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India’s first full-time woman Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the maiden budget.

**Important highlights of Union Budget 2019-20:**

**On the Urban Sector-**
- Over 81 lakh houses at the investment of Rs 4.83 lakh crore have been sanctioned and construction of about 41 lakh houses started, under PMAY-Urban.
- More than 95% of all cities have declared themselves open defecation free.
- Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra to be inaugurated at Gandhi Darshan on 02nd October 2019.
- Metro Rail initiatives to be enhanced by encouraging PPPs and faster completion. Dedicated freight corridor is almost complete.

**On Agriculture Sector-**
- Govt. to support private entrepreneurs in agriculture.
- “Ease of doing business” and ease of living should apply to farmers.” Zero-budget farming proposed as a model for farmers. “Steps such as this can help doubling farmer’s income.”
- Zero-Budget farming is natural farming which is neither chemical-loaded nor organic with its reliance on manure. It’s a form of gardening as a self-sustainable practice with minimum external intervention. This concept of zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) was first propagated 25 years ago by Subhash Palekar as a movement for farmers who were in debt due to the Green Revolution and is now being used by a large number of farmers across the country.
- Jal Shakti Ministry created by merging many water management ministries. Water will be supplied to all rural households by 2024 under Jal Jeevan Mission. Govt. will explore additional funds for Jal Shakti by accessing the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority fund.
- 9.6 crore toilets have been constructed till now. More than 5.6 lakh villages have become open-defecation free. She proposes to expand Swachh Bharat to solid waste management in every village.
- Over 2 crore rural Indians have been made digitally literate.

**On the Rural Sector-**
- “Gaon, Gareeb aur Kisan at the centre of all our policies.”
- “All villages and almost 100% of houses have been provided with electricity.” FM assures that by 2022 every single rural family, except those who are unwilling to take the connection, will have electricity and clean cooking gas.
- The completion of houses has come down from 314 days per house in 2015-16 to 114 days now.
- The Department of Fisheries will establish a fisheries management network. FM says the government’s rural road scheme has brought about socio-economic improvements. “All-weather connectivity has now been provided to over 97% of such habitations.” 30,000 km of roads in this scheme have been built using green technology.
- Under phase three of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, 1.25 lakh kms of the road to be built in the next 5 years. Project cost estimated at over Rs 80,000 crore.

**For Investments and Markets-**
- FIIs and FPIs could be allowed to invest in infrastructure debt funds. Minimum public shareholding in listed companies can be increased from 25% to 35%.
- A social stock exchange is proposed, for social and voluntary organisations, to raise capital, equity and debt.
- Global FDIs fell to $1.3 billion from $1.5 trillion, but inflows in India remained strong at $54.37 billion, a growth of 6%.
- “100% MRI for insurance intermediaries. Local sourcing norms to be eased for FDI in single-brand retail.”
- Global Investors Meet to happen in India. Limit on FPI in a company increased to 24%. NRI investment in Indian capital markets is comparatively less. NRI investment to merged with FPIs.

**For Transport Sector-**
- Govt’s transport infrastructure schemes such as Sagar Mala, UDAN are are bridging rural-urban divide.
- Government will do a restructuring of the national highway programme. In the second phase of Bharat Mala, States will be helped to develop State highways.
- Government envisions using rivers for cargo transport.
- The Minister proposes Rs. 50 lakh crore investment for Railway infrastructure between 2018 and 2030, and using public-private partnerships unleash faster development, completion of tracks, passenger freight services.
- Recommendations of high-level committee on retiring old power plants, and addressing the under-utilisation of power plants will be taken up now. A
package for power sector tariffs and reforms will be announced soon.

For MSMEs-
- The Minister proposes a modern tenancy law. Loans of up to Rs. 1 crore to be given to MSMEs for ease of access.
- Govt will create a payment platform for MSMEs to enable them to pay bills, and save time. Under PM Karam Yogi Maan Dhan scheme Govt will extend pension benefits to 3 crore retail traders and shopkeepers who have a revenue of less than Rs. 1.5 crore.

On the Youth-
- New National Education Policy proposed. A new National Research Foundation to be set up to assimilate all research grants given by different ministries independent of each other.
- Massive Open Online Courses through SWAYAM has been successful. She proposes the programme Study in India to bring in foreign students.
- Draft legislation for setting up of Higher Education Commission will be presented later this year. 10 million youth to take up industry-relevant skill training under the Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Multiple labour laws to be streamlined into four labour codes.

Govt proposes starting exclusive TV channel for start-ups (within the set of DD channels).

On Ease of Living-
- This government aims to bring greater ease of living in the lives of its citizens.
- 35 crore LED bulbs have been distributed through Ujala Yojana, leading to a cost-saving of Rs.18,341 crore annually. India is going to be free of incandescent bulbs.
- A massive programme for railway station modernization to be launched.

On Digital Payments-
- TDS of 2% on cash withdrawals exceeding Rs.1 crore in a year from bank accounts, to discourage business payments in cash.
- No charges or merchant discount rates shall be imposed on customers or the merchants. RBI and banks will absorb these costs.
- Incresed personal tax surcharge on top-end income brackets—for those in the Rs. 2-5 crore, and Rs. 5 crore & above, increasing the effective tax rate is 3% and 7% respectively.

On Indirect Taxes-
- 17 taxes and 13 cesses became one tax under GST.
- Relief of above Rs. 92,000 crore per year has been given. GST to be further simplified to a single monthly return.
- The Minister reads out various exemptions under customs duty. Defence products not manufactured in India are exempted from basic customs duty.
- Proposed to increase custom duty on gold and other precious metals from 10 % to 12.5%.
- Excise duty on fuel hiked by Re.1. Fiscal deficit is 3.3%, brought down from 3.4%.
- The Finance Bill is introduced.

The government has estimated gross domestic product growth of 7% for the fiscal year 2019-2020. The theme of the Economic Survey 2019 is about enabling a “shifting of gears”.

Here are the key highlights from the Economic Survey:
- Survey sees Financial Year 2020 GDP growth at 7%, higher growth on stables macros.
- India needs to grow at 8% per year to be $5 trillion economy by Financial Year 2025.
- The survey suggests diplomatic type privileges, naming roads for top taxpayers.
- Investment the "key driver" of simultaneous growth in demand, jobs, exports, and productivity.
- Green shoots in investment activity seems to taking hold.
- Rural wage growth started increasing since mid-2018.
- Political stability should push the animal spirits of the economy.
- Poor enforcement of contracts and dispute resolution is a big hurdle. A faster legal process should be the top priority.
- Savings and growth are positively co-related. Savings must increase more than investment.
Survey argues that nudging behaviour change is the simplest way to solve many social issues.


The success of MGNREGS shows govt. schemes can make a difference on the ground with skillful use of technology.

A minimum wage policy for the bottom rung of wage earners to drive up demand and strengthening the middle class.

Indian MSMEs need to be freed from shackles that convert them into dwarfs. MSMEs need to be seen as a source of innovation, growth and job creation. Policies should be reoriented for MSMEs growth, create greater profits for their owners and contribute to job creation and productivity in the economy.

India needs to increase per capita energy consumption to raise real per capita GDP by US$ 5000 and improve its HDI ranking.

The Survey is inspired by Gandhiji’s Talisman: “…Recall the face of the poorest man [woman], and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her].

India will enjoy the “demographic dividend” phase in the next two decades but some states will start transitioning to an ageing society by the 2030s.

India moving forward from Swachh Bharat to Swasth and Sundar Bharat.

Investment rate seems to have bottomed out.

Govt stands by the fiscal consolidation path.

Jan-March economic slowdown due to poll-related activity.

NBFC stress reason for Financial Year 2019 slowdown.

Decline in NPAs should push up CAPEX cycle.

The general fiscal deficit is seen at 5.8% in Financial Year 2019 Vs. 6.4% in Financial Year 2018.

Investment rate seen higher in Financial Year 2020 on improved demand.

Oil prices are seen declining in Financial Year 2020.

Accommodative MPC policy to help cut real lending rates.

From ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ to ‘BADLAV’ (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi).

From ‘Give it up’ for the LPG subsidy to ‘Think about the Subsidy’. From ‘Tax evasion’ to ‘Tax compliance’.

**Union Cabinet Ministers Portfolio 2019**

Modi took oath as the PM for a second consecutive term. 57 other members of the Council of Ministers also took the oath. A total of 24 Cabinet Ministers took oath followed by nine Ministers of State (Independent Charge) and 24 Ministers of State. Here’s the full list of the Union Council of Ministers and their portfolios, under the Modi Government 2.0.

- **Narendra Modi** - Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; all important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister.

**Cabinet Ministers**

- **Rajnath Singh** - Defence (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)
- **Amit Shah** - Home Affairs (Gandhinagar, Gujarat)
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** - Finance; Corporate Affairs (Rajya Sabha, Karnataka)
- **Subrahmanyma Jaishankar** - External Affairs (Rajya Sabha, Gujarat)
- **Nitin Gadkari** - Road Transport and Highways; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- **DV Sadananda Gowda** - Chemical and Fertilizers (North Bengaluru, Karnataka)
- **Ram Vilas Paswan** - Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Rajya Sabha, Bihar)
- **Narendra Singh Tomar** - Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development; Panchayati Raj (Murena, Madhya Pradesh)
- **Ravi Shankar Prasad** - Law and Justice; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** - Food Processing Industries (Bhatinda, Punjab)
- **Thawarchand Gehlot** - Social Justice and Empowerment (Rajya Sabha, Madhya Pradesh)
- **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** - Human Resource Development (Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- **Arjun Munda** - Tribal Affairs (Khunti, Jharkhand)
- **Smriti Irani** - Women and Child Development; Textiles (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)
- **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** - Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology; Earth Sciences (Chandani Chowk, Delhi)
- **Prakash Javdekar** - Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and Broadcasting (Rajya Sabha, Maharashtra)
- **Piyush Goyal** - Railways; Commerce and Industries (Rajya Sabha, Maharashtra)
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** - Petroleum and Natural Gas; Steel (Rajya Sabha, Madhya Pradesh)
- **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** - Minority Affairs (Rajya Sabha, Jharkhand)
- **Prahlad Joshi** - Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines (Dharwad, Karnataka)
- **Mahendra Nath Pandey** - Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh)
- **Arvind Sawant** - Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise (South Mumbai, Maharashtra)
- **Giriraj Singh** - Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (Begusarai, Bihar)
Ministers of State (Independent Charge)-

- Santosh Kumar Gangwar - Labour and Employment
- Rao Inderjit Singh - Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning
- Shripad Yesso Naik - Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); MoS Defence
- Dr. Jitendra Singh - Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; MoS PMO; Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space
- Kiren Rijiju - Youth Affairs and Sports; MoS Minority Affairs
- Prahalad Singh Patel - Culture; Tourism
- Raj Kumar Singh - Power; New and Renewable Energy; MoS Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Hardeep Singh Puri - Housing and Urban Affairs; Civil Aviation; MoS Commerce and Industry
- Mansukh L Mandaviya - Shipping; MoS Chemicals and Fertilizers

Minister of States (MoS)-

- Faggansingh Kulaste - Steel
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey - Health and Family Welfare
- Arjun Ram Meghwal - Parliamentary Affairs; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- General (Retd) VK Singh - Road Transport and Highways
- Krishan Pal - Social Justice and Empowerment
- Danve Raosaheb Dodarao - Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution
- G Kishan Reddy - Home Affairs
- Parshottam Rupala - Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Ramdas Athawale - Social Justice and Empowerment
- Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti - Rural Development
- Babul Supriyo - Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Sanjeev Kumar Balyan - Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries
- Dhotre Sanjay Sharmarao - Human Resource Development; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
- Anurag Singh Thakur - Finance; Corporate Affairs
- Angadi Suresh Channabasappa - Railways
- Nityanand Rai - Home Affairs
- Rattan Lal Kataria - Jal Shakti; Social Justice and Empowerment
- V Muraleedharan - External Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs
- Renuka Singh Saruta - Tribal Affairs
- Som Parkash - Commerce and Industry
- Rameswar Teli - Food Processing Industries
- Pratap Chandra Sarangi - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- Kailash Choudhary - Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Debasree Chaudhuri - Women and Child Development

French Open 2019 Concludes

The 2019 French Open (also known as Roland Garros) was the 123rd edition of the French Open.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Rafael Nadal (Spain)</td>
<td>Austria Dominic Thiem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>Ashleigh Barty (Australia)</td>
<td>Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Men’s Doubles</td>
<td>Kevin Krawietz (Germany) and Andreas Mies (Germany)</td>
<td>Jeremy Chardy (France) and Fabrice Martin (France)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Women’s Doubles</td>
<td>Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)</td>
<td>Duan Yingying (China) and Zheng Saisai (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mixed Doubles</td>
<td>Latisha Chan (Chinese Taipei) and Ivan Dodig (Canada)</td>
<td>Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Mate Pavic ( Croatia)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Need, Jurisdiction and Powers of LOKPAL

Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 seeks to provide for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

Justice PC Ghose Appointed 1st Lokpal

Powers of Lokpal

- It has powers to superintendence over, and to give direction to CBI.
- If it has referred a case to CBI, the investigating officer in such case cannot be transferred without the approval of Lokpal.
- Powers to authorize CBI for search and seizure operations connected to such case.
- The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal has been vested with the powers of a civil court.
Lokpal has powers of confiscation of assets, proceeds, receipts and benefits arisen or procured by means of corruption in special circumstances.
Lokpal has the power to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant connected with allegation of corruption.
Lokpal has power to give directions to prevent destruction of records during preliminary inquiry.

**Highlight of IPL 2019**

Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super.

Orange Cap - David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad scored most runs: 692 Runs in 12 Matches.
Purple Cap - Imran Tahir of Chennai Super Kings took most wickets: 26 Wickets in 17 Matches.
Jonny Bairstow - Sunrisers Hyderabad Highest Individual Score: 114 Runs.
IPL 2019’s Emerging Player of the Year award: KKR’s Shubman Gill.

**India Becomes Elite Space Power**

PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation announcing that India has entered its name as an elite space power.
Under Mission Shakti led by DRDO, an Anti-Satellite Weapon (A-SAT) successfully targeted a live satellite on a low earth orbit (LEO). The satellite was orbiting at an altitude of 300 km.

After the US, Russia, and China, India is the fourth country to acquire this space capability.

**New e-Commerce Policy Comes into Effect**

India’s new e-commerce policy came into effect from February 1, 2019.
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (previously DIPP) gave them a 60-day window period for aligning themselves to the government’s modified foreign direct investment (FDI) rules.

**Important Highlights of the new policy:**
- Govt bars online retailers from selling products through vendors in which they have an equity interest. also bars them from entering into exclusive deals with brands for selling products only on their platforms.
- All online retailers will be required to maintain a level playing field for all the vendors selling their products on the platform, and it shall not affect the sale prices of goods in any manner.
- Disallows e-commerce players to control the inventory of the vendors. Any such ownership over the inventory will convert it into inventory-based model from marketplace-based model, which is not entitled to FDI.
- The e-commerce retailer shall be deemed to own the inventory of a vendor if over 25% of the purchases of such a vendor are through it.

**Grammy Awards 2019**

The 61st Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held at Staples Center in Los Angeles. The list of important winners of Grammy Awards 2019 given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Album Of The Year</td>
<td>Golden Hour, Kacey Musgraves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Of The Year</td>
<td>“This Is America,” Childish Gambino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best New Artist</td>
<td>Dua Lipa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap Album Winner</td>
<td>Invasion Of Privacy, Cardi B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best R&amp;B Album Winner</td>
<td>H.E.R., H.E.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Rap Song</td>
<td>“God’s Plan,” Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Country Album</td>
<td>Golden Hour, Kacey Musgraves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Song Of The Year</td>
<td>“This Is America,” Childish Gambino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Laureus World Sports Awards 2019

The Laureus World Sports Award for Sportman of the Year is an annual award honoring the achievements of individual men from the world of sports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sportsman of the Year</td>
<td>Novak Djokovic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportswoman of the Year</td>
<td>Simone Biles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comeback of the Year</td>
<td>Tiger Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team of the Year</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportsperson with a Disability</td>
<td>Henrieta Farkasova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Achievement Award</td>
<td>Arsene Wenger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New CMs: Arunachal/Sikkim/AP/MP/Odisha/Rajasthan/Chhattisgarh/Goa

- Pema Khandu was sworn in as the CM of Arunachal Pradesh for a second term.
- Naveen Patnaik took oath as the CM of Odisha for the fifth time.
- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as PS Golay, CM of Sikkim.
- YSR Congress party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken oath as CM of Andhra Pradesh.
- Congress’ Ashok Gehlot (2nd term) sworn in as the CM of Rajasthan along with deputy CM Sachin Pilot.
- Kamal Nath took oath as the 18th CM of Madhya Pradesh.
- Bhupesh Baghel as the CM of Chhattisgarh.
- Pramod Sawant took oath as CM of Goa.

72nd BAFTA Awards 2019 Announced

List of important winners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Alfonso Cuaron, Roma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Film</td>
<td>Roma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actress</td>
<td>Olivia Colman, The Favourite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor</td>
<td>Rami Malek – Bohemian Rhapsody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding British Film</td>
<td>The Favourite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Animated Film</td>
<td>Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best British Short Animation</td>
<td>Roughhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best British Short Film</td>
<td>73 Cows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2nd Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement: Repo Rate Reduced to 5.75%

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) at its meeting decided to:

- Reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 5.75% from 6.00% with immediate effect.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.50%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.0%.
- The Reserve Bank of India lowered the economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7% due to slowdown in domestic activities and escalation in global trade war.
- GDP growth plunged to a five-year low of 5.8% in the January-March quarter due to lacklustre growth in agriculture, manufacturing, construction, trade, hotels and power sectors. This, in turn, pulled down the FY19 GDP growth rate to a five-year low of 6.8%. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during August 5 to 7, 2019.

Mathematician Karen Uhlenbeck becomes 1st Woman to Win Abel Prize

- University of Texas professor Karen Uhlenbeck has become the first woman to win the Abel Prize, a mathematics honour first given in 2003.
- The 76-year-old was awarded for her work on “analysis, geometry and mathematical physics”.

64th Filmfare Awards

Winners of the 64th Filmfare Awards were announced in Mumbai.

Here’s the complete winner’s list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Film</td>
<td>Raazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critics’ Award for Best Film</td>
<td>AndhaDhun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)</td>
<td>Alia Bhatt, Raazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)</td>
<td>Ranbir Kapoor, Sanju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Director</td>
<td>Meghna Gulzar, Raazi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Debut Actor (Female)</td>
<td>Sara Ali Khan, Kedarnath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Debut Actor (Male)</td>
<td>Ishaan Khatter, Beyond The Clouds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critics’ Award for Best Actor (Male)</td>
<td>Ranveer Singh for “Padmaavat”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critics’ Award for Best Actor (Female)</td>
<td>Neena Gupta, Badhaai Ho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critics Best Actor In a Leading Role (Male)</td>
<td>Ayushmann Khurrana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All England Open Badminton Championships

All England Open 2019, officially YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2019 was a BWF World Tour 1000 event which took place at Arena Birmingham in England from 6 to 10 March 2019. It had a total purse of $1,000,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Kento MOMOTA (Japan)</td>
<td>Viktor AXELSEN (Denmark)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>CHEN Yufei (China)</td>
<td>Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Doubles</td>
<td>Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)</td>
<td>Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Doubles</td>
<td>Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)</td>
<td>Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Doubles</td>
<td>Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)</td>
<td>Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Hijashino (Japan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Swiss Open Championship

Swiss Open, officially the YONEX Swiss Open 2019, was a badminton tournament which took place at St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland and had a total purse of $150,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Shi Yuki (China)</td>
<td>B Sai Praneet (India)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>Chen Yufei (China)</td>
<td>Saena Kawakami (Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Doubles</td>
<td>Fajar ALFIAN and Muhammad Rian ARDIANTO (Indonesia)</td>
<td>LEE Yang and WANG Chi-Lin (Taiwan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Doubles</td>
<td>CHANG Ye Na and JUNG Kyung Eun (South Korea)</td>
<td>Nami MATSUYAMA and Chiharu SHIDA (Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Doubles</td>
<td>Mathias BAY-SMIDT and Rikke SOBY (Denmark)</td>
<td>Rinov RIVALDY and Pitha Haningtya MENTARI (Indonesia)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pulitzer Prize 2019 has Declared

The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. Here is the complete list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOURNALISM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23rd Asian Athletics Championships Concludes in Doha, Qatar

PU Chitra won gold in Women’s 1,500 metres race. Here is the list of top 4 countries in the Championship:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Odisha struck with Cyclone Storm FANI

1. Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones are just different names for the same kind of tropical storm that have a low-pressure centre with high wind speeds and heads towards land.
2. Cyclone FANI is named by Bangladesh. It is pronounced “Foni” and loosely translates to “the hood of a snake”.

India Open Badminton 2019 Concludes in New Delhi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)</td>
<td>Srikanth Kidambi (India)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Singles</td>
<td>Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)</td>
<td>He Bingjiao (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Singles</td>
<td>Lee Yang and Wang</td>
<td>Ricky Karanda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Badminton Asia Championships 2019 Concluded in China**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner-Up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s singles</td>
<td>Kento Momota</td>
<td>China Shi Yuqi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s singles</td>
<td>Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)</td>
<td>China He Bingjiao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s doubles</td>
<td>Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe (Japan)</td>
<td>Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s doubles</td>
<td>Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)</td>
<td>Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed doubles</td>
<td>Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)</td>
<td>He Jiting and Du Yue (China)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 in China: India Finishes With 16 Medals, Iran Tops**

- Only Bajrang Punia won the gold medal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**David Malpass Named World Bank President**

- David Malpass appointed as the President of the World Bank. He has replaced Former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim who left in January.

**2018 Nobel Prize Winners**

- Nobel Prize were announced in 5 different fields viz. Physiology or Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Peace, & Economic Sciences. This is for the first time that no Literature Prize was given in 70 years because of a #MeToo scandal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physiology or Medicine</td>
<td>James P Allison (USA) &amp; Tasaku Honjo (Japan)</td>
<td>“for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada)</td>
<td>“for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>(a) one half to Frances H. Arnold (USA) (b) Other half jointly to George P. Smith (USA) &amp; Sir Gregory P. Winter (UK)</td>
<td>(a) “for the directed evolution of enzymes” (b) “for the phage display of peptides &amp; antibodies”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Denis Mukwege (Congo) &amp; Nadia Murad (Iraq)</td>
<td>“for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war &amp; armed conflict”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Sciences</td>
<td>(a) William D. Nordhaus (USA) (b) Paul M. Romer (USA)</td>
<td>(a) “for integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis” (b) “for integrating technological innovations into long-run macroeconomic analysis.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Astronomers Capture First-ever Image of a Black Hole**

- Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as ‘Messier 87’ (M87). The ‘Event Horizon Telescope’ captured the image from the galaxy that is 50 million lightyears away.

**CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019 Announced in Mumbai**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year</td>
<td>Virat Kohli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>International Bowler of the Year</td>
<td>Jasprit Bumrah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>International Test Cricketer of the Year</td>
<td>Cheteshwar Pujara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. International ODI Cricketer of the Year | Rohit Sharma
5. International T20 Player of the Year | Aaron Finch
6. Outstanding Performance of the Year | Kuldeep Yadav
7. International T20 Bowler of the Year | Rashid Khan
8. Lifetime Achievement Award | Mohinder Amarnath
9. Junior Cricketer of the Year | Yashasvi Jaiswal

Oman Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize
An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for “Celestial Bodies”, the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.

Madrid Open 2019 in Spain
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s singles</td>
<td>Novak Djokovic (Serbia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s singles</td>
<td>Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s doubles</td>
<td>Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Horia Tecau (Romania)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s doubles</td>
<td>Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

76th Italian Open 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s singles</td>
<td>Rafael Nadal (Spain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s singles</td>
<td>Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s doubles</td>
<td>Juan Sebastián Cabal and Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Farah (Colombia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s doubles</td>
<td>Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia Ashleigh Barty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOB is now third largest lender as Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank Merger
Bank of Baroda is the third largest bank in the country after SBI and HDFC Bank with the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with itself from 01st April 2019.
This is second merger of state-run banks in the recent years after State Bank had merged five of its associate banks and Bhartiya Mahila Bank effective 01st April 2017.

BoB consolidated bank will have over 9,500 branches, 13,400 ATMs, 85,000 employees to serve 12 crore customers.

Independence Day Gallantry Awards Announced: Complete List of Winners
On the occasion of 72nd Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind approved 131 Gallantry Awards to members of Armed Forces personnel & Paramilitary Forces. Defence Ministry said that one Kirti Chakra, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 20 Shaurya Chakras & 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry) will be awarded.

Nilekani panel suggests 24x7 RTGS, NEFT, elimination of all charges
The Nandan Nilekani committee which was appointed by the RBI, has suggested a host of measures, to the governor Shaktikanta Das to encourage digital payments, which includes elimination of charges, round-the-clock RTGS and NEFT facility, and duty-free import of point-of-sales machines.

US won FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019
United States won FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019 held in Lyon, France. They defeated the Netherlands with a score of 2-0. This is the 4th world cup title for the US’s women football team.

Gender Equality Index: India Ranks 95, Denmark Tops
India ranked 95th out of 129 countries in a new index that measures global gender equality looking at aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
The list was topped by Denmark. Chad was placed at bottom most position (129th).
The Sustainable Development Goals Gender Index has been developed by UK-based Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global organizations.

ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2019
The ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2019 has begun from 30th May 2019. England opens the tournament at The Oval in London when they take on South Africa.
India Ranks 140th In World Press Freedom Index 2019, Norway Topped

India ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index 2019, released by Reporters Without Borders. The index is topped by Norway. Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters Without Borders, is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world.

- 1st: Norway
- 2nd: Finland
- 179th: North Korea
- 180th: Turkmenistan

RBI categorises IDBI Bank as private sector lender

The RBI stated that IDBI Bank has been categorised as a private sector bank for regulatory purposes with effect from 21st January 2019. This follows LIC acquires 51% of the total paid-up equity share capital of the bank. In April 2005, IDBI Bank was categorised under a new sub-group, ‘other public sector banks,’ by the RBI.

RBI Sells Its Entire Stake in NABARD And NHB To The Government

- RBI has divested its entire stake held in National Housing Bank (NHB), the regulator for housing finance companies, and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to the government, which now holds 100% in these entities.
- RBI had 100% shareholding in NHB, which was divested for INR 1,450 crore. The NABARD stake was divested in two phases. RBI had 72.5% stake in NABARD amounting to INR 1,450 crore, out of which 71.5%, worth INR 1,430 crore was divested in October 2010 and the residual shareholding was divested in February 2019 for INR 20 crore.
- NHB is the regulator for housing finance companies while NABARD is responsible for regulating and supervising the functions of Co-operative banks and RRBs.

Deposits in Jan Dhan bank accounts set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore

- The total deposits in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme are set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore soon. Government data claimed that the cumulative balance in 35.29 crore accounts under the flagship programme of the Modi government reached Rs 97,665.66 crore as on 03rd April 2019.

Padma Awardees 2019 Complete List

- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. ‘Padma Vibhushan’ is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; ‘Padma Bhushan’ for distinguished service of high order and ‘Padma Shri’ for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/April every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of 112 Padma Awards. The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards.

BHARAT RATNA (3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shri Nanaji Deshmukh</td>
<td>(Posthumously)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Bhupen Hazarika</td>
<td>(Posthumously)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Pranab Mukherjee</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PADMA VIBHUSHAN (4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Teejan Bai</td>
<td>Art-Vocals-Folk</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Ismail Omar Guelleh</td>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Foreigner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Banking Current Affairs

**The Reserve Bank of India** has advised all **Scheduled Commercial Banks** to adopt Education Loan Scheme, formulated by Indian Banks Association.

**Salient features of the Scheme includes:**
- Loan upto **Rs 10 lakh** for study in India and **upto Rs 20 lakh** for study abroad.
- Collateral free loans **upto Rs 7.5 Lakh** under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Education Loans (CGFSEL).
- No Margin for loan up to **Rs 7.50 Lakh**.
- Repayment period of **15 years**.
- One Year Moratorium for repayment after completion of studies in all cases.
- Moratorium taking into account spells of unemployment/under employment, say two or three times during the life cycle of the loan.
- Moratorium for the incubation period if the student wants to take up a start-up venture after graduation.

**Reserve Bank of India** launched Complaint Management System (CMS), a software application to be used to lodge complaints against banks and NBFCs with a view to improve customer’s experience in timely redressal of grievances. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has directed the Income Tax Department to share in “public interest” the details of assets and accounts of all such loan defaulters whose details are requested by the public sector banks.

The **Reserve Bank** relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) to **4% for Domestic Systemically Important Banks** (DSIBs) and **3.5% for other banks**. This has been done to help them boost their lending activities. It will be **effective from** the quarter commencing **October 1, 2019**.

The **Reserve Bank of India** has allowed **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to buy **financial assets** from other ARCs. The transactions must be settled in cash between the 2 ARCs.

The **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** will now come under the purview of Right to Information Act and **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.

**Reserve Bank** fined country’s largest private sector lender **HDFC Bank Rs 1 crore** for not reporting frauds and non-compliance with other directions.

From **1st July 2019**, **Canara Bank** customers can deposit cash of up to **Rs 50,000** for free only thrice a month. From the fourth transaction or for cash deposits of over Rs 50,000, there will be a service charge of Rs 1 per thousand, with a minimum of Rs 50 and a maximum of Rs 5,000 plus GST.

**Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the merger of the **Indiabulls Housing Finance and Lakshmi Vilas Bank**. The merged entity will be amongst the top eight private banks in India by size and profitability, with a net worth of Rs 19,472 crore, a loan book of Rs 1.23 lakh crore.

As per Second Bi-monthly **Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20**, RBI stopped imposing additional charges on Fund transfer through RTGS and NEFT systems from 1st July 2019.

**The Reserve Bank of India** has imposed penalties on four state-run lenders for violating Know Your Customer norms and anti-money laundering standards. **Punjab National Bank**, **Allahabad Bank**, and **UCO Bank** were fined Rs 50 lakh.
each while Corporation Bank was fined Rs 25 lakh.

- **Karnataka Bank** Ltd has launched the web tool ‘Vasool So-Set’ (Vasool So-Fast) for digitalising the Non Performing Asset recovery process of the bank.

- **Airtel Payments** Bank has partnered with **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** to offer a life term insurance plan. The bank will offer the plan through its extensive network of banking points across the country.

- **Punjab & Sind Bank** has set up a centralised hub “Centralised MSME & Retail Group”. It will process retail and MSME loans for the better efficiency of branches in business acquisition.

- The RBI has **slapped a penalty of Rs. 2 crores on Kotak Mahindra Bank** for the non-state lender's failure to adhere to the regulator's diktat on promoter shareholding.

- The govt has approved recapitalization of Rs 48,239 crore in 12 public sector banks in this fiscal to help them maintain regulatory capital requirements and finance growth plans. The government will infuse over Rs. 9000 crore in Corporation Bank and rupees Rs. 6896 crore in Allahabad Bank, Rs. 4368 crores will be provided Bank of India and Rs. 205 croreto Bank of Maharashtra.

- **Bank of Baroda** has tied up with Germany's KfW Development Bank for funding of USD 113 million to refinance solar projects.

- **RBI** taken off Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework allowing them to resume their normal lending activities.

- **RBI & Bank of Japan** have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA). The BSA provides for India to access 75 billion US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for 50 billion dollars.

- **JP Morgan** rolled out the first US bank cryptocurrency. The cryptocurrency, called “JPM Coin."

- **RBI** withdrew the 20% limit on investments by FPIs in corporate bonds of an entity with a view to encourage more foreign investments.

- **RBI** decided to treat deposits to over Rs. 2 crores as ‘bulk’ as they doubled the limit for the same from the earlier Rs.1crore. National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB) have suggested this proposal.

- **RBI** in the exercise of powers conferred under Section 47A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 has levied a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on SBI for not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers.

- **RBI** raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to Rs. 1.6 lakh from the current Rs. 1 lakh with a view to help small and marginal farmers. RBI also announced measures to boost the farming sector in addition to annual payment of Rs. 6,000 to small and marginal farmers.

- Indian Banking Association issued advisory requesting banks to waive off the processing, documentation, inspection and all other service charges for Kisan Credit Card and crop loans up to 3 lakh rupees.

- **Fino Payments Bank (FPB)** announced the launch of a sweep account facility in association with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB).

- **RBI** slapped an Rs. 1-crore penalty on Syndicate Bank and Rs. 20 lakh on Axis Bank for violating norms.

- Two regional rural banks (RRBs) - **Pallavan Grama Bank** and **Pandyan Grama Bank** will be merged to form the Tamil Nadu Grama Bank as per the Finance Ministry notification. The integration will be effective from April 1. The new Tamil Nadu Grama Bank will be under the sponsorship of Indian Bank with head office in Salem, Tamil Nadu.

- ‘Kisan Suvidha loan’ for small and marginal farmers launched by **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**. It can be used by farmers for both agriculture and allied activities.

- **Bank of India**, **Bank of Maharashtra** and **Oriental Bank of Commerce** have been allowed to exit the PCA framework fully. The three lenders were part of 11 government-owned banks put under the framework in 2017 and 2018.

- **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** has launched ‘bank Locker protector policy’, the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company with a plan to protect the contents of a bank locker such as jewelry, title documents, and other valuables.

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd has launched their merchant-acquiring joint venture, SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd (SBIPSPL) in Mumbai for establishing a digital payments platform for India and other countries in the region.

- **United Bank of India** has signed a bancassurance deal with private life insurer **HDFC Life Insurance Company**.

- **IRDAI** and the **National Health Authority** (NHA) have formed a working group on the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

- **United Bank of India** has signed a bancassurance deal with **private life insurer HDFC Life Insurance Company**.

- **Korea Exim Bank** has come forward to extend a Rs 4,100 crore loan for Visakhapatnam (VIZAG) Metro Rail project.

- **SBI** has become the first domestic bank to link the interest rate it offers on savings account deposits to
an external benchmark — the Reserve Bank of India’s repo rate.

- PNB has sanctioned loans worth Rs. 689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the psbloansin59minutes.com portal as part of its effort to promote such industries.
- SBI launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers. Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of 100 rupees per transaction for financial transactions and 60 rupees for non-financial transactions. Doorstep banking services are available to KYC-compliant account holders, with a valid mobile number registered with the bank and residing within 5 kilometers radius from their home branch.
- RBI named SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), which in other words mean banks that are too big to fail. As per the norms, these banks will have to set aside more capital for their continued operation.
- The SBI has launched a new service called You Only Need One or ‘YONO Cash’ for its customers using which customers can withdraw money from ATMs without using debit cards.
- RBI provided no objection to Bandhan Bank for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance.
- The country’s largest lender SBI has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities. SBI has signed an MoU to enhance business synergies between both the banks.
- The RBI has slapped a penalty of Rs 2 crore on PNB for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations.
- BOB has signed an MoU with agriculture services companies to develop an agriculture digital platform, Baroda Kisan, which will provide solutions for agricultural requirements. BoB has signed the agreement with Skymet Weather Services, Weather Risk Management Services, BigHaat, Agrostar India, EM3 Agri Services, and Poorti Agri Services.
- The Finance Ministry has decided to infuse Rs 5,042 crore into state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) ahead of the merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with BoB.
- PNB had sold stake in its housing finance arm, PNB Housing Finance (PNBHF) to General Atlantic Group and VardePartners for Rs 1,851 crore at Rs 850 per share.
- RBI set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) at 9.21% for the first quarter of the next fiscal (April-June).
- Kotak Mahindra Bank will charge customers for UPI transactions starting 1st of May 2019.
- RBI has tweaked Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms to provide an additional 2% window to lenders. This move will harmonise the liquidity requirements of banks and release additional money for lending.
- Karnataka Bank entered into an MoU with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company to distribute the latter’s life insurance products.
- The RBI came out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include a minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room. The new chests should have a processing capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes per day.
- Emirates Islamic has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.
- RBL Bank has partnered with credit profiler CreditVidya to improve the lender’s customer experience.
- The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of RBI, has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector. The 5G technology, along with blockchain, will be progressively adopted by banks.
- IDBI Bank has launched ‘NRI-Insta-Online’ account opening process for NRIs residing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.
- ACI Worldwide announced that Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI’s UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts. Canara Bank is the first public sector bank to shift to EMV chip and PIN for card present transactions across the country’s vast ATM network.
- Bandhan Bank has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank. The approval made under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2002.
- Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform for MSME bill discounting.
- Exim Bank has provided soft loans of USD 266.60 million to Rwanda for various projects.
- Allahabad Bank stated that the government has increased its authorised capital by Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 8,000 crore. The central government after consultation with the RBI increased the authorised capital of the bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched the first debit card-based authentication solution on NPCI’s e-
Mandate (electronic mandate) API (Application Program Interface) platform.

- The RBI has become the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, cut rates in February, April and June.
- SBI has launched India’s first ‘Green Car Loan’ (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme will offer the loan at 20 basis points lower than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.
- The RBI issued Rs20 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, RBI. The new denomination has the motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse, depicting the country’s cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is Greenish Yellow. The dimension of the banknote is 63 mm x 129 mm.
- Canara Bank and its life insurance partner Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance launched ‘Webassurance’ to enable its customers to purchase life insurance in a convenient and hassle-free way.
- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of private sector lender IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL), a microfinance company. Earlier, IndusInd Bank had received ‘No Objection’ from RBI, National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange. Bharat Financial will become a subsidiary of the private lender.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance tied up with financial marketplace Wishfin’s insurance arm Wishpolicy, to offer two-wheeler insurance to customers via WhatsApp. This service option is an instant and additional customer service option for policyholders.
- SBI moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans. SBI linked its interest rate on savings account with a balance above Rs1 lakh and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to RBI’s repo rate, effective 1 May 2019.
- LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) launched ‘Udyam’, a skilling center in Bengaluru. It was launched in association with Lok Bharti Education Society, the implementing partner.
- RBI slapped a monetary penalty on five pre-paid payment instrument issuers including Vodafone m-pesa and Phonepe, for violating regulatory guidelines. A penalty of INR 3.05 crore imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and INR 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, and G.I. Technology Private Ltd.
- RBI enhanced the housing loan limits for RRBs and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending. Henceforth, housing loans given by RRBs and SFBs to individuals up to INR 35 lakh in metropolitan centers (with population of 10 lakh and above) and INR 25 lakh in other centers, provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centers and at other centres does not exceed INR 45 lakh and INR 30 lakh, respectively, will be eligible for classification under priority sector lending.
- India Ratings downgraded the YES bank’s long-term rating to ‘IND AA’ with a negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating. ICRA also downgraded the long-term ratings of the lender.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups. NABARD is contributing to other funds till now and this is the first time that the rural development bank launched a fund of its own.
- Bank credit grew by 13.2% in the financial year 2018-19 as compared to 10.3% in the previous financial year, mainly aided by loans to services and retail sector. Deposit growth also gained momentum, growing by 10% as compared to 6.7% a year ago.
- ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. The card also includes benefits of up to Rs20, 000, including gift vouchers of Rs15, 000 from Goibibo.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs1 crore on Nainital Bank for its failure to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard.
- SIDBI put together a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to Rs10 crore to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities.
- The SBI announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living – Sri Sri Tattva. Under this partnership, YONO users can avail a discount of 15% on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva.
- RBI announced that it will allow large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of Rs5 per packet of 100
pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of Rs8 per packet.

- **Corporation Bank** launched ‘Corp SME Suvidha’, a product for GST-registered MSMEs. The product designed as part of the bank’s efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector.

- **RBI** stated that all non-deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above, and all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of their asset size, have to maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** announced that it has launched ‘Bank on Wheels’ facility in 14 of its lead districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, besides Vijayawada.

- **RBI** extended timings for customer transactions in the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to 6:00 pm from 4:30 pm. The new time window for RTGS comes into effect from 01st June 2019. The customer is charged a ‘time-varying charge’ on each outward transaction in addition to the flat processing charge. The fee for transfers between 8 am to 11 am is nil, from 11 am to 1 pm is Rs 2, and from 1 pm to 6 pm is Rs 5.

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**Economy/Financial/Business Current Affairs**

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved projects for infrastructure development worth Rs 1,650 crore ($235 million) in seven of the eight districts headquarter towns in Tripura.

- India has pledged to contribute USD 5 Million in 2019 to the UN Palestine refugee agency. The Indian Government is assisting 150 Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme.

- **Japanese company SoftBank has invested around $250 million in Ola Electric Mobility.**

- **Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation** has hiked interest rate on employees’ provident fund to 8.65% from 8.55% for the 2018-19 fiscal years.

- The country’s foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.875 billion to USD 421.867 billion in the week ending 31st May 2019.

- **World Bank, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),** and SIDBI launched new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called Women’s Livelihood Bonds (WLBs), with an initial corpus of Rs 300 crore. It will enable individual women entrepreneurs in sectors like food processing, agriculture, services, and small units to borrow around Rs 50,000 to Rs 3 lakh at an annual interest rate of around 13% to 14% or less and have tenure of 5 years.

- **RBI** constituted a six-member committee headed by TN Manoharan, Chairman, Canara Bank on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.

- **Financial Literacy Week 2019** to be observed from June 3-7 on the theme of “Farmers” and how they benefit by being a part of the formal banking system.

- **The GST Council** met for its 33rd meeting and slashed GST rate on under-construction residential properties and the affordable housing projects. The revised rates will be applicable from April 1, 2019.

- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in an attempt to provide relief to and boost investments into start-ups in India decided to simplify the process for them to get exemptions under the Income Tax Act, 1961. It will now recognize an entity as a start-up up to 10 years from the date of its incorporation or registration instead of the existing duration of 7 years. It will also recognize an entity as a start-up if its turnover for any of the financial years since its incorporation or registration does not exceed Rs 100 crore unlike the previous amount of Rs 25 crore.

- **India has boosted the Customs Duty** on all the goods imported from Pakistan to 200% followed by the day after India repealed Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status from Pakistan.

- **Govt. of India** gets Rs.10000 crore from Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) by additional offering. The government has absorbed approximately Rs.46000 crore by way of disinvestment with the successful offering of Bharat-22 ETF.

- **National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC)** released Kharif Crop estimation for the year 2018-2019. As per the report, the basmati rice production
is expected to decline by 9.24% to 5.18 million metric tonnes. The total oilseeds production is estimated to be 19.87 million metric tonne which is 5.36% lower as compared to the year 2018.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company announced the launch of ‘Trip Protector’ insurance policy, a pioneering policy in the non-life insurance segment in India.

Infosys, the country’s 2nd largest IT firm launched a next-generation digital platform ‘InfyTQ’ to facilitate engineering students with best learning experiences by imparting technical and professional skills.

Amazon launched "Amazon Pay Unified Payments Interface (UPI)" for Android users in partnership with Axis Bank to issue UPI IDs to its customers in India.

State-owned power giant NTPC has announced that it has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with SBI.

Food delivery startup Swiggy acquired Bengaluru-based AI startup Kint.io.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has bought a 14% stake in micro-financier Annapurna Finance for Rs 137 crore.

Paytm launched hotel bookings on its platform and acquired Night Stay, which offers deals on last-minute bookings at luxury hotels, as the Alibaba-backed payments and e-commerce Company expands its travel business.

The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development or OECD forecast in its interim outlook report that the world economy would grow 3.3 percent in 2019 and 3.4 percent in 2020.

Markets regulator SEBI withdrew the 20% limit on investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors in corporate bonds of an entity.

RBI has decided to use a new tool for the first time to enhance liquidity in the system using which it will buy $5 billion from the banks in a swap deal that is capable of injecting around Rs. 35,000 crores into the system. Minimum bid size for the auction has been fixed at $25 million and multiple bids submission by banks will be allowed.

The Finance Ministry has decided to keep the interest rate unchanged on small savings schemes for the three-month period beginning April 1st, 2019. The unchanged interest rate means the NSC (5 years) and the PPF (15 years) will fetch 8% interest, while money deposited in KVP will double in little over nine years. At the same time, if one is parking money in a fixed deposit with a maturity of five years with the SBI, he/she will get 6.85%. Senior citizens will get half a percent more: 7.35%.

The Ahmedabad bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the Rs 42,000-crore resolution plan submitted by Arcelor Mittal for the debt-ridden Essar Steel Ltd.

HDFC Bank Ltd crossed the Rs. 6 trillion market capitalization mark for the first time, making it only the third Indian firm—after Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)—to achieve the milestone. RIL is the most valued company in India with a market cap of Rs 8.50 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs 7.48 trillion.

ICICI Lombard and Mobikwik announced a strategic partnership to provide cyber-insurance cover.

Hyundai Motor Group (the Group) and Ola announced a strategic partnership under which Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation will invest a total of $300 million in Ola, making it their biggest combined investment to date.

ADB has inked an agreement to invest USD 50 million in solar energy project developer Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd to help the company scale up rapidly. The investment will come equally from ADB’s Ordinary Capital Resources and Leading Asia’s Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP).

Apple Inc & Goldman Sachs Group Inc jointly launched the Apple Card credit card for iPhones.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has completed the acquisition of majority stake in REC Ltd by transferring Rs 14,500 crore to the government.

GAIL India Ltd has signed an agreement with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) for cooperation in the development of solar power projects.

Ola has signed an MoU with the Government of Telangana to support the latter’s efforts in strengthening traffic infrastructure in the city.

Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, and Roland-Garros Grand Slam tennis tournament, also called the French Open, announced a three-year strategic technology partnership.

Wipro Limited (Bengaluru Based), a leading global information technology, consulting and business process Services Company and IIT Kharagpur signed an MoU to collaborate on high-impact, industry-focused applied research in the areas of 5G and AI.

Netherlands emerged as the third largest foreign direct investor in India during 2017-18, with investments pegged at about $2.67 billion across sectors. The Netherlands was also the second largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after Singapore, with investments worth $12.8 billion in 2017.

The Asia-Pacific region’s expected to grow at 5.7% in 2019. According to the bank’s Asian
Development Outlook 2019 report released in April, developing Asia which comprises 45 nations ranging from China to Tuvalu is projected to grow by 5.7% in 2019.

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for April 2019 eased to 3.07%, from 3.62% in April 2018. The latest WPI print was also lower than 3.18% recorded in March this year. Build up inflation for the financial year so far was 0.75%, lower than 0.86% in the corresponding period of the previous year.

- According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data, India’s overall exports, combining Merchandise and Services, in April 2019 is estimated to be around 44 billion US dollars with a positive growth of 1.34% over April 2018. Overall imports in April 2019 are estimated to be around 53 billion dollars with a positive growth of 4.5% over the corresponding period of 2018.

- The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners. Switzerland is the other nation that removed from the list.

- Markets regulator SEBI directed National Stock Exchange to pay more than Rs. 625 crore in the case of misuse of its co-location facility. The amount, if considered with simple interest, would come to little less than Rs.1,000 crore. If it involves a compound interest, the fine could amount to around Rs. 1,300 crore.

- Paytm launched a recurring payment service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model.

- Facilities management provider UDS acquired a majority stake in Matrix Business Services, which operates in the business assurance and background verification segment. This acquisition includes buying out the entire 19.77% stake of Kotak Mahindra Investments and 2.67% of Mahindra & Mahindra Contech.

- Iraq becomes India’s top crude oil supplier for the second consecutive year, meeting more than one-fifth of the country’s oil needs in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

- Huawei Technologies Co. overtook Apple Inc to claim the No. 2 spot in smartphones making in the first quarter, moving a step closer to its avowed ambition of displacing Samsung at the top of the market.

- Global card payments brand Mastercard announced its plan of investing $1 billion in India operations over the period of next 5 years.

- Sunil Mittal led telecom major Bharti Airtel and Hughes Communications India (HCIL) have decided to combine their VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite communications operations in India.

- Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) acquired British toy retailer ‘Hamleys’ in an all cash deal. RIL acquired Hamleys in 67.96 million pounds (about Rs. 620 cr).

- Facebook chosen London as the centre for the global roll-out of WhatsApp pay, before the social media giant launches its digital payments service on the mobile messaging platform in India.

- BharatPe – India’s first Fintech start-up enabing payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes, announced its foray into merchant services with a new app.

- Digital payments company Paytm, in association with Citibank, launched its first credit card called Paytm First Card.

- Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life Insurance have tied up to offer life cover for customers who get a prepaid recharge done.

- IT services firm Tech Mahindra and French digital content publishing firm Rakuten Aquafadas signed an MoU to collaborate on building enhanced customer experience offerings.

- BSNL announced that it will join hands with internet major Google to expand its WiFi footprint across the country.

- Reliance Industries topped state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to become the country’s biggest company by revenue. The Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate, in the 2018-19 fiscal years that ended March 31, reported a turnover of Rs 6.23 lakh crore.

- Social media giant Facebook apparently formed a new financial tech firm, Libra Networks LLC, in Geneva, Switzerland. Libra Networks was registered in Geneva by Facebook Global Holdings II LLC.

- Ride-hailing company Ola launched Ola Money SBI Credit Card in partnership with SBI Card, one of India’s largest credit card issuers. Ola Money SBI Credit Card.

- HDFC group overtaken the 151-year-old Tata group to emerge as India’s most valuable by way of market capitalization (m-cap). The combined market value of the five listed companies of the HDFC group – HDFC, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life, HDFC Asset Management and Gruh Finance stood at Rs 11.66 lakh crore.

- Overseas investors pumped more than 9,000 crore rupees into the Indian capital markets in last month on expectations of more business-friendly measures.

- India’s GST revenue collections crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the third straight month in May to Rs 1,00,289 crore, despite the slowdown in the industrial activities.

- Global efforts to impose a unified tax policy on Google, Facebook and other internet giants have
Fitch Ratings cut India’s economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to 6.8% from its previous estimate of 7%, on weaker than expected momentum in the economy. The rating agency has also cut growth forecasts for FY20 and FY21 to 7% from 7.3% and 7.1% from 7.3%, respectively.

India Ratings & Research (A Fitch Group Company) lowered the country’s growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.3%, from the earlier projection of 7.5%.

The country’s median GDP is forecast at 7.1% for Financial Year 2020 and 7.2% for Financial Year 2021. The industry body FICCI’s economic outlook survey stated that the minimum and maximum growth estimate stood at 6.80% and 7.3% for 2019-20.

Fitch Solutions, the research arm of Fitch Group, projected the government's fiscal deficit to overshoot the budgeted target by 0.2% to 3.6% of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal. Accordingly, Fitch Solutions revised its forecast for the central government fiscal deficit to come in at 3.6% of GDP in FY 2019-20, from 3%.

The World Bank retained its forecast of India’s growth rate at 7.5% for the current financial Year 2019-20. In its Global Economic Prospects report.

In its latest Global Economic Outlook, the global rating agency Fitch lowers India’s growth forecast from 6.8% to 6.6% for the current fiscal, as manufacturing and agriculture sectors showed signs of slowing down over the past year. Fitch also retained its GDP growth forecast for the next fiscal (2020-21) at 7.1% and 7.0% for 2021-22.

SBI has signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund to boost availability of capital for infrastructure projects.

India has granted financial support of $15 million to Niger for the African Union Summit.

India has signed agreements with Bangladesh and South Korea for DD India to be telecasted on the state platforms of the respective countries.

Global internet body Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Indian IT industry body National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) collaborated to develop identifier technology to manage devices and infrastructure using internet.

IT firm Tech Mahindra has signed a multi-year contract with Airbus for cabin and cargo design engineering.

National Small Industries Corporation has signed an MoU with Common Service Centres e-Governance Services India. The aim is to enhance new offerings for the MSME sector by synergizing each other’s competence.

The Government of India, the Government of Jharkhand and the World Bank signed a $147 Million Loan Agreement.

National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited have signed an agreement to set up National Electricity Distribution Company Ltd.

The Gol, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank have signed the Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the First Resilient Kerala Program. The program will focus on strengthening the state’s institutional and financial capacity to protect the assets and livelihoods of poor and vulnerable groups.

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

- ICICI Bank has tied up with NBFC IndoStar Capital for vehicle financing for small and medium fleet owners to buy new as well as old commercial vehicles.
- Delhi Police has signed a pact with Solar Energy Corporation of India. Under this, the SECI will support the implementation of grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic systems on the establishments of Delhi police.
- The Ministries of AYUSH and Electronics and Information Technology have signed a MoU to collaborate on the digitization of the AYUSH sector.
- An MoU has been signed between CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India IIT Delhi signed an MoU for setting up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Waste to Wealth Technologies for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management.
- To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) signed an agreement to facilitate the exchange of data between the two.
- Common Service Centre’s (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’. ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’ is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD.
- India’s largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM. The company did not divulge the size of the deal but some reports pegged it at about $700 million.
- The National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resources Development (NIOS) and National Health Mission of Public Health Department (NHMPH) of Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mumbai.
- Tractor-manufacturer Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd signed an MoU with Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to aid conservation of resources. Under the MoU, the association plans to jointly conduct agricultural workshops by involving TAFE’s dealership network.
- Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan and Vice Minister, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Li Guo, held a meeting in New Delhi to discuss trade related issues of pending Indian request for clearance of agricultural products.
- Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD). The aim of the MoU is to enable better ways of diagnosis and treatment of genetic disorders.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the pact signed between India and Maldives to start passenger and cargo services via sea route.
- To develop a sustainable workforce for disruptive technologies, IT industry’s apex body Nasscom announced that it is organising ‘WorldSkills India’s International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019’ in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Reliance Jio ties up with Facebook for digital literacy initiative ‘Digital Udaan’. The initiative will have audio-visual training in 10 regional languages.
- Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd signed a contract agreement with Nepal’s Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal. The train sets be manufactured by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.
- India and the United Kingdom agreed to increase their collaboration in the fields of Indo-Pacific cooperation, climate change, disaster resilience, development in third world countries amongst other areas.
- A tripartite MoU was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of ‘Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand’ as a part of CSR initiative under the ‘Namami Gange’ Programme.
- India signed the ‘Christchurch Call to Action’ in Paris. The agreement came in the backdrop of the attacks on mosques in March and is aimed at stopping the abuse of the Internet by extremists.
- IBM India tied-up with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India’s third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, to co-create new Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions.
- Tech Mahindra announced its biggest defence order worth over Rs 300 crore with the Indian Navy. As part of the ‘Armed Forces Secure Access Card’ (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based Access Control System across all naval bases and ships.
- Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that it signed an agreement to provide USD 750 million equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India. It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by
ADB to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to fund the railways track electrification project.

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), under Prime Minister of India signed an MoU for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer.
- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed an MoU with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2019-20. The MoU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology, and other support services schemes for MSMEs in the country.
- Sri Lanka signed a tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port. The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed in Colombo by Sri Lankan ports minister Sagala Ratnayake, Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu and a Japanese representative.
- The United States and the United Arab Emirates have announced that mutual defense cooperation agreement had come into force, amid increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati signed an MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC) at the institute where Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi inaugurated a new academic complex and research and development building.
- India and Chile signed three MoUs in the fields of mining, culture and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Chile announces it will allow visa-free entry to Indians holding valid US Visa. President Ram Nath Kovid participated in India-Chile Business Forum and interacted with young scientists at the University of Chile.
- Tata Power and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) signed a memorandum of understanding to set up integrated customer services and optimize value for customers.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has inked an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) to collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment. The MoU was signed by IIT Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao and Director General of BIS Surina Rajan.
- BSE and India International Exchange (India INX) have signed a memorandum of understanding with Moscow Exchange (MOEX) to connect investor community and companies in both countries besides allowing a capital formation platform.
- The Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research inked an MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy.
- State-run power giant National Thermal Power Corporation has inked a term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise Rs 2,000 crore, which would be used to part finance its capital expenditure.
- The BSE has signed a MoU with HDFC Bank with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform. The MoU signed to spread more awareness on the benefits of the listing of startups on this BSE startup platform.
- India and Sweden launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme was co-funded by Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.
- PAISALO Digital Limited signed the first co-origination loan agreement with SBI, the first agreement of its kind in the country that SBI has signed. Introducing a platform for the last mile customer, the loan ticket is designed at Rs 10,000 to 2 lakh. The company expects to disburse 200,000 loan applications in FY20.
- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the ISRO have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in coastal regions.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows:

  1. Approves MoU between India and Bolivia on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.
  2. Approves MoU between India and Cambodia on Cooperation in the field of Communications.
  3. Approves MoU between India and Bolivia on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
  4. Approves creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
  5. Approves Cooperation Agreement between India and Denmark in the field of Renewable Energy with focus on Offshore Wind Energy.
  6. Apprised about MoU between India and Republic of Korea in issuing jointly Postage Stamp.
  8. Apprised about MoU between India and Brazil in the area of Biotechnology.
TCS has partnered with the Department of Posts in a bid to transform it into a multi-service digital hub.

BSE has entered a MoU with Network Intelligence, a global cybersecurity services provider to provide cybersecurity services to its members in line with the cybersecurity framework set by SEBI.

The Ministry of AYUSH inked an MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.

Indian Army signed a MOU with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited, to build four underground tunnels along China and Pakistan borders for storage of ammunition and other war-related equipment.

NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in India.

India and Brunei signed a pact for the exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes in order to curb tax evasion and tax avoidance in New Delhi.

The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a $926 million dollar agreement to operationalize two lines of the Mumbai Metro Rail System. It is the single largest infrastructure project loan in ADB history approved by the ADB Board.

A loan agreement of USD 455 million was signed between the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Government of India for financing the Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Projects. These projects will connect 3,300 habitations with a population of more than 250, and benefit around 2 million people.

The Government of India, the State Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank signed a $25.2 Million Loan Agreement to support the State’s Reforms in Expenditure Planning. This support will cover Expenditure Planning, Investment Management, Budget Execution, Public Procurement, and Accountability.

The World Bank will provide a $250-million loan for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to help women in rural households develop viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products. An agreement in this regard was signed between the World Bank and the Government of India.

India and Paraguay have agreed to identify sectors of mutual interest to promote bilateral investment and decided to explore new areas of collaboration, including Information and Communication Technology and space and biotechnology.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship entered into an MoU aimed at improving women livelihood and empowering them through skill development. The MOU was signed in the presence of Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Minister, Women and Child Development and Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed in New Delhi a $26 Million Loan Agreement to provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam under the ongoing Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program.

The World Bank, the Government of India and representatives of 5 States of Government of India and Implementing Agencies signed in New Delhi the Loan Agreement for Additional Financing of $137 Million for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).

The Union Cabinet approved a pact with Germany for cooperation in the field of occupational safety and health. The cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Germany on cooperation in the field of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group (WBG).

India and Pakistan have agreed to work expeditiously on operationalizing the Kartarpur corridor. The corridor will facilitate Indian pilgrims to visit the holy shrine of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.

IIT Roorkee and ISRO have signed an MoU to develop Space Technology Cells on the campus of the varsity. IIT Roorkee issued a statement saying the premier technology school has inked an MoU with ISRO to setup Space Technology Cells.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has signed an MoU with the Afghanistan government to work on digital education initiatives, which include many prominent programs developed by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Maldives finance ministry has signed an agreement with India’s EXIM Bank for line of credit (LOC) of 800 million US dollars.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed an MoU SEBI.

ADB inked an agreement to invest USD 50 million in solar energy project developer Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd to help the company scale...
up rapidly. The investment will come equally from ADB’s Ordinary Capital Resources and Leading Asia’s Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP).

- Oman has signed an agreement with the United States of America that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports.

- India and the African Union to establish an India-Africa health sciences collaborative platform. The MoU will pave the way for cooperation in research and development, capacity building, health services, pharmaceutical trade and manufacturing capabilities for drugs and diagnostics.

- India and the US signed an agreement for exchange of country-by-country (CbC) report. The agreement was signed by PC Mody, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), and Kenneth I Juster, US Ambassador to India.

- India and Bolivia signed eight MoUs in the fields of culture, Visa waiver arrangement for diplomats, exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and Bi-Oceanic Railway project.

- An MoU was signed between Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada for next 10 years in New Delhi.

- India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU to establish a business center for ICT incubators in Jaffna (a city in Sri Lanka) through the grant of 25 crore Sri Lankan rupees from India.

- Navratna Defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hughes India have entered into a Teaming Agreement for design, development, supply, installation, integration and commissioning of Satellite Communication solutions for helicopters under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India at Aero India 2019, Bengaluru.

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an MoU for jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) based international cooling provider, National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed) entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) to build India’s first district cooling system in Amaravati.

- Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh (GoHP) and the World Bank signed a $40 Million Loan Agreement to help bring clean and reliable drinking water to the citizens of the Greater Shimla area, who have been facing severe water shortages and water-borne epidemics over the last few years.

- NITI Aayog and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF) signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to codify, document and share best practices to improve learning outcomes in public school education through systemic reforms, based on their collective experiences of working with various state governments in India.

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change signed a Letter of Intent establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative together with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- An MoU was signed between Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Mongolia for Project Management Consultancy for oil refinery. EIL is a PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) announced that it has signed a pact with Invest India to promote foreign investments in the country and Indian investments abroad.

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into an MoU to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace. Chairman CCI, A.K. Gupta, CEO GeM, S. Radha Chauhan were present on the occasion.

- Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Port Blair for coordination in the aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations.

- IndianOil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had signed a joint venture in New Delhi for Kandla-Gorakhpur LPG Pipeline Project.

- AAI and aerospace major Boeing announced the signing of a technical assistance agreement to develop an air traffic management roadmap which will improve airspace utilization and help maintain efficient aircraft operations.

- The Union Govt., the Tamil Nadu Govt. and the World Bank have signed a $287-million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP).

- The National Center for Good Governance (NCGG), India’s leading civil services training institution, has entered into an MOU with the Maldives Civil Services Commission for capacity building of 1000 Maldives civil servants over the next 5 years.

- The V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin and Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have signed an MoU for facilitating Direct Port Entry (DPE) of e-sealed factory stuffed export container to the port under ‘Ease of Doing Business’.

- Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) entered a Tripartite
**NEW APPOINTMENTS: NATIONAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation/Post</th>
<th>Who is Appointed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Constitutional &amp; Other Posts</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network</td>
<td>Manoj Kumar Nambiar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 1 year extension as RBI Deputy Governor</td>
<td>NS Vishwanathan</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. CMD of BSNL</td>
<td>PK Purwar</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. 23rd Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)</td>
<td>Krishnaswamy Natarajan</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal.</td>
<td>Dilip Kumar</td>
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<td>6. BSE first independent woman director</td>
<td>Jayshree Vyas.</td>
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<td>7. Quit the Paytm</td>
<td>Bhushan Patil (resigned)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>Sanjay Ubale</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. first brand ambassadors of Myntra</td>
<td>Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. The Volleyball Federation of India</td>
<td>Serbian Dragan Mihailovic</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. India’s Jagjit Pavadia re-elected by the UN Economic and Social Council to a five-year term on International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).</td>
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<td>12. Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran Major General AK Dhingra appointed as the first head of country’s first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos from all three services.</td>
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<td>13. commissioner Ajoy Mehta</td>
<td>Maharashatra's new chief secretary.</td>
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<td>14. Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea</td>
<td>Subh Chand</td>
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<td>15. brand ambassador of BharatPe</td>
<td>Salman Khan</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court</td>
<td>Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Judicial member of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC),</td>
<td>Justice VK Jain</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Navy Chief of India</td>
<td>Vice Admiral Karambir Singh</td>
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<td>19. First Chief Justice of the newly-constituted Andhra Pradesh High Court.</td>
<td>Justice Vikram Nath</td>
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<td>20. Secretary in Defence Finance</td>
<td>Gargi Kaul</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH)</td>
<td>Bibhu Kalyan Nayak</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Ambassador of India to Bhutan</td>
<td>Ruchira Kamboj</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Mizoram Governor Kumanmanam Rajasekharan has stepped down from his post. Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, has been given temporary charge of Mizoram.</td>
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<td>24. Ajit Doval has been granted cabinet status and five more years as the NSA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation</td>
<td>Pradeep Singh Kharola</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. Ambassador of India to Argentina</td>
<td>Dinesh Bhatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>27. Ambassador of India to Republic of Colombia</td>
<td>Sanjiv Ranjan</td>
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<tr>
<td>28. Principal Secretary</td>
<td>Nripendra Misra</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. Additional Principal Secretary</td>
<td>PK Mishra</td>
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<td>30. Chattisgarh government appointed a new advocate general, Satish Chandra Verma with immediate effect, replacing Kanak Tiwari on the post.</td>
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<td>31. Arvind Kumar will head the Intelligence Bureau, the main internal intelligence unit of the government. He will succeed Rajiv Jain.</td>
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<td>32. Samant Goel will take charge of the RAW, which looks after the external intelligence of the country. He will succeed Anil Dhasmana.</td>
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<tr>
<td>33. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of Amitabh Kant’s tenure as</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
the CEO of NITI Ayog for 2 years beyond June 30, 2019 to June 30, 2021.

34. Secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. | I V Subba Rao
35. Pro-tem speaker of the Lok Sabha | Virendra Kumar
36. Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) | Sharad Kumar
37. officer for the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) | N Gopalaswami
38. Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court | Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel
39. IT Industry icon Azim Premji will retire as Executive Chairman of Wipro with effect from 30th July 2019
40. chief of India Meteorological Department (IMD) | Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

**CEO’S/Chairman of Companies/Organizations/Banks/ Other Appointments**

41. President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) | Sharad Kumar Saraf
42. Principal chief general manager to Executive Director in the RBI. | Dr. Rabi N. Mishra
43. LIC Mutual Fund as the company’s CEO | Dinesh Pangtey
44. Yes Bank additional Director | R Gandhi
45. ITC chairman and managing director. | Sanjiv Puri
46. MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited from 01st December 2019 | Nitin Chugh
47. MD and CEO of ICICI Securities | Vijay Chandok
48. Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India | Vipin Anand
49. India’s Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. | Pranay Kumar Verma
50. CS Rajan appointed Managing Director while Vineet Nayar named as Executive Vice-Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
51. R A Sankara Narayanan (former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank) will move to Canara Bank as MD and CEO.
52. first woman vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia | Najma Akhtar
53. Karnam Sekar will take over as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank from July 01" 2019.
54. Indian women’s cricket team captain Mithali Raj named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC).
55. Yes Bank Ltd appointed former IRDAI chief T.S. Vijayan as an additional director (Independent).
56. RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya has quit six months before the scheduled end of his term.
57. Twitter has appointed Manish Maheshwari as the Managing Director of its India operations. In 2018, Taranjeet Singh had stepped down
58. Uday Kumar Varma retired from the post of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, resigned from the post of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) Secretary-General.
59. Deutsche Bank CEO for India to succeed Ravneet Gill, who left the bank to head private lender YES Bank. | Kaushik Shaparia
60. High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles | Dalbir Singh Suhag
61. Non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda. | Hasmukh Adhia
62. chairman of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). | Bhagwan Lal Sahni
63. Ajay Narayan Jha has joined as a member of the 15th Finance Commission.
64. The government has appointed MR Kumar as the Chairman of LIC and Vipin Anand and TC Suseel Kumar as the MDs.
65. Bajaj Finserv’s Chairman and Non-Executive Director Rahul Bajaj has resigned and will take over as the Chairman Emeritus from May 2019.
66. Next ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia | Dr. Ausaf Sayeed,
67. Ministry of Finance as Finance Secretary | Subhash Chandra Garg,
68. Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), | Ajit Kumar Mohanty
69. **Axis Bank as Non-Executive Chairman**
   - **Rakesh Makhija** (will take over from Sanjiv Misra)

70. **Country’s first Lokpal**
   - **Pinaki Chandra Ghose**

71. **Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan**
   - **Santosh Jha**

72. **as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra**
   - **transgender social activist Gauri Sawant,**

73. **Tata Coffee MD and CEO (replace Sanjiv Sarin)**
   - **Chacko Purackal Thomas**

74. **President of the Boxing Federation**
   - **Ajay Singh**

75. **First ombudsman under the new BCCI Constitution approved by the court in a judgment.**
   - **DK Jain**

76. **IDBI Bank as non-executive, non-whole time chairman**
   - **Hemant Bhargava**

77. **Chairman of CBDT (succeed Sushil Chandra)**
   - **Pramod Chandra Mody**

78. **Election Commission of India**
   - **Sushil Chandra**

79. **Chief of CBI**
   - **Rishi Kumar Shukla**

80. **Axis Bank Chairman**
   - **Rakesh Makhija**

81. **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Independent Director**
   - **Sachin Bansal**

82. **CEO of Reckitt Benckiser**
   - **Laxman Narasimhan**

83. **J&K Bank Chairman**
   - **RK Chibber**

84. **Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba** retires in May 2019.

85. **P V Bharathi** assumed charge as **CEO of the Corporation Bank** and became the first woman CEO of the bank.

86. **Yes bank** Senior group President and head of retail and business banking, Pralay Mondal resigned from his post.

87. **Jet Airways Founders Naresh Goyal and wife Anita Goyal** have stepped down from the board of the cash-strapped airline.

88. **Supreme Court-appointed BCCI Ombudsman Justice D K Jain (retd) will now serve as the Ethics Officer of the Indian cricket board on an ad-hoc basis.**

### NEW APPOINTMENTS: INTERNATIONAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation/Post</th>
<th>Who is Appointed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>President/PM/Heads of Countries/Organizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra</td>
<td>has been elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Qu Dongyu</td>
<td>becomes the first Chinese national to head the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization.</td>
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<td>3. Shefali Juneja</td>
<td>is appointed as India’s representative in the council of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Pakistan</td>
<td>has appointed Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed as the new Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. European Commission</td>
<td>has elected Ursula von der Leyen as its new president. She will replace Jean Claude Juncker.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande</td>
<td>appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. 17 global public figures</td>
<td>appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. the United States’ latest deputy attorney general</td>
<td>by the US Senate</td>
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<td>9. Indonesia’s re-elected president</td>
<td>Joko Widodo</td>
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<td>10. President of Ukraine</td>
<td>Volodymyr Zelenskiy</td>
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<td>11. Parliamentary speaker of Maldives</td>
<td>former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. President of World Bank</td>
<td>David Malpass</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. International Cricket Council (ICC) CEO</td>
<td>Manu Sawhney</td>
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<td>15. New interim president of Algeria</td>
<td>Abdelkader Bensalah</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>New PM of Haiti</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>New PM of Palestine</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director in UN</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Thailand’s Prime Minister</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>Algeria’s President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has resigned</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its newest Goodwill Ambassador</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Mali’s PM Soumeylou Bouyeye Maiga has resigned</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation has been named Chief Scientist of the WHO</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Egypt’s President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has been elected as the chairman of the African Union</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>external WHO auditor</td>
</tr>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has won a fifth term in office</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya has been appointed as country's ambassador to India</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>The Amateur International Boxing Federation (AIBA) President Gafur Rahimov has announced his resignation</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>Amazon’s board of directors.</td>
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### Other Appointments

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<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>MP from Rajasthan elected as the 17th Lok Sabha Speaker and elected to Lok Sabha from the Kota-Bundi constituency.</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>Independent person to sort out the ongoing mess in the Archery Association of India (AAI).</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>Vice President for Google India and South East Asia</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Chief technology officer and chief development officer of Walmart</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Indian Army officer, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar has been appointed as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Algeria’s President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has resigned from the post with immediate effect</td>
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<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Chicago has created history by electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time</td>
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<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Chandramouli Ramanathan appointed as Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the management strategy, policy and compliance department. He succeeds Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas</td>
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### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>GD ‘Robert’ Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, honoured in the UK</td>
<td>2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2019 winner of the USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize, a prestigious book prize</td>
<td>Indian writer Annie Zaidi</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize</td>
<td>Author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel “Solo”, ‘Raghu Karnad’</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Windham-Campbell prize of USD 165,000 for his debut book, ‘Farthest Field: An Indian story of Second World War</td>
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</table>
Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, Oscar Rapper, and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. Jawaharlal Nehru University will confer the Lifetime Achievement Award to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award that PM Modi honoured with.

Vyas Samman 2018 for his collection of poems “Jitne Log Utne Prem.” was decorated with the highest state decoration of Russia, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.

Anil Kapoor was felicitated by Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India and a European Union delegation in Mumbai.

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran was conferred with Japan’s second highest national award, ‘Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star’.

N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India.

The UAE honoured PM Narendra Modi with the prestigious Zayed Medal for giving a “big boost” to bilateral strategic ties. President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred PM Modi with the award, the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents, and heads of states.

PM Modi was decorated with Order of St Andrew the Apostle – the highest state decoration of Russia, for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. This is the seventh international award that PM Modi honoured with.

Dr. A K Singh, director at Life Sciences, DRDO honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.

The International Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of “Public Water Agency of the Year” by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.

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15. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred President’s Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.

16. Team India captain Virat Kohli named as the Wisden Almanack’s ‘Leading Cricketer of the Year’ for the third straight time.

17. Team India opener Smriti Mandhana named as the Wisden Almanack’s ‘Leading Women’s Cricketer of the Year’.

18. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of “Public Water Agency of the Year” by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.

19. PM Modi was decorated with Order of St Andrew the Apostle – the highest state decoration of Russia, for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. This is the seventh international award that PM Modi honoured with.

20. Dr. A K Singh, director at Life Sciences, DRDO honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.


22. Benny Antony honoured with the National Intellectual Property Award, 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.

23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for Science and Technology for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi. There were 34 prize winners.

24. Indore has bagged the cleanest city award for the third straight year under Swachh Survekshan, 2019.

25. Rajasthan government’s Medical & Health Department or its award this year in recognition of its achievements in the field of tobacco control by WHO.

26. Maldives will confer ‘Nishan Izzuddin’ award on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest award to honour foreign nationals in the United States.

27. 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.

28. Jawaharlal Nehru University will confer the distinguished alumni award to Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Subrahmanyan Jaishankar.

31. Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi’s film, “Seed Mother”, won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes. This year’s theme was ‘We Are What We Eat’.
32. Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma acknowledged as the most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London.

33. The prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019 was awarded to National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, popular scriptwriter Salim Khan and dancing diva Helen.

34. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2017 to 42 noted artists in five categories.

35. Malayalam Actor Sheela J.C. has won the J.C. Daniel Award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema.

Other Awards Conferred

37. Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant in New Delhi. 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.

38. IIT Kanpur honours India’s chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand with honorary doctorate on the occasion of their 52nd convocation.


40. Veyil Marangal (Trees Under the Sun) have become the first Indian film to won ‘Outstanding Artistic Achievement’ award at the Shanghai International Film Festival.

41. Six grassroots environmental activists received the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. Known as the Green Nobel Prize, the Goldman Prize honors environmental activists from each of the six continental regions: Europe, Asia, North America, Central America and South America, Africa and islands and island nations. The winners of the award are:
   1. Alfred Brownell, Liberia
   2. Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, Mongolia
   3. Ana Colovic Lesoska, North Macedonia
   4. Jacqueline Evans, Cook Islands
   5. Alberto Curamil, Chile
   6. Linda Garcia, United States

42. Police Officer Jitender Kumar, an Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who was honoured with a prestigious UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

43. Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer conferred with the FICCI Claims Excellence Award.

44. The Gairdner Foundation announced the 2019 Canada Gairdner Award laureates, recognizing Goa and Boston-based Vikram Patel, Ph.D., F. Med. Sci., for his research career raising the global profile of mental health problems.

45. Dr. Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp, the world’s largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, was felicitated by the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.

46. Tata Steel named as the ‘Global Slag Company of the Year’ at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.

47. Indonesian Eni Nuraeni was named by Asian Athletic Association (AAA) as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category in 2019. It was announced by Indonesian athletic sports association (PB PASI).

48. India’s education technology startup ‘Dost Education’ won a $25,000 tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.

49. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has bagged the prestigious ‘AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year.’

50. Telugu poet K Siva Reddy selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite.

51. Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development- “Utkarsh Bangla” and distribution of bicycles to students “Sabojuj Sathi” have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.

52. An image of a little girl crying, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US border officials in Texas won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year. Veteran Getty photographer John Moore took the picture in the Rio Grande Valley in June 2018.

53. Fincare Small Finance Bank awarded the prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in the category of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Inclusion, for ‘Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses’.</th>
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<tr>
<td>54. A total of 150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>55. Prominent scientist and businessman Yusuf Hamied is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the UK’s Royal Society.</td>
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<td>56. Indian-American scientist and social activist Sree Sreenath inducted into the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of fame for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues, and sustainable development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>57. Dawn editor and Columnist Cyril Almeida from Pakistan has won the IPI’s (International Press Institute) World Press Freedom Hero award in 2019. He won this award for his “critical” and “tenacious coverage” of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.</td>
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<td>58. Ex-South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the Silver Division.</td>
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<td>59. Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the outstanding achievement as a player award at the fourth edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards at the Delhi Golf Club.</td>
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<td>60. ASSOCHAM has conferred ‘Non-Life Insurer of the Year Award 2019’ to Bharti AXA General Insurance.</td>
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<td>61. Satheesh Reddy, the Secretary of India’s Department of Defence R&amp;D and Chairman of DRDO has been chosen by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (AIAA) as the co-winner of the 2019 Missile Systems Award.</td>
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<td>62. Tata Steel has received the award as one of the 2019 World’s Most Ethical Companies given by Ethisphere Institute, USA.</td>
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<td>63. Indian Bank has been awarded the Best Bank Award by the Tamil Nadu government.</td>
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<td>64. Two Nobel prizes in literature will be awarded this year, to make up for the lack of one in 2018 while the scandal-plagued Swedish Academy attempted to get its house in order.</td>
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<td>65. Three pioneers in AI, University of Toronto faculty member and Google Brain researcher Geoffrey Hinton, Facebook chief AI scientist and NYU professor Yann LeCun, and Element AI founder and University of Montreal professor Yoshua Bengio has been honored with the Turing Award.</td>
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<td>66. The 2019 Templeton Prize</td>
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<td>67. highest civilian award of Mexico for foreigners</td>
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<td>68. Indian engineer has won the 2019 Commonwealth Secretary General’s Innovation for Sustainable Development Award in the “People” category in London, UK.</td>
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<tr>
<td>69. Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen will be awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honor granted by the University of Oxford’s world-famous Bodleian Libraries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70. ACKO General Insurance a new-age digital insurance company was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award – 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>71. Swiss-based NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi has been conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>72. Eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar has been chosen for this year’s META Lifetime Achievement Award.</td>
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<td>73. Twenty-nine journalists from print and electronic media and a social activist felicitated with the Bharat Mata Shield at the 44th Matri Shree Media Award ceremony.</td>
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<td>74. Sports Journalists Federation of India 2019 Awards:</td>
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<tr>
<td>– SJFI Medal (Highest Honour): Prakash Padukone (Badminton).</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Sportsperson of the Year Award: Pankaj Advani (Billiards and Snooker) and Bajrang Punia (Wrestling).</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Emerging Talent of the Year Award: Saurabh Choudhary (Shooting).</td>
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<td>– Team of the Year Award: Vidarbha Cricket Team.</td>
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<td>75. National Aluminium Company Limited has been selected for President’s award for utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility fund in social development. NALCO started a scheme “Aliali Jhia” in 2015 to promote the education of Girls of BPL families. NALCO is an Odisha based Navaratna Company.</td>
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<tr>
<td>76. The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum has announced that Mastercard CEO and President Ajay Banga and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji will receive the 2019 Global Excellence Awards. This is the Second Annual Leadership Summit of USISPF.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
77. Automobile major Mahindra won the Gold Award in South Africa

### SUMMITS | EVENTS | FESTIVALS Held (NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Summit</th>
<th>Location/Held in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUMMITS HELD NATIONALLY</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. 32nd edition of the International Seed Testing Association congress (ISTA)</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs chaired the 20th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>4. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) co-hosts 12th Capacity Building workshop</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>5. The second edition of World Food India to be held in November 2019</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>6. The fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>7. The IBSA (India, Brazil &amp; South Africa) Sherpas’ Meeting</td>
<td>Kochin, Kerala</td>
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<td>8. The 15th Finance Commission headed by Chairman, N.K. Singh held a detailed meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governors of RBI</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
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<td>9. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)</td>
<td>Kochi</td>
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<td>10. Ministry of New &amp; Renewable Energy (MNRE) held a ‘Chintan Baithak’ chaired by Secretary, MNRE, Anand Kumar.</td>
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<td>11. A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by India</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>12. The 11th Joint Consular Committee Meeting between India and Iran</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>13. The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Botswana</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) NuGen Mobility Summit will be held</td>
<td>Manesar, NCR</td>
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<td>16. The Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>17. International Digital Health Symposium and an exhibition on Digital Health</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>18. NITI Aayog has organized a day-long FinTech Conclave</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>19. Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry will be organizing the 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships in New Delhi</td>
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<td>20. The 4th IoT India Congress, an event will be held in Bengaluru</td>
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<td>21. Regional conference on ‘Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)’ was organised in Kolkata, West Bengal.</td>
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<td>22. Heeralal Samariya, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment inaugurated the Conference on the VISION ZERO held in Mumbai.</td>
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<td>23. World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress (World CSR Congress 2019 in Mumbai.</td>
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<td>24. ‘4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit’</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. The 4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit held in New Delhi.</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>27. The 16th edition of BioAsia 2019 Asia’s largest biotechnology and life-sciences forum was conducted in Hyderabad, Telangana.</td>
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<td>28. Network-18 Rising India Summit</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>29. Early Ed Asia 2019</td>
<td>Jaipur, Rajasthan</td>
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<td>30. The Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with Airports Authority of India, AAICLAS and Confederation of Indian Industry, is organizing the Aviation Conclave 2019 with an overarching theme of “Flying for All” in New Delhi</td>
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<td>31. 4th Agri Leadership Summit 2019</td>
<td>Sonipat, Haryana</td>
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<td>32. 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held in New Delhi</td>
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<td>33. 40th International Annual Desert Festival</td>
<td>Jaisalme, Rajasthan</td>
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<td>34. The First Annual Conference of Media Units working under I&amp;B Ministry in New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2019</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>36. 1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference in New Delhi</td>
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<td>37. India and the United States held India-U.S. Commercial Dialogue and India-U.S.</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### summits held internationally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Summit/Conference/Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>CREDAI YouthCon -19 summit in New Delhi</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td>Asia LPG summit in New Delhi</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>The 13th International Oil and Gas Conference – PETROTECH – 2019 in Greater Noida, UP</td>
<td>Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.</td>
<td>Gandhinagar, Gujarat</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit in Guwahati</td>
<td>Guwahati</td>
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<td>44.</td>
<td>The Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) in New Delhi.</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
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<td>45.</td>
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### Committees in News

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Purpose for which Committee is formed</th>
<th>Headed by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>to review margins on derivatives. The panel will submit its recommendations to the Secondary Market Advisory Committee.</td>
<td>NSE Clearing Ltd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Beekeeping Development Committee</td>
<td>Bibek Debroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Committee give recommendations for MSME sector</td>
<td>U.K. Sinha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>RBI's to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CIC).</td>
<td>Tapan Ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.</td>
<td>Secretary, Union Environment Ministry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal** to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal.


8. Central Works Public Department (CPWD) has constituted an expert committee to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development. M K Sharma

9. IRDAI has set up committee to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products. IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur

10. **The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case** to arrive at a “permanent solution” to the politically and religiously sensitive issue. The five-judge constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi

11. The Delhi government’s Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC), has set up a 17-member high-level committee DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah.

12. **National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage** Amitabh Kant

13. To strengthen digital payments as well as to boost financial inclusion through Financial Technology. Nandan Nilekani

14. Determining the Methodology for Fixation of the National Minimum Wage” Anoop Satpathy

15. On the recommendation of Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha, the government constituted a committee under the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to explore prepaid payments by state electricity distribution companies to power plants. PK Sinha

16. CBDT formed a 4-member committee to look into the matter of taxation related pain points and submit its final report and recommendations by mid-March. Sanjeev Sharma

17. National Educational Policy (NEP) Dr. Kasturirangan

18. To review the ATM interchange fee structure with a “view to increase the ATM deployment in the unbanked areas” V G Kannan

19. 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. ------

20. Chief Ministers for transforming Indian agriculture and raising farmers’ income. MH CM Devendra Fadnavis

### NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **The Minister of State for Tribal Affairs** launched the following campaigns for the Tribes of India in New Delhi:
  - ‘Go Tribal Campaign’ of Tribes India launched to promote the use of tribal handicrafts, handicrafts and natural products.
  - ‘Tribes India’ launched globally through Amazon Global Selling to step up Exports of Tribal Products.
- **Union Jal Shakti Minister** has launched a water conservation campaign ‘Jal Shakti Abhiyan’, with an emphasis on 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts. The campaign will run through citizen participation during the monsoon 1st July-15th September. An additional phase II will run from 1st October-30th November for states receiving the northeast retreating monsoons.
- **Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra** begins in Puri, Odisha
- According to the GoI, the Indian Railways has set a target to install CCTV cameras in more than 7,000 coaches of mainline passenger trains by March 2021.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices for all Kharif crops for 2019-20 Season. MSP of the following crops has been increased by:
  - Paddy: 65 rupees per quintal
  - Jowar: 120 rupees per quintal
  - Ragi: 253 rupees per quintal
  - Tur: 125 rupees per quintal
Moong: 75 rupees per quintal
Urda Pulses: 100 rupees per quintal
Soyabean: 311 rupees per quintal
Sunflower: 262 rupees per quintal
Sesamum: 236 rupees per quintal
- Unique Identification Authority of India has opened its first ‘Aadhaar Seva Kendra’ in Delhi and Vijayawada.
- Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans. The song has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir. The song was released as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to be celebrated on 26th of July.
- Samagra Shiksha, an Integrated Scheme for School Education has been launched by Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Recently released Food and Nutrition Security Report stated that 31.4% of Indian children will be stunted by 2022. Which means one in every three Indian children under five years will be stunted by 2022.
- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment flagged off “17th Run Against Drug Abuse” on the occasion of “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” in New Delhi. ‘Listen First’ was chosen as the theme to increase the support for prevention of drug use.
- The Rahimatpur police station in Satara district in Maharashtra has emerged as the State topper in a survey based on the ‘SMART’ policing concept.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe meets in Osaka, Japan. This is the first meeting between the two leaders since the start of Japan’s Reiwa era.

The Expert Groups have set the following goals for higher education sector:
- Double the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education and resolve the geographically and socially skewed access to higher education institutions in India.
- Upgrade the quality of education to global standards.
- Position at least 50 Indian institutions among the top 1000 global universities.
- Introduce governance reforms in higher education for well-administered campuses.
- Accreditation of all institutions as an assurance of quality.
- Promote Research & Innovation ecosystems for positioning India in the Top-3 countries in the world in matters of knowledge creation.
- Double the employability of the students passing out of higher education.
- Harness education technology for expanding the reach and improving pedagogy.
- Promote India as a global study destination.
- Achieve a quantum increase in investment in higher education.
- The Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Yury Trutnev addressed a gathering of businesspersons and industrialist in Mumbai and invited Indian Investments in the Russian Far East.
- The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister releases a detailed note titled ‘GDP estimation in India- Perspectives and Facts’.
- According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Fund of Funds for Startups have provided financial support to 249 startups in last 3 years.
- According to the President of India, construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometres of national highways is to be undertaken by 2022 under the ‘Bharatmala Project’.
- India has opened its first specialised hydrotherapy treatment for elephants suffering from arthritis, joint pain and foot ailments in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the Air Traffic Flow Management-Central Command Centre in New Delhi.
- India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum. The decision was taken during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland.
- India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020. The decision was taken during the CG meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the margins of the 6th Session of the GPDRR 2019.
As per Election Commission of India, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections witnessed a voter turnout of 67.10% (interim), which is the highest ever voter turnout in the history of general elections.

India elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. India elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in the HQ of UN-HABITAT Nairobi, Kenya.

Two women IAF officers from Punjab were part of the country’s first all-women crew to fly a medium-lift helicopter Mi-17 V5. Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer) flew the chopper, which took off from a forward air base in South Western air command.

Leaders of BIMSTEC were invited for PM Modi’s swearing-in ceremony held on 30th May 2019.

Record 78 women candidates elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections. According to the Election Commission, the number grown from the previous 62 women who were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a new National War Memorial, situated in the India Gate complex in New Delhi, to the nation.

Former Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new park which houses the replicas of Seven Wonders of the World in New Delhi. The park, which is called the ‘Waste to Wonder Park’, was built by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the North Karnataka Agromet Forecasting and Research Centre (NKAFC), India’s first agromet forecast centre, at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Dharwad, Karnataka.

Indian Government has signed a deal with the US under Fast Track Procurement (FTP) to avail the Indian Army with 72,400 new ‘Sig Sauer Assault Rifles’ which will overhaul the army’s inventory of frontline rifles.

The last session of 16th Lok Sabha came to an end on 13th of February 2019.

PM Modi launched a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel, ‘DD Arunprabha’ for Arunachal Pradesh during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura.

PM Modi dedicated to the nation the 1.33 million metric ton capacity Visakhapatnam Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh.

India and Bangladesh signed an MOU for training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) an institute under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Govt. of India, over the next 6 years.

India and Germany joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off Suraksha Yatra – a motor car rally from Rajghat in New Delhi to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

PM Modi inaugurated various development projects, worth nearly 12,000 crore rupees, at Leh. He laid the foundation stone for a 480 crore rupee Terminal Building at Leh Airport. Mr Modi inaugurated the 9-megawatt Dah hydroelectric project. He also dedicated to the nation the 220 KiloVolt Srinagar-Alusteng-Drass-Kargil-Leh transmission system & also launched the University of Ladakh, the first-ever in the state’s region.

DIPP has been renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade with a mandate to deal with matters related to start-ups, facilitating ease of doing business among others.

The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha was commenced from 17th June. The session will continue till 26th of July.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has removed all the temporary restrictions on all air routes in the Indian air space.

25 year old Chandrani Murmu, who has replaced Dushyant Chautala, was elected as Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate from the Keonjhar seat, Odisha has become the youngest Member of Parliament to the 17th Lok Sabha.

In a bid to spur investment and create new employment opportunities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set up two Cabinet committees to deal with the two crucial issues. Both the panels, respectively on Investment and Growth and on Employment and Skill Development, will be headed by the prime minister.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has become the first ever project in the country to receive power generated from a waste-to-energy plant. It has started receiving 2 MW power from a 12 MW capacity waste-to-energy plant set up in Ghaziabad.

The Ministry Of Home Affairs (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.
International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) released India’s first Type Approval Certificate (TAC) for Bharat Stage – VI (BS – VI) norms that are the latest emission norms as notified by the Govt. for the two-wheeler segment. The certificate was released and handed over by Director ICAT, Dinesh Tyagi to top officials of the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturers).

NDMA is conducting a basic training programme at the Deendayal Port Trust in Kandla, Gujarat, aimed at increasing the awareness and enhancing the preparedness of Seaport Emergency Handlers (SEHs) to respond to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) threats which emanate at seaports due to arrival, storage and transportation of a large amount of chemical, petrochemical and other CBRN agents.

Japan has decided to invest an amount of 205.784 billion Yen, equivalent to approximately Rs.13,000 crore, in several ongoing as well as new projects in different states of India’s North- Eastern region.

The Union Cabinet has cleared the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) Bill, 2019.

Current Affairs Related to States in India

**NORTHERN STATES**

- Govt. distributes free Doordarshan (DD) set-top boxes to people living in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The event was organized by Doordarshan Kashmir.
- The Himachal Pradesh government makes mandatory for trekkers to carry a GPS device.
- Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has laid the foundation stone for the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project at Rs 300-crore ropeway project is expected to be completed in three years.
- Punjab government approved a rural development scheme worth Rs 384.40 crore to supplement the ongoing works to build village infrastructure and provide essential amenities. It is named as 'Smart Village Campaign'.
- Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh announced a high-powered 5-member committee to prepare a comprehensive action plan to boost the dairy sector with the aim of supplementing the income of farmers in a result-oriented manner.
- UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched Scheme for Adolescent girls (SAG). The scheme focuses on girls aged between 11 to 14 years who have left studies and will take steps for proper nutrition and special care for them.
- Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, launched four projects in North East for the development of silk sector through video conference in New Delhi. She inaugurated Muga silk seed production centre in Tura, Meghalaya, silk printing and processing unit in Agartala, Tripura, Eri spun silk mill in Sangaipat, Imphal and development of sericulture in Mamit, Mizoram.
- PM Modi unveiled development projects worth Rs. 3350 crores for Varanasi, UP. These projects pertain to various sectors of Health, Sanitation, Smart City, Connectivity, Power, Housing and others. He released commemorative postage stamp on completion of 100 Years of IIT BHU.

- The Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan passed the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to end the minimum education criterion for panchayat and civic polls candidates.
- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries laid the foundation stone of a Mega Food Park at Chhata-Barsana road in Mathura, UP.
- The Jammu and Kashmir issued a notification of creation of Ladakh as 3rd Division in the state.
- Uttar Pradesh has launched the IInd phase of Communicable Disease Control and Dastak Abhiyan 2019.

**EASTERN STATES**

- ‘Kandhamal Haldi’, a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India, an organization functioning under the auspices of the Union ministry of commerce & industry.
- ‘KALIA Chhatra Bruti’ scholarship for the children of farmers benefited under the KALIA scheme was launched by Odisha.
- Bihar has become the first state to deploy specially-trained dogs to check smuggling of liquor which continues to take place inspite of the total ban imposed in the state for the last 3 years.
- WB Education Minister Partha Chatterjee inaugurated a web portal, ‘Banglar Shiksha’, which is set to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools. The portal, banglarshiksha.gov.in, will be up and running in two months' time.
- Bihar CM, Nitish Kumar announced a Universal Old Age Pension scheme, named Mukhya Mantri Vridhda Pension Yojana (MMVPY), irrespective for all caste, community, religion, except for those who are retired from government organizations. The scheme facilitates the amount of Rs. 400 monthly pension for all in the state above the age of 60 who are not getting a pension from the government.
Bihar Governor Lalji Tandon and Union Agriculture Minister jointly inaugurated the three-day Krishi Kumbh in Motihari.

The Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of three major highway projects with an investment worth Rs 2,345 crores in Angul and Dhenkanal districts of Odisha.

The Hong Kong government has approved over $9 million for relief and rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Odisha.

### NORTH-EASTERN STATES

- **Japan gifts Manipur a “Peace Museum”** which is built on the memories of one of the fiercest battles of the Second World War.
- **Assam government** will set up a Skill University at the cost of 850 crore rupees at Darrang district.
- **The GoI** has sanctioned an additional amount of Rs 358 crore for the construction of new roads in rural areas of Tripura.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** greeted the people of Sikkim on their statehood day. It was on 16th May 1975 that Sikkim officially merged with the Indian union and became the 22nd state of the country.
- **Meghalaya government** approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers. The proposal was made by the Agriculture Department to set up the Farmers’ Commission in line with the resolution passed at the ‘farmers’ parliament’.
- **Rice Knowledge Bank-Assam**, is an agriculture web portal. It was launched under the World Bank funded project –Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).
- **Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries** has inaugurated Tripura’s first mega food park named Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala.
- **Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Commission.
- **Meghalaya Cabinet** has decided to rename the Dikkibandi stadium in Tura town after former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno A Sangma.
- **Assam government** has waived admission fees for students taking admission up to Post Graduate level whose parental income is less than 2 lakh rupees per year.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has extended The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for another six months in Nagaland.

### WESTERN STATES

- **Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019** passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019. The Act allows the shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24×7.
- **Goa celebrates its statehood day** on 30th May. It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from the colonial rule.

### CENTRAL STATES

- The Chhattisgarh police for the first time inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG), its frontline anti-Naxal force. Comprising 30 women led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwar Nand, have received extensive training in jungle combat.
- **In MP**, ancient tribal language Gondi will be taught in tribal districts.
- **The MP government** issued an ordinance increasing reservation quota for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 27% from the current 14%. The announcement was made by the state’s Law and Legal Affairs Minister PC Sharma.
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath** launched the State Government’s flagship scheme ‘Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana’ that guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youth from economically weaker sections. Under the scheme, Rs 4,000 stipend per month during 100 days period. (Only those youths, whose family’s annual income is less than Rs 2 lakh and who are in the age group of 21-30 years, are eligible for the scheme).

### SOUTHERN STATES

- **Kerala** became the first state to tap into masala bond market by listing the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)’s masala bond worth of USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore) in London Stock Exchange (LSE)’s International Securities Market (ISM).
- For the **second year in succession**, Telangana ranks number 1 in the e-Learning training program of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government India.
- **Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal** announced a new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh, that is the Southern Coast Railway and it will be headquartered in Visakhapatnam. It will be the 18th zone in the country.
- **Kerala** become the first State to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
Tamil Nadu became the first state in the country to get a second Coast Guard district headquarters - Thoothukudi. The first district headquarters is Chennai.

Union Minister of Food Processing Industries has commissioned Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari Distric, Andhra Pradesh. It will be the first Mega Aqua Food Park operationalised exclusively for fish and marine products processing in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The fifth Telangana State Formation Day on 02nd June 2019.

Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) butterfly has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.

Mohamed Ould Ghazouani won the presidential election of Mauritania with 52% votes. The election was the first in Mauritania, since independence from France in 1960.

Saudi Arabia has become the 1st Arab country to be granted full membership of the Financial Action Task Force. It becomes the 39th member of FATF during the group’s Annual General Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

The UAE has become the first country in the Gulf to launch ‘goAML’, a new anti money laundering reporting platform developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to curb organised crimes.

New Zealand has officially banned single-use plastic shopping bags. Under the new rules, thin plastic single-use shopping bags can no longer be supplied, but reusable carriers are allowed.

The IMF has approved a USD 6 billion loan over a period of 3 years for cash strapped Pakistan. The USD 6 billion financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its balance of payment crisis.

UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee has listed Iraq’s Babylon as a World Heritage Site.

In Slovakia, anti-corruption campaigner Zuzana Caputova was sworn in as country’s first female president.

El Salvador, Nayib Bukele has been sworn-in as the nation’s President.

In Russia, the first tourist train traveling through Russia’s Arctic region and on to Norway set off from St.Petersburg station with 91 passengers aboard for the inaugural trial journey.

Canada PM Justin Trudeau announced that single-use plastics will be banned in the country from 2021.

Akihito became the first Japanese Emperor to step down from the throne in more than 200 years.

In a huge diplomatic win for India, the United Nations Security Council designated Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him under the Security Council’s Sanctions Committee.

The UK parliament became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change emergency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a new measure that aims to expand government control over the Internet. It would enable the creation of a national network, able to operate separately from the rest of the world.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched a $5 Billion Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB’s Board of Governors in Fiji.

A Japanese aerospace start-up Interstellar Technology Inc. Successfully launched a first privately developed rocket ‘Momo-3’ into space. The unmanned Momo-3 was launched from its test site in Hokkaido and reached about 110 kilometers (68 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean after 10 minutes of flight time.

India will be attending the Group of 7 industrialised nations meet organised by France in Biarritz in August 2019 along with Australia, Chile, and South Africa.

Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a four-day official visit to Vietnam to participate in 16th United Nations Day of Vesak.

The US Air Force Research Laboratory tested a laser system called Self-Protection High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD) at the US Army’s White Sands Missile range in New Mexico.

Singapore’s Parliament passed a law to curb the spread of fake news under which offenders may
face up to 10-year jail or fines of up to $51 million (over Rs5.12 crore).

- The Australian flight carrier, Qantas operated the world’s first zero-waste commercial flight from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle.
- Ireland declared a climate emergency in their country, to be the second country after Britain to do so.
- Japan started testing its fastest-ever bullet train capable of reaching 400 kilometers per hour (249 mph) as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel. The ALFA-X version of the Shinkansen train began three years’ worth of test runs.
- The UN imposed sanctions on terror group ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) for its links with Al-Qaeda and involvement in several attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Taiwan approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the first place in Asia to pass gay marriage legislation.
- The Saudi Arabia government approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor.
- The World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank) have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.
- British Prime Minister Theresa May announces resignation from her post. She resigns on 7th June.
- US 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 Naruhito.
- Cyril Ramaphosa, the head of the African National Congress, was sworn in for a five-year term as South Africa’s president after being elected unopposed by Parliament following the sixth general elections.
- Austrian Parliament removed Chancellor Sebastian Kurz from office as he lost the no-confidence in a special Parliamentary session. His previous coalition ally, the far-right Freedom Party (FPO) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPO) backed the no-confidence motions.
- Russia launched a nuclear-powered icebreaker, in St Petersburg, is one of a trio that when completed the largest and most powerful icebreakers in the world.
- Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia’s Prime Minister along with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack.
- James Marape, a former finance minister and critic of a major global gas development deal elected by parliament as the prime minister of Papua New Guinea.
- Muhammadu Buhari sworn in for a second term as Nigeria’s president.
- US President Donald Trump announced tariffs on all goods coming from Mexico in a bid to curb illegal immigration. From 10th June 2019, a five percent tariff would be imposed and slowly raised until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied.
- Tesla has developed its ‘largest power storage system in Asia’ at Osaka train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan.
- Zoologists at Trinity College Dublin have discovered two new bird species named as the Wakatobi white-eye and the Wangi-Wangi white-eye in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- The United Nations and the European Union (EU) have signed a joint framework aimed at strengthening partnership in counter-terrorism efforts.
- US President Donald Trump stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans’ right to bear arms.
- Anti-graft lawyer Zuzana Caputova won Slovakia’s presidential election, making her the country’s first female head of state.
- Japan has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on 1 May, will be ‘Reiwa’, signifying order and harmony. The country’s current era, Heisei, will end in April.
- India has signed an MoU with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa.
- The US designated Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a foreign terrorist organisation. It is the first time that the US has designated an entity of another government as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answer only to Iran’s supreme
leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

- Google parent Alphabet has beaten Amazon to launch one of the first commercial drone delivery businesses. Alphabet made its first delivery in Canberra after getting approval from the country’s civil aviation authority.

- London is the first city in the world to implement a 24-hour, seven day a week Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge.

- The UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held at the end of April 2019.

- Hong Kong’s equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world’s third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China. Hong Kong’s market cap was $5.78 trillion, compared with $5.76 trillion for Japan, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on where primary securities are listed.

- The world’s first armed amphibious drone boat named ‘Marine Lizard’ and guided by China’s BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, successfully tested by China. It possesses the capability of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.

- Google has opened its first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre in Ghana’s capital Accra, one year after announcing the project.

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token. The new token, called “Learning Coin” and only accessible within the IMF and World Bank, has a purpose to teach relevant individuals within the organizations about blockchain.

- The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou, China.

- Volodymyr Zelenskiy, an actor and comedian has won a landslide victory in Ukraine’s presidential election.

- The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has announced the creation of the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher, and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82.

- Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.

- Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that he would name a new community in the Golan Heights after US President Donald Trump, who officially recognised the disputed area as Israeli territory.

- Russia has successfully tested the world’s first floating nuclear power plant (NPP), Akademik Lomonosov, a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation stated. Reactors of the floating atomic block were launched in November 2018.

- The world’s first-ever malaria vaccine was launched in a pilot project in Africa’s Malawi.

- Kazakhstan has set up Coordinating Council for attracting foreign investments including from India.

- Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up a joint border “reaction force” to combat the attacks by militant groups on both sides their frontier.

- Russia’s Vladimir Putin and North Korea’s Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time and vowed to seek closer ties. The meeting was held at Russia’s Pacific port city of Vladivostok.

- The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel.

- Chinese Premier Li Keqiang trade war with the US and continued economic slowdown. The world’s second-largest economy has slashed its GDP target to 6.00 to 6.50 percent this year.

- Kylie Jenner aged 21 was named the youngest self-made billionaire of all time by Forbes magazine. Jenner after debuting her Kylie Cosmetics online in 2015 with $29 lip kits containing matching lipstick and lip liner.

- The Venezuelan government has announced to expel German ambassador Daniel Kriener from the country. President Nicolas Maduro’s embattled government has declared the German ambassador persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country within 48 hours.

- Malaysia has become a member of the International Criminal Court. The ICC is the world’s only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling. Malaysia becomes the 124th member of the court since its establishment in 2002.

- India and Costa Rica signed two documents during Vice President Venkaiah Naidu’s first visit to the Central American nation. The documents were signed and exchanged following talks between Naidu and Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado Quesada.

- Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been hit by a vicious cyclone ‘IDAI’ that has killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands who are cut off from roads and telephones in mainly poor, rural areas.
Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to Nursultan to honor outgoing leader Nursultan Nazarbayev. Mr. Nazarbayev, 78, served nearly 30 years as president of the nation.

New Zealand has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following the Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.

Oman has signed an agreement with the United States of America that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports. The framework agreement is aimed at bolstering Omani-American military relations.

President Ram Nath Kovind embarked on a state visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile to hold talks with the leaders of these countries and strengthen ties in trade, investment and renewable energy.

US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation recognising Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights and told the visiting Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that Israel has an absolute right to self-defence.

Oslo, the capital city of Norway will become the world’s first city to install wireless, induction-based charging stations for its fleet of electric taxis with an aim to have a zero-emission cab system by the year 2023 according to a report by Reuters.

The world’s largest e-waste recycling plant has been opened in Dubai Industrial Park, Dubai by Enviroserve company with a total cost of $5 million. It will recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste.

The UN Security Council has unanimously passed the first-ever resolution ordering members to enforce laws against terror financing. UNSC resolution demands all states “ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses” to collect funds or financial resources to terrorist groups or individual criminals.

India-ASEAN trade and investment relations have been growing steadily, with ASEAN being the second largest trading partner of India, after China, with a total bilateral merchandise trade of USD 81.33 billion.

A month-long ‘Festival of India’ held in Kathmandu, Nepal to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.

Chinese news agency Xinhua unveiled the world’s first female AI news anchor Xin Xiaomeng. She has been developed in collaboration with Sogou Inc, a search engine company.

Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country.

Zimbabwe started to trade its new currency, the RTGS dollar, two days after the central bank announced measures to try and resolve a chronic monetary crisis.

US President Donald Trump signed Space Policy Directive-4 (SPD-4), ordering the Pentagon to establish the Space Force as the 6th branch of the United States military, to go along with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, in order to secure and extend American dominance of the space domain.

Thailand and the United States hosted the annual Cobra Gold military exercise, the biggest activity of its type in the Asia-Pacific region with 29 nations taking part as participants or observers.

Muhammadu Buhari was re-elected Nigeria’s President, results showed, after a delayed poll that angered voters and led to claims of rigging and collusion.

Saudi Arabia became the 73rd nation to sign the International Solar Alliance. ISA was unveiled by PM Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in 2015.

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani unveiled the first Iranian made semi-heavy submarine named ‘Fateh’ (‘Conqueror’ in Persian), capable of being fitted with missiles, as per the reporting on Iran’s state TV.

The country, formerly known as the Republic of Macedonia officially changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia, on paper ending a decades-long dispute that should pave the way for NATO membership.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised 5.2204 billion Philippine pesos ($100 million) from a new issue of local currency bonds in the international market. Currency-linked bonds are denominated in the local currency but settled in US dollars.

Abu Dhabi decided to include Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English, as part of a move designed to improve access to justice.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the names of the American private sector members of the US-India CEO Forum among who are MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga and Qualcomm CEO Steve Mollenkopf. The first meeting of the forum will be held in New Delhi.

Macedonia signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance.

The United Nations announced 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table of the Chemical Elements to highlight its first publication in 1869.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person Died</th>
<th>Profession/Famous In?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politician (National-International)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Former Egyptian President</td>
<td>Mohamed Morsy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. BJP Rajya Sabha MP and senior journalist</td>
<td>Rajnath Singh ‘Surya’</td>
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<td>3. SK Shivakumar</td>
<td>Former Director of ISRO</td>
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<td>4. Lorraine Warren</td>
<td>paranormal investigator</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Dr Negasso Gidada</td>
<td>The former Ethiopian president</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Manohar Parrikar</td>
<td>Goa Chief Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Alan Krueger</td>
<td>Former White House economist, Princeton University professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. John Dingell</td>
<td>the longest-serving congressman in US history</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Lennart Johansson</td>
<td>President of European soccer’s governing body</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singer/Musician (National-International)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Hiralal Yadav</td>
<td>Bhojpuri vocalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Amar Paul</td>
<td>Eminent Bengali folk singer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Vinjamuri Anasuya Devi</td>
<td>Kala Prapoorna awardee and folk artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Scott Walker</td>
<td>one of the most innovative and enduring songwriters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Actor/Director/Producer (National-International)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Malayalam director</td>
<td>Babu Narayanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Veteran actor-filmmaker</td>
<td>Vijaya Nirmala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Master Hranniah</td>
<td>Kannada theatre personality, satirist and TV actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Peter Mayhew</td>
<td>Actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao</td>
<td>Veteran Telugu actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Samny Shore</td>
<td>an actor and stand-up comedian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Vijaya Mulay</td>
<td>Renowned filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Veeru Devgn</td>
<td>Bollywood’s most famous stunt and action choreographer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Carmine Caridi</td>
<td>actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>31. J. Mahendran</td>
<td>Film Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Terry Rawlings</td>
<td>A British film and sound editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Mark Medoff</td>
<td>Actor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. John Singleton</td>
<td>Academy Award-nominated filmmaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Luke Perry</td>
<td>American actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>28. Raj Kumar Barjatya</td>
<td>filmmaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. Bruno Ganz</td>
<td>Swiss actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>30. Mahesh Anand</td>
<td>Noted actor in Bollywood</td>
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<tr>
<td>31. Albert Finney</td>
<td>Oscar-nominated British actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>32. Ramesh Bhatkar</td>
<td>Veteran Marathi actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>33. Crazy Mohan</td>
<td>Tamil writer, comedian and actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>34. Girish Karnad</td>
<td>Noted actor, filmmaker and playwright</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. John Rebennack</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Dinyar Contractor</td>
<td>comedian, film and theatre actor</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Author/Journalist/Activist/Painter (National-International)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>37. Telugu story writer and the Sahitya Akademi award winner</td>
<td>Abburi Chaya Devi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. An Eminent Social Activist and secretary of the Gandhi Ashram Trust</td>
<td>Jharna Dhara Chowdhury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. Veteran freedom fighter from Goa and Padmashri winner</td>
<td>Mohan Ranade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao</td>
<td>Prominent writer and academician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Thoppil Mohamed Meenan</td>
<td>Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I M Pei  
American architecture

S. Muthiah  
Chennai’s famed chronicler, cartographer, and journalist

Zhores Alferov  
Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate

Andre Previn  
Legendary composer and pianist

Darryl D’Monte  
Senior journalist and environmental activist

Prafulla Rajguru  
Veteran journalist and academician

Namvar Singh  
Noted Hindi writer

Andrea Levy  
British author

Ruma Guha Thakurta  
Actor-singer

#### Sportsmen/Sportswomen (National-International)

Former Bengal cricketer Shyam Sundar Mitra

Derek Sippy  
Former Indian Cue sports Player, Coach and administrator

Champion Niki Lauda  
former Formula One driver and three-time world champion

Con de Lange  
Scotland all-rounder

Pungam Kannan  
Former India footballer

Gordon Banks  
famous goalkeeper

#### Others (National-International)

Automobile industry legend from USA Lee Iacocca

Birla Group patriarch Basant Kumar Birla

Carlin Dunne and also known as “The King of the Mountain” Professional motorcycle racer

Prof. Kirpal Singh  
first chronicler of Partition

Prof N.R. Madhava Menon  
educationist, scholar, and the pioneering spirit

Baidyanath Mishra  
economist

YC Deveshwar  
The Padma Bhushan awardee and ITC’s Non-Executive Chairman

Kartik Chandra Rath  
veteran dramatist

Sydney Brenner  
Biologist

Pradeep Choubey  
Poet

Jerrie Cobb  
America’s first female astronaut candidate, pilot

Rama Sengupta Paul  
Veteran lady mountaineer

Ashita  
Celebrated Malayalam writer and poet

Valery Bykovsky  
Russian cosmonaut

William E. Butterworth III  
American military veteran and novelist

Wallace Smith Broecker  
Climate scientist

Manfred Eigen  
German scientist

Hiten Bhaya  
Former Planning Commission member and ex-director of IIMC

#### LIST/INDEXES ANNOUNCED RECENTLY

- Randstad rates Amazon India as country’s most attractive employer brand. Microsoft India emerged as the runner-up, followed by Sony India.
- Findings of the report are:
  - India will overtake China as the most populous country by 2027 and will have almost 1.64 billion inhabitants by 2050.
  - The Central and the Southern Asia region is expected to see a 25% increase in population till 2050.
  - The rate of population growth is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where the fertility rate stand at 4.6 births per woman over a lifetime.
  - India is still among the countries where the working-age population (25-64 years) is growing faster than other groups.
People aged above 65 are the fastest growing age group.

In the recently released QS World University rankings for 2020, IIT-Bombay which is ranked 152 is India’s best university for the second year in a row. The next two Indian Universities in the top 200 are IIT Delhi (182) and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (184). There are a total of 23 Indian institutions in the top 1,000.

Kerala has topped in NITI Aayog’s Health Index followed by Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Mercer has released 25th Annual Cost of Living Survey.

Some findings of the survey:

- The costliest city in the world for the second consecutive year is Hong Kong followed by Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul.
- Mumbai fell 12 spots and was ranked at the 67th position out of 209 cities surveyed.
- Eight out of the top ten of the world’s most expensive cities for expatriates are Asian.
- The world’s least expensive cities for expatriates are Tunis (209), Tashkent (208), and Karachi (207).

Global air passengers’ right expert Airhelp came out with the list of world’s best airports and Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International airport was ranked the world’s eighth best airport. Qatar’s Hamad International Airport topped the list.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about 35% of India’s total Graphite reserves are found in Arunachal Pradesh. This is the highest found in the country.

India stands in a lowly 117th position out of 181 countries in the KidsRight Index; Iceland secured the top position in the index followed by Portugal.

A report by OpenSignal, which is named as ‘OpenSignal’s hottest city for 4G Availability’ reveals the 4G Availability in India’s 50 largest cities. Out of the 50 cities, Dhanbad, which is also known as the coal capital of India has the highest 4G availability of 95.3%, followed by Ranchi which has 95% of 4G Availability.

President Ram Nath Kovind has released the national ranking of higher institutes by Ministry of HRD in New Delhi. Indian Institute of Technology Madras topped the rankings while the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore bagged the second rank followed by IIT Delhi. Delhi University’s Miranda House was ranked the best among colleges across the country, while the varsity’s St Stephen’s College was ranked fourth. AIIMS ranked first among medical sciences institutes and National Law School, Bangalore has topped law colleges.

As per the World Bank Report, India retained its position as the world’s top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018. India was followed by China (USD 67 billion) and Mexico (USD 36 billion). The Report was titled as ‘World Bank’s Migration and Development Brief’.

India’s asset management companies (AMCs) own assets under management (AUM) worth Rs24.46 trillion, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd has claimed the top spot with an average AUM of Rs3.42 trillion.

India’s population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion, more than double the annual growth rate of China, according to a report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA). India’s population in 2019 stood at 1.36 billion, growing from 942.2 million in 1994.

HDFC Bank identified as number 1 bank by customers in India, as per Forbes World’s Best Bank survey. In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to measure the best banks in 23 countries. HDFC Bank emerged as India’s No 1 bank. ICICI Bank was at number 2 and SBI was surprisingly ranked 11th in the list.

The Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 list released, naming the world’s most influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons of the year. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruwswamy, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are the Indian names that appeared in the list.


India was ranked 17th position among 100 countries in Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019 released by StartupBlink. It was ranked 37th spot last year. The report ranks countries based on the strength of its startup ecosystem.

India was ranked 19th out of 28 countries in the Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Top 3 countries are Australia (1st), Netherlands (2nd) and Germany (3rd).

India was the world’s fourth biggest military spender in 2018 behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

According to BCG-IBA Report – EASE Reforms for Public Sector Banks, released by Union Minister of
Finance & Corporate Affairs, Punjab National Bank (PNB) secured the top spot among all public sector banks in the implementation of ‘Reforms Agenda’. PNB which topped the list with a score of 78.4 out of 100 in the EASE-index was followed by BoB (77.8), SBI (74.6), and Oriental Bank of Commerce (69).

According to the Delta ranking report released by NITI Aayog, Assam’s Hailakandi has become the top aspirational district among the 112 aspirational districts of the country. Hailakandi in Assam has made a giant leap from 52nd position to no. 1 position on the basis of its performance during November-December 2018 and January 2019.

India is the second largest importer of weapons in the world, as per the annual report ‘Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018’ released by the think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Saudi Arabia is now the world’s largest weapons importer.

India, which is the world’s largest consumer of gold, has the 11th largest gold reserve, with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes, as per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC). The top spot is occupied by the US with gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.

A recent study published in PLOS Biology found that human impacts on species occur across 84% of the earth’s surface and India ranks 16th in such impacts, with 35 species impacted on an average. Malaysia ranks 1st among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125).

The human resource consulting firm, Mercer’s annual Quality of Living Survey 2019 has placed Austria’s capital city Vienna at the number 1 spot, making it the 10th year in a row. The only cities outside of Europe to make the top 10 list are Vancouver, Canada, and Auckland, New Zealand. Hyderabad and Pune, at a rank of 143, continue to be the most liveable cities in India for expatriates.

The United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) has released the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (2019) titled ‘Healthy Planet, Healthy People’.

Tata, Reliance, and Airtel emerged as the top three Indian brands of 2019, according to a report published by Interbrand, part of the Omnicom Media Group. Tata continued to hold the top position in the best Indian Brands ranking as its brand value grew by 6%, mainly due to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani leads Forbes’ list of richest sports team owners with a net worth of around $50 billion.

The World Happiness Report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20, the International Day of Happiness. India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations. India shows a 7 spot decline. For the second consecutive year, Finland topped the list.

The “100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy” list is comprised of seven Indian names including Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Dr Harsh Vardhan, who took important measures to combat climate change. The list is prepared by Apolitical, a peer to peer learning platform for governments. The list has been topped by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Congresswoman, US Congress).

In accordance with the preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 released by Airports Council International (ACI), Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) of New Delhi has elevated 4 ranks to reach at 12th spot in terms of the busiest airport as compared to 2017’s 16th spot. The list of world’s busiest airports by passenger traffic ranking has been topped by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (US).

India has moved up 2 places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index. The annual list, compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability. Sweden remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.

Singapore’s Changi Airport has been crowned the world’s best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row, while New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport featured at number 59, according to the Skytrax World Airport Awards. New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is India’s best Airport.

India ranked 47th in the ‘Inclusive Internet Index 2019’ which is prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook. Sweden topped the index whereas Singapore ranked 2nd and the USA ranked 3rd.

With a net worth of $54 billion, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has broken into the global top 10 richest billionaire list compiled by Hurun Research. The Hurun Global Rich List 2019 is topped by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos & Ambani is placed 8th.

The International Labour Organization released World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019 report. As per the report, unemployment rates will fall to 4.9% in 2019 and remains steady in 2020.

India has jumped eight places to 36th position on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, which analyses the IP climate in 50 global
economies, this year. The US, the UK, Sweden, France and Germany remained the top five economies on the intellectual property index in 2019 retaining their spots from the last year.

- **Assam occupied the top** slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in the **Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha**, as per a survey by Transparency International.

- According to global market research **agency Kantar in its 2019’s ‘100 Top BrandZ Report’**, US retail giant Amazon has moved past hi-tech titans Apple and Google to become the world’s most valuable brand.

- **An analysis of traffic congestion in more than 400 cities** across six continents has found that commuters in Mumbai spent the most time on the road in 2018. Mumbai ranked first in the study, ‘Traffic Index-2018’,

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## IMPORTANT DAYS OBSERVED RECENTLY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st July</td>
<td>National Doctors’ Day</td>
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<td>1st July</td>
<td>Goods &amp; Services Tax Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th July</td>
<td>The United Nations observes first Saturday of July every year as International Day of Cooperatives. <strong>Theme for 2019: COOPS 4 DECENT WORK.</strong></td>
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<td>1st June</td>
<td>World Milk Day- Theme- Drink Milk: Today &amp; Everyday</td>
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<td>3rd June</td>
<td>World Bicycle Day-</td>
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<td>4th June</td>
<td>The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression</td>
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<td>5th June</td>
<td>World Environment Day – <strong>Theme- ‘Beat Air Pollution’.</strong></td>
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<td>5th June</td>
<td>International Day For The Fight Against Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated Fishing</td>
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<td>7th June</td>
<td>World Food Safety Day- <strong>Theme- Food Safety, Everyone’s Business</strong></td>
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<td>8th June</td>
<td>World Blood Donor Day- <strong>Theme- Blood donation and universal access to safe blood transfusion</strong></td>
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<td>12th June</td>
<td>World Day Against Child Labour- <strong>Theme- Children shouldn’t work in fields, but on dreams!</strong></td>
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<td>15th June</td>
<td>World Elder Abuse Awareness Day</td>
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<td>17th June</td>
<td>“World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought!” to promote public awareness of the issue. The slogan for World Day to Combat Desertification 2019 is Let’s grow the future together!</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th June</td>
<td>Sustainable Gastronomy Day</td>
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<td>18th June</td>
<td>Autistic Pride Day</td>
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<td>19th June</td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is celebrated around the world on 19th June. <strong>Panel Discussion: “The Importance of a Survivor Centred Approach”.</strong></td>
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<td>20th June</td>
<td>World Refugee Day Theme for 2019: Step With Refugees — Take A Step.</td>
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<td>21st June</td>
<td>The International Day of Yoga is being observed on 21st June every year. <strong>Theme: Yoga for Climate Action.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>21st June</td>
<td>World Music Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd June</td>
<td>International Olympic Day</td>
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<td>23rd June</td>
<td>United Nations Public Service Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd June</td>
<td>International Widows Day</td>
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<td>25th June</td>
<td>The International Maritime Organization. The 2019 campaign for the day: I Am On Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th June</td>
<td>International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. <strong>Theme: Health for Justice, Justice for Health.</strong></td>
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<td>27th June</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day</td>
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<td>1st to 15th June</td>
<td>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and institutions under it observed Swachhta Pakhwada (cleanliness fortnight) from 1st June to 15th June 2019.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>29th June</td>
<td>International Day of the Tropics</td>
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<td>29th June</td>
<td>National Statistics Day</td>
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<td>30th June</td>
<td>The United Nations International Asteroid Day</td>
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<td>30th June</td>
<td>The United Nations International Day of Parliamentarism</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st May</td>
<td>International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers’ Day): Theme: “Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st May</td>
<td>‘Maharashtra Day’ and ‘Gujarat Day’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd May</td>
<td>World Tuna Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th May (first Sunday of May)</td>
<td>World Laughter Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th May (first Tuesday in May)</td>
<td>World Asthma Day. The theme of World Asthma Day 2019 was ‘STOP for Asthma’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th May</td>
<td>World Red Cross Day. The 2019 theme chosen by them is, ‘#Love’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>National Technology Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th May</td>
<td>International Nurses Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>World Migratory Bird Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.’</td>
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<td>15th May</td>
<td>International Day of Families.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th May</td>
<td>International Day of Light</td>
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<td>17th May</td>
<td>World Telecommunication &amp; Information Society Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Bridging the Standardization Gap’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>World Bee Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th May</td>
<td>World Metrology Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>Anti-terrorism day</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd May</td>
<td>International Day for Biological Diversity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th May</td>
<td>12th Republic Day of Nepal</td>
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<td>29th May</td>
<td>International Everest Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th May</td>
<td>International Day Of UN Peacekeepers</td>
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<td>Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st May</td>
<td>World No Tobacco Day (WNTD- Theme- tobacco and lung health.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>World Autism Awareness Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assistive Technologies, Active Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>International Mine Awareness Day</td>
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<td>United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home</td>
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<td>5th April</td>
<td>National Maritime Day</td>
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<td>Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th April</td>
<td>World Health Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere’</td>
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<td>10th April</td>
<td>The World Homoeopathy Day-</td>
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<td>12th April</td>
<td>International Day of Human Space Flight</td>
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<td>18th April</td>
<td>International Day for Monuments and Sites.</td>
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<td>Rural Landscapes’</td>
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<td>22nd April</td>
<td>World Earth Day</td>
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<td>21st April</td>
<td>World Creativity and Innovation Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd April</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
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<td>24th April</td>
<td>National Panchayati Raj Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>World Malaria Day</td>
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<td>Zero malaria starts with me</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th April</td>
<td>World Intellectual Property Day</td>
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<td>Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports”.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th April</td>
<td>International Dance Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
World Allergy Week 2019 globally from 7-13 April 2019. The theme for World Allergy Week 2019 is “The Global Problem of Food Allergy”.

The last week of April every year is observed as World Immunisation Week in order to promote the use of vaccines for the protection of people of all age-groups against disease. The WIW 2019 observed from 24-30th April, carrying the theme “Protected Together: Vaccines Work”. It was observed for the very first time in 2012.

| 7th March | Janaushadhi Diwas |
| 8th March | International Women’s Day – Theme- “Think equal, build smart, innovate for change”, campaign theme: #BalanceForBetter. |
| 15th March | World Consumer Rights Day : “Trusted Smart Products |
| 20th March | International Day of Happiness ‘Happier Together’. |
| 21st March | International Day of Forests Forests and Education. |
| 22nd March | International World Water Leaving no one behind’. |

World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed annually on the second Thursday in March (14th March in 2019) to create awareness on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease. 2019 Theme: Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere.

Shaheed Diwas or Martyr’s Day on 23rd March. Each year, March 23, homage is paid to the great revolutionary fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajiguru and Sukhdev who sacrificed their lives for the country.

| 22nd March | Bihar Diwas or Bihar Day |
| 24th March | World Tuberculosis (TB) Day ‘It’s time’. |
| 23rd March | World Meteorological Day The Sun, the Earth and the Weather |
| 21st February | International Mother Language Day |
| 28th February | National Science Day ‘Science for people and people for science’. |

13 February is celebrated as World Radio Day by UNESCO all over the world. The theme was “Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace”.

| 11th February | International Day of Women and Girls in Science |
| 2nd February | World Wetlands Day ‘Wetlands and Climate Change’. |

World Cancer Day is being observed observed globally on 4th February. The theme was “I Am and I Will.”

### BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Pakistan’s former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi released his autobiography, titled ‘Game Changer’. The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.
- The Indian Publishing company, Garuda Prakashan Private Limited, launched its book ‘Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders’. Written by Manoshi Sinha Rawal, it is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years.
- A book titled, ‘Mann Ki Baat- A Social Revolution on Radio’ was released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi. The book is a compendium encompassing 50 editions of the ‘Mann Ki Baat’ programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on All India Radio.
- Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched the book titled ‘Every Vote Counts-The Story of India’s Elections’. The author of this book is former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla.
- The Chairman of 15th Finance Commission of India, N.K. Singh launched the book “Indian Fiscal Federalism”. The book has been written by Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.
- The book titled ‘Quality, Accreditation, and Ranking - A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education’ edited by Education Promotion Society for India’s (EPSI) Alternate President Dr. H Chaturvedi in New Delhi.
A book ‘Simplicity & Wisdom’ written by Dinesh Shahra was launched at Parmarth Ashram in Kumbh Mela.

Former Vice President Hamid Ansari launched the new book of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram named “Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India” at Nehru Memorial Museum, New Delhi.

DEFENCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

The International Security Alliance’s first Joint Exercise ISALEX19 started in Abu Dhabi. The exercise is hosted by the UAE Ministry of Interior (MoI).

The Indian and French Air Force has started Garuda VI exercise at Mont de Marsan in France.

ISRO has opened its laboratories for Indian school students to undergo two-week training from this year. The training module has been devised as part of its new Young Scientists Programme, or Yuva Vigyanik Karyakram, YUVIKA.

Indian Navy’s first Naval Air Squadron 550 celebrated its Diamond Jubilee at naval base Kochi after Completing 60 glorious years of yeoman service to the nation.

NASA’s robot named Bumble became the first Astrobeee robot to fly under its own power in space.

Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels safe transit through the area.

The Indian Space Research Organisation has distributed 250 NavIC Messaging Receivers to fishermen of Kerala on a trial basis.

The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 was kicked off the Goa coast. The second part, Varuna 19.2 was held at the end of May in Djibouti.

Defence ministry approved the procurement of 10 Kamov Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters for the Indian Navy. The cost of the deal would be around Rs 3,600 crore.

INS Ranjit, an Indian navy destroyer built by erstwhile USSR, is set to be decommissioned. The third of the five Kashin-class destroyers, it was commissioned in 1983 and rendered service to the Navy for over 36 years.

The fourth of Indian Navy’s stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, INS Vela was launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai in Maharashtra.

The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the ‘Year of Next of Kin’ and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension-related problems.

First AH-64E (I) – Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA. Air Marshal AS Butola, represented the Indian Air Force and accepted the first Apache. IAF had signed a contract with US Government and M/s Boeing Ltd in Sep 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.

India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS – High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from a test range in Odisha. The trial, carried out by the DRDO from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore, was tracked by various radars and electro-optic systems.

Indian Navy’s first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) was inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata, West Bengal. Spread over 27 acres on the banks of Hooghly, the SSB (Kolkata) has the capacity to screen 5,000 officer-candidates annually. This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy.

The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vigraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is a frontline offshore patrol vessel (OPV). It was commissioned into service on April 12, 1990.

The Indian Navy successfully test-fired a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), achieving a significant milestone to enhance its anti-air warfare capability.

The 26th Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19 commenced in the South China Sea. In addition to IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I also participates in the exercise.

Indian Air Force successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft. The launch from the aircraft was smooth and the missile followed the desired trajectory before directly hitting the land target.

Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake missions by day on a
The Indian Navy will participate in **International Fleet Review** (IFR) that is scheduled to take place in Qingdao, China as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy).

**India and France** will conduct their largest ever naval exercise ‘Varuna’ in May 2019. It will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines, and fighters. India will deploy its aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters.

**Indigenously designed** ‘INS Imphal’ a guided missile destroyer was launched by Navy Chief Sunil Lanba at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. This ship is designed by the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Designs, New Delhi.

The United States and South Korea decided to call off their joint exercise “Foal Eagle” and “Key Resolve” and instead bifurcate them into **smaller exercises**. This is being done to ease tensions with North Korea. “Key Resolve” will be replaced by “Dongmaeng” which is also known as **alliance** in English, Foal Eagle drills will be replaced by a smaller battalion-sized exercise.

**Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB)** took part in the 3-day ‘Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019’ as a part of ‘Confidence Building Measures’ between **India and Bangladesh** held in Agartala, Tripura.

The third edition of the bilateral joint exercise between **India and Oman, Al Nagah 2019** will begin from 12th of this month (March) at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.

**Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** successfully test fired the **PINAKA guided WEAPON rocket system** from Pokhran range in Rajasthan. The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.

**Indo Oman Joint Exercise Al Nagah III 2019**, a joint military exercise between **Indian and Royal Army of Oman (RAO)**, commenced this morning at HQ Jabel Regiment, Nizwa, Oman.

The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan is involved in a joint exercise with **India’s National Security Guard in Hyderabad**, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the armed forces of the two countries.

**Exercise Sampriti-VIII**, a joint Indo-Bangladesh military exercise which witnessed participation of a company group of 9th Battalion the Rajputana Rifles from the Indian Army and the Company of 36 East Bengal Battalion, Bangladesh Army concluded at Tangail, Bangladesh.

- **India has successfully test-fired** first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile ‘Nirbhay’ from a test range in Odisha. The all-weather missile, has a 1,000-kilometre strike range.
- Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera at a ceremony held at Naval Jetty at the dockyard at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples’ Navy, (IN – VPN BILAT EX) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

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**The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the** **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, Exercise Mitra Shakti** concluded in Sri Lanka.

**Military forces of India and Singapore** got together to participate in a joint exercise in Babina Cantonment in Jhansi. The three-day exercise, ‘Bold Kurukshetra-2019’, is being conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations’ fight against terrorism.

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Vijit’ became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia.

The inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 for India and African nations called AFINDEX-19 started with a grand opening ceremony at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka. The joint exercise for the year 2018-19 will be conducted in Sri Lanka.

The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI – VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army kicked-off at Diyalatalawa in Sri Lanka. MITRASHAKTI is one of the largest bilateral armies to army exercises conducted in the region.

The Indian Air Force formally inducted the CH 47 F(I)- Chinook heavy-lift helicopters into its inventory at Air Force Station Chandigarh. IAF had signed a contract with M/s Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 15 Chinook helicopters.

The Indian Navy’s state of the art Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) was inaugurated by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Shivaji, Lonavala. The training facility has been named ABHEDYA, which means impenetrable in Sanskrit.

Indian Navy’s frontline ASW corvette, INS Kadmatt arrived at Langkawi, Malaysia on a 7 days official visit. The ship is scheduled to participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19 during the visit. INS Kadmatt was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016.

First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) comprising five Officers, two JCOs and eleven OR was flagged off by Director General Military Training. In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000M, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019.

The third edition of the biennial, bilateral exercise AUSINDEX 19 between India and Australia will be held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The upcoming exercise will focus on anti-submarine warfare and will see Australia’s largest defence force deployment in India.

India has signed a deal with a Russian firm to manufacture 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles. These are the latest derivative of the AK-47 rifles.

Indian Air Force conducted mega exercise ‘Vayu Shakti’ in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal from Chandigarh, became the first Indian Woman Flight Engineer of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultralight Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar at the annual “Exercise Topchi”. The exercise was held at Deolali Camp near Nashik.

Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise ‘Exercise Rahat’ concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was demonstrated in Jaipur, Kota, and Alwar in Rajasthan.

INS Trikand, the frontline warship of the Indian Navy, participated in a multi-national training exercise ‘CUTCLASS EXPRESS 2019’. The annual Exercise Cutlass Express is sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) and conducted by Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF). It was held in the vicinity of Djibouti, Mozambique and Seychelles.

The 5-day multinational maritime exercise ‘AMAN-19’ in which 46 nations participated from all over the world was formally commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, with a colorful flag hoisting ceremony.

Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister approved indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees. It also approved the acquisition of about five thousand MILAN Anti-Tank Guided Missiles for the Army.

As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 will be conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019.

In a major boost for the Navy’s firepower, the Defence Ministry has approved the acquisition of more than 100 heavyweight torpedoes which will be equipped on the force’s six Scorpene-class submarines being built at Mazagon Dockyards in Mumbai.

India has successfully tested fired Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile from Chandipur in Odisha.
**Cricket**

*Cricket {National Game of: Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11
Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- Former England batsman Marcus Trescothick is to retire from professional cricket.
- Virat Kohli becomes the fastest cricketer to score 20,000 international runs. He took just 417 innings to reach the milestone and bettered the time taken by legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara.
- Afghanistan leg spinner Rashid Khan recorded the worst bowling figures in ICC World Cup Match after conceding 110 runs in 9 overs against England.
- Indian batsman Ambati Rayudu has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- Amul announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.
- Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir becomes the most successful women’s ODI spinner in history after she took her 147th wicket, highest ever by any spinner in One-day International (ODI) cricket.
- India’s GS Lakshmi become the first ever woman to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and will be eligible to referee international games with immediate effect.
- Ten million US Dollars or little more than 70 crore rupees are on offer in the upcoming ICC men’s cricket World Cup 2019.
- The ICC launched the criio 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.
- West Indies opener Chris Gayle has become the first batsman ever to smash 500 or more sixes in international cricket. In the 4th ODI against England in Grenada, Gayle scored 162 runs.
- The Supreme Court appointed senior advocate PS Narasimha as a mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration within the cricket body, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

**Important Terms Associated:** Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick

- The Spanish footballer Fernando Torres who was a part of 2010 World Cup Winning Team of Spain has announced his retirement from football.
- Dutch winger Arjen Robben has announced his retirement from football at the age of 35 after a 10-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich.
- Spain and Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez announced that he will retire from professional football at the end of the current season. Xavi Hernandez spent 14 years in Barcelona, where he won 35 trophies, including 8 La Liga titles, before moving to Qatari club Al-Sadd.
- Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder Yaya Toure officially announced his retirement from football.
- Manchester City clinched their fourth Premier League title (football) after winning the 2018-19 season. Manchester City registered a 4-1 victory against Brighton to accumulate 98 points, while Liverpool, who were also in the title race, finished second with 97 points.
- Sethu FC turned around a first-half deficit to clinch their first ever Indian Women’s League trophy after defeating Manipur Police at the Guru Nanak Stadium, in Ludhiana, Punjab.
- 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, Azerbaijan.
- Praful Patel, president of All India Football Federation (AIFF), has become the first Indian to be elected as a member of FIFA Executive Council.
- In Football, Liverpool breezed past Tottenham at Madrid to win the Champions League for the sixth time.

**Hockey**

*Hockey {National Game of: India, Pakistan No. of Players: 11
Important Terms Associated: Advancing, Bully, Center Pass, Dribble, Drive, Flagrant Foul, Flick, Free Hit, Striker, Tackle, Undercutting, Dodge, Drag Flick, Grip, Hacking, Penalty Corner, Wall Pass}

- The Indian women’s hockey team have won the FIH Series Finals after defeating Japan. The best player title was clinched by Rani Rampal.
- In the FIH Men’s Series Finals, India defeated South Africa by 5 goals to one in a summit clash at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- **South Korea** defeated **India** in the penalty shootout in the final of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019.
- 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.
- In the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Men’s Hockey Series Finals match played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Japan defeated Mexico by a goal margin of 3-1.

### Current Affairs related to Tennis

- Ashleigh Barty becomes world No.1 **women tennis player** after winning the Birmingham Classic by defeating Julia Goerges by 6-3, 7-5. She is an **Australian Professional tennis player**.
- Gary Woodland won the 119th US Open, capturing his first Major title after defeating two-time defending champion Brook Koepka.
- The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has signed an MoU with Serbian Tennis Federation (STF) to train Indian junior players under world-renowned Serbian coaches.
- Fabio Fognini became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters. He defeated Dusan Lajovic.
- Dominic Thiem (Austria) won the Barcelona Open 2019 after defeating Daniil Medvedev (Russia).
- Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career after beating 20-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships.
- In French Open Tennis, Australian Ashleigh Barty won her first Grand Slam singles title after easing past Czech teenager Marketa Vondrousova in straight sets in the women’s final.
- Third seed Sidharth Rawat defeated Rio Noguchi of Japan to clinch his maiden title in the $25,000 ITF men’s Futures tennis tournament.
- In Tennis, world number two Rafael Nadal has lifted the French Open Men’s Singles title for the 12th time.

### Current Affairs related to Grand Prixes

- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.
- Five times world champion **Lewis Hamilton** won Bahrain Grand Prix 2019 title by beating Valtteri Bottas of Finland who secured the second position.
- In motor racing, **Lewis Hamilton** won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time.
- **Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton** secures a record-breaking seventh win at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix after Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) was penalised for dangerous driving.

### Badminton

- The world body governing Badminton, BFA launched two new formats of the game AirBadminton and Triples with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle. Traditional competitive badminton an indoor game.
- **China** won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning, China.
- Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani rallied from a game down against Mads Christoffersen of Denmark to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in The Hague, Netherlands.

### Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- India’s gymnast Pranati Nayak has won a bronze medal in the vault event at the Senior Asian Artistic Championships. The championship was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Hima Das**, the under-20 World champion has won the gold medal in women’s 200m in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix. **Poznan Athletics Grand Prix** is taking place in Poznan, Poland.
- **Indian pro boxer Vaibhav Yadav** has become the WBC Asia Silver Welterweight Champion. He defeated Thailand’s Fahpetch Singmanassak in Thailand.
- The Indian team **lost to Pakistan** in the final of the IBSF Snooker World Cup in Doha.
- World number one **Bajrang Punia** becomes the first **Indian** to win gold at the Ali Aliev wrestling tournament after defeating Viktor Rassadin of Russia in the 65 kg freestyle in Kapiisk. He had also won a gold at the Asian Championships in Xi’an, China.
- Indian boxers finished with a rich haul of six medals, including two gold at the 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland. Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged one gold each. Indian boxers also clinched a silver and three bronze.
India bagged a Gold and two Silver medals at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany.

India’s Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men’s 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.

World number one Bajrang Punia won gold at Asian Wrestling Championship in China’s Xian.

India won gold each in 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team and 10 Air Pistol Mixed team events in the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.


Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

The International Olympic Committee has formally opened new headquarters in Switzerland exactly 125 years after the Olympic Games were revived.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) lifted the sanctions imposed on India to host international sporting events.

Jaipur host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams will be participating. It will be played in August 2019. Earlier Delhi had hosted it in 2015 where the hosts India had finished 7th.

China becomes the sole contender to host Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023 after South Korea announced to withdraw its bid to host the game.

2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament started in Guwahati.

India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati.

Asian Athletics Championships 2019 held at Doha in Qatar.

Special Olympics World Games 2019 which is being held from March 14 to March 21 in the UAE has made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games.

The 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup is the 8th edition of the FIFA Women’s World Cup, the quadrennial international football championship contested by the women’s national teams between 7 June and 7 July 2019.

Other Sports Current Affairs

The Indian women’s rugby team has claimed a historic first ever international Rugby 15s victory. They defeated Singapore with a score of 21-19.

India’s ace cueist Pankaj Advani has clinched the 35th men’s Asian Snooker Championship held in Doha.

Annu Rani won the women’s javelin bronze in the 58th Ostrava Golden Spike athletics meet, an IAAF World Challenge event.

Joshna Chinappa made a record for the most number of national titles after beating her Tamil Nadu state-mate Sunayna Kuruvilla.

Indian men’s recurve team bagged a silver medal in the Archery World Championships at Den Bosch in The Netherlands.

Aparna Kumar becomes first IPS officer to complete Seven Summit challenge by scaling Mt Denali. Mt Denali is the tallest mountain in North America.

Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela ranked the world number one in the women’s 10 metres air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to number two after consistent performances.

Ace Indian squash players Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong.

Former Croatia international and manager Igor Stimac appointed as the Indian men’s team coach after the All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) technical committee recommended him for the post.

India’s Rahil Gangjee finished tied 39th while Viraj Madappa ended tied 53rd at the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup held in Japan. Japan’s Yosuke Asaji won the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup 2019 at the Sobu Country Club.

Germany’s double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier announced her retirement at the age of just 25 after struggling with health issues.

Brooks Koepka (of USA) returned to the top of the world rankings after his nerve-jangling second straight US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black.

Indians had a good day at the year’s third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany.

Indian shooters continued their dominance claiming five gold medals on the final day of the Asian Airgun Championships to sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei. India finished with 16 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals.

Saurav Ghosal became the first Indian male squash player to enter the top 10 in latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) world rankings.
Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women’s race) and Abhra Milaw (men’s race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.

Famous Golfer Tiger Woods completed one of the sport’s great all-time comebacks to end an 11-year major title drought at the Masters by claiming a fifth Green Jacket.

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

Yuvraj Singh announced retirement from international cricket.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (NASA, ISRO & OTHERS)**

ISRO unveiled its Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at ISRO Headquarter campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka for its maiden manned space mission ‘Gaganyaan’.

India’s 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 has been launched successfully from French Guiana. The Ariane-5 rocket lifted off with it from Kourou Launch Base, and in 42-minutes, placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

NASA announced that its Opportunity Rover mission is complete after the rover failed to respond despite repeated trials since August 2018.

NASA has announced a new space telescope mission dedicated to understanding the origins of life and the universe. It’s called the Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer or SPHEREx, for short. The space agency is aiming for a 2023 launch.

Infosys, the country’s 2nd largest IT firm has launched a next-generation digital platform ‘InfyTQ’ to facilitate engineering students with best learning experiences by imparting technical and professional skills.

Israel is to launch its first moon mission, sending an unmanned spacecraft to collect data to be shared with NASA. According to a report, the 585-kilogram Beresheet (Genesis) spacecraft is to lift off atop a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Mission control will be in Yehud, near Tel Aviv.

AntBot is the first walking robot to have navigational capabilities without GPS or mapping.

Bandicoot, a drainage-cleaning robot, has been introduced for the first time in India at the Kumbakonam city corporation as part of efforts to rid of manual scavenging at the cost of Rs 18 lakh in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Cyber Prevention Awareness and Detection (CyPAD) Centre and the National Cyber Forensic Lab (NCFL) were inaugurated by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and LG Anil Baijal in Dwarka, New Delhi.

Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, inaugurated India’s first Humanoid Police Robot named KP-BOT, ranked as Sub-Inspector (SI), at the Police Headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Chinese news agency Xinhua unveiled the world’s first female AI news anchor Xin Xiaomeng. She has been developed in collaboration with Sogou Inc, a search engine company.

Bengaluru-based Signalchip has unveiled semiconductor chips for 4G, LTE and 5G modems. These are first such chips developed in India. All devices and infrastructure in India whether imported or domestically manufactured, currently use imported silicon chips.

ISRO has launched ‘Yuva Vigyani Karyakram’, a ‘Young Scientist Programme’ for the School Children to be studying in the 9th standard.

Just in time for International Women’s Day, NASA announced that it will be conducting the first-ever, all-female spacewalk.

National space agency ISRO and its French counterpart CNES sealed an agreement to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in the country in May. K.Sivan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, and Jean-Yves Le Gall, President of CNES of France, signed the agreement in Bengaluru.

ISRO has launched a special programme for schoolchildren called Young Scientist Programme or Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA), in tune with the government’s vision “Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan”.

ISRO has launched a Defence Intelligence Satellite, EMISAT in its 47th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission, along with 28 other customer satellites, onboard the advanced PSLV-C45 Rocket.

Tesla has developed its ‘largest power storage system in Asia’ at Osaka train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan. It was Launched in partnership with Kintetsu, a railway operator in Japan’s Osaka.

South Korea launches the world’s first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks. The system will bring smartphones near-instantaneous connectivity 20 times faster than the existing 4G allowing users to download entire movies in less than a second.

Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as ‘Messier 87’ (M87).
Google launched Anthos, a new open platform from Google Cloud, that lets users run applications from anywhere.

The most powerful operational rocket in the world, SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy, launched its first commercial mission from Florida in a key demonstration for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk’s space company in the race to grab lucrative military launch contracts.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (Space X) launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by using Falcon 9 rocket with Dragon Spacecraft.

Microsoft has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management, and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development.

After decades of ground-breaking laboratory works, the world’s scientific and technical community, in a landmark and historic decision has unanimously adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units, the kilogram (SI unit of weight), Kelvin (SI unit of temperature), mole (SI unit of amount of substance), and ampere (SI unit of current).

ISRO has successfully launched the ‘RISAT-2B’ Satellite from the Sriharikota’s, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km, about 15 minutes and 25 seconds after lift-off.

NASA unveiled the calendar for the “Artemis” program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024. The original lunar missions were named for Apollo – Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced an annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to “loktantra senanis” or their spouse. “Loktantra senanis” are those people who were imprisoned during the 1975-77 Emergency under preventive detention laws.

The Govt has reduced interest rates for small savings schemes by 10 basis points for the July-September quarter of the 2019-20 financial year.

The Govt will set up 51 new incubators for startups in the information and communications technology space across India as part of its Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) 2.0 scheme.

Unemployed youth having graduation or equivalent degree will be given unemployment allowance by Rajasthan government. Male applicants will get Rs 3,000/month, while the women and differently-abled will get Rs 3,500/month under Chief Minister Yuva Sambal Yojana from February this year.

The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project which is one of the world’s largest multi stage and multi purpose lift irrigation scheme, was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district of Telangana.

‘One Nation One Ration Card’ scheme will be available across the country from 1st July 2020.

Union Minister of Tribal Affairs launched the ambitious scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs named Van Dhan. The scheme is for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Development of Value Chain of MFPs at a National Workshop organized by TRIFED. The Scheme will offer remunerative Minimum Support Price for 50 commercially viable items to the Tribals.

Union Minister of Textiles launched a comprehensive scheme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi. Apart from financial incentives, the two key elements are Yarn Bank and financial assistance for the solar energy scheme.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the ‘Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran (JI-VAN) Yojana’ for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects. The scheme aims to incentivise the Second Generation (2G) Ethanol sector and support the industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing R&D in this area.
Gram Samridhi Yojana, a Rs 3,000 crore scheme funded by the World Bank and the Government of India, is being worked upon by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in order to strengthen the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas. NITI Aayog has given its approval to the scheme. World Bank will be giving Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 1,000 crore will be borne by the Centre while state governments will put in Rs 500 crore. The scheme will be run in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab.

‘Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi’ scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Chandigarh. It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas up to 5 acres and the families with an income of less than Rs. 15,000 per month. The scheme would provide a sum of Rs. 6,000 yearly and each family has to nominate a member who will be provided with this amount.

A water conservation scheme ‘Jal Amrutha’ was launched by Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, in Bengaluru. A function was organized by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department at Dr. B R Ambedkar Bhavan in Bengaluru. The state government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water.

The government of Tripura announced ‘Notun Disha’ (New Direction) for assessing the academic level of students in classes III-VIII and then improving their current level. It was launched by state Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath.

The government has introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products with a view to boosting export of farm commodities to certain countries in Europe and North America. Under the Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme, the government would reimburse a certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce.

IRCTC launched its own digital payment aggregator called ‘IRCTC iPay’. With iPay, passengers will not need any third-party platforms as it will provide payment options like credit card, debit card, unified payment interface and international card. This will help reduce the gap between IRCTC and banks which will eventually lead to a substantial reduction in payment failures.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence public sector undertaking, presented SWAGAT – the Automatic Fare Collection Gating System. PM Narendra Modi launched the system as part of the inaugural of Phase-I of the Ahmedabad Metro.

Tech giant Google has unveiled a new app ‘Bola’ that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English. The free app, which is being launched in India first, uses Google’s speech recognition and text-to-speech technology. The app features an animated character ‘Diya’, who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word.

Aviva Life Insurance announced the launch of ‘Wings’, a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce. Wings program is an initiative of the SHE division of Aviva Life Insurance for mentoring all the women employees in Aviva.

The ‘i-help’ initiative to promote digital electoral literacy in Assam has been launched in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. It is a joint initiative of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Common Service Centres (CSC) in Assam.

Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, (IIPHG) in collaboration with National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat has developed a mobile application called as ‘Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior’ for students to reduce the exam pressure.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a new podcast app ‘Shiksha Vani’ that will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry launched Operation Digital Blackboard on the lines of Operation Blackboard to provide better digital education in school.

Odisha Cabinet approved the ‘Khushi’ scheme to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar launched ‘Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills’ (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates. This scheme is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three central ministries, including the HRD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

A tele-law mobile application ‘Nyaya Bandhu’ was launched by the Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development launched the ‘Operation Digital Board’ to boost quality education in the country. An expert committee has worked out optimum configuration of the Digital Class Rooms under the Operation Digital Board.

Union Minister for Tourism inaugurated the project ‘Development of Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady’ under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of Ministry of Tourism at Vagamon, Kerala.
Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched SWAYATT in New Delhi.

Home Minister and Minister for Women and Child Development launched a range of citizen safety initiatives in New Delhi. Persons in distress can dial a pan-India number: 112. Under this system, all the states have to set up a dedicated Emergency Response Centre, ERC.

Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters at New Delhi.

Actor Vijay Sethupathi launched the mobile App ‘DigiCop’ of the Chennai police department at the Commissioner’s office. Using the App, people can track the status of stolen two-wheelers and cell phones.

‘Darwaza Band- Part 2’ campaign launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country. Earlier Darwaza Band campaign was launched in 2017.

Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), to the most vulnerable, showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.

Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs launched the “e-governance initiatives for ST Welfare schemes” at a function organized by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The U.S. Senate has passed a legislative provision National Defense Authorization Act for India. The act will bring India at par with America’s NATO allies which will increase U.S.-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counter terrorism, counterpiracy and maritime security. The act has been passed for the fiscal year 2020.

The Department of State of USA has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Hizballah operative Husain Ali Hazzima as Specially Designated Global Terrorists.

Dubai Duty Free has announced that Indian Rupee will now be an accepted currency at all the retail outlets of the Dubai airport. The move makes the Indian rupee the 16th international currency to be accepted at Dubai’s airports.

India’s biggest ride-hailing platform Ola Cabs, has received approval from London’s transport regulator to start private hire vehicles (PHV) in the capital city of the UK.

The South Central Railway has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel of India. The tunnel which is between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations is 6.6 km long, is built at a total cost of ₹460 crore.

India’s first Design Development Center ‘Fashionova’ was launched in the Textile city Surat.

Facebook has announced a digital currency called Libra that will allow its billions of users to make financial transactions across the globe.

WHO offers a new tool “AWaRe” to contain rising antimicrobial resistance and make antibiotic use safer and more effective.

AWaRe classifies antibiotics into three groups:

- “Access” specifies which antibiotics to use for the most common and serious infections.
- “Watch” specifies which ones should be available at all times in the healthcare system.
- “ Reserve” are those that must be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort.

The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) (ECI) organized five-day training programme on Use of Technology in Elections for Election Officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar.

Namma Kolhapuri chappal has earned Geographical indication tag from Intellectual Property India. The approval for GI tag was jointly received by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The Indian government has developed a National Strategic Plan with the goal of ending Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025.

The Central government asked the state transport departments to make it mandatory for all EVs to use the green number plates, irrespective of the year in which they were bought.

The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, a religious pilgrimage, will get a dedicated in-house disaster response force by September, 2020.

“The New Delhi Conspiracy” is Meenakshi Lekhi’s first novel to be published soon. She has co-written it with Krishna Kumar.

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher is coming out with his autobiography, “Lessons Life Taught Me Unknowingly”.

BSEs Yamuna Power Ltd launches behavioural energy saving app ‘Susthome’. The app was launched as part of its Demand Side Management programme.
A statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the legendary ruler of Punjab, was unveiled at the Lahore Fort on his 180th death anniversary.

State-owned telecom firm BSNL become the first operator to start optical fiber-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of ‘Bharat Fibre’. This is the first such FTTH (fiber-to-the-home) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley.

Mangaluru City Police launched an all-women police patrol unit ‘Rani Abbakka Force’. All-women police patrol force named after the 16th-century warrior of coastal Karnataka, Queen Abbakka of Ullal near Mangaluru, who fought the Portuguese in the 16th century.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan in New Delhi. The stamp released by Indian postal department.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) launched new initiative named Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) to count deaths caused by all forms of violence across the world and display these in open-source database.

18-year-old Nepali girl, Bandana danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on ‘Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual’, a feat previously held by an Indian.

The 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week is being observed from May 6 to 12, 2019. It is celebrated once in two years. The theme of the Road Safety Week is ‘Leadership for Road Safety’.

Pune-based Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) team found a new species of reddish-brown pit viper snake with a unique heat-sensing system, the first in past 70 years in India. The species is named ‘Trimeresurus arunachalensis’ after Arunachal Pradesh, where it was discovered.

Inaugural issue of world’s first exclusive women’s cricket magazine ‘Criczone’ was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.

One of the most prestigious international events from the world of cinema, the Cannes Film Festival begun in France. Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare is leading the Indian delegation at Cannes and inaugurate India Pavilion.

Doordarshan launched an online souvenir store for its viewers on Amazon India so that one can easily access it. A. Surya Prakash Chairman, Prasar Bharati launched DD souvenir store on Amazon India.

The Home Ministry cancelled the registration of Bengaluru-based NGO Infosys Foundation for alleged violation of norms in receiving foreign grants. All non-government organizations (NGOs) are mandatorily required to be registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act or FCRA to receive foreign funding.

Nepalese Sherpa climber Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for a 23rd time, breaking his own record for the most successful ascents of the world’s highest peak. He first scaled Everest in 1994.

Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world’s first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).

Commandos of the premier counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG) created history as they scaled the Mount Everest (world’s highest peak) in their maiden attempt.

HDFC Capital Advisors, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Ltd, launched a new initiative called ‘HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Program (HeART).

Leading stock exchange BSE launched ‘BSE StAR MF’ app to enable more participation and help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster.

Niti Aayog circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore for the establishment of AIRAWAT, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes. This is part of the policy think tank’s proposal to create an institutional framework for artificial intelligence (AI) in the country.

Taiwan Expo 2019 began in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre Tien Chung-Kwang and Chairman of Taiwan External Trade Development Council, TAITRA James CF Huang inaugurated the three-day event in the presence of Joint Secretary Praveen Bonigala and ITPO Chairman LC Goyal.

South African Saray Khumalo reached the highest point on the planet becoming the first black African woman to scale Mount Everest. This was her fourth attempt at climbing Mount Everest.

The 5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

After the RBI released a draft framework for setting up a regulatory sandbox (RS) for fintech players in the counter, the market and insurance regulators SEBI and IRDAI have also launched similar initiatives.

The Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh also called as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan declared as a banned terrorist organization by the government of India.
Facebook is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency in early 2020, allowing users to make digital payments in a dozen countries. The currency, dubbed GlobalCoin, would enable Facebook’s 2.4 billion monthly users to change dollars and other international currencies into its digital coins.

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar’s birth anniversary is being celebrated on 28th May. Born on 28th May in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra, Savarkar was popularly called Veer Savarkar.

Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has a plethora of historical sites with the Bundela dynasty architectural style.

Kerala’s fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year.

A 41-year-old orangutan at Odisha’s Nandankanan Zoological Park died following a prolonged illness. “Binny”, the country’s lone orangutan passed away around 9:40 pm due to old-age related ailments followed by respiratory tract infection.

As the World Environment Day is approaching, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a theme song ‘Hawa Aane De’ on air pollution. The song was launched in the national capital. The aim is to spread awareness regarding protecting the environment.

Assam’s festival – the Rongali Bihu, also known as ‘Bohaag Bihu’ which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started. Assam celebrates major agricultural events as the festival of Bihu.

State-owned telecom service provider Bharatiya Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has received a licence from the Department of Telecommunications to provide Internet and mobile services on flights.

Phayeng Village in Imphal West district of Manipur has become India’s first carbon-positive settlement. A village is given carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and mitigating effects of climate change.

India’s first-of-its-kind ‘Voter Park’ was inaugurated in Gurugram, Haryana, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process. Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan inaugurated the park.

The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 opened at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. The three-day exhibition organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

Etihad Airways, UAE based flag carrier, has become the first major airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board. The objective is to raise awareness about pollution.

Cyclone Fani intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and has now become an ‘extremely severe cyclonic storm’ according to an Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) report.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee. They are:

1. Coorg Arabica coffee,
2. Wayanad Robusta coffee,
3. Chikmagalur Arabica coffee,
4. Araku Valley Arabica coffee,
5. Bababudangiris Arabica coffee.

Tashigang, a Himachal Pradesh village at an altitude of 15,256 feet has now become the highest polling station in the world. Situated about 29 km from the India-China border, the polling station covers two villages, Tashigang and Gate.

The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival, organised by the Royal Thai Embassy with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand, began at Select Citywalk in New Delhi.


After an eight-year-long process, Erode turmeric (of Tamil Nadu) finally got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indication Registry.

Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar was selected as Barbie role model & was presented with a one-of-a-kind doll by Barbie as the company celebrates its 60th anniversary. She was part of the ‘Shero’ program launched in 2015 by the company.

A 116-year-old Japanese woman who loves playing the board game Othello is being honored as the world’s oldest living person by Guinness World Records.

Idukki’s The Marayoor Jaggery, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government.

The National Green Tribunal has slapped a fine of Rs 500 crore on German auto major Volkswagen for damaging the environment through the use of “cheat device” in its diesel cars in India. A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the carmaker to deposit the amount within two months.
The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) created the Guinness World Record for ‘longest single line bicycle parade (moving)’ at the Yamuna Expressway, Noida. CISF personnel rode 1,327 bicycles non-stop in a single line, maintaining a uniform distance between the bicycles.

A National Conference on “Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)” was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot. Mr. Gehlot stated that the “7th Guinness Book of World Record” has been created by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), at Bharuch, Gujarat.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti Dashboard in New Delhi. The dashboard has been launched to keep people informed about the work going on in the Railways across the country.

A small brown rat of bramble cay melomys species lived on a tiny island off northern Australia becomes the world’s first mammal to have become extinct due to “human-induced climate change”.

Wallace’s giant bee (Wallace Bee), the largest bee known on the Earth which was considered to be extinct since 1981 was re-spotted in an Indonesian forest.

Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the ‘Titanwala Museum’ that showcases the hand block printing of the Chhipa community in Bagru. Bagru printing is one of the traditional techniques of printing with natural color followed by the chippas of Rajasthan.

Under ‘Make in India’ initiative, Indian Railways created history by converting a diesel locomotive into electric locomotive for the first time in the world. This all new converted energy-efficient electric locomotive has been flagged off by PM Modi in Varanasi. As per the Indian Railways, the entire project is an Indian R&D innovation for the entire world.

Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma inaugurated India’s very first ‘Fulldome 3D Digital Theatre’ at the Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal Least Available Depth Information System (LADIS) for real-time data on available depth on stretches of National Waterways.

A Himalayan Cloud Observatory is set up in Tehri district of Uttarakhand with a motive to forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help to minimize the damage.

Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the India Size project in Mumbai. A first-of-its-kind project in the history of the country, India Size aims to arrive at a standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA and the UK.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App launched on Google play store. Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) is a centrally sponsored scheme; which was launched in the year 2018, under the Ayushman Bharat Mission of MoHFW in the country.

Ministry of Coal of India entered into an MoU with the Ministry of Energy, Republic of Poland. The objective is to foster relations in the field of coal mining and clean coal technologies.

Minister of Railways the “The Future of Rail” report of the International Energy Agency (IEA). The Future of Rail is the first-of-a-kind report that analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.

Centre has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to all the farmers in the country. Earlier the benefit of the scheme was applicable to farmers having two hectares of land. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar stated that nearly 14 crores 50 lakh farmers will be now covered under the revised scheme. Total burden on the exchequer will be over 87,000 crore rupees for the year 2019-20.

Union cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana (PM-KPY) under which small and marginal farmers will get a minimum fixed pension of 3,000 rupees per month on attaining the age of 60 years. PM-KPY scheme aims to initially cover 5 crore farmers in the first 3 years.

Narendra Modi has approved changes to the Prime Minister’s Scholarship Scheme for wards of deceased defense personnel under the National Defence Fund. The quota of new scholarships for children of state police officials will be 500 in a year. The rates of scholarship have also been increased from Rs. 2000 per month to Rs. 2500 per month for boys and from Rs. 2250 per month to Rs. 3000 per month for girls.

The Telangana Government has issued a notification to extend the Rythu Bandhu scheme for 2019-20 while enhancing the amount from Rs 4000 to Rs 5000.

Rajasthan government has increased the financial assistance given to school girls under the ‘Aapki Beti’ scheme and ex-gratia payment to the families of polling personnel who die during election duty. The amount has been increased to Rs 2,100 from Rs 1,100 for the girls studying in class 1 to 8 and for the girls in class 9 to 12, the financial aid has been increased to Rs 2,500 from Rs 1,500. Similarly, the government has also increased ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of an officer killed on election duty to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 15 lakh.

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. Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail tycoon MA Yusuff Ali has become the first expat to get the UAE's first gold card permanent residency.

- **Jay-Z** has been named the world's first billionaire rapper by Forbes.
- US end special trade treatment for India amid tariff dispute.
- **Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa** has left for Sweden on a four-day official visit.
- The U.S. Embassy organised its fifth annual ‘Student Visa Day’ and launched ‘EducationUSA India’. It is a mobile application to provide Indian students with “current, comprehensive and accurate information about studying in the U.S.”. It was launched by the Embassy in collaboration with the United States-India Educational Foundation.
- The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm ‘VAYU’ over East-central Arabian Sea moved northwards with a speed of about 13 kmph in last six hours and lay centred over East-central Arabian Sea, about 470 km west-northwest of Goa, 280 km south-southwest of Mumbai (Maharashtra) and 340 km nearly south of Veraval (Gujarat).
- **L&T Financial Services’ (LTFS) ‘Digital Sakhi’,** an educational programme aimed at digital financial inclusion of rural women, was launched in two villages of Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu.
- 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 in January and February 2020.
- **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a Fiscal Performance Index (FPI) to assess state and central budgets.**

## STATIC TAKEWAYS FROM THE CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. Centre also approved the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana under which small and marginal farmers will get a minimum fixed pension of 3,000 rupees per month on attaining the age of 60 years.
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Pension Yojana scheme aims to initially cover 5 crore farmers in the first 3 years.
3. **PM-KISAN scheme** was launched in Uttar Pradesh’s Gorakhpur on 24th February 2019 by transferring the first installment of Rs.2,000 each to over one crore farmers
4. **San Salvador** is the capital of El Salvador.
5. **United States Dollar** is the currency of el salvador.
6. **Stockholm** is the capital of Sweden.
7. **The krona** is the official currency of Sweden.
8. The current PM of Sweden is **Stefan Lofven**.
9. **K Chandrashekhar Rao** is the first and present CM of Telangana.
10. **Hyderabad** is the capital of Telangana.
11. The current governor of Telangana is **ESL Narasimhan**.
12. **Bhopal** is the current CM of Chhattisgarh.
13. **Anandiben Patel** is the current Governor of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
14. **Raipur** is the capital of Chhattisgarh.
15. The headquarters of ONGC is in **New Delhi**.
16. **Shashi Shankar** is Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC.
17. OECD was founded in **1961**.
18. **Jose Angel Gurria** is Secretary-General of the OECD.
19. **Ashok Gehlot** is the CM of Rajasthan.
20. **Jaipur** is the capital of Rajasthan.
21. **Kalyan Singh** is the current Governor of Rajasthan.
22. NEFT is a nation-wide payment system.
23. **RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement)** is the fastest possible money transfer system through the banking channel.
24. The minimum amount of transfer required for **RTGS** is Rs. 2 lakhs.
25. **RTGS enables transmission on a real-time basis**.
26. The Ujjivan Small Finance Bank commenced its banking operations from **01st February 2017**.
27. **Ittira Davis** is MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
28. Head Office of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank is in **Bengaluru**.
29. Dr Harsh Vardhan is the present Minister of Earth Sciences.
30. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
31. **FAO Founded in:** October 1945, **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy, **Current Director-General:** José Graziano da Silva

32. **World Bank Headquarters in:** Washington DC, USA, **Established in:** 1944, **President:** David Malpass

33. The organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states.

34. The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco on 25 September 1969.

35. Secretary-General of Organization of Islamic Cooperation is **Yousef Bin Ahmad Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Othaimeen.**

36. The ‘1st Global Disability Summit’ was held in London in July 2018.

37. **Mr Vikram Kiroloskar is the President of Confederation of Indian Industries**

38. **Male** is the capital of Maldives.

39. **The Maldivian rufiyaa** is the currency of the Maldives.

40. **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** is the current President of the Maldives.

41. **Thailand Capital:** Bangkok, **Currency:** Baht

42. **Union Home Minister:** Amit Shah

43. **Kalaikamani Award:** It is given by **Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram** for excellence in the field of art and literature.

44. **BS (Bharat Stage)–VI norms:** Bharat Stage norms are the automotive emission norms to be implemented with effect from 1st April 2020, to curb the growing menace of air pollution through the vehicle’s emission.

45. **ICAT:** **International Centre for Automotive Technology** is the premier testing and certification agency authorized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for providing testing and certification services to the vehicle and component manufacturers in India and abroad.

46. **Current CM of Puducherry:** Velu Narayanasamy

47. **Railway Minister:** Piyush Goyal

48. **President of France:** Emmanuel Macron, **Capital:** Paris, **Currency:** Euro, CFP Franc

49. **Canada Capital:** Ottawa, **Currency:** Canadian dollar

50. The 45th summit of the G7 group of countries is going to take place from August 24 to August 26 in Biarritz in France.

51. **CEO of Amazon:** Jeff Bezos

52. **Central Vigilance Commission**, headquartered in **New Delhi.**

53. Set up by the GoI in **February, 1964.**

54. CVC is an apex vigilance institution.

55. **Constituency of Virendra Kumar:** Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh

56. Lok Sabha has **545 seats** which is made up by the election of up to **543 elected** members and at a maximum, **2 nominated members** of the Anglo-Indian Community by the President of India.

57. **NDMA: National Disaster Management Authority** is the apex body, mandated to lay down the policies on disaster management.

58. Based on the **Disaster Management Act** enacted on **23rd December 2005** by GoI, headed by the Prime Minister.

59. **Headquarter:** New Delhi

60. **ATM:** Automated Teller Machine

61. **SEBI Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairperson:** Ajay Tyagi.

62. The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. is the second largest in the world by nos. of trades in equity shares from January to June 2018, according to World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) report.

63. **NSE launched electronic screen-based trading in 1994.**

64. Mr. Vikram Limaye is the Managing Director and CEO of NSE

65. International Labour Organization was founded in **1919.**

66. It Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

67. Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is the chairperson of Lokpal

68. Sanjeev Srinivasan is the MD and CEO of Bharti AXA General Insurance.

69. It Headquarters in Mumbai.

70. **ITTF - International Table Tennis Federation.**

71. **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland.

72. **Iraq Capital:** Baghdad, **Currency:** Iraqi dinar.

73. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

74. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote

75. The Prize was established by late philanthropists and civic leaders, **Rhoda and Richard Goldman** in 1989 in San Francisco, California to celebrate grassroots environmentalists.

76. **Maharashtra CM:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** CH Vidyasagar Rao. **Capital:** Mumbai

77. **Gujarat CM:** Vijay Rupani, **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli. **Capital:** Gandhinagar.

78. **Netherlands Capital:** Amsterdam, **Currency:** Euro and USD.

79. The **Companies Act of 2013** mandates a certain class of companies to have at least **one woman director** on board. Sebi, in compliance with the Companies Act 2013, made it compulsory to have at least one woman on board from **October 2014.**

80. **BSE MD & CEO:** Ashishkumar Chauhan.

81. **LIC HFL MD and CEO:** Vinay Sah.

82. **UK Capital:** London, **Currency:** Pound sterling.

83. **Karnataka Capital:** Bengaluru, **CM:** H.D Kumarswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.

84. **PC Modi is the present Chairperson of CBDT.**
85. ACD Asia Cooperation Dialogue was founded in 2002 and India is a founder member of it.
86. NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization, headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
88. SIPRI Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is an international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
89. It was established in 1966 and is based in Stockholm, Sweden.
90. The G-7 groups together the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany.
91. The grouping had included Russia but it was left out following tensions with Western nations over the annexation of Crimea in 2015.
92. INS Ranjit was constructed as Yard 2203 in the 61 Communards shipyard in the town of Nikolev in present-day Ukraine.
93. The keel of the ship was laid on June 29, 1977, launched on June 16, 1979, and commissioned as INS Ranjit on September 15, 1983.
94. Balesh Sharma is the CEO of Vodafone Idea.
95. The Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill pays tribute to the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who fought in the defence of their countries they lived in "implementing values of bravery, loyalty, commitment and dedication to a mission, leadership, creativity, camaraderie, and sanctity of life".
98. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
99. INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the ECOSOC and who serve in their personal capacity.
100. Established in 1968, the INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions.
102. The Arctic Council, a high level intergovernmental organisation set up in 1996 to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and protect the Arctic environment.
103. The Arctic Council is formed of eight circumpolar countries- Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, US and Russia.
104. India has its Arctic research station ‘Himadri’ in Svalbard, Norway since 2008.
108. Dublin is the capital city of Ireland.
109. Some of the famous awardees of McCain Institute Award are - Malala Yousafzai (2015) and Dikembe Mutombo (2016).
110. For Cannes 2019, Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has been named the jury president. It was Founded in 1946 as International Film Festival.
111. NABARD Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 12 July 1982. NABARD is now 100% owned by the government.
112. LIC Mutual Fund was established on 20th April 1989 by LIC of India.
114. The first woman on the ICC Development Panel of Umpires was Kathy Cross, who retired in 2018.
116. GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. India became a member of CG of GFDRR in 2015 and expressed its interest to co-chair in last meeting of CG held in October 2018.
117. Aditya Puri is the MD of HDFC Bank. Headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
118. SIDBI was set up in 1990 under an Act of Indian Parliament. Mohammad Mustafa is the Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI.
119. Infosys Foundation was established in 1996. Sudha Murthy is the chairperson of the Foundation.
120. Infosys CEO: Salil Parekh.
121. A bill for the creation of NSG National Security Guard was introduced in the parliament in August 1986. It received the assent of the President on September 22, 1986, and it formally came into being from that date. Sudeep Lakhtakia is the Director General of NSG.
122. 17th May also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.
124. 2015 Cricket World cup was held jointly in Australia and New Zealand. Australia (5th title) was the champion team. New Zealand team was runner up.
126. Geological Survey of India (GSI) was founded in 1851 with primarily goal of finding coal deposits for the Railways. It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines and it is Headquartered in Kolkata.

127. Graphite is the most stable allotrope of Carbon, with standard entropy being zero.

128. The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management.

129. Ajay Singh is the President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI).


131. The EU, which consists of 28 countries, has the world's largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The European Union Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

132. The Nespresso 2019 first prize in the international section was won by New Zealand's Josh Morrice for "Subak", about rice cultivation in Bali.

133. Chairman HDFC Ltd: Deepak Parekh

134. SCO Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Headquarter in Beijing, China.


136. Ambassador of India to Indonesia: Pradeep Kumar Rawat.

137. FMCG stands for Fast Moving Consumer Goods

138. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.

139. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin.

140. India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.

141. United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. It was founded on 24 October 1945. Mr. Antonio Guterres of Portugal is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

142. Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at its official elevation of 8848m above sea level. Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the mountain's summit on May 29, 1953

143. Hardayal Prasad is the MD & CEO of SBI Card. SBI Card is headquartered in Gurgaon, Haryana

144. SBI Card was launched in October 1998 by the State Bank of India and GE Capital.

145. Sunil Arora is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.

146. Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra are 2 Election Commissioners of India.

147. The Order of the Rising Sun (二日） is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji

148. Malaria parasite was first discovered in Algeria by French physician Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran in 1880.


150. CJ Ranjan Gogoi is the present Chief Justice of India.


152. IRDAI Chairman- Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Headquarters in- Hyderabad

153. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India became a full member of the China-dominated grouping in 2017. Along with India, Pakistan was also granted the SCO membership in 2017.

154. Utkal Divas or Odisha Day falls every year on 01st April.

155. Capitals of South Africa: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein.

156. The rand is the official currency of South Africa

157. Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim.

158. The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was founded in 2013.

159. The PK Chamling government was ousted by the SKM after over 24 years.

160. R Subramanikumar is MD & CEO of IOB.

161. The headquarters of IOB is in Chennai.

162. Vladimir Putin is President of Russia.

163. Moscow is the capital city of Russia.

164. The Russian ruble is the currency of Russia.

165. Dmitry Medvedev is PM of Russia.

166. NSIC Limited is established by the Government of India in 1955. 2. NSIC falls under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India. 3. Headquarters of NSIC is in New Delhi.

167. Headquarters of Corporation Bank is in Mangaluru. PV Bharathi is Managing Director and CEO of Corporation Bank.

168. Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is President of the UAE.

169. Washington, D.C. is Capital of the USA.

170. Abu Dhabi is the Capital of the UAE.

171. The United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the UAE.

172. 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.

173. The international border between Nepal and China runs across its summit point.

174. Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.

175. Panaji is the state capital of Goa.

176. Mridula Sinha is present Governor of Goa.

177. The kina is the currency of Papua New Guinea.
178. Port Moresby is the capital of Papua New Guinea.

179. The NCDRC (National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission) is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

180. The head office of NCDRC is in New Delhi.

181. After Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, Narendra Modi is the third prime minister of the country who has been able to retain power for a second term with full majority in Lok Sabha.

182. FICCI stands for Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

183. Headquarter of FICCI is in New Delhi.

184. FICCI established in 1927.

185. President of Mexico is Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

186. Capital of Mexico is Mexico City.

187. The Mexican peso is the currency of Mexico.


189. MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda is P. S. Jayakumar. Headquarter of Bank of Baroda is in Vadodara.

190. ICICI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Tagline: Hum Hain Na!


193. ICC Chairperson: Manu Sahney, Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.


195. Odisha, on April 1, 1936, was carved out as a separate state in the then British India on a linguistic identity. Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik, Governor: Ganeshi Lal.

196. Garuda CEO: Sankrnt Sanu.


198. South Korea Capital: Seoul, Currency: South Korean won.

199. World Squash Federation is the highest governing body of squash.

200. MR Kumar is the present Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).


202. Mahabaleshwar MS is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank. Headquarters in: Mangalore.

203. MOEX CEO: Alexander Afanasiev.

204. Malawi Capital: Lilongwe, Currency: Malawian kwacha.


206. Mr Ratan Naval Tata is the Emeritus Chairman of Tata Steels.

207. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

208. ISO stands for “International Organisation for Standardisation” that is responsible for establishing the standard in different areas of activities.


210. Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

211. UNPF Headquarters: New York, United States, Head: Natalia Kanem.

212. Abdullah Majed Al Ali is the Director of ADIBF.

213. RBL/Ratnakar Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, headquartered in Mumbai.

214. CEO Google: Sundar Pichai.

215. Natarajan Chandrasekaran is the Chairman of Tata Sons.

216. The All India Management Association (AIMA), the apex body of management professionals in the country, is committed to enhancing business excellence through its multifaceted activities. It was instituted in the year 2010.

217. Hong Kong is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China.

218. Keshari Nath Tripathi is the governor of West Bengal. Mamta Banerjee is the CM of West Bengal.

219. Sanjay Mitra is the present Defence Secretary.


221. Jamia Millia Islamia was founded in 1920 in Aligarh and became a Central University by an Act of Parliament in 1988. Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla is the university’s chancellor.

222. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute was established on February 3rd 1947 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and later it joined the ICAR in 1967.

223. The Guillermo award is a tribute to Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza. In December 1986, he was killed in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogota, Colombia.

224. EPCH (Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts) is the nodal export promotion body for handicrafts in India.

225. Palestine Capitals- Ramallah & East Jerusalem.

226. Mr. Rajeev Yadav is the MD CEO of Fincare Small Finance Bank. It was Launched in 2017.


228. MD of IMF- Christine Lagarde, Headquarters in: Washington DC, USA.

229. UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of...
Indian (NPCI) which facilitates inter-bank transactions.


231. CRISIL was formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited.

232. Deutsche Bank Headquarters: Frankfurt, Germany


234. The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

235. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as next Chief of the Naval Staff.

236. World IP Day is observed on April 26.

237. The award constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the Union Ministry of Industry and Commerce is conferred on persons and organisations working in the field of patents, trademarks, and Geographical Indications.


239. MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance: Pushan Mahapatra.

240. MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Tapan Singhel

241. MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance: Tarun Chugh.

242. Founder & CEO of Network Intelligence: K K Mookhey

243. CSIR Headquarter: New Delhi, Director General: Shekhar C. Mande.

244. Union Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of AYUSH: Shripad Naik

245. Assocham President: B K Goenka


247. The government increased the accident insurance cover to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh for new accounts opened after 28th August 2018 and the overdraft limit was also doubled to Rs 10,000.

248. Israel captured the Golan from Syria in a 1967 war and annexed it, in a move not recognized internationally.


252. NHB is the regulator for housing finance companies while NABARD is responsible for regulating and supervising the functions of cooperative banks and RRBs.


254. e-NACH: Electronic National Automated Clearing House; OTP: One Time Password

255. IndusInd Bank Headquarter: Mumbai, CEO: Romesh Sobti.

256. NCLT Headquarter: New Delhi

257. ISSF: International Shooting Sport Federation, Headquarters: Munich, Germany.

258. International Press Institute Headquarters: Vienna, Austria.

259. Seychelles Capital: Victoria, Currency: Seychellois rupee

260. (ICMR) Indian Council of Medical Research Headquarters: New Delhi.


263. UN Secretary-General: António Guterres of Portugal, Headquarters in: New York, United States, Established on: 24th October 1945.

264. Tony Award is given in recognition of excellence in live theatre.


266. 22nd Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar India. India topped the medal tally with for the 1st time in 22nd edition.


268. Order of Ikhamanga Grades: Gold (OIG)- for exceptional achievement, Silver (OIS)- for excellent achievement, Bronze (OIB)- for outstanding achievement.

269. South Africa President: Cyril Ramaphosa, Since 1961, Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to recognize outstanding achievement in sports.


271. GRSE Headquarters: Kolkata, GRSE Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) was founded in 1884 as a small privately owned company. it was renamed as Garden Reach Workshop in 1916. The company was nationalised by the Government of India in 1960.


274. ATL (Atal Tinkering Lab)is based on the philosophy to identify and nurture innovation in young students across India.

275. AIM (Atal Innovation Mission) is the Government of India’s flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

276. Brunei Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan, Currency: Brunei dollar, Prime Minister: Hassanal Bolkiah
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<tr>
<td><strong>278. Y S Jaganmohan Reddy</strong></td>
<td>is the present CM of Andhra Pradesh.</td>
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<td><strong>279. Punjab National Bank CEO</strong>: Sunil Mehta, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: New Delhi.</td>
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<td><strong>280. SIGNALCHIP Founder and CEO</strong>: Himanshu Khasnis.</td>
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<td><strong>281. Finance Minister of India</strong>: Nirmala Sitharaman.</td>
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<td><strong>282. 15th Finance Commission Chairman</strong>: N K Singh</td>
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<td><strong>283. Bangladesh Capital</strong>: Dhaka, <strong>Currency</strong>: Taka, <strong>PM</strong>: Sheikh Hasina.</td>
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<td><strong>284. AIIIB President</strong>: Jin Liqun, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Beijing, China.</td>
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<td><strong>285. IFFCO Tokio</strong> is a joint venture between the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO) and its associates and Tokio Marine and Nichido Fire Group which is also the largest listed insurance group in Japan.</td>
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<td><strong>286. IFFCO Tokio Chairman</strong>: Mr. K. Srinivasa Gowda, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Gurugram, Haryana.</td>
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<td><strong>287. Assam Capital</strong>: Dispur, <strong>CM</strong>: Sarbananda Sonowal, <strong>Governor</strong>: Jagdish Mukhi.</td>
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<td><strong>288. Haryana Capital</strong>: Chandigarh, <strong>Chief Minister</strong>: Manohar Lal Khattar, <strong>Governor</strong>: Satyadev Narayan Arya.</td>
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<td><strong>289. Tamil Nadu Capital</strong>: Chennai, <strong>CM</strong>: Edappadi K. Palaniswami, <strong>Governor</strong>: Banwarilal Purohit.</td>
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<td><strong>290. Tripura Capital</strong>: Agartala, <strong>CM</strong>: Biplab Kumar Deb, <strong>Governor</strong>: Kaptan Singh Solanki.</td>
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<td><strong>291. KN Radhakrishnan- Director &amp; CEO of TVS Motor</strong></td>
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<td><strong>292. Capital of Paraguay</strong>: Asuncion, <strong>Currency</strong>: Paraguayan Guarani, <strong>President of Paraguay</strong>: Mario Abdo Benitez.</td>
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<td><strong>293. ISRO Director</strong>: K. Sivan, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Bengaluru, <strong>Established</strong>: 1969.</td>
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<td><strong>294. MD and CEO of United Bank Of India</strong>: A.K. Pradhan, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Kolkata, West Bengal.</td>
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<td><strong>295. HDFC Life MD and CEO</strong>: Vibha Padalkar, <strong>Head Office</strong>: in: Mumbai, Maharashtra.</td>
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<td><strong>296. BARC Headquarters in</strong>: Mumbai, <strong>Founder</strong>: Homi J. Bhabha, <strong>Established</strong>: 3 January 1954.</td>
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<td><strong>297. A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on products which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>298. Costa Rica Capital</strong>: San José, <strong>Currency</strong>: Costa Rican colón.</td>
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<td><strong>299. Finland Capital</strong>: Helsinki, <strong>Currency</strong>: Euro.</td>
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<td><strong>300. Korea</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exim Bank Headquarters in</strong>: Seoul, <strong>Founded in</strong>: 1976, <strong>Chairman and President</strong>: Sung-soo Eun.</td>
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<td><strong>301. M. S. Sahoo</strong> is the Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).</td>
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<td><strong>302. SBI Chairperson</strong>: Rajnish Kumar, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Mumbai, <strong>Founded</strong>: 1 July 1955.</td>
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<td><strong>303. Acko's General Insurance Company was Founded in 2016 by Varun Dua. Its Head office is in Mumbai.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>304. The CII-EXIM Bank Annual Conclave was held for the first time in 2005.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>305. Madhya Pradesh CM</strong>: Kamal Nath, <strong>Governor</strong>: Anandiben Patel.</td>
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<td><strong>306. Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha established the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) in January 1954. After the sad demise of Bhabha in 1966, AEET was renamed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).</strong></td>
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<td><strong>307. Dipa Karmakar was the 1st Indian female gymnast in the Olympics.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>308. Ravi Shankar Prasad</strong> is the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.</td>
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<td><strong>309. Mizoram</strong></td>
<td><strong>CM</strong>: Zoramthanga, <strong>Capital</strong>: Aizawl, <strong>Formation</strong>: in: 1987.</td>
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<td><strong>310. Oman Capital</strong>: Muscat, <strong>Currency</strong>: Omani rial.</td>
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<td><strong>311. National Security Guard (NSG) formally came into being in September 1986.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>312. Now total government sector banks are 20 in number. After 1 Apr 2019 merger of 2 more Government Banks Dena and Vijaya Bank in Government-owned bank of Baroda, the number of Government Sector Banks will be reduced to 18.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>313. BCCI President</strong>: C.K. Khanna, <strong>Headquarters</strong>: Mumbai.</td>
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<td><strong>314. UNEP Headquarters</strong>: Nairobi, Kenya, <strong>Head</strong>: Joyce Msuya.</td>
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<td><strong>315. Aviva Life Insurance Headquarters</strong>: Gurgaon, Haryana, <strong>MD and CEO</strong>: Trevor Bull.</td>
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<td><strong>316. BRICS Headquarters</strong>: Shanghai, China, <strong>President</strong>: K V Kamath.</td>
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<td><strong>317. Guinea Capital</strong>: Conakry, <strong>Currency</strong>: Guinean franc.</td>
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<td><strong>318. Bandhan Bank headquarters</strong>: Kolkata.</td>
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<td><strong>320. Indonesian President</strong>: Joko Widodo.</td>
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<td><strong>321. The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>322. New Zealand Capital</strong>: Wellington, <strong>Currency</strong>: New Zealand dollar.</td>
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<td><strong>323. The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in Sweden in 2021.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>324. CBSE Chairperson- Anita Karwal, Headquartes- New Delhi.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>325. Governor of Bihar- Lalji Tandon, Chief Minister-Nitish Kumar.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>326. India has clinched all five editions of SAFF championship.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>327. NITI Aayog</strong>: National Institution for Transforming India.</td>
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<td><strong>328. NITI Aayog CEO</strong>: Amitabh Kant, <strong>Vice Chairman</strong>: Rajiv Kumar.</td>
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<td>Serial No.</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<td>329.</td>
<td>World Meteorological Organization</td>
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<td>Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.</td>
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<td>330.</td>
<td>The founder and Chairman of World Economic Forum- Klaus Schwab. WEF Headquarters- Switzerland.</td>
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<td>331.</td>
<td>Lalit Kala Akademi established in 1954 is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture. It is headquartered in New Delhi.</td>
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<td>332.</td>
<td>Suresh Raina is the 1st Indian to score 100 in all 3 formats.</td>
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<td>335.</td>
<td>Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa is the present Chief of the Air Staff of IAF.</td>
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<td>337.</td>
<td>Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).</td>
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<td>338.</td>
<td>Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world at 8,485 metres. It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.</td>
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<td>339.</td>
<td>SWIFT is abbreviated as Society For Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications.</td>
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<td>340.</td>
<td>Apple Inc. CEO- Tim Cook; Headquarters- California, USA.</td>
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<td>341.</td>
<td>On May 25, 1963, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the 32 African states that had achieved independence at that time agreed to establish the Organization of African Unity (OAU). There are 55 Member States currently in the African Union.</td>
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<td>342.</td>
<td>Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (of Egypt) is the chairperson of AU from Jan 2019 to Jan 2020.</td>
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<td>343.</td>
<td>Justice D K Jain (retd) has been appointed as the first Ombudsman of the BCCI recently.</td>
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<td>344.</td>
<td>The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.</td>
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<td>345.</td>
<td>Vladimir Voronkov is the chief of U.N. counter-terrorism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>347.</td>
<td>Rajeev Sharma is the Chairman &amp; Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation. PFC headquarters in New Delhi. PFC was incorporated on July 16th, 1986 and is a leading Non-Banking Financial Corporation in the Country.</td>
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<td>348.</td>
<td>The currency of Switzerland is Swiss franc.</td>
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<td>349.</td>
<td>Exercise Malabar is a naval exercise b/w U.S.A, Japan &amp; India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>350.</td>
<td>GAiL is India's biggest natural gas company.</td>
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<td>351.</td>
<td>BHEL is one of the few companies in the world, and only company in India, having the capability to manufacture the entire range of power plant equipment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

352. Based on the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath panel, interest rates on these schemes are reviewed before the end of every quarter, and accordingly, new rates are announced for the next quarter.

353. Navy, Day in India is celebrated on 4th December.

354. Punjab CM: Capt. Amarinder Singh, Governor: VP Singh Badnore


357. Nepal’s central bank is called as Nepal Rashtra Bank. It was established in 1956 under the Nepal Rashtra Bank Act 1955. Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal is the Governor of Nepal Rashtra Bank.

358. John Mathai was the first Railways Minister of Independent India.


360. Indu Bhushan is the CEO of PM-JAY


362. Indian Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi.


365. Under the first MOU signed 5 years ago, 1500 Bangladesh Civil Servants have already been trained in NCGG.

366. India has been a Party to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) since 1983. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.


368. Satya Pal Malik is the present Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

369. Shripad Yesso Naik is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

370. Globally India ranks third after China and the USA in terms of the number of large dams with 5264 large dams in operation and 437 large dams under construction.

371. Established in 1999, CREDAI is the apex body representing real-estate developers from over 200 cities in the country.

372. President of LAWASIA: Mr. Christopher Leong

373. President Bar Association of India: Dr. Lalit Bhasin
374. National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC), incorporated in the year 1975, (100% owned Central Public Sector Undertaking) was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organized, efficient and integrated development of the Indian film industry.

375. Chief of the Army Staff – General Bipin Rawat.


379. UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India processing inter-bank transactions.


381. TERI Director-General: Dr. Ajay Mathur, Headquarters: New Delhi

382. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund Headquarters: Mumbai, MD and CEO: Nimesh Shah.

383. The FIH awards were established in 1998


389. Radha Chauhan is the CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM).

390. Assam is the 1st state nationalized (1950) in India among North-East states.

391. Delhi Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal, Lieutenant Governor: Anil Baijal.

392. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh. It was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been observed throughout the world since 2000

393. India-ASEAN trade and investment relations have been growing steadily, with ASEAN being the second largest trading partner of India, after China, with a total bilateral merchandise trade of USD 81.33 billion.


395. Hughes India is a majority-owned subsidiary of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, USA (Hughes), Hughes is the world’s largest provider of broadband satellite networks and services.

396. BEL Headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

397. AIBA President: Mohamed Moustahsane.


400. The 42-metre-high India Gate was built during the British Raj as the All India War Memorial Arch to honour the soldiers who died in the First World War (1914-1918) and the Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919).

401. FAGMIL is a GoI Undertaking, under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.

402. Instituted in 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

403. Chairman of IWAI: Jalaj Shrivastava, Head office: Noida, UP.


405. Facebook Headquarters: California, US, CEO: Mark Zuckerberg.

406. IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, MD and CEO: Rakesh Sharma

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**FCI 2019 PHASE-II**

**J.E. (Civil Engineering)**

**10 Full Length Mocks (Paper-I)**

**5 Full Length Mocks (Paper-II)**

**BILINGUAL**

**Static GA: Awards & Fields**

1. International Gandhi Peace Prize: For contributions towards social, economic & political transformation through non-violence & other Gandhian methods.
2. Bharat Ratna: Premier civilian award, to serve the nation.
3. Padma Vibhushan: Ranking wise the second award is the Padma Vibhushan in the Indian Republic. It awarded people from various fields including Govt. service to distinguish extraordinary service for the country.
4. Padma Bhushan: The Padma Bhushan is the highest civilian award third in rank in the Indian Republic.
5. Padma Shri: It is awarded to citizens of India for their distinguished contribution in several fields including Education, Literature, Arts, Science, Industry, Social Service, Medicine, Sports & Public Affairs.
6. Dronacharya Award: For brilliance in sports coaching.
7. Dhyan Chand Award: Highest lifetime achievement award in sports & games in India
10. Saraswati Samman: For outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any Indian language listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.
11. Param Vir Chakra: Highest decoration Awarded for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or prominent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy on land, sea or air.
12. Maha Vir Chakra: Second highest decoration. It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

### Topic 1: CM/Governors/Wildlife Santuaries/National Parks / Power Plants in India

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<th>National Parks(NP)</th>
<th>Wild Life Sanctuaries</th>
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<td>Satya Pal Malik</td>
<td>Hemis National Park</td>
<td>Limmer WLS</td>
<td>Girinagar Hydel Project</td>
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<td>Capital: Jammu(Winter)</td>
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<td>Nandini WLS</td>
<td>Binwa Hydel Project</td>
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<td>Kishtwar National Park</td>
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<td>Rangtong Hydel Project</td>
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<td>Salim Ali National Park</td>
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<td>Baner&amp;Neugal Project</td>
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<td>Pin Valley National Park</td>
<td>Bandli WLS</td>
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<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Great Himalayan National Park</td>
<td>Daranghati WLS</td>
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<td>CM: Jairam Thakur</td>
<td>Inderkilla National Park</td>
<td>Dhaulaadhar WLS</td>
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<td>Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat</td>
<td>Khirganga National Park</td>
<td>Nargu WLS</td>
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<td>Capital: Shimla</td>
<td>Simbalbara National Park</td>
<td>Pong Dam Lake WLS</td>
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<td>Abohar WLS</td>
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<td>Punjab</td>
<td>Kalesar National Park</td>
<td>Talra WLS</td>
<td>Guru Gobind Singh Super</td>
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<td>CM: Captain Amarinder Singh</td>
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<td>Thermal Power Plant</td>
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<td>Governor: V P Singh Badnore</td>
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<td>Capital: Chandigarh</td>
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<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Bhindawas WLS</td>
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<td>Rajiv Gandhi TPS</td>
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<td>Sultanpur National Park</td>
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<td>State</td>
<td>CM: Yogi Adityanath Governor: Ram Naik Capital: Lucknow</td>
<td>National Park</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Valmiki National Park</td>
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<td>WLS</td>
<td>Pant (Rajgir)</td>
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<td>Pulicat Lake</td>
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<td>Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailam)</td>
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<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Blackbuck National Park</td>
<td>Jambugodha WLS</td>
<td>Jessore</td>
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<td>WLS</td>
<td>Kutch Desert</td>
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<td>Mitiyala WLS</td>
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<td>State</td>
<td>Park/Forest/Reserve</td>
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<td>Thermal Power Plant</td>
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<td>**Ga Power Capsule</td>
<td>FCI Phase-II Exam 2019**</td>
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<td><strong>Karnataka</strong></td>
<td>Park, Gulf of Kutch Bansda National Park</td>
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<td><strong>Governor:</strong> Vajubhai R. Vala</td>
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<td><strong>Kerala</strong></td>
<td>Eravikulam National Park, Mathikettan Shola National Park, Periyar National Park, Silent Valley National Park, Anamudi Shola National Park, Pampadum Shola NP</td>
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<td>Brahmapuram Power Station, Kayamkulam Power Station</td>
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<td><strong>Capital:</strong> Thiruvananthapuram (or Trivandrum)</td>
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<td>Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station, Sant Singaji Thermal Power Plant, Satpura Thermal Power Station, Amarkantak TPS, Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project</td>
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<td>Tarapur Atomic Power Station, Tirora Thermal Power Station, Amravati Thermal Power Plant</td>
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<td>Manipur</td>
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<td>Yangoupokpi-Lokchao WLS</td>
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<td>Balphakram National Park Nokrek National Park</td>
<td>Baghmara Pitcher Plant WLS Nongkhyllem WLS Siju WLS</td>
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<td>Murlen National Park Phawngpui Blue National Park Mountain National Park</td>
<td>Dampa WLS (TR) Ngengpui WLS Puralreng WLS Tokalo WLS</td>
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<td>Bundh Baratha WLS Darrah WLS Jawahar Sagar WLS Kailadevi WLS Mount Abu WLS Ramsagar WLS Sariska WLS Sawai Man Singh WLS Shergarh WLS Sitamata WLS Chhabra Thermal Power Station Suratgarh Power Station</td>
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<td>Bison (Rajbari)</td>
<td>Gumti WLS Palatana</td>
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**CM: Biplab Deb**  
**Governor: Kaptan Solanki**  
**Capital: Agartala**

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<th>National Park</th>
<th>Rowa WLS</th>
<th>Thermal Power Plant</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clouded Leopard National Park</td>
<td>Separijala WLS</td>
<td>Trishna WLS</td>
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**UK**  
**CM: Trivendra Singh Rawat**  
**Governor: Baby Rani Maurya**  
**Capital: Dehradun**

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<th>National Park</th>
<th>Rowa WLS</th>
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<td>Jim Corbett National Park</td>
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<td>Valley of Flowers National Park</td>
<td>Binsar WLS</td>
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**West Bengal**  
**CM: Mamata Banerjee**  
**Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi**  
**Capital: Kolkata**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Corbett National Park</td>
<td>Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary</td>
<td>Farakka Super Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley of Flowers National Park</td>
<td>Holiday Island WLS</td>
<td>Kolaghat Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lothian Island WLS</td>
<td>Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mahananda WLS</td>
<td>Durgapur Steel Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Arunachal Pradesh**  
**CM: Pema Khandu**  
**Governor: BD Mishra**  
**Capital: Itanagar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>Rowa WLS</th>
<th>Thermal Power Plant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namdapha National Park</td>
<td>Ballavpur WLS</td>
<td>Mejia Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouling National Park</td>
<td>Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary</td>
<td>Farakka Super Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday Island WLS</td>
<td>Kolaghat Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mahananda WLS</td>
<td>Bakreshwar Thermal Power Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Topic 2: Upcoming Important Sport Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Olympics</td>
<td>Japan (2020); Paris (2024), Los Angeles (2028)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Olympics</td>
<td>Pyeong Chang, South Korea (2018); Beijing China (2022)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Wealth Games</td>
<td>Queensland, Australia (2018); London (2022)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Games</td>
<td>Indonesia (2018); Hangzhou, China (2022)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIFA</td>
<td>Russia (2018); Qatar (2022)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Wealth Youth Games</td>
<td>Brahmas (2017); Belfast (2021)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Wealth Weightlifting Championship</td>
<td>Lima, Peru (2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ITTF Table Tennis World Cup**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 (London)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ICC World Cup Cricket Venue:**

- **ODI (One day International):** 1. England – 2019 | 2. India – 2023
- **T20 World Cup:** Australia - 2020.

**FIFA (Football) World Cup venue:**

- 2018: Russia | 2022: Qatar

**Commonwealth Games venues:**

- 2018 – Gold Coast (Australia) | 2022: Birmingham (England)

**Olympics Games venues:**

- 2016 Summer: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
- 2018 winter: Pyeongchong (South Korea)
- 2020 summer: Tokyo (Japan)
- 2022 Winter: Beijing (China)
- 2024 Summer: Paris (France)

**Asian Games host cities:**

1. 2014: Incheon (South Korea)
2. 2018: Jakarta, Indonesia
3. 2022: Hangzhou, China
### Topic 3: The Headquarters of the UN Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Organizations</th>
<th>HQ:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNO (United Nations Org)</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCTAD</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO (World Health Org)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO (International Labour Org)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMO (World Meteorological Org)</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Intellectual Property Org</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Standards Org.</td>
<td>Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIDO (United Nations</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Dev. Org)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAEA (International Atomic Energy</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Topic 4: A Brief on the Census 2011

1) The population of the country as per the provisional figures of Census 2011 is 1210.19 million of which 623.7 million (51.54%) are males & 586.46 million (48.46%) are females.

Major highlights of the Census 2011 (Provisional figures) are as under:
- The population of India has increased by more than 181 million during the decade 2001-2011.
- %age growth in 2001-2011 is 17.64; males 17.19% & females 18.12.
- Uttar Pradesh (199.5 million) is the most populous State in the country followed by Maharashtra with 112 million.

Some of the highlights
- Slogan - Our census, Our Future
- India's 1st Census - 1872
- 2011 Census is - 15th Census
- Total Population - 1,21,01,93,422
- India's Rank in population - 2nd with 17.5% (1st China with 19%)
- Most Populous State - Uttar Pradesh
- Least Populous State - Sikkim
- Most Literate State - Kerala (93.9%)
- Least Literate State - Bihar (63.82%)
- National Sex Ratio - Female : Male (940 : 1000)
- Highest Sex Ratio (State) - Kerala (1084 : 1000)
- Lowest Sex Ratio (State) - Haryana
- Highest Sex Ratio (UT) - Puducherry
- Least Sex Ratio (UT) – Daman & Diu (618 : 1000)
- Literacy of Male - 82.14%
- Literacy of Female - 65.46%
- Population Growth Rate - 17.64%
- Highest fertility Rate - Meghalaya
- Most literate union territory - Lakshadweep (92.2%)
- Least literate Union Territory - Dadra Nagar & Haweli
- Most Literate District - Serechhip (Mizoram)
- Least Literate District - Dadra Naga & Haveli
- Highest Density of Population - Bihar (1102 sq.km)
- Lowest Density of Population - Arunachal Pradesh (17)
- Total number of districts - 640
- Highest Populous District - Thane (Mumbai)
- 100% Literacy District - Palakkad (Kerala)
- 100% Banking State - Kerala
- 100% Banking District - Palakkad (Kerala)
- Density of Population in India - 382 sq. km
- Increase in population (during 2001-2011) - 181 million

### Topic 5: Current Office Holders List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson, CBDT</td>
<td>Pramod Chandra Mody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson, National Commission for</td>
<td>Nand Kumar Sai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Tribes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson, UGC</td>
<td>Dhirendra Pal Singh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman, ISRO</td>
<td>Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson, TRAI</td>
<td>Ram Sevak Sharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson, NHAI</td>
<td>Nagendra Nath Sinha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director General, National Cadet Corps</td>
<td>PP Malhotra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Topic 6: Important Ports in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradip</td>
<td>Orissa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ennore</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuticorin</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochin</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mangalore</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormugao</td>
<td>Goa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jawahararl Nehru</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandla</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Topic 7: The Most Famous Temples in India

- **Badrinath Temple**: Chamoli district, Uttarakhand
- **The Konark Sun Temple**: Puri district of Odisha
- **Brihadeswara Temple**: Thanjavur city of Tamil Nadu
- **Somnath Temple**: Saurashtra (Gujarat)
- **Kedarnath Temple**: Garwal area (Uttarakhand)
- **Sanchi Stupa**: Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh
- **Ramanathaswamy Temple**: Tamil Nadu
- **Vaishno Devi Mandir**: J&K, near Katra.
- **Siddhivinayak Temple**: Prabhadevi, Mumbai
- **Gangotri Temple**: Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand
- **Golden Temple or Sri Harmandir Sahib**: Amritsar
- **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- **Lord Jagannath Temple**: Puri (Orissa)
- **Yamunotri Temple**: Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand

---

**Designation** | **Name**
---|---
Chairperson, Central Board of Secondary Education | Anita Karwal
Chairperson, IRDAI | Subhash Chandra Khuntia
Chairperson, Press Council of India | CK Prasad
Director General, BSF | Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar
Director General, SSB | Rajesh Chandra
Director General, CRPF | Rajesh K. Mishra
Director General, ITBP | S. S. Deswal
Solicitor General | Tushar Mehta
Attorney General | KK Venugopal
Chairperson, National Green Tribunal | Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
Director, NCERT | Hrushikesh Senapaty
President, ASSOCHAM | Sandeep Jajodia
Chairperson, NASSCOM | Rishad Premji
Chairman, Press Trust of India | Vivek Goenka
DRDO Chairman | G Satheesh Reddy
LIC Chairman | MR Kumar

**Designation** | **Name**
---|---
Chief Election Commissioner | Sunil Arora
Chairman, Union Public Service Commission | Sh. Arvind Saxena
Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha | Harivansh Narayan Singh

**Designation** | **Name**
---|---
Secretary-General, United Nations Organisation | Antonio Guterres
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund | Christine Lagarde
President, World Bank | David R. Malpass
Director-General, World Trade Organisation | Roberto Azevedo
DG, UNESCO | Audrey Azoulay
President, UN General Assembly | Maria Fernanda Espinosa
Director-General, WHO | Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
President, International Court of Justice | Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf
President, Asian Development Bank | Takehiko Nakao
President, International Olympic Committee | Thomas Bach
Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency | Yukiya Amano
Secretary-General, NATO | Jens Stoltenberg
Secretary-General, ASEAN | Lim Jock Hoi
President, International Cricket Council | Shashank Manohar
President, FIFA | Gianni Infantino
Chairman, Commonwealth | Patricia Scotland
Chairman, International Cricket Council | Shashank Manohar

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### List of the Important Airports in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kempegowda International Airport</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Intl.Airport</td>
<td>Kolkata</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajiv Gandhi International Airport</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport</td>
<td>Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaudhary Charan Singh Intl. Airport</td>
<td>Lucknow</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi Intl. Airport</td>
<td>Guwahati</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srinagar Airport</td>
<td>Srinagar</td>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biju Patnaik International Airport</td>
<td>Bhubaneswar</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visakhapatnam Airport</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport</td>
<td>Indore</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Intl. Airport</td>
<td>Nagpur</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Airport</td>
<td>Patna</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport   | Amritsar       | Punjab           |
| Swami Vivekananda Airport                    | Raipur         | Chhattisgarh     |
| Bagdogra Airport                             | Bagdogra       | West Bengal      |
| Veer Savarkar International Airport           | Port Blair     | andaman&Nicobar Islands |
| Birs Mundaik Airport                         | Ranchi         | Jharkhand        |
| Maharana Pratap Airport                      | Udaipur        | Rajasthan        |
| Raja Bhoj International Airport              | Bhopal         | Madhya Pradesh   |
| Jolly Grant Airport                          | Dehradun       | Uttrakhand       |
| Rajahmundry Airport                          | Rajahmundry    | Andhra Pradesh   |
| Silchar Airport                              | Silchar        | Assam            |
| Lengpui Airport                              | Aizwal         | Mizoram          |
| Zaruki International Airport                 | Shillong       | Meghalaya        |
| Daporijo Airport                             | Daporijo       | Arunachal Pradesh|
| Tezu Airport                                 | Tezu           | Arunachal Pradesh|
| Kandla Airport                               | Kandla         | Gujarat          |
| Sonari Airport                               | Jamshedpur     | Jharkhand        |
| Birs Mundaik Airport                         | Ranchi         | Jharkhand        |
| Agatti Aerodrome                              | Agatti         | Lakshadweep      |
**Topic 9: What are the names of the Borders/Boundary Lines?**

- **Durand Line**: Afghanistan & Pakistan
- **Hindenburg Line**: Germany & Poland.
- **Mason-dixon Line**: Line of demarcation between four states in the United States.
- **Mannerheim Line**: Russia-Finland border.
- **Macmahon Line**: India & China
- **Medicine Line**: Canada & the United States.
- **Order-neisse Line**: Poland & Germany
- **Radcliffe Line**: India & Pakistan.
- **Siegfried Line**: Germany on its border with France.
- **17th Parallel**: North Vietnam & South Vietnam
- **26th Parallel south**: Africa, Australia & South America.
- **30TH PARALLEL**: Equator & the North Pole.
- **38th Parallel**: Separates North Korea & South Korea.
- **39th Parallel north**: is an imaginary circle of latitude that is 39 degrees north of the Earth’s equatorial plane.
- **40th Parallel north**: formed the original northern boundary of the British Colony of Maryland.
- **42nd Parallel north**: New York - Pennsylvania Border.
- **The Parallel 440 north**: is an imaginary circle of latitude that is 44 degrees north of the Earth’s equatorial plane.
- **45th Parallel north**: is often called the halfway point between the Equator & the North Pole.
- **45th parallel**: makes up most of the boundary between Montana & Wyoming.
- **49th Parallel**: is the boundary between USA & Canada.

**Topic 10: Stock Exchanges around the World**

- **New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)**: HQ in New York City.
- **NASDAQ OMX**: HQ in New York City.
- **Tokyo Stock Exchange**: HQ in Tokyo.
- **London Stock Exchange**: HQ in London.
- **Shanghai Stock Exchange**: HQ in Shanghai.
- **Hong Kong Stock Exchange**: HQ in Hong Kong.
- **Toronto Stock Exchange**: HQ in Toronto.
- **BM&F Bovespa**: HQ in Sao Paulo.
- **Australian Securities Exchange**: HQ in Sydney.
- **Deutsche Börse**: HQ in Frankfurt.
- **Taiwan Stock Exchange**: HQ in the city of Taipei.
- **JSE Limited**: HQ in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **American Stock Exchange (AMEX)**: HQ in New York, USA.
- **Borsa Italia**: HQ in Milan, Italy.
- **London International Financial Futures & Options Exchange (LIFFE)**: HQ in London, Great Britain.
- **Montreal Exchange (MSE)**: HQ in Montreal, Canada.
- **Nordic: Baltic market (OMX)**: HQ in Stockholm, Sweden.
- **Bolsa de Madrid (Madrid Stock Exchange)**: HQ in Madrid, Spain.
- **Afghanistan Stock Exchange**: HQ in Kabul.
- **Chittagong Stock Exchange**: HQ in Chittagong.
- **Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan**: HQ in Thimphu.
- **Maldives Stock Exchange**: HQ in Malé.
- **Nepal Stock Exchange**: HQ in Kathmandu.
- **Sialkot Stock Exchange**: HQ in Sialkot.
- **Colombo Stock Exchange**: HQ in Colombo.

**Topic 11: Dams in India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dam</th>
<th>River</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tehri Dam</td>
<td>Bhagirathi</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakhwar Dam</td>
<td>Yamuna</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idukki (E)/Idukki Arch Dam</td>
<td>Periyar</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhakra Dam</td>
<td>Satluj</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakal Dul Dam</td>
<td>Marusudar</td>
<td>J&amp;K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sardar Sarover Gujarat Dam</td>
<td>Narmada</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Srisailam (N.S.R.S.P) Dam**: Krishna & Andhra Pradesh
- **Ranjit Sagar Dam**: Ravi & Punjab
- **Baglihar Dam**: CHENAB & J&K
- **Pong Dam**: Beas & Himachal Pradesh
- **Nagarjuna Sagar Dam**: Krishna & Telangana
- **Salal (Rockfill & Concrete) Dam**: Chenab & J&K
### Topic 12: CLASSICAL DANCES & FOLK DANCES IN INDIA

**Indian Classical Dances**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Kathak: North India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>Kathakali: Kerala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Kuchipudi: Andhra Pradesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Manipuri: Manipuri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Mohiniattam: Kerala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>Odisi: Orissa state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Gaudiya Nritya: West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Satriya: Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Ghoomar: Rajasthan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Thang Ta: Manipur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**North India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>Rauf tribe of Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>HurkaBaul: Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>Chholiya: Kumaon region, Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>Bhangra: Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>Dhanyal - ‘Dhanyal’ or ‘Dhuph’: Haryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
<td>Mayur Nritya: Uttar Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Charkula: Braj region of Uttar Pradesh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>Giddha: State of Punjab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Haryana: Swang, Naqqal, Dhamal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh: Nati, Kariyala, Bhagat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Central India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Gaur Dance: Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastar</td>
<td>Muria Dance: Bastar district of Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastar</td>
<td>Saila Dance: Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastar</td>
<td>Kaksar Dance: Bastar district in the state of Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Jawara Dance: Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Bhagoria Dance: Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Suwa Dance: Chhattisgarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Grida Dance: Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**East India**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Brita Dance: ‘Brita’ or ‘Vrita’ dance: West Bengal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Topic 13: The Headquarters of the important Public-Sector Undertakings

- Agriculture Insurance Company of India: New Delhi
- Air India Limited: New Delhi
- Airports Authority of India: New Delhi
- Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Bharat Earth Movers (BEML): Bangalore, Karnataka
- Bharat Electronics Limited: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL): New Delhi
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Coal India Limited: Kolkata, West Bengal
**GA Power Capsule | FCI Phase-II Exam 2019**

- Damodar Valley Corporation: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Electronics Corporation of India: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- Food Corporation of India: New Delhi
- General Insurance Corporation of India Limited (GIC): Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited: Bangalore, Karnataka
- Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited: New Delhi
- Indian Oil Corporation: New Delhi
- The Jute Corporation of India Limited: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited: Sambalpur, Odisha
- National Aluminium Co Ltd: Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
- National Buildings Construction Corporation: New Delhi
- National Fertilizers Limited: Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- National Handloom Development Corporation Limited: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- National Insurance Co Ltd: Kolkata, West Bengal
- National Textile Corporation: New Delhi
- New India Assurance Company: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited: Tamil Nadu
- North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation: Assam
- Numaligarh Refinery Limited: Assam
- Oil & Natural Gas Corporation: Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Oil India Limited: New Delhi
- Oriental Insurance Company: New Delhi
- Pawan Hans Limited: New Delhi
- Shipping Corporation of India Limited: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- United India Insurance Company: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Uranium Corporation of India: Jaduguda, Jharkhand.

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**Topic 15: Important Defence Exercise Conducted in the World**

- Garuda: India-France
- HAND-HAND: India-China
- Indra: India-Russia
- Jimex: India-Japan
- Malbar: Us-India-Japan
- Shade: Naval Forces Of India, Japan&China
- Surya Kiran: India&Nepal
- Varuna: France&India
- Simbex: Indian Navy With Republic Of Singapore Navy
- Ibsamar: India with Brazil&South African Navy
- Konkan: Indian Navy&Royal Navy Of Britain
### Stadiums in India
- Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera Stadium
- Rajiv Gandhi Port Silver Jubilee Stadium - Rajkot
- Moin-ul-Haq Stadium - Patna
- Sardar Vallabhai Patel Motera Stadium - Ahmedabad

### Stadiums in England
- Edgbaston - Birmingham
- Headingly - Leeds
- Lord's - London
- Old Trafford - Manchester
- Sophia Gardens - Cardiff
- St Lawrence Ground - Canterbury
- The Brit Oval - London
- Trent Bridge - Nottingham

### Stadiums in Australia
- Adelaide Oval - Adelaide
- Bundoora Rum Stadium - Cairns
- Telstra Dome - Melbourne
- Manuka Oval - Canberra
- Marrara Cricket Ground - Darwin
- Melbourne Cricket Ground - Melbourne
- Sydney Cricket Ground - Sydney
- W.A.C.A. Ground - Perth

### Stadiums in Bangladesh
- Bangabandhu National Stadium - Dhaka
- Chittagong Stadium - Chittagong

### Stadiums in Pakistan
- Gaddafi Stadium
- Ayub National Stadium
- Peshawar
- Quetta

### Stadiums in New Zealand
- Basin Reserve - Wellington
- Eden Park - Auckland
- Jade Stadium - Christchurch
- John Davies Oval - Queenstown
- McLean Park - Napier

### Stadiums in South Africa
- Kingsmead-Durban
- New Wanderers Stadium - Johannesburg
- Newlands - Cape Town
- Port Elizabeth

### Stadiums in Sri Lanka
- Colombo Cricket Club Ground - Colombo
- Galle International Stadium - Galle
- P. Saravanamuttu Stadium - Colombo
- Premadasa Stadium - Colombo
- Sinhalese Sports Club Ground - Colombo

### Stadiums in Zimbabwe
- Harare Sports Club - Harare
- Bulawayo Athletic Club - Bulawayo

### Stadiums in West Indies
- Antigua Recreation Ground - St John
- Kensington Oval Bridgetown - Barbados
- MROUND - St Lucia

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