newly formed 29th state of India with Hyderabad as its permanent capital in 2014. Kalvakuntla Chandrashekhara Rao is the first and the current Chief Minister of Telangana. E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Telangana is a landlocked state in the country.

### Navy launches operation in Gulf for Indian vessels' security

- The Indian Navy has deployed warships in the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf to ensure the safety and 'reassure' Indian flagged vessels operating in the region, following Iranian forces shooting down a US military drone while it was flying over the Strait of Hormuz.
- The Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region which was launched in Gurgaon in December 2018 is also keeping a close watch on the movement of ships in the Gulf region.



## First session of 17th Lok Sabha begins

- Leader of the House and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah were among those who took oath as Members of the 17th Lok Sabha that commenced.
- Since it is the first session of the new Lok Sabha, it will mainly be devoted to Oath taking of newly elected MPs, election of Lok Sabha Speaker, the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The First Lok Sabha was constituted on 17 April 1952 after India's first general election. The first Lok Sabha lasted its full tenure of five years and was dissolved on 4 April 1957. First Session of this Lok Sabha commenced on 13 May 1952.

## Kota MP Om Birla to be NDA's nominee for LS speaker

- BJP MP Om Birla is the NDA nominee for the Lok Sabha Speaker's post. Mr Birla is a two-time MP from Kota, Rajasthan.
- Once nominated, Birla, who won from Kota-Bundi parliamentary seat in Rajasthan, will easily become the speaker as the National Democratic Alliance has a clear majority in the House.

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is a coalition of right-leaning political parties in India. At the time of its formation in 1998, it was led by the BJP and had 13 constituent parties. Its chairman was late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The coalition ruled from 1998 to 2004. The alliance returned to power in the 2014 General Elections with a combined vote share of 38.5%. Its leader, Narendra Modi, was sworn in as Prime Minister of India on 26 May 2014. In the 2019 General Elections, the Alliance further increased its tally to 353 seats with combined vote share of 45.43%.

## Assam government to set up Skill University at Darrang district

- Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district. Participating in an AIR talk show last night, Mission Director of Assam Skill Development Mission, AP Tiwari said that the proposed institution will be known as Skill City.
- This will be perhaps the first Skill University of the Country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats. He also said that International Yoga Day will be observed at 459 centres of the Skill Development Mission.

Jagdish Mukhi is the current Governor of Assam and Assam is known for Assam tea and Assam silk. Dispur is the capital of the state of Assam. Guwahati is the largest city of Assam and Northeastern India.

## ADB approves Rs 1,650 cr infra projects for 7 district towns in Tripura

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project worth Rs 1,650 crore to develop infrastructure in seven district headquarter towns of Tripura, a senior official has said.
- The ADB will provide Rs 1,650 crore, out of which 80 per cent will be grant-in-aid and the state will have to repay 20 per cent loan in due course of time, he said.
- "Such an ADB-assisted ambitious infrastructure development project, first of its kind in Tripura, is expected to modernise all the district headquarter towns and boost tourism and trade prospects in the future to realise the vision of Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb of transforming Tripura into a model state".

Tripura is the third-smallest state in the country; Agartala is the capital of Tripura as well as the second largest city in North-east India after Guwahati. Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman Manikya Bahadur was a king or maharaja of Tripura State. He was the king before the merger of Tripura with India. He succeeded his father, Birendra Kishore Manikya Debbarman, on 13 August 1923. Biplab Kumar Deb is the first the CM of the BJP government in Tripura. The BJP win ended the 25-year-old Left rule in the state.

## BJP MP Virendra Kumar sworn in as pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha

- President Ram Nath Kovind sworn in seven-term Member of Parliament Virendra Kumar as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha.
- Kumar will oversee the oath-taking of newly elected Lok Sabha members. As soon as a new speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha is elected, his role will cease to exist.
- Kumar won the Lok Sabha election from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh on a BJP ticket. He was a Minister of State in the previous Modi government.

As pro-tem speaker, Kumar will preside over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administer the oath to the newly elected MPs. He will also oversee the election of the Lok Sabha speaker. The first session of the newly constituted Lok Sabha will be held from June 17 to July 26.

## Om Birla elected Lok Sabha Speaker unopposed

- NDA nominee and BJP MP from Kota, Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.
- All major political parties including Congress, DMK, TMC, BJD, TDP, YSR Congress, JD (U) and Shiv Sena supported the motion moved by Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Narendra Modi to choose Mr. Birla as the Speaker.
- Later, Pro-tem speaker Dr. Virendra Kumar declared Mr. Birla as the Speaker. Prime minister along with other leaders of different political parties escorted Om Birla to the Speaker's chair.

Members of the 17th Lok Sabha were elected during the 2019 Indian general election. Elections were conducted in 7 phases from 11 April 2019 to 19 May 2019 by the Election Commission of India. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single-largest party after winning 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha is the Indian National Congress, with 52 seats. Snehlata Shrivastava is an Indian retired IAS officer who is the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha. On 1 December 2017, she is appointed as the first woman Secretary General of the Lok Sabha. Leader of the Lok Sabha, the Lower House of the Indian Parliament, is the Prime Minister by default if he is a member of the Lok Sabha. Shri Narendra Modi is the current Leader of the Lok Sabha.

## 23 Indian Institutions ranked among best global universities in QS World University ranking

- Twenty-three Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in QS World University ranking released.
- The Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-Bombay), has emerged as India's best institution in the 2020 QS World University Ranking. IIT-Bombay has been securing the top position among Indian institutes for the past three years by making it to the prestigious world ranking, thereby rising 27 places since the 2018 QS World University Ranking.
- Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Bombay has become India's best institute, securing 152nd rank. IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have also been figured in the top 200.
- Followed by IIT-Bombay is IIT-Delhi, which has bagged 182th position. However, IIT-Delhi has fallen 10 places from 172 in 2019 to 182 in the 2020 QS ranking. Among the 23 institutes, only IIT-Bombay, IIT-Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (184) are ranked in the global top 200. IIT-Bombay's rise in the ranking is attributed to improvements in its research performance. It now ranks 184th in the world in the citations per faculty indicator, reveals the ranking.

World-class MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has made a history by topping the QS World University Rankings for the eighth consecutive year. According to QS, no other university has managed such a long run at the top. Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) -- all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world, respectively.

### ‘Operation Bandar’ code name of Balakot strike

- The air strike by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, was code-named ‘Operation Bandar’.
- It was code-named Operation Bandar but was known to very few, a defence source said. There was no particular reason in the choice of the name, the official stated and added.

As a response to the Pulwama terror attack which claimed the lives of 40 security personnel, 12 IAF Mirage-2000 fighter jets struck on Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot inside Pakistan in the early hours on February 26 with precision guided munitions.

### Rajya Sabha recognises four TDP MPs as BJP members

- Rajya Sabha has recognised four TDP MPs as BJP members. Rajya Sabha MPs -- YS Chowdary, C M Ramesh, T G Venkatesh, all from Andhra Pradesh, and G Mohan Rao who hails from Telangana, had on Thursday claimed to have merged themselves with the BJP.
- Rajya Sabha chairman's office has informed that the four names have been added to the BJP list. They will be recognised as BJP members in the Rajya Sabha.

The present strength of Rajya Sabha, however, is 245, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry and 12 are nominated by the President. The members nominated by the President are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service. Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President and 238 are representatives of the States and of the two Union Territories.

### Rajya Sabha rejects Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill 2017

- The Rajya Sabha has rejected the Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill 2017 with voice votes.
- It was a private member bill which was introduced in the House by Akali Dal MP, Naresh Gujral in August last year.
- The Bill was aimed at providing for the establishment of an effective system to prevent and address the decline in the productivity of Parliament due to disruptions of sittings.

### PM Modi to attend G20 summit in Japan's Osaka

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will attend the 14th G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan from 28th to 29th of this month. Former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu will be India's sherpa at the G20 meet.
- India has participated in all the G20 Summits held so far. It will host the G20 summit in 2022 for the first time.

### Maharashtra government announces scheme for smokeless kitchens

- A pilot project aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women will be launched by the Maharashtra government.
- The project, named "Chullah (wood-fired stove)-free and smoke-free Maharashtra", will target the women who have not benefited under the Ujjwala or any other LPG distribution scheme.



## With Geographical Indication tag, Kolhapuri chappals set to go big

- Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear industry, renowned for its handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad. The approval for GI tag was jointly received by Karnataka and Maharashtra recently for making these chappals.
- The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has granted the GI tag for Kolhapuris to four districts of Maharashtra — Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli and Satara — along with four in Karnataka — Dharwad, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapur.

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place. In addition, the qualities, characteristics or reputation of the product should be essentially due to the place of origin.

## NITI Aayog Health Index: Kerala is best, UP worst

- Kerala has emerged as the top ranking state in the second health index launched by NITI Aayog, while Uttar Pradesh is the worst. Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have shown no improvement in health status.
- Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra emerged as the second and third best in terms of overall health performance respectively, according to a report titled 'Healthy States, Progressive India: Report on Rank of States and UTs'.
- As per the report, the decline in the overall Health Index score of five empowered action group states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha) between the base year and the reference year is attributed to the deterioration of performances of several indicators.
- Kerala and Tamil Nadu have already reached the 2030 SDG target for neonatal mortality rate (NMR), which is 12 neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births, it said.

The health index is a composite measure of States and Union Territories based on 23 health indicators with major weightage to the outcomes. The second round of the health index accounts for the period 2015-16 (base year) to 2017-18 (reference year). The ranking was done under three categories — larger states, smaller states and Union territories (UTs) to ensure comparison among similar entities. The report has been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with technical assistance from the World Bank.

## Odisha CM unveils Flood Hazard Atlas

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a Flood Hazard Atlas for better preparedness.
- The flood hazard atlas has been made after ascertaining data on flood between 2000 and 2018. The atlas keeps the most flood hit areas in focus. Around 14 lakh hectare of agriculture land is being affected by floods every year in Odisha.

## Maharashtra to get floating solar power generation plants on four dams

- Maharashtra is all set to get floating solar power generation plants on four dams.
- The backwater of Wardha, Bebal, Khadakpurna and Pentakli dams has been selected for setting up the floating solar panels as per the Swiss Challenge method.
- The estimated investment per megawatt is 4.45 crore rupees, with a total installed capacity of 500 MW.

Maharashtra is India's second-most populous state and third-largest state by area. Nagpur is Maharashtra's second capital and hosts the winter session of the state legislature. Pune is its cultural capital. Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao is currently serving as Governor of the state of Maharashtra.

## Government to launch Universal Smart Card Driving License

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences.
- This Ministry, through its flagship application called SARATHI developed by NIC, has a common countrywide database of all driving license holders. Almost 15 crore driving license records are available in its central repository.
- The SARATHI application has the feature to identify duplicate records in real-time online basis and access information about the challans if any, which facilitates the licencing authority that delinquent drivers do not get a duplicate driving licence.

Nitin Jairam Gadkari was served as the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party from 2010-2013. Gadkari contested 2014 & 2019 Loksabha elections successfully from Nagpur constituency, Maharashtra and won it. He is the current Minister for Road Transport & Highways of India and Shipping Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Government of India.

## From Japan, a museum of peace built on memories of WWII

- Japan gifted Manipur a museum of peace built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.
- The inauguration of the Imphal Peace Museum at Red Hill, about 20 km southwest of Manipur's capital Imphal, marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal.
- Some 70,000 Japanese soldiers, alongside those of Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army, died in battles with the British-led Allied forces in areas around Imphal and Kohima from March to June 1944.
- The last of these battles was fought at Red Hill, where the Japanese War Memorial was built in 1944 to mark the 50th anniversary of the battle.

Hitoshi Tsuchiya was lucky to see his father Denkichichi Tsuchiya who returned to Japan after the war. Mr. Hitoshi paid his first visit to Manipur with his son Jumpei to donate the diaries and other memorabilia of his father to the Imphal Peace Museum. Among the highlights of the museum is a framed calligraphy by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. It reads 'heiwa' — meaning peace — in Japanese. World War II (often abbreviated to WWII or WW2), also known as the Second World War, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945.

## Lok Sabha and rajya sabha passed SEZ Amendment Bill

- The Rajya Sabha cleared the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill, paving the way for trusts to set up units in such areas. The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill will replace the SEZ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, that was promulgated in March. It is now set to become a law after receiving the President's nod.
- The present provisions of the SEZs Act, 2005, do not permit 'trusts' to set up units in SEZs. The amendment will enable trusts to be considered for grant of permission to set up units in SEZs.
- The amendments will also provide flexibility to the central government to include in this definition of a person or any entity that the central government may notify from time to time. This will facilitate investments in SEZs," the government had earlier said in a statement.
- According to the law, an individual, a Hindu divided family, a company, co-operative society or a firm fall in the definition of a "person".

SEZs are special demarcated areas in the country that have different regulations to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Such areas are considered outside the customs territory. They are entitled to various tax incentives to boost manufacturing, promote exports as well as generate employment.



## Suresh Prabhu attends G20 Sherpa meet in Japan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sherpa for the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meeting at Osaka in Japan to prepare for Prime Minister's Summit with G-20 leaders.
- For this G20 meeting, Prabhu has listed terrorism, global security, global slowdown, multilateralism, environment and energy and fate of economic fugitives as key issues for discussions. For the 6th time PM Narendra Modi has participated in the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan from June 27 to 29.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU).

## Go Tribal campaign launched in New Delhi

- The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh launched the “Go Tribal Campaign” of Tribes India at a glittering event in New Delhi.
- The campaign has been launched to widely promote the use of tribal products. The Minister also launched ‘Tribes India’ globally through Amazon Global Selling..
- Tribal Affairs Ministry said TRIFED has organized this event to institutionalize collaborations and partnerships with different organizations to promote tribal products.

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. TRIFED has its registered and Head Office located in New Delhi. TRIFED current Chairman is Shri R.C. Meena.

## HRD Ministry releases 5-year vision plan on Quality Education

- The Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).
- This is in accordance with the Prime Minister's direction for finalizing a five-year vision plan for each Ministry.
- The Expert Groups drawn from senior academicians, administrators and industrialists, have suggested more than 50 initiatives that would transform the higher education sector completely.

## Indo-French Joint Air Exercise Garuda-VI Begins

- The Indian Air Force and Armée de l'Air (French Air Force) are going to be participating in a bilateral air exercise ‘Garuda VI’ at Mont de Marsan in France. The exercise, scheduled to take place from July to July 12, 2019, exercise is expected to showcase fighter jets like Rafale, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi 30 from the two sides.
- The Garuda-VI joint exercise between Indian Air Force and French Air will see the most potent fighter aircrafts of the two countries going head-to-head to validate the latest defence strategies and fine-tune their waging capabilities. This is the sixth edition of Exercise and is being planned at French Air Force Base, Mont-de-Marsan.

Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air forces of the world. Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict. It was officially established on 8 October 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honoured India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal. With the government's transition to a Republic in 1950, the prefix Royal was removed after only three years. Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

## President's rule for 6 more months in Jammu & Kashmir

- **Parliament gave its approval for extending President's rule in J&K for another six months from July 3, with Rajya Sabha passing a resolution in this regard.**
- **The upper house of Parliament also passed the bill amending J&K Reservation Act, 2004.** Both, moved by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had been passed by Lok Sabha
- **Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that “democratic, free and fair Assembly elections will be held in the State by the year-end”.**

**J-K Governor Satyapal Malik had on November 21, 2018 dissolved the 87-member assembly citing apprehensions of horse trading and lack of credible alternative for government formation. On December 20, 2018 President's rule was imposed. The state has special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. Srinagar is the summer capital and Jammu is the winter capital.**

## Two day Meeting of Expert Working Group of Paris Pact Initiative of UNODC was held in New Delhi

- **The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance hosted a Meeting of Expert Working Group on Paris Pact Initiative on Illicit Financial Flows deriving from the trafficking of Opiates originating in Afghanistan.**
- **The Meeting was organised with the support of United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes (UNODC).**
- **Paris Pact is a group of 58 countries and 23 International Organisations affected with drug trafficking of Afghan Opiates. Under the ambit of UNODC, Paris Pact Initiative has addressed the issue of drug problem related to opiates originating in Afghanistan, both at policy and implementation level.**

## National mission on natural language translation

- **The Ministry of Electronics and IT will soon place before the Union Cabinet a Rs. 450 crore proposal for Natural Language Translation — one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).**
- **The proposal is part of the 100-day action plan charted out by MeitY, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instructions.**
- **The national mission on natural language translation aims to make science and technology accessible to all by facilitating access to teaching and researching material bilingually in English and in one's native Indian language.**

## Amitabh Kant gets two-year extension as Niti Aayog CEO

- **Amitabh Kant was given a two-year extension as Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog.**
- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Mr Kant's tenure for a further period of two years beyond June 30, 2019, i.e. up to June 30, 2021, on the same terms and conditions.**

**The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. The current chairman of NITI Aayog is Shri Narendra Modi, current vice chairman is Dr. Rajiv Kumar and the current chief executive officer is Shri Amitabh Kant.**

## International



### Donald Trump becomes the first world leader to meet Japan's new emperor

- **President Donald Trump** got the red carpet treatment at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan.
- **Emperor Naruhito** ascended to the throne on May 1, opening what is called the era of "Reiwa," or "beautiful harmony."
- **The president and first lady Melania Trump** kicked off the formal visit with handshakes and greetings with Naruhito and Empress Masako.

Naruhito is the **Emperor of Japan**. He acceded to the **Chrysanthemum Throne** on **1 May 2019**, beginning the **Reiwa era**, following the abdication of his father, **Emperor Akihito**, on 30 April 2019. He is the **126th monarch** according to Japan's traditional order of succession. **Shinzo Abe** is serving as **Prime Minister of Japan** and **Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** since 2012.

**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.

### European Parliament elections: EPP win 178 seats

- **European Parliament** published the provisional results for this year's elections, showing the **European People's Party group** winning **178 seats** and remaining the **largest political group in the legislature**.
- The second largest group is the **Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)** with **152 seats**, in the **751-member legislature**.
- The combination of two largest parties, traditionally forming a grand alliance big enough to be in the control in the legislature, fell short of a majority. **The third largest group is the ALDE group plus France's Renaissance with 108 seats**. The group of Greens and European Free Alliance came in fourth place with 67 seats. The European Conservatives and Reformists group is the fifth-largest with 61 seats.
- **European Parliament** announced that **EU-wide turnout** has **risen over 50 per cent**, the highest in 20 years and the first significant increase in turnout since 1979.

**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.



## Trump government begins process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B holders

- In a major blow for H1-B visa holders, the Trump administration has begun the process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B visa holders. The move, which was first proposed in 2017, would affect thousands of Indian techies in the US.
- The H4 visa is issued to dependent family members (spouse and children) of H1-B visa holders. Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for H4 visa holders allows H4 visa dependent spouses of H1-B non-immigrants to legally work in the United States.
- The H4 EAD rule was implemented with the intention of retaining highly skilled foreign workers and decreasing the interruption to US businesses that results from H1-B workers choosing not to stay in the US. The Obama administration expected the rule to reduce economic burdens among H1-B non-immigrants and their families.
- From February 25, 2015, spouses of H-1B visa holders who were in the process of obtaining a green card were given work permits. DHS now seeks to remove this from its regulations. DHS now seeks to remove this from its regulations.

The H-1B is a visa in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 101(a)(15)(H) that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations. A specialty occupation requires the application of specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or the equivalent of work experience. The duration of stay is three years, extendable to six years; after which the visa holder may need to reapply. Laws limit the number of H-1B visas that are issued each year: 180,440 new and initial H-1B visas were issued in 2017.

## Russia Launches New Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker

- Russia has launched the third and final Project 22220 LK-60YA-class nuclear-powered icebreaker at the Baltic Shipyard in Saint Petersburg.
- The Ural was laid down at the Baltic Shipyard, part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), in July 2016. The ship is expected to be commissioned in 2021. Its sister ships Arktika and Sibir were laid down in 2013 and 2015 respectively and will be commissioned in June 2019 and November 2020.

Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A duma is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions. Moscow is the capital and most populous city of Russia. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of it.

## Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz ousted in no-confidence vote

- Austrian Parliament has removed Chancellor Sebastian Kurz from office as he lost the no confidence in a special Parliamentary session. Opposition parties brought forward the two no-confidence votes - one against Kurz and the other against his government.
- His previous coalition ally, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPÖ) backed the no-confidence motions. The FPÖ had become embroiled in a political scandal caused by a secret video, which ended the coalition.

Austria is a country in Central Europe comprising nine federated states. Its capital, largest city and one of nine states is Vienna. Brigitte Bierlein has been serving as Chancellor of Austria since 3 June 2019. Following the Ibiza affair, Austrian president Alexander Van der Bellen named Bierlein interim chancellor on 30 May 2019, after a parliamentary motion of confidence dismissed the government of Sebastian Kurz. Euro is the currency of Austria.

## Malawi election: President Mutharika re-elected after court battle

- Malawi's President Peter Mutharika has been narrowly elected to a second term in office with 38.5% of the vote. The MEC say President Mutharika, who heads the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), gained a narrow victory by about 159,000 votes.
- Challenger Lazarus Chakwera, who finished in second place, had sought to delay the results because of concerns over voting irregularities. Mr Chakwera, from the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), came close behind with about 35.4% of the vote. He had also placed as runner-up five years ago.

Malawi officially the Republic of Malawi, is a landlocked country in southeast Africa that was formerly known as Nyasaland. Its capital is Lilongwe, which is also Malawi's largest city. The country is also nicknamed "The Warm Heart of Africa" because of the friendliness of the people. The kwacha is the currency of Malawi as of 1971, replacing the Malawian pound.

## Sri Lanka signs tripartite agreement with India and Japan

- Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.
- Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51 per cent majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 per cent.
- The deal is significant as over 70% of India's transshipment business is handled at Colombo ports.

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.

## Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister

- Scott Morrison has been sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election.
- He was sworn in by Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, at a ceremony in the capital, Canberra. Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack was also sworn in.

## Papua New Guinea chooses James Marape as new prime minister

- Papua New Guinea has appointed a new prime minister after weeks of political upheaval. Lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to elect James Marape, a former finance minister, who resigned in April in protest against a gas project.
- Papua New Guinea, a South Pacific nation of 7.3 million people, has rich reserves of copper, gold, and oil, but development has been hampered by public order issues, rugged terrain and disputes over land.

Papua New Guinea is a country in Oceania that occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands in Melanesia, a region of the southwestern Pacific Ocean north of Australia. Its capital, located along its southeastern coast, is Port Moresby. The kina is the currency of Papua New Guinea.

## UN extends sanctions against South Sudan

- The UN Security Council has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on South Sudan for a year, despite resistance from African countries, Russia and China.
- A US-drafted resolution was adopted by a vote of 10 in favour with five abstentions. Resolutions in the 15-member council require a minimum of nine votes for adoption.



Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council also known as the **Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5** are the five states which the UN Charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council (UNSC), **China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. **Antonio Guterres** is a **Portuguese politician** and diplomat who is serving as the ninth **Secretary-General** of the United Nations. Previously, he was the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** between 2005 and 2015.

### Ramaphosa announces gender-balanced Cabinet

- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** has announced a **new cabinet** in which, for the first time in the country's history, **half of all ministers are women**.
- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** cut the **number of Cabinet Ministers** from **36 to 28**, in a move he said would tackle the country's "bloated" government.
- **Half the new ministers are women**, making **South Africa** one of the world's few **gender-balanced governments**.

**South Africa** is the southernmost country in Africa. It is the southernmost country on the mainland of the Old World or the Eastern Hemisphere. **Pretoria** is one of the country's three capital cities, serving as the seat of the administrative branch of government (**Cape Town** is the legislative capital and **Bloemfontein** the judicial capital), and of foreign embassies to South Africa. **Cyril Ramaphosa** is the fifth and current President of South Africa. **South African rand** is the official currency of South Africa.

### Mahathir proposes 'common currency'

- **East Asia** should consider a **common regional trading currency** based on gold to promote commerce, and **free the region** from relying on dollar transactions, **Malaysia's Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir** said. He said the **exchange rate** would "relate to" the performance of individual countries.

### India to lose preferential trade terms with U.S.

- **India** will lose access to preferential trade terms with the **U.S.** under the latter's **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** programme.

The **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)** is a **U.S. trade program** designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to **4,800 products** from **129 designated beneficiary countries** and territories. **GSP** was instituted on **January 1, 1976**, by the **Trade Act of 1974**.

### Nayib Bukele sworn in as president of El Salvador

- In the Central American country of **El Salvador**, **Nayib Bukele** has been sworn-in as the nation's **President**. **Bukele** was sworn-in by the **Speaker of the National Assembly** in downtown **San Salvador**. Delegations from **83 countries** attended the ceremony.

**El Salvador** is the **smallest and the most densely populated country** in **Central America**. **El Salvador's capital and largest city** is **San Salvador**. **United States dollar** is the official currency of the **El Salvador**.

### Algeria's Constitutional Council cancels presidential elections

- **Algeria's Constitutional Council** has **extended interim President Abdelkader Bensalah's powers**. The presidential elections scheduled next month have been cancelled by the Constitutional Council.
- The move will likely extend the rule of the interim president, who was meant to stay **only until the vote to elect a new president** after **Bouteflika** ended his **20-year rule** in the wake of mass protests. **Bensalah**, the former upper house speaker, had been appointed as interim leader until **July 9**.

Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. The capital and most populous city is Algiers. The dinar is the monetary currency of Algeria.

### ICA issues first UAE Permanent Residency 'Golden Card' in Abu Dhabi

- UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in Abu Dhabi, as part of the Investors Permanent Residence System aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.
- Brigadier Saeed Salem Al Shamsi, Executive Director of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Abu Dhabi, awarded the first permit to investor Yousuf Ali, Board Member of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ADCCI, and Chairman of the Lulu International Group, during a ceremony that also honoured him for his role in promoting economic growth in the country. The Abu Dhabi-based Keralite tycoon is worth 4.7 billion dollars and has been ranked the richest expat in UAE according to Forbes magazine's 2019 list of billionaires.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.

### Thai junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha voted in as prime minister after election

- Thailand's new parliament voted in ruling military junta chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha as prime minister five years after he overthrew an elected government.
- The former army chief secured the 375 votes needed to secure the post in a vote by both houses of parliament, one of which was entirely appointed by the junta.

Thailand officially the Kingdom of Thailand and formerly known as Siam is a country at the center of the Southeast Asian Indochinese peninsula. The capital and largest city is Bangkok, a special administrative area. Prayut Chan-o-cha serves as the Prime Minister of Thailand. The baht is the official currency of Thailand.

### INigeria's envoy to UN elected President of 74th session of UNGA

- Nigeria's Ambassador to the United Nations Tijjani Muhammad-Bande was elected as President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.
- The 193-member UNGA elected Muhammad-Bande, who had been nominated by Nigeria and endorsed by the African group, at the election by acclamation.

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.

### Peru Prez wins confidence vote; revives debate over anti-corruption measures

- In Peru, President Martin Vizcarra won a confidence vote in the country's Congress, reviving debate over his flagging effort to pass anti-corruption measures.
- President Vizcarra, who succeeded disgraced ex-president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski a year ago won by 77 votes to 44 with three abstentions.

Peru is a country in western South America. Lima is the capital and the largest city of Peru and sol is the currency of Peru. César Villanueva has been the Prime Minister of Peru since April 2018.

## Donald Trump joins Queen Elizabeth II at World War II commemorative ceremony

- US President Donald Trump joined Queen Elizabeth II at a World War II commemorative ceremony in UK's port city of Portsmouth.
- Hundreds of war veterans were feted at the grand ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, which marked the start of the Allied Forces campaign to liberate Nazi-occupied north-west Europe during World War II.

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

- To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy in Saudi organized 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace' in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.
- The rally was flagged off by Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi dignitaries, diplomats, members of Indian diaspora and Saudi nationals attended the rally.

## Russia launches the first Arctic train service

- The first tourist train traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from Saint Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey. "The Arctic fascinates everybody," said Nurlan Mukash, executive director of the German Lernidee Erlebnisreisen tour group behind the project.
- "This destination has been covered by Canadian and Norwegian tourist agencies but, this has not been the case for Russia," he added. The train, named "Zarengold" ("The Tsar's gold" in German) complete with two restaurant cars will travel from Saint Petersburg through Petrozavodsk, the historic town of Kem and Murmansk.
- At Murmansk, by far the largest city north of the Arctic Circle, the tourists will get off the train and continue by bus to Kirkenes in Norway before ending their journey with a boat trip to Oslo or by air to the island of Spitsbergen.

Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A duma is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions. Moscow is the capital and most populous city of Russia. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of it.

## Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Vietnam Elected UNSC Non-permanent Members

- Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Tunisia were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two year term beginning January 1, 2020.
- The 193-member UN General Assembly held elections for five non-permanent members of the Security Council in the iconic General Assembly hall. In the African and Asia Pacific category, Vietnam got 192 out of 193 votes, followed by Niger and Tunisia (191 votes each).

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (also known as the Permanent Five, Big Five, or P5) are China (formerly the Republic of China), Russia (formerly the Soviet Union), France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Antonio Guterres is a Portuguese politician and diplomat who is serving as the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Previously, he was the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees between 2005 and 2015.



## UAE Cabinet adopts "National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031"

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

## Sri Lankan Airlines has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline'

- Sri Lankan Airlines, the flag carrier of the island nation, has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time with over 90 per cent of its flights in May being "on time".
- SriLankan Airlines had achieved this status for the second time in less than 12 months as in September 2018; it had achieved a punctuality rating of 91.37 per cent.
- Global flight tracker, Flightstats analysed data of 41 carriers from Europe, North America, Asia, the Middle East, and South America, including most of the world's largest and most prestigious airlines before drawing its conclusions.

## India ranks low on gender equality index, stands at 95 out of 129 countries

- India ranks 95 out of 129 countries, below countries such as Ghana, Rwanda and Bhutan in a new gender equality index released on the second day of the 'Women Deliver Conference'. Out of a maximum score of 100 based on the country's performance on the gender parameter of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India scored 56.2.
- The global average score of the 129 countries-which represents 95% of the world's girls and women- is 65.7 out of 100 ("poor" in the index scoring system). No one country is the world's best performer-or even among the world's top ten performers-across all goals or all issues.
- India, along with neighbours Pakistan and Bangladesh, lost out on the education index even though the report noted that large strides had been made.

The index, covering 14 of the 17 SDGs, measures countries on 51 issues ranging from health, gender-based violence, climate change, decent work and others. The overall index score and individual goal scores are based on a scale of 0-100. A score of 100 reflects the achievement of gender equality in relation to the targets set for each indicator.

## African bloc suspends Sudan, demanding end to military rule

- The African Union (AU) suspended Sudan until the establishment of civilian rule, intensifying global pressure on its new military leaders to stand down after the worst violence since Omar al-Bashir's fall in April.
- Ethiopia - where the continental bloc is based - planned a mediation effort, with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed due to meet members of both the ruling Transitional Council (TMC) and the opposition, a diplomatic source said.

The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa, with exception of various territories of European possessions located in Africa. The bloc was founded on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa. The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi began serving a one-year term as Chairperson of the African Union since 10 February 2019. Moussa Faki has been Chairperson of the African Union Commission since 14 March 2017.

## In historic first, G20 weighs ageing as global risk

- Ballooning healthcare costs, labour shortages and financial services for the elderly: for the first time, G20 world's top policymakers are tackling economic issues relating to ageing and shrinking birthrates.

- **G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs meeting in Japan** -- where a **rapidly ageing population is a major domestic problem** -- have been warned to address the issue before it is too late.
- **The G20 is a mixed bag of countries** at various stages of development and population profiles, ranging from **rapidly-ageing Japan to Saudi Arabia, next year's G20 chair**, which has a very young society..

The **G20** or **Group of Twenty** is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union**. It was founded in 1999; the **G20** aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the **G20** consists of **19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU)**.

### Kassym-Jomart Tokayev becomes new President of Kazakhstan

- **Kazakhstan's interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**, chosen successor of veteran ruler **Nursultan Nazarbayev** who retains sweeping powers, has won a snap presidential election with nearly **71% of the vote**, according to early results.
- **Nazarbayev**, who ruled oil producer **Kazakhstan** for almost three decades, handpicked the 66-year-old career diplomat as his successor when he stepped down in March. In a power-sharing arrangement, **Nazarbayev**, 78, remains chairman of the influential **Securiy Council** and lead the ruling **Nur Otan party**.

**Kazakhstan** is the world's largest landlocked country and the **ninth largest in the world**. **Astana** is the capital city of **Kazakhstan**. The **tenge** is the currency of **Kazakhstan**.

### Canada to announce ban on single-use plastics

- The Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** announced that it is moving to ban single-use plastics as early as **2021**.
- **Trudeau** did not specify the products to be banned, but said likely candidates include **plastic bags, straws, cutlery, and plates and stir sticks** "where supported by scientific evidence and warranted".

**Canada**, which has **151,019 miles of coastline—the world's longest**—and a **quarter of the world's fresh water**, joins a growing list of nations taking steps to reduce the use of disposable plastics. **More than 60 nations have taken steps to reduce single-use plastics by imposing bans or taxes**, according to a United Nations report published last year. In March the **European Union's parliament** voted to ban the **top 10 single-use plastic items found on European beaches by 2021**. The **EU measure** also calls for **90 percent of plastic bottles to be recycled by 2025**. Member states must work out the details of **bans before the 2021 deadline**.

### Mount Sinabung erupts in western Indonesia

- A column of thick ash was spewed **7km high** into the sky from the crater of **Mount Sinabung volcano on Sumatra Island of western Indonesia**. **Mount Sinabung volcano** is at the **second highest alert level with no-go zone of 5km from the crater**.
- **Mount Sinabung, 2,475m high**, is located in **Karo district of North Sumatra province**. In its eruption in 2014, **16 people were killed and thousands displaced**. **Mount Sinabung is among 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia**.

### India, Maldives ink pacts as PM Modi, Prez Solih hold talks

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** sought to deepen India's ties with the **Maldives** stressing **New Delhi's** commitment to assisting the **atoll nation** in its development and security goals as the **two countries signed a slew of agreements in areas ranging from defence, health and connectivity** strengthen their bilateral partnership.
- **Modi is in Male** on a day long visit, his **first visit abroad after taking office for a second term on 30 May**, underlining **New Delhi's "neighbourhood first" foreign policy** focus that has continued from his first term in office.



- Prime Minister Modi also visited Sri Lanka on June 9, 2019 at the invitation of Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- On second leg of PM's first foreign visit to Sri Lanka, he was received by the Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe.

### Massive extradition bill protest fills Hong Kong streets

- Hundreds of thousands of protesters marched through Hong Kong to voice their opposition to government-sponsored legislation that would allow people to be extradited to mainland China to face charges.
- The massive demonstration took place three days before the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's government plans to bring the highly contentious bill to the full legislature, bypassing the committee process, in a bid to win approval by the end of the month.

Hong Kong officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China is a specially administered territory on the eastern side of the Pearl River estuary in southern China. Hong Kong is the fourth-most densely populated region in the world. Hong Kong was formerly a colony of the British Empire, after Qing China ceded Hong Kong Island at the conclusion of the First Opium War in 1842. Carrie Lam is the 4th and current Chief Executive of Hong Kong. She is the first female Chief Executive of Hong Kong. Hong Kong dollar is the official currency of Hong Kong. The Chief Executive is the head of government and serves for a five-year term, renewable once.

### PM Narendra Modi embarks on two-day visit to Bishkek for SCO summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the Kyrgyz capital for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the first multilateral engagement post his re-election.
- The focus of the summit was on global issues, issues dominating a changing and unstable world order and SCO's role for regional and global stability.
- This was the first time Imran Khan and PM Modi will come face to face after months of tensions between the two countries
- India held bilateral meetings with Russia and China on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit at Bishkek.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organisation, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. India and Pakistan have become latest full members in SCO in 2017.

### Kassym-Jomart Tokayev takes oath as new president of Kazakhstan

- In Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took oath as the new president of the country. He was acting president following the surprise resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev in March this year.
- The career diplomat became the country's second elected president after succeeding 78-year-old Nursultan Nazarbayev. Mr Toqaev took the oath of office during a ceremony at the Palace of Independence in the capital, Nur-Sultan.
- The 66-year-old took nearly 71 per cent of the ballots in the early presidential election this month. Mr Toqaev's landslide victory was widely expected after he received the blessing of former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, who officially stepped down as in March after almost 30 years in power. The transition comes amid rising dissent in Kazakhstan.

## Boris Johnson tops first ballot in Tory leadership contest

- In UK, Boris Johnson has secured the highest number of votes in the first ballot to select the Conservative party leader and next Prime Minister.
- The former Cabinet minister received 114 votes in the first round of a secret ballot, followed by UK foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt in second place with 43 and Environment secretary Michael Gove third with 37 votes.
- Three contenders - Mark Harper, Andrea Leadsom and Esther McVey - were knocked out of the race after failing to secure the minimum requirement of 17 votes. The winner of the contest to succeed Theresa May is expected to be announced in the week of 22 July.

London is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Theresa Mary May is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world's longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving current head of state.

## Zuzana Caputova sworn in as president of Slovakia

- Anti-corruption campaigner Zuzana Caputova was sworn in as Slovakia's first female president, vowing to fight impunity and champion justice in a country shaken by a journalist's murder last year.
- The killing of Jan Kuciak, who investigated high-level graft cases, and his fiancé at their home last February sparked mass street protests and hit the approval ratings of the governing leftist party Smer. Caputova scored a convincing victory against Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic in March.

Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe. The capital and largest city is Bratislava, and the second-largest city is Kosice. Peter Pellegrini is the current Prime Minister of Slovakia, having taken office on 22 March 2018. Euro is the currency of Slovakia.

## Egypt's former President Mohammed Morsi dies in court

- In Egypt, former president Mohammed Morsi died after collapsing during a session in court. State television reported that he was taken to a Cairo hospital but could not be revived.
- Morsi was on trial for espionage and had just addressed the court when he blacked out. He was country's first democratically elected president and a member of Egypt's most powerful Islamist group, the now banned Muslim Brotherhood.
- He was democratically elected in 2012, one year after the popular uprising that ended the rule of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak. Morsi had been in custody since his removal by military after mass protests in 2013.

Sherif Ismail Mohamed is the current Prime Minister of Egypt. Cairo is the capital city of Egypt. Egyptian pound is the currency of Egypt.

## Netanyahu renames Golan Heights after Trump

- Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially renamed a settlement in Golan height after United States President Donald Trump. PM Netanyahu and I had the honour to dedicate 'Trump Heights' -- first time Israel has dedicated a village in honour of a sitting president since Harry Truman (1949).
- Notably, the community is now just an isolated outpost of 10 residents. In April, Netanyahu had said he would name a new community in the Golan Heights after the US President to thank him for recognising Israel's sovereignty over the area, which Israel captured from Syria during the Six-Day War in 1967 and annexed in 1981. The United States became the first country to recognise the Golan Heights as part of Israel on March 25.

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. Reuven Rivlin is serving as the 10th and current President of Israel since 2014.

### India will overtake China to become the world's most populous country in just eight years

- India will overtake China to become the world's most populous country in just eight years, according to a United Nations report.
- Meanwhile, the Chinese population will decrease by 31.4 million, or around 2.2 percent, between 2019 and 2050.
- The report titled 'The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights' estimated that the world's population is expected to increase by two million by 2050, from 7.7 billion to 9.7 billion. Moreover, Indian along with eight other countries will constitute half of the population.
- The nine countries expected to show the biggest increase are India, Nigeria and Pakistan, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States of America. In all, the population of sub-Saharan Africa is expected to practically double by 2050, the report said.

The report has mentioned that the growth in population will come despite the slowing of the global fertility rate. In 1990, the average number of births per woman was 3.2. By 2019 this had fallen to 2.5 births per woman and, by 2050, this is projected to decline further to 2.2 births: a fertility level of 2.1 births per woman is necessary to avoid national population decline over the long run (in the absence of immigration). Further, life expectancy at birth for the world, which increased from 64.2 years in 1990 to 72.6 years in 2019, is expected to increase further to 77.1 years in 2050.

### Bangladesh has emerged as fastest growing economy among 45 countries of Asia-Pacific region: ADB

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

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia. It shares land borders with India and Myanmar (Burma). Nepal, Bhutan and China are located near Bangladesh but do not share a border with it. Dhaka is its capital and largest city, followed by Chittagong, which has the country's largest port. Bangladeshi taka is the currency of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Mohammad Abdul Hamid is the 16th and current President of Bangladesh, in office since April 2013. Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of the Bangladesh.

### Voluntary Euthanasia becomes legal in Australian state

- Victoria has become the first state in Australia to enact Euthanasia laws that would now allow terminally ill patients suffering from intolerable pain to legally ask their doctor for lethal drugs to end their lives.
- The state's historic laws will be effective from 19th June 2019. Under the scheme, terminally-ill Victorian adults in intolerable pain and with less than six months to live, or 12 months for neurodegenerative diseases, and who meet 68 safeguards can request their doctor's help in dying.



- With 68 safeguards, the bill has been described as the most conservative in the world. State premier Daniel Andrews described the new laws as a compassionate approach to the matter.

### Xi Jinping to mark his first state visit to North Korea

- Chinese president Xi Jinping will make his first state visit to North Korea in an attempt to defuse tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, months after the last denuclearisation summit ended in failure.
- Xi who will be the first Chinese president to visit Pyongyang in 14 years, penned a rare front-page opinion piece in North Korea's official newspaper, touting the two country's irreplaceable bond on the eve of this two-day trip.

China is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion. Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China, the world's third most populous city proper, and most populous capital city. National People's Congress is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China's currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies.

### Bangladesh's first iron ore mine discovered

- For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur. The announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh following extensive drilling over two months in the area.
- According to the Geological Survey, a 400-foot thick iron layer was found 1,750 feet beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometre.
- The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicate the high quality of the ore. In most other countries like Canada, China, Brazil Sweden and Australia the percentage is below 50.

### First Bangladesh International Theatre Festival held in Dhaka

- The first international theatre festival of Bangladesh is held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka.
- Rabindranath Tagore's dance-drama 'Mayar Khela' was performed as the inaugural presentation of the festival.
- The festival is organised at the initiative of the Culture Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh. Theatre troupes from India, Bangladesh, Russia, China, France, Vietnam and Nepal are participated in the festival.

### Worldwide displacement tops 70 million

- The number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded 70 million in 2018. This is the highest level that UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has seen in its almost 70 years.
- Data from UNHCR's annual Global Trends report shows that almost 70.8 million people are now forcibly displaced. The crisis in Venezuela, in particular, is still only partly reflected in the total. In all, some four million Venezuelans have left their country, making this one of the world's biggest current displacement crises.
- To put this in perspective, this is double the level of 20 years ago, 2.3 million more than a year ago, and corresponds to a population between that of Thailand and Turkey.

Within the 70.8 million figure in the Global Trends report are three main groups. The first is *refugees*, meaning people forced to flee their country because of conflict, war or persecution. In 2018, the number of refugees reached 25.9 million worldwide, 500,000 more than in 2017. Included in this total are 5.5 million Palestine refugees who are under the care of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The second group is asylum seekers – people outside their country of origin and receiving international protection, but awaiting the outcome of their claim to refugee status. At the end of 2018 there were 3.5 million asylum seekers globally. The third and biggest group, at 41.3 million, is people displaced to other areas within their own country, a category commonly referred to as Internally Displaced People or IDPs.



## Canada becomes first G20 country to ban trade in shark fins

- Canada passed a new law banning the import and export of shark fins, which also includes a requirement to rebuild depleted fish populations.
- The new Fisheries Act was hailed by environmental and conservation groups as a win for the preservation of fish habitats and for the shark population. **Canada has become the first G20 country to ban the export and import of shark fins.**

Canada is a country located in the northern part of North America. Canada is the world's second-largest country by total area. Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth and queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Its capital is Ottawa, and its three largest metropolitan areas are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. Justin Pierre James Trudeau is serving as the 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada since 2015.

## Saudi Arabia becomes first Arab country to get FATF membership

- Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following the group's annual general meeting in the US.
- The kingdom's accession came as the global money laundering watchdog celebrated the 30th anniversary of its first meeting held in Paris in 1989.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions. The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. FATF is headquartered in Paris, France.

## India placed on 'Tier 2' in human trafficking report

- The U.S. State Department has released its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, highlighting the need for action against domestic trafficking. India continued to be placed in Tier 2 on the 1-3 country trafficking scale.
- The 2019 report highlights the national nature of trafficking: in 77% of the cases, victims are trafficked within their own countries of residence, rather than across borders.
- Victims of sex trafficking were more likely to be trafficked across borders while victims of forced labour were typically exploited within their own countries, the report says, citing International Labour Organisation (ILO) data.
- Tier 2 is for those countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

TVPA stands for Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, which is a Congressional legislation that requires an annual report from the State Department on status of human trafficking in countries across the world. **There are more than 90 countries in Tier 2.**

## Mexico became the first country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

- Mexico became the first country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) when its Senate approved it by a vote of 114 in favor to 4 against.
- It's the successor to the North American Free Trade Agreement negotiated during the Clinton administration. Now lawmakers in Canada and the U.S. have to do the same for the deal to move forward.

The Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada is a signed but not ratified free trade agreement between Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

## Erdogan's party loses Istanbul re-poll

- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered a major blow as the Opposition candidate in Istanbul's controversial mayoral election re-run romped to victory. Turkey's ruling AK Party has lost control of Istanbul after a re-run of the city's mayoral election, delivering a stinging blow to President Erdogan.**
- **Ekrem Imamoglu won the first vote in March by a tiny margin of just 13,000 votes in the city of 15 million. Mr Erdogan had previously said that "whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkey". He has ruled the country since 2003 both as prime minister and now president, becoming the most powerful leader since Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the modern Turkish republic.**

Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. Ankara is the capital of the Republic of Turkey. The Turkish lira is the currency of Turkey. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the both the head of state and head of government of the Turkey.

## China's Qu Dongyu to head UN food agency

- **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has elected Qu Dongyu — China's vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs — as its next director-general.**
- **Qu will be the first head of the agency from China, and will succeed Brazil's José Graziano da Silva. His four-year term will start on 1 August.**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

## Next British PM to be announced on July 23

- **The winner of the contest to replace Theresa May as leader of Britain's ruling Conservatives and Prime Minister will be announced on July 23. Former Foreign Minister Boris Johnson is the favourite in the race, battling Britain's current top diplomat, Jeremy Hunt.**

## UAE launches UN-developed anti-money laundering platform

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

## Mauritania: Former General Mohamed Ould Ghazouani wins presidential election

- **Mauritania's ruling party candidate Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, a former general and defense minister won the country's presidential election with 52% of the vote.**
- **Ghazouani's nearest rival, prominent anti-slavery activist Biram Dah Abeid, came in second with 18.58% of the vote. Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubacar, who is backed by the country's biggest Islamist party, came in third with 17.87%.**

Mauritania, officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in Northwest Africa. It is the eleventh largest sovereign state in Africa. The capital and largest city is Nouakchott. The ouguiya also spelled "ougiya", is the currency of Mauritania.

## Hong Kong jumps into top 10 most expensive locations for expats

- **Hong Kong is the most expensive city in the world for people working abroad, new research has found, with Asian cities continuing to dominate as the priciest locations for expats.**

- Research published Wednesday by HR consultancy Mercer compared the cost of more than 200 items in 209 cities around the world.
- Eight of the 10 most expensive cities were in Asia. Hong Kong was placed top for 2019 for a second consecutive year, with Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul and Zurich rounding out the top five.
- In Asia, Singapore also saw a significant rise in the cost of living rankings, moving up to 12th place from 20th. Cities in China remained broadly stable, with none of the 14 centers moving more than four places.

### Abu Dhabi to host first ISA's joint security exercise ISALEX19

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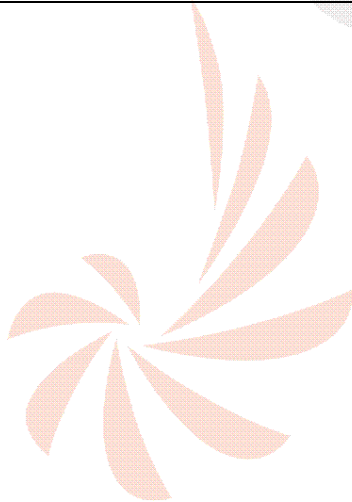
- Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the International Security Alliance are taking part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi.
- The International Security Alliance, launched in 2017 in Abu Dhabi, is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes.
- The alliance now comprises nine countries, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.

### Council of Europe restores Russia's voting rights

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

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.



## ECONOMY AND FINANCE



### Economy News

#### Bengaluru, Gurgaon among top 5 locations in APAC for tech firms: Report

- **Bengaluru and Gurugram are among the top 5 preferred destinations in Asia Pacific to set up offices by technology companies** because of better business conditions as well as availability of engineers and real estate for growth, according to a report.
- **The report by property consultant CBRE said technology companies continue to fuel office demand in the APAC region**, despite absence of any principal city or cluster of the same status as Silicon Valley. **Technology sector accounted for 23 per cent of total leasing activity in 2018.** "Leading cities are Beijing, Bengaluru, Shanghai, Singapore and Gurugram.

The study has ranked 15 cities of Asia Pacific in three categories based on their performance with regard to business conditions, innovation environment, and cost and availability. **Business conditions and innovation environment were each given a weightage of 40 per cent while cost, a relatively less important consideration for tech firms, was given 20 per cent weightage.**

#### US remove India from its currency monitoring list

- **The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners.** It cited certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns.
- **Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed by the US from its currency monitoring list. The list includes other countries like China, Japan and Germany.**
- **India's bilateral trade surplus with the US stood at \$21 billion in 2018.** India's overall merchandise exports growth fell sharply to 0.64% in April 2019.

**India was first included in the currency watch list in 2017** after the Reserve Bank of India had added \$52 billion — which was 1.8% of the country's GDP then — in the foreign exchange reserves in the first half of the year with regular intervention in the forex market. **India has been removed from the monitoring list in this report, having met only one out of three criteria a significant bilateral surplus** with the US for two consecutive reports, the Treasury Department said in its latest semi-annual report on macroeconomic and foreign exchange policies of major trading partners of the US sent to the Congress.

#### GST revenue collection crosses Rs One lakh cr in May

- **The GST revenue collection has crossed one lakh crore rupees in May this year, which is a growth of 6.67 per cent over the revenue collected in the same month last year.**



- The **GST collected during last month was one lakh 289 crore rupees** as compared to over 94 thousand crore rupees in the same period of last year. Finance Ministry in a statement said, a **total of 72.45 lakh GSTR-3B returns were filed in the month of May.**
- **An amount of 18,934 crore rupees** has also been released to the states as **GST compensation** for the months of February-March, 2019.

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's GDP growth may accelerate to 7.2% in FY20: Goldman Sachs

- **American brokerage Goldman Sachs pegged the Indian GDP growth to accelerate to 7.2 per cent in 2019-20** on **lower oil prices, political stability** and removal of infrastructure bottlenecks.
- Risks to the estimate, which is **higher than the RBI's projection for a 7 per cent growth,** are on the "downside" because of the issues in the non-bank lenders. It can be recalled that the **growth had dipped to a nearly five year low of 5.8 per cent for the March quarter at 5.8 per cent,** dragging down FY19 growth to 6.8 per cent.

### GDP growth slows to five-year low at 5.8% in January-March quarter

- **India's economic growth rate slowed to five-year low of 5.8 per cent in January-March 2018-19,** due to poor performance in agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
- **According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data released, GDP growth during 2018-19 fiscal stood at 6.8 per cent, lower than 7.2 per cent** in the previous financial year. The growth in gross domestic product (GDP) was slowest since 2014-15. **The previous low was 6.4 per cent in 2013-14.**

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** is a monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period, often annually. **GDP (nominal) per capita does not,** however, reflect differences in the cost of living and the inflation rates of the countries; therefore using a basis of **GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP)** is arguably more useful when comparing differences in living standards between nations. **GVA gives a picture of the state of economic activity from the producers' side or supply side,** while **GDP model gives the picture from the consumers' side or demand perspective.**

### India's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in FY18

- **India's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in FY18,** official data showed, highlighting the challenge that confronts the Narendra Modi-led government. The data isn't comparable with that of past years, the government contended, in effect seeking to refute previous leaked reports that said they showed the unemployment rate was at a 45-year high.
- **The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released on showed the unemployment rate in the country in FY18 was at 5.3% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India,** resulting in overall unemployment rate of 6.1%.

**Unemployment is defined as a situation where someone of working age is not able to get a job but would like to be in full-time employment.** **Disguised unemployment is a situation where people appear to be engaged but actually they are not.** If these people are removed, the total productivity will not change.

### Overseas investors pump over Rs 9,000 crore into Indian capital markets in May

- **Overseas investors pumped more than 9,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets** in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures following the BJP's landslide victory in the general elections.

Interestingly, foreign investors were net sellers for the first three weeks of May, but the tide turned just ahead of the announcement of election results.

- According to the latest depositories data, **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) infused around 7,920 crore rupees into equities and 1,111 crore rupees in the debt market** during second to 31st of May, taking the cumulative investment to around 9,031 crore rupees.

### Nilekani panel suggests measures to encourage digital payments

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- **In order to encourage digital payments, the Nandan Nilekani committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round the clock RTGS and NEFT facility and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.**
- Among other things, the panel has suggested that **there should be no convenience fee on payments made to government agencies by customers and recommended that payment systems use machine driven, online dispute resolution systems to handle complaints.**
- **The report released by the RBI said the committee recommends that the RBI and the Government put in place an appropriate mechanism to monitor the digital payment systems and make aggregated information based on blocks, and PIN code, available to all players on a monthly basis, so that they can make the necessary adjustments.**

### Three Indian-origin women among America's richest self-made women: Forbes

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- **Three Indian-origin women have been named by Forbes among America's 80 richest self-made women, the "ceiling crashers" and "overachievers" blazing their own trails as they create new businesses and amass fortunes.**
- **President and CEO of computer networking firm Arista Networks Jayshree Ullal, co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel Neerja Sethi and CTO and co-founder of streaming data technology company Confluent Neha Narkhede are in the list.**
- **The list has been topped by Diane Hendricks, who chairs ABC Supply, one of the largest wholesale distributors of roofing, siding and windows in America. The 72-year old has a net worth of USD 7 billion.**

### Tata Mutual Fund launches India's first mutual fund side pocket

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- **Tata Mutual Fund has announced plans to introduce segregated portfolios (side pockets) in three schemes hit by the DHFL debt crisis – Tata Corporate Bond Fund, Tata Medium Term Fund and Tata Treasury Advantage Fund. It has also suspended fresh inflows into these schemes.**
- **This instance is India's first formal use of the side pocketing provisions introduced by SEBI in December 2018.**
- **Other AMCs have made amendments to SIDs to allow side pocketing but this is the first time an AMC is actually proposing to carry out the procedure.**

### Govt notifies extension of PM-KISAN scheme to all farmers

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- **The government has notified its decision to extend the benefit of six thousand rupees per year to eligible farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.**
- **The decision will benefit all 14.5 crore farmers, irrespective of the size of their landholding, in the country.**
- **PM-KISAN scheme was announced in the interim budget, under which the government decided to provide 6,000 rupees per year to about 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers. Now, the revised scheme is expected to cover two crore more farmers with an estimated expenditure of over 87 thousand crore rupees in the current financial year.**

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme** was announced in the Union Budget of 2019-20. This new Central Sector Scheme aims to provide income support to all small and marginal landholding farmer families to supplement their financial needs for procuring various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs. Landholder Farmer families with total cultivable holding up to 2 hectares shall be provided a benefit of Rs.6000 per annum per family payable in three equal installments, every 4 months.

### Prime Minister Modi, Kyrgyzstan President Jeenbekov jointly inaugurate India-Kyrgyz Business Forum

- **PM Narendra Modi and Kyrgyzstan President Jeenbekov inaugurated Indian-Kyrgyz Business forum.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held bilateral meeting with the President of Kyrgyzstan Sooronbey Jeenbekov.
- Addressing the India-Kyrgyz Business Forum, the Prime Minister said that **India and Kyrgyzstan have given the final shape to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) and the bilateral investment treaty**, which would help in creating a proper atmosphere for the bilateral trade.

### Forex reserves increase by 1.8 billion to 421.8 billion

- **The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion** in the week ending May 31. Reserve Bank weekly data released showed that foreign currency assets, which are a **major component of the overall reserves**, rose by **USD 1.946 billion to USD 394.134 billion**.
- According to the RBI data, after remaining stable for the past few weeks, **gold reserves declined by USD 62.9 million to USD 22.958 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund fell by USD 2.3 million to USD 1.443 billion.** The country's reserve position with the fund also declined by USD 5.3 million to USD 3.331 billion.

**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. The reserves are managed by the Reserve Bank of India for the Indian government.**

### Sashakt Committee recommends changes in Inter Creditor Agreement

- **The Sashakt Committee has recommended that the existing Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) to incorporate the revised voting threshold and other changes for decision making stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India.** In a statement it said that this will **enable expeditious implementation of the new framework on stressed assets.**
- On June 7, RBI had issued revised guidelines for resolution of stressed assets. **Under the new framework, it is a mandatory requirement for lenders to enter into an Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) during the review of the borrower account within 30 days from date of first default to any lender.**
- **The New Framework further lays down some parameters to be included in the Inter-Creditor Agreement including decision-making by lenders holding 75% (by value of total outstanding facilities) and 60% by number and protection of dissenting lenders.** The Inter-Creditor Agreement is required to be executed by all lenders covered under the New Framework and asset reconstruction companies.

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

- **A UN report said, Foreign Direct Investment to India grew by 6 percent to 42 billion dollars in 2018, with strong inflows in the manufacturing, communication and financial services sectors, and cross-border merger and acquisition activities.**
- **The report ranked India among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.** The report added that India has historically accounted for 70 to 80 per cent of inflows to the subregion. Further, the growth in cross-border Merger & Acquisitions for India to 33 billion dollars in 2018 was **primarily due to transactions worth 16 billion dollars in retail trade, which includes e-commerce, and telecommunication.**



- The World Investment Report 2019, released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said, Foreign Direct Investment inflows to South Asia increased 3.5 percent to 54 billion dollars.

UNCTAD is the part of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The organization's goals are to: "maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis". UNCTAD was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1964 and it reports to the UN General Assembly and United Nations Economic and Social Council. Currently, UNCTAD has 195 member states and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi from Kenya became Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD on 1 September 2013.

### Government reduces ESI contribution rate to 4 per cent

- The government has reduced the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5 per cent to 4 per cent.
- The new rate will be effective from the 1st of July. It will benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers.

### GST council to introduce new GST return system

- The GST Council has decided to introduce a new GST return system to facilitate taxpayers. An official release said, a plan has been worked out to ease the transition to the new return system. As per the plan, a prototype of the offline tool has already been shared on the common portal to give the look and feel of the tool to the users.
- The tool would be the same as that of the online portal. There are three main components to the new return - one main return (FORM GST RET-1) and two annexures (FORM GST ANX-1 and FORM GST ANX-2).

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 is home to world's 2nd largest internet user base: Report

- More than half the world's population is active on the internet, with India accounting for about 12% of them, retaining its second position, an annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker said.
- China has the largest base, accounting for 21% of all internet users globally, and the US comes third at 8%.
- The number of people active online in 2018 was approximately 3.8 billion, or 51% of the world's population. That compares with the previous year's 3.6 billion people, or 49% of the world's population.

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

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### SEBI permits stock exchanges to introduce futures on commodity indices

- Capital markets regulator SEBI permitted stock exchanges with commodity derivative segment to introduce futures on indices. SEBI in a circular said, the stock exchanges, willing to start trading in futures on commodity indices, are required to take prior approval for launching such contracts.
- The regulator has directed the stock exchanges to submit proposal with contract specifications and risk management framework for approval before launching any futures contract on an index.

### EAC to PM releases detailed analysis on robustness of India's GDP estimation methodology

- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released a detailed note titled GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts.
- The note provides a clear rationale for India's switch to an improved GDP estimation methodology in January 2015. The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements.
- One is the incorporation of MCA21 database and other is the incorporation of the Recommendations of System of National Accounts, SNA 2008.
- This change was in line with other countries that have changed their methodologies in line with SNA 2008 and revised their respective GDP figures. On average, real GDP estimates saw an increase of 0.7 per cent among OECD countries.

### Rivigo launches National Freight Index (NFI) to bring transparency to the road freight

- In its bid to bring transparency in the road-freight marketplace, Gurgaon-based tech-enabled logistics start-up Rivigo has launched National Freight Index (NFI) that will provide live freight rates for different lanes and vehicles across the country. The Indian road freight market size is estimated at \$150 billion-\$160 billion, of which \$130 billion-\$140 billion is full-truck load (FTL) market, but it has been facing a growing challenge of shortage of truck drivers.
- This first-of-its-kind barometer of the road freight market in India is based on a Rivigo rate exchange, which gives a live spot rate on over 7 million lane and vehicle type combinations in the country.

### SEBI sets up panel to review margins on derivatives

- Based on the feedback that the existing margin requirements in the derivatives segment is pushing up cost of trading while not managing risk in the most efficient manner, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to review the current framework of margins in the futures and options segment.
- The capital markets regulator has set up a working group, headed by NSE Clearing Ltd., to look into the issue and submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

## UK Sinha panel on MSMEs submit report to RBI

- The Reserve Bank has said the expert committee on the MSME sector, set up in January under the chairmanship of former chairman of Sebi UK Sinha, has submitted its report to the governor Shaktikanta Das.
- The eight-member committee was set up to review the framework for the micro, small and medium enterprises, and suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability for the sector also to study the impact of the recent economic reforms on the sector and identify the structural problems impacting its growth.

## US topples China as India's largest merchandise trade partner

- The US overtook China to once again become India's top goods trading partner in 2018-19, official data shows. Also, India's trade surplus with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion a year ago.
- India's exports are playing in a stronger position with its trade deficit with China dropping to \$53 billion in 2018-19, down from \$63 billion a year ago.

## India ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries, China 6th: Knight Frank

- The UK, the Netherlands, Germany, the US and Australia were the top destinations for Indian capital investments.
- With investment of \$2.6 billion, India was ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries globally, while China was at the 6th position with an investment of \$14.30 billion.
- Data showed that India's dependency on Chinese imports also declined to \$70 billion from \$76 billion a year ago, with over a fourth increase in exports to \$16.7 billion in 2018-19. This comes amid sluggish demand and a slowdown in China, which is the largest producer and consumer of most commodities.

## Surjit Bhalla Committee on Trade and Policy

- High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce.
- The HLAG has made several recommendations for boosting India's share and importance in global merchandise and services trade. Among other things, the Report identifies tax reforms also to boost export and investment channels for exports.
- The Committee has recommended "Elephant Bonds" as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure.
- HLAG has also made recommendations for reforms in Financial Services Framework for making India a Preferred Destination for financial services.

## IIFT slips to 31 in HRD Ministry's national ranking of higher management education institutes

- The commerce ministry's prestigious Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has slipped eight places to 31 in the HRD Ministry's 2019 national ranking of higher education institutes under management category. The IIFT featured on the coveted list at 23rd spot in 2018, 30th in 2017 and 81st in 2016.
- The fourth edition of the ranking of management institutes based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2019 was announced in April.

IIFT Director Manoj Pant said that compared to the previous year's NIRF rankings, the institute has maintained its scores except in 'Research and Professional Practice' and 'Perception' parameters. He added that the 2019 batch of MBA (IB) received 100 percent placement with average annual salary of more than Rs 20 lakh.

## World Bank approves \$ 147 million loan to Jharkhand

- The World Bank approved a \$147 million loan agreement to provide basic urban services to the people of Jharkhand and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the state.
- The Jharkhand Municipal Development Project will focus on improving the municipal sector's capacity to provide basic urban services. It will invest in urban services such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, and urban roads; and strengthen the capacity of the Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company (JUIDCO) as well as that of the ULBs to carry out reforms in the areas of urban finance and governance.
- This is in keeping with the needs of a rapidly urbanizing state where about 31 million people reside in urban areas and urban population growth in nine of 24 districts in Jharkhand is above India's overall urbanization pace of 2.7 percent.

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.

## India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis

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

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*.

## WTO panel rules in India's favour in renewable energy case against US

- A World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute resolution panel has ruled in favour of India in a case against the United States.
- The panel stated that America's domestic content requirements and subsidies provided by eight of its states in the renewable energy sector are violative of global trade norms. The GATT aims to promote trade by reducing or eliminating trade barriers like customs duties.
- The ruling stated that ten measures implemented by the US pertaining to renewable energy sector are inconsistent with its obligations under GATT 1994.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. World Trade Organization has replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948. Roberto Azevedo is the current Director-General of the WTO. The WTO has 164 members and 23 observer governments. Liberia became the 163rd member on 14 July 2016, and Afghanistan became the 164th member on 29 July 2016.

## Government sets up working group to revise current series of WPI

- The Government has constituted a Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index.

- Commerce and Industry Ministry said, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, Niti Aayog will be the chairman of the 18-member committee.

### Mumbai among top 20 most expensive cities in Asia for expatriates: Mercer

- According to Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked at the 67th position out of the 209 cities surveyed
- Other Indian cities in the list include New Delhi at 118th place, Chennai (154), Bengaluru (179) and Kolkata (189).
- Mumbai is India's most expensive city and among the top 20 costliest cities surveyed in Asia for expatriates, with residential housing prices among the highest in the world, according to a survey by global consulting leader Mercer.

The costliest city in the world is Hong Kong for the second consecutive year, followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul. The survey further noted that eight out of top ten of the most-expensive cities in the world for expatriates are Asian cities. This is resultantly due to high costs for expatriate consumer goods and a dynamic housing market.

## Banks in News

### RBI panel on home finance securitization

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to deepen it. The panel has also been asked to assess the role of various counterparties, including servicers, trustees, rating agencies, in the securitisation process and suggest the steps required.
- The mortgage securitisation market in India is primarily dominated by direct assignments among a limited set of market participants on account of various structural factors impacting the demand and the supply side..

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.

### RBI forms two panels to strengthen sale of stressed corporate assets and housing loan portfolios

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed two separate six-member panels to create a more transparent framework for the sale of bad corporate assets and securitisation of housing loans in a bid to make these processes more open and structural.
- The panel on secondary market for corporate loans, headed by Canara Bank Chairman T N Manoharan, has been asked to gauge the possibility of setting up a loan transaction platform for the sale stressed asset and creation of a loan contract registry to standardise information.

### Three PSUs ink joint venture pact for buying rare metals

- Three public sector units — National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Copper Ltd. — are set to sign, a joint venture (JV) agreement for making overseas acquisition of reserves of rare metals like lithium and cobalt.



- The first acquisition is likely to be made within six months **NALCO will hold 34% of the proposed Rs. 100 crore equity**, with the **other two companies holding 33% each**. “The JV will acquire assets in overseas countries,”.

### Banking access point should not be more than 5 kms: Nandan Nilekani-led panel on digital payments

- **Banks need to ensure that no user is more than 5 kms away from a banking access point** and if such areas are found, these **must be considered ‘shadow areas’** and a local vendor be made a **banking correspondent (BC)** as he deals in money and stays there.

### RBI reduces repo rate by 25 basis points

- **The Reserve bank of India in its bi-monthly monetary policy review reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 per cent from 6.0 per cent** with immediate effect. Consequently, the **reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 5.50 per cent**, and the **marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0 per cent**.
- **The six-member Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also unanimously decided to change the stance of monetary policy from neutral to accommodative.**

**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.**

### RBI sets banks' group exposure limit at 25% of capital base

- **The Reserve Bank of India has decided to reduce banks' exposure to a group of connected parties to 25% of its capital base**, while the **exposure to a single party has been capped at 20%**. However, bank boards can allow an additional 5% exposure in 'exceptional cases.'
- **Till now, a bank's exposure to a single borrower and a borrower group was restricted to 15% and 40% of capital funds respectively.**

### RBI releases report on Benchmarking India's Payment Systems

- **The report on 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems' which was released mentions that the country is "strong" in areas like having necessary laws and cash in circulation per capita.**
- **The report provides a comparative position of the payment system ecosystem in India relative to comparable payment systems and usage trends in other major countries.** It says India is a "leader" in regulating costs of payments systems, number of debit cards issued and automated teller machines.

### RBI relaxes leverage ratio in a boost to bank lending

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks in a bid to help them expand their lending activities.** The **leverage ratio stands reduced to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks.**

### India to grow at 7.5 per cent during next three years: World Bank

- **The World Bank has forecast that India's economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in the next three years**, supported by robust investment and private consumption.
- **The bank in its Global Economic Prospects released said that India is estimated to have grown 7.2 per cent in fiscal year 2018-19**, which ended March 31 this year.

- India will continue to retain the position of being the fastest growing emerging economy. And by 2021, its growth rate is projected to be 1.5 per cent more than China's 6 per cent.

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. Jim Yong Kim has been served as the 12th President of the World Bank since July 1, 2012 to January 31, 2019. Kristalina Georgieva is the first Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank and served as the interim President of the World Bank Group since 1 February 2019 to April 8, 2019. Senior US Treasury official David Malpass has been selected as President of the World Bank in April 2019. The World Bank's executive board unanimously selected 63-year-old Malpass as the bank's 13th President for a five-year term. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries.

### RBI constitutes committee to review ATM pricing

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

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### RBI asks banks to grout ATMs to wall, pillar or floor to enhance security

- The Reserve Bank asked banks to ensure their ATMs are grouted to a wall, pillar, or floor by September-end, except those installed in high secured premises such as airports, to enhance security of the cash vending machines.

### RBI waives off charges for transactions using NEFT, RTGS

- With an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the Reserve Bank has waived off all charges for transactions using National Electronic Funds Transfer - NEFT and Real Time Gross Settlement - RTGS systems.
- RBI has advised banks to pass on the benefits to their customers with effect from 1st July, 2019. The Reserve Bank levies minimum charges on banks for transactions routed through its RTGS and NEFT System. RTGS is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT System is used for fund transfers up to 2 lakh rupees.

### RIL, HDFC among 57 Indian companies on Forbes Global 2,000 list

- As many as 57 Indian companies have found place in a list of the world's 2,000 largest public company, compiled by Forbes magazine, with housing finance major HDFC Ltd finding place among the top ten consumer finance firms globally.
- The overall list has been topped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for the 7th year in a row, while Reliance Industries is the top-ranked Indian company (71st rank globally), as per the leading business magazine.

- Within the oil and gas sector, Reliance Industries is ranked 11th globally, while Royal Dutch Shell has come on the top. For the consumer financial sector, American Express has topped the chart while HDFC Ltd is ranked 7th. On the overall Global 2,000 list, HDFC is ranked 332nd.

Out of the 61 countries represented on the list, the US accounts for the largest number of 575 companies, followed by China and Hong Kong (309) and Japan (223). In the overall top-ten, ICBC is followed by JP Morgan, China Construction Bank, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of America, Apple, Ping An Insurance Group, Bank of China, Royal Dutch Shell and Wells Fargo.

### IndusInd Bank-Bharat Financial merger to be effective from July 4

- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL) said their merger will be effective from July 4, 2019.
- The National Company Law Tribunal on June 10, 2019 approved the Scheme of Arrangement among BFIL, IndusInd Bank and IndusInd Financial Inclusion and their respective shareholders and creditors.

IndusInd Bank Limited is a Mumbai based Indian new generation bank established in 1994. The bank offers commercial, transactional and electronic banking products and services. IndusInd Bank was inaugurated in April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. Indusind Bank is the first among the new-generation private banks in India.

### RBI launches CMS for filing online complaints against banks, NBFCs

- Making it easier to lodge complaints against banks and NBFCs, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a new "Complaint Management System (CMS)" website where anyone can complain against any of the entities regulated by RBI. All complaints lodged on the CMS would be directed to the appropriate office of the ombudsman/regional office of the RBI.
- With the launch of CMS, the processing of complaints received in the offices of Banking Ombudsman (BO) and Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) of RBI has been digitalized, RBI said.

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### Data related to payments to be stored only in India: RBI

- The Reserve Bank said all data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours. The RBI had issued a directive in April 2018 on 'Storage of Payment System Data'.
- It had advised all system providers to ensure that within a period of six months, the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them is stored in a system only in India.

### Cryptocurrency exchange Koinex shuts down in India

- Facing regulatory troubles, one of India's largest cryptocurrency exchange, Koinex, shut down. The crypto exchange has been facing denials in payment services from payment gateways, bank account closures and blocking of transactions for trading of digital assets.
- The RBI has not encouraged the use of bitcoins, and the sale of bitcoins currently is taxed in India. There are an estimated three million bitcoins in circulation in the country.



Last year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prohibited regulated entities, including commercial banks, payments banks and small finance banks from dealing with or providing services to facilitate trade in virtual currencies. It has been reported earlier this month that the government is planning to introduce a new draft bill 'Banning of Cryptocurrencies and Regulation of Official Digital Currencies Bill 2019' that proposes a jail term for anyone dealing in cryptocurrencies.

### Firms in News

#### Hero MotoCorp becomes First Two-Wheeler Company to Get BS-VI Certification

- The BS6 regime will kick off from April 1, 2020 and keeping that in mind, two and four wheelers have already started moving their production to BS6.
- And as far two-wheeler manufacturers are concerned, Hero MotoCorp has become the first company to get BS VI certification for its Hero Splendor iSmart. Hero has received the type approval certificate from International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) after the Splendor iSmart was successfully tested for BS6 compliance.
- The BS VI compliant Hero Splendor iSmart was fully designed and developed by Hero at its Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT) centre in Jaipur.

Bharat stage emissions standards are based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000. Since October 2010, Bharat Stage (BS) III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010 and it has been enforced for entire country since April 2017. In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

#### Goldman Sachs invests \$250 mn in India

- New York-based investment and financial services Major Goldman Sachs has pumped in \$250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru.

The Goldman Sachs Group is leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and individuals. Founded in 1869, the firm is headquartered in New York and maintains offices in all major financial centres around the world.

#### ONGC topples IOC to regain most profitable public sector company

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

ONGC Videsh Ltd., a Miniratna Schedule "A" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is the wholly owned subsidiary and overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), the flagship national oil company (NOC) of India.

#### L&T Financial unveils 'Digital Sakhi' programme in Tamil Nadu

- Larsen and Toubro Financial Services unveiled the Digital Sakhi programme aimed at training over 40,000 people on digital financial inclusion in Tamil Nadu.



- The move comes in the backdrop of successful implementation of a similar programme in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Larsen & Toubro Limited, commonly known as L&T, is the largest Indian multi-national firm headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. L&T originated from a company founded in 1938 in Mumbai by two Danish engineers, Henning Holck-Larsen and Soren Kristian Toubro.

### Azim Premji to retire as Executive Chairman of Wipro in July

- IT Industry icon Azim Premji will retire as Executive Chairman of Wipro with effect from 30th July this year. He led the company for 53 years. The company said in a statement that he will continue to serve on the board as Non-Executive Director and founder Chairman.
- His son Rishad Premji, Chief Strategy Officer and a board member will take over as the Executive Chairman of the company. The board announced that Chief Executive and Executive Director Abidali Z Neemuchwala will be re-designated as CEO and Managing Director of Wipro.

Wipro Limited is an Indian multinational corporation that provides information technology, consulting and business process services. It is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. In 2013, Wipro separated its non-IT businesses into separate companies. The company was incorporated on 29 December 1945 in Amalner, Maharashtra by Mohamed Premji as "Western India Vegetable Products Limited", later abbreviated to "Wipro".

### CII launches new Index to measure fiscal performance

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets. The Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure; revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt arrive at a more holistic picture of fiscal performance than the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio according to the CII.
- The CII has used this index to analyse state and central budgets from 2004-05 to 2016-17. The study found that despite improvement a reduction in the fiscal deficit between FY13 and FY18, the overall performance of the budget has been remained steady with improvements only in FY16 and FY17. This is largely due to moderation in the revenue, capital expenditure and and net tax revenues indices.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a business association in India. CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization. It was founded in 1895. It is headquartered in New Delhi. The CII Theme for 2018-19 is 'India RISE: Responsible. Inclusive. Sustainable. Entrepreneurial'.

### Mahindra wins Gold Award in South Africa for fairing on various indicators

- India's automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in South Africa for fairing on various indicators, including level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.
- Mahindra, which has been in South Africa for the past 16 years, received the award from the country's National Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA) which tests dealers' satisfaction with the way a brand supports and communicates with them.
- The automobile giant, which has more than 60 dealers in South Africa, secured the top position out of the 29 vehicle brands surveyed for the awards.

### Amazon clinches top spot in world's most valuable brand ranking

- Amazon has been crowned the world's most valuable brand, as the 'Everything Store' expands in cloud computing, consumer tech and movie production.
- Founded by the world's richest man Jeff Bezos, the Seattle-based online retailer has seen its brand value quintuple in the past five years to reach \$315.5bn, according to the 2019 BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands rankings.

- There are **15 Chinese names in the top 100 this year, up from only one (China Mobile)** when the rankings first began in 2005. This reflects not only the immense size of their domestic market of 1.4bn people and the growing middle class, but also how successfully local players have competed against corporations from outside China.

**Amazon** is a **multinational technology company focusing in e-commerce, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence** in Seattle, Washington. Amazon is the **largest e-commerce marketplace and cloud computing platform in the world as measured by revenue and market capitalization**. Amazon.com was **founded by Jeff Bezos on July 5, 1994 in Seattle, Washington, U.S.**

### Dell, Jeep, LIC most-trusted brands in India: Report

- **Laptop brand Dell** has emerged as the **most-trusted brand in the country followed by automobile firm Jeep and insurance behemoth LIC**, the only Indian company to feature in the top-seven brands, according to a report. E-commerce giant Amazon and Apple iPhone secured fourth and fifth positions, respectively, TRA's Brand Trust Report 2019 said.
- **South Korean brands Samsung** in the **mobile phone category** and **LG for television** took the **fifth and the sixth positions, respectively**.

### Amazon most trusted internet brand in India: Report

- **Online retail giant Amazon India** is the **most the trusted internet brand in the country**, according to TRA Research Report 2019. **American e-commerce giant, Amazon** has shown **uniformity in its rank and has secured first spot for straight four years now**. While, **Flipkart** has bagged the seventh rank in the 'most trusted internet brand' category.
- **Search-engine platform Google** is the **second-most trusted internet brand as per the report**.
- In the instant messaging service, **Hike** has **surpassed WhatsApp as the most trusted internet brand**. Hike has bagged fourth spot while WhatsApp has bagged number eight rank.
- **Among the social media category, Facebook** has **beaten LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter** by bagging the number 3 spot, while the other two stood at 11 and 13 rank.

### Online mutual fund investment platform FundzBazar launches 'Selfiewala KYC' feature for first-time mutual fund investors

- **Online mutual fund investment platform FundzBazar** announces the **release of its new feature called 'Selfiewala KYC' for first-time mutual fund investors**.
- **The feature is hassle-free and investors can complete their KYC process** from the comfort of their home or office using mobile or laptop in just a few minutes.
- "The special thing about this feature is that **it allows investors to do their IPV (In-Person Verification) themselves by uploading a video and a selfie**.
- This feature will help our **14000 plus Prudent Partners** in **making their first-time mutual fund investors investment-ready by completing KYC process effortlessly and without any delay**," added the official.

**FundzBazar**, which has **completed 3 years in May, 2019**, is an **online Mutual Fund investment platform launched by Prudent**.

### Adani wins final approval to begin work on Australian coal mine project

- **Indian energy giant Adani** cleared the last **regulatory hurdle to commence the work on its controversy-hit Carmichael coal mine project in Australia** with the Queensland state authorities approving its groundwater management plan.

- The final and last approval for the Adani Group's long-delayed billion dollar mega coal mine project came weeks after a surprise election win of Australia's pro-coal ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- On May 31, Adani won the first approval from the Queensland state government to protect the endangered black-throated finch bird population as part of its crucial environmental plan at the site of its mine project.

Adani Group is an Indian multinational conglomerate headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It was founded by Gautam Adani in 1988 as a commodity trading business with the flagship company Adani Enterprises Limited (previously Adani Exports Limited). Gautam Adani is the chairman.

### Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand, says survey

- E-commerce giant Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand, according to the findings of the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019.
- The company, which has more than 50,000 direct and indirect employees in India, has been steadily been expanding operations over the past five years. According to the REBR 2019, released, Amazon scored high on financial health, utilisation of latest technologies and a strong reputation.
- Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India. Others in the top 10 are Mercedes-Benz (4th), IBM (5th), Larsen & Toubro (6th), Nestlé (7th), Infosys (8th), Samsung (9th), and Dell (10th).
- Google India had been inducted into the REBR's Hall of Fame category last year for winning the coveted title of the most-attractive employer brand for three consecutive years.

The REBR covered 75 per cent of the global economy, with 32 participating countries and more than 200,000 respondents worldwide. The top driver for the Indian workforce while choosing an employer are salary and employee benefits, followed by work-life balance and job security.

### NALCO to get President's award for excellent CSR in social development

- Odisha-based Navaratna Company NALCO has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development. NALCO started a scheme "Aliali Jhia" in 2015.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also praised the CMD of NALCO, Tapan Chand who started the scheme to adapt and promote the poor and talented girls for education.

### ICANN partners NASSCOM to develop tech, standards for IoT devices

- Global internet body ICANN and Indian IT industry body Nasscom announced collaboration to develop identifier technology that can be used for managing devices and infrastructure using internet.
- Under the collaboration, both the bodies will first focus on updating Internet of Things (IoT) devices using domain name system (DNS) even in situation when the manufacturer or supplier has closed down the business.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a nonprofit organization responsible for coordinating the maintenance and procedures of several databases related to the namespaces and numerical spaces of the Internet, ensuring the network's stable and secure operation. ICANN's creation was announced publicly on September 17, 1998, and it formally came into being on September 30, 1998, incorporated in the U.S. state of California. Its offices are now in the Playa Vista neighborhood of Los Angeles.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



### DRDO successfully test fires Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system.
- Akash-1S is a new version of the missile which is fitted with an indigenous seeker. Developed by the DRDO, the Akash missile system has the capability to neutralise aerial targets such as fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles as well as ballistic missiles. The Akash surface-to-air missile was designed to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles from a distance of 18 to 30 km.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is an agency of the Republic of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production with the Defence Science Organisation.

### IAF signs MoU with ISRO for crew selection, training for Gaganyaan Programme

- Indian Air Force has signed a MoU with ISRO for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan Programme.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address last year had announced the launch of Gaganyaan - India's maiden human spaceflight programme by 2022. This programme will provide a unique micro-gravity platform in space for conducting experiments and test for future technologies.

### IIT Madras develops material with properties suitable for quantum optoelectronics

- Materials such as tungsten diselenide (WSe<sub>2</sub>) and molybdenum diselenide are being studied keenly for their opto-electronic properties – a combination of optics and electronics. A key property of these materials is photoluminescence, in which the material absorbs light and re-emits it as a spectrum.
- Researchers from IIT Madras have found a way of enhancing this property about 30 times in tungsten diselenide, by drop-casting gold nanoparticles on to a two-dimensional film. The work is published in Applied Physics Letters.

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

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



**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. The mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III).

### Best performing Production Unit in the field of environment was awarded to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka

- On the occasion of Environment Day, “Environmental Sustainability Annual Report 2018-19” of achievements of Environment Management of Indian Railways was released. **Best performing Production Unit in the field of environment** was awarded to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka.
- **Test launch of Mobile App for On Board House Keeping Services on Important Trains** was also held on this occasion. Indian Railways is a lead signatory to India’s NDC by committing to **reduce 20% of fresh water consumption by 2030** and to reduce carbon emission by 32% over the base year 2005 by improving rail traction energy & fuel efficiency. Indian Railway has planned various initiatives to meet its commitment on sustainability.

### Bengaluru firm to build moon lander for NASA 2020 mission

- NASA’s efforts to get astronauts to land on the moon by 2024 will now have a key contribution from India. **Bengaluru-based private firm Team Indus** is part of a consortium that has bagged a contract from the US space agency to design and build a lander for its next lunar mission in 2020.
- In a statement earlier this week, NASA said it has **selected three such consortia — commercial moon-landing service providers** — to deliver science and technology payloads under Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) as part of the Artemis lunar exploration programme.
- **Among the three players is US-based Orbit Beyond, a consortium of nine firms, including Team Indus.** Team Indus is the only company with lander-making credentials. Orbit Beyond, a private firm, is leading the consortium. The other seven firms in the consortium specialise in other aspects of aerospace and space technology.

**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**.

### Integration of Brahmos missiles into Sukhoi jets fast-tracked

- In a strategically significant move, the **government has decided to fast-track integration of Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles into over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets** under a closely-guarded project.
- The decision to speed up implementation of the “strategic” project was **taken nearly six weeks after the Balakot air strikes and subsequent Pakistani retaliation.**
- **State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and the BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL), an Indo-Russia joint venture,** are implementing the project.

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

- In Meghalaya, the **Institute of Bio-resource and Sustainable Development (IBSD)** a national institute of Department of Biotechnology **pened up their state-of-the-art orchidarium in their research facility in Upper Shillong.**
- **One of its kind orchidarium, the first in the country** was constructed within a span of three months after the institute was established last year.

## NASA offers live view of Mars 2020 rover in making

- NASA has installed a webcam that allows the public to get a live, bird's-eye view of its Mars 2020 rover as it takes shape, the US space agency said. The move will allow people to watch as engineers and technicians assemble at and test the rover the NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the US before it embarks next year.
- Dubbed "Seeing 2020," the webcam provides the video feed from a viewing gallery above the clean room floor. Viewers can also participate in live webchats with members of JPL's social media team and the Mars 2020 team as they answer questions from the public about the mission.
- Months of final assembly and testing lie ahead before the Mars 2020 rover is ready to ship to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. **The launch period begins July 17, 2020**, according to NASA.

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.

## NASA to open International Space Station to tourists from 2020

- NASA said it will open up the International Space Station for tourism and other business ventures as of next year, as it seeks to financially disengage from the orbiting research lab.
- "NASA is opening the International Space Station to commercial opportunities and marketing these opportunities as we've never done before," NASA chief financial officer Jeff DeWit said in New York.

## Two women steer moon mission: a 'simple girl' and an award winner

- Chandrayaan 2 will attempt a first-ever soft landing for India on the lunar surface. And the two senior women space scientists, both in their 40s, will be in charge of the mission's main components: Project oversight and the crucial final phase of landing.
- Karidhal, who holds a Master's degree in aerospace engineering from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and was a deputy operations manager for the Mars mission, is the mission director for Chandrayaan 2. Vanitha, an electronics systems engineer, is project director.
- For both women, who have been with ISRO for close to two decades and were involved in launches or sub-system development for satellites, Chandrayaan 2 will mark a historic achievement. **It is the first time for a planetary mission where women are in charge.**

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III). It includes a lunar orbiter, lander and rover, all developed by India. If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the lunar south pole.

## India test fires Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

- India successfully test-fired Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off Odisha coast. It was test-fired from launch pad number-4 of Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore.
- With scramjet engine, it can cruise at Mach 6 and have multiple civilian applications. It can be used for launching satellites at low cost and long-range cruise missile, said sources.
- The trial was conducted in the presence of the senior scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Defence secretary Sanjay Mitra, sources added.

## World's highest operating weather stations installed on Everest

- The National Geographic Society has announced the successful installation of the world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest to provide researchers, climbers, and the public with near real-time information about mountain conditions.
- "The multi-disciplinary team installed the world's two highest operating automated weather stations at Balcony area (8,430 m) and South Col (7,945 m), as well as three other weather stations on Mount Everest,".
- The expedition team set out to Everest to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of climate change on the Karakoram glacier range.
- Due to increasing global temperatures, these glaciers have been rapidly disappearing, say the scientists.

Mount Everest, known in Nepali as Sagarmatha and in Tibetan as Chomolungma, is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. The international border between Nepal (Province No. 1) and China (Tibet Autonomous Region) runs across its summit point. In 1865, Everest was given its official English name by the Royal Geographical Society, upon a recommendation by Andrew Waugh, the British Surveyor General of India.

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

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

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan Nadar is current the chairperson of the ISRO.

Indian Human Spaceflight Programme (HSP) was created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop the technology needed to launch crewed orbital spacecraft into low Earth orbit. The first crewed flight is planned with a spacecraft called Gaganyaan for December 2021 on a home-grown GSLV-III rocket.

## Sri Lanka successfully launches its first satellite 'Ravana-1' into orbit

- Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Ravana-1', designed and developed by two local engineers, was successfully launched into orbit this week from the International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal.
- Ravana 1, the cube satellite measuring 11.3 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm, and weighing around 1.05 kg, was launched into orbit.
- The satellite was officially handed over to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency on February 18 and was sent to the ISS on April 17, through the assistance of Cygnus-1 spacecraft from the US.

The satellite was designed and developed by two Sri Lankan engineers – Tharindu Dayaratne and Dulani Chamika – studying space engineering at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology. Ravana-1 was deployed to the 400-km of orbit at an inclination of 51.6 degrees using the JAXA (Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency) owned Kibo experiment module.



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

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

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second lunar exploration mission after Chandrayaan-1. Developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the Moon by a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III). It includes a lunar orbiter, lander and rover, all developed by India. If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the lunar south pole.

### India scraps Israel anti-tank missile deal after DRDO says it will deliver

- India has scrapped a \$500-million deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems after indigenous developer Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed that it could deliver an alternative within two years.
- Government officials associated with the approval of the deal said Israel has been informed about the contract being abandoned in favour of DRDO, which claimed that it was developing a similar missile at a lower price in partnership with VEM Technologies Ltd.

India's deal with Israel for 321 Spike launchers and 8,356 missiles was initially struck in October 2014 after the Defence Ministry selected Spike over the US-made FGM-148 Javelin. But it was scrapped in December 2017 in favour of DRDO. It was "reauthorized" in January 2018 following Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to India and Rafael opened a production facility in India last August with local partner Kalyani Group.

### The world will get half its power from wind, solar by 2050

- Nearly half the world's electricity will come from renewable energy by 2050 as costs of wind, solar and battery storage continue to plummet. In two-thirds of the world both wind and solar are now the cheapest options for adding new power capacity.
- The impact on traditional fossil fuel sources is marked. Coal's share of the global mix will plummet from 37% to 12% and oil-fired power plants being effectively eliminated. The combined contribution of wind and solar is forecast to jump from 7% to 48%.
- That titanic shift over the next three decades will come as electricity demand increases 62% and investors pump \$13.3 trillion into new projects, according to a report released by Bloomberg NEF.

### 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) begins in Hyderabad

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

### MoA signed to set up Centre for Inland & Coastal Maritime Technology at IIT Kharagpur

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and IIT, Kharagpur for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology.



- The Centre will focus on indigenisation of ship designing, building and testing. Partha P Chakraborty said presently, only Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and Belgium have model testing facilities for ships.

### NASA to send a drone to Saturn's largest moon

- For its next mission in our solar system, NASA plans to fly a drone copter to Saturn's largest moon Titan in search of the building blocks of life.
- The Dragonfly mission, which will launch in 2026 and land in 2034, will send a rotorcraft to fly to dozens of locations across the icy moon, which has a substantial atmosphere and is viewed by scientists as an equivalent of very early-era earth.

Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and the second-largest in the Solar System, after Jupiter. It is a gas giant with an average radius about nine times that of Earth. Saturn is named after the Roman god of agriculture; its astronomical symbol ( $\text{♄}$ ) represents the god's sickle.

### China tests new ballistic missile JL-3

- China has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile the JL-3. JL-3 is China's latest SLBM under development that is expected to reach targets farther away with higher accuracy and capable of carrying more warheads than China's current SLBMs. The SLBM might have a range of up to 14,000 km and be equipped with 10 independent guided nuclear warheads

### Indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II test fired successfully

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

### Indian scientist to be Co-I for NASA's PUNCH mission

- NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.
- This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona. Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission.

PUNCH, which stands for "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere," is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

## Inventions/Discoveries

### NASA's Curiosity finds methane spike on Mars

- NASA Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) has detected the highest ever levels of methane in the course of its mission on Mars because the gas could point to the existence of microbial life. But the methane could also be produced as a result of interactions between rocks and water.
- That's not necessarily the case on Mars; geological processes are very capable of making it as well. This probe, known as the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO), started observing the planet's atmosphere in April 2017. It should be able to detect methane at concentrations in the parts per trillion.
- On Earth, methane can be held in ice under the seafloor or in permafrost regions on land for a very long time before it breaks out into the air.

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### Desert-dwelling carnivorous dinosaur's bones found in Brazil

- A desert-based carnivorous dinosaur that used claws to capture small prey 90 million years ago has been unearthed in southern Brazil.
- Just over a metre and a half in length, the fossil remains of the *Vespersaurus paranaensis* were found in Cruzeiro do Oeste municipality of Parana state.
- The *Vespersaurus* was a theropod, a group of two-footed, meat-eating dinosaurs that included the better known *Tyrannosaurus* and *Velociraptor*.

### 3D-printed artificial corneas mimic human eyes

- Scientists have 3D printed artificial corneas that mimic the human eye -- using the bioink made of stem cells -- an advance that may help reduce the need for eye donations.
- Researchers at the Pohang University of Science and Technology and Kyungpook National University in South Korea 3D printed an artificial cornea using the bioink which is made of decellularised corneal stroma and stem cells.
- The cornea is made of corneal tissue-derived bioink, according to the research published on Biofabrication. It is biocompatible, and 3D cell printing technology recapitulates the corneal microenvironment, therefore, its transparency is similar to the human cornea.

### 'Forbidden' planet discovered in Neptunian Desert

- Astronomers say they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert. The Neptunian Desert is the region close to stars where no Neptune-sized planets are found, they said.
- NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth, said researchers led by the University of Warwick in the UK.

The exoplanet, described in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, has a mass of 20 Earth masses, a radius 20 per cent smaller than Neptune, and temperature of 1000 degrees Celsius. It orbits around the star in only 1.3 days — the equivalent of Earth's orbit around the Sun of one year. It is the first exoplanet of its kind to have been found in the Neptunian Desert, researchers said.

### 'Best ever' simulation solves 40-year black hole mystery

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- Scientists unveiled the most detailed simulation of a black hole yet, solving a mystery dating back more than four decades over how the star-devouring monsters consume matter. Coming fresh on the heels of the **first ever photo of one of the giant objects**, which are scattered across the Universe, astrophysicists are now several steps closer to understanding how they form and develop.
- In 1975, Nobel Prize-winning physicist John Bardeen and astrophysicist Jacobus Petterson theorised that a rotating black hole would cause the inner region of a tilted accretion disk to line up with the black hole's equatorial plane. But no model could ever work out how, precisely, that would happen. Until now.
- A team of astrophysicists from Northwestern University, Oxford University, and the University of Amsterdam, used graphical processing units to crunch large sets of data and simulate how black holes interact with their accretion disks.
- A black hole is born when a large star collapses in on itself.

### Cosmic wave's discovery could unlock the mysteries of space

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- Scientists were celebrating a groundbreaking astronomical discovery that they say could pave the way for mapping the outer reaches of the universe. An Australian-led team of international astronomers have determined for the first time the precise source of a powerful, one-off burst of cosmic radio waves.
- They have pinpointed it to a massive galaxy billions of light years away, with properties that upend what scientists previously thought they knew about the formation of mysterious fast radio bursts (FRBs).

### 'Impressive' tortoise discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

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A tortoise considered beautiful enough to be named 'impressed' has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh. A team of herpetologists from the Forest Department and two NGOs — Help Earth and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) — found the Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) in Yazali area of the Lower Subansiri district.

### NASA's first Astrobee robot "Bumble" starts flying in space

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- A robot named Bumble became the first Astrobee robot to fly under its own power in space. Astrobee is a free-flying robot system that will help researchers test new technologies in zero gravity and perform routine work alongside astronauts aboard the International Space Station.
- Robots that can operate on their own in space, such as Astrobee, can be caretakers for NASA's lunar gateway and will play a significant part in NASA's future missions to explore the Moon and Mars. Bumble's first flights tested basic motions, such as "fly 11.8 inches forward" or "rotate 45 degrees to the right."

Before Bumble's first solo flight, the Astrobee team at NASA's Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley verified that Bumble can find its position and was ready to navigate within the space station. Bumble and a second Astrobee, "Honey," launched to the space station in April. A third robot named "Queen" is scheduled to launch in July.

## Health/ Disease

### Microbes in body could help predict future health

- We share our bodies with trillions of microbes that are critical to staying healthy, but now **scientists are getting a much-needed close look at how those bugs can spur disease.**
- **A single test to see what gut bacteria you harbour** would not tell much. Research published found that repeat testing **spotted the microbial zoo changing in ways that eventually may help doctors determine who's at risk of preterm birth, inflammatory bowel disease, even diabetes.**

### Image manipulation, duplication in 106 papers from CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research

- **There are 33 more papers from the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow that have been posted on Pubpeer website for image manipulation and duplication.** This comes a day after **73 problematic papers from CSIR-IITR were found listed on Pubpeer, taking the grand total to 106 papers.**
- With almost all journals checking for plagiarism at some stage before papers get published, plagiarised papers from India are almost a non-issue now. **Indian researchers are now being exposed for a different kind of scientific fraud that is lot harder to detect — manipulating images, and reusing images in the same paper or in different papers.**

### Tawang yields a new species of dung beetle

- **A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The species, Enoplotrupes tawangensis, is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm, is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.**
- **The specimens were first collected and studied by two scientists from the Zoological Survey of India, Kailash Chandra and Devanshu Gupta. David Král, a Czech scientist who is an expert on dung beetles, confirmed that he had in his collection similar specimens from Bhutan, which borders Tawang.**

**Dung beetles belong to the super family scarabaeoidea, having clubbed antennae and pro-tibiae (pro-legs) modified for burrowing dung inside the soil. These groups of insects are considered beneficial to the environment as they help in nutrient cycling of the soil. Often referred to as little recyclers, these scavenger beetles require mammalian dung to survive.**

### Mutation that protects against HIV raises death rate

- **People with a DNA mutation that reduces their chance of HIV infection may die sooner, according to a study that suggests tinkering with a gene to try to fix one problem may cause others.**
- **The study authors cited the case of the Chinese researcher who tried to produce this mutation in twin girls before their birth, to reduce their risk for HIV.**

**The human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) are two species of Lentivirus (a subgroup of retrovirus) that causes HIV infection and over time acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is a condition in humans in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive. In most cases, HIV is a sexually transmitted infection and occurs by contact with or transfer of blood, pre-ejaculate, semen, and vaginal fluids.**

### Government develops National Strategic Plan to eradicate TB by 2025

- **The government has developed a National Strategic Plan with the goal for ending Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.**



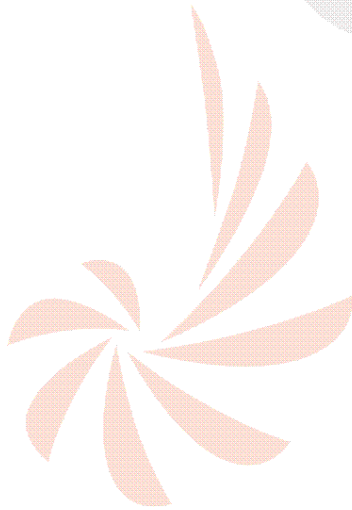
- The estimated cases of TB in the country are 204 per lakh population for the year 2017 as per the last year's Global TB report. However, India ranks 35th in the world in terms of TB cases per lakh population. Over 5 lakh 62 thousand patients were cured of TB last year.

### **NHRC issues notice to Union Health Ministry, Bihar Government over increasing deaths of children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome**

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- National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notices to the Union Health Ministry and Bihar government over increasing deaths of children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.
- NHRC also sought the status of the treatment being provided to the children, who are presently hospitalized. Expressing serious concern over the spread of fatal viral infection, NHRC said, it has observed that Encephalitis has claimed lives of a large number of children in India.

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.



## **ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**



### **Ancient seawater dating back to Ice Age discovered in Indian Ocean**

- **In a first, scientists have discovered the remnants of seawater dating back to the Ice Age, tucked inside rock formations in the middle of the Indian Ocean.**
- **Researchers from the University of Chicago in the US made the discovery on a months-long scientific mission exploring the limestone deposits that form the Maldives.**
- **The ship, the JOIDES Resolution, is specifically built for ocean science and is equipped with a drill that can extract cores of rock over a mile long from up to three miles beneath the seafloor.**

**Indian Ocean is the third largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering 70,560,000 km<sup>2</sup>, approximately 20% of the water on the Earth's surface. It is bounded by Asia on the north, on the west by Africa, on the east by Australia, and on the south by the Southern Ocean or, depending on definition, by Antarctica. It is named after India.**

### **Melting glaciers may add 10 inches to sea levels worldwide by 2100: Report**

- **Melting glaciers worldwide could result in almost 10 inches of sea level rise by the end of this century, a study warns.**
- **The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, indicates that the smaller glaciers could play a much larger role in sea level rise than researchers had previously thought.**
- **The review is the most comprehensive global comparison of glacier simulations ever compiled, researchers said. It estimates that glaciers worldwide are likely to lose anywhere from 18 to 36 per cent of their mass by 2100.**

### **New species of wasp identified in Goa**

- **A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia has been recently identified by scientists in Goa. The new species was collected in the forests of Western Ghats.**
- **The wasp, Kudakrumia rangnekari, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.**

**Mr. Rangnekar, who is the founder-president of the Goa Bird Conservation Network, has now taken up the documentation of the dragonflies in the State. The holotype is from Kotigao Wildlife Sanctuary of Goa of northern Western Ghats and the paratype is from Ranipuram hill of Kerala of southern Western Ghats. He is the author of a book "Butterflies of Goa", which is perhaps a first field guide with photographs of the species found in this region.**

### Binny, India's Only Orangutan Dies In Odisha Zoo

- A 41-year-old orangutan at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park died following a prolonged illness.
- "Binny", the country's lone orangutan passed away due to old-age related ailments followed by respiratory tract infection.

Orangutans are one of the world's three extant species of great apes and are native to Indonesia and Malaysia. Orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra.

### Nagaland: Dzükou Valley becomes Plastic Free Zone on World Environment Day

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

### Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast since 2000: study

- Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast now as they were before the turn of the century, according to a new study that relied on recently declassified Cold War-era satellite imagery.
- The study, which appeared in Science Advances, is the latest indication that climate change is eating the Himalayan glaciers, threatening water supplies for hundreds of millions of people downstream across South Asia.
- Scientists combed 40 years of satellite observations spanning 2,000km across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan, and found that the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of a 45 centimetres of ice each year since 2000.
- Many of the 20th-century observations came from recently declassified US spy satellite imagery. The figure is double the amount of melting that took place from 1975 to 2000.

### A water clinic for elephants opens on the banks of the Yamuna

- India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments near the Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Centre (ECCC), which currently houses 20 rescued elephants and is run in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the NGO Wildlife SOS.
- Situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura, the new hydrotherapy jumbo pool is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation.

### Device to trap ocean plastic relauches

- A floating device designed to catch plastic waste has been redeployed in a second attempt to clean up an island of trash swirling in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii.
  - Boyan Slat, creator of The Ocean Cleanup project, said on Twitter that the 2,000-foot long floating boom that broke apart late last year was sent back to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch this week after four months of repair.
  - The plastic barrier with a tapered 10-foot-deep (3-meter-deep) screen is intended to act like a coastline; trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in the patch while allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.
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## SPORTS



### Sports Personalities in News

#### Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup

- **Indians** had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany.
- **Apurvi Chandela** grabbed a gold winning the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8.
- **This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year** followed by a world record score in New Delhi in February. **This was also her career's fourth ISSF medal.** Another Indian in the fray, Elavenil Valarivan also made it to the finals. But she missed out on a bronze medal to Xu Hong of China by just 0.1 points and finished fourth.

#### Lewis Hamilton dedicates Monaco Grand Prix victory to Niki Lauda

- **Lewis Hamilton** survived a late collision with Max Verstappen to deliver the perfect tribute to Niki Lauda - his third ever win at the Monaco Grand Prix.
- **Victory** saw Hamilton extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Bottas to 17 points, while Vettel has fallen to a full 55 points back.

#### ISSF World Cup: Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m Air Pistol gold; beats own World record

- In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's **Saurabh Chaudhary** has **won 10m Air Pistol Gold** beating his own World Record.
- The 17-year old **Chaudhary** scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that was set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year.

#### Rahi Sarnobat books Olympic berth for India at ISSF WC

- In the ISSF World Cup rifle pistol stage in Munich, Germany, **Rahi Sarnobat** has booked an Olympic quota place for India winning gold in women's 25m pistol event.
- Asian Games champion **Rahi** clinched her career's second World Cup Gold, which helped India win its sixth quota place in shooting for 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

#### Sunil Chhetri becomes most capped India player

- **Sunil Chhetri** became the most capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.



## Rohit Sharma goes past Sourav Ganguly with 23rd ODI hundred

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- Rohit Sharma became the first Asian batsman to hit a hundred in World Cup 2019 as India stormed towards victory over South Africa in their tournament opener in Southampton. Rohit also went past Sourav Ganguly's tally of 22 hundreds in one-day internationals.
- Rohit Sharma, the only cricketer to score 3 double hundreds in ODIs, now has 23 ODI hundreds - only 8 batsmen have scored more ODI centuries than India's talismanic opening batsman and vice-captain.

## Former CEC Gopalaswami named BCCI's electoral officer for AGM

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- Former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami has been appointed as an electoral officer for the BCCI's Annual General Meeting.

## Rafael Nadal beats Dominic Thiem to win 12th French Open title

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- Rafael Nadal maintained his stranglehold on the French Open by beating Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem in four sets to lift a 12th men's singles title.
- The Spaniard won for the third straight year at Roland Garros with a 6-3 5-7 6-1 6-1 victory in a high-quality final. Rafael Nadal became the first player in any era to win 12 singles titles at the same Grand Slam tournament.

## French Open 2019: Ashleigh Barty beats Marketa Vondrousova to win title

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- Australian Ashleigh Barty has beaten Czech teenager Marketa Vondrousova in the French Open final to win her first Grand Slam singles title and complete a fairytale return to the sport. The eighth seed won 6-1 6-3 against 19-year-old Vondrousova on the Paris clay.
- Barty, 23, quit tennis to play professional cricket in 2014, but returned to the sport 17 months later. Now she is the first Australian to win a singles titles at Roland Garros since Margaret Court in 1973.

## Hamilton wins 7th Canadian GP after Vettel penalty

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

## Yuvraj Singh announces retirement from all forms of cricket

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- India's swashbuckling all-rounder Yuvraj Singh announced his decision to retire from all forms of cricket. In nearly two decades at the highest level, since his ODI debut against Kenya in 2000, Yuvraj featured in 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is, while also playing a pivotal role in India's two big triumphs - the 2007 World T20 and the 2011 World Cup. In the year 2000, India won Under-19 Cricket World Cup and Yuvraj won Player of the Tournament award.
- In the 2007 World T20 match against England where Yuvraj Singh smashed six sixes in an over bowled by English fast bowler Stuart Broad. He also won the Man of the Tournament in the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and was the top performer in 2007 ICC World Twenty20 in which India won the tournament.
- During 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, he became the first cricketer to take a 5-wicket haul and score a 50 in the same World Cup match. He became the first all-rounder to score 300 plus runs and to take 15 wickets in a single World Cup. His Autobiography titled "The Test of My Life" was published.
- In 2012, Government of India conferred Yuvraj Singh with the Arjuna Award, India's second highest sporting award. In 2014, he was awarded with the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour.

## Virat Kohli breaks Sachin Tendulkar's record, becomes fastest to score 11,000 ODI runs

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- Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in one-day internationals after scoring a fine half century against Pakistan.

- The Indian captain broke the record of compatriot and batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the milestone in 276 innings. Tendulkar is followed by former Australian skipper Ricky Ponting who reached the milestone in 286 innings, and Sourav Ganguly in 288 innings.
- Kohli, who took only 222 innings to achieve the record, has become the third Indian and ninth overall to reach the 11,000 mark in ODIs.

### Naomi Osaka, Novak Djokovic continue as World No. 1 in latest WTA, ATP rankings

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- Japan's Naomi Osaka and Novak Djokovic of Serbia continue as World Number ones in the latest WTA and ATP rankings announced. The rankings were announced ahead of Wimbledon.
- Naomi Osaka is just 252 points ahead of world No.2 Ashleigh Barty of Australia in unchanged top 20 WTA rankings. Osaka and French Open winner Ashleigh Barty are playing on grass in Birmingham this week in preparation for the Wimbledon.
- Novak Djokovic leads the men's ATP tennis rankings ahead of French Open champion Rafael Nadal and former world number one Roger Federer.

### Rohit Sharma becomes the first Indian batsman to hit back-to-back centuries against Pakistan

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- Opener Rohit Sharma becomes the first Indian batsman to hit back-to-back centuries against Pakistan during their ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 group match at Old Trafford, Manchester.
- He took 85 balls to reach the mark, with the help of nine fours and three sixes. In the last outing against Pakistan in Dubai at Asia Cup 2018, the right-handed batsman hit an unbeaten 111. When at 111, he also became the highest individual scorer in an India vs Pakistan World Cup fixture. The previous high was 107 by Kohli at Adelaide in 2015.

### PU Chitra Wins 1500m Gold with Season's Best Run

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- Asian champion PU Chitra ran her season's best to win the women's 1500m gold at the Folksam Grand Prix in Sollentuna, Sweden.

### Pranati Nayak wins bronze at Asian Artistic Gymnastic Championship

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

### Pankaj Advani clinches men's Asian Snooker Championship

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- India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men's Asian Snooker Championship in Doha to complete a career grand slam in cue sports.
- Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon 6-3 in the final to become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats.

### Virat Kohli becomes fastest batsman to score 20,000 runs

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- India captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs, eclipsing batting greats Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- Kohli reached the milestone in only his 417th international innings. The India captain reached the milestone when he reached the score of 37 against West Indies at Old Trafford.

### Pole-to-flag for Hamilton again

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- Lewis Hamilton extended his championship lead and continued his relentless run of success when he scorched to an emphatic victory ahead of Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas at the French Grand Prix.

- The defending five-time champion repeated his pole-to-flag triumph of 2018 with a flawless drive to his fourth win in succession, sixth this season and 79th of his career.

### It's title No. 10 at Halle for Federer; Barty wins Birmingham

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- Roger Federer will in straight sets to win a record- head to Wimbledon in high spirits after waltzing past Belgium's David Goffin extending 10th title at the ATP event at Halle.
- Federer beat Goffin 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 to secure his 102nd career singles title and remain unbeaten on grass so far this season.

### Mallorca Open Open: Sofia Kenin claim women's singles title

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- American 20-year-old Sofia Kenin saved three match points on her way beating third seed Belinda Bencic in the Mallorca Open grasscourt final.

### Batra elected IOC member

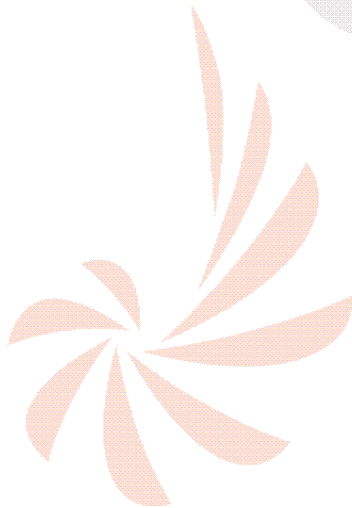
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- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee securing 58 votes out of 62.
- The FIH chief now has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee as well as an international federation. He is the first Indian to have this distinction.

### Pullela Gopichand bestowed honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur

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- India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
- He received the honour from former ISRO chairman and Chairman of the board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan.



## Sport Events

### Pakistan to host Asia Cup

- The next edition of the Asia Cup could also be UAE-bound with Pakistan given the hosting rights of the tournament in 2020, as organising it in its own country will cast serious doubts on India's participation owing to diplomatic tensions.

### Europa League final: Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1

- Chelsea got the better of its English Premier League rivals to win the Europa League final, beating Arsenal 4-1 in the Baku Olympic Stadium.

### ICC launches criiiio campaign on eve of men's World Cup

- The ICC launched the criiiio campaign on the eve of the men's World Cup, bringing together 460 million people playing cricket globally to celebrate the magnificent diversity of cricket.
- The ICC asked the fans to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how they play cricket across the world using the newly launched hashtag #criiiio and visiting the site criiiio.com.

### India concludes best ever ISSF WC performance in Munich

- In Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of five gold medals in Munich, Germany.
- India topped the medals tally with five golds and silver. Second-placed China bagged nine medals - two gold, two silver and five bronze medals.

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

- ICC will provide cricket fans greater access to the content from World Cup event, the teams and the stars than ever before.
- ICC has entered into content partnerships with global social media platforms Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to cater to the huge interest from fans in this event. Fans can enjoy recaps, reports, live scores and s, behind-the-scenes and other content across the ICC's digital channels.

### Liverpool beat Tottenham Hotspur to win Champions League trophy

- In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time.
- An early goal from Mohamed Salah and a late one from Divock Origi gave Liverpool a 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in all-English Champions League final as coach Juergen Klopp finally got his hands on Europe's biggest prize.

### China will host 2023 Asian Cup, confirms AFC

- China will stage the 2023 Asian Cup football after South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia dropped their bids. This was confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation in Paris.
- It will mark the second time for China to host the quadrennial continental tournament. In the 2004 edition, China had finished runners-up to Japan.

### Indian Jr. Women's hockey team clinch Cantor Fitzgerald U21

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

### Women's World Cup kicks off as hosts France shoot for historic double

- The biggest Women's World Cup in history begins in Paris but in the city there is not the air of anticipation you would expect. In the biggest and – Fifa, football's governing body, hopes – the best Women's World Cup yet, France play South Korea at the Parc des Princes in the first of 52 games.



- **Google Doodle marked the start of the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Paris.** The quadrennial international football championship contested by the women's national teams of the member associations of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association kicks off on June 7 and will conclude a month later on July 7, 2019.

### United States recorded the biggest ever victory in the Fifa Women's World Cup

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- **The United States recorded the biggest ever victory in the Fifa Women's World Cup as they crushed Thailand 13-0.**
- **The 2015 winners were 3-0 up at half-time,** scored four times in 10 minutes in the second half and then added six more goals in the last 16 minutes. **Alex Morgan scored five times for the United States** with two goals apiece for Rose Lavelle and Samantha Mewis.
- **The United States' previous biggest win in the tournament was a 7-0 success over Chinese Taipei in 1991,** while Germany's thrashing of Argentina came in 2007.

### Indian men's archery team secure Olympic quota for 2020 Tokyo Games

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

### India static at 101st in FIFA rankings

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- **The Indian football team remained static at 101st place in the FIFA rankings issued. India had finished third in the King's Cup in Thailand,** which the organizers had said was a FIFA-sanctioned tournament. **India's ranking points remained the same -- 1219 --** as that of the previous list, issued on 4th April this year.
- **The Indian team is at 18th spot among the Asian countries led by Iran (20th), Japan (28), Korea (37), Australia (43) and Qatar (55) form the top five in Asia.** Belgium continued to top overall world rankings, followed by France, Brazil, England and Portugal.

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

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- **The Indian women's rugby team claimed a historic first-ever international Rugby 15s victory** with a 21-19 win over Singapore to finish third in the Asia Women's - Division 1 Rugby XV's Championship in Manila.

### FIH Series Finals: India defeats South Africa 5-1 in title clash

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- **In the FIH Men's Series Finals, India defeated South Africa** by five goals to one in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

### Archery World Championships: Indian men's recurve team bags Silver Medal

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- **The Indian men's recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships** at Den Bosch in The Netherlands.
- **Indian trio of Tarundeep Rai, Atanu Das and Pravin lost to Chinese team of Ding Yiliang, Wei Shaoxuan and Feng Hao 6-2** in the summit clash.

### IAAF to rebrand as World Athletics

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- **World athletics' governing body, the IAAF, is to rebrand as World Athletics,** it was announced. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was initially founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation.
- **The body, currently presided over by Britain's two-time Olympic 1500m gold medallist Sebastian Coe,** took its present name in 2001 and World Athletics should be operational from October.

## Archery Association of India de-listed by world body

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- Archery's world body has de-listed the Archery Association of India (AAI) as a member and given it a month's time to either get its house in order or face suspension.
- World Archery (WA) said, it will wait till 31st of next month before deciding on AAI's suspension. The WA will wait for the Supreme Court's verdict on the controversial elections of the AAI.
- The decision to de-list AAI will not prevent Indian archers from taking part in international events under the national flag in competitions for which entries have already been made.

## Shooting out, women's cricket in for CWG 2022

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- Shooting was left out of the 2022 Commonwealth Games programme, dealing a big blow to India which won as many as 16 medals, including seven gold, at the 2018 edition in Gold Coast.
- The Executive Board of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) met and approved the inclusion of women's cricket, beach volleyball and para table tennis in the Games programme for the Birmingham edition.

## International Olympic Committee opens new headquarters in Switzerland

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- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland; exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.

## Indian women's hockey team clinches FIH Series Finals

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

## Olympics: Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo awarded the 2026 Winter Games

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- Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo were awarded the 2026 Winter Olympic Games after a vote by the International Olympic Committee membership.
- Milan beat Stockholm for the right to host the Games in seven years' time, prompting loud celebrations from the bid team after IOC President Thomas Bach announced the result.
- Milan and Stockholm were the only candidates left after four other cities -- Swiss city Sion, Japan's Sapporo, Austria's Graz and 1988 hosts Calgary in Canada -- had dropped out of the race with concerns over the size and cost of the event.
- Italy last hosted the winter Olympics in 2006 in Turin while Cortina hosted the winter Games back in 1956.

## India proposes to host 2023 IOC session in Mumbai

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- India proposed to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose the host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics.
- Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra and IOC member Nita Ambani submitted the formal bid to IOC Chief Thomas Bach on the sidelines of the governing body's 134th Session at Lausanne in Switzerland.

## ICC World Cup: BCCI officially unveils India's away jersey

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- India's away kit for ICC Cricket World Cup was unveiled by BCCI. Virat Kohli's men wore sporting the jersey for their big-ticket World Cup match against England in Birmingham.

## AWARDS



### Guy Gunaratne wins Dylan Thomas prize for 'urgent' London novel

- Debut novelist Guy Gunaratne has won the £30,000 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas prize for *In Our Mad and Furious City*, an “urgent, timely and compelling” account of life on a London housing estate during city-wide riots.

The Dylan Thomas Prize is a leading prize for young writers presented annually. The prize, named in honour of the Welsh writer and poet Dylan Thomas, brings international prestige and a remuneration of £30,000 (~\$46,000). It is open to published writers in the English language under the age of forty. The prize was originally awarded bi-annually, but became an annual award in 2010. Entries for the prize are submitted by the publisher, editor, or agent; for theatre plays and screenplays, by the producer. A Dylan Thomas literary prize was first awarded during the 1980s, known as the Dylan Thomas Award, following the campaign to have a plaque in the poet's memory placed in Westminster Abbey.

### Cannes 2019: Dark comedy 'Parasite' wins Palme d'Or; Antonio Banderas gets best actor award for 'Pain & Glory' role

- South Korean film "Parasite", a dark comedy by Bong Joon-ho, won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, where Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon A Time" was praised highly but returned empty handed.
- At the Cannes closing ceremony, Joon-ho got a standing ovation and a loud cheer from the audience when his film was named the Palme d'Or winner, reported hollywoodreporter.com. Jury president Alejandro González Iñárritu said the Palme d'Or decision was "unanimous".
- Antonio Banderas won the best actor award for his role as a past-his-prime director in Pedro Almodóvar's "Pain & Glory", and Mati Diop's "Atlantics" landed the runner-up Grand Prix award.

### Acharya Balkrishna receives 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award'

- Patanjali Ayurved Limited's Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna received the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' on behalf of Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva.
- The five keynote speakers of the UNSDG (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) organisation included Randy Oostra, UNICEF executive director Henrietta H Fore, WHO director-general Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Abe Lee and Acharya Balkrishna.

### Hindi version of Digital Dilemma launched by Oscar academy President John Bailey

- President of Oscar Academy, John Bailey e-launched the Hindi translation of an Academy Publication, "Digital Dilemma", at a function in Delhi.

- Mr Bailey said that the translation of the Academy publication into Hindi is important in order to reach out to film fraternity in India.

### Mumbai writer Annie Zaidi wins \$100,000 global prize

- Indian writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize, a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.

Mumbai-based Zaidi, a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry and plays, won for her entry 'Bread, Cement, Cactus' — combining memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India.

### Maldives confers its highest civilian award on PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Maldives' highest civilian award, the Order of the Distinguished Role of Izzudeen, by the President of the host country, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- The Maldives says, the award is in recognition of the many services Prime Minister Modi has offered to cement the longstanding and amicable ties between the two countries, and for the magnanimous assistance that the Indian government continues to provide to the Maldives under his stewardship.

### Sunder Pichai, Nasdaq's Friedman to receive 2019 Global Leadership Award

- In United States, Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019 by business advocacy group USIBC in recognition of the two companies' contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms.
- The award by Washington-based US-India Business Council (USIBC) would be conferred upon Indian-American Pichai, 46, and Friedman, 50, during the 'India Ideas Summit'.

### Actress Sheela wins prestigious J C Daniel Award

- The annual honour, named after J C Daniel, who made the first silent movie in Mollywood, comprises a purse of Rs 5 lakh, a citation and a plaque.
- An expert panel chaired by renowned filmmaker K S Seethumadhavan, selected Sheela, an inevitable presence in the yesteryear Malayalam cinemaknown for her charismatic acting talent, for the award.
- Iconic director Adoor Gopalakrishnan and veteran lyricist Sreekumaran Thampi were the recipients of the honour in the previous years.

### Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh conferred Jnanpith award

- Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh was conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018. The award was given for his outstanding contribution in English. Former Governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi presented the award to Mr Ghosh at a function in New Delhi.
- Mr Ghosh is the first English writer to get this award. The works of Amitav Ghosh portray a vast range of subjects. Talking to AIR news, Amitav Ghosh said, Jnanpith is very special award in India and it's the first time English has been recognized.

The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature". Instituted in 1961, the award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral. The first recipient of the award was the Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup who received the award in 1965 for his collection of poems, Odakkuzhal (The Bamboo Flute), published in 1950.



## Equator Prize 2019 winners announced for local innovative climate solutions

- The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partners announced the winners of the 10th Equator Prize, recognizing 22 local and indigenous communities from across the world. The winning organizations, which showcase innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling climate change, environment, and poverty challenges, will be honored at a celebratory gala on 24 September in New York.
- This is the first time the Equator Prize has been awarded to groups from Guinea-Bissau, as well as to indigenous communities in Australia and the United States. Winners are also based in Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Micronesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Tanzania and Vanuatu.

The Equator Prize, organized by the Equator Initiative within the United Nations Development Programme, is awarded biennially to recognize outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. As sustainable community initiatives take root throughout the tropics, they are laying the foundation for a global movement of local successes that are collectively making a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Chinese President awarded Kyrgyzstan's highest honour

- Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov awarded his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping the Manas Order of the First Degree, the highest national honour of the Central Asian nation.
- The awarding ceremony was held in the Ala-Archa state guest house. The emcee of the Kyrgyz side read out the presidential decree on awarding the Manas Order of the First Degree. Sooronbay Jeenbekov awarded Xi Jinping the Manas Order of the First Degree. The Manas Order is the highest national prize of Kyrgyzstan awarded by Kyrgyz President and has three degrees, of which the first degree is the highest one.

## Climate activist Greta Thunberg wins Amnesty human rights award

- Fridays for Future, the global movement initiated by climate activist and student Greta Thunberg won her the Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award.
- The 16-year-old from Sweden started the movement, 'Fridays for Future' with a weekly vigil outside the parliament last year. Within the year, the movement was picked up in other countries like Brazil, Uganda, Australia and even India, where students have been coming out and talking about climate change.
- Ms. Thunberg and her "Fridays for Future" global movement won Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award, joining the likes of South African leader Nelson Mandela and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai.

## Sahitya Akademi announces winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Yuva Puraskar

- Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters, announced a list of 22 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 23 recipients of the Yuva Puraskar for this year.
- The Executive Board of the Akademi, under the chairmanship of its President, Chandrashekhhar Kambar, approved the selection of awardees in Agartala.
- While the Bal Puraskar will be conferred upon the winners on the Children's Day, the day for the Yuva Puraskar is yet to be decided.

## Social activist Makarand Tilloo receives 'Save Water Hero Award'

- Social activist Makarand Tilloo received the 'Save Water Hero Award' for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in Pune.
- A Laughter Yoga trainer and motivational speaker by profession, Makarand Tilloo started a campaign to save water by replacing leaking taps with new ones.

## Priyanka Chopra to receive UNICEF's humanitarian award

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- Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December.
- The award is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador. She has been a part of United Nation's global "Girl Up" Campaign and is associated with several NGOs in India to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.

## Akshaya Patra's school meals project wins BBC World Service Global Champion Award

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- Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.
- The Award, presented at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol this week, recognises a person or project who is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better.

## PM's Awards for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion & Development of Yoga 2019 announced

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- Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga - 2019 has been announced.
- Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan are the recipients of the Award.

## Dr. Gaurav Nigam conferred 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit, Bhutan

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- Dr. Gaurav Nigam, a well-known educationist, paediatrician, and the author has been conferred 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit held at Thimphu, Bhutan.
- Organized by Global Leaders Foundation, Dr Gaurav Nigam was selected for the award for excellence in school education on basis of his excellent performance, splendid achievement and outstanding contribution towards the innovative development and research activities in the field of school education in South Asian Region.

## 29 journalists conferred with Matri Shree Media Awards

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- Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism.
- Apart from media personalities, a social activist was also presented the Bharat Mata shield at the 44th Matri Shree media award ceremony organised.
- Working President of Punjab Kesari Delhi Swadesh Bhushan Jain and Chairman of the Committee Ashok Aggarwal, Harish Chopra, Ankush Aggarwal, Chetan Sharma, Ramesh Bajaj, Vishal Rana and Kailash Agrawal presented the shield and a pen to the winners.

## Scribe wins RedInk award for Aadhaar expose

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- Rachna Khaira of The Tribune has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' for her expose during 2018 on the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.
- Many of the leads provided by Khaira became part of public interest litigation (PIL), which finally led to the onerous and mandatory aspects of Aadhaar being watered down.

### Oxford honour for Poonawalla

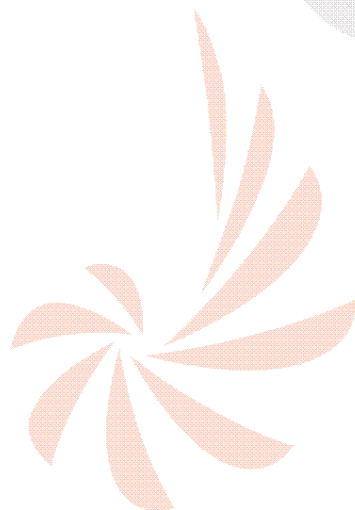
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- Cyrus Poonawalla, founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India, received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.
- Mr. Poonawalla was awarded his degree at the world-famous university's annual Encaenia academic ceremony alongside Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan as part of a total 2019 cohort of eight honorary degrees.

### 'Veyilmarangal' wins acclaim at Shanghai International Film Festival

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- New film Veyilmarangal (Trees Under the Sun), directed by Dr. Biju, made its premiere at the 22nd Shanghai International film festival.
- The film has won the 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award.
- This is not only the first time that an Indian award has won a prize at the festival but also the first Malayalam film to do so.



## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Admiral Karambir Singh takes over as Navy chief

- Admiral Karambir Singh assumed office as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff. He took over from Admiral Sunil Lanba who stepped down upon retirement. Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.

### Amit Shah gets Home in new Cabinet

- Nirmala is new Finance Minister, Rajnath Singh moved to Defence Nitin Gadkari and Ravi Shankar Prasad retains their portfolios S. Jaishankar is MEA, joins Cabinet Committee on Security.
- One of the major gainers among Cabinet Ministers was former Minister of State for Agriculture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who will head the newly created “Jal Shakti” Ministry. Mr. Modi had said at the BJP’s manifesto launch in April that the Ministry would be a priority area for the new government.

### Justice AK Mittal sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

- Justice A K Mittal was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice Mittal at the Raj Bhavan.

### Guterres appoints Indian-origin Anita Bhatia as UN-Women’s deputy executive director

- Indian-origin official Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in UN Women, the agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.

### Brij Mohan Khaitan passes away

- Industrialist Brij Mohan Khaitan, who hogged the limelight by acquiring the Indian business of Union Carbide in the 1990s, passed away. Mr. Khaitan was the patriarch of the Williamson Magor Group that deals in dry-cell battery, tea and engineering services.

### Mohana Singh becomes first woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet

- Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft. She achieved the feat at the Kalaikunda Air Force Station in West Bengal.

### Sonia Gandhi elected leader of Congress Parliamentary Party

- United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi was elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) at a meeting in New Delhi.
- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh proposed Ms. Gandhi’s name, which was unanimously approved by all the MPs.

### S.N. Patro elected Odisha House Speaker

- Senior Biju Janata Dal leader and seven-time legislator Surjya Narayan Patro was unanimously elected the Speaker of the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly.

### Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha gets three months extension

- Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha has been given further three months extensions.
- The appointments committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the extension beyond 12th of this month until further orders.



## Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel Takes Oath as Chief Justice of Delhi HC

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- Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
- Lt Governor Anil Baijal administered the oath of office to Justice Patel at a function held at Raj Niwas. Earlier, Justice Patel was posted at the Jharkhand High Court.

## Theresa May officially steps down as leader of Conservative Party

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- British Prime Minister Theresa has officially stepped down as the leader of the Conservative Party but will remain as Prime Minister until her successor is chosen.

## Romila Thapar becomes American Philosophical Society member

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- Eminent historian and writer Romila Thapar has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS), the oldest learned society in the United States.
- Dr. Thapar, a professor emerita of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, was among the 1,013 members elected to the society at its spring 2019 meeting.

## Thawar Chand Gehlot appointed Leader of House for Rajya Sabha

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- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha. Meanwhile, Union Minister for Railways and Commerce Piyush Goyal will take charge as the Deputy Leader for the Upper House of the Indian Parliament.
- Gehlot, on 4 June, took charge as Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. He was holding this ministry as a Cabinet minister during the NDA's first term. Goyal was given the charge of the Finance portfolio in January this year, while Arun Jaitley was recuperating from a kidney transplant, and presented the interim budget this year.

## Nripendra Misra re-appointed as Principal Secretary to PM Modi

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- Nripendra Misra has been re-appointed as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PK Mishra has also been re-appointed as Additional Principal Secretary to Mr Modi. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved both the appointments with effect from 31st May. The appointments will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister.
- According to DoPT order, during the term of their office, they will be assigned the rank of Cabinet Minister.

## Veteran actor Girish Karnad passes away in Bengaluru

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- Noted actor, dramatist and Jnanpith awardee Girish Karnad passed away in Bengaluru. He was conferred the Padma Shri in 1974 for his contributions to theatre. In 1992, the Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan, in recognition of his contributions to the arts.
- Karnad - who went on to write, direct, act in Kannada, Hindi, English and Konkani - wrote his first play, the critically-acclaimed 'Yayati' while still at Oxford in 1961. He made his acting and screenwriting debut in 1970 with the Kannada film 'Samskara'.

## Sun Weidong appointed China's next Ambassador to India

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- China has appointed veteran diplomat Sun Weidong its new Ambassador to India, in place of Luo Zhaohui, who was recently promoted to the post of Vice Foreign Minister.
- Sun served as the Director-General in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Policy Planning Department before being appointed to the current post. He has also held the post of China's Ambassador to Pakistan and holds expertise in the South Asian region.
- Vikram Misri, the Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China, congratulated Sun on his appointment.

## Suman Rao from Rajasthan Crowned Miss India 2019

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- Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star-studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in Thailand.
- Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh clinched Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker from Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title during the grand finale of the beauty pageant

## Yoga guru Ramdev pens autobiography

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- Yoga guru Baba Ramdev will unveil the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of his life and provide insights into his childhood in his soon-to-be published autobiography.
- The book, My Life, My Mission, co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar, also addresses the major controversies, turning points and achievements of the yoga exponent's life.

## Justice V Ramasubramanian takes oath as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court

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- Justice V Ramasubramanian took oath as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in Shimla.
- Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- Supreme Court Collegium had on May 10 recommended the appointment of Justice V Ramasubramanian as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

## Inger Andersen from Denmark appointed as the new UNEP Executive Director

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- Danish economist and environmentalist Inger Andersen has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Ms. Andersen was nominated for the post by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and approved by the General Assembly in February 2019.

## Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan sworn-in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court

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- Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan was sworn-in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. Justice Chauhan is the second Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court last year.

## Shefali Juneja appointed India's representative to ICAO

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- Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body. She has been appointed to the post of Representative of India in the ICAO, Montreal, Canada, for a period of three years.

## Author Amish Tripathi set to be director of Nehru Centre in London

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- Author Amish Tripathi has been named as the director of London's Nehru Centre, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) president Vinay Sahasrabudhe announced.

## Samant Goel appointed new chief of RAW

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- Punjab cadre IPS officer Samant Goel has been appointed new chief of Research & Analysis Wing. Assam Cadre IPS officer Arvind Kumar will be new Director of Intelligence Bureau.
- While Mr Goel played a key role in planning the February 2019 Balakot airstrikes and the 2016 surgical strikes, Arvind Kumar is known as the government's Kashmir expert. Both are IPS officers from 1984 batch.

## Justice PK Saikia sworn-in as Arunachal Lokayukta chief

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- Arunachal Pradesh government constituted the state Lokayukta, headed by former Gauhati High Court judge P K Saikia as its chairperson.

## Paswan elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Bihar

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- Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan was elected unopposed as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Bihar. The LJP is an ally of the BJP. Mr. Paswan replaced BJP leader and Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who had quit the seat to contest the Lok Sabha election from Patna Sahib.

## Nirmala Sitharaman among 100 most influential in UK power list

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- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward alongside one of Britain's senior-most Cabinet ministers Penny Mordaunt.
- Some of the other prominent names include Indian-origin parliamentarians in the UK like Priti Patel and Baroness Sandy Verma, filmmaker Gurinder Chadha, Indian law firm chiefs Zia Mody and Pallavi S Shroff, Apollo Hospitals' managing director Suneeta Reddy and Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh.

## RBI's deputy governor Viral Acharya quits six months before his term

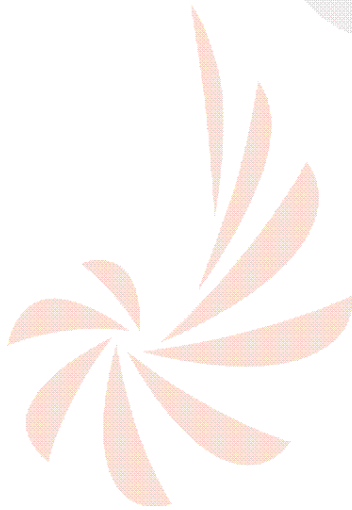
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- Viral Acharya who had made a fervent pitch for autonomy for the regulator, has reportedly quit six months before the scheduled end of his term. Acharya, who joined the central bank on January 23, 2017, was RBI's youngest deputy governor post economic liberalisation.

## Sarada Kumar Hota takes charge as NHB MD

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- National Housing Bank (NHB) has a new Managing Director in Sarada Kumar Hota. Prior to this appointment, Hota was Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Can Fin Homes.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### IAF chief leads 'missing man' formation in MiG-21

- Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa led a four aircraft, MiG-21 'Missing Man' formation flypast, at Air Force Station Bhisiana in Bhatinda, Punjab to honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of men killed in action during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil.

### Meghalaya: Chief Minister Conrad launches Aroma Mission

- Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission at Byrwa in Ri-Bhoi district with an aim to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state.

### US-UAE defense agreement comes into force

- The United States and the United Arab Emirates have announced that mutual defence cooperation agreement (DCA) has come into force, amid increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran.

### Maldives parliament Majlis passes resolution for PM Modi's speech at Parliament

- Maldives parliament or Majlis passed a resolution for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at the Parliament during his upcoming visit to Maldives. The resolution was passed with unanimous votes of all 80 MPs present.

### J&K government unveils Healthcare Investment Policy-2019

- Jammu and Kashmir Government unveiled Healthcare Investment Policy-2019. This follows the State Administrative Council decision taken in this regard on March 08, 2019. The new policy will promote and encourage the private parties and entrepreneurs for setting up healthcare infrastructure in the state by providing subsidies and incentive.

### First session of 17th Lok Sabha likely from June 6

- The 17th Lok Sabha's first session is likely to start from June 6 and go on till June 15, sources have said. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on June 6, the first day of the session. A pro-tem speaker of the Lok Sabha is also likely to be appointed the same day. The pro-tem speaker will administer the oath of office to all the newly elected MPs before the speaker's election expected on June 10, the sources said.

### Chennai: First-of-its-kind ambulance aids, relocates trees in distress

- Chennai already has the dubious distinction of having the lowest green cover among all the metropolitan cities in the country, with each person in the city having just 0.46sqm of open space and only one tree for every 33 people on city roads. In what can be an effective initiative to better this condition, a unique tree ambulance was inaugurated on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu.

### Song 'Hawa Aane De' launched to spread awareness about Air pollution

- Union Environment Ministry launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution. The song was launched by Secretary, Ministry of Environment C K Mishra ahead of the World Environment Day on 5th of June. This year the theme of Environment Day is Air Pollution.



## Tripura to host 10th National Science Film Festival of India in 2020

- In an effort to raise awareness about science and environment through films, the **10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI)** will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020. The NSFFI debuted in Chennai eight years ago in 2011. This the second time the show will be held in a north Eastern city.

## India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament & Non-Proliferation held in New Delhi

- The **6th round of India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation** was held in New Delhi.
- The **Indian delegation** was led by **Indra Mani Pandey**, who is the additional secretary of disarmament and international security affairs in the ministry. The **Chinese delegation** was led by **Ambassador Fu Cong**, the director general of the Department of Arms Control at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In April 2018, Modi and Xi held the first informal summit in Chinese city of Wuhan. Xi had then accepted Modi's invitation to come to India for the second meeting.

## Kejriwal offers free travel for women using public transport

- **Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal** announced that the **Delhi government** intended to subsidise travel in public transport for women commuters in the Capital.
- While the modalities of the scheme were still being worked out, the **government** intended to allow them free travel on metro trains and State-run buses by August-September.

## Food grains production for agricultural 2018-19 estimated at over 283 million tonnes

- Food grains production for the agricultural year 2018-19 has been estimated at over 283 million tonnes. It is higher by over 17 million tonnes than the previous five years average production of foodgrain.

## Thaawarchand Gehlot participated in second Global Disability Summit

- **Social Justice and Empowerment minister Thaawarchand Gehlot** has left for Buenos Aires in Argentina to participate in 2nd Global Disability Summit.
- The objective of the three-day summit is to **deliberate on issues across the world concerning empowerment and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities** and to work out a mechanism for enabling them to live an independent and dignified life.

## Culture Minister to inaugurate exhibition-‘Unknown masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art’

- **Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel** inaugurated the exhibition titled **Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art** at National Museum in New Delhi.
- The **Exhibition** is being jointly organised by the National Museum and Home of Folk Art, Gurugram in which more than 240 artefacts will be on display. The aim of the exhibition is to **highlight the Folk art tradition of Himachal Pradesh**.

## Four Lakh people gathered at Raigad fort to celebrate Shivaji Maharaj's coronation

- Nearly four Lakh people are gathered on June 6 at the historic Raigad fort situated 170 Kms from Mumbai to celebrate the anniversary of the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation ceremony.

## Rajnath Singh leaves for Siachen, his first visit as Defence Minister

- At Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, **Rajnath Singh** was briefed about the security situation in the region along the borders with Pakistan, and the operations being conducted by the Army, along with the support of air effort by the Indian Air Force.

- Mr Singh was **accompanied by Army Chief General Bipin Rawat**. Defence Minister was also be given detailed presentations on **functioning of 14 Corps and 15 Corps including the Army's overall preparedness**. The **Army's 14 Corps guards the Line of Actual Control with China** as well as the **Line of Control with Pakistan**. The Srinagar-based 15 Corps is mainly tasked with carrying out anti-terror operations in the Kashmir valley.

### **‘UdChalo’ to give a new lease of life to wounded soldiers**

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- In a bid to make wounded soldiers, who are now confined to wheelchairs, self-reliant, an **initiative ‘UdChalo’ is all set to take off at the Army’s Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) in Punjab’s Mohali**.
- **‘UdChalo’ is a travel portal that caters for the personal travel of the military and paramilitary forces personnel by aggregating defence fares and getting exclusive discounts. The PRC has joined hands with UdChalo with an aim to empower the disabled military veterans.**

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

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- The main event of **International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations will be held at Prabhat Tara in Ranchi on 21st of this month**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main function.

### **Government reconstitutes eight Cabinet Committees**

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- The **Government has reconstituted eight Cabinet Committees**. These are Appointments Committee, Committees on Accommodation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.
- Cabinet Secretariat said in a press release that the **Cabinet Committee on Security will have Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar**.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has Prime Minister Modi and Mr Shah. While Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth will have the Prime Minister and Ministers of Home, Road Transport and Highways, Finance and Corporate Affairs and Railways and Commerce and Industry.

### **Finance Ministers of G20 countries discussing fair tax reforms to boost growth**

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- The **meeting of Finance Ministers of G20 countries is underway in the Japanese city of Fukuoka**.
- Finance chiefs of major economies are debating over how to **revise tax systems to ensure big companies pay their fair share and support economies as global growth slows**.
- They called for the creation of a **digital tax for multinational technology companies**. The aim is to **prevent tax evasion and to modernise policies**, as financial markets and businesses have been transformed by technology.

### **Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa leaves for 4-day Sweden visit**

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- **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa has left for Sweden on a four day official visit**. He will visit various operational and training units as well as interact with senior functionaries of the Swedish Air Force amongst others.

### **Centre shortlists five cities for International Yoga Day**

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- The **Centre has shortlisted five cities, Delhi, Shimla, Mysore, Ahmedabad and Ranchi to hold National Programme of the International Yoga Day this year**. It will be the **government's first mega public event after Mr Narendra Modi became Prime Minister for the second consecutive term**.
- Official sources said, names of these cities have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) which will finalize the venue of the **main function to be held on June 21**. If selected, the national capital would be hosting the event for the second time. For the first time this year, Indian experts will be demonstrating yoga postures to the members of British Parliament.

## 1 In 5 Boys Married Off Before Turning 15, Shows UNICEF Study

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- The UNICEF has, after its first-ever in-depth analysis of child grooms, said that an estimated 11.5 crore boys and men around the world were married as children. Of which 1 in 5 children (2.3 crore) were married off before the age of 15.
- The study, which was carried out using data compiled from 82 countries, revealed that child marriage among boys is prevalent across a range of countries around the world, spanning sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific.
- According to the data, the Central African Republic has the highest prevalence of child marriage among males (28 per cent), followed by Nicaragua (19 per cent) and Madagascar (13 per cent).

## Government changes rules to give PK Sinha three more months as Cabinet Secretary

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- The government has changed existing rules to give a three-month extension to Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha beyond the four years he will complete in the chair on June 12.
- As per existing rules, a Cabinet Secretary's total term with extensions could not go beyond four years. Sinha's predecessors, K.M. Chandrasekhar and Ajit Seth were both in the chair for four years apiece.
- Sinha was however given a three-month extension beyond the four-year term. A notification issued now has now amended the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement-Benefits) Rules, 1958 to allow this.

## Mela Kheer Bhawani celebrated with religious fervor

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- The annual 'Mela Kheer Bhawani', the most important festival of Kashmiri pandits, associated with Hindu Goddess Ragnya Devi was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety at Tulmulla area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Kupwara with thousands of Pandith devotees participated in the function.
- The annual festival is held on Jesht Ashtami (May-June) when Kashmiri pandits visit the place in large number to offer prayers to seek the blessings of the deity.
- Nestled in the shade of mammoth Chinar trees, the temple witnessed huge rush of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who made the journey from across the country.

## Met ramps up wind speed of 'very severe' Cyclone Vayu

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- The India Met Department (IMD) has ramped up the expected top wind speed of the very severe cyclone Vayu from 145-155 km/hr to 170-180 km/hr at the time of landfall.
- After crossing the Porbandar-Veraval stretch in Gujarat, the system is likely to move along and parallel to the Saurashtra & Kutch coasts with its band of forceful winds and heavy rain lashing the districts from Amreli to Kutch.
- The IMD located 'Vayu' over East-Central Arabian Sea, about 310 km west-southwest of Mumbai; 280 km south of Veraval, and 360 km nearly south of Porbandar (both in Gujarat).

## Government sets target of providing clean drinking water to all by 2024

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- The Central government has decided to increase coverage of piped water to households from current 18 per cent to 100 per cent by 2024, said Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- He however, insisted that 'water' was a state subject as per the Constitution and sought collective efforts and a public movement to achieve the target.
- Shekhawat said Sikkim had 99 per cent coverage of piped water to households, while some states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand had below five per cent.

### Eight-year-old Indian-origin student collects 15,000kg paper waste in Dubai as part of recycling campaign

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- An eight-year-old Indian-origin student here has collected nearly 15,000 kg of paper waste in the gulf emirate as part of the **Emirates Environmental Group's** nationwide recycling campaign.
- **Nia Tony** has been honoured for her efforts in keeping the environment clean by collecting the paper waste.

### Power minister positive on achieving 175 GW renewable energy target by 2022

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- **Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister Raj Kumar Singh** has exuded confidence that the **renewable energy target of 175 gigawatt (GW) by 2022** would be achieved. Singh, who took the charge of the ministries in the second term of Modi government, said **80GW of renewable energy has been established while another 24GW is under installation.**
- The government has set an **ambitious target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022**, which includes **100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.**

### India, Portugal to join hands in setting up maritime museum

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- **India and Portugal** will cooperate in the setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at **Lothal in Gujarat.**
- **The Indian Navy** is keen to be a stakeholder in the project and the **Portuguese Navy** has agreed to **assist with their experience of administering the maritime museum in Lisbon**, according to defence sources.
- Initial discussions were held during the visit of **Portuguese Defence Minister João Gomes Cravinho to India** in April. **The Government of India** has **allocated a grant for building the maritime museum** and the **foundation stone for the project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in March.

### Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2019 held at Gurugram

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- **Over 41 delegates from 29 countries of the Indian Ocean Region, IOR and beyond** are participating in the two-day event.
- In the course of two days, the MISW aims to acquaint participants about **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region, IFC-IOR**, its information sharing mechanisms and promote sharing of best practices in this field.

### British prime ministerial candidate Micheal Gove admits to past drug use

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- **Britain's environment secretary acknowledged using cocaine on "several occasions" two decades ago**, the latest politician hoping to **become prime minister to reveal past drug use** to circumvent negative headlines during what is expected to be a heated contest.

### Rajnath forms committee to work on modalities of revising pension under OROP

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- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has constituted a committee to work out the modalities and methodology of the implementation of next revision of pension under **One Rank One Pension (OROP).**
- **The Committee** will be headed by the **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).** It will have representatives from all three armed forces besides other stakeholders.

### PM announces high-level task force on structural reforms in agriculture

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- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced the creation of a high-level task force on structural reforms in agriculture.
- The **Governing Council of NITI Aayog** chaired by the Prime Minister, **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** said the **Committee** will be formed in near future and report will be submitted in next 2 to 3 months.



- Mr Kumar said rainwater harvesting, drought situation and relief measures, aspirational districts, and security-related items were among the items of the agenda of the meeting.

### World Food India to be held in New Delhi from November 1

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

### Maharashtra Govt presents the interim budget for financial year 2019-20

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- The Maharashtra Government presented a 'progressive' interim budget for financial year 2019-20 and increasing it by 1,586 crore rupees over the last interim budget of 4, 03,207 crores rupees.
- Atal Anandvan scheme to be implemented to plant more trees in less space in urban areas to create dense forest by using Miyawaki system.

### 91,600 killed in Yemen fighting since 2015, says ACLED

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- Yemen's civil war has killed at least 91,600 people since the conflict began in 2015. A database tracking violence said, presenting a new estimate after completing reporting for the first months of fighting in 2015.
- The conflict began with the 2014 takeover over of northern and central Yemen by the Iranian-backed rebels, driving out the internationally recognized government from the capital, Sanaa. Months later, in March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition launched its air campaign to prevent the rebels, known as Houthis, from overrunning the country's south.
- The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, said that in 2015, about 17,100 people were reported killed - the second-most lethal year after 2018, which was the deadliest one on record.

### For Trekkers in Himachal Pradesh, Carrying GPS Device a Must Now

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- The Himachal Pradesh government makes it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency.
- While Kullu and Dalhousie have been identified for installation of early warning systems, Rampur and Mandi towns have been zeroed in for setting up the relief and rescue base of National Disaster Response Force.

### Anupam Kher's autobiography to release on August 5

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- Veteran actor Anupam Kher's autobiography 'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' will hit the stands on August 5. It is to be published by Hay House in an exclusive partnership with Penguin Random House.

### Meenakshi Lekhi pens debut novel

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- BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi has written her debut novel, which talks of undercurrents of Delhi's political landscape and attempts to lay bare what is influencing the course of the nation's political trajectory.
- The New Delhi Conspiracy, co-authored with Krishna Kumar and published by HarperCollins India, is slated for release on July 8.

### Centre to provide CNG, PNG infrastructure in 406 districts

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- The Centre has chalked out a plan to provide CNG and PNG infrastructure in 406 districts of the country. One lakh twenty thousand crore rupees will be invested in the next eight years in the energy sector.

### Conclave on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' beings

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

## 4 Plastic Parks approved for implementation in Phase-I

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- There is a scheme in place to establish Plastic Parks across the country. In phase-I of the scheme, four Plastic parks in the States of Assam (Tinsukia), Madhya Pradesh (Raisen), Odisha (Jagatsinghpur) & Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur) are approved for implementation till 2019-20.

## 1,103 railways stations developed under 'Adarsh Station' scheme

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- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that 1,253 stations have been identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS) out of which 1,103 railway stations have been developed so far.
- This has been undertaken from time to time under various modernisation schemes such as Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Adarsh Station Scheme,".

## Government schools to introduce self-defence training programmes for girls

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- Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched Integrated Scheme for School Education i.e. Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19. The government has introduced a self defence training programme for girls under Samagra Shiksha so as to make them strong.
- Self Defence training will be imparted to girls from classes' 6 to 12 studying in government schools.

## Sindhu Darshan Festival's 23rd edition underway in Leh

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- The 23rd edition of the Sindhu Darshan Festival kicked off at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh.
- Skyabje Choskyong Palga Rinpoche inaugurated the 4-day event organised by Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti (SDYS) in collaboration with Ladakh Phanday Tsogspa.

## Flow of raw sewage into Ganga to be fully stopped by 2022

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- Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that the flow of raw sewage into the Ganga River will be fully halted by 2022.
- Outlining that Uttarakhand and Jharkhand had already achieved this feat, he vowed to make the whole river fit for holy rituals by December.

## West Bengal launches free crop insurance scheme for farmers

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- West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC), for the 2019 kharif season. The scheme called Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) is applicable for farmers in 15 districts - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum, Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. The crop insurance scheme would be free of cost for the farmers since the government will pay the full premium.

## WCD Ministry prepares Draft National Policy for women empowerment

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- The Women and Child Development Ministry has prepared a Draft National Policy for women empowerment. The Draft envisions a society in which women attain their full potential and are able to participate as equal partners in all spheres of life.

## A Book titled 'A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief' released

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- A book authored by the then Navy chief says that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to hit a Pakistani Army camp in the wake of the Parliament terror attack but was forced to drop the plan at the last moment as it got relocated.

- In his book "A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief" (Konark Publishers), **Admiral Kumar** says that the mood after the December 13, 2001 attack on Parliament by Pakistan-backed terrorists was for immediate retaliation.

### Project Signing: \$250 million World Bank loan to support development and management of Rajasthan's state highway network

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- The Government of India, Government of Rajasthan and the World Bank signed a US\$250 million loan agreement for the Rajasthan State Highways Development Program II Project to build the state's capacity to better manage its highways and improve traffic flows on selected highways in Rajasthan.

### Govt set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras to double farmers' income by 2022

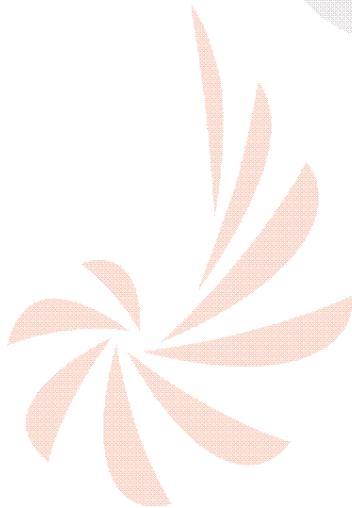
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- The Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community. This is aimed at meeting the target of doubling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

### Centre launched 'Jal Shakti' scheme for water-starved areas

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- Union Jal Shakti Minister, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, announced the commencement of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security. The campaign will run through citizen participation during the monsoon season, from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019. An additional Phase 2 will be run from 1st October, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 for States receiving the North East retreating monsoons. The focus of the campaign will be on water stressed districts and blocks.
- The campaign seems to follow the model of last year's Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, where central officials monitored the implementation of seven flagship development schemes in 117 aspirational districts across the country.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of UN Peacekeepers: 29 May

- The **International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May**, offers a chance to **pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians personnel's invaluable contribution** to the work of the Organization.
- The theme for this year's Day is **"Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace"** to **mark the upcoming 20th anniversary when for the first time the Security Council explicitly** mandated a peacekeeping mission (UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone) to protect civilians.

### World Digestive Health Day

- The **WGO celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) every May 29**, initiating a worldwide public health campaign through its national societies and 50,000 individual members.

### World No Tobacco Day 2019

- **Every year, on 31 May**, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners **celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)**.
- The focus of **World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health."** The campaign will increase awareness on: the negative impact that tobacco has on people's lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease, the fundamental role lungs play for the health and well-being of all people.

### World Environment Day 2019

- The **United Nations designated 5 June as World Environment Day to highlight that the protection and health of the environment is a major issue**, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world.
- **Celebrated on June 5 every year** to stress on the importance of our active participation in environment conservation, **World Environment Day** emphasises on sustainable living in this age of indiscriminate waste production. **This year, the theme is 'Beat Air Pollution'.**

### World Oceans Day

- **World Oceans Day takes place every 8 June.** The concept was **originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development** and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit – UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The theme of **World Oceans Day 2019 is 'Gender and the Ocean'.**

### World Day Against Child Labour

- The **World Day Against Child Labour**, which is **held every year on June 12**, is intended to **foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.**
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002** to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. **The 2019 theme is: Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams!**

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

- The **United Nations (UN) has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).** The day aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders.
- It also **seeks to understand the challenges and opportunities presented by an ageing population, and brings together senior citizens, and their caregivers, national and local government, academics, and the private sector**



to exchange ideas about how best to reduce incidents of violence towards elders, increase reporting of such abuse, and to develop elder friendly policies.

### World Blood Donor Day

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- **World Blood Donor Day** is celebrated each year on **June 14** to raise awareness about blood donation, since its inception in 2005.
- The event is one of eight global public health campaigns led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and serves to “thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.”

### International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR)

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

### World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

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- The **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought** is a United Nations observance each **June 17**. To celebrate the **25th World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought WCD** in 2019, the UN will look at how to achieve degradation neutrality during the next 25 years.
- The theme for this year is “**Let’s Grow the Future Together**”. The annual global convention will be held in Ankara this year from 17 June to 19 June, hosted by the government of Turkey.

### World Refugee Day: 20 June

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- **World Refugee Day**, international observance observed **June 20** each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
- **2019 Theme: #StepWithRefugees — Take A Step on World Refugee Day.**

### 5th International Yoga Day celebrated on 21st June

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- **Fifth International Yoga Day** is celebrated on **21 June**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand. The 2019 Theme is: **Yoga for Climate Action**
- Mr Modi said that in the last five years the Government has integrated yoga with health and wellness to make it a pillar of preventive health care.
- **International Day of Yoga**, or commonly and unofficially referred to as **Yoga Day**, is celebrated annually on **21 June** since its inception in 2015.

### World Music Day 2019 or International Music Day 2019

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- **World Music Day 2019 or International Music Day 2019** (also known as **Fête de la Musique** in French) was observed on **June 21**.
- The theme is ‘**Music at the intersections**’.

### World Olympic Day 2019

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- **World Olympic Day** is observed on **23rd June** all around the world by hundreds of thousands of people (old and young) participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music and educational seminars.

### Day of the seafarer 2019

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- In 2010, the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**, decided to designate **June 25th** as the **International Day of the Seafarer** as a way to recognize that almost everything that we use in our daily lives has been directly or indirectly affected by sea transport.

## BIMSTEC Day celebrated in Dhaka

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- Members of the 7 countries regional grouping Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated the BIMSTEC Day in Dhaka. It is celebrated on June 26.

## Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day 27 June

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- The International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day is observed every year across the world on June 27 to celebrate the strong contribution of MSME businesses in growth and development of any economy.

## International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: 26 June

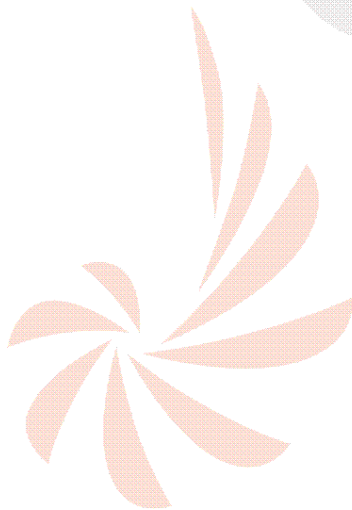
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- The General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- The theme of this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking – 'health for justice, justice for health'.

## “Statistics Day 2019”

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- “Statistics Day” was celebrated on 29th June, 2019.
- The Government has been celebrating the Statistics Day, to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitize the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.



## QUESTIONS

1. Prem Singh Tamang has been sworn in as the chief minister of:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Assam (d) Arunachal Pradesh
2. Who has become the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan in May 2018?  
(a) Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin (b) Xi Jinping  
(c) Donald Trump (d) Narendra Modi
3. European Parliament published the provisional results for this year's elections, showing the European People's Party group winning \_\_\_\_\_ seats and remaining the largest political group in the legislature.  
(a) 178 (b) 200 (c) 250 (d) 300
4. Which of the following countries has begun the process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B visa holders?  
(a) France (b) Japan (c) USA (d) UK
5. According to a latest report, Bengaluru and \_\_\_\_\_ are among the top 5 preferred destinations in Asia Pacific to set up offices by technology companies.  
(a) Chennai (b) Gurugram (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai
6. In a first, scientists from \_\_\_\_\_ have discovered the remnants of seawater dating back to the Ice Age, tucked inside rock formations in the middle of the Indian Ocean.  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) USA (d) China
7. The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, Melting glaciers worldwide could result in almost \_\_\_\_\_ inches of sea level rise by the end of this century.  
(a) 10 (b) 20 (c) 30 (d) 50
8. Who among the following has won gold in the women's 10m Air Rifle competition at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament?  
(a) Rahi Sarnobat (b) Apurvi Chandela (c) Tejaswini Sawant (d) Anisa Sayyed
9. Who will address the first session of the Lok Sabha?  
(a) President of India (b) Prime Minister of India  
(c) Speaker of the Lokh Sabha (d) Pro Term Speaker of the Lokh Sabha
10. The film "Parasite", a dark comedy by Bong Joon-ho, won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. This film is from:  
(a) Japan (b) USA (c) South Korea (d) Mexico
11. Recently, In India a unique tree ambulance was inaugurated on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity in:  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad (c) Chennai (d) Bhopal
12. Who has been sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time?  
(a) Chowna Mein (b) Pema Khandu (c) Wangki Lowang (d) Jomde Kena

13. Name the country, which has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly recently.  
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) India (d) Myanmar
14. Recently, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa led a four aircraft, MiG-21 .....formation flypast, at Air Force Station Bhisiana in Bhatinda, Punjab to honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of men killed in action during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil.  
(a) Go Hitting (b) Missing Man (c) Honour the Sacrifice (d) Persistent
15. Recently, The architectural heritage of Orchha town in \_\_\_\_\_ which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites.  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Gujarat
16. Recently, who has been appointed as the Maldives parliamentary Speaker?  
(a) Maumoon Abdul Gayoom (b) Abdulla Yameen  
(c) Mohamed Nasheed (d) Faisal Naseem
17. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the \_\_\_\_\_ surface to air defence missile system.  
(a) Akash-1S (b) Akash-2D (c) Akash-3R (d) Akash-5Y
18. Name the Formula One racer, who recently won the Monaco Grand Prix 2019.  
(a) Max Verstappen (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Bottas (d) Lewis Hamilton
19. Recently, Debut novelist Guy Gunaratne has won the £30,000 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas prize for:  
(a) In Our Mad and Furious City (b) Illustrations  
(c) Dark Knights (d) Ganjing in Colombo
20. Who among the following has received the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' recently?  
(a) Anand Pirmal (b) Acharya Balkrishna (c) Baba Ramdev (d) Dr. Pranav Pandya
21. India's first state to set up the country's first 'Blockchain district' to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space is:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Odisha (d) Karnataka
22. Which of the following companies recently has launched WhatsApp transaction platform which is the first of its kind initiative by any fund house in India to do mutual fund transactions through whatsapp messenger?  
(a) Wipro Asset Management Company (b) Tata Asset Management Company  
(c) HCL Asset Management Company (d) Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company
23. Which of the following North East Indian state has recently launched the "Aroma Mission" with an aim to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state?  
(a) Mizoram (b) Meghalaya (c) Nagaland (d) Manipur
24. Recently, Peter Mutharika has been elected for the second term as the President of:  
(a) Democratic Republic of the Congo (b) Gabon  
(c) Malawi (d) Angola
25. Recently, Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with India and \_\_\_\_\_ for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Singapore (d) Mauritius



26. Recently, who has been sworn in as Australia's new Prime Minister?  
(a) Scott Morrison (b) Kane Wyatt (c) Michael McCormack (d) Peter Cosgrove
27. Which of the following companies is set to launch the Crypto currency "Globalcoin"?  
(a) Apple (b) Facebook (c) Google (d) Microsoft
28. Recently, In order to facilitate high-value fund transfers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an extension of timings for customer transactions through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) by:  
(a) Half Hour (b) One Hour (c) One and Half Hour (d) Two Hours
29. Name the women pistol shooter, who has booked an Olympic quota place for India winning gold in women's 25m pistol event in the ISSF World Cup rifle pistol stage recently.  
(a) Apoorvi Chandela (b) Hina Siddhu (c) Rahi Sarnobat (d) Deepika Yadav
30. Recently, International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is observed on:  
(a) 25th May (b) 26th May (c) 27th May (d) 29th May
31. Recently, how many women candidates have been elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held 17th Lok Sabha general elections?  
(a) 57 (b) 64 (c) 71 (d) 78
32. Who among the following has been sworn-in as new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh?  
(a) Chandrababu Naidu (b) Nara Lokesh  
(c) YS Jagan Mohan Reddy (d) ESL Narsimhan
33. Which of the following ministries launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution?  
(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(b) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(c) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers  
(d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
34. Recently, A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia has been recently identified by scientists in:  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) Goa (d) Meghalaya
35. Which of the following country recently removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners?  
(a) France (b) Germany (c) USA (d) Japan
36. Name the Indian writer, who has been announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues.  
(a) Anita Nandraj (b) Sushmita Dey (c) Anupama Dave (d) Annie Zaidi
37. Who among the following is set to host the next edition of the Asia Cup cricket tournament in 2020?  
(a) India (b) Bangladesh (c) Pakistan (d) Sri Lanka
38. Which of the following has recently signed a MoU with ISRO for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan Programme?  
(a) Indian Navy (b) Indian Air Force (c) Indian Army (d) Border Road Organisation

39. Recently, the United States and the \_\_\_\_\_ have announced that mutual defence cooperation agreement (DCA) has come into force.  
(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Dubai (c) Syria (d) Kuwait
40. Goa celebrates its statehood day every year on:  
(a) 21st May (b) 23rd May (c) 27th May (d) 30th May
41. How many ministers along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi took oath of office at a grand swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan?  
(a) 46 (b) 53 (c) 57 (d) 71
42. Who is the head of the Panel formed by RBI on secondary market for corporate loans?  
(a) BP Kanungo (b) T N Manoharan (c) Harshal Mehta (d) R Gandhi
43. Who is the new Prime Minister appointed by Papua New Guinea after weeks of political upheaval?  
(a) Thomas Ogade (b) James Marape (c) Abdul Gani (d) Marate Gerid
44. Recently, The UN Security Council has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on \_\_\_\_\_ for a year.  
(a) South Sudan (b) Angola (c) Eritrea (d) Somalia
45. The first Rafale combat aircraft would be inducted into the Indian Air Force's 'Golden Arrows' \_\_\_\_\_ which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999.  
(a) 9 Squadron (b) 17 Squadron (c) 21 Squadron (d) 27 Squadron
46. Recently, New York-based investment and financial services major Goldman Sachs has pumped in \_\_\_\_\_ to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru.  
(a) \$150 million (b) \$200 million (c) \$250 million (d) \$400 million
47. Three public sector units are set to sign by next month, a joint venture (JV) agreement for making overseas acquisition of reserves of rare metals like lithium and cobalt. Which of the following is not among the three?  
(a) National Aluminium Company (NALCO) (b) Hindustan Copper Ltd.  
(c) Zinc India Limited (d) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.
48. Name India's Only Orangutan, which recently died in Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park.  
(a) Ginni (b) Binny (c) Mini (d) Ruby
49. World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 21st May (b) 24th May (c) 27th May (d) 29th May
50. Recently in Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of \_\_\_\_\_ gold medals in Munich, Germany.  
(a) Three (b) Four (c) Five (d) Seven
51. India's first woman full-time finance minister is:  
(a) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (b) Smt. Indira Gandhi  
(c) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Smt. Smriti Irani
52. Name the Indian-origin official, who has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in UN Women.  
(a) Deepika Bharadwaj (b) Anita Bhatia (c) Shivani Dandekar (d) Ajita Awasthi

53. In 2020, The 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in:  
(a) Meghalaya (b) Assam (c) Tripura (d) Manipur
54. Recently, The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on:  
(a) Get ready for plain packaging (b) Tobacco and lung health  
(c) Tobacco and heart disease (d) Tobacco - a threat to development
55. Recently, NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' which is about three times the size of Earth was discovered in the deserts of:  
(a) Mars (b) Jupiter (c) Uranus (d) Neptune
56. The Reserve Bank of India will observe Financial Literacy Week across the country from June 3-7 on the theme of:  
(a) "Women Entrepreneurs" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system  
(b) "Old Age People" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system  
(c) "Farmers" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system  
(d) "Adults" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system
57. Name the committee, which submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi recently.  
(a) Dr. C.Rangarajan (b) Dr. Kasturirangan (c) Dr. Bimal Jalan (d) Dr. H.R.Khan
58. India will lose access to preferential trade terms with the \_\_\_\_\_ under the latter's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.  
(a) France (b) U.S. (c) U.K (d) Japan
59. Recently, SWIFT India and South Asia Regional Conference 2019 was held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Gurugram (d) Hyderabad
60. Who is the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff who assumed the charge recently?  
(a) Admiral Karambir Singh (b) Admiral Rajeev Masand  
(c) Admiral Sunil Lanba (d) Admiral Deepak Raheja
61. Who has become the first Indian woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft recently?  
(a) Divya Rana (b) Mohana Singh (c) Nita Rathore (d) Ajita Awasthi
62. Name the Indian State, which launched the 'One Citizen One Tree' campaign ahead of the World Environment Day for re-greening the State affected by unregulated coal and limestone mining.  
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Meghalaya (d) Tripura
63. Who has been elected as the leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP)?  
(a) Sonia Gandhi (b) Rahul Gandhi (c) Shashi Tharoor (d) Nakul Nath
64. Who has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly recently?  
(a) Sandeep Swain (b) Pyari Mohan Mohapatra  
(c) Surjya Narayan Patro (d) Dibanker Patnaik
65. Recently, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the new President of:  
(a) Somalia (b) Egypt (c) Morocco (d) El Salvador

66. Name the public sector company, which has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.  
(a) ONGC (b) SAIL (c) BHEL (d) GAIL
67. Recently researchers from \_\_\_\_\_ have developed material with properties suitable for quantum optoelectronics?  
(a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Madras (c) IIT Kharagpur (d) IIT Bombay
68. Recently, A new species of dung beetle "Enoplotrupes tawangensis" has been discovered in:  
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Nagaland (c) Sikkim (d) Manipur
69. Which of the following teams won the Champions League football tournament for the sixth time recently?  
(a) Manchester United (b) Tottenham (c) Chelsea (d) Liverpool
70. Recently, Brij Mohan Khaitan passed away. He was the famous:  
(a) Scientist (b) Media Moghul (c) Industrialist (d) Politician
71. Naveen Patnaik is the current Chief Minister of:  
(a) Odisha (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
72. Nearly four Lakh people are gathered on June 6 at the historic Raigad fort situated 170 Kms from Mumbai to celebrate the anniversary of:  
(a) Ramchandra Pant Amatya (b) Balaji Baji Rao  
(c) Chhatrapati Shivaji (d) Baji Rao I
73. In Telangana, people celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Formation Day on:  
(a) 31 May (b) 1 June (c) 2 June (d) 3 June
74. The GST revenue collection has crossed one lakh crore rupees in May this year, which is a growth of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent over the revenue collected in the same month last year.  
(a) 4.67 (b) 5.67 (c) 6.67 (d) 7.67
75. India's economic growth rate slowed to five-year low of \_\_\_\_\_ per cent in January-March 2018-19.  
(a) 4.8 (b) 5.2 (c) 5.6 (d) 5.8
76. Overseas investors pumped more than \_\_\_\_\_ crore rupees into the Indian capital markets in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures following the BJP's landslide victory in the general elections.  
(a) 5,000 (b) 7,000 (c) 8,000 (d) 9,000
77. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), India's unemployment rate stood at \_\_\_\_\_ in FY18.  
(a) 4.1% (b) 5.1% (c) 6.1% (d) 7.1%
78. The world's highest battlefield is:  
(a) Siachen (b) Karkoram (c) Aravali (d) Himachal
79. Birender Singh Dhanoa is the current \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Air Chief Marshal (b) Army Chief Marshal (c) Navy Chief Marshal (d) Director General of CRPF
80. How many cities were shortlisted to hold National Programme of the International Yoga Day this year?  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 7 (d) 10



81. Name the first country, which is the first overseas visit of Prime Minister Modi after his re-election?  
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar
82. Who has been reappointed as the National Security Adviser (NSA) and according him a Cabinet rank?  
(a) Ajit Doval (b) Ashok Khemka (c) Deepak Rawat (d) Sanjeev Maheshwari
83. Which of the following states / Union territories recently announced subsidise travel in public transport for women commuters?  
(a) Puducherry (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Delhi (d) Sikkim
84. The 6th round of India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Faridabad (d) Hyderabad
85. Recently, UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in:  
(a) Muscat (b) Abu Dhabi (c) Dubai (d) Sharjah
86. In order to encourage digital payments, the \_\_\_\_\_ committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round the clock RTGS and NEFT facility and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.  
(a) Nandan Nilekani (b) H.R.Khan (c) Usha Thorat (d) Narayan Murthy
87. The Reserve Bank of India has decided to reduce banks' exposure to a group of connected parties to \_\_\_\_\_ of its capital base, while the exposure to a single party has been capped at 20%.  
(a) 25% (b) 30% (c) 40% (d) 50%
88. Food grains production for the agricultural year 2018-19 has been estimated at over \_\_\_\_\_ million tonnes.  
(a) 167 (b) 191 (c) 237 (d) 283
89. Recently, the Institute of Bio-resource and Sustainable Development (IBSD) opened one of its kind orchidarium, the first in the country in:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Tripura (c) Meghalaya (d) Manipur
90. Name the Indian historian and writer, who has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS), the oldest learned society in the United States recently.  
(a) Romila Thapar (b) Irfan Habib  
(c) Dwijendra Narayan Jha (d) Ramchandra Guha
91. The Indian and \_\_\_\_\_-air forces will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise beginning July 1, 2019.  
(a) Russian (b) American (c) French (d) Japanese
92. The World Bank will provide USD 287 million to improve health care in:  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
93. The exercise "Kharga Prahar" was conducted by the Indian Army in:  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Punjab
94. Prayuth Chan-ocha has been voted as the prime minister of:  
(a) China (b) Japan (c) Thailand (d) Singapore

95. The report on 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems' was released by:  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) RBI (c) SEBI (d) NABARD
96. India ranks \_\_\_\_\_ out of 129 countries, below countries such as Ghana, Rwanda and Bhutan in a new gender equality index released on the second day of the 'Women Deliver Conference'.  
(a) 55 (b) 65 (c) 85 (d) 95
97. Larsen and Toubro Financial Services unveiled the Digital Sakhi programme aimed at training over 40,000 people on digital financial inclusion in:  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
98. According to the Nandan Nilekani-led panel on deepening digital payments, Banks need to ensure that no user is more than \_\_\_\_\_kms away from a banking access point.  
(a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 20
99. Which of the following countries will host the 2023 Asian Cup football?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Indonesia
100. World Environment Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) June 2 (b) June 3 (c) June 4 (d) June 5
101. How many Cabinet Committees have been reconstituted by the Union Government of India?  
(a) 5 (b) 8 (c) 10 (d) 12
102. The second Global Disability Summit will be held in:  
(a) China (b) Japan (c) Argentina (d) Singapore
103. Martin Vizcarra is the current President of:  
(a) Cuba (b) Peru (c) Mexico (d) Canada
104. Which of the following countries President joined Queen Elizabeth II at a World War II commemorative ceremony in UK's port city of Portsmouth in June 2019?  
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) France (d) India
105. The World Bank has forecast that India's economy is projected to grow at \_\_\_\_\_per cent in the next three years, supported by robust investment and private consumption.  
(a) 7.1 (b) 7.2 (c) 7.5 (d) 7.9
106. GSLV Mark-III will launch 'Chandrayaan-2' from:  
(a) Pokhran (b) Sriharikota (c) Bengaluru (d) Trivandrum
107. The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 'SelfieWithSapling campaign' on World Environment Day, which was celebrated on:  
(a) June 2 (b) June 3 (c) June 4 (d) June 5
108. Which of the following countries junior women's hockey team clinched the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland?  
(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Indonesia
109. Sunil Chhetri is associated with which of the following sports?  
(a) Cricket (b) Badminton (c) Football (d) Tennis

110. Sundar Pichai is the current CEO of:  
(a) Microsoft (b) Apple (c) Google (d) IBM
111. Who is the chairman of NITI Aayog?  
(a) President (b) Prime Minister (c) Home Minister (d) Vice President
112. The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, is leading the Indian delegation for the G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy being held in:  
(a) China (b) USA (c) Japan (d) Russia
113. Which of the following countries launched the first Arctic train service in June 2019?  
(a) Norway (b) USA (c) Denmark (d) Russia
114. IT Industry icon Azim Premji will retire as Executive Chairman of:  
(a) Infosys (b) Wipro (c) Dell (d) TCS
115. The Reserve bank of India in its bi-monthly monetary policy review reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent.  
(a) 5.75 (b) 6.25 (c) 6.50 (d) 5.50
116. Bengaluru-based private firm Team Indus is part of a consortium that has bagged a contract from the US space agency to design and build a lander for its next lunar mission in:  
(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
117. Who is the only cricketer to score 3 double hundreds in ODIs?  
(a) Chris Gayle (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Virat Kohli (d) Sachin Tendulkar
118. The scenic Dzukou Valley has become Plastic Free Zone on the occasion of World Environment Day. This valley is located in:  
(a) Nagaland (b) Manipur (c) Kerala (d) Sikkim
119. Who was chosen for the prestigious J C Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour for outstanding contribution to Malayalam cinema?  
(a) Sridevi (b) Sheela (c) Anushka Shetty (d) Tamannaah Bhatia
120. Indian Railways is a lead signatory to India's NDC by committing to reduce \_\_\_\_\_% of fresh water consumption by 2030 and to reduce carbon emission by 32% over the base year 2005 by improving rail traction energy & fuel efficiency.  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25
121. Recently, who was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court?  
(a) Justice Deepak Rawat (b) Justice Naveen Kumar Singh  
(c) Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel (d) Justice Swantantra Nirupam
122. Recently, Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel inaugurated the exhibition titled Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art at National Museum in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Lucknow (d) Nagpur
123. Recently, Cabinet Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ has been given further three months extensions.  
(a) Pradeep Kumar Sinha (b) Shantanu Mukherjee  
(c) Deepak Sharma (d) Amitabh Bhattacharya

124. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the union budget 2019-20 on:  
(a) 27 June (b) 29 June (c) 30 June (d) 5 July
125. To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy in \_\_\_\_\_ organized 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace'.  
(a) Oman (b) Syria (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Kuwait
126. Recently, British Prime Minister Theresa has officially stepped down as the leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party.  
(a) Labour (b) Green (c) Conservative (d) Republic
127. Recently, American brokerage Goldman Sachs pegged the Indian GDP growth to accelerate to \_\_\_\_\_ in 2019-20.  
(a) 5.4 percent (b) 5.9 percent (c) 6.3 percent (d) 7.2 percent
128. World Oceans Day takes place every year on:  
(a) 4th June (b) 5th June (c) 6th June (d) 8th June
129. Recently, On the occasion of Environment Day, "Environmental Sustainability Annual Report 2018-19" of achievements of Environment Management of Indian Railways. Best performing Production Unit in the field of environment was awarded to:  
(a) Rail Coach Factory, Raibarely (b) Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka  
(c) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (d) Diesel and Locomotive works, Chhitaranjan
130. Who has been appointed as an electoral officer for the BCCI's Annual General Meeting recently?  
(a) N. Gopalaswami (b) Venkat Leter (c) Subramanian Iyer (d) Navin Chawla
131. In the recently formed Andhra Pradesh government, how many Deputy Chief Ministers were appointed?  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Five (d) Seven
132. The main event of International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations will be held in:  
(a) Ranchi (b) Jamshedpur (c) Dhanbad (d) Singhbhumi
133. Recently, the meeting of Finance Ministers of G20 countries went underway in the Japanese city of:  
(a) Tokyo (b) Fukuoka (c) Osaka (d) Kyoto
134. Which of the following countries is not among the elected non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two year term beginning January 1, 2020?  
(a) Angola (b) Niger (c) Estonia (d) St. Vincent and the Grenadines
135. The UAE Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Wellbeing \_\_\_\_\_ during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.  
(a) 2021 (b) 2024 (c) 2029 (d) 2031
136. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the \_\_\_\_\_ highest civilian award, the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzudeen.  
(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives (c) Seychelles (d) Sri Lanka
137. According to Forbes, how many Indian-origin women among America's richest self-made women?  
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five



138. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks in a bid to help them expand their lending activities. The leverage ratio stands reduced to \_\_\_\_\_for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks.  
(a) 7% (b) 6% (c) 5% (d) 4%
139. Which of the following airlines has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time?  
(a) Mauritius Airlines (b) Sri Lankan Airlines (c) Maldives Airlines (d) Nepal Airlines
140. World Brain Tumour Day is observed every year, on:  
(a) 3rd June (b) 4th June (c) 6th June (d) 8th June
141. The Union Government has set an ambitious target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by:  
(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2025
142. The African Union (AU) suspended \_\_\_\_\_until the establishment of civilian rule, intensifying global pressure on its new military leaders to stand down after the worst violence.  
(a) South Africa (b) Sudan (c) Nigeria (d) Algeria
143. For the first time, \_\_\_\_\_ world's top policymakers considered ageing as the global risk.  
(a) G7 (b) G77 (c) G20 (d) SAARC
144. Which of the following has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets?  
(a) Confederation of Indian Industry (b) NITI Aayog  
(c) ASSOCHAM (d) NASSCOM
145. Michael Gove has been in the news for using the cocaine on "several occasions", he is the prime ministerial candidate of:  
(a) Germany (b) UK (c) Canada (d) Spain
146. Which of the following space agencies will open up the International Space Station for tourism and other business ventures by 2020?  
(a) NASA (b) CERN (c) ISRO (d) JAXA
147. Nobel Prize-winning physicist John Bardeen and astrophysicist Jacobus Petterson theorised that a rotating black hole would cause the inner region of a tilted accretion disk to line up with the black hole's equatorial plane in which of the following years?  
(a) 1965 (b) 1975 (c) 1985 (d) 1995
148. Who won the men's singles French Open title 2019?  
(a) Novak Djokovic (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Roger Federer (d) Dominic Thiem
149. Google Doodle marked the start of the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup in:  
(a) London (b) Dubai (c) Paris (d) Tokyo
150. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partners announced the winners of the 10th Equator Prize, recognizing \_\_\_\_\_ local and indigenous communities from across the world.  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 22 (d) 30
151. India's first dinosaur museum and Fossil Park was inaugurated in:  
(a) Gujarat (b) Bihar (c) Kerala (d) Sikkim

152. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has become the President of:  
(a) Finland (b) Kazakhstan (c) Norway (d) Spain
153. Which of the following countries Prime Minister has announced that it is moving to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021?  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) Canada (d) Pakistan
154. Mount Sinabung volcano has been in the news, it is located in:  
(a) Nepal (b) India (c) China (d) Indonesia
155. India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD \_\_\_\_\_ in the week ending May 31, 2019.  
(a) 321.867 billion (b) 421.867 billion (c) 521.867 billion (d) 481.867 billion
156. Which of the following space agencies has installed a webcam that allows the public to get a live, bird's-eye view of its Mars 2020 rover as it takes shape?  
(a) NASA (b) CERN (c) ISRO (d) JAXA
157. Ashleigh Barty has beaten Marketa Vondrousova in the French Open final to win her first Grand Slam singles title. She hails from:  
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Spain (d) Australia
158. Who is the current Cabinet Secretary of India?  
(a) PK Sinha (b) SK Verma (c) NK Singh (d) Vijay Kumar
159. According to the UNICEF first-ever in-depth analysis of child grooms, it said that an estimated 11.5 crore boys and men around the world were married as children. Of which 1 in \_\_\_\_\_ children were married off before the age of 15.  
(a) 5 (b) 10 (c) 15 (d) 20
160. Fridays for Future, the global movement initiated by climate activist and student Greta Thunberg won her the Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award. She hails from:  
(a) Denmark (b) Sweden (c) Spain (d) Austria
161. The first party from the north-eastern region declared as a national party by the Election Commission of India is:  
(a) National People's Party (b) National North East People's Party  
(c) United North East Party (d) North-East Democratic Alliance
162. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared Chaukhandi Stupa as a 'protected area of national importance'. Chaukhandi Stupa is one of the important ancient Buddhist site located in:  
(a) Bihar (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Andhra Pradesh
163. India and Portugal will cooperate in the setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at Lothal in:  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Gujarat
164. The Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, \_\_\_\_\_, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.  
(a) 1954 (b) 1964 (c) 1974 (d) 1980

165. The annual 'Mela Kheer Bhawani', the most important festival of:  
(a) Bihar (b) Jammu & Kashmir (c) Goa (d) Kerala
166. Which of the following countries is the first country visited by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi after taking office for a second term on 30 May?  
(a) Maldives (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal
167. On June 7, RBI had issued revised guidelines for resolution of stressed assets. Under the new framework, it is a mandatory requirement for lenders to enter into an Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) during the review of the borrower account within \_\_\_\_\_ days from date of first default to any lender.  
(a) 60 (b) 30 (c) 90 (d) 120
168. The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) awarded India's first type approval certificate for two-wheelers complying with BS-VI norms to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Bajaj Auto Ltd (b) Mahindra Two Wheelers Ltd  
(c) Hero Motocorp's Splendor iSmart (d) Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt Ltd
169. Yuvraj Singh played his ODI debut match against which of the following countries?  
(a) South Africa (b) England (c) Pakistan (d) Kenya
170. Noted actor, dramatist and Jnanpith awardee Girish Karnad passed away in Bengaluru. He was conferred the Padma Shri in:  
(a) 1974 (b) 1980 (c) 1984 (d) 1990
171. The 45th summit of the G7 group of countries will take place in:  
(a) France (b) India (c) China (d) Italy
172. Who has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha?  
(a) Arun Jaitley (b) Thawar Chand Gehlot  
(c) Piyush Goyal (d) Narendra Modi
173. Who has been re-appointed as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi?  
(a) Nripendra Misra (b) Kalaram Mishra (c) Vikram Singh (d) Vinod Sharma
174. The first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders is:  
(a) Velagalagudem (b) Rewa (c) Bancha (d) Pulivendala
175. Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become \_\_\_\_\_ first solar-powered Gram Panchayat.  
(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Andhra Pradesh
176. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to Bishkek in \_\_\_\_\_ for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.  
(a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Russia (c) China (d) Turkmenistan
177. Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh was conferred the \_\_\_\_\_ Jnanpith award for the year 2018.  
(a) 50th (b) 40th (c) 60th (d) 54th
178. China has appointed veteran diplomat Sun Weidong its new Ambassador to which of the following countries?  
(a) Kyrgyzstan (b) India (c) China (d) Turkmenistan

179. India's automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in \_\_\_\_\_ for fairing on various indicators, including level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.  
(a) South Africa (b) UK (c) Germany (d) Spain
180. Which of the following countries recorded the biggest ever victory in the FIFA Women's World Cup by defeating Thailand in June 2019?  
(a) Argentina (b) United States (c) Portugal (d) England
181. Farmers will have to contribute \_\_\_\_\_ rupees per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide a minimum fixed monthly pension of 3,000 rupees on the attainment of 60 years.  
(a) 100 (b) 200 (c) 250 (d) 300
182. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took oath as the new president of the:  
(a) Mexico (b) Cuba (c) Kazakhstan (d) Turkmenistan
183. Who has secured the highest number of votes in the first ballot to select the Conservative party leader and next Prime Minister?  
(a) Boris Johnson (b) Mark Harper (c) Andrea Leadsom (d) Esther McVey
184. According to the latest report by United Nations, Foreign Direct Investment to India grew by \_\_\_\_\_ percent in 2018.  
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 10
185. The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a six-member committee to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees. Who will chair this committee?  
(a) RK Menon (b) PK Sinha (c) VG Kannan (d) Punkaj Sharma
186. The government has reduced the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5 per cent to \_\_\_\_\_ per cent.  
(a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (d) 6
187. According to the latest report by the 2019 BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands rankings, which of the following companies has been crowned the world's most valuable brand?  
(a) Apple (b) Amazon (c) Tata (d) Reliance
188. Indian men's archery team secured the Olympic quota for the 2020 Tokyo Games. This is for the first time after \_\_\_\_\_ that Indian men could secure a team quota.  
(a) 2008 Beijing Olympics (b) 2012 London Olympics  
(c) 2004 Athens Olympics (d) 2000 Moscow Olympics
189. The World Day Against Child Labour, which is held every year on:  
(a) June 11 (b) June 12 (c) June 13 (d) June 14
190. The Central government has decided to increase coverage of piped water to households from current 18 per cent to 100 per cent by:  
(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2024 (d) 2025
191. What is the India rank in the Global Peace Index 2019?  
(a) 120 (b) 125 (c) 130 (d) 141



192. Sooronbey Jeenbekov is the current President of:  
(a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Cuba (c) Kazakhstan (d) Turkmenistan
193. The Reserve Bank levies minimum charges on banks for transactions routed through its RTGS and NEFT System. RTGS is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT System is used for fund transfers up to \_\_\_\_\_ lakh rupees.  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4
194. As many as \_\_\_\_\_ Indian companies have found place in a list of the world's 2,000 largest public company, compiled by Forbes magazine in June 2019.  
(a) 47 (b) 50 (c) 57 (d) 60
195. According to the annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker, which of the following countries has the largest internet base?  
(a) India (b) USA (c) Russia (d) China
196. According to the annual report by TRA's Brand Trust Report 2019, which of the following has emerged as the most-trusted brand in the country?  
(a) Dell (b) LIC (c) Amazon (d) Apple
197. Name the two senior women space scientists, who are in charge of the Chandrayaan 2 mission's main components: Project oversight and the crucial final phase of landing.  
(a) Karidhal and Vanitha (b) Kamala and Anita  
(c) Sri Lakshmi and Vijaya (d) Jyothi and Akansha
198. India successfully test-fired Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off \_\_\_\_\_ coast.  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu
199. What is the India rank in the in the latest FIFA rankings?  
(a) 96 (b) 98 (c) 100 (d) 101
200. Who will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December in 2019?  
(a) Aishwarya Rai (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Deepika Padukone (d) Alia Bhatt
201. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above \_\_\_\_\_ years of age in the state.  
(a) 55 (b) 60 (c) 65 (d) 70
202. The Centre has approved setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Assam
203. Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov awarded the 'Manas Order of the First Degree', the highest national honour of the Central Asian nation to whom among the following?  
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Xi Jinping  
(c) Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin (d) Donald Trump
204. Online mutual fund investment platform \_\_\_\_\_ announces the release of its new feature called 'Selfiewala KYC' for first-time mutual fund investors.  
(a) PaisaBazar (b) FundzBazar  
(c) Aditya Birla Sun Life (d) ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund

205. Who is the current Governor of Reserve Bank of India?  
(a) N. K. Singh (b) Rajiv Mehrishi (c) Ashok Lavasa (d) Shaktikanta Das
206. The National Geographic Society has announced the successful installation of the world's highest operating weather stations on:  
(a) Mount Everest (b) K2  
(c) Mount Kangchenjunga (d) Mount Aconcagua
207. Name the an eight-year-old Indian-origin student, who has collected nearly 15,000 kg of paper waste in the gulf emirate as part of the Emirates Environmental Group's nationwide recycling campaign.  
(a) Auxa Thomas (b) Auntu Radha (c) Nia Tony (d) Hemalatha Bharati
208. Who has received the 'Save Water Hero Award' for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in Pune?  
(a) Gauri Lankesh (b) Kailash Satyarthi (c) Teesta Setalvad (d) Makarand Tiloo
209. Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters, announced a list of 22 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and \_\_\_\_\_ recipients of the Yuva Puraskar for this year.  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 23 (d) 30
210. The United Nations (UN) has designated 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)' every year on:  
(a) June 12 (b) June 13 (c) June 14 (d) June 15
211. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has constituted a committee to work out the modalities and methodology of the implementation of next revision of pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP). The Committee will be headed by:  
(a) Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)  
(b) Finance Minister  
(c) RBI Governor  
(d) Finance Secretary of India
212. The oath-taking by the new members of the 17th Lok Sabha is overseen by:  
(a) President of India (b) Protem Speaker  
(c) 16th Lok Sabha Speaker (d) Secretary of Lok Sabha
213. Zuzana Caputova was sworn in as the first female president of:  
(a) Georgia (b) Mexico (c) Slovakia (d) Spain
214. The World Investment Report 2019 is released by:  
(a) WEF (b) IMF (c) WTO (d) UNCTAD
215. The Indian Space Research Organization ISRO has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year. The first batch of \_\_\_\_\_ students drawn from all states and Union Territories.  
(a) 150 (b) 200 (c) 108 (d) 500
216. In the FIH Men's Series Finals, India defeated which of the following countries?  
(a) Pakistan (b) South Africa (c) China (d) Japan
217. The Archery World Championships 2019 was held in:  
(a) Netherland (b) Denmark (c) Finland (d) India

218. The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on:  
(a) June 13 (b) June 14 (c) June 15 (d) June 16
219. Who has won the Femina Miss India World 2019?  
(a) Aditi Roy (b) Suman Rao (c) Samantha Kaur (d) Pooja Pandey
220. Which of the following non-profit organisations has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award?  
(a) Etasha Society (b) Akshaya Patra (c) PRADAN (d) Goonj
221. The first Skill University of the Country will set up IN:  
(a) West Bengal (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Assam (d) Tamil Nadu
222. BJP MP Om Birla is the NDA nominee for the Lok Sabha Speaker's post. Mr Birla is a two-time MP from:  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Goa
223. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project worth Rs 1,650 crore to develop infrastructure in seven districts headquarter towns of:  
(a) Manipur (b) Tripura (c) Kerala (d) Sikkim
224. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially renamed a settlement in Golan height after \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Abraham Lincoln (b) Donald Trump (c) Barak Obama (d) Martin Luther king Jr.
225. Mohammed Morsi died after collapsing during a session in court; he is the former president of:  
(a) Egypt (b) Jordan (c) Iraq (d) Iran
226. Inger Andersen has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). She hails from:  
(a) Finland (b) Netherland (c) Denmark (d) Austria
227. Indian energy giant Adani cleared the last regulatory hurdle to commence the work on its controversy-hit Carmichael coal mine project in:  
(a) South Africa (b) Australia (c) USA (d) France
228. National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notices to the Union Health Ministry and \_\_\_\_\_ government over increasing deaths of children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Kerala (d) Gujarat
229. Who has become the fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in one-day internationals?  
(a) Joe Root (b) SPD Smith (c) Virat Kohli (d) Rohit Sharma
230. World athletics' governing body, the IAAF, is to rebrand as World Athletics. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was initially founded in:  
(a) 1910 (b) 1912 (c) 1940 (d) 1956
231. Who has been sworn in as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha?  
(a) Shri Shafiqur Rahman (b) Shri Virendra Kumar  
(c) Shri Subhash Chandra (d) Shri Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai

232. World Food India will be held in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Hyderabad (d) Pune
233. According to the latest report by United Nations, which of the following countries will become the world's most populous country in just eight years?  
(a) USA (b) Australia (c) India (d) China
234. According to the findings of the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019, which of the following is the India's most attractive employer brand?  
(a) Amazon India (b) Microsoft India (c) Mercedes-Benz (d) IBM
235. Which of the following is the capital markets regulator in India?  
(a) SIDBI (b) SEBI (c) RBI (d) NABARD
236. The lander and rover meant for India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 reached the ISRO's launch pad at Sriharikota. The rover called:  
(a) Pragyan (b) Vikram (c) Virat (d) Nirbhay
237. Japan's Naomi Osaka and \_\_\_\_\_ continue as World Number ones in the latest WTA and ATP rankings announced.  
(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Dominic Thiem (c) Novak Djokovic (d) Roger Federer
238. Who has become the first Indian batsman to hit back-to-back centuries against Pakistan?  
(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Virat Kohli (c) M.S. Dhoni (d) Rohit Sharma
239. The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on:  
(a) June 14 (b) June 15 (c) June 16 (d) June 17
240. How many journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism in June 2019?  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 25 (d) 29
241. NDA nominee and BJP MP from Kota, Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of:  
(a) 14th Lok Sabha (b) 15th Lok Sabha (c) 16th Lok Sabha (d) 17th Lok Sabha
242. How many Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in QS World University Ranking?  
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 23
243. Which of the following countries has emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region according to Asian Development Bank (ADB)?  
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) China
244. Victoria has become the first state in \_\_\_\_\_ to enact Euthanasia laws that would now allow terminally ill patients suffering from intolerable pain to legally ask their doctor for lethal drugs to end their lives.  
(a) Australia (b) USA (c) UK (d) France
245. For the first time in \_\_\_\_\_, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur.  
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) China



246. Xi Jinping is the current President of:  
(a) Japan (b) China (c) Thailand (d) Vietnam
247. Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi is the current President of:  
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) Yemen (d) Qatar
248. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released a detailed note titled GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts. The note provides a clear rationale for India's switch to an improved GDP estimation methodology in:  
(a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2016
249. 'Ravana-1' is the first satellite of:  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Maldives
250. Archery's world body has de-listed the Archery Association of \_\_\_\_\_ as a member and given it a month's time to either get its house in order or face suspension.  
(a) Pakistan (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) China
251. Which of the following states announced 'Atal Anandvan Scheme', which will employ the Miyawaki system of dense tree plantation?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Punjab (d) Maharashtra
252. Which is the first G20 country to ban trade in shark fins recently?  
(a) Japan (b) Russia (c) Canada (d) France
253. Recently, The Executive Board of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) met and approved the inclusion of 3 games in the Games programme for the Birmingham edition. Which of the following is not among the three?  
(a) Women's cricket (b) Hammer Throw of 100 Metre  
(c) Para Table tennis (d) Beach volleyball
254. Name the panel, which was set up to review the framework for the micro, small and medium enterprises and suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability for the sector.  
(a) UK Sinha Panel (b) Usha Thorat Panel  
(c) Diwij Saxena Panel (d) Raghuram Rajan Panel
255. Recently, Global internet body ICANN and \_\_\_\_\_ announced collaboration to develop identifier technology that can be used for managing devices and infrastructure using internet.  
(a) NITI Aayog (b) NASSCOM (c) SEBI (d) RBI
256. According to Data from UNHCR's annual Global Trends report, how many people are now forcibly displaced?  
(a) 54.8 million (b) 70.8 million (c) 76.8 million (d) 81.3 million
257. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day. The main function was held in:  
(a) Shimla (b) Srinagar (c) Ranchi (d) Lucknow
258. Which of the following Indian states recently made it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency?  
(a) Sikkim (b) Uttarakhand (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Himachal Pradesh
259. World Refugee Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) 14th June (b) 16th June (c) 18th June (d) 20th June

260. Recently, Prime Minister's Awards for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga - 2019 has been announced, who is not among the awardees?  
(a) Swami Rajarshi Muni (b) Acharya Balkrishna  
(c) Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan (d) Ms. Antonietta Rozzi
261. Recently, Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), claimed as the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, was inaugurated by:  
(a) Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao  
(b) Prime Minister Narendra Modi  
(c) Telangana Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan  
(d) President Ramnath Kovind
262. The air strike by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, was code-named as:  
(a) Operation Lightening (b) Operation Bandar  
(c) Operation Thunderstorm (d) Operation Bijli
263. Name the country, which overtook China to once again become India's top goods trading partner in 2018-19.  
(a) USA (b) Mauritius (c) Japan (d) Singapore
264. What is the present rank of India among the top capital importing countries according to Knight Frank?  
(a) 5th (b) 9th (c) 14th (d) 20th
265. Recently, India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Dehradun (c) Mathura (d) Nasik
266. Name the Indian gymnast, who clinched a bronze medal in vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.  
(a) Sanjukta Parikh (b) Pranati Nayak (c) Dipa Karmakar (d) Amulya Rathi
267. Who is the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats of Snooker?  
(a) Ding Junhui (b) Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon  
(c) Liang Wenbo (d) Pankaj Advani
268. The theme of World Music Day 2019 is:  
(a) Music at the intersections (b) Music in Blood vessels  
(c) Music in Air (d) Music is loved by all
269. Recently, handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Kolhapuri chappal is famous GI of:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Gujarat
270. What is the name of the Autobiography of Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev?  
(a) Yogasan Durust (b) Yoga, My Passion  
(c) My Life, My Mission (d) Mera Jeevan Anandmaya
271. Justice V Ramasubramanian took oath as the Chief Justice of the:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh High Court (b) Uttar Pradesh High Court  
(c) Arunachal Pradesh High Court (d) Himachal Pradesh High Court

272. Union government has developed a National Strategic Plan with the goal for ending Tuberculosis (TB) by:  
(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2025 (d) 2030
273. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will attend the \_\_\_\_\_ G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan from 28th to 29th of this month.  
(a) 11th (b) 12th (c) 13th (d) 14th
274. A pilot project aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women will be launched by the:  
(a) Madhya Pradesh government (b) Maharashtra government  
(c) Bihar government (d) Andhra Pradesh government
275. The first country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is:  
(a) Mexico (b) USA (c) Canada (d) Israel
276. Which of the following countries has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?  
(a) Bahrain (b) Kuwait (c) Saudi Arabia (d) UAE
277. The U.S. State Department has released its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, India continued to be placed in:  
(a) Tier 1 (b) Tier 2 (c) Tier 3 (d) Tier 4
278. National Freight Index (NFI) has been launched by:  
(a) Ministry of Finance (b) Ministry of Shipping (c) Rivigo (d) NITI Aayog
279. The Indian women's rugby team claimed a historic first-ever international Rugby by defeating which of the following countries?  
(a) Pakistan (b) China (c) South Africa (d) Singapore
280. Who has been conferred 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit held at Thimphu, Bhutan?  
(a) Dr Gaurav Nigam (b) Dr. Anjum Chopra (c) Dr. Vijay Kumar (d) Dr. Naveen Patnaik
281. How many railway stations have been identified for the development under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS) so far?  
(a) 500 (b) 1000 (c) 1,253 (d) 1500
282. Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan was sworn-in as Chief Justice of:  
(a) Andhra Pradesh High Court (b) Uttar Pradesh High Court  
(c) Arunachal Pradesh High Court (d) Telangana High Court
283. The Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community. This is aimed at meeting the target of doubling the farmers' income by:  
(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2025 (d) 2030
284. Qu Dongyu became the first \_\_\_\_\_ national to be elected to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).  
(a) Chinese (b) Indian (c) Japanese (d) French
285. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the current President of:  
(a) Egypt (b) Turkey (c) Lebanon (d) Morocco

286. The commerce ministry's prestigious Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has slipped eight places to \_\_\_\_\_ in the HRD Ministry's 2019 national ranking of higher education institutes under management category.  
(a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 31 (d) 35
287. Viral Acharya has been in the news, he is associated with:  
(a) Banking (b) Music (c) Literature (d) Politics
288. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in:  
(a) Tokyo (b) Lausanne (c) Paris (d) New York
289. Who has been appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)?  
(a) Shefali Juneja (b) Sailaja Singh (c) Padmaja Jain (d) Aruna Sinha
290. World Olympic Day is celebrated every year on:  
(a) June 21 (b) June 22 (c) June 23 (d) June 24
291. Which has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes?  
(a) Bahrain (b) Kuwait (c) Saudi Arabia (d) United Arab Emirates
292. Name the Indian state, which unveiled a "Flood Hazard Atlas" for better preparedness recently.  
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Tamil Nadu (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha
293. Which of the following ministries has its flagship application called SARATHI developed by NIC?  
(a) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
(b) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy  
(c) Ministry of Shipping  
(d) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
294. Recently, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, a former general and defense minister won the presidential election of:  
(a) Fiji (b) Mauritania (c) Morocco (d) Monaco
295. Which of the following has launched Complaint Management System (CMS), an application on its website for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances?  
(a) SIDBI (b) NITI Aayog (c) RBI (d) NABARD
296. Recently, India has scrapped a \$500-million deal with \_\_\_\_\_ for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.  
(a) France (b) Israel (c) Russia (d) USA
297. Recently, NASA Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) has detected the highest ever levels of methane in the course of its mission on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Mars (b) Venus (c) Earth (d) Jupiter
298. Which among the following were awarded the 2026 Winter Olympic Games after a vote by the International Olympic Committee membership recently?  
(a) Lausanne and Venice (b) Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo  
(c) London and Brussels (d) Paris and Bonn



299. Name the veteran bollywood actor, whose autobiography 'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' will hit the stands on August 5.  
(a) Naseeruddin Shah (b) Pankaj Kapoor (c) Pankaj Tripathi (d) Anupam Kher
300. "The New Delhi Conspiracy" is a political crime thriller debut novel of Lok Sabha Member of:  
(a) Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi (b) Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani  
(c) Smt. Maneka Gandhi (d) Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal
301. Name the journalist, who bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' for her expose during 2018 on the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.  
(a) Deepika Gurung (b) Ashika Narayan (c) Geetika Singh (d) Rachna Khaira
302. In 2019, International Day of the Seafarer was observed on:  
(a) 5th June (b) 16th June (c) 19th June (d) 25th June
303. Name the robot, which became the first Astrobe robot to fly under its own power in space recently.  
(a) Gucci (b) Bumble (c) Rumble (d) Getric
304. According to a report released by Bloomberg NEF, the world will get half its power from wind, solar by year:  
(a) 2030 (b) 2040 (c) 2050 (d) 2055
305. Recently, The World Bank approved a \$147 million loan agreement to provide basic urban services to the people of \_\_\_\_\_ and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the state.  
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Jharkhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Tamil Nadu
306. High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by \_\_\_\_\_ has been constituted by the Department of Commerce on trade and policy which recommended "Elephant Bonds".  
(a) Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla (b) Dr Gautam Raheja (c) Dr Atul Bedade (d) Dr Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia
307. Name the Indian women cabinet minister, who is among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward alongside one of Britain's senior-most Cabinet ministers Penny Mordaunt.  
(a) Smriti Irani (b) Harsimrat Kaur Badal (c) Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti (d) Nirmala Sitharaman
308. Recently, Japan gifted \_\_\_\_\_ a museum of peace built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.  
(a) Meghalaya (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Andaman & Nicobar
309. According to the NITI Aayog's second edition of State Health Index, which is the healthiest state in India?  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Kerala (d) Goa
310. The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched Integrated Scheme for School Education \_\_\_\_\_ effective from 2018-19.  
(a) Sampoorana Shiksha (b) Samagra Shiksha (c) Sahayatartha Shiksha (d) Samarathan Shiksha
311. Who was the Indian Sherpa for the G20 summit 2019 held in Japan?  
(a) Peeyush Goyal (b) Suresh Prabhu  
(c) D. V. Sadananda Gowda (d) Amitabh Kant
312. The Indian Air Force is participating in a bilateral exercise between Indian and \_\_\_\_\_ named Exercise 'Garuda-VI'.  
(a) American Air Force (b) French Air Force (c) Singapore Air Force (d) German Air Force

313. Recently, Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated the BIMSTEC Day in:  
(a) Dhaka (b) Kathmandu (c) New Delhi (d) Vientiane
314. Recently, The Reserve Bank said all data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within:  
(a) 12 hours (b) 24 hours (c) 36 hours (d) 48 hours
315. Recently, 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) begins in:  
(a) Bengaluru (b) Lucknow (c) Hyderabad (d) Mumbai
316. Who won the women's singles at Mallorca Open International women's tennis tournament?  
(a) Sofia Kenin (b) Belinda Bencic (c) Anett Kontaveit (d) Safiye Vezir
317. Who is the first Indian to become a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee as well as an international federation?  
(a) Vijay Kumar Goyal (b) Samantha Vishwas (c) Suchit Bannerjee (d) Narinder Batra
318. The theme of this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking celebrated on 26th June 2019 was:  
(a) 'Health for Justice, Justice for Health'  
(b) "Do it at Current"  
(c) Listen First- Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe  
(d) "Let's Develop - Our Lives - Our Communities - Our Identities"
319. Name the first Malayalam film, which has won the 'Outstanding Artistic Achievement' award at the 22nd Shanghai International film festival recently.  
(a) Uyare (b) Veyilmarangal (c) Kumbalangi Nights (d) Athiran
320. Recently, who has been appointed as the new chief of Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)?  
(a) Sudeep Bakshi (b) Anant Subramanian (c) Samant Goel (d) Amitabh Bhattacharya
321. Recently, The Government has constituted a Working Group for the revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index. Who is to be the chairman of this 18-member committee?  
(a) Prof Surendra Dholakia (b) Prof. Ramesh Chand  
(c) Dr. Amitabh Kant (d) Dr.H.R.Khan
322. Recently, India has signed a loan agreement worth \_\_\_\_\_dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.  
(a) 200 million (b) 300 million (c) 400 million (d) 500 million
323. The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh launched the "Go Tribal Campaign" of Tribes India at a glittering event in:  
(a) Ranchi (Jharkhand) (b) Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)  
(c) Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) (d) New Delhi (Delhi)
324. Recently, A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and \_\_\_\_\_for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology.  
(a) IIT, Madras (b) IIT, Kharagpur (c) IIT, Kanpur (d) IIT, Bombay

325. Who has become the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs, eclipsing batting greats Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara recently?  
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Hashim Amla (c) Kane Williamson (d) Steven Smith
326. Recently, India proposed to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in:  
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Mumbai (d) Bhubaneswar
327. The International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day is observed every year across the world on:  
(a) 21st June (b) 23rd June (c) 25th June (d) 27th June
328. Who has been named as the director of London's Nehru Centre recently?  
(a) Aravind Adiga (b) Arundhati Roy (c) Amish Tripathi (d) Deepak Raheja
329. Recently, The 23rd edition of the Sindhu Darshan Festival kicked off at Sindhu Ghat Shey in:  
(a) Tawang (b) Leh (c) Srinagar (d) Sopore
330. Name the Indian, who received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.  
(a) Cyrus Poonawalla (b) Azim Premji (c) Akshat Galgotia (d) Anand Piramal
331. Recently, The Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a .....vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).  
(a) Two Year (b) Three Year (c) Four Year (d) Five Year
332. Recently, Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan was elected unopposed as a member of the Rajya Sabha from:  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh
333. Who has been recently sworn-in as Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta chief?  
(a) Justice PK Saikia (b) Justice Deepak Ranjan  
(c) Justice Anand Mathur (d) Justice Aroop Bhattacharya
334. Recently, a two-day North East Conclave 2019 on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' began at:  
(a) Gangtok (b) Shillong (c) Aizwal (d) Dispur
335. Who is the present Managing Director of National Housing Bank (NHB)?  
(a) Srikant Panchal (b) Rupesh Dutt (c) Sarada Kumar Hota (d) Anil Kumar Nair
336. Recently, India successfully test-fired indigenously developed nuclear-capable missile Prithvi-II. It has a strike range of:  
(a) 250 km (b) 300 km (c) 350 km (d) 450 km
337. Recently, which of the following countries has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile, the JL-3?  
(a) India (b) Japan (c) China (d) South Korea
338. Recently, A tortoise considered beautiful enough to be named 'impressed' has been discovered in Indian state of:  
(a) Sikkim (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Arunachal Pradesh

339. Recently, India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by:  
(a) IIT Bombay (b) IIT Delhi (c) IIT Kanpur (d) IIT Madras
340. Who has won the bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympic Games recently?  
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Switzerland (d) Norway
341. Recently, Meeting of Expert Working Group of Paris Pact Initiative of UNODC was held in:  
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Kolkata (d) Hyderabad
342. Recently, Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that the flow of raw sewage into the Ganga River will be fully halted by year:  
(a) 2020 (b) 2021 (c) 2022 (d) 2025
343. Which of the following Indian ministries will soon place before the Union Cabinet a Rs. 450 crore proposals for Natural Language Translation one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)?  
(a) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
344. Recently, West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme called \_\_\_\_\_ in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC), for the 2019 kharif season.  
(a) Bangla Crop Bima (b) Bangla Kharif Bima  
(c) Bangla Shashya Bima (d) Bangla Fasal Bima
345. Which city has hosted the first ISA's joint security exercise ISALEX19?  
(a) Sharjah (b) Abu Dhabi (c) Kuwait (d) Dubai
346. Name the Navratna Company which has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development?  
(a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (b) National Mineral Development Corporation  
(c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (d) National Aluminium Company
347. Recently, NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Sun (b) Moon (c) Jupiter (d) Saturn
348. According to Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai was ranked at the \_\_\_\_\_ position out of the 209 cities surveyed.  
(a) 42nd (b) 49th (c) 59th (d) 67th
349. A Book titled 'A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief' is authored by:  
(a) Amiya Vikram Singh (b) Sushil Kumar (c) D.R.Gadgill (d) Anil Tipnis
350. Recently, "Statistics Day" was celebrated on:  
(a) 24th June (b) 26th June (c) 28th June (d) 29th June



## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. a Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as P S Golay, took oath as the chief minister of Sikkim.
2. c President Donald Trump got the red carpet treatment at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan.
3. a European Parliament published the provisional results for this year's elections, showing the European People's Party group winning 178 seats and remaining the largest political group in the legislature. The second largest group is the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) with 152 seats, in the 751-member legislature.
4. c In a major blow for H1-B visa holders, the Trump administration has begun the process to ban work permits for spouses of H1-B visa holders. The move, which was first proposed in 2017, would affect thousands of Indian techies in the US. The H4 visa is issued to dependent family members (spouse and children) of H1-B visa holders. Employment Authorization Document (EAD) for H4 visa holders allows H4 visa dependent spouses of H1-B non-immigrants to legally work in the United States.
5. b Bengaluru and Gurugram are among the top 5 preferred destinations in Asia Pacific to set up offices by technology companies because of better business conditions as well as availability of engineers and real estate for growth, according to a report.
6. c In a first, scientists have discovered the remnants of seawater dating back to the Ice Age, tucked inside rock formations in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Researchers from the University of Chicago in the US made the discovery on a months-long scientific mission exploring the limestone deposits that form the Maldives.
7. a Melting glaciers worldwide could result in almost 10 inches of sea level rise by the end of this century, a study warns. The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, indicates that the smaller glaciers could play a much larger role in sea level rise than researchers had previously thought.
8. b Indians had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany. Apurvi Chandela grabbed a gold, winning the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8.
9. a The 17th Lok Sabha's first session is likely to start from June 6 and go on till June 15. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament on June 6, the first day of the session.
10. c South Korean film "Parasite", a dark comedy by Bong Joon-ho, won the coveted Palme d'Or at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival, where Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon A Time" was praised highly but returned empty handed.
11. c In what can be an effective initiative to better this condition, a unique tree ambulance was inaugurated on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity, by the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu in Chennai.
12. b Pema Khandu has been sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time.
13. c India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly.

14. b Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa led a four aircraft, MiG-21 'Missing Man' formation flypast, at Air Force Station Bhisiana in Bhatinda, Punjab to honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of men killed in action during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil.
15. c The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.
16. c Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed has been nominated as the country's parliamentary Speaker.
17. a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system.
18. d Lewis Hamilton survived a late collision with Max Verstappen to deliver the perfect tribute to Niki Lauda - his third ever win at the Monaco Grand Prix.
19. a Debut novelist Guy Gunaratne has won the £30,000 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas prize for In Our Mad and Furious City, an "urgent, timely and compelling" account of life on a London housing estate during city-wide riots.
20. b Patanjali Ayurved Limited's Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna received the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' on behalf of Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva.
21. b With an eye on the emerging market opportunities in Blockchain, the Telangana government is going to set up the country's first 'Blockchain district' to create an ecosystem for all the start-ups and institutes working in the space.
22. d Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company has launched WhatsApp transaction platform for new as well as existing investors. It is the first of its kind initiative by any fund house in India to do mutual fund transactions through whatsapp messenger.
23. b Meghalaya chief minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Aroma Mission at Byrwa in Ri-Bhoi district with an aim to strengthen the livelihood condition of farmers and create employment opportunities in the state.
24. c Malawi's President Peter Mutharika has been narrowly elected to a second term in office with 38.5% of the vote.
25. a Sri Lanka has signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.
26. a Scott Morrison has been sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election.
27. b Facebook is set to launch Crypto currency Globalcoin.
28. c To facilitate high-value fund transfers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an extension of timings for customer transactions through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) by one and half hours from 4:30 PM to 06 PM.
29. c In the ISSF World Cup rifle pistol stage in Munich, Germany, Rahi Sarnobat has booked an Olympic quota place for India winning gold in women's 25m pistol event.
30. d The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization.

- 31. d Record 78 women candidates have been elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections.
- 32. c YSR Congress party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been sworn-in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- 33. a Union Environment Ministry launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution.
- 34. c A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia has been recently identified by scientists in Goa.
- 35. c The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners. It cited certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi which address some of its major concerns.
- 36. d Writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues.
- 37. c The next edition of the Asia Cup could also be UAE-bound with Pakistan given the hosting rights of the tournament in 2020, as organising it in its own country will cast serious doubts on India's participation owing to diplomatic tensions.
- 38. b Indian Air Force has signed an MoU with ISRO for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan Programme.
- 39. a The United States and the United Arab Emirates have announced that mutual defence cooperation agreement (DCA) has come into force, amid increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran.
- 40. d Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May.
- 41. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with 57 Ministers, took oath of office at a grand swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- 42. b The panel on secondary market for corporate loans, headed by Canara Bank Chairman T N Manoharan, has been asked to gauge the possibility of setting up a loan transaction platform for the sale stressed asset and creation of a loan contract registry to standardise information.
- 43. b Papua New Guinea chooses James Marape as new prime minister.
- 44. a The UN Security Council has extended an arms embargo and sanctions on South Sudan for a year, despite resistance from African countries, Russia and China.
- 45. b The first Rafale combat aircraft would be inducted into the Indian Air Force's 'Golden Arrows' 17 Squadron which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999.
- 46. c New York-based investment and financial services major Goldman Sachs has pumped in \$250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru.
- 47. c Three public sector units - National Aluminium Company (NALCO), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Copper Ltd. - are set to sign by next month, a joint venture (JV) agreement for making overseas acquisition of reserves of rare metals like lithium and cobalt
- 48. b "Binny", the country's lone orangutan passed away due to old-age related ailments followed by respiratory tract infection.

49. The WGO celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) every May 29, initiating a worldwide public health campaign through its national societies and 50,000 individual members.
50. c In Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of five gold medals in Munich, Germany.
51. c Nirmala Sitharaman is the India's first woman full-time finance minister. While Indira Gandhi did hold the post for a brief while during 1970-71, she managed the ministry as additional charge while she herself was the Prime Minister of India.
52. b Indian-origin official Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in UN Women, the agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.
53. c In an effort to raise awareness about science and environment through films, the 10th National Science Film Festival of India (NSFFI) will be organised in Tripura on January and February 2020.
54. b The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health." The campaign will increase awareness on: the negative impact that tobacco has on people's lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease, the fundamental role lungs play for the health and well-being of all people.
55. d Astronomers say they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert. NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth, said researchers led by the University of Warwick in the UK.
56. c The Financial Literacy Week is an initiative of RBI to promote awareness on key topics every year through a focused campaign. Financial Literacy Week 2019 will be observed from June 3-7 on the theme of "Farmers" and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.
57. b Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi.
58. b India will lose access to preferential trade terms with the U.S. under the latter's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.
59. b SWIFT India and South Asia Regional Conference 2019 was held in Mumbai.
60. a Admiral Karambir Singh assumed office as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff. He took over from Admiral Sunil Lanba who stepped down upon retirement. Admiral Singh was the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, headquartered in Visakhapatnam.
61. b Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh has become the first woman fighter pilot to fly by day a Hawk advanced jet aircraft.
62. c Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma announced on social media the launch of the 'One Citizen One Tree' campaign ahead of the World Environment Day for re-greening the State affected by unregulated coal and limestone mining.
63. a United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi was elected leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) at a meeting in New Delhi.



64. c Senior Biju Janata Dal leader and seven-time legislator Surjya Narayan Patro was unanimously elected the Speaker of the 16th Odisha Legislative Assembly.
65. d In the Central American country of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the nation's President.
66. a ONGC, India's top oil and gas producer, has toppled Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to regain crown of being the country's most profitable public sector company.
67. b Researchers from IIT Madras have found a way of enhancing this property about 30 times in tungsten diselenide, by drop-casting gold nanoparticles on to a two-dimensional film. The work is published in Applied Physics Letters.
68. a A new species of dung beetle has been discovered in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The species, *Enoplotrupes tawangensis*, is shining dark blue in colour and, measuring up to 27 mm, is relatively bigger than most of the dung beetles.
69. d In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time.
70. c Industrialist Brij Mohan Khaitan, who hogged the limelight by acquiring the Indian business of Union Carbide in the 1990s, passed away.
71. a Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has resigned from Bijepur assembly constituency. Assembly Speaker Surya Narayan Patra has accepted his resignation. Mr Patnaik had contested assembly elections from Hinjili and Bijepur constituencies and won both the seats.
72. c Nearly four Lakh people are gathered on June 6 at the historic Raigad fort situated 170 Kms from Mumbai to celebrate the anniversary of the Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation ceremony.
73. c In Telangana, people celebrated the fifth anniversary of its Formation Day on 2 June with enthusiasm and fervour.
74. c The GST revenue collection has crossed one lakh crore rupees in May this year, which is a growth of 6.67 per cent over the revenue collected in the same month last year.
75. d India's economic growth rate slowed to five-year low of 5.8 per cent in January-March 2018-19, due to poor performance in agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
76. d Overseas investors pumped more than 9,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures following the BJP's landslide victory in the general elections.
77. c India's unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in FY18, official data showed, highlighting the challenge that confronts the Narendra Modi-led government. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) released on showed the unemployment rate in the country in FY18 was at 5.3% in rural India and 7.8% in urban India, resulting in overall unemployment rate of 6.1%.
78. a At Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, Rajnath Singh will be briefed about the security situation in the region along the borders with Pakistan, and the operations being conducted by the Army, along with the support of air effort by the Indian Air Force.
79. a Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa has left for Sweden on a four day official visit. He will visit various operational and training units as well as interact with senior functionaries of the Swedish Air Force amongst others.

80. b The Centre has shortlisted five cities, Delhi, Shimla, Mysore, Ahmedabad and Ranchi to hold National Programme of the International Yoga Day this year. It will be the government's first mega public event after Mr Narendra Modi became Prime Minister for the second consecutive term.
81. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi went on a two day visit to Maldives from 8th of this month. This is the first overseas visit of Prime Minister Modi after his re-election.
82. a The government reappointed retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser (NSA), according him a Cabinet rank.
83. c Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that the Delhi government intended to subsidise travel in public transport for women commuters in the Capital.
84. b The 6th round of India-China Bilateral Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held in New Delhi.
85. b UAE's Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICA) has issued the first Golden Residence Permit in Abu Dhabi, as part of the Investors Permanent Residence System aimed to attract investors, entrepreneurs and qualified individuals who meet its criteria.
86. a In order to encourage digital payments, the Nandan Nilekani committee has suggested a host of measures, including elimination of charges, round the clock RTGS and NEFT facility and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.
87. a The Reserve Bank of India has decided to reduce banks' exposure to a group of connected parties to 25% of its capital base, while the exposure to a single party has been capped at 20%.
88. d Food grains production for the agricultural year 2018-19 has been estimated at over 283 million tonnes.
89. c In Meghalaya, the Institute of Bio-resource and Sustainable Development (IBSD) a national institute of Department of Biotechnology opened up their state-of-the-art orchidarium in their research facility in Upper Shillong.
90. a Eminent historian and writer Romila Thapar has been elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society (APS), the oldest learned society in the United States.
91. c The Indian and French air forces will carry out a two-week-long mega air exercise beginning July 1 in France in a boost to military-to-military ties between the two countries.
92. b The World Bank will provide USD 287 million to improve health care in Tamil Nadu. The central government, the state government and the World Bank signed a loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program.
93. d A major training exercise conducted by the Indian Army in Punjab ended. The exercise "Kharga Prahar", which began on May 27, was undertaken in the plains of Punjab by various units and formations of Army's Kharga Corps.
94. c Thailand's new parliament voted in ruling military junta chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha as prime minister for five years after he overthrew an elected government. The former army chief secured the 375 votes needed to secure the post in a vote by both houses of parliament, one of which was entirely appointed by the junta.
95. b The report on 'Benchmarking India's Payment Systems' which was released by RBI mentions that the country is "strong" in areas like having necessary laws and cash in circulation per capita.

96. d India ranks 95 out of 129 countries, below countries such as Ghana, Rwanda and Bhutan in a new gender equality index released on the second day of the 'Women Deliver Conference'.
97. b Larsen and Toubro Financial Services unveiled the Digital Sakhi programme aimed at training over 40,000 people on digital financial inclusion in Tamil Nadu. The move comes in the backdrop of successful implementation of a similar programme in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
98. a Banks need to ensure that no user is more than 5 kms away from a banking access point and if such areas are found, these must be considered 'shadow areas' and a local vendor be made a banking correspondent (BC) as he deals in money and stays there, said the Nandan Nilekani-led panel on deepening digital payments.
99. b China will stage the 2023 Asian Cup football after South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia dropped their bids.
100. d Celebrated on June 5 every year to stress on the importance of our active participation in environment conservation, World Environment Day emphasises on sustainable living in this age of indiscriminate waste production. This year, the theme is 'Beat Air Pollution'.
101. b The Government has reconstituted eight Cabinet Committees. These are Appointments Committee, Committees on Accommodation, Economic Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Political Affairs, Security, Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.
102. c Social Justice and Empowerment minister Thaawarchand Gehlot has left for Buenos Aires in Argentina to participate in 2nd Global Disability Summit.
103. b In Peru, President Martin Vizcarra won a confidence vote in the country's Congress, reviving debate over his flagging effort to pass anti-corruption measures.
104. a US President Donald Trump joined Queen Elizabeth II at a World War II commemorative ceremony in UK's port city of Portsmouth.
105. c The World Bank has forecast that India's economy is projected to grow at 7.5 per cent in the next three years, supported by robust investment and private consumption.
106. b The Indian Space Research Organisation has found a suitable window to launch India's second spacecraft to the moon, 'Chandrayaan-2' between July 9 and July 16 with an expected soft landing on the moon on September 6. ISRO sources have confirmed that GSLV Mark-III will launch Chandrayaan-2 from Sriharikota during the favoured window time.
107. d Calling for active public participation in World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched 'SelfieWithSapling campaign', urging people to plant a sapling and click a selfie with it.
108. a The Indian junior women's hockey team clinched the Cantor Fitzgerald U21 International 4-Nations title after beating Ireland 1-0 in the final at Dublin, Ireland.
109. c Football player Sunil Chhetri became the most capped India player by surpassing Bhaichung Bhutia's 107 international matches.
110. c In United States, Google's India-born CEO Sundar Pichai and Nasdaq president Adena Friedman have been chosen for the prestigious Global Leadership Awards 2019 by business advocacy group USIBC in recognition of the two companies' contribution as the leading technology-driven platforms.

111. b Government has reconstituted NITI Aayog. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the re-constitution of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog as follows: Chairperson: Prime Minister, Vice-Chairperson: Dr. Rajiv Kumar.
112. c The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, is leading the Indian delegation for the G20 Ministerial meeting on Trade and Digital Economy being held on 8th - 9th June, 2019 in Tsukuba city, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan.
113. d The first tourist train traveling through Russia's Arctic region and on to Norway set off from Saint Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.
114. b IT Industry icon Azim Premji will retire as Executive Chairman of Wipro with effect from 30th July this year. He led the company for 53 years.
115. a The Reserve bank of India in its bi-monthly monetary policy review reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75 per cent from 6.0 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 5.50 per cent, and the marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0 per cent.
116. b Nasa's efforts to get astronauts to land on the moon by 2024 will now have a key contribution from India. Bengaluru-based private firm Team Indus is part of a consortium that has bagged a contract from the US space agency to design and build a lander for its next lunar mission in 2020.
117. b Rohit Sharma, the only cricketer to score 3 double hundreds in ODIs, now has 23 ODI hundreds - only 8 batsmen have scored more ODI centuries than India's talismanic opening batsman and vice-captain.
118. a In Nagaland, the scenic Dzükou Valley has become Plastic Free Zone on the occasion of World Environment Day.
119. b Veteran actress Sheela was chosen for the prestigious J C Daniel Award, the Kerala government's highest honour for outstanding contribution to Malayalam cinema.
120. c Indian Railways is a lead signatory to India's NDC by committing to reduce 20% of fresh water consumption by 2030 and to reduce carbon emission by 32% over the base year 2005 by improving rail traction energy & fuel efficiency. Indian Railway has planned various initiatives to meet its commitment on sustainability.
121. c Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.
122. b Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel will inaugurate the exhibition titled Unknown Masterpieces of Himachal Folk Art at National Museum in New Delhi.
123. a Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha has been given further three months extensions.
124. d Central Government has sought inputs from citizens on the Union Budget 2019-20 with a view to making the Budget-making exercise more participative and inclusive. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the budget on 5th of July.
125. c To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Embassy in Saudi organized 'Gandhi Cycle Rally for Peace' in association with the Diplomatic Quarter Authority and Saudi Cycling Federation.



126. c British Prime Minister Theresa has officially stepped down as the leader of the Conservative Party but will remain as Prime Minister until her successor is chosen.
127. d American brokerage Goldman Sachs pegged the Indian GDP growth to accelerate to 7.2 per cent in 2019-20 on lower oil prices, political stability and removal of infrastructure bottlenecks.
128. d World Oceans Day takes place every 8 June. The concept was originally proposed in 1992 by Canada's International Centre for Ocean Development and the Ocean Institute of Canada at the Earth Summit - UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
129. b On the occasion of Environment Day, "Environmental Sustainability Annual Report 2018-19" of achievements of Environment Management of Indian Railways was released. Best performing Production Unit in the field of environment was awarded to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka.
130. a Former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami has been appointed as an electoral officer for the BCCI's Annual General Meeting.
131. c The New Cabinet will have Five Deputy Chief Ministers, each representing the SC, ST, BC, Kapu and Minority communities.
132. a The main event of International Day of Yoga 2019 celebrations will be held at Prabhat Tara in Ranchi on 21st of this month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main function.
133. b The meeting of Finance Ministers of G20 countries is underway in the Japanese city of Fukuoka.
134. a Estonia, Niger, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two year term beginning January 1, 2020.
135. d The UAE Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.
136. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Maldives' highest civilian award, the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzudeen, by the President of the host country, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
137. b Three Indian-origin women among America's richest self-made women.
138. d The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks in a bid to help them expand their lending activities. The leverage ratio stands reduced to 4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5% for other banks.
139. b Sri Lankan Airlines, the flag carrier of the island nation, has been named the 'World's Most Punctual Airline' for the second consecutive time with over 90 per cent of its flights in May being "on time".
140. d World Brain Tumour Day is observed on the June 8 every year with the objective of spreading awareness and educating people about the same.
141. c The Union Government has set an ambitious target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

142. b The African Union (AU) suspended Sudan until the establishment of civilian rule, intensifying global pressure on its new military leaders to stand down after the worst violence since Omar al-Bashir's fall in April.
144. c Ballooning healthcare costs, labour shortages and financial services for the elderly: for the first time, G20 world's top policymakers are tackling economic issues relating to ageing and shrinking birthrates.
144. a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets. The Index incorporates qualitative assessments of revenue expenditure, capital expenditure; revenues, fiscal prudence and the level of public debt arrive at a more holistic picture of fiscal performance than the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio according to the CII.
145. b Britain's environment secretary, Michael Gove acknowledged using cocaine on "several occasions" two decades ago, the latest politician hoping to become prime minister to reveal past drug use to circumvent negative headlines during what is expected to be a heated contest.
146. a NASA said it will open up the International Space Station for tourism and other business ventures as of next year, as it seeks to financially disengage from the orbiting research lab.
147. b Scientists unveiled the most detailed simulation of a black hole yet, solving a mystery dating back more than four decades over how the star-devouring monsters consume matter. Coming fresh on the heels of the first ever photo of one of the giant objects, which are scattered across the Universe, astrophysicists are now several steps closer to understanding how they form and develop. In 1975, Nobel Prize-winning physicist John Bardeen and astrophysicist Jacobus Pettersen theorised that a rotating black hole would cause the inner region of a tilted accretion disk to line up with the black hole's equatorial plane. But no model could ever work out how, precisely, that would happen. Until now.
148. b Rafael Nadal maintained his stranglehold on the French Open by beating Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem in four sets to lift a 12th men's singles title. Rafael Nadal became the first player in any era to win 12 singles titles at the same Grand Slam tournament.
149. c Google Doodle marked the start of the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Paris.
150. c The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partners announced the winners of the 10th Equator Prize, recognizing 22 local and indigenous communities from across the world.
151. a Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani inaugurated India's first dinosaur museum and Fossil Park at Raiyoli village near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.
152. b Kazakhstan's interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, chosen successor of veteran ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev who retains sweeping powers, has won a snap presidential election with nearly 71% of the vote, according to early results.
153. c The Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that it is moving to ban single-use plastics as early as 2021.
154. d A column of thick ash was spewed 7km high into the sky from the crater of Mount Sinabung volcano on Sumatra Island of western Indonesia. Mount Sinabung volcano is at the second highest alert level with no-go zone of 5km from the crater.

155. b The country's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion in the week ending May 31. Reserve Bank weekly data released showed that foreign currency assets, which are a major component of the overall reserves, rose by USD 1.946 billion to USD 394.134 billion.
156. a NASA has installed a webcam that allows the public to get a live, bird's-eye view of its Mars 2020 rover as it takes shape, the US space agency said. The move will allow people to watch as engineers and technicians assemble at and test the rover the NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the US before it embarks next year.
157. d Australian Ashleigh Barty has beaten Czech teenager Marketa Vondrousova in the French Open final to win her first Grand Slam singles title and complete a fairytale return to the sport. The eighth seed won 6-1 6-3 against 19-year-old Vondrousova on the Paris clay.
158. a The government has changed existing rules to give a three-month extension to Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha beyond the four years he will complete in the chair on June 12.
159. a The UNICEF has, after its first-ever in-depth analysis of child grooms, said that an estimated 11.5 crore boys and men around the world were married as children. Of which 1 in 5 children (2.3 crore) were married off before the age of 15.
160. b Fridays for Future, the global movement initiated by climate activist and student Greta Thunberg won her the Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award. The 16-year-old from Sweden started the movement, 'Fridays for Future' with a weekly vigil outside the parliament last year.
161. a The Election Commission of India declared the National People's Party led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma as a national party. This made the NPP, formed by his father and former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A. Sangma in 2013, the first from the north-eastern region to earn the tag.
162. c Notification issued by Union Ministry of Culture, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has declared Chaukhandi Stupa as a 'protected area of national importance'. Chaukhandi Stupa is one of the important ancient Buddhist site located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh (UP).
163. d India and Portugal will cooperate in the setting up of a national maritime heritage museum at Lothal in Gujarat.
164. b With Assam's National Register of Citizens as the backdrop, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid out specific guidelines to detect, detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally across the country. The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
165. b The annual 'Mela Kheer Bhawani', the most important festival of Kashmiri pandits, associated with Hindu Goddess Ragnya Devi was celebrated with religious fervor and gaiety at Tulmulla area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Kupwara with thousands of Pandith devotees participated in the function.
166. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in Male on a day long visit, his first visit abroad after taking office for a second term on 30 May, underlining New Delhi's "neighbourhood first" foreign policy focus that has continued from his first term in office.
167. b The Sashakt Committee has recommended that the existing Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) to incorporate the revised voting threshold and other changes for decision making stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India. In a statement it said that this will enable expeditious implementation of the new framework on stressed assets. On

June 7, RBI had issued revised guidelines for resolution of stressed assets. Under the new framework, it is a mandatory requirement for lenders to enter into an Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) during the review of the borrower account within 30 days from date of first default to any lender.

168. c The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) has released the first BS-VI certification for a two-wheeler -- Hero MotoCorp's Splendor iSmart model -- in the country, the testing and certification agency said. The company stated that it is now eligible to start production of the certified model compliant with the fuel emission norms coming into force from April 2020.
169. d India's swashbuckling all-rounder Yuvraj Singh announced his decision to retire from all forms of cricket. In nearly two decades at the highest level, since his ODI debut against Kenya in 2000, Yuvraj featured in 40 Tests, 304 ODIs and 58 T20Is, while also playing a pivotal role in India's two big triumphs - the 2007 World T20 and the 2011 World Cup.
170. a Noted actor, dramatist and Jnanpith awardee Girish Karnad passed away in Bengaluru. He was conferred the Padma Shri in 1974 for his contributions to theatre. In 1992, the Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan, in recognition of his contributions to the arts.
171. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted an invitation from French President Emmanuel Macron to attend the outreach session of the G7 Summit in Biarritz as a special invitee, said a senior official. The 45th summit of the G7 group of countries will take place from August 24 to August 26 in Biarritz, France.
172. b Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thawar Chand Gehlot has been appointed the Leader of the House for the Rajya Sabha. Meanwhile, Union Minister for Railways and Commerce Piyush Goyal will take charge as the Deputy Leader for the Upper House of the Indian Parliament.
173. a Nripendra Misra has been re-appointed as Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PK Mishra has also been re-appointed as Additional Principal Secretary to Mr Modi.
174. c Bancha in Betul district, Madhya Pradesh is the first village in India to have zero wooden stoves and almost no use for LPG cylinders with all its 75 houses relying on solar-powered stoves to meet their cooking needs, claims social activist Mohan Nagar.
175. c Amasebailu in Kundapura Taluk of Udupi district has become Karnataka's first solar-powered Gram Panchayat.
176. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-day visit to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan on June 13 for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.
177. d Noted English writer Amitav Ghosh was conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018. The award was given for his outstanding contribution in English. Former Governor of West Bengal Gopalkrishna Gandhi presented the award to Mr Ghosh at a function in New Delhi.
178. b China has appointed veteran diplomat Sun Weidong its new Ambassador to India, in place of Luo Zhaohui, who was recently promoted to the post of Vice Foreign Minister.
179. a India's automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in South Africa for fairing on various indicators, including level of satisfaction among its network of dealers and the manner of allocation of vehicles to them.
180. b The United States recorded the biggest ever victory in the Fifa Women's World Cup as they crushed Thailand 13-0.



181. a Farmers will have to contribute 100 rupees per month under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana that seeks to provide a minimum fixed monthly pension of 3,000 rupees on the attainment of 60 years.
182. c In Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev took oath as the new president of the country. He was acting president following the surprise resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev in March this year.
183. a In UK, Boris Johnson has secured the highest number of votes in the first ballot to select the Conservative party leader and next Prime Minister. Three contenders - Mark Harper, Andrea Leadsom and Esther McVey - were knocked out of the race after failing to secure the minimum requirement of 17 votes.
184. c A UN report said, Foreign Direct Investment to India grew by 6 percent to 42 billion dollars in 2018, with strong inflows in the manufacturing, communication and financial services sectors, and cross-border merger and acquisition activities. The report ranked India among the top 20 host economies for FDI inflows in 2017-18.
185. c The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a six-member committee to review the entire gamut of ATM charges and fees. In a press release, the RBI said, Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association VG Kannan will chair the committee consisting of senior officers from National Payments Corporation of India, SBI, HDFC Bank, Confederation of ATM Industry and Tata Communications Payment Solutions Limited.
186. b The government has reduced the rate of the contribution made by employees and employers under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5 per cent to 4 per cent.
187. b Amazon has been crowned the world's most valuable brand, as the 'Everything Store' expands in cloud computing, consumer tech and movie production. Founded by the world's richest man Jeff Bezos, the Seattle-based online retailer has seen its brand value quintuple in the past five years to reach \$315.5bn, according to the 2019 BrandZ Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands rankings.
188. b Indian men's archery team secured the Olympic quota for the 2020 Tokyo Games by storming into the quarterfinals of the World Championships with a 5-3 win over Canada in the Netherlands. This is for the first time after 2012 London Olympics that Indian men could secure a team quota.
189. b The World Day Against Child Labour, which is held every year on June 12, is intended to foster the worldwide movement against child labour in any of its forms.
190. c The Central government has decided to increase coverage of piped water to households from current 18 per cent to 100 per cent by 2024, said Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
191. d India's rank has slipped five places to 141 among 163 countries on the Global Peace Index 2019, while Iceland remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation, says a report. Australian think tank Institute for Economics & Peace ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness based on three thematic domains -- the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarisation.
192. a PM Narendra Modi and Kyrgyzstan President Jeenbekov inaugurated Indian-Kyrgyz Business forum. The two leaders also asked their business communities to explore the untapped potential for deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.
193. b With an aim to encourage digital transfer of funds, the Reserve Bank has waived off all charges for transactions using National Electronic Funds Transfer - NEFT and Real Time Gross Settlement - RTGS systems. The Reserve Bank levies minimum charges on banks for transactions routed through its RTGS and NEFT System. RTGS is

meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers while NEFT System is used for fund transfers up to 2 lakh rupees.

194. c As many as 57 Indian companies have found place in a list of the world's 2,000 largest public company, compiled by Forbes magazine, with housing finance major HDFC Ltd finding place among the top ten consumer finance firms globally. The overall list has been topped by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) for the 7th year in a row, while Reliance Industries is the top-ranked Indian company (71st rank globally), as per the leading business magazine.
195. d More than half the world's population is active on the internet, with India accounting for about 12% of them, retaining its second position, an annual report on internet trends by venture capitalist Mary Meeker said. China has the largest base, accounting for 21% of all internet users globally, and the US comes third at 8%.
196. a Laptop brand Dell has emerged as the most-trusted brand in the country followed by automobile firm Jeep and insurance behemoth LIC, the only Indian company to feature in the top-seven brands, according to a report. E-commerce giant Amazon and Apple iPhone secured fourth and fifth positions, respectively, TRA's Brand Trust Report 2019 said.
197. a Chandrayaan 2 will attempt a first-ever soft landing for India on the lunar surface. And the two senior women space scientists, both in their 40s, will be in charge of the mission's main components: Project oversight and the crucial final phase of landing. Karidhal, who holds a Master's degree in aerospace engineering from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and was a deputy operations manager for the Mars mission, is the mission director for Chandrayaan 2. Vanitha, an electronics systems engineer, is project director.
198. c India successfully test-fired Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) off Odisha coast. It was test-fired from launch pad number-4 of Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore .
199. d The Indian football team remained static at 101st place in the FIFA rankings issued. India had finished third in the King's Cup in Thailand, which the organizers had said was a FIFA-sanctioned tournament.
200. b Actor Priyanka Chopra will be awarded the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball in December. The award is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador.
201. b Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the Mukhyamantri Vriddha Pension Yojna for poor people above 60 years of age in the state. Poor people above 60 years of age will get Rs. 400 per month and those above 80 years will get Rs. 500 per month. The scheme, which is effective from April 1, 2019, will not cover retired government employees.
202. d The Centre has approved setting up of e-Foreigner Tribunal (e-FT) in Assam. The CEO of e-FT Mission Anand Prakash Tiwari said that the proposed integrated e-FT IT system will be implemented across the state for effective monitoring and resolution of cases registered with Foreigner Tribunal.
203. b Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov awarded his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping the Manas Order of the First Degree, the highest national honour of the Central Asian nation.
204. b Online mutual fund investment platform FundzBazar announces the release of its new feature called 'Selfiewala KYC' for first-time mutual fund investors.

205. d The Reserve Bank asked banks to ensure their ATMs are grouted to a wall, pillar, or floor by September-end, except those installed in high secured premises such as airports, to enhance security of the cash vending machines. Shaktikanta Das is the twenty-fifth governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 12 December 2018.
206. a The National Geographic Society has announced the successful installation of the world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest to provide researchers, climbers, and the public with near real-time information about mountain conditions. "The multi-disciplinary team installed the world's two highest operating automated weather stations at Balcony area (8,430 m) and South Col (7,945 m), as well as three other weather stations on Mount Everest,".
207. c An eight-year-old Indian-origin student has collected nearly 15,000 kg of paper waste in the gulf emirate as part of the Emirates Environmental Group's nationwide recycling campaign. Nia Tony has been honoured for her efforts in keeping the environment clean by collecting the paper waste.
208. d Social activist Makarand Tilloo received the 'Save Water Hero Award' for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in Pune.
209. c Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters, announced a list of 22 winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and 23 recipients of the Yuva Puraskar for this year. While the Bal Puraskar will be conferred upon the winners on the Children's Day, the day for the Yuva Puraskar is yet to be decided.
210. d The United Nations (UN) has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). The day aims to focus global attention on the problem of physical, emotional, and financial abuse of elders.
211. a Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has constituted a committee to work out the modalities and methodology of the implementation of next revision of pension under One Rank One Pension (OROP). The Committee will be headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA).
212. b The oath-taking by the new members of the 17th Lok Sabha is overseen by the protem Speaker Virendra Kumar. President Ram Nath Kovind will administer him the oath of the office
213. c In Slovakia, anti-corruption campaigner Zuzana Caputova was sworn in as country's first female president. Caputova scored a convincing victory against Smer-SD candidate Maros Sefcovic in March.
214. d The World Investment Report 2019, released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Foreign Direct Investment inflows to South Asia increased 3.5 percent to 54 billion dollars.
215. c The Indian Space Research Organization ISRO has, for the first time, opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year. The first batch of 108 students drawn from all states and Union Territories recently completed their exposure in its laboratories in Bengaluru, Sriharikota, Thiruvananthapuram and other places.
216. b In the FIH Men's Series Finals, India defeated South Africa by five goals to one in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
217. a The Indian men's recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in The Netherlands.
218. d The International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) is a universally-recognized observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and celebrated every year on 16 June.

219. b Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star-studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in Thailand.
220. b Akshaya Patra, a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India, has been awarded the BBC World Service Global Champion Award for the programme.
221. c Assam government will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district. This will be perhaps the first Skill University of the Country with a capacity of 10 thousand seats.
222. a BJP MP Om Birla is the NDA nominee for the Lok Sabha Speaker's post. Mr Birla is a two-time MP from Kota, Rajasthan. Once nominated, Birla, who won from Kota-Bundi parliamentary seat in Rajasthan, will easily become the speaker as the National Democratic Alliance has a clear majority in the House.
223. b The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a project worth Rs 1,650 crore to develop infrastructure in seven district headquarter towns of Tripura, a senior official has said.
224. b Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially renamed a settlement in Golan height after United States President Donald Trump. PM Netanyahu and I had the honour to dedicate 'Trump Heights' -- first time Israel has dedicated a village in honour of a sitting president since Harry Truman (1949).
225. a In Egypt, former president Mohammed Morsi died after collapsing during a session in court. State television reported that he was taken to a Cairo hospital but could not be revived.
226. c Danish economist and environmentalist Inger Andersen has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
227. b Indian energy giant Adani cleared the last regulatory hurdle to commence the work on its controversy-hit Carmichael coal mine project in Australia with the Queensland state authorities approving its groundwater management plan.
228. b National Human Rights Commission, NHRC has issued notices to the Union Health Ministry and Bihar government over increasing deaths of children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.
229. c Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 11,000 runs in one-day internationals after scoring a fine half century against Pakistan. The Indian captain broke the record of compatriot and batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who had reached the milestone in 276 innings.
230. b World athletics' governing body, the IAAF, is to rebrand as World Athletics, it was announced. The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) was initially founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation.
231. b President Ram Nath Kovind sworn in seven-term Member of Parliament Virendra Kumar as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha.
232. a Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said, World Food India will be held in New Delhi from 1st of November this year.
233. c India will overtake China to become the world's most populous country in just eight years, according to a United Nations report.



234. a E-commerce giant Amazon India is the country's most attractive employer brand, according to the findings of the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019.
235. b Capital markets regulator SEBI permitted stock exchanges with commodity derivative segment to introduce futures on indices.
236. a The lander and rover meant for India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 reached the ISRO's launch pad at Sriharikota. The rover called Pragyan is installed within the lander known as Vikram. They were flagged off from ISRO laboratory in Bengaluru.
237. c Japan's Naomi Osaka and Novak Djokovic of Serbia continue as World Number ones in the latest WTA and ATP rankings announced.
238. d Opener Rohit Sharma becomes the first Indian batsman to hit back-to-back centuries against Pakistan during their ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 group match at Old Trafford, Manchester.
239. d The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance each June 17. The theme for this year is "Let's Grow the Future Together".
240. d Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media were felicitated with Matri Shree Media Awards for their contribution towards journalism.
241. d NDA nominee and BJP MP from Kota, Om Birla has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha.
242. d Twenty-three Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in QS World University ranking released. Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Bombay has become India's best institute, securing 152nd rank. IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have also been figured in the top 200.
243. c Bangladesh has emerged as the fastest growing economy among the 45 countries of the Asia-Pacific region according to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
244. a Victoria has become the first state in Australia to enact Euthanasia laws that would now allow terminally ill patients suffering from intolerable pain to legally ask their doctor for lethal drugs to end their lives.
245. c For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur. The announcement was made by the Geological Survey of Bangladesh following extensive drilling over two months in the area.
246. b Chinese President Xi Jinping will be on a two-day visit to North Korea at the invitation of Kim Jong Un.
247. c Yemen's civil war has killed at least 91,600 people since the conflict began in 2015. A database tracking violence said, presenting a new estimate after completing reporting for the first months of fighting in 2015. Aden was declared as the temporary capital by President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi in March 2015. Sana'a is the capital of the country, although the seat of the internationally recognised government moved to Aden in the aftermath of the September 21 Revolution.
248. c The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister released a detailed note titled GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts. The note provides a clear rationale for India's switch to an improved GDP estimation methodology in January 2015. The new methodology that uses 2011-12 as the base year includes two major improvements.

249. a Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Ravana-1', designed and developed by two local engineers, was successfully launched into orbit this week from the International Space Station (ISS) along with two other BIRDS 3 satellites from Japan and Nepal.
250. b Archery's world body has de-listed the Archery Association of India (AAI) as a member and given it a month's time to either get its house in order or face suspension.
251. d The Maharashtra government is planning to use the "Miyawaki" system of dense tree plantation.
252. c Canada passed a new law banning the import and export of shark fins, which also includes a requirement to rebuild depleted fish populations.
253. b The Executive Board of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) met and approved the inclusion of women's cricket, beach volleyball and para table tennis in the Games programme for the Birmingham edition.
254. a UK Sinha panel on MSMEs submit report to RBI.
255. b Global internet body ICANN and Indian IT industry body Nasscom announced collaboration to develop identifier technology that can be used for managing devices and infrastructure using internet.
256. b Data from UNHCR's annual Global Trends report shows that almost 70.8 million people are now forcibly displaced.
257. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in celebrating yoga day from Ranchi in Jharkhand. The main function was held at the Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi.
258. d The Himachal Pradesh government makes it mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device to tackle any exigency.
259. d World Refugee Day, international observance observed June 20 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.
260. b Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi of Italy, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan are the recipients of the Award.
261. a Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), claimed as the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at Medigadda where the first barrage of the project is located in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district.
262. b The air strike by the Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, was code-named 'Operation Bandar'.
263. a The US overtook China to once again become India's top goods trading partner in 2018-19, official data shows. Also, India's trade surplus with the US declined to \$16.8 billion from \$21.2 billion a year ago.
264. d With investment of \$2.6 billion, India was ranked 20th among the top capital importing countries globally, while China was at the 6th position with an investment of \$14.30 billion.
265. c Situated on the banks of the Yamuna in Mathura, the new hydrotherapy jumbo pool is 11-foot-deep and has 21 high pressure jet sprays that create water pressure that massage the elephants' feet and body and help in increasing blood circulation.

266. b In Gymnastics, India's Pranati Nayak clinched a bronze medal in vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
267. d Pankaj Advani defeated Thanawat Tirapongpaiboon 6-3 in the final to become the only one to win the Asian and World championships in all formats.
268. a The theme is 'Music at the intersections'.
269. b Maharashtra's extremely popular footwear industry, renowned for its handcrafted leather Kolhapuri chappal has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which is likely to further boost its sale in other parts of the country and abroad.
270. c The book, My Life, My Mission, co-authored with senior journalist Uday Mahurkar, also addresses the major controversies, turning points and achievements of the yoga exponent's life.
271. d Justice V Ramasubramanian took oath as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in Shimla. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
272. c The government has developed a National Strategic Plan with the goal for ending Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.
273. d Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will attend the 14th G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan from 28th to 29th of this month. Former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu will be India's sherpa at the G20 meet. India has participated in all the G20 Summits held so far. It will host the G20 summit in 2022 for the first time.
274. b A pilot project aimed at providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women will be launched by the Maharashtra government. The project, named "Chullah (wood-fired stove)-free and smoke-free Maharashtra", will target the women who have not benefited under the Ujjwala or any other LPG distribution scheme.
275. a Mexico became the first country to ratify the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) when its Senate approved it by a vote of 114 in favor to 4 against.
276. c Saudi Arabia has become the first Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) following the group's annual general meeting in the US.
277. b The U.S. State Department has released its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, highlighting the need for action against domestic trafficking. India continued to be placed in Tier 2 on the 1-3 country trafficking scale.
278. c In a bid to transform the logistics sector in India, Rivigo, a technology-enabled logistics company, launched the National Freight Index (NFI). With this, Rivigo aims to bring transparency to the previously opaque industry.
279. d The Indian women's rugby team claimed a historic first-ever international Rugby 15s victory with a 21-19 win over Singapore to finish third in the Asia Women's - Division 1 Rugby XVs Championship in Manila.
280. a Dr. Gaurav Nigam, a well-known educationist, paediatrician, and the author has been conferred 'Innovative Research Excellence Award 2019' at Asian Leadership Summit held at Thimphu, Bhutan.
281. c Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said that 1,253 stations have been identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme (ASS) out of which 1,103 railway stations have been developed so far.

282. d Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan was sworn-in as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court in Hyderabad. Justice Chauhan is the second Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh High Court last year.
283. a The Government has set up 713 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 684 Agricultural Technology Management Agencies at the district level in the country for dissemination of technologies among the farming community. This is aimed at meeting the target of doubling the farmers' income by 2022.
284. a Qu Dongyu became the first Chinese national to be elected to head the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
285. b Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered a major blow as the Opposition candidate in Istanbul's controversial mayoral election re-run romped to victory. Ekrem Imamoglu won the first vote in March by a tiny margin of just 13,000 votes in the city of 15 million.
286. c The commerce ministry's prestigious Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has slipped eight places to 31 in the HRD Ministry's 2019 national ranking of higher education institutes under management category.
287. a Viral Acharya who had made a fervent pitch for autonomy for the regulator, has reportedly quit six months before the scheduled end of his term. Acharya, who joined the central bank on January 23, 2017, was RBI's youngest deputy governor post economic liberalisation.
288. b The International Olympic Committee (IOC) formally opened its new headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland; exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.
289. a Senior bureaucrat Shefali Juneja was appointed as India's representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body. She has been appointed to the post of Representative of India in the ICAO, Montreal, Canada, for a period of three years.
290. c World Olympic Day is celebrated on 23rd June all around the world by hundreds of thousands of people (old and young) participate in sports activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music and educational seminars.
291. d The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch a new reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes.
292. d Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a Flood Hazard Atlas for better preparedness. "This atlas will help identify the disaster prone areas of the state so that necessary plans can be made to tackle the situation."
293. a Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has decided to modify the format of driving licenses to smart card type driving licences.
294. b Mauritania's ruling party candidate Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, a former general and defense minister won the country's presidential election with 52% of the vote.
295. c The Reserve Bank of India has launched an application on its website for lodging complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer experience in timely redressal of grievances.
296. b India has scrapped a \$500-million deal with Israel for the purchase of Spike anti-tank missiles from defence contractor Rafael Advanced Defense Systems after indigenous developer Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) claimed that it could deliver an alternative within two years.

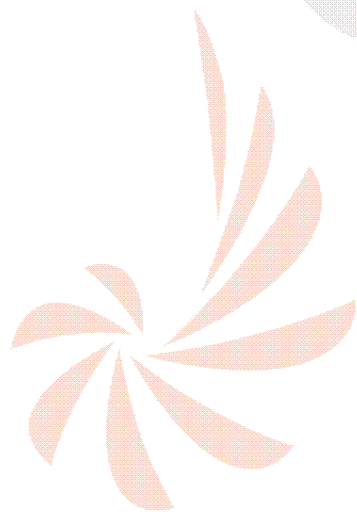


297. a NASA Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) has detected the highest ever levels of methane in the course of its mission on Mars because the gas could point to the existence of microbial life. But the methane could also be produced as a result of interactions between rocks and water.
298. b Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo were awarded the 2026 Winter Olympic Games after a vote by the International Olympic Committee membership.
299. d Veteran actor Anupam Kher's autobiography 'Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly' will hit the stands on August 5.
300. a BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi has written her debut novel, which talks of undercurrents of Delhi's political landscape and attempts to lay bare what is influencing the course of the nation's political trajectory.
301. d Rachna Khaira of The Tribune has bagged the prestigious RedInk Award for 'Journalist of the Year' for her expose during 2018 on the functioning of the UIDAI and its Aadhaar data cache.
302. d In 2010, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), decided to designate June 25th as the International Day of the Seafarer as a way to recognize that almost everything that we use in our daily lives has been directly or indirectly affected by sea transport.
303. b A robot named Bumble became the first Astrobe robot to fly under its own power in space.
304. c Nearly half the world's electricity will come from renewable energy by 2050 as costs of wind, solar and battery storage continue to plummet.
305. b The World Bank approved a \$147 million loan agreement to provide basic urban services to the people of Jharkhand and help improve the management capacity of the urban local bodies (ULBs) in the state.
306. a High Level Advisory Group (HLAG) headed by Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla has been constituted by the Department of Commerce.
307. d Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is among the 100 most influential women driving the UK-India relationship forward alongside one of Britain's senior-most Cabinet ministers Penny Mordaunt.
308. b Japan gifted Manipur a museum of peace built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.
309. c While Kerala remains the healthiest State in India, Uttar Pradesh remains the unhealthiest, said NITI Aayog as it released the second edition of its State Health Index.
310. b Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched Integrated Scheme for School Education i.e. Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19.
311. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sherpa for the G20 summit Suresh Prabhu attended G20 Sherpa meeting at Osaka in Japan to prepare for Prime Minister's Summit with G-20 leaders.
312. b The Indian Air Force is participating in a bilateral exercise between Indian and French Air Force named Exercise 'Garuda-VI' France from 1st of next month. It will continue till 12th of July.
313. a Members of the 7 countries regional grouping Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated the BIMSTEC Day in Dhaka.

314. b The Reserve Bank said all data related to payments must be stored in systems located only in India and data processed abroad will have to be brought back to the country within 24 hours.
315. c The 32nd Congress of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) has kick-started in Hyderabad with Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Kailash Choudhary formally inaugurating the 8-day event. The Seed Congress is being held for the first time in South Asia.
316. a American Sofia Kenin saved three match points on her way beating third seed Belinda Bencic in the Mallorca Open grasscourt final.
317. d The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee securing 58 votes out of 62.
318. a The theme of this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - 'health for justice, justice for health'.
319. b New film Veyilmarangal (Trees under the Sun), directed by Dr. Biju, made its premiere at the 22nd Shanghai International film festival.
320. c Punjab cadre IPS officer Samant Goel has been appointed new chief of Research & Analysis Wing.
321. b Commerce and Industry Ministry said, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, Niti Aayog will be the chairman of the 18-member committee.
322. c India has signed a loan agreement worth 400 million dollar with the World Bank to help treat and eliminate Tuberculosis from the country.
323. d The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Smt. Renuka Singh launched the “Go Tribal Campaign” of Tribes India at a glittering event in New Delhi.
324. b A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the Ministry of Shipping and IIT, Kharagpur for setting up the Centre for Inland and Coastal Maritime Technology.
325. a India captain Virat Kohli became the fastest batsman to reach 20,000 international runs, eclipsing batting greats Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
326. c India proposed to host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai, which is expected to choose the host city for the 2030 Winter Olympics.
327. d The International Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day is observed every year across the world on June 27 to celebrate the strong contribution of MSME businesses in growth and development of any economy.
328. c Author Amish Tripathi has been named as the director of London's Nehru Centre, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) president Vinay Sahasrabudhe announced.
329. b The 23rd edition of the Sindhu Darshan Festival kicked off at Sindhu Ghat Shey in Leh.
330. a Cyrus Poonawalla, founder and Chairman of the Serum Institute of India, received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford for his work in the field of life-saving vaccines and philanthropy.

331. d The Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a five-year vision plan named Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP).
332. c Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan was elected unopposed as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Bihar. The LJP is an ally of the BJP.
333. a Arunachal Pradesh government constituted the state Lokayukta, headed by former Gauhati High Court judge P K Saikia as its chairperson.
334. b In Meghalaya, a two-day North East Conclave 2019 on 'Transforming North East India through Science and Technology' began at Shillong.
335. c National Housing Bank (NHB) has a new Managing Director in Sarada Kumar Hota.
336. c The trial of the surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, was carried out from a mobile launcher from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range, ITR at Chandipur.
337. c China has successfully tested its latest submarine-launched ballistic missile, the JL-3.
338. d A tortoise considered beautiful enough to be named 'impressed' has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
339. c India's chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.
340. a The prosperous northern Italian regions of Lombardy and Veneto, representing "Team Milan-Cortina," have won the bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.
341. b Two day Meeting of Expert Working Group of Paris Pact Initiative of UNODC was held in New Delhi.
342. c Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that the flow of raw sewage into the Ganga river will be fully halted by 2022.
343. b The Ministry of Electronics and IT will soon place before the Union Cabinet a Rs.450 crore proposal for Natural Language Translation — one of the key missions identified by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
344. c West Bengal government has announced a crop insurance scheme in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC), for the 2019 kharif season. The scheme called Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) is applicable for farmers in 15 districts - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum, Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.
345. b Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the International Security Alliance are taking part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi.
346. d Odisha-based Navaratna Company NALCO has been selected for President's award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development.
347. a NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.

348. d According to Mercer's 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked at the 67th position out of the 209 cities surveyed.
349. b says that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted to hit a Pakistani Army camp in the wake of the Parliament terror attack but was forced to drop the plan at the last moment as it got relocated.
350. d “Statistics Day” was celebrated on 29th June, 2019.



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