

# ARTICLES

35A AND 370



## JUPITER INSTITUTE

Monthly Edition- August -2019



Kashmir

Ladakh

Jammu

**jupiter**  
INSTITUTE

Article 370  
**SCRAPPED**

# Current Affairs - Monthly Edition PDF

## (August 1 - August 31, 2019)

1. BANKING & FINANCE
2. BUSINESS & ECONOMY
3. INTERNATIONAL
4. INDIAN AFFAIRS
5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
6. ENVIRONMENT
7. BILLS & ACTS
8. DEFENCE
9. AWARDS AND HONOURS
10. SPORTS
11. ARTS & CULTURE
12. OBITUARY
13. SUMMITS & CONFERENCE
14. SCHEMES
15. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN
16. IMPORTANT DAYS
17. BOOKS & AUTHORS
18. AGREEMENTS, MOU
19. INDEX / LIST
20. VISITS BY PM / PRESIDENT
21. FESTIVALS
22. QUIZ CORNER

The logo for Jupiter Institute features a stylized planet Jupiter with a prominent orange and white banded pattern and a bright yellow sun-like spot. Below the planet, the word "jupiter" is written in a large, lowercase, grey sans-serif font. Underneath "jupiter", the word "INSTITUTE" is written in a smaller, uppercase, orange sans-serif font.

jupiter  
INSTITUTE

## BANKING & FINANCE

### RBI relaxes ECB norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has further relaxed the norms related to external commercial borrowing (ECB). It loosened the end-use restrictions with regard to working capital, general corporate purpose and repayment of rupee loans. The move comes after RBI received feedback from stakeholders. As per the relaxation, all the eligible borrowers are allowed to raise following ECBs from recognised lenders with a minimum average maturity period of 10 years for working capital purposes and general corporate purposes. The foreign branches and overseas subsidiaries of Indian banks are exempted.

It also permits borrowing for on-lending by NBFCs for the above maturity and end-uses. Borrowers are allowed to raise ECBs with a minimum average maturity period of 7 years for repayment of rupee loans that can be availed domestically for capital expenditure.

### RBI allows Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed Bank of China to offer regular banking services in the country. Commercial banks, like SBI, HDFC Bank, Punjab National Bank and ICICI Bank, are in the Second Schedule. Banks falling under this schedule have to adhere to the norms of the RBI. The Bank of China Limited included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The RBI told Jana Small Finance Bank Limited included in the Second Schedule. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc changed to 'NatWest Markets Plc' in the Second Schedule. National Australia Bank ceased to be a banking company within the meaning of the Banking Regulation Act excluded from the Second Schedule.

#### Bank of China

It is one of the four biggest state-owned commercial banks in China. Bank of China is legally separate from its subsidiary Bank of China.

#### Reserve Bank of India

The Reserve Bank of India is India's central banking institution, which controls the issuance and supply of the Indian rupee. The Monetary Policy Committee was established in 2016 controlled monetary policy in India.

### State Bank of India and Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS

State Bank of India's Shanghai branch linked to China's National Advanced Payment System (CNAPS). It is the first Indian Bank to operationalize it. The CNAPS, launched in 2008 by the People's Bank of China (PBOC) provides realtime settlement services for all payments cleared in China. The CNAPS system is complemented by its international counterpart, the CIPS (China International Payments System or Cross-Border Interbank Payment System) launched in 2015

**Main Aim:** To boosting international use of the Chinese currency, yuan. The participants from multiple countries across the globe participated.

#### State Bank of India

SBI is the only Indian bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency. The SBI obtained the PBOC approval in December 2016 for implementation of the CNAPS and after successful installation of various hardware and software. It eliminates the need for tie up and maintenance of accounts with multiple Banks for fund transfer. CNAPS will also be used for cross border RMB payments made through local correspondent banks.

SBI opportunity to do business of Bankers acceptance drafts (BAD) started its representative office in 1997 and began its commercial operation in 2006. It is only Indian bank with license to deal in RMB, the local currency, as well as foreign currency. The total customer credit of nearly \$500 million and staff strength of 40 people that includes 32 Chinese nationals, the bank has always been at the forefront of facilitating India-China trade and investments apart from serving the Indians working in China in the field of IT and others. The bank extends bank guarantee facility to Chinese corporates undertaking various construction, tech, and investment projects. The bank extending term as well as working capital credit facilities to Indian corporates and companies promoted by Indians in China to facilitate Indian investment in China. The bank has also been an active participant in local syndication arranged by major

foreign as well as Chinese banks. The bank has been facilitating Indians working in China in their remittance.

### RBI cuts 35bps repo rate in August policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 35 basis points (bps) cut to the benchmark repo rate on 7th August. The announcement was made after the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-led third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for 2019-20. This reduction is the fourth in a row since Shaktikanta Das took over as the governor in December 2018. It is the lowest since April 2010.

The interest rate cut will address the growth concerns by boosting aggregate demand and target private investment as a priority.

#### MPC's decisions:

RBI has reduced its GDP growth forecast for 2019-20 from 7% to 6.9%. The reverse repo rate under the Liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) was revised to 5.15% whereas the policy repo rate under LAF has been reduced by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75% to 5.40%. The Marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate has been revised to 5.65%. The RBI will set a Central Payment Fraud Registry to track frauds in the payment systems.

RBI plans to issue detailed guidelines on permitting banks to on-lend through NBFCs. The move aims to increase credit flow to certain priority sectors which contribute significantly to the economic growth in terms of exports and employment.

NEFT system will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019.

#### Reason for India's GDP growth reduction:

The reason for India's GDP reduction is a slowdown in consumption demand, government spending and the lack of quality jobs.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered India's GDP growth rate for FY20 to 7% from 7.3% on 23 July. It cited reasons as poor demand conditions. GDP growth in the fourth quarter of FY19 slowed down to 5.8%, whereas it was 6.6% in the third quarter, which is the slowest quarterly GDP growth rate in five years.

Also the growth in the eighth infrastructure sectors was just 0.2% in June. It constitutes of 40.27% of the index of industrial production.

#### Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate: 5.40%

Reverse Repo Rate: 5.15%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 5.65%

Bank Rate: 6.00%

#### Reserve Ratios:

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): 4%

Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR): 18.75%

### Reserve Bank of India Expands biller categories for Bharat Bill Payment System

The Reserve Bank of India allows all categories of billers to accept prepaid recharges under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). The BBPS currently covers billers in five segments, DTH, electricity, gas, telecom and water bills.

The regulator is expected to issue detailed instructions in this regard by the end of September 2019. The advantages of the BBPS and harness its full potential decided to permit all categories of billers (except prepaid recharges) who provide for recurring bill payments to participate in BBPS on a voluntary basis. Apart from digitization of cash-based bill payments, it will enable standardized bill payment experience, centralized customer grievance redressal mechanism, and standardized customer convenience fee. The regulator allowed on-tap authorization of retail payment systems to companies looking to function as BBPOU, TRedS and whitelabel ATMs.

#### Reserve Bank of India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

### SBI announced repo rate cut after RBI policy announcement

The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, have cut the home loan rates after RBI's repo rate cut of 35 bps for the fourth time in a row. SBI announced its Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors. It will be effective from August 10, 2019. The move is to provide some respite to home loan borrower. After this move, the



one-year MCLR is reduced to **8.25% per annum**, from **8.40% annum**. This is the fourth consecutive cut in MCLR in FY 2019-20 by SBI.

#### **SBI's repo rate:**

#### **Repo rate-linked Home loan product:**

The SBI has been a repo rate-linked home loan product from 1 July 2019. The interest rate on this particular product gets revised automatically whenever there is a change in repo rate.

#### **RLLR:**

The effective **Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR)** for cash credit/overdraft customers has been revised to **7.65%**.

#### **FD:**

SBI has also revised fixed deposit rates and cut the interest rates on FDs by **20 to 75 bps** on August 1, 2019.

#### **Large saving account deposits:**

SBI has linked interest rate on **large saving account deposits**, which is above **1 lakh**, to repo rate on 1 May. After the cut, it now offers an interest rate 275 bps lower than RBI's repo rate.

#### **ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in 34 districts of Maharashtra**

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a loan of **\$200 million** to upgrade rural roads to all-weather standards in 34 districts of India's Maharashtra State to better connect rural areas with markets and services.

The upgraded roads under the ADB project will boost links between local residents, productive agricultural land, and economic centers across the state. Improving farmers access to markets will help boost agricultural productivity and incomes as well as promote investment in agribusiness and agriculture value chain infrastructure.

**Maharashtra** accounted for almost **15%** of India's gross domestic product in fiscal year (FY) 2017, the biggest share among India's states. However, economic development is concentrated around the urban centers of Mumbai, Pune, and Thane. There are imbalances in human development across districts while income inequality is one of the highest among all states in India. About 20 million people, or 17% of the states population, still live below the national poverty line.

#### **Agriculture Sector**

Agriculture accounts for about 47% of employment, engages as much as 79% of the rural labor force, and contributes 11% to the state gross domestic product.

However, this contribution is falling. Farmers face persistent crop losses due to the variable climate and limited access to processing and storage facilities, resulting in high levels of debts and even farmer suicides. Maharashtra has an extensive road network, with rural roads making up two thirds of the network. Rural roads are unsealed, making them unsuitable for motorized traffic and impassable during the rainy season. Road safety has been a growing concern, with the state accounting for more than 8% of all fatal road accidents in India. ADB previously supported rural road development in several South Asian countries. The project will build on their experience to upgrade 2,100 kilometers of rural roads to all-weather standards, including contractual maintenance for 5 years following construction. Road designs will incorporate climate resilient features such as improved drainage and higher surface elevations, and stronger embankments, and safety features such as signage, guard posts, and speed breakers.

The project will work with the rural infrastructure agency, the Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association (MRRDA). The main aim is to develop road safety, road asset management, contract management, and climate resilient design. The loan is a technical assistance grant of \$1 million to support MRRDA to improve its management performance in these areas. The road users will be carried out in the state to build awareness of road safety, gender issues including human trafficking, and enhancing women's road construction and maintenance skills. The total cost of the project is \$296 million. The government will provide \$96 million. It is due for completion at the end of September 2024. ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. They were established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members from 49 countries.

#### **State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by 2 years after a review of his performance**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Government of India extended the tenure of **State Bank of India (SBI)** Managing Director (MD) Dinesh Kumar Khara by another 2 years with effect from August 9, 2019.

He is appointed Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI) for a period of three years on August 10, 2016. He holds a Board level position in supervising the businesses of SBI's nonbanking subsidiaries. He was engaged in diverse financial activities such as Asset Management, Life Insurance, General Insurance, Custodial Services, Primary Dealership, etc. He joined SBI as Probationary Officer (PO) and has over 33 years of experience in all sides of Commercial banking such as Retail Credit, deposit mobilization, international banking operations, branch management. Khara worked in SBI's Chicago office and was associated with the overseas acquisition of Indian Ocean International Bank Mauritius (now SBI Mauritius) during his stint in Overseas Expansion wing of International Banking Group. He also worked as the MD&CEO of SBI Funds Management Pvt. Limited (SBIMF).

#### **About SBI:**

**Headquarter:** Mumbai

**Chairman:** Shri Rajnish Kumar

#### **China to soon launch its own cryptocurrency**

**Peoples Bank of China (PBoC)** is issuing its own crypto currency. The banks researchers have been working last year to develop systems, and the cryptocurrency is close to being out," The event is held by China Finance **40 Forum** over the weekend in **Yichun, Heilongjiang**.

Mu repeated the **PBoC's** intention that the digital currency would replace M0 or cash in circulation rather than M2, which would generate credit and impact monetary policy. The digital currency supports the yuan's circulation and internationalization. The remarks signal the PBoC is inching toward formally introducing a digital currency of its own after five years of research. Facebook Inc.'s push to create cryptocurrency Libra caused concerns among global central banks, including the PBoC. Digital asset must be put under central bank oversight to prevent potential foreign exchange risks and protect the authority of monetary policy. The Libra must be seen as a foreign currency and be put under China's framework of forex management. The decentralized blockchain-based offerings, the PBoC's currency is intended to give Beijing more control over its financial system. According to patents registered by the central bank, consumers and businesses would download a mobile wallet and swap their yuan for the digital money which they could use to make and receive payments. The PBoC could also track every time money changes hands.

#### **China**

**President:** Xi Jinping

**Capital:** Beijing

**Currency:** Renminbi

#### **State Bank of India and BoB to link home loan product to RBI's repo rate**

**Bank of Baroda (BoB)** planned to link its home loan product to **RBI's (Reserve Bank of India (RBI))** repo rate after State Bank of India (SBI). With this, home loans at BoB will be available at repo rate linked interest rate starting at 8.35%. The MCLR linked home loan product is available starting at 8.45%, which had come into effect on 7th August 2019 after the MCLR was reduced by 15 basis points (bps). This decision is following RBI reducing the key interest rate (repo) by 35 basis points to a nine-year low of 5.40%. Many other state-run banks, including Union Bank of India, Allahabad Bank, Bank of India and Syndicate Bank expressed their intention to launch loan products linked to an external benchmark.

#### **About SBI:**

**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Chairman:** Rajnish Kumar

#### **About Bank of Baroda**

**Headquarters:** Alkapuri, Vadodara

**CEO:** P. S. Jayakumar

#### **Centre introduces scheme for NBFCs and HFCs**

Centre has announced a partial guarantee scheme in the budget for **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs)**. The scheme will allow the Public Sector Banks to purchase their assets.

#### Aim:

The scheme is aimed to **provide liquidity support** to the NBFCs and HFCs. The key reason for the **slowdown in the economy** is the stress on NBFCs and HFCs. The stress has also caused reduced credit flow to small businesses and consumers. Now, by **improving the liquidity** the scheme aims to avoid the distress sale of assets in a sector facing a shortage of cash due to asset-liability mismatch. For the implementation of the scheme, the government has planned a mechanism which will elicit information on a real-time basis.

#### Guidelines of the Scheme:

##### As per the guidelines:

If any assets purchased by a bank from a stressed NBFC or HFC, the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)** will provide government guarantee of up to 10% of the fair value of assets.

The scheme will be capped at **Rs.1 lakh crore** and will be open for up to six months. The government will settle claims by banks within **five working days**. NBFCs will have to pay a fee to the government, at **0.25% per annum** of the fair value of assets sold to banks.

**Standard assets:** They will be able to sell **20% of standard assets**, worth up to **Rs.5,000 crore**, as on March 31.

**Pooled assets:** The one-time guarantee on the pooled assets will be valid for 24 months from the date of purchase and can be invoked in specified circumstances.

The Department of Financial Services will obtain information on transactions in a prescribed format from PSBs and send a copy to the budget division of the Department of Economic Affairs.

**NBFCs** that registered with **RBI** and **HFCs** registered with **National Housing Bank** can take benefit under the scheme.

#### RBI launches regulatory sandbox for Fintech companies

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **final framework for regulatory sandbox (RS)** for the startups, banks and financial institutions. The Fintech companies can now set up **their own RS** for **live testing of innovative products** in areas like retail payments, digital KYC and wealth management.

#### Aim:

The framework aims to enable innovations in the **financial technology space**. It will also foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers.

It will encourage innovations that are intended for use in the **Indian market** in areas where there is absence of governing regulations.

#### Eligibility to enter RS:

**Fintech companies** including startups, banks, financial institutions and any other company partnering with or providing support to financial services businesses.

#### Guidelines:

As per the guidelines:

Mobile technology applications, **data analytics**, **application program interface (APIs) services**, **applications under block chain technologies**, and artificial intelligence and machine learning applications can also be considered for testing under RS. The sandbox entity should ensure that any existing obligations to the customers of the financial service under experimentation are fulfilled or addressed before exiting or discontinuing the RS.

#### Regulatory Sandbox (RS):

A regulatory sandbox refers to **live testing of new products** or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment. The regulators can permit certain **regulatory relaxations** for the limited purpose of the testing.

#### Denmarks Jyske Bank unveiled worlds first negative interest rate home loan

Denmarks third-largest bank **Jyske Bank** launched the worlds first negative interest rate mortgage. The **bank** handling out loans to homeowners where the charge is minus 0.5% a year. It has begun offering borrowers a 10-year deal at -0.5%. Jyske bank borrowers will make a monthly repayment, as usual, The amount still outstanding will be reduced each month by more than the borrower. Negative interest rates effectively mean that a bank pays a borrower to take money off their hands, so they pay back less than they have been loaned. Another Danish bank, Nordea will begin offering **20-year fixed-rate deals** at 0% and a 30-year mortgage at 0.5%.

#### About Jyske Bank:

Founded: 1967

Headquarters: Silkeborg, Denmark

CEO: Anders Dam

#### Income Tax Department to adopt 'taxpayer friendly' approach

The **Income Tax (I-T) Department** decided to adopt friendly approach in its dealings with the tax assesseees following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's call for a mindset change among tax officials. The I-T Department to bridge the communication gap between tax officials and the assesseees and sought a change in mindset amid allegations of "**tax terrorism**". The issues are concerned and solve issues by treating them respectfully. The I-T department is set to change its approach and adopt friendly language but not at the cost of forgoing any lapses. The department will use friendly language in its communications with taxpayers rather than intimidating, according to a source, amid allegations of intrusive, threatening and arbitrary behaviour by the department. The data mining and data analytics, the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** is now working on ways to ensure the department makes information such as large cash deposits or high-value transactions" available to taxpayers well in time for filing of tax returns.

On the lines of reminders for filing returns, messages could be sent to indicate transactions while stating that they are ignored if already responded to or accounted. The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** introduce a computergenerated Document Identification Number (DIN), which will be quoted in any notice issued by its officials.

#### State Bank of India aims to eliminate debit cards

**State Bank of India** bank debit cards from the banking system as the bank plans to promote more digital payment solutions and eliminate the plastic cards. The debit cards by customers of SBI which services a fifth of the population. Around 90 crore debit cards in the country as against 3 crore credit cards, and pointed out to digital solutions like its own 'Yono' platform as the key for achieving a debit card-less country.

Kumar said through the Yono platform, one can withdraw cash at automated teller machines or pay for purchases at a merchant establishment without having a card at all.

The bank already set up 68,000 'Yono cashpoints' and is in the process of scaling it up massively to over 1 million in the next 18 months. which will make the necessity to have a card even less.

The Yono platform can also give credit for buying certain merchandise, making the credit card in the pocket also as a stand-by.

In the next five years, there will be a limited need to have any plastic cards in your pocket, Kumar said, pointing out that virtual coupons is the future. The QR code is also a very inexpensive way of ensuring payments.

#### State Bank of India

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded: 2 June 1806

#### SEBI announces reward of Rs 1 crore to insider trading informants

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced a new mechanism to reward informants with up to Rs 1 crore cash through a specially created hotline. SEBI's board approved a detailed set of rules for the new Informant Mechanism under its Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) Regulations. The benefits available to individuals and corporates, and professionals like auditors will not be able to use this route as they are duty-bound to report any wrongdoing.

#### SEBI

SEBI regulation to trade to protect the interest of investors at large and defines insider trading as trading of securities while in possession of unpublished price sensitive information. SEBI to detect insider trading and initiate action at the earliest to instill confidence among investors and ensure the integrity of the market. SEBI faces several challenges in establishing links and procuring proof while probing insider trading cases, due to which investigation into such cases takes much longer time than in other cases of market manipulation.

#### The new mechanism work

The new mechanism prepared after taking into account the feedback. Under the proposed SEBI's PIT Regulations, an informant need to submit a Voluntary Information Disclosure Form (VIDF). The source of information not be sourced

from a person employed with SEBI. The informant would need to disclose his or her identity to OIL. The informant would be given a reward if SEBI is able to disgorge at least Rs 1 crore. The reward would be 10 percent of the money collected, subject to a maximum amount of Rs 1 crore. SEBI will share the main points with different regulators and enforcement agencies in the Republic of India or abroad. The entity associated with the securities markets, including listed firms and intermediaries.

#### **RBI permits processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring merchant payments**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** permitted processing of e-mandate on credit and debit cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with a cap of 2,000. RBI receiving requests from industry stakeholders to allow this with an additional factor of authentication during e-mandate registration and the first transaction. The permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments) with AFA during e-mandate registration, modification and revocation, The central bank done keeping in view the changing payment needs and the requirement to balance the safety and security of card transactions with customer convenience. RBI added that no charges should be levied or recovered from the cardholder for availing the e-mandate facility on cards for recurring transactions. The direction is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards debit, **credit and Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)**, including wallets. The central bank brought forward by an hour when the real time gross settlement (RTGS) system will become available.

The transfer of funds through the system will be available. RBI decided to allow round-the-clock fund transfers through NEFT from December.

#### **Reserve bank of India**

**Headquarters:** Mumbai

**Founder:** British Raj

**Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata

**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

#### **RBI allows recurring transactions up to 2,000 on cards from Sep 1**

The **Reserve Bank of India** allows customers to make recurring payments of less than Rs.2000 without the two-factor authentication process. The changing payment needs and the requirement to balance the safety and security of card transactions with customer convenience decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments). The move has been made to make digital payments to merchant, typically at kirana and grocery stores where ticket sizes are small, more convenient. The circular is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards debit, credit and Prepaid Card

#### **Reserve Bank of India**

**Headquarters:** Mumbai

**Founder:** British Raj

**Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata

**Governor:** Shaktikanta Das

#### **BookMyForex join hands with YES Bank for foreign exchange travel card**

**BookMyForex** partnered with **YES Bank** and card payment company Visa to launch a co-branded multi-currency forex travel card that will provide a smooth payments solution to Indians traveling abroad. They can load up to 10 currencies on the card. The forex travel card will be available to Customers on the BookMyForex platform for free of cost across major cities in India.

The platform will offer **zero margin** or exact inter-bank rates 24\*7 on purchases made through the forex travel card. BookMyForex will also offer modern contactless cards that allow a user to simply tap their card on a POS machine, a must-have feature in countries like **UK (United Kingdom)** where some merchants only allow contactless payments. Customers will be able to manage the travel cards through the mobile app by getting real-time notification alerts and view the **INR (Indian rupee)** equivalent of all amounts they spent.

They will also get value-added services like tracking currency-wise balances, locating surcharge-free **ATMs (Automated Teller Machine)** nearby and reload their travel cards while traveling abroad.

**BookMyForex:**

**Founded:** 2011

**Headquarters:** Gurgaon, Haryana

**Founder and CEO:** Sudarshan Motwani

**YES Bank:**

**Formation:** 2004

**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**CEO & MD:** Ravneet Gill

#### **Canara Bank introduced OTP facility for ATM withdrawals**

**Canara Bank** has launched India's first **one-time password (OTP) facility** for ATM withdrawals. The OTP will be activated for cash withdrawals **over Rs.10,000 per day** at its ATMs to protect its cardholders from unauthorized withdrawal. Indian bank also taking this process as soon.

#### **Need for ATM OTP:**

The plan aims to **avoid robbery in a banks ATM** that affects ATMs users. The State-owned bank has introduced the OTPs for the safe use of ATMs. It has two vital options for the advantage of account holders.

Any customer can use the geographic area MServe app to change off their Debit or Mastercard once not in use. The OTP authentication for withdrawals higher than Rs.10,000 per day to avoid such malpractice.

#### **SBI:**

SBI customers have already initiated the cash withdrawal process on the **YONO app** on setting a **six-digit PIN** for the transaction. They will also get a six-digit reference number for the transaction on their registered mobile numbers via SMS.

The cash withdrawal has to be completed within the next 30 minutes at an ATM using both the **PIN and the reference number**.

#### **RBI issues guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme for Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) for Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to Fisheries and Animal Husbandry farmers during the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. RBI directed the Central Government to operate the interest subvention guidelines.

The farmers involved in activities related to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, through a separate KCC will get at a concessional interest rate of 7% per annum during the years only 2018-19 and 2019-20 for the short loan up to Rs. 2 lakh. The Interest subvention is available for animal husbandry and fisheries farmers at the rate of 2% per annum at the time of disbursement of loan. The additional interest subvention of 3% per annum given to farmers, who repay in time up to the due date fixed by the banks for repayment of the loan.

This subvention will also provided to the farmers repaying promptly would get short-term loans at the rate of 4 % per annum during 2018-19 and 2019-20. The interest subvention will be provided on a maximum limit of Rs 2 lakh short-term loan to farmers involved in animal husbandry & fisheries. The farmers already possessing KCC for raising crops and involved in animal husbandry and fisheries activities can avail a sub-limit for such activities. The interest subvention & prompt repayment incentive benefits will be available only on an overall limit of 3 lakh per annum on availing short term loan for the crop, animal husbandry, and fisheries activities. The RBI directed the banks to make Aadhar linkage mandatory for availing short-term loans for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The ISS will be placed on the ISS portal / DBT (Direct Benefits Transfer) platform & it will be put on DBT mode on In-Kind/services basis.

The banks are asked to make aware of the people about scheme so that the eligible farmers can avail the benefits. The interest subvention scheme will be launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for settling claims arising from 2018-19. The banks also directed to submit the category wise data of beneficiaries under the scheme to RBI and report the same on ISS portal. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) extended by the Government to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers in order to assist them to meet their working capital needs.

#### **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**

KCC is a credit scheme introduced in August 1998 by Indian banks. This model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Development (NABARD) on the recommendations of R.V. Gupta committee to provide term loans and meet agricultural needs.

#### **Indian Bank and Tata AIG General Insurance signed an MoU**

The public sector **Indian Bank** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Tata AIG General Insurance** to offer a variety of general insurance products to its customers. The MoU was signed in the presence of Ms Padmaja Chunduru MD and CEO of Indian Bank and Mr Saurabh Maini, Senior Vice President and Business Head. The partnership will see around 2,900 branches of the bank spread across India range of insurance policies benefiting its customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings. Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes, all leading to seamless service to customers.

#### **Indian Bank**

**Headquarters:** Chennai

**CEO:** Padmaja Chunduru

#### **India and Nepal organize training programme on EXIM Bank's guidelines**

The Embassy of India in **Nepal** and **National Reconstruction Authority (NRA)** of Nepal organized a two-day training programme in Kathmandu on the **Export- Import (EXIM) Bank** of Indias Line of Credit guidelines and procedures. The EXIM Bank of India conducted the training programme attended by 27 officials from Government of Nepal.

The first day of the training covered a general introduction to the **EXIM Bank** of Indias **Line of Credit (LOC)** modality including project identification, prequalification and tendering process, evaluation of tender documents, empanelment process, project implementation and monitoring.

The second-day training included a session by Nepal Government officials on Import/Export and domestic tax for Indian contractors involved in LoC projects in Nepal. A total of 28 Indian contractors attended this training session.

#### **Training program**

The training programme organized as part of a bilateral understanding reached between the Government of Nepal and Government of India during the **7th Line of Credit (LOC) Review Meeting** held on June 2019 in India.

The two sides also agreed to collaborate on future capacity building efforts of the Government of Nepal officials who would be working on the Government of Indias Line of Credit supported projects.

Jupiter  
INSTITUTE



## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

### Edelweiss Tokio Life partners with Mobikwik to offer miniature insurance

**Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance** partnered with payments platform **Mobikwik** to sell 'miniature' insurance plans. Sumit Rai, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance covers of Rs 1 lakh, 3 lakh and 5 lakh with a premium of Rs **148, 443** and **738** per annum. The life insurer offers pre-approved sum assured basis customer information already with MobiKwik. The insurer will offer miniaturized products and Rai said they will look to expand this to products catering across long-term savings products. The MobiKwik app ecosystem KYC and other capabilities, we can issue and service the policy directly within the app ecosystem, instead of the customer engaging with two separate entities. The idea is to democratise insurance by offering a compelling product proposition digitally to a newer and digitally savvy customer segment. This partnership will allow Edelweiss Tokio Life to cater to customers across all income groups and offer relevant solutions. The life insurer is already taken steps to go digital. The last financial year company completed a digital overhaul within Edelweiss Tokio Life called Project Transcend, to help in scalability and create a flexible platform to cater to increasing volumes smoothly. The last year, we have been focused on creating preemptive processes that can flag off any fraudulent behavior. Overall, while the ticket sizes in digital insurance are currently low expected of them to increase over a period of time.

#### Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance

**Founded:** 2009

**Headquarters location:** Mumbai

**Parent organization:** Edelweiss Capital

**CEO:** Sumit Rai

### Flipkart launched Samarth, an online selling platform

**Flipkart** launched **Samarth**, an online selling platform. The initiative aimed to **support artisans, weavers, etc, by on-boarding them** and helping them in the process of selling on the internet. The initiative will bring weavers, artisans and makers of handicrafts to its platform. It is expected that various communities will access to its Indian customer base of over **150 million**. The company has plans to sell these products in the international market. It is expected that the Indian e-commerce market will exceed **\$100 billion by 2022**.

### Global Big Data software market will reach \$118.52 billion by 2022, Forbes report

**Forbes** reported that the global Big Data software market will have **14% of growth worth \$31B in 2019**. Earlier, the market was estimated at **\$23.56 billion in 2015** and is expected to reach **\$118.52 billion by 2022**.

#### Big data:

Big data describes a huge volume of **structured, semi-structured and unstructured** data. It has the potential to be mined for information. It can be used in machine learning projects and other **advanced analytics applications**. Big data software: It helps several companies servings of this data with millions of scraps at a time and turn them into actionable insights. Businesses and even government entities reshapes the practices around big data analytics software. **90% of the worlds data was created between 2015 and 2016**. The estimated worth of big data industry will be **\$77 billion by 2023**.

### Centre released e commerce guidelines for consumer protection

The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has released draft guidelines on ecommerce titled '**e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection 2019**'.

#### Aim:

The draft aims to protect the **interest of online shoppers**. It provides measures to prevent fraud, unfair trade practices and protect the legitimate rights and interests of consumers. It will be applicable to **business-to-consumer e-commerce**, including goods and services.

#### Draft guidelines:

The guidelines states that an e-commerce entity **cannot influence the price of the goods or services** directly or indirectly. It also said that the e-commerce

firms need to ensure the protection of the personally identifiable information of customers is open for stakeholder comments for **45 days or till September 16, 2019**. The guidelines also stated that every e-commerce entity **must publish the name and contact details** of the **grievance officer** on their website along with the mechanism by which users can lodge their complaints. No e-commerce firm should **represent themselves as consumers** or post reviews about goods and services in their name. The e-com firms should display terms of contract with the seller relating to **return, refund, exchange, warranty/guarantee, delivery/shipment, mode of payments and grievance redressal mechanism** to enable consumers to make informed decisions. If an e-commerce firm knows about any **counterfeit product**, and if the seller is unable to provide any evidence that the product is genuine, the firm needs to remove the listing and notify the consumers of the same.

### Flipkart set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service

Walmarts **Flipkart** unit to introduce a free video streaming service to draw new users from small towns and cities in India. Flipkart is the next 200 million consumers who are coming online. The company believes that most consumers are introduced to the internet through online videos. The video content offering is focused on three primary aspects: its free, curated and personalized. The content market is still evolving, considering the number of customers paying partly or fully for subscriptions to **Netflix, Amazon Prime** and **Hotstar**. The pricing is too high for a customer base that is accustomed to free or cheap content. Amazon India started its Prime video service in December 2016 since developed a strong fan base with hit shows such as *Made in Heaven* and *Mirzapur*. The main aim to ensure that the consumer is hooked to Flipkart. It may be less expensive or more profitable to service existing customers by expanding the share of wallet than to acquire new customers. India's video streaming industry is set to grow at an annual average pace of 21.8% to reach 11,977 crore by 2023. The video-on-demand platforms are projected to grow at an average yearly rate of **23.3%** to reach 10,712 crore between 2018 and 2023. The **34** companies present in the cluttered market comprise US platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, as well as Indian services such as ZEE5, Voot, Eros Now and ALTBalaji.

### IIFL Finance to raise up to 1,000 crore through bonds

**IIFL Finance** will raise up to 1,000 crore through a public issue of bonds. The main or the purpose of business growth and expansion. The bonds will offer yield of 10.5% per annum for tenor of 69 months and 10% for shorter tenor of 15 months for the secured category, the **non-banking financial company (NBFC)**. The UK-based CDC Group-backed IIFL Finance will issue secured and unsecured redeemable non-convertible debentures (**NCDs aggregating to 100 crore**, with a green-shoe option to retain over-subscription up to 900 crore (aggregating to a total of 1,000 crore). The lead managers to the issue are Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, IIFL Securities Ltd, ICICI Securities, and Trust Investment Advisors Private Ltd.

#### About IIFL Finance

IIFL Holdings Limited d/b/a IIFL and India Infoline is an Indian diversified financial services company headquartered in Mumbai. The organization was founded by Nirmal Jain.

**Headquarters:** India

**Founders:** Nirmal Jain, Rajamani Venkataraman

### NSE and Singapore Exchange gets approval for its GIFT city project

**Centre approved the joint derivative project** of India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) for their international financial centre in GIFT City at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The project was proposed by **NSE International Financial Service Centre (IFSC)** and **SGX Connect**. Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is an initiative led by **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

#### Aim:

The project plans to bring together the **trading of Nifty products** and **boost the activities of GIFT City**. It also seeks to create a larger pool of **liquidity**. The project will be made operational before the end of 2020. The Indian government has been trying to lure foreign investors to GIFT City. It offers close to zero tax, dollar contracts, and top-notch infrastructure.



### India proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms

India is proposing a series of consumer safeguards that forbid e-commerce companies such as Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart Online Services Pvt adopting unfair promotion methods or misrepresenting the quality of goods and services. E-commerce companies self-declare compliance and also provide a way for customers to contact them directly, said the proposed e-Commerce Guidelines for consumer protection 2019. The department invited parties to provide feedback by 16 September.

Among the key guidelines are those that require platforms like Amazon and Flipkart to declare all details about their sellers including address, website, and email address. The platforms are also required to display terms of the contract with the seller relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty, delivery and mode of payments. India tightened rules for e-commerce platforms after complaints from small shops and domestic sellers. Amazon and Flipkart now banned from striking exclusive arrangements with sellers, offering deep discounts or holding any business interest in online merchants on their websites. The groups representing small traders have continued to allege that large platforms prioritize and sell products of a favored few vendors with whom they have commercial linkages.

### Life Insurance Corporation of India new term plan Jeevan Amar launched

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a cheaper term plan called 'Jeevan Amar' which will extend more benefits and flexibility to its policyholders. This new term plan is not a market-linked plan that will give two options for subscriptions- Level Sum Assured and Increasing Sum Assured. In non-marketlinked plan, the policyholders can't claim the invested /insured amount on maturity. The nominee gets the death claim in case of the sudden death of an assured person during the policy term.

#### Policy Details

The **Jeevan Amar policy option** to select between two categories: Smoker and nonsmoker. LIC withdrew 'Amulya Jeevan' Term and many new features have been included in this new plan.

LIC is providing this plan for people above 18 years. It is claimed till the age of 65 years with the maximum age at maturity is 80 years.

#### LIC Jeevan Amar Plan

**LIC Jeevan Amar Plan** is a term plan without profit and non-linked plan. The Plan is not market-linked and an insured person can't claim the amount on maturity. The amount can be claimed only by the nominee in case of the sudden demise of the policyholder during the term plan. Non-smokers and women have lower rates of the premium. Death benefits can be taken in installments also of **5 years, 10 years and 15 years**. Minimum Basic Sum Assured under the plan is Rs 25 lakh with no maximum limit. The **Policy Holders** nominee will receive the Sum assured which was opted while buying the policy. The sum assured will remain the same throughout the policy period. The death benefits will be the same as the initial sum assured policyholder chosen for the first five years. It will increase at the rate of 10% per year from the 6<sup>th</sup> policy year to 10th year. The policy will complete its 16th year. It will remain the same throughout the remaining policy period.

### Max Life Insurance launches 'Speed Dial - your partner for life' initiative on fourth 'Protection Day'

**Max Life Insurance Co Ltd** announced the launch of the one-of-its-kind initiative, 'Speed Dial Max Life Insurance - Your Partner for Life' further reinforcing its customer obsession.

Max Life Insurance Company will endeavour to assign every customer a dedicated relationship manager, known as the 'Partner for Life' for all their policy-related service needs. Through this unique initiative, the '**Partners for Life**' will act as enablers to provide a one stop solution on call, shortening the average wait time a customer has to go through, to get their queries answered. They will also educate customers on the company's digital service solutions and new products offerings, if inquired.

This initiative will provide quick and easy resolution of policy servicing needs to customers by allocating a partner. Customers will be given direct contact details of their partners to enable prompt assistance in their policy journey. This will facilitate the customer to save time by directly contacting the partner without going through interactive voice responses which is generally time

consuming. Having quicker access will also equip customers to engage frequently with their '**Partner for Life**' on call, and be well versed with their insurance policies. The commitment is validated by paid ratio of 98.74 per cent (Bharose ka Number), the 'Speed Dial' initiative is introduced to further protect the promises we have made to our customers through dedicated relationship managers on call.

### Reliance Jio and Microsoft partner to accelerate digital transformation in India

**Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (Jio)** and **Microsoft Corporation** companies have a unique relationship. Their main aim is at accelerating the digital transformation of the Indian economy and society.

This 10-year commitment combines the world-class capabilities of both companies to offer a detailed set of solutions comprising connectivity, computing, storage solutions, and other technology services and applications essential for Indian businesses

Jio and Microsoft aim to enhance the adoption of leading technologies like data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things, and edge computing among small and medium enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow, while helping accelerate technology-led GDP growth in India and driving adoption of next-gen technology solutions at scale.

#### Reliance Jio and Microsoft Business Partnership

There are some highlights of the **Reliance Jio and Microsoft Business Partnership** details which are specified here below Jio provide its internal workforce with cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools available with **Microsoft 365** and will migrate its non-network applications to the Microsoft Azure cloud platform. Jio's connectivity infrastructure main aim to connect everyone, everything, everywhere will promote the adoption of the Microsoft Azure cloud platform within its growing ecosystem of startups. Jio will set up data centers in locations across India. It consists of next-generation compute, storage and networking capabilities and Microsoft. They will deploy its Azure platform in these datacenters to support Jio's offerings. The initial two datacenters, which can house IT equipment consuming up to 7.5 MW of power, are being set up in the states of **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra**.

These are targeted to be fully operational in calendar year 2020. Jio will have the Microsoft Azure cloud platform to develop innovative cloud solutions focused on the needs of Indian businesses. Indian startups will have access to efficient and affordable cloud infrastructure and platform services, enabling them to develop innovative products and services faster and more cost-effectively. Small and medium businesses in India will have access to a range of cloud-based productivity collaboration and business applications including **Office 365**. It enables them to compete more effectively in the Indian marketplace. Large companies will be able to accelerate their own digital transformations by leveraging new Jio solutions that can work with Microsoft offerings already in use within many large enterprises. The **partner ecosystem in India** will have the opportunity to leverage Jio's new offerings to serve the unique needs of their customers and rapidly grow their businesses. Jio will be executing on its vision of integrated speech and computer vision solutions for Indian customers by working together with Microsoft to develop solutions.

### South Korea will remove Japan from preferred trade list

**South Korea** decided to remove Japan from a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade. It was a retaliatory move to Tokyo's recent decision to downgrade Seoul's trade.

South Korean Trade Minister Sung Yun-mo removed Japan from the country's 29-country **white list**. The reason is that it has failed to uphold international principles while managing its export controls on sensitive materials. South Korea took this decision mainly because Japan failed to uphold international principles while managing its export controls on sensitive materials. The preferred trade list is a list of nations receiving preferential treatment in trade.

#### History of South Korea and Japan

Decades-long tensions between Seoul and Tokyo after the South Korean Supreme Court ordered Japanese companies to compensate South Korean laborers were forced to work for them during World War II. Japan forced hundreds of thousands of Koreans to fight, work, and made many women

provide sex. Japan and South Korea normalized diplomatic relations in a 1965 Tokyo Seoul grants worth \$300 million and loans of \$200 million over 10 years. Japan and South Korea normalized diplomatic relations in a 1965 pact that saw Tokyo Seoul grants worth \$300 million and loans of \$200 million over 10 years. Japanese maintains that the 1965 treaty had settled all colonial-era debts, while recent South Korean governments have said that Japan's repayments only cover some debts.

#### South Korea

Currency: South Korean won

President: Moon Jae-in

Capital: Seoul

#### Saudi Aramco remains worlds most profitable company

**Saudi Aramco** is the worlds most profitable company and paid out almost all its net income in dividends. The corporate titans such as Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc., and other big oil producers, many of which suffered larger declines in profit as output and crude prices fell. The Aramco paid out \$46.4 billion in dividends in the first half. That included a \$20 billion special payout to its owner. The Saudi government compares with a \$6 billion payout last year. The particular interest to potential investors ahead of an initial public offering planned for 2020 or 2021 according to money manager T. Rowe Price Group Inc. **Aramco**, officially known as **Saudi Arabian Oil Co.**, published annual financial statements for the first time in April, ahead of a \$12 billion bond sale. The average selling price for Aramcos crude fell to \$66 a barrel in the first half from \$69 a year earlier, while crude production held steady at 10 million barrels of oil equivalent a day. Unlike most other energy companies, Aramcos output is controlled by the state the worlds biggest oil exporter and the hefty royalties and taxes it pays underpin the Saudi economy.

Although the kingdoms dependence on Aramco places a heavy burden on the companys cash, its free cash flow increased almost 7% to \$38 billion as a result of working-capital movements and lower capital. This all results in the best financial performance that any investors whether debt or equity would look for when evaluating a company. Saudi Arabia wants to raise a record \$100 billion from selling a 5% stake in Aramco, which would make it the biggest IPO in history and a windfall for any banks that win a role. The kingdom has valued the company at a whopping \$2 trillion, though the firms 2018 financials indicated a valuation closer to \$1.2 trillion.

Acquisition Plans Saudi Arabia announced plans for an Aramco IPO three years ago, Aramco plans to buy a stake in the refining and chemicals business of Indias Reliance Industries Ltd for its crude and diversification downstream. Aramco will acquire a 20% stake in the companys oil-to-chemicals business, including the 1.24 million-barrel-a-day Jamnagar refining complex on Indias west coast, Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai. The deal comes amid ambitious plans by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who runs the country day to day, to move the economy away from its reliance on oil sales. Saudi Arabia is getting a makeover under the prince, who assumed his de facto leadership in 2017 vowing to steer the kingdom from its near-total dependence on crude by masterminding reforms known as Vision 2030.

#### India holds 9<sup>th</sup> Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation. The delegation which is led by Peter Munya, Minister of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Government of the Republic of Kenya.

#### Bilateral trade:

The bilateral trade since the last session of the India-Kenya JTC held in August 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. **Aim** : The main aim is to co operate in the power sector, renewable energy, petroleum and natural gas, civil aviation and agricultural research. The top items imported to india: Inorganic chemicals, pulses, coffee, drug formulations, biology, copper and products made of copper, wood products, aluminium, products of aluminium, tea and finished leather. Both sides stressed the need to enhance trade relations and also to diversify the trade basket. The top items exported from India are Petroleum products, drug formulations, biological and industrial machinery for dairy, paper, paper board and products, plastic raw materials, two and three-wheelers, iron and steel, manmade yarn, fabrics made-ups, books, publications and printing, electric machinery.

#### Future investment:

The proposal on investment from Indian side welcomed by Kenya and are to explore the investment opportunities in the **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**. Trade in the field of housing. The 2nd meeting of India-Kenya Joint Technical Committee (JTC) on Housing, held in Nairobi on 30th May 2019 recalled. A Conference on Housing in India and exploring partnership between **Kenya Institute of Housing and Building Technology (KIHBT)** and **Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)**, India is to be held in the future.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Government of the Republic of Kenya on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management signed on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 was expanded.

The cooperation in the areas of sustainable urban development including smart cities, water and waste management and urban mobility. Kenya requested for technical assistance to support the implementation of Kenyan urban and affordable housing programmes. Manufacturing, agriculture, agro-processing, floriculture, aquaculture, **Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)** and products such as base metals & articles thereof, textiles & textile articles, vegetables and horticultural products, plastics & rubber, chemical products and machinery & mechanical appliances.

#### Wipro partners with IISc on robotics and 5G

**Wipro**, a global information technology, consulting and business process service company, announced a strategic partnership with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, Indias premier public establishment for research and higher education in science and engineering, to conduct advanced applied research in autonomous systems, robotics and **5G space**. The two organizations have jointly set up the Wipro IISc Research and Innovation Network (WIRIN), a hybrid industry academia collaboration unit drive idea discovery, research and innovation in technology and product design.

A group of senior professors and research staff from IISc and engineers, developers, architects and researchers from the autonomous systems, robotics and **5G domains** at Wipro will constitute the team at WIRIN. They will focus on the research and development of cutting-edge technologies in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Visual Computing, Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and Vehicle-to-everything communication (V2X). The insights from the research will be leveraged by Wipro for its customers and the industry ecosystem. The Institute will benefit from advancing its research goal and capacity building besides commercialization of research outcomes.

Abidali Z. Neemuchwala, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Wipro Limited. The one of the most prestigious research institutes in the world, to develop innovative solutions for autonomous systems, robotics and 5G. This is a significant step towards strengthening our position to be at the forefront of these transformative technologies.

The strong technology capabilities and capable talent from both organizations will come together to make notable strides in these domains. IISc Bangalore.

#### FASTags will be mandatory for all vehicles from December 2019

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and **MSME** launched the new website of his Ministry. The new website has a dashboard that gives data about highways construction, land acquisition, **FASTags**. The state-wise, monthwise data on registration of vehicles in the country.

MoS, Road Transport & Highways, General (Retd) V K Singh, Secretary Shri Sanjeev Ranjan, NHAI Chairman Shri N.N. Sinha presented the occasion. Shri Gadkari informed that his Ministry initiated steps to implement the **Motor Vehicles Act 2019**. It deals with penalties, licences, registration, National Transport Policy. The Minister that the **Motor Vehicles Act 2019** become a reality will go a long way in giving the country a safe and corruption-free road transport system. Shri Gadkari that the MVA 2019 will help curb road accidents and bring down fatalities. The Ministry is spending Rs 12,000 crore towards rectification of 786 accident black spots identified by NHAI. The World Bank and ADB programme worth **Rs 14000 crore** for rectification of black spots on national, state, district highways.

The Minister announced that FASTags will become mandatory for all vehicles from December.

### **FASTags**

FASTags issued by 22 certified banks through various channels such as Point-of-Sale at NH toll plazas, selected bank branches. These are also available on the ecommerce platform. It is a bank-neutral FASTag. No bank is pre-assigned to the FASTag at the time of purchase by a customer from a Point-of-Sale or Online and offers the flexibility to the customer to link the FASTag with their existing bank account by using My FASTag Mobile app, currently available on Google Play Store.

### **Acko announces partnership with fintech ZestMoney to offer credit insurance**

Acko General Insurance partnered with **ZestMoney** to offer credit card insurance to its ZestMoney customers. Acko which offers personalized underwriting, micro insurance products, and automated micro claims process, will offer credit insurance. The Zest Money customers who are provided with instant financing and the option of paying through EMIs(Equated Monthly Installments) don't own a credit card.

These consumers will be covered by Acko during eventualities like hospitalization or critical illness when they are unable to pay their instalments. Claims can be created within 3 minutes and can be filed through the ZestMoney app.

Insurtech refers to the use of technology innovations designed to squeeze out savings and efficiency from the current insurance industry model. Insurtech is a combination of the words insurance and technology, inspired by the term fintech (financial technology)

#### **Acko General Insurance**

**Founder:** Varun Dua

**Founded:** November 2016

**Headquarters:** Mumbai

### **Amazon inaugurates its worlds largest campus in Hyderabad**

E-commerce company **Amazon** inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in Hyderabad, Telangana. The campus was inaugurated by **Mohammed Mahmood Ali**, MLC(Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, the government of Telangana. This Hyderabad campus of Amazon is the only one, placed outside US(United States).

There are **62,000 employees** in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than **15,000 employees**.

The other members are Amit Agarwal, SVP(Senior Vice President) and Country Head, Amazon India. John Schoettler, VP(Vice President), Global Real Estate and Facilities.

### **Microsoft to train 5000 govt employees on AI cloud**

**Microsoft India** launched a scheme to provide **5000 government employees** over the next year on AI (artificial intelligence) and cloud computing skills. The program, called '**Digital Governance Tech Tour**', will comprise of physical and virtual workshops.

The program was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, chief executive of NITI Aayog, the governments policy think-tank and Ajay Prakash Sawhney, secretary, MeITY (The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).

The program will be open to technocrats and IT professionals across the government, including employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The government partners as well as solutions/systems integrators. Under the program, developers can earn the AZ-900 Certification, which demonstrates foundational level cloud computing skills on the spot at no cost, after clearing an exam. The power of AI, cloud services, and data analytics needs to be brought to bear in core sectors for inclusive economic growth. As we move beyond pilots and understand how to scale AI implementation and cloud adoption across states and sectors, it is vital to equip the ecosystem with the right knowhow and skills.

Collaboration with academia and industry, and initiatives such as this will help build the foundation towards an AI enabled future. Microsoft India present at the event path-breaking innovation and drive the next phase of India's growth. Continuous focus on learning and improving skill sets for all are a must to make this a reality. Microsoft first-of-its-kind Digital Governance Tech Tour for government officials reiterates our commitment to be a trusted partner to the government by enabling and empowering officials to do more with technology in the service of the citizens.



## INTERNATIONAL

### Netherland banned face covering clothing including Burqa

Netherland has banned **face-covering clothing** including burqa and niqab which are worn by conservative Muslim women on public transport, in government buildings and at health and education institutions.

Netherland is the latest European country to introduce such a ban, following the likes of **France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Denmark**.

The affected sectors such as transport and health stated that they will not be able to take the responsibility of the laws enforcement. The Netherlands has imposed a fine of **150 euros** for breaking the law.

### US to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports

**President Donald Trump** has announced that the **US will impose** an additional **10% tariff on USD300 billion** in Chinese imports from **1 September**.

#### Us's accusation:

US accused China for not coming to the consensus about the **trade deal**. It also said that it failed to **buy more American agricultural products** as it promised.

#### About trade war:

The trade war between the two world's two largest economies, the US and China, has damaged the energy demand outlook greatly. The prolonged trade war has now started to affect the oil demand. US manufacturing activity has been slowed to a near 3 year low in the month of July.

The Oil drop has affected the US market greatly and the inventories fell by 1.5 million barrels between traders. The total oil demand of the US in May fell **98,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 20.26 million bpd**.

#### US status:

The Brent crude fell **\$3.85 or 5.9% to \$61.20 a barrel**. **US West Texas**

**Intermediate (WTI) crude** fell to \$4.09, or 7%, at \$54.49. US output remained near a record above 12 million bpd. This makes the country the biggest producer in the world.

**Texas output** rose by 16,000 bpd to 4.97 million bpd in May making it the largest producing state in US.

#### OPEC's efforts:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and partners including Russia has been taking efforts in 2019 to support the market.

### US officially withdraws from INF treaty

The **US** has officially withdrawn from the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) treaty with Russia**. The withdrawal has ended a Cold war-era missile treaty with Russia. This could start an arms race between the US and Russia, the world's top two nuclear powers.

#### Reason:

The US accused Russia of **violating the INF treaty's agreement** in recent years. The **withdrawal announcement** was made by the **US President Donald Trump**. Both the countries signed a deal to put a way to improve relations toward the end of the Cold War. During the **Obama administration in 2014**, Russia was accused of violating the agreement by testing a cruise missile in direct violation of the accord. In turn, Russia also said that the US has violated the agreement too. The US has denied the accusation.

#### Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF):

INF treaty is a **Nuclear disarmament type** of agreement. It was signed on **December 1987 in Washington D.C**. The agreements was signed by the US President **Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev**, the Soviet General Secretary with an Unlimited duration. The agreement prohibits both the countries from fielding ground-launched cruise missiles that could fly between **310 and 3,400 miles**. The treaty has been extremely successful in the destruction of a total of **2,692 missiles**.

### Iran unveils three new precision-guided missiles

Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles with the defence minister to defend itself in the face of US "viciousness and conspiracies". The new line-up of air-to-air missiles dubbed the "**Yasin**", "**Balaban**" and a new series of the "**Ghaem**" were developed jointly by the ministry and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries. Defence Minister Brigadier-General Amir Hatami belonged their launch as another significant achievement of power and dignity for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Great Satan America and its mercenaries defence ministry will not hesitate for a moment to defend the Islamic republic and to expand security. The Yasin was a smart, guided missile with folding wings that can be fired from a range of 50 kilometres (30 miles) of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft. The Balaban was guided by GPS and sensors equipped with folding wings and could be mounted under aircraft.

They have unveiled tensions between Iran and the US and its allies in the Strait of Hormuz linking oil-producing countries in the Middle East to markets in Asia, Europe and North America. The tensions arose after the US withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year and began stepping up a campaign of "maximum pressure" on the Islamic republic.

### Bangladesh signed an agreement with Russia for uranium supply

**Bangladesh** signed a nuclear fuel supply agreement with **Russia** for the **uranium supply of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP)**. The deal was signed between the **Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission** and **Russian Nuclear Fuel Supply Company TVEL** in Dhaka.

**Signed by:** BAEC Chairman Mahbulul Haque and the Russian firms commercial director and Fedor Sokolov signed the agreement in the presence of Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman.

The project was approved by the **Cabinet Division's Economic Affairs Committee**. The agreement says that the TVEL Joint Stock Company will supply fuel for the entire lifetime of the **2,400 MW RNPP project**.

#### About the Project:

The project duration of RNP will be believed to **50 years**. The fuel will be supplied to the country's maiden nuclear power plant at Rooppur under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna. The **first unit** of the RNPP is expected to come into **operation by 2022** and the second unit will be established by **2024**. The cost estimated by the Bangladesh government is **\$12.65 billion**.

### China condemns the rules unveiled by the U.S. that ban Huawei and other Chinese firms

**China** has condemned the **rules** unveiled by **the U.S.** that ban **Huawei and other Chinese firms** from government contracts. It also decried the U.S.'s abuse of state power in the latest move in the escalating **China-U.S. trade war**. The interim rule which was passed recently by the US govt. This will stop all the **US federal agency from purchasing** telecom or technology equipment from the **chinese firms**. The rule is a part of a sweeping effort by Washington to restrict Huawei.

The country also said that it is to support the relevant Chinese companies in taking up legal weapons to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests. The ban on Chinese tech firms comes after the dispute between the world's two great economic powers over international trade rules.

### US approves 12 multi mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea

The **US government** has approved the sale of **12 multi-mission Seahawk helicopters to South Korea** worth **\$800 million**. The announcement was made after the **US President Donald Trump** announced that South Korea had agreed to pay more for US military presence in their country.

The proposal will improve the **Republic of Korea Navys** capability to perform antisurface and anti-submarine warfare missions. The sale will assist the Republic of Korea in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

#### Seahawk Helicopters:

The helicopters are bolstered with an **anti-surface and anti-submarine** missions. This can handle the secondary missions like replenishment, search and rescue and communications relay.

#### Other sales:

Along with **\$800 million proposal** sale of helicopters, the country have also proposed sale including **13 APS-153(V) multi-mode radars**, 25 T-700-GE-401C engines, 4 M-240D crew-served guns, 4 GAU-21 crew-served guns, 12 Airborne Low Frequency Sonar systems, **24 embedded GPS and inertial navigation systems** with selective availability/anti-spoofing modules, and 1,000 AN / SSQ-36 / 53 / 62 sonobuoys, among other equipment.

#### About US and South Korea:

South Korea is one of the major political and economic powers in **East Asia**. **The alliance:** Since the **1950-53 Korean war**, the US and South Korea have been in a security alliance with more than **28,000 US troops stationed** in the South to guard against threats from North Korea.

#### Iran unveiled three precision guided missiles

Iran unveiled **three precision-guided missiles** with an aim to **defend itself in the face of US**. The missiles are new line-up of air-to-air missiles, dubbed the "**Yasin**", "**Balaban**" and a new series of "**Ghaem**". The missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics and Iran Electronics Industries.

The launch of the missiles shows another significant **achievement of power and dignity** for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

#### About Guided Missiles:

**Yasin** is a smart guided missile. It has been designed with folding wings. It can be fired from a range of **50 kilometres** of its target from manned or unmanned aircraft. **Balaban** missile was guided by GPS and sensors that equipped with folding wings. This particular missile could be **mounted under aircraft**.

**Ghaem** missile is used for **precision strikes**. It could hit within **50 centimeters** of a target. Ghaem missile is equipped with **different visible, thermal and cylindrical seekers**. Also, the missile can be installed on various drone, helicopters and fighter jets to annihilate their targets. It was **heat-seeking missile**.

#### Tension between Iran and US:

The tensions between the countries arose for the first time the US withdrew from a **2015 nuclear deal** between Iran and world powers. The tensions unveiled between Iran and the US is Strait of Hormuz that linking oil producing countries in the Middle East to markets in Asia, Europe and North America. The US ships have been targeted and attacked, drones have been downed and oil tankers has been seized in the strategic waters since May 2019.

#### N Korea rejects S Korea's pledge to unify the countries

North Korea's leader **Kim Jong-un** refused the pledge of the **South Korean President Moon Jae-in's** to unify the North and South Korea by **2045**. North Korea leader Kim Jong-un cited the reason for the loss of dialogue momentum was entirely the responsibility of South Korea.

#### North Korea's move:

North Korea also launched at least **two short-range projectiles** into the sea on **16 August**. The country has protested against joint **U.S.-South Korea military drills**. North Korea's actions have called the countries for war. It has also fired several short-range missiles since July. North Korea's new weapon has been seen as an attempt to pressure Washington and Seoul over slow nuclear negotiations and their joint military exercises.

#### North Korea:

**Type of Government:** Unitary one-party republic

**Leader:** Kim Jong-un, he is the Party Chairman and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission

**President of Assembly Presidium:** Choe Ryong-hae

**Capital:** Pyongyang

**Currency:** Korean People's won (₩)

**Official languages:** Korean

#### India contributes \$1 million to UN fund

India contributed **1 million** to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the **Resident Coordinator System**. The **Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF)** is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way.

The fund was established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system in a transparent and effective way.

#### Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF)

A UN Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the

reinvigorated RC system. The Fund is housed in the UN Secretariat and will be administered by the Office of the Controller in the Department of Management.

#### Qamar Javed Bajwas term extended as Pakistans Chief of Army Staff

**Pakistan** Prime Minister Office got a 3-year extension of **General Qamar Javed Bajwas** tenure as Chief of Army Staff. Bajwas original term to end in **November 2019**. He serves as Army chief for three years. He will remain as **Army chief** till November 2022.

#### Pakistan

**Capital:** Islamabad

**Currency:** Pakistani rupee

**Prime minister:** Imran Khan

#### US test fired a new ground based cruise missile

The **United States** tested a **new ground-based cruise missile** that is capable covering **500 kilometers** in the range at **San Nicolas Island, California, and the US**. This range of missiles was banned in the **Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF)** treaty signed between the US and Russia. This is the first missile test done by the US after withdrawing from the INF treaty.

Also, the US has said that the Country will fully pursue the development of groundlaunched conventional missiles of such kind as a prudent response to Russia's actions and as part of the joint forces broader portfolio of conventional strike options.

The United States **exited** the INF treaty on **2 August 2019**. The country earlier announced its decision to withdraw from INF treaty in 2018 as it said that the treaty **no longer benefited American interests**.

#### Saudi Arabia allows women to travel abroad without permission from male guardian

Indian Coast Guard and the **Sri Lanka Coast Guard** under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation. A four-member delegation of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard led by its DG **Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge** Director General (DG). Both sides agreed to strengthen the cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea.

Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual cooperation in the multilateral forums discussed and agreed by both sides.

#### Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia began implementing a landmark reform allowing women over the age of 21 to receive passports and travel abroad without permission from a male "guardian", authorities. The reform weakens the restrictive guardianship system that has long been a symbol of repression against women. The passport department started receiving applications for women aged 21 and above to issue or renew passports and to travel outside the kingdom without permission. The reform comes after high-profile attempts by women to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite a string of reforms by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The landmark last year that overturned the world's ban on women drivers. Saudi women granted the right to officially register childbirth, marriage or divorce and to be recognized as a guardian to children. The reforms were widely celebrated in the kingdom drew backlash from archconservatives, many of whom shared old video sermons on social media by Saudi clerics advocating guardianship laws.

#### Iceland commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change

**Iceland** marked its first-ever loss of a glacier to climate change. Icelands Okjokull glacier. The people commemorated with a **plaque** - An ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event.

The plaque ceremony attended by scientists and locals at the Okjokull glacier in west-central Iceland to fulfill the criteria to be classified as a glacier after melting throughout the 20th century.

The plaque bears the inscription **A letter to the future**. Glaciologists stripped Okjokull of its glacier status in 2014, a first for Iceland, as the glacier ice

covered that 16 square kilometres but by 2012, measured just 0.7 square kilometres in 2017.

#### **Iceland**

**Capital-** Reykjavk.

**Currency-** Icelandic krna.

**President-** Guni Thorlacius Jhannesson.

#### **APG might blacklist Pakistan**

The **Asia-Pacific Group (APG)**, might **blacklist Pakistan** in the meeting that is held in **Canberra, Australia**, on 25 August. Pakistan has already been greylisted by the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** at its plenary session. If APG blacklist Pakistan and place the country under 'Enhanced Expedited Follow Up' status, Pakistan's effort to release itself from FATF's greylist will be at stake. FATF greylist deals with countering terror-financing and money-laundering. The APG meeting began on **August 18, 2019**. The meeting reviewed Pakistan's behavior on building anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) safeguards in the past 5 years. It completed a third evaluation (MER) and the results were found wholly inadequate.

#### **Asia-Pacific Group (APG):**

APG was formed in **1997 in Bangkok, Thailand**. It aims to combat **money laundering and terrorism financing**. There is **41 member** jurisdiction under APG. The Deputy Commissioner Leanne Close and Mr. Abu Hena Mohd. Razez Hassan **co-chair APG**.

#### **US hold talks with Afghan**

The **United States and the Taliban** have resumed negotiations on **24th August to end America's longest war**. The U.S. troops have been in Afghanistan for almost **18 years**. The talks resumed in **Qatar**. They earlier announced that both the teams are close to signing a deal.

But it is feared that the Taliban fighters who reject a deal with the U.S. could migrate to other militant groups such as the brutal local affiliate of the **Islamic State group**.

#### **Previous talks:**

In the past years, the U.S. and the Taliban have held **eight previous rounds** of negotiations on various issues that include a U.S. troop withdrawal, a cease-fire, intra-Afghan negotiations to follow and Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan will not be a launchpad for global terror attacks.

#### **Iran unveiled Bavar 373 system**

Iran has unveiled the **Bavar-373 system**, a defence missile system, on 22 August. The missile was unveiled by **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani** on **Iran's National Defense Industry Day**. The country has developed a large domestic arms industry despite several international sanctions and barring it from importing many weapons.

#### **Bavar-373 system:**

**Bavar-373 system** is an indigenous **long-range, surface-to-air missile air** defense system. The missile is capable of targeting planes at more than 300 km, lock it at about 250 km and shooting down targets at a distance of **200 km**. This missile is a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system.

#### **Iran and the US:**

Iran has introduced the system amidst the rising tension between Iran and the United States. Earlier, in the month of June, Iran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone with a surface-to-air missile in the Gulf.

#### **PM Modi inaugurated Shreenathji Temple in Bahrain**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **\$4.2 million** improvement project on **Shreenathji Temple** and offered prayers.

#### **Shreenathji Temple:**

It is a 200-year-old **Lord Sri Krishna avatar temple** in Manama, **Bahrain**. It is the oldest temple with a land measure of 16,500 sq. feet and a new four-floor structure covering **45,000 sq. feet** with an overall height of 30m civilized with the qualities of peace, faith. The temple has **80% more capacity** to host devotees. The temple mainly has facilities for **ancient Hindu wedding ceremonies** and **different rituals**, promoting Bahrain as a marriage destination and boosting tourism. The temple corridors are adorned with paintings by varied Indian and Bahraini artists and folks of all faiths area unit

welcome. Around **3,50,000 Indian nationals** live in Bahrain. The Indian community comprises a **3rd of Bahrain's total population** of 1.2 million.





## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### Kaleshwaram project secures Hyderabad's water supply for the future

Hyderabad is facing any such issues in the foreseeable future even if there is low rainfall, all thanks to the **Telangana governments** massive 80,190 crore **Kaleshwaram** lift irrigation project launched in June.

The **Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB)** supplies 462 million gallons per day (MGD) to the capital city from the Krishna (phase 1, 2 and 3) and Godavari (phase-1) projects, and the Osmansagar, and Himayat Sagar reservoirs. The two reservoirs put supply just 40 MGD of water. They were built close to a century ago to supply water to the city. The Kaleshwaram project, the state government set aside 30 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water, out of the total 225 TMC will be drawn in total through it (mainly for irrigation purposes) for Hyderabad alone (10 TMC roughly equals 170 MGD). The city's water supply has in fact gone up from the earlier 356 MGD that was being supplied. The **Godavari** and **Krishna** sources are very reliable. There are about **225 TMC** of water will be drawn through the Kaleshwaram project from the Godavari river basin once it is fully operational. The project involves building reservoirs at various places, is expected to irrigate **18.24 lakh acres** of land in the state with 165 TMC of water.

### CCD appoints SV Ranganath as interim chairman

**Cafe Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd** appointed **SV Ranganath** as interim chairman after the sudden death of its founder **VG Siddhartha**. Coffee Day also named **Nitin Bagmane** as interim chief operating officer (COO) approval by the board.

#### Death of VG Siddhartha:

Siddhartha, owner of Cafe Coffee Day was found on the banks of the Nethravathi river near Mangalore. His body was found after a massive 36-hour search operation. The reason for his death was stated as tremendous pressure from lenders and some private equity players. The I-T department attached his shares in Coffee Day Enterprises, which resulted in a serious liquidity crunch for the firm.

#### Cafe Coffee Day:

The Cafe Coffee Day is an **Indian chain coffee** owned by coffee day global Ltd. It is headquartered in **Bengaluru**.

### Postal department decides to convert India Post Payments Bank to a SFB

The postal department decided to convert the **India Post Payments Bank** into a **small finance bank** It is enabling it to offer small loans to customers. The department looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days. The decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference. The conference held at Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir from July 29-31, 2019. The main aim is to adopt a 100-day action plan and a five-year vision to align the Department of Posts with the Prime Minister's New India initiative. The decision included "**Converting the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) **Main Aim:** To provide micro-credit at the doorsteps to individuals and SME's. Targeting the milestone of one crore accounts for IPPB in 100 days" among several other steps. India Post will partner with Common Service Centre to provide a suite of citizen-centric services such as banking, remittance, insurance, DBT, bill and tax payments, etc at post offices. The postal department decided to develop infrastructure to extend the reach of the e-commerce industry to tier 2 and 3 towns as well as to rural areas by investing in **190 parcel hubs, 80 Nodal Delivery Centers** and a Pan India Road Transport Network.

### Ministry of Finance to conduct India's first national Time Release Study for efficient trade flow

The **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance** plans to conduct India's first national **Time Release Study (TRS)** between 1st and 7th August, 2019. The study is a part of the department's strategic commitment to improve the global trade.

#### Time Release Study (TRS):

The TRS is an internationally recognized tool to measure the efficiency of the international trade flows. It is advocated by the **World Customs Organization**.

#### Aim:

The exercise aims to identify and remove the obstacles that are present in the trade flow. The exercise will benefit from the export oriented industry and the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**.

#### Analysis:

The national TRS will establish baseline performance measurement. It will also standardize the operations and procedures across all ports. The Ministry will conduct the exercise across 15 ports, including sea, air, land and dry ports at the same time. The ports cumulatively account for **81% of total Bills of Entries** for import and **67% of Shipping Bills** for export filed within India. Depending on the results of the TRS, government agencies associated with cross border trade will diagnose the existing and potential bottlenecks that are barriers to the free flow of trade. The government will take remedial actions for reducing the cargo release time.

### India to become Open Defecation Free, thanks to Swachh Bharat Mission

Upon the successful implementation of **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)**, rural India is to become **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** by 2 October, 2019.

#### Swachh Bharat Mission :

The Swachh Bharat Mission is pan India campaign plan to clean India by streets, roads, cities, towns. The mission aimed to clean during a period of 2014-2019. Swachh Bharat mission is one of the **largest cleanliness drives** in the world. It is an attempt introduced by the NDA-led government to initiate behavioural change.

#### Implementation of the Mission:

Centre is to expand the Swachh Bharat mission to undertake sustainable solid waste management in every village, harnessing the latest technology. Under SBM, **9.6 crore toilets** have been constructed since October 2, 2014. Nearly, 5.6 lakh villages have become open defecation free.

Under the mission, the 99.2% of rural India has been covered since 2014. 564,658 villages have been declared open-defecation free (ODF). As on 14 June 2019, 30 States and Union Territories are 100 per cent covered with an **individual household latrine (IHHL)**. The SBM has significantly improved health outcomes Benefits: The SB mission has also helped reduce diarrhea and malaria among children below five years, stillbirth and low birth weight (newborn with weight less than 2.5 kgs).

### PM chaired the 30th PRAGATI interaction

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** headed the **30th PRAGATI platform interaction** in New Delhi. **PRAGATI** is the **Information and communications technology (ICT)- based**, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation. In the second term of the NDA government, this is the first PRAGATI interaction. In the session, PM reviewed the progress in the resolution of grievances under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**. Modi urged the officers in charge to achieve the government's objective of providing **Housing for All by 2022**. He also suggested improvements under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. PM also reviewed the progress of **eight important infrastructure projects** in the **railway and road sectors**. The infrastructure projects are being implemented across several states of India including Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.

### GST collection surpasses the Rs.1 lakh crore mark in July

**GST collection** in July surpassed the **Rs.1 lakh crore mark** after a slump in the **June month**. Centre's data reported that the **total disposal** under **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** was reported to be **Rs.1.02 lakh crore** in July 2019.

#### Growth in GST collection:

In July, the GST collection in a year-on-year growth of **5.8%** over the revenue of Rs.96,483 crore was reported. The **Central government** collected **Rs.17,912 crore** and the **States collected Rs.25,008 crore**. The inter-state sales receipts from integrated GST (IGST) was **Rs.50,612 crore** and from GST cess stood at Rs.8,551 crore.

Central and states collected and average Rs.93,114 crore a month last fiscal against a Rs.1 trillion combined monthly target.

#### GST:

GST is an **indirect tax** introduced in India on supply of goods and services. It is a comprehensive multistage, destination based tax. GST replaces all the indirect taxes levied by **Central and State Governments**.

#### Union Government offers easy credit access to boost growth

Finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** started the process of rolling out a slew of measures to boost industry's access to credit, including opening a **10,000 crore liquidity** window for home financiers. She will meet chiefs of all state-run to discuss issues related to credit growth in key segments of the economy, including automobile, retail, small businesses, affordable housing, and non-banking financial companies and housing finance companies (HFCs). She decided to discuss priority areas for the banking sector in the coming months for accelerating gross domestic product growth. The minister will also meet representatives of key ministries handling micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), electronics and information technology, rural development, and commerce next week to find ways to implement over 100 recommendations by a panel led by former Securities and Exchange Board of India.

#### Finance Ministry - Infusion

The finance ministry is determined to tackle the liquidity crunch affecting the housing finance sector. A liquidity infusion of 10,000 crore for housing financiers is being made available from Friday for lending to individuals looking to purchase affordable homes. The ministry endorsed the Reserve Bank of India's suggestions on how to implement Sitharaman's budget proposal for providing partial credit guarantee to state-run banks buying pooled assets of non-bank finance lenders. The idea is to ensure that financially sound shadow banking entities should not struggle for funds. Experts welcomed the decision to take more measures to improve access to credit for businesses. This is one short-term measure that is very much needed, which will help the economy. Another short-term measure that is needed is to get all government departments on board in framing policy responses to economic issues that will improve efficiency in the system and help lower the cost of doing business. The announcements imply that the National Democratic Alliance administration is shifting gears to decisively address an economic downturn that could come in the way of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of building a \$5-trillion economy over the next few years. The sobering trend seen in India's economic indicators coincide with worries over a global recession amid an escalating US-China trade war that threatens business confidence. Official data earlier this week showed that output of the eight infrastructure sectors in India, which constitute over 40% of the index of industrial production, remained almost flat in June.

The economy, which expanded at 8% in the first quarter of FY19, subsequently slowed down to a five-year low of 5.8% in the quarter ended March 2019 resulting in 6.8% growth for the full financial year. The Parliament recently cleared amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to enable quick decisionmaking among creditors of bankrupt companies and to reduce the time lost in litigation.

#### Indiabulls Housing Finance to buy back bonds worth up to \$50 mn

**Indiabulls Housing Finance** will buy back bonds worth up to \$50 million. The value is around 348 crores. It is a part of its \$1.5 billion bond programme. The company did a buyback of up to \$50 million of the \$350 million 6.375 per cent notes issued by the company. The buyback is part of the company's \$1.5 billion (around 10,398 crore) secured euro medium-term note programme. The buyback did upon receipt of necessary regulatory approval. The stock of Indiabulls Housing was trading 1.02 per cent down at 516.35 on the BSE.

#### Indiabulls Housing Finance

It is a mortgage lender which is headquartered in New Delhi, India. It is India's second-largest housing finance company and is regulated by the National Housing Bank. It is part of Sameer Gehlaut's Indiabulls group and contributes approximately 80% of the group's turnover.

**Headquarters:** Gurugram

**Founded:** 2005

#### UGC recommends 20 educational centres for status of Institutions of Eminence

**University Grants Commission (UGC)** released a list of **20 institutes**. There are 10 public and 10 private for the grant of the status of Institutions of Eminence (IoE). The institutions which are given IoE status from public category includes, Delhi University, BHU, Hyderabad University and IIT Madras and Kharagpur. The UGC made the recommendations on the report of the Empowered Expert Committee set up by the government under the chairmanship of N Gopalaswami. Jadavpur University and Anna University can be considered for issue of the IoE status only after the respective State Governments have issued an official communication allocating their share of the funds (up to 50%).

#### Institute of Eminence scheme

The Institute of Eminence scheme aimed at developing 20 world-class institutions which would put India on the global education map. Those selected will be given greater autonomy and freedom to decide fees, course durations and governance structures. The public institutions will also receive a government grant of 1,000 crore, while the private institutions will not get any funding under the scheme. The Gopalaswami panel initially recommended 11 institutions for the tag in July 2018. The Centre accepted six recommendations IITs Delhi and Bombay, IISc Bangalore, BITS Pilani, Manipal University, and the yet-to-open Jio University. In December, the committee recommended 19 more names and asked the UGC to consider all 30 for the tag. The Ministry of Human Resource Developments decision to limit the scheme to the original 20 institutions.

#### NITI Aayog approves JV to acquire minerals needed for Electric Vehicles

**NITI Aayog** has approved the proposal for **joint venture** between **National Aluminium Company (Nalco), Hindustan Copper (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.** and foreign companies. The plan is to acquire **foreign reserves of strategic minerals** like lithium and cobalt to power the country's electric vehicles has moved a step closer. Therefore, the three state-owned metal and mining companies are set to form a joint venture to buy on minerals.

#### Aim:

India has set a target to achieve an **all-electric vehicle** fleet by **2030**. The Union Ministry of Mines has already directed three state-owned companies to aggressively look for reserves of lithium and cobalt mines.

To attain the target, mining companies like **Nalco, HCL and MECL** have partnered with a German consultancy for the project. This partnership is to guide them on prospective reserves and also foreign government rules and regulations. Discussions are on, to achieve India's target on cobalt and lithium mines as soon. **Note: Argentina, Bolivia and Chile** are the countries which have the best reserves of lithium and cobalt in the world.

**Uses: Lithium, and cobalt** are used to manufacture **batteries for electric vehicles** in addition to other minerals like tungsten, nickel and rare earths.

#### Centre is to prepare National Population Register by 2020 September

**Centre** has decided to prepare a **National Population Register (NPR)** by **September 2020** across the country. The collection of information of **all citizens** who are residing within the jurisdiction of local registrar, **except Assam**, will be undertaken between the **1st day of April, 2020 to 30th September, 2020**. The notification regarding NPR was issued by Vivek Joshi, Registrar General of Citizen Registration and Census Commissioner.

#### Aim:

The move aims to lay the foundation for **pan-India National Register Citizens (NRC)**. Registering in the NPR is mandatory for every usual resident of India. NPR aims to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. All the **demographic** and **biometric particulars** will be contained in the database.

#### National Population Register (NPR):

NPR is generally a register of usual residents of the country. For the entry of NPR, a usual resident can be defined as a person who has resided or intent to live in a local area for past six months or more.

Under the provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the sub-rule(4) of rule 3 of the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**, the NPR will be prepared at the village and the sub-town

level, subdistrict, district, state and national level. The Centre has made it **compulsory** that every usual resident of India must register in the NPR.

#### India's Naaz Joshi won Miss World Diversity 2019

**Naaz Joshi** made the country proud with a third successive victory in the beauty pageant **Miss World Diversity**. She competed against **14 other international contestants** in Mauritius.

She dressed up in blue lehenga and choli and portrayed herself as the powerful Indian Goddess, who stands for 'shakti' - the feminine source of power and women empowerment.

She is a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. She was sent to her relative's house in Mumbai.

#### Rajasthan government launches new higher education model named RACE

A new higher education model launched in **Rajasthan** for distribution of faculties and movable assets among the government colleges at the district level to rationalize the availability of resources. The model will create a pool for sharing of facilities will benefit the colleges lacking infrastructure. Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati inaugurated the model, titled Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence in the presence of principals of colleges. All the colleges would get equal opportunities for imparting quality education with the adoption of the new model. The colleges will submit their requirements to the nodal college in the district will send the teachers on deputation. The model will help the colleges situated in small towns facing a shortage of faculties and infrastructure. The sanctioned posts of teachers in the government colleges are 6,500, the State at present falls short by about 2,000 teachers. The additional posts are created and new appointments made the RACE is expected to help channelize resources and ensure quality education. He is instrumental in conducting the first-of-its-kind examination without invigilators in all the 237 government colleges across the State to be an initiative rendering academic assistance to the students and make the institutions of higher learning accountable to the society.

#### Rajasthan

**Chief minister:** Ashok Gehlot

**Capital:** Jaipur

#### Centre sets target to reduce HIV cases 20,000 per year

The **Union of Health Ministry** has introduced its target to bring down incidence of **HIV/AIDS by 20,000 per year** for the **next two years**. The plan also includes reaching out to targeted areas like in prisons and women remand homes as cases in these places are much higher as compared to the general population.

#### NACO's report:

**National Aids Control Organization (NACO)** survey reported that there are about **2.1 million HIV infected patients** in the country but only **1.3 million are registered with Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) centres** and getting the treatment. The report also said that some people don't come out openly for the treatment. **Modus Operandi of the Centre:**

NACO's report tells that during the 2016-17 period there were about **184,092 HIV positive general individuals**. By taking some special actions the number got reduced to around **80,955 in 2017-18 (till August 2017)**. By increasing the number of ART centres, the government will identify the patients and get them **adequate treatment** to further reduce the burden of the disease. So far, the Central government has **540 ART centres** across the nation. The Ministry has directed special programs to all **private and government medical colleges** to operationalise on ART centres in their respective institutes for the treatment of HIV patients.

#### India's first underwater train project will soon be operational

**India's first underwater train project in Kolkata under the Hugli river** is about to be completed. Union Railways Minister, **Piyush Goyal** announced that the metro will soon be operational. This train will be an example for the proof of the **progress made by Indian Railways**. This train aims to bring ease to the people of Kolkata and pride to the people of India.

#### About the Project:

The Kolkata Metro project is a **16-kilometre long** will connect Salt Sector 5 with Howrah Maidan. The phase-one of the project connecting **Salt Lake Sector-5 to Salt Lake Stadium** will soon be ready for its operation. It has been

provided with four-layers of protection to shield the tunnel from the water of Hubli river.

#### Third International EV Conclave held in Manesar

The **third International Electric Vehicle Conclave** was held at the **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** in Manesar, Haryana. The aim of the Conclave was to create a knowledge sharing platform in the automotive sector. It also ensured the flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.

#### Organised by:

The conclave was organized by ICAT in association with India **Energy Storage Alliance**. The conclave focused on new trends and challenges in the field of electric mobility.

#### Participants:

More than 200 delegates from more than 80 organizations participated in the conclave. The next Conclave is to be organized in July 2020.

#### Manipur tops the Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country

**Manipur** has topped the rankings in **Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices** in the country. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan released a report on **Breastfeeding** in New Delhi. **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar** are at the bottom positions of the report card. National capital Delhi is also among the worst-performing States. The Breastfeeding report card has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for six months and complimentary feeding at 6-8 months of child's age.

#### BPNI:

The **Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)** seeks to enhance **nutrition, health and development of infants and young children** through programmes designed to increase national and state commitments, education of public and health care workers about breastfeeding. The **45% children died** due to undernutrition effects. The Breastfeeding Improves the child's IQ level. The benefit of Breastfeeding not only saves child but also saves the mother from **breast cancer and ovarian cancer**.

#### Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Punjab sets record

**Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum** in Punjab's Anandpur Sahib town is to find a place in the Asia Book of Records. It is the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent in a single day.

The museum witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20. Virasat-e-Khalsa is a museum of Sikhism, located in the holy town, Anandpur Sahib Chandigarh.

#### Rajnath Singh approves Child Care Leave for Male Service Personnel in Defence Forces

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** approved extending benefits of childcare leave to single male service personnel. The decision is in sync with an order by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**. The decision is in sync with an order by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**. The minister gave his nod for giving certain relaxation in childcare leave (CCLNSE 1.31 %) provisions in case of women officers in defence forces. The **CCL** is granted only to women officers in defence forces. Recently, DoPT has made certain amendments to allow CCL to civilian employees whereby the CCL granted to woman employees till now has been extended to the single male government. The age limit of 22 years prescribed earlier in the case of a child with 40 per cent disability has been removed for the purpose of availing CCL. Further, the minimum period of CCL that can be availed at a time has been reduced to 05 days instead of 15 days. The single male service personnel will be able to avail the benefit of CCL. Single male service personnel and woman officers of defence forces will also be able to avail CCL in respect of child with 40 per cent disability without any restriction of age limit for the child. Further, the minimum period of CCL that can be availed in each spell has been reduced to five days from the earlier limit of 15 days officials.



### UP govt creates world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in one day on 77th anniversary of the Quit India Movement

**Uttar Pradesh(UP)** chief minister(CM) Yogi Adityanath launched the mega greenery plantation drive called **Vriksharopan Mahakumbh** sets a world record by planting over 22 crore saplings in a day.

The state entered the Guinness World Records for distributing **76,823 saplings** simultaneously in six hours across the state. The first record made for planting Five crore saplings in the first hour i.e. from 9 am to 10 am. The 2nd record was made for planting 1.1 lakh saplings in Kasganj in presence of UP governor, Anandi Ben Patel. The 3rd record was made in Prayagraj for distribution of a record of 66,000 saplings at the same place in a certain time frame and the 4th record was made for planting 22 crore saplings in a day. The state announced to plant 25 crore saplings in the Van Mahotsav in 2020. Adityanath unveiled the logo of **Vriksharopan Mahakumbh** and handed saplings of Sahjan (Drumstick) to 5 rural women. The CM launched the drive by planting Harishankari, a combination of three sacred trees (peepul, pakar and banyan) at Jaitikheda area in Lucknow.

### Draft Agricultural policy released by Odisha government

The Odisha government released a **Draft Agricultural Policy 2019** for the agriculture sector and to focus on increasing the income of farmers. **Main Aim:** To strengthen the social as well as the economic well-being of the farmers, sharecroppers and landless laborers. The Proper use of resources and opportunities with advanced technologies available to contribute to the farmers wellbeing. There are about 50,000 single landless women in Odisha. These women will be specially targeted in this draft policy scheme for economic development. The draft policy have 8 specific strategies. They are leveraging science and technology, adoption to climate change, markets, higher productivity, infrastructure, diversification, skilling and strengthening institutions. The agricultural policy implemented in Odisha was in the year 2016.

The year witnessed production of food grains by producing 117 lakh MT (Metric Tonne) for 2016-2017. The rate of the monthly income of the farmers grew the fastest between 2002-03 and 2015-16 where the average monthly income of a farmer of Odisha increased from 1,062 to 7,731. This indicated a growth of 16.5% against the national growth of 11.7%. The other previous scheme is Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme was launched in December 2018. This scheme is being extended for another five years.

### Maharashtra seeks Rs.3000 crore as monetary assistance from the Centre

The **Maharashtra government** has sought **Rs.3,000 crore** package as assistance from the Centre before the final review of the inter-ministerial committee on disaster management on assessment of the damage caused by the flood. Earlier, Karnataka State has sought **Rs.3000 crore** for interim flood relief. The **State's Relief and Rehabilitation, and Revenue department officials** will assess the losses in the western Maharashtra from 70 talukas of Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, Thane, Nasik, Palghar, Ratnagiri, Raigad and Sindhudurg districts. The Cabinet will review the States proposal.

In Maharashtra the crop destruction alone will be more than **Rs.125 crore** and around **27,468 hectare** of agriculture land has been completely destroyed.

### Karnataka:

Earlier, the **Karnataka State govt.** has sought **Rs.3,000 crore** as monetary assistance from the Centre. Karnatakas assessment of damages are based on losses in 2,694 villages in 86 talukas of 17 districts.

### Two Day exhibition on DAE Technologies inaugurated in New Delhi

The **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, Government of India, is organizing a two-day exhibition on DAE spin-off technologies for non-power applications. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Shri Rakesh Gupta. The exhibition is open to the public for two days (Aug 11-12, 2019).

The exhibition is covering technologies developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore and other Units of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are useful for the common man.

### Health Sector :

In health sector there are three segments i) Development of Radio Pharmaceuticals ii) Production & Distribution iii) its implementation for diagnosis and therapeutic application. The treatment of Cancer is managed by Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), a fully autonomous aided institution of DAE, provides comprehensive treatment to cancer patients. Medical devices for Tele-ECG, Bhabhatron- A Radiation teletherapy machine, screening of TB and Cancer are on display.

### Agriculture sector:

DAE has developed 44 high yielding seed varieties by inducing mutations to suit local weather conditions across the country. DAE has also developed technologies of fertilizer production from bio-sludge and encourages organic farming. The disease resistant, low maturity period and high yielding crops have been well accepted by the farmers. Rural technologies are also being made available to rural youth through AKRUTI programme.

DAE developed technologies for clean water to fulfill departmental requirements and as spin-off developed many techniques which finds applications in ultrafiltration membrane. RO membrane, multistage flash evaporation and water hydrology based on radiotracers. Low cost water filters for removal of all contamination from drinking water have been displayed.

### Environment Sector

DAE technologies are findings lot of applications for Swachh Bharat Mission where bio methanation Urban Sludge Hygienization technologies are being deployed across the country. Nisargruna plant is a bio- Methanation plant for digesting kitchen food waste and green vegetable wastes from agriculture markets to Methane gas which can be used for cooking/generating electricity or even for running biogas vehicles.

### Centre to start special hospitals with Indian Medicines in 150 districts

**Ministry of AYUSH** plans to start **Special hospitals offering Indian Systems of Medicines** like Siddha and Ayurveda in 150 districts across the country. The announcement was made by Union Minister of State for AYUSH **Shri Sripad Yesso Naik** in the inauguration of the **Ayurveda medical College in Vellore, Tamilnadu** on 12 August.

### Research institutes and courses:

Research institutes will be started in various parts of the country with an aim to **encourage research into Indian Medicine systems**. The ministry announced a six months course in basic medicine. This course has been started with the intention of providing basic healthcare in rural areas.

### Ministry of AYUSH:

**AYUSH - Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy** The Ministry was founded on **9 November 2014**. It is headquartered at **New Delhi**. The Minister responsible is **Shripad Naik (MOS independent charge)** The Ministry is responsible for developing, education and research in the field of alternative medicines including ayurveda, yoga, unani, naturopathy, siddha and homoeopathy.

### Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal lead a delegation to Vladivostok, Russia

Commerce and Industry Minister, **Mr Piyush Goyal** tried to enhance trade and investment from India to the Far East region of Russia at Vladivostok, Russia from August 11-13, 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 5th edition of the Eastern Economic Forum in September 2019. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the guest of honor. The event was the result of a collaboration between Invest India and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** and the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic under the leadership of Alexander Kozlov. The delegation included the Chief Ministers of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh About **200 Russian companies**, Investment Agencies and Funds took part from the Russian side.

### Indian Delegation

The Indian delegation included more than 125 representatives from business stakeholders interacted with Russian counterparts on opportunities in the mining and processing of diamonds and other rare metals, railways, agriculture, fisheries and food processing, oil and gas, forestry and timber, coal and power, ceramics, tourism, shipbuilding, technical education.

The achievement of Trade target of \$30 billion by 2025. The Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed in the areas of trade, economy, investment, scientific and technical cooperation by India & Russia.

An MoU signed between Amity University and Far East Federal University to enhance relations and develop academic and cultural exchange in the areas of education and research.

The MoU on skill development was signed between **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and Far East Investment and Export Agency. The metals, rare-earths, and fisheries with the representatives of both countries. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath on collaboration in the field of agriculture, renewable energy, and food processing. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani spoke in particular of the possibilities of collaboration in gold and diamond mining, and application of the latest technology for utilization of natural resources.

#### **Doordarshan channel produced a patriotic song Watan**

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister released a patriotic song **Watan**. The main aim is to mark the occasion of Independence Day, 2019. The song is sung by singer **Javed Ali**, penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and musically composed by Dushyant. The patriotic song is produced by Doordarshan. The main song highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government including the determination and vision behind the recent successful launch of **Chandrayaan 2**. The song pays tribute to the bravery and valour of our armed forces and the martyrs of the country.

The song is currently available on all the stations and kendras of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Doordarshan promoted a song called **Mile Sur Mera Tumhara** with an accompanying video propagating national integration and unity in diversity. Featuring celebrities like Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Sharmila Tagore, Mallika Sarabhai, Hema Malini, Tanuja, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and several others, it saw a recreated version in 2010 with an updated cast and titled as Phir Mile Sur Mera Tumhara. Mile Sur Mera Tumhara was about celebrating unity in diversity whereas the new song is about the aspirations of New India, centered on its courage, valor and the promise we make to our country to take it to greater heights and do things to make it the best.

#### **Priyam Chatterjee becomes first Indian chef to receive Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto**

**Government of France** conferred the Indian Chef Priyam Chatterjee with Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto in New Delhi. Chatterjee becomes the first Indian from Kolkata to receive this honor in recognition of his great contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India. French Ambassador to India Alexander Ziegler conferred Indian chef Chatterjee. He is currently the head chef at Jaan Restaurant Yacht in France, before that he was the head chef of Rooh, and Qla, in Mehrauli (France). He is popularly known for traditional dishes of West Bengal **Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto** :

The award instituted in the year 1883, is a distinction by the French Republic for outstanding contributions, among others, to agriculture, agro-food industry, and gastronomy.

#### **BCI imposed 3 years ban on opening new law colleges**

The **Bar Council of India (BCI)** imposed a temporary **ban of 3 years on opening new law colleges**. The moratorium will be exceptional to the National Law University that are proposed by a government in a State where there is no such varsity. BCI also said that it can open any model institution of Legal Education, like the National Law School of India University it opened in Bengaluru. BCI requested all the **State governments and varsities to stop unfair means** and ensure that vacancies of law teachers in all the colleges are filled within four months.

The Council also said that it will consider the pending proposals only and no fresh application would be entertained for any new institution. It also plans to **improve the standard of teaching** by training law teachers in the country.

#### **Reason:**

There are about **1,500 law college** in all parts of the country for the law courts. Many institutions lack infrastructure and chronic teaching vacancies.

#### **RPF launched Operation Number Plate**

**Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways** launched **Operation Number Plate**, a Special Drive to curb **unidentified vehicles**. The operation was launched under the direction of DG/RPF, **Sh.Arun Kumar**. All Local Police and Commercial Department of Railways showed their active interest in the operation.

#### **Aim:**

The **unidentified vehicles pose a serious threat to the security** and safety of passengers and other stake holders of railway. RPF will identify and verify all vehicles parked in Railway premises, circulating area, parkings and even in the No Parking areas for longer duration. The drive was conducted from 9th August to 11th August at **466 Railway Stations** all over Indian Railways. A penalty of **Rs.59000** have been recovered as the charges for unauthorized parking and 549 vehicles were towed away. All RPF and Zonal Railways were instructed to continue the activity looking into threats related to security of Railways.

#### **Centre to institute MV accident fund**

Centre plans to institute a **Motor Vehicle (MV) Accident Fund**, a relief fund to victims of road accidents. The announcement comes after passing the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act on 9 August**.

#### **MV accident Fund:**

The act says that the centre will provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in the country. The accident fund will be used for treatment of road accident victims or compensation to relatives in case of death by road accident under the sections of **MV amendment act 161 and 162**. The maximum liability amount to be paid in each case will be prescribed by the Centre.

#### **Fund managed by:**

The MV Accident fund will be managed by an authority or agency who is **appointed by the Centre**. The agency will have high knowledge of insurance business of the agency, capability of the agency to manage funds and any other criteria fixed by the government. **Comptroller and Auditor General of India** will audit the fund in regular intervals.

#### **Assam Golden Butterfly tea variety auctioned for Rs.75,000 at GTAC**

In Assam, a kilogram of **Golden Butterfly tea** struck gold at the **Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC)** as it was sold at **Rs.75,000**. This is a new international record bettering the previous high of **Rs.70,501 per kg**. **Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC)** said that the growing demand for speciality tea helped the Golden Butterfly tea surpass the earlier record by **Rs.4,499**. The hand-crafted tea was made from tender leaves and buds available only around June-July. It was produced by Dikom Tea Estate near eastern Assams Dibrugarh town.

#### **Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC):**

The GTAC is a centre for showcasing high-priced **Assam speciality tea** and provided an opportunity to sellers who want to **sell their tea at remunerative prices**. GTAC auction centre has created an image of a place where records are meant to be broken and history.

GTAC witnessed two big records in July with orthodox variety '**Maijan Golden Tips**' fetched a price of Rs.70,501 per kg. **Manohari Gold** is another specialty orthodox tea variety was sold One kilogram at **Rs.50,000**.

#### **Karnataka government launches E-Step, a programme for student entrepreneurs**

The Department of IT, BT and S&T in Karnataka through **Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)** launched the **E-step**. The main aim is to promote an initiative to empower student start-ups. The E-Step focuses on boot camps, mentoring and training programmes which cover various aspects of entrepreneurship. E-Step, an initiative from Start-up Cell, is specially crafted for students/start-ups/entrepreneurs to understand the basics of entrepreneurship from experienced trainers.

In the first phase, a day-long boot camp across New Age Incubation Networks (NAIN) organised. The Boot camps will be held at 30 colleges between August 12 and September 14 in Mandya, Chikkaballapura, Tumakuru, Hassan,

Dakshina Kannada, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Ballari, Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Kalaburgi and Bidar.

### Karnataka Government

The Karnataka government is to instil the spirit of entrepreneurship and E-Step is one such initiative where we identify and groom young talent. There are around 2,499 students between the age group of 18 and 26 have registered, and almost 50 per cent off them are female participants. The boot camp gives participants an overview of the current start-up system. It also acts as a platform for ideation where teams will work on various ideas based on problems, solutions, competitors and customers. They will also work on product design and marketing. There will also be a session on product development, sales and customer engagement, business model and creation of a pitch deck. The boot camp also includes a mock pitch session and a mentor talk. The Air India (AI) announced its inaugural passenger flight over the North Pole region from August 15 between New Delhi and San Francisco. The first commercial service will be operated by Captain Rajneesh Sharma and Captain Divvijay Singh. It marked the "maturing of civil aviation in India as another frontier is crossed. Air India conquered this frontier in 2007. He took delivery of the brand new aircraft and flew it over the North Pole from Seattle to New Delhi.

The Passengers will benefit from reduced fuel consumption and a better environment from reduced carbon emissions. Air India is in a unique position to offer direct (non-stop) flights between India and North America but the Polar route between the two countries. India and North America benefit immensely by using existing North Polar routes for commercial air operations. The AI has flights to the US from the Atlantic and Pacific routes as part of its endeavour to conserve fuel, slash travel time, improve aircraft utility and reduce carbon emissions. According to AI, the fuel-saving on the Polar route is expected to be in the region of 02 to 07 tonnes with a resultant decrease in carbon emission of 06 to 21 tonnes per flight. The North Pole region gave airlines an opportunity to reach destinations previously not available for non-stop services and reduce flying times on existing routes and city pairs. The increased route resulted in major improvements in areas of aviation infrastructure like communications, air traffic control, and services supplies at remote airports. The Polar region still falls short of the infrastructure and the logistics standards of the more widely used air-spaces, thereby offering unique opportunities laced with distinct challenges. The area of Magnetic unreliability, limited choices for diversion to alternative airports, solar radiation, fuel freezing, passenger and aircraft retrieval in case of diversions, are some specific factors requiring active mitigation to ensure equivalent levels of safety.

### Ladakh celebrated 1st Independence Day after being declared UT

Ladakh becomes a **Union Territory** after the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Independence Day with local BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal. The parliamentarian, whose speech in the Lok Sabha after the abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir drew praises and playing the drums along with locals. Namgyal hoisted the national flag at the local BJP office along with party national general secretary Ram Madhav. The centre stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status under Article 370 and split it into two Union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. It will come into existence on October 31. The region got "**independence from Kashmir**" and the celebration is "just a trailer" for the development of Ladakh.

Banners bearing slogans like "**UT of Ladakh celebrates its 1st Independence Day**". The tricolour in each and every house of Ladakh symbolises the patriotism of the people and their unwavering commitment towards India. Ladakh got independence from Kashmir adding that the spirit of patriotism is very high among school students and adults alike in the region. The cultural performances by students were a delight of the celebrations and the entire atmosphere was filled with patriotic fervour and unity. The Independence Day in the traditional Ladakhi style through the beating of the 'daman' and 'surna'." On the occasion of Independence Day, we celebrate the martyrdom of our heroes. The four young heroes who laid down their lives agitating for the UT status for Ladakh.

### Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates new hockey academy in Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister of Odisha, **Naveen Patnaik**, inaugurated a high-performance hockey centre **Naval Tata Hockey Academy (NTHA)**. The main aim is to groom

sports talent in the state. The newly opened centre will produce young Olympians. Tata Steel CEO and MD, T.V. Narendran present during the inauguration function. Tata Steel has always supported and encouraged sports as a vocation and a career. It is always our effort to nurture sporting talent by providing access to state-of-the-art sports facilities and rigorous training. Tata Steel has a significant connect with youth at the grass-root level through various programmes. There are **10-20 grassroots centres** will be initially established in Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts and the talent scouted from the grassroots centres will be recommended for admission into the sports hostels. The continuous flow will be ensured by grassroots centres and the RDCs. The government will develop infrastructure in these regions to improve the quality of hockey players being fed into the RDCs and NTHA Odisha. The young players from the community will be trained and provided with career opportunities as trainers and coordinators in these centres. **NTHA Odisha** will be operated from the existing infrastructure that was set-up to host the **Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup in 2018** in Bhubaneswar. Bovelander Hockey Academy from the Netherlands, founded by the European Champion, World Champion and three-time Olympian, Floris Jan Bovelander will be the technical partner in the programme.

### AePS crosses milestone of 200 million transactions in July 2019

An umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement, **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** stated that **Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS)** used by a total of 6.65 crore Indian citizens at 220.18 million. The transaction value Rs **9,685.35 crore** during July 2019 against the transaction count of 194.33 million. They maintained a transaction value of **Rs 8,867.33 crore** in June 2019. This will help improve the reaching out of financial inclusion in India. Aadhaar is used as an identity to access respective **Aadhaar** enabled bank account and perform basic banking transactions like cash withdrawal, intrabank or interbank fund transfer and balance enquiry. AePS transaction requires the name of the customer's bank, Aadhaar number, and fingerprint captured during enrollment. AePS delivers 4As for financial inclusion to a rural part of India which includes authentication of customer, availability of services, accessibility through AePS channel and affordability as its free of cost to the customers. It allows basic interoperable banking transactions at the **point of sale (PoS)/MicroATM** through which the Business Correspondent (BC) of any bank by using Aadhaar authentication.

#### About NPCI:

**Founded:** 2008

**Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

**MD & CEO:** Mr. Dilip Asbe

### Indian Railways to get CORAS

**Ministry of Railways and Commerce & Industry** launched **Commando for Railway Security (CORAS)** of Indian Railways. It was launched by **Shri Piyush Goyal**. He also launched a **new establishment manual** for Railway Protection Force (RPF). The induction of CORAS was planned in RPF. The Ministry also plans to install a **new network of CCTV cameras** at every station. It will be set up to enhance the security of Railway passengers. The CCTV links will be connected to the local stations, Government Railway Police (GRP), RPF, Divisional office and to the Ministers office.

#### Aim:

The launch of CORAS is aimed at **providing security to the Railway passengers**. It has been launched to meet the challenges to Railway security. It also ensures to develop world level capabilities of specialized responder for any situation pertaining to damage, disturbance, disruption of train operations, attack/hostage/hijack, disaster situations in railway areas.

#### Commando for Railway Security (CORAS):

CORAS will be a **special Railway Unit** and a **separate Commando Unit** of RPF. It is a result of detailed policy formulation. Railway Protection Force is always involved in **protecting Railway passengers and Railway property** in far and inaccessible threat prone areas.

CORAS team, a protection force, will be provided with the best, most **modern equipment and world class training**. A new state of the art commando training centre will be established in **Jagadhri, Haryana**. This special unit will be trained to meet any challenging situation.



### Uttarakhand gets full member status in the BCCI by CoA

**Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU)** granted full membership in the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). This is done by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on August 13, 2019. The association inducted as a member association. It is the full member with amendments that are required to be communicated by CoA. This membership grant brought an end to long-standing dispute among Uttarakhand Cricket Association(UKCA), United Cricket Association ( UTCA), Uttaranchal Cricket Association (UCA) and the CAU vying for BCCI affiliation. The Uttarakhand cricket association was also asked to appoint an electoral officer by September 14, 2019, in accordance with the approved constitution.

#### About BCCI

**Headquarters**- Wankhede stadium, Mumbai.

**Chief executive officer**- Rahul Johri.

**President**- Vinod Rai (interim)

### Fifty Six BSF Officials Conferred with Medals on 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day

The **Fifty Six Border Security Force (BSF)** officials announced for conferring the Police Medals on the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, 2019. The **five** of them would confer with Police Medal for Gallantry for Distinguished Service. The operational planning, exemplary combat audacity, operational acumen and flawless conduct of the operation, the gallant Bordermen of 8 Battalion BSF Sh. Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Asstt Commandant, Sh. Sushil Singh, Asstt Commandant, HC Vinay Krishali and CT Sanjoy Pal awarded Police Medal for Gallantry. These 4 Bordermen were instrumental in neutralizing a dreaded naxal commander in an operation launched in the night intervening 14/15 Dec 2017 in the general area of Bandhi Gude District Malkangiri, Orissa.

#### Presidents Police Medal for Distinguished Service - 05

1. Sh. Om Prakash Tripathi, DIG, FHQ, BSF
2. Sh. Ashok Kumar Yadav, DIG, Ftr HQ, BSF TRA
3. Sh. Rabindra Pal Singh Malik, DIG Ftr HQ, BSF TRA
4. Sh. Balbir Singh Sandhu, 2IC (Work), FHQ, BSF
5. Sh. Sudhir Kumar Mishra, 165 BN BSF

#### Police Medal for Meritorious Service - 46

1. Sh. Sandeep Rawat, Commandant, STC BSF Chakur
2. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Kanwar, Commandant, SHQ BSF Bhilai
3. Sh. Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Commandant, Ftr HQ, Jammu
4. Sh. Suman Florence Trikey, Commandant, Command HQ SPL OPS
5. Sh. C H Sethuram, Commandant, 162 Bn, BSF
6. Sh. Sudhindra Kumar Singh, Commandant, BIDR BSF T/PUR
7. Sh. Manish Aul, Commandant, SHQ BSF, SHILLONG
8. Sh. Sukhminderhit Singh Mand, Commandant, 56 Bn, BSF
9. Sh. Raja Paul, Commandant, DIG(HQ) FHQ
10. Sh. S. Shiva Murthy, Commandant, Ftr HQ Odisha
11. Sh. Surinder Singh Rana, LO GDE-I Commandant, SDG(WC)BSF CHG
12. Sh. Dalbir Singh, 2nd-in-Command, 55 Bn BSF
13. Yash Pal, 2nd-in-Command, Ftr HQ, Jammu
14. Sh. Madan Mohan Kandpal, Deputy- Commandant, 3 Bn BSF
15. Sh. Madan Singh, Deputy- Commandant (Sports), Ftr HQ, Rajasthan
16. Sh. Anurag Kumar Azad, Deputy- Commandant, 1 Bn BSF
17. Sh. Surinder Singh, Deputy- Commandant, 62 Bn BSF
18. Sh. Jagdeep Kumar, Deputy- Commandant, DIG(HQ) FHQ
19. Sh. Kunj Bihari Prasad, Deputy- Commandant, Ftr HQ, M&C
20. Sh. Rameshwar Lal Bishnoi, Deputy- Commandant, 161 Bn BSF
21. Sh. Lakhwinder Singh Brar, Deputy- Commandant, 91 Bn BSF
22. Sh. Puran Lal Meena, Deputy- Commandant, 78 Bn BSF
23. Sh. TriyugiNathMaurya, Asstt- Commandant, 51 Bn BSF
24. Sh. Murari Lal Meena, Asstt- Commandant, 151 Bn BSF
25. Sh. Jacob Koshy, Asstt- Commandant, 3 Bn BSF
26. Sh. Suresh Kumar, Asstt- Commandant, SHQ BSF, JAMMU
27. Sh. V Nagarajan, Asstt- Commandant (Min), STC BSF, Indore.
28. Sh. Hari Krishan, Inspector(GD), CSWT Indore
29. Sh. Kailash Babu, Inspector (G), 65 Bn BSF
30. Sh. Ajeet Singh Shekhawat, Inspector (G), 78 Bn BSF
31. Sh. Surender Singh, Inspector (GD), STC BSF, K/Camp
32. Sh. Sumer Singh, Sub-Inspector(GD), 133 Bn BSF
33. Sh. Jawahar Yadav, Inspector(GD), 115 Bn BSF

34. Sh. Pushparajan R, Inspector(GD), STC BSF, Baikunthpur
35. Sh. Ashok Kumar, Inspector(GD), 38 Bn BSF
36. Sh. Rajbir Singh Tomar, Inspector(GD), 151 Bn BSF
37. Sh. HekisheSema, Inspector(GD), 111 Bn BSF
38. Sh. Mohan Kumar A M Inspector(COMM), 179 Bn BSF
39. Sh. Dalbir Singh, Inspector(RO), STS-I Tigari BSF
40. Sh. Hayat Singh Pundhir, Sub-Inspector(GD), 96 Bn BSF
41. Sh. Ashok Kumar, Sub-Inspector(GD), 100 Bn BSF
42. Sh. Nikhil Chandra Sharma, Sub-Inspector(GD), 179 Bn BSF
43. B Chandra Sekhara Raju, Sub-Inspector(GD), 10 Bn BSF
44. Sh. Sarjeet Singh, Sub-Inspector(GD), DIG (HQ) FHQ
45. Sh. Paras Ram, Sub-Inspector(GD), 170 Bn BSF
46. Sh. Kishan Lal, Constable(Tailor), STC BSF, Indore.

### Palani panchamirtham get GI tag

The renowned **Palani panchamirtham** the prasadam at **Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple in Palani** has been given the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. It is the first GI tag to prasadam in Tamilnadu. The GI application of panchamirtham has made limited to the temple and the Palani town in Dindigul district by the Joint Commissioner and Executive Officer of Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukoil of Palani in June 2016. The prasadam is prepared only to meet the demands of devotees not for commercial purposes.

#### About Palani panchamirtham:

The palani panchamirtham is a **Abishega prasadam** for religious devotees prepared at the top of Palani Hills by labourers and the employ of the temple. The Palani panchamirtham is made by combining the five natural substances like banana, cow ghee, cardamom, jaggery and honey. Dates and sugar candies are added to it for extra flavours.

The panchamirtham is made without adding any water, preservatives or artificial ingredients in the absence of any chemical processes. The Palani panchamirtham is made under the guidance of **Mysurus Central Food Technological Research Institute**. It is also certified by **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

#### About GI Tags in Tamil Nadu:

Geographic Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that had a specific geographical origin, quality, reputation. Tamil Nadu has **30 GI tags** for various products including handicrafts such as Salem fabric and Kancheepuram silk, agricultural items like Virupakshi Hill banana, Erode turmeric and Madurai Malli.

### ONGC to invest Rs.83,000 crore to boost oil

The **Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC)** is to invest around **Rs.83,000 crore** in 25 major projects to boost oil and gas production has stagnated in 2018. The cumulative oil and gas gain from these projects is expected to be over **180 million tonne of oil and oil equivalent gas over 32 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM)** by financial year 2024.

#### ONGC's production:

ONGC already logged a net profit of **Rs.26,716 crore** an increase of **34%** over in 2017-18. The MRPL achieved the highest ever throughput of 16.43 MT with a utilisation of 109.5%.

ONGC had launched a nation-wide **Solar Chulha Challenge** with 86 Solar PV cooking stoves were installed at Bacha and Jamthi in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. In FY19 the ONGC spent about **Rs.615 Crore on CSR initiatives** with a focus on national campaigns of the government like Swachh Bharat, education, health and nutrition among others. The company has earned its highest revenue of **Rs.1,09,655 crore** in FY19 as an increase of 29% from 2018.

### Online revenue payment system launched by CM of Odisha

Chief Minister of **Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik** launched online revenue payment. The main aim is to provide people with an easier way to make their land revenue payments-online on **73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day** on August 15, 2019, at Bhubaneswar. This online payment system was developed at the National Informatics Centre-Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This is an initiative of the State revenue department of Odisha under the **5-T mantra**.

The 5T mantras are based on Technology, Transparency, Team work, Time and Transformation. Mahatma Gandhi talisman dedicated as part of his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. The talisman is inscribed on a brass plate in both English and

Odia language with a neat sketch of the Father of the Nation. Veteran freedom fighters Bhavani Charan Patnaik and Nilamani Samal were present. The newly constructed Kharavel Bhavan built at a cost of Rs.128crore by L&T(Larsen & Toubro) on 8.3acres of land in Bhubaneswar was inaugurated by the CM. Around 11 departments of the state government will function in this building. It has a lounge and a conference hall for the CM. The building was named after Kharavela who was a king of Kalinga.

#### **About Odisha**

**Chief Minister:** Shri Naveen Patnaik

**Capital:** Bhubaneswar.

**Governor:** Ganeshi Lal

#### **Chhattisgarh state government increases reservation for SC and OBC**

**Chhattisgarh government** announced an increase in the reservation for **Scheduled caste (SC)** from 12% to 13% and for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 14% to 27%. This announcement was made by Chief Minister (CM) Shri Bhupesh Baghel. This announcement was made on August 15 celebration at the Police parade ground in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The states reservation becomes a total of 72 percent is the highest in the country. The reservation limit of 50 percent mandated by the Supreme court. The Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi which will be carved out of Bilaspur. This is done for better administration of the state. The state will have total districts to 28. Cow shelters: Cow shelters in the state will now be linked to biogas plants as a move of income generation. Also assistance of Rs.10,000/month given to Gowtham (cow shelter) committees. Lemru forest development: Development of the Lemru forest area as Lemru elephant reserve announced. It is a mineral rich area in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. This move to take deal with the increasing man-animal conflicts in the northern part of the state. The govt. will be launching a new scheme Suposhan Abhiyan on October 2 2019 to fight malnutrition across the state. The special initiative to provide forest land rights to tribals in Abhujmad was launched.

There are 200 food parks in the state were promised.

#### **About Chhattisgarh**

**Governor:** Anusuiya Uikay

**Capital:** Raipur (Atal Nagar)

#### **TamilNadu awards people on various categories on the 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day**

TamilNadu Chief Minister Shri **Edappadi K Palaniswami** conferred awards to people and organizations at Fort St. George on various categories on the **73<sup>rd</sup> Independence day celebration**.

It was conferred to Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate for the installation of **Third Eye CCTV** (closed-circuit television). This award conferred to the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj for the Naganathi River Rejuvenation Project (Vellore) under MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme). The Department of Commercial Taxes got this award for development of mobile app. They provide 24\*7 assistance to migrate to GST (Goods and Service Tax) system. Chennai received certificate of appreciation for creating sensory parks for differently abled children under smart city project. The award for exemplary service for the welfare of Differently abled- best doctor awards:

**Dr.S Vetrivel chezian**, Government Medical College Hospital. **Dr.V Ramadevi**, Government Kilpauk Medical College. **Best private employer award:** Everest Stabilizers private Ltd.

**Best social worker award:** Mrs. Chandra Prasad of the pathway. **Best cooperative bank award:** Salem District Central Cooperative Bank. **Chief ministers state youth award:** P.Naveen Kumar (Namakkal district), M.Anandakumar (Dindigul district), R.Kalaivani (Madurai district). The award **rendered for service to women:** M.Soosai Marian.

#### **Air India, Indias first airline to fly over north pole**

**Air India** became India's **first Indian airline** to operate commercial flights overflying the polar region. The airlines flew its **Boeing 777 aircraft** over the North pole. The Boeing 777 was **Delhi-San Francisco flight**.

#### **New route:**

The flights generally take two routes to reach **San Francisco from New Delhi**, one over **China, Japan crossing the Pacific Ocean** and the other over **Europe crossing the Atlantic Ocean**. But the airlines changes its course and flew over zero degree north.

The aircraft was piloted by Captain Rajneesh Sharma and Captain Digvijay Singh.

#### **Benefits:**

The new flight route will **reduce the flight duration** by around one-and-a-half hours. Also it will help to **save fuel** which would be in the range of **2,000 to 7,000 kilograms** per flight. It would also reduce the carbon emission, which is generally between 6,000 to 21,000 kilograms, per flight.

#### **Three new products gets GI tag**

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry's **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** has registered **3 more new Geographical Indication (GI)** tags. The material includes **Tawlhlohpuan and Mizo Puanchei from the state of Mizoram** and **Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala** has been added.

#### **Tawlhlohpuan:**

Tawlhlohpuan is a Mizoram made medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric. It is known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate designs that are made by hand. It is produced throughout the state of Mizoram, Aizawl and Thenzawl town being the main centre of production. Tawlhloh holds high significance in the Mizo society.

#### **Mizo Puanchei:**

Mizo Puanchei is a colourful Mizo shawl/textile from Mizoram. It is considered as the most colourful among the Mizo textiles. It is important and an essential possession for every Mizo lady. It is an important marriage outfit in the state. It is the most commonly used costume in Mizo festive dances and official ceremonies.

#### **Tirur betel vine:**

Tirur betel vine is produced from Kerala. It is valued its medicinal properties and its mild stimulant action. It is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District.

#### **MoD clarifies there is no proposal to privatise OFB**

The workshop is organized as part of the year-long celebration of **Mahatma Gandhis 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**. The main focus of the workshop to discuss on social and legal issues as well as technological and managerial interventions with regard to human entry into sewers and septic tanks. The workshop will showcase best practices on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of sewerage system. The mechanical cleaning of sewers, faecal sludge management with mechanical cleaning of septic tanks, co-treatment of septage, and showcase the latest equipment and machinery for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in the exhibition. The roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU), a proposed unit to systematise human entry into sewer/septic tanks in a professional well trained, motivated and appropriately equipped manner. Wastewater and stormwater management including rainwater harvesting in line with the Governments focus on water conservation through the Jal Shakti Abhiyan. The important agenda of discussion at the workshop. The Ministry will release the **Manual on Stormwater Drainage Systems, 2019** advisory on ERSU and the Directory of Sewer and Septic Cleaning Equipment prepared by technical experts. A series of panel discussions and presentation of best practices on **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)** based biomethanation under **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)** initiative of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) and co treatment of organic fraction of MSW. The day long interaction among stakeholders is expected to culminate into a comprehensive roadmap for ensuring sustainable sanitation in urban areas. State/UT and ULB level representatives planned to organize similar workshops in their respective areas to further disseminate information and insights on this crucial subject thereby lending a new dimension to the issue of safe and sustainable sanitation.

#### **MoHUA to Organize One Day National Workshop Cum Exhibition on Sustainable Sanitation**

The workshop is being organized as part of the year-long celebration of **Mahatma Gandhi 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**. The main focus of the workshop involved on discuss social and legal issues as well as technological and managerial interventions with regard to human entry into sewers and septic tanks. The shop will showcase best practices on **Operation and Maintenance (O&M)** of sewerage system including mechanical cleaning of sewers, fecal

sludge management with mechanical cleaning of septic tanks, co-treatment of septage, and showcase the latest equipment and machinery for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in the exhibition.

The roles and responsibilities of the **Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU)**, a proposed unit to systematise human entry into sewer/septic tanks in a professional, well trained, motivated and appropriately equipped manner. Wastewater and stormwater management including rainwater harvesting in line will release the Manual on Stormwater Drainage Systems, 2019. The panel discussions through the day, the workshop will also see discussions and presentation of best practices on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) based bio methanation under **Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG)** and co-treatment of organic fraction of MSW.

The day-long interaction among stakeholders is expected to culminate into a comprehensive roadmap for ensuring sustainable sanitation in urban areas. State/UT and ULB level representatives in the coming days will organize similar workshops in their respective areas to further disseminate information and insights on this crucial subject.

### India suspends Thar Link Express to Pakistan

**Thar Link Express** that connects **Jodhpur** in India to Karachi in Pakistan. The rail links between the two countries as the services of Samjhauta Express The Thar Link Express undertake its journey scheduled for early Saturday (1 am) and the administration initiated the process of cancellation of all the 45 tickets which have been issued. The Thar Express has been suspended till further orders. The directions were issued by the railway ministry to the North Western Railway. The weekly train departs from Jodhpur Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station on Saturdays and reach Munabao, the last station on the Indian side of the border, early morning. At the zero point on the international border with Pakistan, passengers change trains. And a train from Pakistan then takes them to Karachi.

### Thar Express - History

The Thar Express running between **Jodhpur** and **Karachi** since services resumed on February 18, 2006 after a 41-year suspension. The train service was suspended even after the deadly terrorist attack in Pulwama on February 14. Around four lakh passengers have taken the train in the past 13 years. The train departed from Bhagat Ki Kothi station with 165 passengers. The train from Pakistan was also received successfully by India with as many passengers. Pakistan last week announced a suspension of all train services to India after the Centre scrapped provisions of Article 370 and divided Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories. Pakistan stopped the Lahore-Wagah Samjhauta Express services. The main rail link between the two hostile neighbours. The Indian Railways cancelled the New Delhi-Attari Samjhauta Express on its side.

### Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences

**Dr Harsh Vardhan**, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare at the inauguration of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital laid the foundation stone for the Super Speciality Block and new doctors hostel at the Institute in presence of Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (HFW), Shri Anil Baijal, Lieutenant Governor, GNCT, Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, Member of Parliament, New Delhi and Shri Shiv Kumar ji, longtime associate and companion of Shri Atal ji.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan the initiative epitomizes the political commitment, vision, and guidance from our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji to not only strengthen the tertiary healthcare in the country but also ensure the availability of healthcare professionals in remote areas by making medical education affordable to the people. Prime Minister is determined to achieve **New India by 2022** Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his first death anniversary Dr Harsh Vardhan and Shri Vajpayee one of those rare leaders was loved by every section of the society and had the admiration and respect even of his opponents. Shri Atalji who recognised the need for major augmentation in the tertiary healthcare facilities in the country as early as 2003. The **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**, a flagship scheme of the Government. The setting up of six new **AIIMS** under the scheme in the year 2003. The National Health Policy 2002 launched it with the objective of achieving an acceptable standard of good health of Indian

population by decentralizing public health system. The pro-poor scheme and innovative schemes started by Shri Atal ji helped millions.

### Hospital - (ABVIMAS)

**Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMAS)** has **100 MBBS** a state-of-the-art medical college with reputed faculties and world-class infrastructure. Super Speciality Block more than **550 beds** and the New Resident Doctors Hostel has **827-bed** units. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS (HFW) paid rich tributes to the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee he was a visionary leader.

The central government is committed to quality medical education in this country. The present at the function were, Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW), Dr (Prof) V K Tiwari, Director & MS, Dr. RML Hospital along with other senior officers from the Ministry and faculty and students from Dr. RML Hospital.

### Ladakh seeks tribal area status

**Leaders of Ladakh** have appealed to the Centre to declare the region a **tribal area status** under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution. The move comes as the people are concerned to protect their land, culture, and identity after the abrogation of **article 370** and the announcement of **Ladakh as a Union Territory**.

### Sixth Schedule:

The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides provisions for the administration of tribal areas in **four** north-eastern states namely **Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram**. The schedule includes **Articles 244(2) and 275(1)**. It provides for the **administration of tribal areas** in the states after setting up the autonomous district and regional councils. The states are provided with special provisions in terms of governance, powers of the president and the governor, type of local bodies, alternate judicial mechanisms, financial powers, etc.

### Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as Atal Chowk

Lucknow's famous Hazratganj Chauraha renamed as "**Atal Chowk**". The memorial named in the memory of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The first death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, **Hazratganj Chowk** renamed after him as "**Atal Chowk**" from August 16.

### Atal Chowk

He was a five-time **Member of Parliament (MP)** from Lucknow. A memorial named **Atal Smriti Upvan** be built on his name. The Mayor of the city prepared a draft. It is mainly based in the developing a memorial for Atal Smriti Upvan. They planned to place statue along with his **51 poems, speeches** and other memorabilia. Chhattisgarh government announced to rename Naya Raipur as Atal Nagar. **Jharkhand government** renamed several places and colleges after Vajpayee's name.

### Indias participation at WorldSkills International Competition as big as the Olympics

The 48-member Indian Team representing the country at World Skills Kazan 2019 given a grand send-off at a ceremony in the capital. This is organized by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the aegis of **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** **Aim:** To motivate the participants as they gear up to pit their skills against the best in the world. India is the sixth largest team that will take part in the competition. Nearly 1,500 competitors from 60 countries compete in 56 skill competitions at this mega event in Kazan, Russia on August 22-27. Forty-four experts and 14 interpreters are also accompanying the participants to Kazan. Worlds biggest skill competition in Russia to compete in the true spirit of participation and make India proud on the global platform and at the same time learn from your international peers competing. The brand ambassadors of India will be the inspiration of every Indian youth who aspires to make it big in their life. The desire to excel in the trades of their choice played a crucial part in the candidates realising their dream of performing at a global stage. About **75%** of the participants come from tier II and tier III cities, with 25% from rural areas. Most belong to humble backgrounds, parents work as farmers, coolie, daily wage laborers and security guards. **Maharashtra** tops the chart with seven contestants participating in the competition, followed by five from Karnataka and four from Uttar Pradesh. Over 50,000 youth had registered for the India Skills Competitions that organized across several legs last year. The 48 contestants shortlisted through a series of contests conducted at district, state, regional and national levels over the past year.



Candidates provided extensive training in skills ranging from Wall and Floor Tiling, Brick Laying, Cabinet Making, Car Painting, CNC Turning, Hair Dressing, Welding, Restaurant Service, Beauty Therapy, Auto-body Repair to Mobile Robotics, Mechatronics, Prototype Modelling, Visual Merchandising, etc, by leading corporate entities with NSDC acting as a facilitator. Candidates exposed to international training with industry support from over 100 companies. There are 100 companies have Renowned experts such as Vinesh Johny - Chef/Trainer, winner of Forbes 30-under-30; Samantha Kochhar, a renowned beauty expert and director of Aroma Magic; JP Shroff, Chairman of Kushal Credai; Seema Jhaveri, Director of IFD and Vaishali Shah, Principal of LTA Beauty School came together to prepare the contestants for the mega-event. Leading organizations such as Maruti, Mahindra, Toyota, Daikin, Saint Gobain aimed at promoting world class standards in technical education and vocational training, NSDC, under the aegis for MSDE, is working to make skills aspirational and create a pathway for a career in vocational trades.

#### Manipur Govt launches School Fagadaba scheme

Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, N Biren Singh launched **School Fagadaba (Make education better) scheme**. The main aim of the scheme is to improve the infrastructure, quality education and overall improvement of government schools. The regular attendance of teachers, biometric devices would be installed in every Government school in the state. The teachers posted in these schools stay at the place of their posting for at least 3 years. The 60 Assembly constituencies in the state selected under the 1st phase of the scheme. The state also set a target to increase enrollment of students from 26,000 at present to around 44,000 in the next academic session. The additional infrastructures like a modern school campus, sufficient school furniture, outdoor gymnasium, separate toilets for boys and girls, drinking water facilities will be provided to these schools as per the **Right to Education (RTE)** norms.

#### Centre to set up India's first CICET

The Centre is planning to set up **India's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology (CICET)** in Gujarat. The aim is to boost the chemical industry in India.

#### CIPET hostel inauguration:

The Minister of State for Chemical and Fertilizers Sh. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the other campus of the **Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET)** in Valsad, Gujarat. CIPET was built at the cost of **Rs.54 crore** for the benefit of tribal students and used for research in plastic engineering technology.

The Union minister also inaugurated the CIPET hostel built at a cost of **Rs.31 crore**. The hostel can accommodate 575 boys and 150 girls.

#### Plastic Waste Management Centre:

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is also planning to set up a **Plastic Waste Management Centre in Ahmedabad**. The centre will work to find out solutions to systematic segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

#### About CIPET:

**CIPET** - Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology CIPET was established in 2017. It is located in Ranchi, Jharkhand. It functions under the **Department of Chemicals and petrochemicals**, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. The Minister responsible is **Shri. D.V. Sadananda Gowda** and the Minister of State of Chemicals & Fertilizers is **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya**.

#### Indian Railways planned for 3000th stations to get 1000 Wi-Fi Spots

The Indian railways enabled **free Wi-Fi** at its **3000th station**. The facility went live at Rajasthan's Ellenabad on Monday, with 1,000 stations connected. Ellenabad railway station in Bikaner Division of North Western Railway situated north of the Ghaggar-Hakra river. It serves as a point of entry into the state of Haryana from Rajasthan.

Rajasthan's Rana Pratap Nagar in the North Western Railway became the 2000<sup>th</sup> station to have wi-fi facility. The railways plans to provide free Wi-Fi facility at all its stations, around **6,000**. The railways' free Wi-Fi facility at stations began from Mumbai Central in January 2016 and within 16 months it was live at 1,600 stations across India. Railway's telecommunications arm RailTel began the process with a vision to turn stations into a platform for digital inclusion.

RailTel roped in Tata Trust for providing the facility at remaining stations in the country. A user has to switch on the Wi-Fi mode on the smartphone and select the RailWire Wi-Fi network. The RailWire homepage automatically appears on the smartphone. The user is then prompted to enter his or her mobile number on the homepage to get a one-time password (OTP). The OTP has to be entered in the homepage of RailWire. The OTP, the user can access high speed internet and can start browsing.

#### Indian Railways

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Minister Responsible:** Piyush Goyal

#### Amit Shah laid foundation stone of Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan

The **Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone of **Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan** of **Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu, Assam and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council, Haflong, at Dwarka, Gujarat**. The Karbi Bhawan and Dimasa Bhawan will be constructed with a cost of **Rs.130 crore**. They will give an identity to their unique culture. It aims to take forward North East (NE) while preserving its rich cultural identity, along with its development. The Central government aims for the overall development, prosperity, and peace in the North East.

#### Center's measure for NE region:

The Centre has increased the funds allocated for North East to **258%** between **13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commissions**. The amount increased from **Rs.87,000 crore to Rs.3,13,375 crore**. Centre also has increased various schemes for Northeast such as Skill Development centre, setting up of Medical College and Law College, among others.

#### DoNER at doorsteps:

Centre has been not focusing to bring North East closer to rest of India, but to bring rest of India closer to North East. It has planned to set up a camp secretariat every month in North East. This initiative was named **'DoNER (Development of North Eastern Region, India) at doorsteps'**. Centre also is working towards the North East road sector development scheme and train connectivity.

#### Centre released Rs.4432.10 crore to 3 states

Union Minister **Shri Amit Shah-led high-Level Committee (HLC)** approved **Rs.4432.10 crore** to three States from **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**. Of the fund released by the Centre, **Rs.3338.22 crore** will be given to **Odisha for Cyclone Fani, Rs.1029.39 crore to Karnataka for drought and Rs.64.49 crore to Himachal Pradesh**. This assistance is apart from the funds released by the Centre to the states under the **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**. The Centre had released Rs.9,658 crore to all the states in 2018-19. So far in the current fiscal year, the Centre has released Rs.6,104 crore to 24 states from SDRF. The announcement comes after the review submitted by the **Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT)**. The HLC reviewed the Memorandum of the detailed assessment of the damage and relief operations submitted by IMCT for the allocation of additional funds.

#### Odisha-Fani Cyclone:

On the view of Cyclone Fani, Centre has released Rs.340.87 crore in advance from SDRF. PM has announced to provide a sum of Rs.2 lakh to next of the kin of the deceased and Rs.50,000 to seriously injured in the Cyclone from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Centre has earlier released Rs.1,000 crore in advance from the PM Relief fund.

#### Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews functioning of IMAC, IFC-IOR

Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** visited the **Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC)** and Information Fusion Centre - **Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** located at Gurugram in Haryana.

The Defence Minister reviewed the functioning of IMAC and IFC-IOR. Senior Navy officials, including the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, briefed him on further enhancing the capabilities of the two centres under the **National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project**.

NMDA project launched in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) The IMAC monitors movement of more than 120,000 ships a year passing through the Indian Ocean. The cargo carried by these ships account for 66 percent of world crude oil, 50 percent of container traffic and 33 percent of bulk cargo.

IMAC performs a very crucial role in collecting shipping information, analysing traffic patterns and sharing the inputs with the user agencies. He briefed on the IFC-IOR, which is a collaborative initiative by the Indian Navy in coordination with partner nations and multinational maritime agencies to enhance Maritime Domain Awareness and Maritime Security.

#### **Karnataka Government categorised Nicotine as Class A poison**

**Government of Karnataka** amended the **Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015**. He notified Nicotine as **Class A poison**. The main aim is to strengthen the enforcement of the ban on production and sale of electronic cigarettes. The new rules are called the Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules, 2019.

The ban imposed after the study conducted the **High Powered Committee on Tobacco Control** headed additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Vandita Sharma. The Government ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion.

#### **Class A Poison**

Class A poison are **Highly toxic chemicals**, even in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide, and phosgene). Highly toxic chemicals in very small quantities as gas or vapour in the air are dangerous to life (such as cyanogen, hydrocyanic acid, nitrogen peroxide). A gazette notification published last month and the new rules are called the **Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2019**.

Electronic cigarettes are small battery-operated devices that evaporate liquid nicotine to provide the same experience as smoking tobacco. The ban imposed after a study by the State Health Department. The two milligrams of nicotine is permitted only in chewable chocolates to help with de-addiction, cigarette manufacturers misuse this clause for their sale.

#### **High-level meeting held between Indian, Sri Lankan Coast Guards over security concerns**

A high-level meeting held between the Indian Coast Guard and **Sri Lanka Coast Guard** at the **Coast Guard Headquarters** in New Delhi. The main aim is to discuss issues of mutual safety and security. Indian Coast Guard and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation.

A four-member delegation of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard led by its DG Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge Director General (DG).

During the HLM, both sides agreed to strengthen the cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. The apprehension of two fishing boats by Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU was recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea.

Continued capacity building of Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual cooperation in the multilateral forums was discussed and agreed by both sides.

#### **Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by 2020**

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, **Hardeep Singh Puri** planned to achieve its target of providing Housing for all under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The deadline for this in two years before the deadline by 2020. He made this announcement during the 15th **National Real Estate Development Councils (NAREDCO)** convention in New Delhi. A total of 48 lakh houses are currently constructed, Around 24 lakh houses have been sanctioned over to beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) till date & it will be increased to 50 lakh. The central government decided to build 1.12 crore houses by 2022.

Around 84 lakh houses have been sanctioned to date & the remaining will be sanctioned by the end of 2019. As per the estimation, about 600 million people would be residing in cities by 2030, the year in which India is expected to meet the sustainable development goals set by the UN (United Nations).

Puri pointed out that the enactment of **RERA (Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016)** removed many abnormalities in the real estate sector successfully.

#### **About NAREDCO:**

**Formation:** 1998

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairman:** Rajeev Talwar

**President:** Niranjan Hiranandani

#### **MHRD launched NISHTHA**

The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** launched the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA). It aimed at training **over 42 lakh teachers** to boost education and employment focusing on reskilling the teaching workforce.

HRD Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** launched the **initiatives website, training modules, primer booklet and mobile app built for the purpose**.

The programme was launched in the presence of Smt Rina Ray, Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy and other senior officers from MHRD, all States and UTs, Senior Policy Makers and Heads of Institutions.

#### **About NISHTHA:**

NISHTHA is the **worlds biggest project**. The objective of this massive training programme NISHTHA is to **motivate and equip teachers** to encourage and foster critical thinking in students. As the teachers are the powerhouse of the nation, the teachers deserve worldwide respect.

Under NISHTHA, the teachers will develop their skills on Artificial Intelligence, Health, School Leadership qualities, Environmental Concerns in a joyful learning manner.

#### **About Training:**

National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA) programme is a **100 days programme** of the Government. The training modules are developed at the national level for all States and UTs with their own material. The integrated programme will train all teachers as first-level counselors and responsive needs of the students in promoting joyful learning. The training Modules for NISHTHA have suggestions from the States and UTs and CBSE, KVS, NVS, School Principals and Non-Governmental Organizations such as Kaivalya Foundation, Tata Trust, Azim Premji Foundation and Aurobindo Society.

#### **Power Minister Shri RK Singh approves proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy**

Union Minister of State for **Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, Shri RK Singh approved a proposal to declare ocean energy as Renewable Energy.

Accordingly, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy clarified to all the stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, etc. shall be considered as Renewable Energy eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

#### **1. Ocean Energy**

The oceans cover 70 percent of the earth's surface and represent an enormous amount of energy in the form of wave, tidal, marine current and thermal gradient. A variety of different technologies are currently under development throughout the world. Deployment is currently limited has the potential to grow, economic growth, reduction of carbon footprint and creating jobs not only along the coasts but also inland along its supply chains. The Government of India's effort to reach the objectives to contemplate its Renewable Energy and climate change objectives post-2022 to explore all possible avenues to stimulate innovation, create economic growth and new jobs as well as to reduce our carbon footprint. India has a long coastline with the estuaries and gulfs. MNRE looks over the horizon at the development of new technology and considers the various options available to support its deployment. MNRE to support demonstration projects of proven technologies and as approved by an expert committee constituted by MNRE.

#### **2. Potential Energy**

The Total identified potential of Tidal Energy is about 12455 MW. It has potential locations identified at Khambhat & Kutch regions, and large backwaters, where barrage technology could be used.

The total theoretical potential of wave energy in India along the country's coast is estimated to be about 40,000 MW. This energy is however less intensive than what is available in more northern and southern latitudes. OTEC has a theoretical potential of 180,000 MW in India subject to suitable technological evolution.

### 3. Tidal Energy

The tidal cycle occurs every 12 hours due to the gravitational force of the moon. The difference in water height from low tide and high tide is potential energy. The capital cost for tidal energy power plants is very high to civil construction and high power purchase tariff. The sufficient power from the tidal energy potential, the height of high tide must be at least five meters (16 feet) greater than low tide. The Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat on the west coast have the locations in the country where the potential exists.

#### a) Wave Energy

Wave energy is generated by the movement of a device either floating on the surface of the ocean or moored to the ocean floor. Many different techniques for converting wave energy to electric power have been studied. Wave conversion devices that float on the surface have joints hinged together that bend with the waves. This kinetic energy pumps fluid through turbines and creates electricity. Stationary wave energy conversion devices use pressure fluctuations produced in long tubes from the waves swelling up and down. This water is allowed to runoff through narrow pipes that flow through a typical hydraulic turbine.

#### b) Current Energy

Marine current is ocean water moving in one direction. This ocean current is known as the Gulf Stream. The tidal currents with submerged turbines that are very similar in appearance to miniature wind turbines. The movement of the marine current moves the rotor blades to generate electric power.

#### c) Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)

Ocean thermal energy conversion uses ocean temperature differences from the surface to depths lower than 1,000 meters, to extract energy. The research focuses on two types of OTEC technologies to extract thermal energy and convert it to electric power: closed cycle and open cycle. The working fluid, such as ammonia, is pumped through a heat exchanger and vaporized. In the open cycle system, the warm surface water is pressurized in a vacuum chamber and converted to steam to run the turbine.

### 4. Technology Objectives

The objective of the technology program is to accelerate and enhance support for the resource assessment and deployment of ocean energy in the country and to harness it for power generation and to overcome the barriers. The technology program is open to public and private sectors to carry out projects in India. Industry lead R&D proposals are invited from stakeholders, for solving problems in Indian conditions. Basic R&D is being looked after by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (example: National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai). The stakeholders desirous of utilizing Ocean Energy are invited by MNRE for demonstration projects of proven technologies under Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDD&D) program/policy of the Ministry.

### Tourism ministry announces new 5 year visa and other e-visa relaxations in the works

The stakeholders desirous of utilizing **Ocean Energy** are invited by **MNRE** for demonstration projects of proven technologies under Research, Design, Development and Demonstration (RDD&D) programme/policy of the Ministry. A reduction in the e-visa (electronic visa) fee was proposed by the tourism ministry. The main aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country. The proposed plan, a new 5-year visa plan, the e-visa fee will be offered with the option of short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa plan.

The announcement made by **Tourism Minister Prahlaad Singh Patel** (Minister of State- independent charge), at the State Tourism Ministers conference held on August 20, 2019 in New Delhi. The relaxation in the visa fee plans got the assent from the Home Ministry. It is under consideration by the Ministry of External Affairs, Short term e-visa for tourists with one month validity at a charge of **\$25** is to be made available only between tourism season of July and March.

The visa fee is proposed to be reduced to as low as \$10 between April to June during the lean period (unseasonal tourism period). For peak season 30-day visa, 1 year and 5-year visa, the proposed cost for Japan, Singapore and Sri Lanka is \$25. This regular e-visa costing **\$80**, is to be increased to 5-years with multiple entries. But for a one-year visa, tourists may now have to shell out (pay) \$40. The government made plans to increase foreign tourist arrivals to 20 million by 2020.

#### Tourism ministry

Minister responsible: Prahlaad Singh Patel, Minister of State (Independent charge) Headquarters: New Delhi

### India opens 137 mountain peaks for tourism

The Indian Government has opened **137 mountain peaks** for foreigners desirous of obtaining **Mountaineering Visa** for mountaineering and trekking. These peaks are located in the States of **J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim**. The **Ministry of State for Culture and Tourism** also plans to open up more peaks to foreigners in New Delhi.

The Ministry advised the States to exercise utmost caution while registering adventure tourism operators. The aim is to ensure that the adventure tourism guidelines are followed by the States. The Adventure Tourism Guidelines of India includes tourism events and sports including land with air and water-based activities such as mountaineering, trekking, bungee jumping, paragliding, kayaking, scuba diving, snorkeling, river rafting, and many other sports.

### ASI revealed the evidence of an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region

**Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI)** recent excavation at **Maharashtra Phuggaon** has revealed evidence of an **Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region**. The excavation at the site was taken up **between December 2018 and March 2019**.

#### ASI's excavation:

The team of ASI took up an intensive survey in **Chandur Bazar to Dariyapur of Purna basin at Phuggaon Amravati district of Maharashtra**. During the course of **excavation 4 complete circular** structures were exposed. These structures were found to be enclosed with a circular ditch like feature and postholes. Inside of these structure floor activity, storage bin platforms and hearths were noticed. The bin platforms are circular and they were of different sizes. The sizes ranged from **90cm to 125cm in diameter**.

#### View of the excavated area :

The excavation area exposed antiquities like beads of **agate-carnelian, jasper, quartz and agate** were collected in large quantity. Iron, Copper objects have also been collected from all the trenches. A large number of graffiti marks had been observed on the potsherds.

The finding from **Phuggaon** indicated other Iron Age settlements of Vidarbha like **Naikund, Mahurjhari, Bhagimori, and Thakalkat**. As per Chronological, the site could be placed between **7th C BCE and 4th C BCE**.

#### Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

ASI functions under the **Ministry of culture**. It is responsible for the preservation of cultural monuments in the country. The headquarters **Archaeological Survey of India** is New Delhi.

### India to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs

Union Government is planning to launch an e-commerce portal named **Bharatcraft** for MSMEs. The portal is based on other e-commerce portals like **Alibaba** and **Amazon**. The portal will provide a platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the sector. The MSME Union Minister, the Bharat Craft portal has a huge potential to generate revenue worth **10 lakh crore** in the next 2-3 years.

#### Amazon

**Founded:** July 5, 1994

**Founder:** Jeff Bezos

**Headquarters:** Seattle, Washington and Arlington, Virginia, United States



### Centre organized San Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August

Centre has organized **San-Sadhan Hackathon on 22 August**. It invites for tech enthusiasts to participate in San-Sadhan hackathon- for **Divyangjan accessible toilets**.

#### Aim:

**San-Sadhan Hackathon** is an initiative that will make the lives of **Persons with Disabilities (PwD) (Divyangjan)** easier by making toilets smarter, more accessible, and easier to use.

#### Organized by:

The Hackathon is jointly organized by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**, in collaboration with **Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and 91springboard**.

#### Centre's call:

The government has called for applications for economical toilets for individual and community use in rural and urban contexts. The interested Technology enthusiasts can apply by or before August 28th, 2019 through the **sansadhanhackathon.91springboard.com**.

**Participants:** Researchers, students, innovators, start-ups, technology enthusiasts, and industry experts can participate in the hackathon.

#### 2-day Hackathon:

Centre will shortlist the smart, scalable and innovative solutions given by the applicants. The Centre is to conduct a **two-day Hackathon** in September in New Delhi. The shortlisted candidates will work to develop their prototype during the hackathon. The winners will be rewarded at the end of the hackathon.

### Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the 10th fastest growing market globally

**Prime Global Cities Index** of London based consultancy **Knight Frank** ranked **Delhi** as the **10th** fastest growing prime market globally. The index is topped by Berlin(Germany) whereas Istanbul(Turkey) and Vancouver(Canada) were the weakest markets with rates minus 9.9% and minus 13.6% respectively.

The Bengaluru (2.8%) and Mumbai (0.8%) ranked 15th and 30th on the list respectively.

#### Prime Global Index:

Around 46 cities movement globally were tracked based on its luxury residential prices but only 35 out of those 46 cities have projected price growth. Berlin ranking first in the index, its annual growth rate has decreased from 14.1 per cent in March to 12.7% in June and Frankfurt its annual price growth increase from 9.6% to 12% over the same period. As of June 2019, Luxury residential prices have overall registered an average increase of 1.4 per cent. The index is expected to moderate further in the second half of 2019 before strengthening in 2020.

#### About Delhi

Chief minister - Arvind Kejriwal.

Deputy chief minister- Manish Sisodia.

Governor- Anil Bajjal.

Commissioner of Police- AmulyaPatnaik,IPS(Indian Police Service).

### NITI Aayog release CWMI 2.0 report

**NITI Aayog** has released the second **Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0)** in New Delhi. The report was launched by **Dr. Rajiv Kumar**, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Minister of Jal Shakti. NITI Aayog has prepared the report to supplement the efforts of Jal Shakti Ministry. The CWMI 2.0 ranks varied states for the reference year 2017-18 as against 2016-17.

**Jal Shakti Abhiyaan**, a campaign for water conservation and water security in 1592 water-stressed blocks in 256 districts was launched by Jal Shakti Ministry on 1st July 2019. It also ensures the important water conservation interventions.

#### About CWMI 2.0:

NITI Aayog's CWMI 2.0 will assess the economical management of water resources in all States/UTs. It is a way of cooperative and competitive ideology among the states. It will supply data for the States with Central Ministries to formulate and implement the appropriate ways for higher management of water resources.

### MoEF is to relax lease rent for wind power projects

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate** change has announced that it is to relax the mandatory charging of lease rent of **Rs. 30,000/- per Mega Watt (MW) for wind power projects**. The announcement was made by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar at a review held in New Delhi on 22 August.

#### Aim:

The step by the Ministry aims **to boost investment in wind power projects**. It will also help in providing wind power at a **cheaper rate**. The government aims to meet maximum energy requirement by tapping renewable energy resources. It also plans to achieve the target of clean energy in a time-bound manner, various policies and regulations are being constantly updated. The Ministry is working towards the establishment of wind power project over **forest land, the existing procedure** requires payment of mandatory charges for compensatory afforestation and **Net Present Value (NPV)**. Additional cost for generation of clean energy through wind power will escalate the per-unit cost of power at the consumer level.

### Op-Blue Freedom flagged off by KirenRijju and Baichung Bhutia

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs **Kiren Rijju** and former Indian footballer **Bhaichung Bhutia** made the flag-off dive for Delhi-NCT leg for the Op-Blue Freedom at SPM Swimming Pool Complex. **'Op-Blue Freedom'** is a nationwide Adaptive Scuba Diving Programme for people with disabilities and able-bodied alike. The parent project Special Forces Adventures. The real awareness about adventure sports amidst the abled and disabled souls of this nation. The activities certainly spike up human morale and self-esteem overall to make them feel self-sufficient. The country imbibes the skill sets that are being imparted by the team for the community in the future to generate legit work opportunities for themselves. The dive sessions will be kept open from 22nd - 25th August. The successful leg of **'Op-Blue Freedom'** in Chandigarh conducted in the last week of July. The skill sets that are being imparted by the team hold immense significance for the youths.

The team can work to better lives by helping the government to preserve the inland water bodies and by imparting skill sets at their own level for the civil lives.

### NITI Aayog VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme

**NITI Aayog** Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar today met Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi . He discussed the Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme.

The meeting it was decided that in order to ensure effective tackling the problem of Malnutrition. It is a road map will be charted out by the Department of Food and Public Distribution for taking the pilot scheme of Rice Fortification all over the country.

All-State Government departments and other stakeholders will be consulted to enhance cooperation by fostering the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy-making process. They deliberated in-depth on the various measures that can be taken to overcome these issues.

### NITI Aayog

**Formed:** 1 January 2015

**Objectives:** Foster involvement and participation in the economic policy-making process by the State Governments of India

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Chairperson:** Shri Narendra Modi

### Odisha announces Rs. 500 crore to develop Puri as World Heritage City

**India** is an enriching and continuous tradition of culture. Odisha is also a blessed land in terms of heritage, history, and culture. Odia culture has its own impression on the entire Indian culture. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced a special package of **Rs 500 crore** to develop Puri as a World Heritage City.

The considering the present security environment, it is highly essential to strengthen the security features of the Shree Jagannath Temple. The projects that were given the green signal in the meeting are a new **1.5 km long link road** connected by a trumpet Bridge (Shree Setu Project), redevelopment of the Jagannath Ballav Matha as an attractive pilgrim centre with multi-level car parking, amenities, commercial and meditation space and multi-modal hub at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

It also includes a plan of rejuvenation of the Musa River and connecting it with the Mangala river at a cost of **Rs 85 crore**. The development of Atharnala as an iconic pedestrian heritage bridge with the support of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the development of a lake on 28 acres of land at a cost of Rs 35 crore. This is not the first package announced for Puri as Patnaik had recently announced various projects for the region at a cost of Rs 265 crore under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme.

#### **Scheme Benefits**

The package announced by the Chief Minister focuses on a range of modernization plans which include infrastructure development, multi-lane roads, bridges, multilevel parkings, amenities for pilgrims, revival of Musa river, rehabilitation of those evicted from the security zone and renovation of lakes. The Chief Minister had recently announced various projects worth Rs 265 crore for Puri under the **Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme**.

#### **Shah Rukh Khan launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station**

Actor **Shah Rukh Khan** launched **heritage postal stamp** of **Bandra station** on the completion of **150 years** of the railway station. Ashish Shelar, minister of School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare of Maharashtra present at the Bandra station. King Khan shared his fetish of writing letters. Indian actor, film producer, **Shah Rukh Khan (SRK)** introduced heritage postal stamp of Bandra station in Mumbai, Maharashtra on the completion of 150 years of the railway station.

#### **Prakash Javadekar inaugurates National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the **National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural Sciences ((SACON)** in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

The centre study the movement of chemical contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls and drugs through the food chain.

The impacts on bird species. The ministry funded an amount of **Rs 4 crore** to the centre for modernization and to handle the challenges posed by the continued entry of newer chemicals into the environment.

#### **Slim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)**

Slim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) is a national centre for information, education and research in ornithology and natural history in India. It was inspired by and named in honour of Salim Ali, the leading pioneer of ornithology in India. It is an autonomous organisation established in 1990 as a public- NGO partnership between the MoEF&CC, and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) under the Centre of Excellence Scheme and registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act. Its headquarters are at Anaikatti, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India.

#### **CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated new regional office Norka Roots**

**Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the associate workplace of the **Norka Roots** at the underground station business building on the **MG Road Metro Station, Kochi**. This project aims to implement a lot of **welfare schemes for the non-resident Keralites (NRK)**. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the primary business venture being started by a non-resident Keralite at the Edapally underground station.

Under the Santhwana scheme, Norka-Roots has already spent around Rs.25 crore in 2018. It provided financial support to NRKs returning to their native place.

#### **Aim:**

NORKA Roots has been established by **Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs (NORKA)**. Norkas theme to provide opportunities for the Keralites living abroad to involve with the govt. within the case of an emergency and conjointly helped to ascertain their own business within the State. The **Kochi railroad line Rail Ltd (KMRL)** and Norka Roots can be part of hands to produce investment opportunities to Non-Resident Keralites (NRK) in railroad line stations.

#### **NORKA:**

The Non-Resident Keralites Affairs NORKA was established in **1996**. The department aimed at redressing the grievances of Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs). It also aims to strengthen the connection between the NRKs and the government. It will also address the NRKs drawback, safeguarding their rights and rehabilitating the returnees.

#### **Centre plans to provide WiFi to all villages**

Centre plans to provide Wi-Fi to all villages with connectivity between **10Mbps to 100 Mbps** speed under the **GramNet initiative**. The announcement was made by Minister of State for Communications **Shamrao Dhotre** at the 36th Foundation Day celebrations of **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, Delhi on **26 August**.

#### **Other Launches:**

Dhotre also launched the latest innovations of C-DOT including:

**C-Sat-Fi** (C-DOT Satellite WiFi)

**XGSPON** (10 G Symmetrical Passive Optical Network)

**C-DOT's Interoperable Set-Top Box (CiSTB)**

#### **BharatNet:**

Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BharatNet) has also announced that it is to provide **1 GBPS connectivity**. It can expand up to **10 GBPS**.

BharatNet has been set up by the Government of India. It functions under the Department of Telecommunications. It aims to establish, manage, and operate the National Optical Fibre Network to provide a minimum of 100 Mbit/s broadband connectivity to all **250,000-gram panchayats** in the country. The announcement by the BharatNet will highly support and achieve the Centre's plan '**Wi-Fi to all villages**' under the **GramNet initiative**.

#### **Banjari village of Katni district in MP to become an integral part of the digital map of the country**

Prime Ministers initiative among the of **Digital India is the Banjari village** of Katni district becomes the 1st village in Madhya Pradesh(MP) to become an integral part of the digital map of the country.

The Union **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEiTY)** won the Digital Village Project . It has planned to build 1000 digital villages across India in this phase starting from Banjari Gram Panchayat of MP. The project provides connectivity in every village & bridge the digital gap between rural and urban areas of the country. Akodara village of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat is the 1st digital village in India. The MEiTY planned to create one lakh digital villages of this kind in the **next 5 years**.

#### **About Digital India campaign:**

The program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015 The services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or by making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology.

#### **Brainstorming Session on Technological Innovations and Strategies for Farmers Prosperity in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh begins in New Delhi**

Every farmer of the country to be a progressive farmer Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar that the farmers should adopt new technologies and advancements in the field and must have frequent engagements with scientists and local Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Inaugurating the two-day Brainstorming Session on Technological Innovations and Strategies for **Farmers Prosperity** in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh in the presence of the Ministers of State Shri Parshottam Rupala and Shri Kailash Choudhary in New Delhi. The Minister emphasized that **Gaon, Garib, Kisan** is always at the

centre of Prime Ministers thoughts and actions and all these initiatives are aimed at fulfilling the vision of doubling farmers income by 2022.

The important sector Agriculture should play a stabilising role in the economy and for this modernisation and technological advancements are required in the field to which the ICAR can contribute immensely. The Minister added that this series of discussions with Farmers that started with Rajasthan in July should continue with every other state as this initiative will definitely help in the prosperity of the farming community. Calling on the farmers to adopt modern technologies, the Minister said that the discussions and learning from the two day session shall be taken forward to practising in the agricultural fields.

#### **Farmers - Agricultural Sector**

Urging every farmer of the country to be a progressive farmer Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that farmers should adopt new technologies and advancements in the field and must have frequent engagements with scientists and local Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Inaugurating the two day **Brainstorming Session on Technological Innovations and Strategies for Farmers Prosperity** in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh in the presence of the Ministers of State Shri Parshottam Rupala and Shri Kailash Choudhary in New Delhi today the Minister emphasized that Gaon, Garib, Kisan is always at the centre of Prime Ministers thoughts and actions and all these initiatives are aimed at fulfilling the vision of doubling farmers income by 2022. Agriculture should play a stabilising role in the economy and for this modernization and technological advancements are required in the field to which the ICAR can contribute immensely. The discussions with Farmers that started continue with every other state as this initiative will definitely help in the prosperity of the farming community. The farmers to adopt modern technologies, the Minister said that the discussions and learning from the two day session shall be taken forward to practising in the agricultural fields.

The agriculture sector such as providing market connectivity and promoting agricultural exports are major challenge is farmers not getting proper value for their produce. The better coordination between the farmers and researchers in the field for improvement of agricultural produce. Indian products should be able to compete with products from across the world and thereby fetch best market value. Although farmers get subsidies. The main aim should be not to solely rely on Government support but to take initiatives on their own to improve productivity. The thought of farming as just growing grains should be changed to adoption of integrated farming wherein fisheries, poultry, animal husbandry and beekeeping become part of farming.

Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, (DAC&FW) Ministry of Agriculture the Central Government is holding State specific discussions and that too directly with the farmers. The Secretary banking formalities have now been reduced and farmers can easily open accounts. The farmers to join for the new Farmers Pension scheme- PM Maan Dhan Yojana The farmers who have already registered for PM Kisan scheme will now start getting all information on their registered mobile phones. The Outlining few issues in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Dr. Mohapatra said that discussions shall be on how proper value for product can be ensured, market intervention through FPOs, role of Scientists & Institutes.

#### **Jio GigaFiber that offers 1000Mbps at Rs.700 per month to be unveiled on 5 September**

**Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd Jio** has announced that it is to **GigaFiber**. It is expected to offer **high-quality services at lower-than-average industry prices**. The rate will start from **Rs.700 per month and offer minimum 100Mbps** speeds as standard. It will be officially **unveiled on 5 September 2019**. The plans are yet to be announced.

The subscription will offer a lot of new-age smart services to its subscribers, including a **TV service with a feature-rich Set Top Box and fixed-line landline connection**. Jio won't charge any installation fee for new subscriptions in its new phase.

#### **Availability:**

Jio GigaFiber connections are currently available in places like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Surat, Vadodara, Chennai, Noida, Ghaziabad, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Surat, Agra, Meerut, Vizag, Lucknow, Jamshedpur, Haridwar, Gaya, Patna, Port Blair, Punjab and some more states.

#### **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers launched Janaushadhi Sugam was launched**

The **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** launched a mobile application **Janaushadhi Sugam**. It was launched by the Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, **Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda**. The Ministry has also announced that **Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable Sanitary Napkin** will now be available at only **One Rupee per pad**.

#### **Aim:**

The Janaushadhi Sugam app will help the people to search for **Janaushadhi generic medicines** and the stores in the **nearby location**. A report said that in India about **28 million girls** are leaving education because of lack of availability of good quality **Sanitary Napkin pads at a reasonable cost**. It ensures the health security of underprivileged Indian women who still use **unhygienic aids** during menstrual period due to non-affordability of sanitary pads available in the market.

#### **IIP sets up plant to turn plastic waste into diesel**

The **Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP)** has set up a plant turn plastic waste into diesel. The plant was inaugurated by the Union Science and Technology Minister **Harsh Vardhan** on 27 August. The plant setting up of the plant is a good move towards **freeing the environment from plastic**. It will also reduce the country's dependence on other countries for petroleum products. The plant will produce diesel out of plastic waste on a large scale.

#### **Aim:**

The move aims to protect the environment from plastic pollution. The plant will also boost economic growth. It is expected to produce **800 litres** of diesel from one tonne of plastic waste which will be collected with the help of NGOs. It is the first of its kind in setting up by a **government research institute in the country**.

#### **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan meets Australian Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Senator Matthew Canavan**

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** held a meeting with Australian Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Senator the Hon. Matthew Canavan. Both Ministers stressed on the importance of energy and resources in the bilateral relationship, and agreed to expand the scope of cooperation given that India offers a large energy market and Australia is rich in natural resources, particularly coal and LNG, apart from Uranium. **India** is already an importer of **LNG** from Australia. Given Indias major initiatives to move into a gas-based economy, there is significant scope for expanding LNG imports from Australia. He also mentioned that Indian consumer is price sensitive, and therefore affordability of LNG imports from Australia will be an important factor in enhancing cooperation in this area. Minister Canavan underlined Australias commitment to expand its ties with India, and highlighted its position as a reliable partner in meeting Indias energy security needs. Shri Pradhan called for greater investment flow from Australia to India and sharing of best practices. The greater cooperation in the area of coking coal. He said there is need for coordination between the two countries by bringing together Ministries responsible for **Coal, Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas** and Steel of each side to achieve greater synergy and enhance bilateral energy cooperation. India is the largest importer of Australian metallurgical coal, a favourable differential pricing mechanism should be worked out. The opportunities for collaboration will continue to expand as Indias energy mix evolves. The two dignitaries agreed to build further on a wide range of energy resources, which have a multiplier effect on the economy, in the coming months so that the energy pillar of bilateral engagement.

#### **India Launches Worlds First Ever Facial Biometric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document**

**India** became the first country in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)**, capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers. **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, MoS (I/C) Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers** launched the project in New Delhi. He also handed over the new BSID cards to five Indian seafarers.

The new facial biometric technology is a marked improvement over the two finger or iris based biometric data, with modern security features. It will make



the identification of the SID holder more reliable and efficient, while protecting their dignity and privacy. India made a presentation on this technology at ILO. The country is moving ahead rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The shipping sector is seeing major developments in the areas of coastal shipping, inland waterways and other maritime activities. The generation of employment in the sector, which is evident in the growing number of Indian seafarers in the international shipping industry. The total number of Indian seafarers who were employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels increased from 154349 in 2017 to 208799 this year, showing an unprecedented increase of 35%. The development is very significant against the backdrop of the increase in seafaring activities. The new document will give a foolproof identification to our seafarers which will facilitate their movement, provide ease of getting jobs and help in identifying them from any location in the world.

The **International Labour Organisation** on BSID. India ratified the Convention in October 2015. The BSID introduces modern security features. It will have a biometric chip embedded in it. The security of the BSID card is ensured at various levels and through different methods. At the time of data capturing the live face is cross matched through passport photo using a face matching software.

The card two optical security features- Micro prints/micro texts and Unique Guilloche pattern. A software has been developed for capturing the facial biometrics and its authentication through the public key infrastructure. A record of each SID issued will be maintained in a national database and its related information will be internationally accessible. The BSID project has been taken up in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Mumbai. The Government notified the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers Biometric Identification Document) Rules in 2016. The issuance of SID involves the collection of biometric and demographic details of the seafarers, their verification and then issuance of the card to them.

The nine data collection centers have been setup at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Noida, Goa, New Mangalore, Kochi, Vizag & Kandla for issue of BSID. Every Indian seafarer who possesses a valid Continuous Discharge Certificate issued by Govt. of India will be eligible for issue of a BSID. The total number of existing Indian seafarers who will be required to be issued BSIDs is around 3,50,000. All the existing seafarers will be given BSID within the next 2 years. After this, it is estimated that around 15000 new seafarers will be issued BSIDs annually.

#### **RDSO organizes Mega trafficker Meet in Lucknow**

The **Research arm of Indian Railways analysis styles and Standards Organization (RDSO)** is organizing a special Mega trafficker Meet in Lucknow on **30<sup>th</sup> August**. Industries across the country invited for this trafficker meet to encourage their participation in Indian Railways to offer chain development. No participation fee for attending the meet.

#### **Aim:**

The aim of the meet is to show-case larger business opportunities in the **Railway sector in Lucknow**. It also aims to create a platform for direct matched interaction and discussions of business with RDSO. RDSO will unveil its special offers at the meeting venue.

#### **Registration :**

RDSO has already initiated some measures to encourage vendors to register RDSO controlled things with 3 sources registration. The charges have been reduced from Rs.1,50,000/- to Rs.10,000/- for micro/small enterprises and from Rs.2,50,000/- to Rs.50,000/- for others.

#### **India Israel to develop new crop varieties**

**India and Israel** plan to develop **new crop varieties and share post-harvest technology** in the success of the **10 years Indo-Israeli Agriculture Project (IIAP)**. The project has accomplished growing **cherry tomatoes in Haryana and rejuvenating mango orchards** demonstrating to Indian farmers progressive irrigation technologies.

#### **Indo-Israel agriculture cooperation:**

The Indo-Israel agriculture cooperation project was launched in **2008**. The implementing partners are Israel's agency for international development cooperation and Indian state governments that facilitate discovered centers of excellence as per their native desires.

Every year about 10,000 and 20,000 farmers visit these centers. Around 8.6 million hectares area is below the micro-irrigation projects compared to a possible 69.5 million hectares.

In India, the unit water-stressed areas like **Karnataka, Telangana, and Gujarat** are currently using these techniques for simple water handiness. The 2018 budget for this technique claimed an **Rs.5,000 crore for micro-irrigation fund**.

#### **Union Government mulling Rs 5,400 crores funding to Northeast gas grid**

The second instance of providing funds for a gas pipeline the government considering shelling out about **5,400 crore** in viability gap funding for a proposed Northeast gas grid.

The 1,656-km North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl, Agartala, Shillong, Silchar, Gangtok, and Numaligarh. The absence of anchor customers, the 9,000 crore pipeline is not economically viable.

A viability gap funding of 60% of the project cost. The oil ministry is supporting the proposal and it is likely to be considered by the Cabinet soon, he said. The Northeast pipeline grid is to be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, a joint venture of state-owned GAIL India, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Oil India Ltd (OIL) and **Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL)**. The consortium pitched for a 60% funding support from the government and would raise the rest via equity and debt, the official said. This is the second time that a gas pipeline project in the country would be funded by the government. The government provided a capital grant of 5,176 crore, or 40% of the project cost, of the 2,655-km Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra (JHBDPL) gas pipeline project, which GAIL is currently executing.

#### **GAIL**

GAIL a 750-km line from Barauni to Guwahati as part of the 12,940 crore JHBDPL project. It is also known as the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' project. This is proposed to be connected to the Northeast via the Indradhanush grid. All other pipelines in the country have been funded by public or private sector companies. The oil companies will not be able to execute the Northeast grid project without the viability gap funding.

The project is critical towards implementing the government's Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast. The Vision envisages the development of the region by leveraging its hydrocarbon potential, enhancing access to clean fuel and accelerating the growth.

This is a part of a broader goal of the government to raise the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix to 15% by 2030 from current 6.2%. The government has envisaged developing the National Gas Grid. At present, about 16,788 km natural gas pipeline is operational and about 14,239 km gas pipelines are being developed to increase the availability of natural gas across the country.

#### **Rajnath Singh inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh** **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in Leh** on 29 August. The Mela was organized by **Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR)**.

The Ministry of Defence has asked DIHAR to work on the challenges in High Altitude Region (HAR- failure) in the coming 3 years. It is expected that DIHAR should turn the failure into JEET (Victory).

#### **DIHAR:**

The Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) is a constituent laboratory of **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**. DIHAR was set up in **1962** in Leh. It is located at an altitude of **3,500 m** above the Mean Sea Level (MSL). The institute has core competence in cold arid agro-animal technology.

The institute aims to meet fresh food requirement of the soldiers at high altitude cold desert condition. It is also responsible to make the region reasonably green. The research stations of the institute are located at **Ranbirpura, Ladakh; Partapur, Siachen Sector; Base Laboratory in Chandigarh and the worlds highest terrestrial R&D Centre at Changla, Ladakh**.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi to present Yoga Awards and release 12 AYUSH Commemorative Postal Stamps

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi present Yoga awards to the winners of PMs Award for Outstanding Contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga, announced during the International Day of Yoga, 2019 at Ranchi. The **two winners** of the previous year in an event organized by the Ministry of AYUSH at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Prime Minister release **12 commemorative postal stamps** to honour eminent scholars, Practitioners and great Master Healers of AYUSH Systems. These commemorative postal stamps highlight the great work and acknowledge the achievements of the great Master Healers of AYUSH Systems. The PMs award for outstanding contribution for Promotion and Development of Yoga institutionalized and announced during 2nd International Day of Yoga (IDY) event held at Chandigarh on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016, The awards conferred to the notable contributors in the field. The different categories out of 79 nominations for the current year and **186 nominations** in the previous year. Each of the winners won a Cash Award of Rs. 25 lakh, Trophy and a Certificate. Winners of the year 2019 Yoga Awards are - Swami Rajarshi Muni of Life Mission, Gujarat in Individual-National category, Ms. Antonietta Rozzi, Italy in Individual-International category, Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, Bihar in Organisation-National category, and Japan Yoga Niketan, Japan in Organisation- International Organisation category and Winners of 2018 Yoga Awards are Shri Vishwas Mandalik, Nasik, Individual- National category and the Yoga Institute, Mumbai, Organisation National category.

The Prime Minister will also launch **10 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres (AYUSH HWCs)** located in the state of Haryana and are in line with Ministry of AYUSHs commitment to making 12,500 AHWCs functional in next three years. In order to provide comprehensive primary healthcare, AYUSH components have been integrated into Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat. The centres will be complementing the National Health Policy 2017 that insisted upon integration and mainstreaming of AYUSH services in conventional health care delivery system. It is a historic beginning in mainstreaming of holistic, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative AYUSH care for achieving comprehensive health care. The main focus of AYUSH HWCs would be empowering the community for self-care by imbibing AYUSH based healthy food and lifestyle, social behaviour and use of medicinal plants for primary health care. Provisions will also be made for diagnostics and medicines for a wide range of health problems. These services will be in addition to the currently ongoing National Health Programs.

### Cabinet approved Sugar export policy to sugar mills

The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved to provide **Rs.10,448 per metric tonne (MT)** as an export subsidy to **sugar mills** for the sugar season 2019-20. The entire estimated expenditure of **Rs.6,268 crore** will be utilized for the export subsidy. It will be used to promote prices as well as handling, upgrading, and different process prices, prices of international and internal transport and freight charges on export of up to **60lakh metric ton (LMT) of sugar** restricted to **most admissible Export amount (MAEQ)** that is allotted to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20.

#### Sugar Season:

The sugar season 2019-20 is predicted, to begin with, a gapping stock of concerning **142 LMT** and season finish stock square measure expected to be **concerning 162 LMT**. The excess stock of 162 LMT of sugar would produce downward pressure resulting in the accumulation of cane value arrears of farmers.

#### Subsidy:

The subsidy would be directly attributable to **farmer's accounts on behalf of mills** against cane value dues and sequent balance. Additional amount, if any, will be transferred to the mill's account.

Beneficiaries: The Cabinet's move is expected to benefit millions of farmers in **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka** as well as other states. **Maharashtra and Haryana** are among the top sugar cane producing states in the country.

### Tamil Nadu 150-year-old Dindigul locks and Kandangi sarees secure GI tag

The **Geographical Indication Registry of India** finally gave **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag to the state of Tamil Nadu for **Dindigul lock** and **Karaikudi Kandangi sarees**.

The handmade Dindigul locks are known for their traditional design, superior quality. They are manufactured in more than **3,125 units** in Dindigul District of Tamil Nadu and they are concentrated in the villages of Nagal Nagar, Nallampatti, Kodaiparailpatti, Kammalapatti, and Yagappan Patti. The manufacturing unit is **150 years** old. It is introduced by the **Sankaralinga Acharya brothers**. There are around **50 types** of locks manufactured by the industry. Each lock has its own special unique name such as Mango Lock, Almirah Lock, Export Lock, and In 2013.

An application filed by the Dindigul Lock, Hardware and Steel Furniture Workers Co-operative Society Ltd. These Sarees are the symbol of entire Karaikudi taluk of Sivaganga district. The hand-woven Kandangi sarees are characterized by brilliant color large contrast borders. **These sarees** have a tradition of **150 years**. Rajiv Gandhi Handloom Weavers Co-operative Manufacturing & Sales Society Limited had applied for a tag for these sarees in 2013. The GI tagging help rural artisans & highly skilled weavers, who possess unique knowledge of traditional practices and methods. They can make & market their products domestically and internationally.

### PM Modi launched Fit India Movement

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the nation-wide **Fit India Movement** on the **National Sports day, 29 August**. The event was launched at the **Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi**. The movement has been appealed to each subject to stay healthy and work. Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju participated in the event.

#### Fit India Movement:

Fit India Movement is a **nation-wide campaign**. The movement aims to encourage drill physical activity and sports in their everyday lives. The entire program has been conceptualized by PM Modi. He also launched a **Fitness Logo, Fitness Pledge** that said I will encourage my relations and neighbors to physically work and build the nation.

To support the move, the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** directed everyone to steer a minimum of 10,000 steps and follow it up in their daily routine.

#### Committee:

Centre has set up a **28-member committee** comprising government officials **to advise the government** on the Fit India Movement. The committee **chaired by sports minister Kiren Rijiju** includes members of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), national sports federations, private bodies, and fitness promoters and 12 members from the government, including Ayush, Youth Affairs, secretaries of Sports, Secondary Education, and others.

### Indian railways to go 100 percent electrified in 10 years

Centre plans to achieve **100% electrification of railways** in the **next 10 years**. The announcement was made by the **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** at the **CCI's 14<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Summit** held in **New Delhi on 28-29 August 2019**.

#### Aim:

The aim of the move is a part of the efforts to **curb carbon footprints**. Under this move, **the world's first large railways**, with nearly 1,20,000 km of track, will be 100% electrified. By electrifying the railways, carbon will reduce from the entire atmosphere.

#### Carbon reduction:

More than half of the trains of the Indian Railways that come to New Delhi are still based on diesel. Reports said that in 2018-19, Indian Railways consumed about **3.1 billion litres of high-speed diesel (HSD)** and **20.44 billion units** of electricity and for its energy requirement. Apart from this Indian Railways is taking various environment-friendly or energy efficient measures to reduce carbon footprint and protect the environment.

### Assam govt gears up security in view of publication of final NRC list

Assam government asserted there is no reason to be worried as the state is all set to publish the final NRC. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Political) Kumar Sanjay Krishna that adequate security measures have been put into place across the state. There is a security threat on the day of publication of NRC but the security forces are to maintain peace.

The district administrations have met opinion leaders and prominent people in confidence building measures. The people whose names do not appear in the final NRC would get opportunities to appeal in the Foreigners Tribunals. The 200 Foreigners Tribunals will become functional from 1st of next month at Nagaon, Tezpur, Guwahati, Bongaigaon, Dhubri and Nalbari. He also said that legal aid cell will provide assistance to the needy people. The social media is being monitored by the police to prevent spreading rumours.

#### Assam

Capital: Dispur

Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

Chief Minister :Sarbananda Sonowal

### Cabinet approved the launch of international CDRI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister approved** the international **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** together with its supporting Secretariat office in **Delhi**. The CDRI is expected to be launched at the **UN Climate Action Summit** in New York, the USA on 23 September 2019. The event is organized by the UN Secretary-General that will bring together the largest Heads of States to come up with commitments for combating the consequences of climate change and ensuing disasters and can offer the high-level visibility needed for the CDRI.

#### Other approvals:

Cabinet has approved for the establishment of the **International CDRI together** with its supporting Secretariat workplace in New Delhi. Also, it also approved the establishment of the **Secretariat of the CDRI** as a Society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**. Cabinet approved for the government of India's support of **Rs.480 crore** to CDRI to fund research projects. It approved the formation of a **charter document**. It will act as the founding document of the CDRI.

#### CDRI:

**Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** is a **knowledge platform** that is generated and changed on various aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure. CDRI produces a mechanism to help countries with relation to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic desires.

### India First Sky Cycling Park At a Height of 9000 Feet In Manali to Open Soon

**Cyclists** are often spotted on roads and mountains enjoying the ride, while they pedal away to glory. They will be spotted cycling through the skies of **Himachal Pradesh**. The main aim is to boost tourism and give an all-new experience to visitors. Forest Department and **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports** joined hands and developed sky cycling park in Gulaba area near **Manali**.

#### Sky Cycling Park

The eco-friendly park, which is **350-meter long**, is the first sky cycling park in the country. The sky cycling path is at a height of **9,000 feet** above sea level, news agency ANI quoted Neeraj Chadha, Division Forest Officer, Kullu. The adventure sport, sky cycling will be open to tourists in another fortnight. This will give a fillip to tourism in Manali and visitors will get an enriching experience of adventure sports at this park. They provide employment to locals. It is one of the most popular hill stations in the country, Manali in Himachal Pradesh is blessed with scenic beauty, lush green forests and gushing blue streams. People from various parts of the country and abroad, travel to Manali to get an experience of skiing and paragliding at Solang Valley. One of the most scenic spots in Manali is Rohtang Pass. The snow-capped mountains lure not only nature lovers but also adventure seekers to experience mountain biking and skiing.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### India signs deal to acquire R-27 Missiles from Russia

India signed a deal worth **Rs 1500 crore** to buy R-27 air-to-air missiles from Russia. The main objective of this deal is to boost the capabilities of Indian Air Force (IAF) R-27 air-to-air missiles will be equipped on the Su-30MKI fighter jets.

#### R-27 Missile

It is a medium-range air-to-air missile. It is initially developed for MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets. They developed these missiles to add the capability to the Sukhoi and MiG warfare aircraft. Indian Air Force signed Rs 7600 crore deals in the past two months. The actual design of R-27 missile was started in 1962 while its production was started in 1986. More than 25 countries are taking services of this missile. R-27 missile can destroy air targets even in adverse weather conditions. The length of the missile is 4 meter and the diameter is 0.23 meter. The weight of the missile is 253 kilograms. There are six extended versions - **R-27ER1, R-27R1, R-27ET1, R-27T1, R-27EP1, and R-27P1**.

The government gave emergency purchasing powers to all three military services. Indian army can buy whatever warfare equipment is important to safeguard our borders. The powers given to security forces within three months at a cost up to Rs 300 crore.

### Cabinet approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in Moscow

The **Union Cabinet** approved the setting up of **ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in Moscow**. The move comes as the India Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) cooperation with Russia on the **Gaganyaan project**, India's human space mission programme. The process has been planned to be completed within six months from the date of approval.

#### Cost estimated:

The cost estimated for the project is about **Rs.1.5 crore per annum**. It is expected to be incurred at ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) towards salary, office expenses, rent and taxes etc.

#### ISROs ITLU:

The ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow will provide effective technical coordination for timely interventions on diversified matters with Russia and neighbouring countries for realization of the programmatic targets of ISRO. The ITLU Moscow office will be managed by **an ISRO scientist or engineer designated as Counsellor (Space)** on deputation and supported by the staff sourced locally.

ISRO's Gaganyaan programme requires development of some of the key technologies and establishment of specialized facilities, which are essential to support life in space. ISRO will be able to collaborate with Space agencies/industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for **mutually synergetic outcomes**.

### Researchers says that the Shape of Milky way galaxy is not flat but warped

Researchers from University of Warsaw released the most detailed **three-dimensional map of the Milky Way**. It has revealed that the Milkyway galaxy is **not a flat disc** but has a **warped shape** like a fascinator hat or a vinyl record that has been left in the sun. **Evidence that it is not flat:**

The study said that the **stars 60,000 light years** away from the Milky Ways centre are as far as **4,500 light years above or below** the galactic plane and it gives high possibility to conclude that the milky way galaxy is not flat in shape. Both the new study and an earlier one published in February are based on the distribution across the galaxy of stars known as Cepheids. The key to creating the maps is the phenomenon of dimming and brightening of the stars. Cepheids are celestial bodies whose brightness varies in a regular cycle over time. The study suggested that about **26,000 light years from the centre of the galaxy the bending away from the plane of the galaxy** has begun and it becomes steeper from about **32,000 light years**. By calculating the ages of the stars and plotting their 3D positions in the Milky Ways disc explains the formation of the Milky Ways spiral arms up to 175 million years ago.

### ICMR introduces 2 new TB vaccines, VPM 1002 and Immuvac

The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** launched a trial for **two new TB vaccines**. This is Indias first large-scale trial. This is a large preventive TB vaccine trial. The initiative involves more than 12,000 healthy household contacts of newly diagnosed TB patients from across **six states** of India are set to be enrolled.

Two thousand participants from each of the six states including **Delhi, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka** will enroll over the next seven to eight months. Also, seven main centres will have six sub-sites, where these trials will be conducted.

#### Two new vaccines:

The two new TB vaccines that are introduced by ICMR are:

**Immuvac** manufactured by Cadila Pharmaceuticals **VPM 1002** manufactured by Institute of India, Pune The medicines are to be tested with three testing phases. Based on the results the **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** will decide and set the price of the vaccines.

#### Reason for ICMR's new TB vaccines:

To treat TB multi-drug course that usually spans six months is usually involved. Scientists from ICMR suggested that new TB vaccines other than **BCG (Bacille Calmette-Guerin)**, which is 100 years old, is needed to treat TB as it has been partially effective in protecting infants and young children and it provides poor protection against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults.

#### TB in India:

Data from Ministry of Health and Family Welfares Central TB division said that the TB incidence in India has touched almost **2.8 million every year** along with drug-resistant TB incidence at **1,47,000 annually**. It also said that around 27% of the worlds TB incidences are from India. It has marked the highest share at a global level. In 2017, the Centre vowed to eliminate TB by the year 2025.

### ISRO to get Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K.Sivan** laid the foundation stone for the **Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in Bengaluru**. The Centre aims to protect the high value space assets from **space debris' close approach and collisions**. It is an important milestone in the progress of ISRO.

#### Functions of the Centre:

The **Space Situational Awareness Control Centre** would hold various range of activities to protect **Indian space assets from inactive satellites**, parts and pieces of orbiting objects, asteroids near earth and adverse space weather conditions. The Centre will learn the tracking data of inactive satellites from indigenous observation facilities. It will also generate useful information from bare observations through analysis.

#### Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM):

Due to the increase in **manmade space debris** and the increased collision threat with operational spacecraft, the Space Situational Awareness & Management (SSAM) has become an **internationally significant area**.

### Franky Zapata crosses Channel on hoverboard

**Franky Zapata**, the French inventor, successfully crossed the **English Channel** on a **jet-powered hoverboard**. He set off on his **kerosene-fueled Flyboard from Sangatte** in the **Pas de Calais** region on the northern coast of France for the **22-mile (36 km) journey to St.Margarets Bay**. The hoverboard was powered by a backpack which contains enough paraffin to keep **Zapata airborne** for about 10 minutes. He had to stop to refuel halfway through the journey.

He set a record of a top speed of **202 Kmper hour** during the crossing. The success comes after the failure of his first bid on 25 July 2019. Earlier in December, the French military gave Zapatas company, Z-AIR, a **1.3m (1.19m)** development grant.

#### Hover board:

**Hover board** is a mode of transport that is used for **personal transportation**. It resembles a skateboard that travels above the surface of the ground, ridden in a standing position.

## India gets its first 3D Smart Traffic Signal

Punjab's Mohali traffic police have launched 'Intelights'. The system was designed by the students of a Chandigarh university. It is India's first **3-D Smart Traffic Signal** devised on the **wireless system**. It has been installed at the traffic crossing near the Airport Road. The 3-D Smart Traffic Signal will regulate the traffic signals with a **smart bird's eye**. The cost estimated varies from **Rs.70 lakh to Rs.1 crore**.

### About Intelights:

The **Intelligent Traffic Timer Control (Intelights)** uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights according to the traffic density at an intersection. Intelights uses existing CCTV cameras that automatically evaluate the traffic density using **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** which sets the signal timers accordingly. This process gets repeated for every cycle of traffic lights to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

**Why was it introduced?** Intelights project proposes a 360-degree solution to curb the **rising problem of traffic congestion**. The major reason for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of **traffic signal timers** installed at intersections. The timers of traffic lights display a preset value which leads to waste of time. To tackle this issue the 3D traffic signals introduced the **Intelights**.

## SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israel's Amos 17 telecommunications satellite

The **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** launched Israeli telecommunications satellite called **Amos-17** at **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida**. The satellite was launched successfully into the geosynchronous transfer orbit.

The launch was a makeup launch for SpaceX when a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket exploded on the launch pad in 2016. Amos-17 has been designed to **provide enhanced voice, video and data services** to customers in Africa and parts of **Europe, the Middle East, India and China**.

### SpaceX's previous and recent launches:

Before AMOS 17, SpaceX launched the **Europe's Arianespace consortium** with **two satellites** from its spaceport in the South American country of French Guiana using its heavy-lift Ariane 5 rocket. The second satellite called **EDRS-C** is part of an effort led by the **European Space Agency and Airbus** to facilitate **high-speed laser communications** between orbiting satellites and ground stations.

## Delhi gov't. unveiled the Citywide WiFi project

**Delhi government** has announced that **11,000 hotspots** will be installed to provide **Wi-Fi** before the **end of 2019**. The announcement was made by **CM Arvind Kejriwal**. It also announced that **4,000 hotspots** will be installed at bus stops. The State gov't. has planned to install **1,40,000 more CCTVs** in the State.

### Aim:

The **Citywide Wi-Fi** project aims to help in **bridging the digital divide**. It will also provide motivation to **education, entrepreneurship, business, employment**. It will also tie in with **women's safety initiatives**. **Project implementation:** The **expenditure finance committee (EFC)** has approved the 'hotspot' model to provide free internet to Delhiites. The committee has also approved **Rs.99 crore** for the project.

In the first phase, up to **15 GB usage per mobile number** will be free of cost per month. The Wi-Fi signals will be available within a radius of about **50m** from where the router is installed. The project has been planned to be completed by **September 2020**.

## IIT Madras introduced a method to recycle urine

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** introduced the **Project Water Chakra** to recycle urine. The project was done by an IIT-M student with 3 project staff. The Project Water Chakra won the **Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0 award** in July 2019. The project has developed a prototype for the **Carbon Zero Challenge**.

### Process:

Initially, they retrofitted urinals on the campus to collect urine. The concentrated urine was stored for **3 days** until the urea was **converted into ammonia**. The ammonia is segregated by a process called **Steam distillation**. This commercial grade liquid can be used to make **cleaning products**, such as

detergents or in rubber manufacturing. Also, **90%** of the water can be recovered and it can be used for **gardening purposes and flushing**.

## Researchers introduce Selfie video to measure Blood Pressure

**Researchers in Canada and China** developed a technology called **transdermal optical imaging (TOI)**. The technology works by taking into account the fact the facial skin is translucent. The Optical sensors on smartphones that are used can capture red light reflected from hemoglobin under the skin. This allows TOI to visualize and **measure changes in blood flow**.

The technology gives **95% accuracy**. The technology needs extra research to make it more accurate. The technology will help people at risk of **hypertension- or hypotension-related issues** to track their blood pressure without the need for a dedicated device. It could also help people with limited healthcare access, such as people who live in remote areas.

## Reliance Jio Fibre launch on Sept 5 plans start at Rs 700 per month

Mukesh Ambani announced the roll-out of **'Jio Fiber'** from September 5, promising free voice calls for life from landlines, 100 Mbps minimum broadband speed at subscription starting from Rs 700 a month and free HD TV set on a commitment to an annual plan. The **42nd Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani Jio offer unlimited international calling pack from its landlines to the US and Canada at Rs 500 a month that default tariff plans will be one-fifth to one-tenth of existing market tariffs. Jio Fiber services would be available on a commercial basis from September 5. The average fixed-line download speed in the US which is the most developed economy is around 90 Mbps. India even the most basic Jio Fiber plan starts with 100 Mbps speed and we have plans all the way up to 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps," he said adding that this would improve the quality of fixed-line data in India. The plans will come at less than one-tenth of global rates. Jio Fiber plans will be priced between Rs 700 to Rs 10,000 per month "to suit every budget". The plans come bundled with subscriptions to most leading premium **Over The Top (OTT)** applications. Premium Jio Fiber customers will be able to watch movies in their living rooms the same day these movies are released in theatres. This service - **Jio First Day First Show** will be launched in mid-2020. It was widely expected that he would spell out the details of the commercial roll-out of Jio Giga Fiber at Monday's AGM. Jio has been scaling up Jio Giga Fibre infrastructure in various cities over the last few months, and half a million homes have already been given access to it on a trial basis.

### JIO Fiber Offers

The company will also offer special mobility service for Jio Fiber users to deliver a platinum-grade service and product experience. Jio Postpaid Plus will offer priority SIM-setup service at home. It would also provide data and voice connectivity across all devices, both at home and outside, along with family plans and international roaming at a fraction of a cost. Jio amassed over 340 million mobile subscribers in less than three years, is now ready to fire four new growth engines including Internet of Things (IoT) for the entire country, home and enterprise broadband services as well as broadband for SMEs. The investment cycle of Reliance Jio is complete, and about Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been invested in its digital network. The potential for growth is immense and half a billion customers is now I believe well within our reach. The investment cycle of Jio is now complete, and only marginal investments would be needed in areas to grow capacity. Jio's IoT platform will be commercially available starting January 1, 2020. Jio aims to connect at least 1 billion of these (connected devices) on Jio's IoT platform. This translates into a Rs 20,000 crore per year revenue opportunity for Jio. The company received strong interest from strategic and financial investors for its consumer businesses.

## ISRO to perform Trans lunar injection on Chandrayaan 2 on 20 August

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** said that **Chandrayaan-2** is to enter the **moon's orbit** on **20 August**. ISRO is to perform a maneuver called **translunar injection**, by which Chandrayaan-2 will leave earth and move towards the moon's orbit.

On 6 August, Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft entered the **5th orbit around the Earth** after **five orbit-raising manoeuvres**. The manoeuvre to get the spacecraft out of the Earth's orbit will be performed on **14 August**. The

spacecraft will be landing on the moon's surface on 7 September by performing a series of maneuvers.

#### Chandrayaan-2:

Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission, was successfully launched on **22<sup>nd</sup> July**. The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft weighs around 3.8 tonnes. The cost of the mission was **Rs.978 crore**, Rs.603 crore for the space segment and Rs.375 crore for the launch.

The space segment of Chandrayaan-2 includes an **orbiter**, a **lander** named Vikram and a **rover** named Pragyan. The orbiter is expected to separate from Vikram, the lander, on 7 September.

#### Trans-lunar injection:

A **trans-lunar injection (TLI)** maneuver is a propulsive movement which will set a spacecraft on a trajectory. This procedure will cause the spacecraft to arrive at the Moon.

#### Researchers found the stunning super massive black hole ever

Researchers from the Max Planck Institute, Germany have found the **largest black hole ever**. It was named **Holmberg 15A**. The researchers are to further continue studying the massive blackhole and will conduct more complex and detailed modelling surrounding it. The study will help them figure out how exactly these black holes are formed and how many such **massive blackholes** are yet to be discovered.

#### Holmberg 15A:

The black hole was observed at the center of **Holm 15A**, the central galaxy of **Abell 85** which is about **700 million light-years away**. The radius of the black hole is about **790 Astronomical unit (AU)**.

Holm 15A is **more than twice as large as the previous observed record-setter** at **40 billion times** the mass of the Sun, and 10,000 times the mass of the black hole at the core of the Milky Way. The black hole was spotted by using data from the **Very Large Telescope array**.

#### Astronomical Unit:

An Astronomical Unit (AU) is an unit of length, roughly equal to **150 million kilometers**, that is used to measure the average distance between Earth and the Sun. AUs are generally used to measure distances within our Solar System.

#### Pretomanid gets USFDA approval

**TB Alliance's** new drug **Pretomanid** was approved by the **US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA)**. Along with it, the new oral three-drug regimen for the **extensively-drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)** got its approval. It is estimated to have a mortality rate of **60%**. Pretomanid was approved under the **Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs (LPAD pathway)**.

The treatment includes a combination of pretomanid tablets with bedaquiline and linezolid. This combination is collectively referred to as the **BPaL regimen**. It has an efficacy rate of **90%**. As per the report by World Health Organization (WHO), the drugs earlier had a success rate of only **34%** for **XDR-TB** and **55%** for multi-drug resistant **TB (MDR-TB)** cases. These medicines also had severe side-effects like deafness, numbness, joint pain, renal failure hormonal imbalance, vertigo, among others.

#### Trials:

In 2015-2017, Pretomanid was tested on 109 patients with **XDR-TB** and **MDR-TB** from South Africa. 95 patients were successfully treated after a 6 months trial and a follow-up of six months was also done. The new regimen is needed to be given only for six-months whereas in previous treatments it was eight antibiotics every day for 18 months or more depending on the severity.

#### ICMR finalised India's first NEDL

**Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** finalised **India's first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL)**. India has now become the first country to compile such a list. The move comes after the challenges faced by ICMR which decided that diagnostics serve a key role in improving health and quality of life.

#### Aim:

NEDL aims to **bridge the current regulatory** systems gap. The current system does not cover all the **medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD)**.

The newly-introduced system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices. The list would provide guidance to the government to decide the kind of diagnostic tests that different healthcare facilities in villages and remote areas require.

#### CBSE conduct the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test

**Central Board of Secondary Education** conducts the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET)**. The exam will be conducted on 08-12-2019. The test will be conducted in **20 languages** in **110 cities** all over the country. The Information Bulletin containing details of examination, syllabus, languages, eligibility criteria, examination fee, examination cities, and important dates will be available on CTET official website [www.ctet.nic.in](http://www.ctet.nic.in) from 19-08-2019. Candidates are requested to download the Information Bulletin only from above mentioned website and read the same carefully before applying. Candidates have to apply online only through CTET website [www.ctet.nic.in](http://www.ctet.nic.in). The online application process will start from 19-08-2019. The last date for submitting online application is 18-09-2019 and fee can be paid upto 23-09-2019.

#### Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET)

The CTET exam is conducted for two papers - **Paper I** is meant for Primary stage (for classes 1 to 5) teachers and **Paper II** is meant for Elementary stage (for classes 6 to 8) teachers. Candidates who fulfill the eligibility criteria for both papers can apply for both papers. The exam is conducted to certify the eligibility of teachers to teach in CBSE-affiliated schools. CBSE generally conducts the CTET examination twice in a year, once in July and once in December. The result for the July 2019 CTET exam was released on July 30th in which around 3.5 candidates had participated out of which 2.15 lakh qualified from Paper I and 1.37 lakh from Paper-II.

#### Chandrayaan 2 entered Moon's Orbit

India's first-ever mission aimed for a soft landing on the **Moon's south polar region**, **Chandrayaan-2**, was inserted into **Moon's orbit on 20 August**. The entry was confirmed by the Indian Space Agency, ISRO. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22 and had left the Earth's orbit on August 14. Before reaching the final orbit, the spacecraft will now undergo four-orbit manoeuvres about 100 km from the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-2 was precisely inserted in the defined orbit. Following its entry in the lunar orbit, there will be four more orbit manoeuvres to make the spacecraft enter its final orbit passing over the lunar poles at a distance of about 100 km from the moon's surface.

#### Constant monitor:

Various research and monitoring centres such as The Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at **ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)** in **Bengaluru** with support from **Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN)** antennas at **Byalalu** has been continuously monitoring the health of the spacecraft.

#### Aim:

The mission will help scientists to gain a better **understanding of the origin**. The detailed topographical studies, comprehensive mineralogical analyses, and a host of other experiments on the lunar surface that will be conducted on the Moon will help mankind to understand the evolution of the Moon.

#### IIT Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins made from composite banana fiber

An **IIT-Delhi student** formulated a kind of **reusable sanitary napkins** that are made from **composite banana fiber**. These napkins can last up to **2 years** and can be reused **around 120 times**.

#### Reusable sanitary napkins:

The reusable pads are ultra-thin and are highly absorbent with **Lock Technology** that makes the pad leakproof and avoids creating any rashes. These pads can be **washed in cold water** with detergents after every use. The cost of reusable napkins is Rs.199. The designed product will save up to 75% of the cost.

#### Aim:

The aim of the reusable sanitary pads is to address the **disposable pad waste burdening** the planet. The product is also concerned about women hygiene and to make their life simpler without any discomforts.



### Need for reusable sanitary napkins:

Most of the sanitary napkins are made of synthetic materials and plastic. These plastics can take more than 50-60 years to decompose. This enormous amount of menstrual waste is usually dumped in landfills or thrown in open burnt etc is creating a hazard for the environment and air pollution hazard.

The **Menstrual Hygiene Alliance of India (MHAI)** reported that about **336 million** menstruating women in India use disposable sanitary pads summing up to **121 million**. India has around 12.3 billion disposable sanitary napkins every year with a majority of these are non-biodegradable.

### NASA scientists fly over Greenland to track melting ice

**NASA scientists** are crossing **Greenland** on a mission to track melting ice. Greenland melting faster in the last decade and this summer it has seen two of the **biggest melts** on record since 2012.

**Global warming** is the chief culprit of the melting ice issue. Both warmer air and warmer water are eating away at Greenland it causes to lose billions of tons of ice daily in the summer. A team of scientists and engineers aboard a research plane are dropping probes into the ice to help figure out which is the bigger cause. If water is playing a bigger role than scientists had thought, that could mean seas will be rising faster than expected.

### Russia sends humanoid robot to ISS

**Russia** has sent a **humanoid robot** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** on a **10-day mission**. The aim is to support the astronauts on board. The name of the **humanoid robot** is **Fedor**. The **Skybot F-850** became the **first humanoid robot** to be sent to space by Russia after it was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on 22 August. The spacecraft has been scheduled to stay until September 7, 2019.

The robot is travelling in an unmanned **Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft**. Fedor is expected to dock at the ISS on **23 August**. The spacecraft holds more than **650kg of cargo**, including medical supplies and food rations for the crew waiting at the station. It is also expected that Fedor will eventually carry out more dangerous tasks, like spacewalks.

### Chandrayaan 2 sent the first image of Moon

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** released the first visuals of the moon captured by **Chandrayaan-2** from a distance of **2,650 km** from the lunar surface on **22 August**. The photograph was taken on **21 August**. In the image sent by Chandrayaan-2, ISRO has identified two landmarks on the moon, Mare Orientale basin, and Apollo crater. The first Moon image was captured at a height of about 2650km from the Lunar surface.

The **Mare Orientale** is shaped like a target ring bull's-eye. It is located on the Moon's extreme western edge which is difficult to see from an earthbound perspective. It is over 3 billion years old, about 950 km across and was formed by the impact of an asteroid sized object.

**Apollo** is a 538km diameter double-ringed impact crater in the southern hemisphere of the far side of the Moon.

### NASA confirms Europa Clipper Mission

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States (US)** space agency confirmed the next phase of development of the Europa Clipper Mission. It is an interplanetary mission to Jupiter's smallest moon Europa with the target. It is conducting an in-depth exploration of Jupiter's moon **Europa** whether the icy moon can have suitable conditions for sustaining life and increase our insights into astrobiology.

The space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the development of the Europa Clipper mission in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory for the Science Mission Directorate.

The mission is managed by the Planetary Missions Program Office at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Jupiter's Galilean moon Europa consists of a huge ocean of liquid water beneath its icy shell. The water is in contact with the rocky core of the moon, which according to space scientists, make a range of interesting chemical reactions possible. The astrobiologists consider 1,940-miles-wide (3,120 kilometres) Europa moon to be one of the best bets to host alien life in the solar system.

#### NASA

**Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States

**Founder:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Founded:** 29 July 1958, United States

### Researchers have developed a lens that works like human eye

Harvard researchers have developed **metalens**, an electronic flat lens that **works like the human eye**.

#### About the Lens:

The technology used in the **new artificial eye** will revolutionize the lenses used in **cameras, VR/AR headsets and eyewear**. The special features of the lens include simultaneous focus, control of aberrations caused by astigmatism and image shifts. The Lens demonstrates the feasibility of embedded optical zoom and autofocus for a wide range of applications, including cell phone cameras. It uses tiny nanostructures to focus light and hence the entire visible light spectrum at a single point.

### NASA found more than 40 pieces of debris created by India's anti satellite test

A survey by the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Orbital Debris Program Office** reported that more than **40 pieces of debris** created by **India's anti-satellite test**. The debris created by the test conducted by **ISRO on 27 March** is still moving around in space even as the majority of the debris has disintegrated. The survey also said that 101 big pieces have been tracked and 49 continue to be in the orbit as of July 15.

#### India's anti-satellite test:

India had shot down the **Microsat-R satellite** on March 27, 2019. It intended to demonstrate that it can shoot down the space-based infrastructure of an enemy country. India is only the **fourth country** to have demonstrated this capability.

### ISRO to launch Cartosat 3 in October or November

India plans to launch **Cartosat-3**, its advanced satellite in the month of **October-November**. ISRO plans to launch the **Cartosat-3** using the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket**. The announcement was made by K.Sivan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

ISRO was supposed to launch CartoSat-3 in May 2019. ISRO has launched 8 Cartosats so far.

#### Cartosat-3:

Cartosat-3 is the **third series of earth observational** or remote sensing satellite. It is an advanced version with **better spatial with a range of view**, and **resolution of up to 0.25m or 25cm** as compared to the Cartosat-2 series satellites. It is capable of producing images with one of the most high-resolution in the world, and certainly the highest of any satellites under ISRO's umbrella. Cartosat-3 has been developed to produce high-resolution pictures for **strategic applications**. It is fitted with **advanced remote sensing tools** that will be helpful with defence. CartoSat-3 has been designed in a way that it will be one of the most advanced imaging satellites ever built by ISRO. In this earth observation mission, it will have powerful capabilities in **multiple different spectral characteristics** including: **panchromatic** which captures all visible colors of light **multispectral** which is capable of capturing light within specific ranges in the electromagnetic spectrum **hyper spectral** that can capture light from across the electromagnetic spectrum **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle:**

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is a **medium-lift launch vehicle**. It has been designed and operated by ISRO. The PSLV was designed to be 450m high and of 2.8m diameter fitted with an associate degree direction system to accomplish navigation, steering, and angle management missions.

#### ISRO's Other launches using PSLV:

PSLV has launched a **62, where 27 Indian and 35 foreign, satellites** together with Resource sat-2, Yuthsat, X-sat, Cartosat-2B, Alsat-2A, Studsat, Ocean sat-2, six nanosatellites, Risat-2, Anusat, Cartosat-2A, IMS-1, DLR-Tubsat, capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1), KALPANA-1 and a number of other others satellites.

### Fourth edition of Internet of Things India Congress 2019 held in Bengaluru

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of India's largest confluence of digital technology, the **Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress 2019** held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme of Edition is **Mainstreaming the Internet of Things**. It was inaugurated by

Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India(GoI). The IoT India Congress 2019 will include tracks on segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, telecom, smart cities, energy, retail, cybersecurity, skills and development, IoT Standards, legal and regulatory, and agriculture.

#### Internet of Things (IoT)

The internet of things, or IoT, is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction.

#### Fedor arrived at ISS

A humanoid machine named **Fedor**, Russia's first robot in space arrived at the **International Space Station (ISS)** on 27 August. **Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research (Fedor)** is officially known as **SkybotF850**.

#### Aim:

The robot was aimed to enable Russian astronauts to perform risky space experiments from a **remote location**. Fedor will complete its work and return to Earth on 7 September.

#### Fedor:

The **180 cm and 160Kg** Fedor flew to the ISS in an unmanned **Soyuz MS-14** vehicle on 22 August. SkybotF850 is a humanoid bipedal robot, which means it resembles a human being and walks like one too. Fedor has been designed in a way it has the ability to mirror its **controllers movements**. This facility will enable it to conduct experiments in potentially risky environments while being controlled from a safe distance.

#### Lieu Governor launches QR Code Scheme on Himmat Plus app

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal launched a **QR Code Scheme** on the Himmat Plus app which can be used by cab or auto-rickshaw passengers to verify the identity of the driver and raise an alarm. Around 3,000 taxis and auto-rickshaws plying outside airports, railway stations and metro stations in the city have been registered under this scheme of the Delhi Police Transport Range and can be verified by scanning the QR code of the card pasted on the back of the headrest of the driver's seat. A user can scan the QR code using the Himmat Plus app. The **'Report Journey'** button, the app sends the location with driver's unique ID to the Himmat dashboard working at Himmat stations of the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

If driver is not registered, the user receives the pop-up notification on the application. In this case, the passenger can call the control room or press the SOS button from the application. On the occasion of the launch, Baijal distributed QR Codes to some of the auto and taxi drivers Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik, all Special Commissioners of Police, including Nuzhat Hassan (Women Safety), other senior officers and college students attended the programme. The aim of the scheme is to enhance the safety and security of women and other commuters travelling in the yellow or black taxis or auto-rickshaws from railway stations, airport and metro stations. The objective is to provide emergency assistance to the citizens of Delhi at the earliest. This service can be availed by downloading and registering on the app at zero cost.

#### Himmat Plus

Himmat Plus is a mobile app launched by the Delhi Police to ensure the safety of women. This added feature is to ensure that only genuine and verified drivers ferry passengers to their destinations from airports and railway and metro stations.

#### Maitri: A mobile app to connect kids at orphanages with old age homes

**Five Indian women** have developed a mobile app named **Maitri**. The app connects kids at **orphanages with old-age homes**. The app was developed for the people affected by loneliness, depression. The app permits users to volunteer and present to old-age homes and orphanages.

#### Developed by:

The developers of the mobile app Maitri are Ananya Grover, Vanshika Yadav, Vasudha Sudhinder, Anushka Sharma and Arefa like **twelve students of Amity International college in Noida**. The app is available on Google play. The girls participated in the **Technovation Challenge**, the world's largest technology

and entrepreneurship program for ladies in the USA and won the **trophy** for the innovative app.

#### Maitri:

The Maitri app has seen over **1000 downloads** and has **thirteen old-age homes and seven orphanages** connected through it. Maitri permits facilities to register and provides contact details and map locations for help to contact them.

#### Technovation Challenge:

The Technovation Challenge is the **world's largest technology and entrepreneurship program for ladies** to run across more than 100 countries. It was supported by Salesforce.org, Google.org, the Adobe Foundation, Uber, Samsung, BNY Mellon.



## ENVIRONMENT

### India and UK launch clean air initiative in Bengaluru

**Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)**, a two-year UK-India joint initiative providing Indian and UK stakeholders opportunities to test interventions related to air quality and EV integration

The event was launched in Bengaluru. British Deputy High Commissioner Dominic McAllister collaborative initiatives are an example of UK.

India can work as a joint force for good on innovative solutions. The country can bring the best of our research communities, academia and businesses together to address shared challenges, such as clean air.

The initiative provides a unique measurement system for air quality by integrating satellite and sensor data and helping to support India's transition to electric vehicles. The programme is led by Innovate **UK** It is a part of **UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)**. It is funded by the Newton Fund with matched resources from various partners in Karnataka and India. The key partners for the programme are the Indian Institute of Science, Enzen, Project Lithium, Confederation of Indian Industry, C40 Cities and Clean Air Platform. The other partners include Citizens for Sustainability, World Resources Institute, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, Shakti Foundation, Shell Technology Centre, Global Business Inroads and India Smart Grid Forum.

### Canada to create a protected marine area in Arctic region

Canada government plans to create a **protected marine area** in the country's **Arctic region**. The move is after a **severe climate change** that took effect three times faster than global average weather.

Multiple species in the **coast of Baffin Island**, in Canada's northeastern Arctic archipelago are threatened by the Glacial melting and maritime traffic.

#### Aim:

The move aims to protect **marine area in arctic regions** and protect the populations of **belugas, narwhals, walruses, seals, polar bears and thousands of other species** who depend on year-round sea ice to survive.

These species are now migrating, or in some cases, disappearing. In order to save various species the areas are to be planned in well protecting manner. The establishment of protected marine area would help the Canadian government to achieve its goal to protect **10% of marine and coastal regions by 2020**.

#### Steps taken by Canada govt:

Recently, the Canada government had invested in **modernizing the Coast Guard**. It launched two Arctic patrol vessels. It aimed to increase protection for national interests in the region.

### Indian Army employs E cars to its Delhi officials

The **Indian Army** has launched an ecological initiative by employing **electric cars (E-cars)** for the use of Government officials in **Delhi**. E-cars initiative was launched by the Army in partnership with **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** under the **Ministry of Power**.

The move comes as a solution to the worsening state of air in the capital city. Air pollution has been a major challenge in Delhi, with it crossing the danger mark often.

#### E-Cars:

Electric vehicle technology is an alternative to combat air pollution and to reduce carbon emission footprint. The **EESL** has played a vital role in providing these **vehicles to various Government agencies**. Several other Indian automobile manufacturers including **Tata Motors and Mahindra** have also taken the initiative in manufacturing Electric Cars. The initiative Ecars is expected for the development of electric vehicle technology as it will be adopted by the general public in the near future.

#### Indian Army's initiatives to combat air pollution:

The **Indian Army** has played a lead role in several environmental conservation activities. It has been a part of major environmental protection initiatives such as **forestation**. These moves by the Indian Army are several conservation activities in close coordination with the locals to help preserve the ecological balance and protect the environment.

### MoEF unveiled a draft guidelines for CZM

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has unveiled a draft plan, **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**. The draft was prepared by the **Society for Integrated Coastal Management**, an affiliated body of the environment ministry, along with the support of **World Bank**.

The draft is part of a World Bank-funded project. The document gives guidelines to regulate projects in all state coastal zones. It guides how the infrastructure projects situated along the coast should be assessed before clearance.

#### Aim:

The project aims to assist the government by **enhancing the efficiency of the coastal resource** by building collective capacity for adopting and implementing integrated coastal management approaches. The three coastal States where the project are carried out are **Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal**.

#### Key activities of the proposed project:

The project consist of investments by States including **mangrove afforestation/shelter beds**, habitat conservation activities including restoration of sea-grass meadows, eco-restoration of sacred groves, development of hatcheries, rearing/rescue centres for turtles and other marine animals. It also includes the demonstration of **climate resilient or salinity resistant agriculture**. The creation of infrastructure and facilities aim to support **ecotourism, community-based small-scale mariculture**, seaweed cultivation, aquaponics, and value addition to other livelihood activities.

### Kajin Sara lake has set a new record of being the worlds highest lake

Mountaineers discovered the **Kajin Sara lake in Manang district** of Nepal few months ago. This lake in Nepal has set a **new record of being the world's highest lake** and replaced **Tilicho Lake of Nepal**.

#### Kajin Sara lake:

Kajin Sara lake is situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in the Himalayan nation. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality. The measurement of the lake which is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres, is estimated to be **1,500 metre (1.5 km) long and 600 metre wide**. The water of the Kajins lake is formed out mainly by melting waters from Himalaya.

#### Tilicho lake:

Tilicho lake is the currently worlds largest lake situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres it is **4 km long and 1.2 km wide** and around 200 metres deep in Nepal.

#### Nepal:

Nepal is a landlocked country in **South Asia**. Nepal is the **48th largest country** for population. The capital of Nepal is **kathmandu**. The President of Nepal is **Bidhya Devi Bhandari**. The current Prime Minister of Nepal is **KP Sharma Oli**. The Currency is **Nepalese rupee**. Nepal's official language is **Nepali**.

### NGT suggested MoEF to modify NCAP

The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** directed the Ministry of Environment to modify the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**. NGT said that the timelines should be reduced and the target of reduction should be increased considering its adverse effect on public health.

NGT also directed the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** and state pollution control boards to asses and ensure the air quality. It also guided them to install enough number of the real-time online continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring systems within six months.

#### National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

NCAP is the first ever national level strategy **to tackle the increasing air pollution** problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. This program functions under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**. The Minister responsible for the Ministry is **Prakash Javadekar**.

NCAP has proposed to reduce national-level air pollution by **20-30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10** concentration by 2017-2024.

The Centre is working towards scaling up the air quality monitoring network across the Country. Currently, there are **101 real-time air quality (AQ)** monitors are there in the country, where at least 4,000 monitors are needed across the country. Various committee has been set up for the implementation of the programme.



NCAP has also proposed an extensive **plantation plans, research on cleantechnologies, landscaping of major arterial roads**, and stringent industrial standards, real-time physical data collection, data archiving, and an action trigger system in **102 non-attainment** cities, across 23 states and Union territories.

#### Centre plans to make India free of single use plastics

The **Union Minister Prakash Javadekar** announced a **massive public campaign to make India free of single use plastics** at the function ordered by the **Indian Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil**. The Ministry conducted a series of meet with all the stakeholders including state governments gathering to eliminate the use of **single-use plastic**. It also suggested shopkeepers to provide eco-friendly bags to their customers.

#### Government's measure to avoid single-use plastics:

Narendra Modi-led government has urged the people to use **jute and cloth bags** to protect the environment. About **20,000 tonnes** of plastic waste is generated **every day** in the country and out of which only **13,000-14,000 tonnes** are collected. The government also urged the shopkeepers to stop selling the plastic bags and used to sell jute and cloth bags. It also directed the Customers should adopt ways to reduce plastic usage in use to abolish plastic usage.

#### Scientists found two new fish species

The Scientists of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered **two new species** of freshwater fish in **Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh**. Both the fishes were less than seven centimetres.

#### Glyptothorax gopii:

**Glyptothorax gopii**, a new species of catfish was found in **Mizorams Kaladan river**. This species measured **63 mm** standard length without caudal fin. It has an **axe-shaped anterior nuchal plate** which makes it distinct from other species of the genus **Glyptothorax**.

#### Garra Simbalaraensis:

**Garra Simbalaraensis** was found in **Himachal Pradeshs Simbalbara river**. **Garra simbalaraensis** measured **69 mm** standard length without caudal fin. It has a **yellowish-grey colour fading ventrally**.

**Garra simbalbara ensis** has a prominent unilobed and rounded proboscis with tubercles that help the fish in manoeuvrability.

#### Other discoveries:

The recent discoveries include **Garra compressa** in 1998, **yersglanis jayarami** in 1999, **G. elongata** in 2000, **Glyptothorax senapatiensis** in 2015, **G. tamangi** in 2016, and **G. chindwinensis** and **Olya parviocula** in 2018. These species were all found in north-eastern India.

#### LS Secretariat has banned the use of non reusable plastic water bottles

The **Lok Sabha Secretariat** has banned the **use of non-reusable plastic water bottles and other plastic** items within the Parliament complex. All officers and staff of the Secretariat and other allied agencies working in the Parliament House Complex have been advised to use environment friendly biodegradable bags and other material.

The above initiative steps by the Lok Sabha Secretariat is a step towards the call by the Prime Minister to the nation to make the country free from plastics which was set to be achieved by October 2 as the country celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### About non-reusable plastic bottles:

As many plastics are safe to reuse but some contain components that may be harmful to humans and the environment that cant reusable. Plastics made up of polyvinyl chlorides having many phthalates which a group of chemicals exposure to phthalates allergy and respiratory problems. Most plastics used for food packaging and disposable food items such as plastic plates, bowls, etc will cause toxin damage, gastrointestinal, kidney and respiratory function. The World Health Organization's International Agency that did research on Cancer classified styrene in plastics also possible to cause **carcinogenic cancer to humans**.

#### WHO says Microplastics does not pose a threat

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** reported that the number of Microplastics in drinking water **does not pose a health risk at current levels**. This is the WHO's first report into the consequences of microplastics on human health. WHO looked into the particular impact of Microplastics in faucet

and drinking water. It conducted a lot of in-depth analysis into Microplastics and also the potential impact on human health. Microplastics are larger than **150 micrometers** will not be absorbed by the organic structure of the human body. The uptake of smaller particles is limited. The drinkable studies have found Microplastics concentrations starting from **1 to 0.001 microparticles per litre** with the balance of chemical, physical, and infection-related risks of drinking these particles.

#### Effects of Microplastics:

Microplastics contain chemicals that might probably hurt organs like **flame retardants, or cause injuries many diseases**. Even less is thought **Nanoscale plastic particles** can cause epithelial duct as just microscopic particles.

#### WWF and Discovery tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans

**Discovery India** and **World Wide Fund (WWF) India** have partnered with the Forest Directorate. The government of West Bengal and local communities in the Sundarbans.

The mangrove forest, the habitat of Bengal tigers, to reduce the tiger-human conflict and also as part of a global movement **Project CAT -Conserving Acres for Tigers**. WWF India and Discovery India are working with government agencies Their main aim is to help the local communities and village panchayats and to focuses on farmland productivity through low-cost measures The Two Sundarbans Ecological Observatories will be set up each featuring data loggers, monitoring buoys and an onsite laboratory. This is to be done in partnership with West Bengal Forest Directorate and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata. Datasets will be built on impacts of climate change on estuarine ecosystem. A detailed intervention is also being implemented at Manas Tiger Reserve.

#### Ministry of Earth Sciences plan to revive land affected by degradation

**Union atmosphere Minister Prakash Javadekar** has announced a project to restore **50 lakh hectare land by 2030**. The Ministry aims to save **29.3%** of land in India that was affected by **degradation**.

#### Aim:

The project aims to develop and adopt best practices for the restoration process. It will also ensure the monitoring protocols for the Indian states and build capacity within the 5 pilot states, namely Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka on **forest landscape restoration (FLR)** and **Bonn challenge**.

#### COP-14:

India is hosting the **Conference of Parties (COP) 14** of the **United Nations Convention Combat geologic process (UNCCD)** from 2-13 September in Noida. It is expected that over 5,000 representatives from more than 197 will be participating in the two-week conference.

#### About the land geologic process:

One-third of the globe faces challenges in the matter of land. Several factors like over-exploitation, over crazing, over-waterlogging, flood, and wind has destroyed the land. The centre is taking efforts to revive the devastated land into fertile land by 2030.

The plans to facilitate cut back land degradation was launched in the previous few years under various schemes and ideas like **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card theme, Soil Health Management theme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PKSY) and Per Drop additional Crop**.

#### Gorewada International Zoo to be set up at Nagpur

The Government planned to establish an **International Standard Zoo and Biopark** on the forest land at Gorewada, Nagpur. The main aim is to protect forests. The Zoo will have attractions like Bio Park, Indian Safari, African Safari, Night Safari, Research, Education and Training, facilities for tourists. The **Government of Maharashtra** accorded permission for establishing the International Zoo, through Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (FDCM. Ltd.), Nagpur. The formation of Special Purpose Vehicle of FDCM. Ltd and a Joint Venture Company of private investors under **Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode** of financing with government stake at 51% was approved. The Government agreed to provide Viability Gap Funding (V.G.F) of **Rs. 200 crore**.

The tasks of protection of forests and wildlife at the Gorewada forests and wildlife habitat development have been assigned to FDCM Ltd for which State

Forest Department is providing grants and manpower at the disposal of FDCM Ltd. The task of construction of Indian Safari and ancillary activities, Water Reservoir, and Gorewada Reserve has been given to FDCM Ltd. with Government Grants.

#### Peacock Parachute Spider was sighted in Tamil Nadu

Researchers of the Pudukcherry-based **Indigenous Biodiversity Foundation (IBF)** discovered a **Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula** in the **Pakkamalai Reserve Forests close to Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu**. The species was found at totally different locations within the reserve forests.

The species was cross-matched with photographic proof printed by the installation reaching Organisation and life data Liaison Development Society. The spider was found in 1899 by Reginald Innes Pocock on the premise of one feminine specimen in Gooty, Andhra Pradesh. After 102 years later this species has been recorded at a degraded forest between **Nandyal and Giddalur**, Andhra Pradesh.

#### Peacock Parachute spider:

The Scientific name of the species is **Poecilotheria Metallica**. It is commonly known with the name Peacock Parachute Spider or Gooty Tarantula. The natural habitat of the species is a **deciduous forest in Andhra Pradesh**. It is the only species that is covered with **blue hair**. It is less chromatic when it is young and turns blue as it matures.

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** classified it as Critically vulnerable. This species is **endemic to India**. Species of the genus are supported on the undersurface of the legs.

#### Centre released Rs.47,000 crore for compensatory afforestation in 27 states

The **Ministry of Environment** released over **Rs.47,000 crore** for compensatory afforestation in **27 states**. The fund also includes other green activities like prevention of forest fire, biodiversity management, and soil conservation. The funds were released by the **Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar** under **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**. The fund will be utilized for wet conservation works in forests, voluntary relocation of villages from protected areas, management of biological resources and diversity, analysis in biological science and observance of CAMPA works among others.

#### States receiving funds:

The states that will be receiving the funds for afforestation are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Assam, Bihar, Sikkim, Manipur, Goa, West Bengal, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Among the states, **Odisha** received the highest amount of **Rs.6,000 crore** followed by **Chhattisgarh with Rs.5,791 crore** and **Madhya Pradesh with Rs.5,196 crore** respectively. **Kerala** got the least with **Rs.81.59 crore**.

The CAMPA funds can not be used for payment of pay, travel allowances, medical expenses, etc.

#### Important activities on the fund:

The Important activities that will be carried out using the fund include antagonistic conversion, drainage area Treatment, life Management, Management of Biological Diversity and Biological Resources, analysis in biology and watching of CAMPA works, etc.

The Fund will be utilized according to the provisions of the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act and Rules**. The Centre plans to use geographic tagging technology to follow up whether the States are using their allotted funds appropriately.

## BILLS & ACTS

### Lok Sabha Clears Bill For Speedy Eviction Of Illegal Occupants From Government Houses

Lok Sabha passed a **bill** which seeks to crack down on unauthorized occupants of government residential accommodations. **Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019** Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for eviction unauthorized occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation.

The bill was passed by the Lower House. There is **15,416** residential accommodation under the government quota. The proposed amendments would enable the estate officer to apply summary proceedings for eviction unauthorized occupants from residential accommodations and to levy damage charges for accommodation held during the period of litigation. **Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 - History** Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill 2019 introduced by the **Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri**, in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019. The Bill amends the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The Act provides for the eviction of unauthorized occupants from public premises in certain cases. The Bill defines residential accommodation occupation as the occupation of public premises by a person for such an occupation. The license must be given for a fixed tenure for the period the person holds office. The Bill adds a provision laying down the procedure for eviction from residential accommodation. It requires an estate officer (an officer of the central government) to issue a written notice to a person if he is in unauthorized occupation of residential accommodation. The person fails to comply with the order, the estate officer may evict such person from the residential accommodation, and take possession of it.

### RS passed the Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill

**Rajya Sabha** passed the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019** with 108 votes in favour and 13 against it. The amendment aims to **improve road safety**, enhance the penalty for traffic violations, facilitate citizens in dealing with transport departments and curb corruption. The Bill was passed in **Lok Sabha on 23 July**. The Bill was introduced in the upper house by **Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari**. The move comes as an initiative to stop millions of deaths due to road accidents.

#### Provisions of the Amendment:

The amendment proposed to increase the minimum penalty for a **general violation** from Rs.100 to Rs.500. Driving **without a licence** will lead to a fine of Rs.5,000. Earlier, it was Rs.500 **Driving despite disqualification** will cause a penalty of Rs.10,000 from the current Rs.500.

For **drunken driving**, the monetary punishment has been increased to Rs.10,000 from Rs.2,000. It also includes a provision for cashless treatment of road accident victims during the golden hour.

In case of **any defect in the vehicle** that can cause damage to the environment, driver or other road users the Bill facilitates the Centre to order the recall of motor vehicles.

It provides a **computerised driving test** to eliminate acquisition of fake driving licences.

### RS passed UAPA Bill

The **Rajya Sabha** passed the contentious the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019**. The Bill was passed with **104 votes** against it as compared to 85 in its favour. The Bill was passed by **Lok Sabha on 24 July**.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The anti-terror law will now empower the **Centre and state** to designate individuals as **terrorists and seize his properties**. If any person commits or participates in acts of terrorism or involved in terrorist, he/she can be designated as terrorist.

It also facilitates power to the Director-General of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the agency.

### LS passed the 2019 Dam Safety Bill

The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Dam Safety Bill, 2019**. The Bill aims to provide a uniform safety procedures for the specified **5,600 dams in the country**. It will also enhance the **security of citizens**. The introduction of the Bill **will not take away** the rights of the States.

The Bill was introduced in 2010. It was opposed in various edition in the State and has never been successfully passed until now.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The bill stressed the establishment of the **National Dam Safety Authority** as a **regulatory body**. The regulator will implement the **policy, guidelines, and standards** on dam safety in the country. It also entails the setting up of **State committee** on dam safety and **State Dam Safety Organisation**. It will be manned by officers from the field dam safety. The Bill will set up a national committee on dam safety. It will be set up to introduce safety policies and recommend necessary regulations.

#### Steps taken by Centre for Dam safety:

As several dams does not have the **emergency action plan**, the government has provide safety measures to around 180 dams. For example, Centre has allotted **Rs.600 crore** to repair the gates of **Hirakud dam**. Centre has also taken efforts to change the gates of **Farakka barrage**. **80%** of the work had been completed so far.

### LS passed Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Amendment Bill

**Lok Sabha**, the lower house, cleared the **Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019**. The amendment will **remove** the position of **Congress president as a permanent member** of a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial. The Bill was passed with 214 in favour and 30 against it. After the **removal of the Congress chief** as a member, the **leader of the single largest Opposition party** in the Lok Sabha will be **added as a member** of the trust.

The amendment bill empowers the central government to terminate the term of a nominated trustee even before the expiry of the tenure without assigning any reason.

#### Jallianwala Bagh Memorial:

Jallianwala Bagh memorial was established in **1951**. The memorial was established to mark the **massacre of unarmed people on April 13, 1919** at the public garden in Amritsar. The massacre was ordered by the British Indian Army under the **command of Col Reginald Dyer**.

### RS passed the Repealing and Amending Bill

**Rajya Sabha** passed the **Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019**. The bill will repeal **redundant and absolute** laws. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 29 July.

#### Aim:

The Bill aims to ensure minimum legislation and maximum governance as it is a continuous process. It will repeal **58 old central laws** that has been used to achieve maximum governance. A committee constituted by the government has identified 1824 old laws. Previously **1,428 old and archaic central Acts** and about **75 laws** have been repealed till date.

The Bill will make amendments to two Acts that are related to the substitution of certain words in the **Income Tax Act, 1961** and the **Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017**.

#### Acts to be repealed:

The Bill will repeals various Acts, such as the **Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976**, the **Tea (Amendment) Act, 1980**, the **Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2001**, the **Central Road Fund (Amendment) Act, 2007**, and the **Central Universities Act, 2009**.

### Centre moves J&K Reorganisation Bill 2019, a resolution to revoke Article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir

The Government of India announced **repealing Article 370** and introduced the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019** in the Rajya Sabha on **5 August**. This will now repeal special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolutoin was passed by **Home Minister Amit Shah** in the upper house. The abrogation of Article 370 will make J&K an integral part of India.



### What is Article 370?

Article 370 was introduced in 1947 by **Sheikh Abdullah the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir**

Article 370 of the Indian constitution gives autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The article is drafted as Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions in Part XXI of the Constitution. The Indian Constitution still describes it as a temporary provision.

Article 370 provided **six special provisions** for Jammu and Kashmir:

- 1) The State is allowed to have its **own Constitution**.
- 2) The Central legislative powers over the State were limited to the three subjects of **defence, foreign affairs and communications**.
- 3) Only with the concurrence of the State Government, other constitutional powers of Indian Government could be extended to the State.
- 4) The concurrence was only provisional. The State's Constituent Assembly should ratify the provision.
- 5) Until the State Constituent Assembly was formed, the State Government was given authority to give concurrence. Once the State Constituent Assembly finalized the scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible.
- 6) Only if the State's Constituent Assembly approves the Article 370, it could be repealed or amended.

Under Article 370, the Centre has **no power to declare financial emergency** under Article 360 in the state. It can declare an emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression.

### What's next?

After the repealing of **Article 370**, the government should get back the **Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK)**. It is now expected that the **Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan** would return the **land taken illegally from India**.

### Lok Sabha Passes bill to increase the number of SC judges

**Lok Sabha** passed a **bill** the main aim is to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present **30 to 33** with a view to reducing pendency of cases. Law Minister **Ravi Shankar Prasad** used the opportunity to urge the judiciary against making "sweeping commentary".

#### About Bill

A bill to bar judges from making "**sweeping remarks**" against another constitutional authority was brought by the previous UPA government. The following the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. The members over differences the Supreme Court Judges. A Constitutional Amendment bill brought by the UPA government to increase the retirement age of High Court Judges from 62 to 65 lapsed and it never came up for discussion in the 15th Lok Sabha. The Supreme Court striking down the National Judicial Appointments law. The minister urged the judiciary to expedite the process of filling vacancies in the subordinate judiciary. The Supreme Court has a sanctioned strength of 30 judges, plus the chief justice of India 31 judges. Once the bill gets parliamentary approval, its sanctioned strength will go up to 33 plus the CJ. Through the National Judicial Appointments Commission, the government sought to have a bigger say in the appointment of Supreme Court and High Court Judges.

### Lok Sabha passed the Surrogacy Regulation Bill

The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019** on 5 August 2019. The Bill aims to ban **commercial surrogacy** in the country. It was introduced by **Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan**.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill regulates **altruistic surrogacy** and ends the exploitation of women who are lending their womb for surrogacy It provides provisions to protect the **rights of children** born through surrogacy The Bill allows only altruistic surrogacy by **infertile Indian couples**, who are legally married for at least **5 years** and within the **age group of 23-50 and 26-55 years** for females and males, from a **close relative**. It prohibits **foreigners, Nonresident Indians (NRI) Person of Indian Origins (PIO)** from commissioning surrogacy.

**Note:** In Altruistic surrogacy the women **does not receive monetary compensation** except the medical expenses and insurance coverage for the surrogate mother. This bill looks after the interests of the couple that opt for surrogacy and ensures that there are laws protecting them against exploitation by clinics that are carrying this out as a business Surrogacy can not be

applicable to **singles, homosexuals and live-in couples** The Bill will establish **National and State Surrogacy Boards**, the appointment of **appropriate authorities** for the regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy

#### Surrogacy:

Surrogacy is a legal arrangement where a woman agrees to become pregnant, by artificial insemination, and **give birth to a child for another person(s)/infertile couple** who is or will become the parent(s) of the child. **Commercial surrogacy** includes a **monetary benefit** or reward (in cash or kind) that exceeds basic medical expenses and insurance for the surrogate mother. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 bans this type of surrogacy.

### Lok Sabha passed the 2019 Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill

The **Lok Sabha** passed the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019** on 5 August. The Bill aims to empower and **safeguard the rights of transgenders**.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill establishes a **national security authority** to safeguard the rights of the transgenders It will provide a mechanism for **social, economic and educational empowerment** of transgenders As per the Bill, irrespective of sex reassignment surgery and hormonal therapy, a person would have the right to choose to be identified as a man, woman or transgender The Bill requires a transgender person to go through a **district magistrate** and district screening committee to get **certified as a transperson** It **removes** the provision that **criminalised begging** by transgender people. This provision was part of the Bill when it was introduced. It will **benefit the transgender** people who are discriminated and abused against the marginalised section of the society It prohibits discrimination against a transgender person in the field of **education, employment and healthcare**

### RS passed Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill

The **Rajya Sabha** cleared the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019** on 6 August. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the Bill after abrogation of the special status granted to J&K. The upper house also adopted resolutions to repeal **Article 370** and **Article 35A in J&K**.

The Bill has been moved for **consideration and passage** in Lok Sabha on August 6, 2019. The lower house will also take up the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Bill 2019.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill proposed the **bifurcation** of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into **two Union Territories namely Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir**. The bill has a provision of **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** among the general category (the upper caste).

### Rajasthan passed bill against anti lynching

The **Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly** passed the **Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019**. The **Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal** introduced the Bill in the State Assembly. The Bill aims to provide stricter punishment to curb such Lynching incidents.

**Rajasthanis** now the **second State** to have a dedicated law criminalising mob lynching as a special offence. The **first state** to have such law in addition to other offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is **Manipur**.

#### SC's recommendation:

The Bill was introduced after the recommendation by the Supreme Court in authorising the setting up of special courts, **appointment of a dedicated nodal officer**, and stipulating enhanced punishments. The bill not only criminalises the acts of lynching but also provides **legal aid, relief, compensation and rehabilitation**.

#### Definition of Lynching as per the Bill:

Any act or series of acts of violence whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ethnicity falls under the category Lynching.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

Bill makes the **Mob Lynching offence cognizable, non-bailable and noncompoundable offences**.

It gives a punishment of life imprisonment and a penalty from **Rs.1 lakh to Rs.5 lakh** to those convicted in cases of mob lynching leading to victim's death.

After 2014, **86%** of mob lynching cases that were reported in the country are from Rajasthan. The Bill was proposed after **considering peace in the state**.

### Rajasthan passes bill against honour killing

Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly passed the **Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019** on 5th August. The Bill was introduced by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Shanti Dhariwal**. The Bill aims to curb incidents of **honour killing in the State**.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill provides punishment of **life imprisonment or death penalty for murdering couples** in the name of family honour. If the community or family cause **death of a couple or either of them**, on the grounds of dishonour or disrepute to the caste, community or family will be punished with **death or life imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.5 Lakh**. If the couple is **grievously hurt**, the community or the family will be punished with **10 years of rigorous imprisonment for life with a penalty of maximum Rs.3 lakh**. In case of **simple injuries**, the community or the family will be punished with **3-5 years of imprisonment with a penalty of maximum Rs.2 lakh**. The Bill also said that the District or Sub Divisional Magistrate shall receive **information or request from any person who seeks protection** from any unlawful assembly or person who objects lawful marriage. The Bill also says that a **group can not assemble** with an intention to condemn any lawful marriage in the name of vindicating the honour of family, caste or community. Participating in such groups directly or indirectly will be punished with **maximum 5 years of imprisonment and a penalty of maximum Rs.1 lakh**.

### President gives assent to the AERA Amendment Bill

President Ram Nath Kovind approved the **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) (Amendment) Bill, 2019**. The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 2nd August and by the Lok Sabha on 16th July 2019.

#### Aim:

The Bill sought to **raise the threshold for major airport** and return to reduce the **tariff-fixing power** of airport regulator to fewer airports.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill increased the **threshold of annual passenger traffic** for major airports to **over 35 lakh**.

As per the Bill, AERA can no more determine the **tariff, tariff structures, or development fees**, in certain cases where the tariff amounts were a part of the bid document on the basis of which the operations of the airport were awarded. AERA will consult with the concessioning authority of the Ministry of Civil Aviation before incorporating such tariffs in the bid document, and such tariffs must be notified.

**Note:** Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008 defines Major Airport as an airport with annual passenger traffic above 15 lakh.

#### Cons of the Bill:

Bidding system and privatisation of the airports and would impact the growth rate of the sector, which is growing at **around 10%**. The Bill will make the air ticket costlier which in turn will affect the government's target to take the air travel to the common man.

#### History:

The **AERA (Amendment) Bill** was approved by the Cabinet in December 2017 but **got lapsed** as it could not be passed in last year's Monsoon Session as the first tenure of Modi government ended. In the second term of the NDA government, the Cabinet approved the Bill on June 24.

### President Ram Nath Kovind gives assent to the abrogation of article 370 of Jammu and Kashmir

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the abrogation of **Article 370**. It will now revoke the special status to **Jammu and Kashmir**. The resolution to revoke **Article 370** was passed by **Lok Sabha on 6 August**. It was passed by **Rajya Sabha on 5th August**. The notice issued by the President said that as from **6th August, 2019**, all clauses mentioned in Article 370.

#### President's approval notification:

President approved the Bill in exercise of the power conferred by **clause (3) of article 370** read with **(1) of article 370** of the Constitution of India. The

notification also said that all provisions of this Constitution, as amended from time to time, without any modifications or exceptions, shall apply to the State of J&K. It will not notwithstanding anything contrary contained in **article 152 or article 308** or any other article of the Constitution or any other provision of the Constitution of J&K or any law, document, judgement, ordinance, order, by-law, rule, or agreement as envisaged **under article 363 or otherwise**.

### RS passed the SC Number of Judges Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019**. The Bill seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from **30 to 33**, excluding the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**. The move is to reduce the pendency of cases which touched **59,696**. The Bill was passed by **Lok Sabha** on 5th August. The SC (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill was introduced by **Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad**. The total expenditure estimated to **create additional three posts of Judges**, including their staff, housing, water, electricity, medical and conveyance among others, in the Supreme Court will be of **Rs.6.81 crore per annum**. Indian Constitution says the strength of the Supreme Court is fixed by the Parliament. The Strength of the SC judges can be increased by way of **parliamentary legislation**.

### RS passed the National Institute of Design Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the **National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019**. It was introduced by **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal**. The Bill sought to amend the **National Institute of Design Act, 2014**.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill declares **four National Institutes of Design**, from states namely **Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana**, as institutions of national importance.

These institutes were registered as Societies under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**. These institutes do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas. As the four institutes are now declared institutions of national importance, the institutes will be allowed to grant degrees and diplomas. The institutes will become socially inclusive and address the needs of design in various sectors including agriculture, health care, and transportation.

### RS passed the Public Premises Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Amendment Bill

Rajya Sabha passed the **Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2019** on 6 August. The Bill which amends the **Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971** was introduced by the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, **Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri**. He presented it in Lok Sabha on July 8, 2019.

#### Provisions of the Bill:

##### Residential accommodation:

The Bill says that for residential accommodation the license must be given for a **fixed tenure**, or for the period the person holds office.

##### Notice for eviction:

It empowers the **central, state or union territory government**, or a statutory authority to make **rules for the occupation**. It says the notice of eviction should be issued by an estate officer. The person (Unauthorised Occupant) will be given **three working days** to show cause of why an eviction order should not be made against him.

##### Order of eviction:

The **order of eviction will be issued by the estate officer** after considering the cause shown, and making any other inquiries. If the person opposes to comply with the order, the officer can use force to evict the person.

##### Payment of damages:

If the person in unauthorised occupation of the residential accommodation challenges the eviction order passed by the estate officer in court, he will be required to pay damages for every month of such occupation.

### President approved the NMC Bill

President Ram Nath Kovind gave assent to the **National Medical Commission Bill 2019**. The Bill will replace the **Medical Council of India (MCI)**, which was functional as per the **Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956**.

**NMC Bill 2019:**

The National Medical Commission (NMC) will form the apex **regulatory body** for medical education in India. The commission will ensure the quality of the medical colleges and every institute will now be rated. One of the **provisions of the bill** included the appointment of the **Board of Governors** to perform the functions.





## DEFENCE

### IAF launched an IAF's facilitation cum publicity pavilion in Delhi

The **Indian Air Force** launched an **IAF's facilitation-cum-publicity pavilion in Delhi**. It was inaugurated by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal on 31 July. It has a flight simulator. IAF also launched a new 3D mobile-based video game '**Indian Air Force: A Cut Above**' based on the missions of the force. It was launched by **Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa**.

#### About special pavilion:

The special pavilion is the **second pavilion in Delhi**, after the one at T3 terminal of the airport. It is a unique and technologically advanced set-up broad comprising of a flight simulator and various exhibits, including models of fighter jets, like **Mirage-2000, Rafale, Sukhoi, Jaguar**.

#### Aim of 3D Game:

The new facilitation-cum-publicity pavilion of IAF-themed mobile game has been designed to **raise awareness among the youth** about the IAF. It has been set up to inspire them to take up a career in the Air Force.

It will connect to more than **7.5 lakh children** and showcase the powers of the IAF.

### DRDO successfully test fired QRSAM Missile

The **Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully testfired an indigenously developed **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)** from a mobile truck-based launch unit from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** in Chandipur, Odisha. It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile type. QRSAM missile has been developed for the **Army**. The entire mission was tracked by various electro-optical tracking systems, radar systems and telemetry systems.

#### QRSAM:

QRSAM is equipped with electronic counter measures **against jamming by aircraft radars**. The missile uses solid-fuel propellant. It has a range of **25-30 km**. The test flights had successfully demonstrated various parameters like aerodynamics, propulsion, structural performance. The missile was developed as part of **Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)** other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, Prithvi missiles.

QRSAM has been developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** in cooperation with **Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited**. Previously, the **first trial** of QRSAM Missile was conducted on June 4, 2017. The **Second missile test** was conducted in May 2019 in odisha coast.

#### DRDO:

DRDO was formed on **1958**. It is headquarters at **New Delhi, India**. The Minister responsible is **Rajnath Singh**. The Chairman of DRDO is **Dr G. Satheesh Reddy**. It functions under the **Ministry of Defence**. DRDO is charged with the **military's research and development**.

### DAC approves the procurement of SDR and NGMMCB

The **Ministry of Defence** got its approval from **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** for the procurement of a **Software Defined Radio (SDR)** and the **Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (NGMMCB)** for the Indian Navy.

The meeting was chaired by the Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**. This is the first meeting in the second term of the NDA government.

#### Uses:

**NGMMCB:** The NGMMCB battery will be fitted with the BrahMos **surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missiles**.

**SDR:** The SDR will facilitate high-speed data and secure voice communication with anti-jamming capability. Software Defined Radio was developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and the Navys **Weapons Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE)**.

**BrahMos** is a joint venture (JV) between the **DRDO and the NPOM**, a Russian military technology firm, of **Russia**. It can be launched from **air, land and sub-sea** against land and marine targets. It has been inducted into the Indian army and Navy.

### Cochin Shipyard launched two ro pax vessels for IWAI

The **Cochin Shipyard** has launched two **ro-pax (roll-on roll-off passenger) vessels** on 8 August. The ro-pax was designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard for the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**.

#### Ro-pax:

The two ro-pax were the **third and fourth** in a series of **10 vessels** ordered by the IWAI are built to **IRS standards**. Among the 10 vessels eight were ro-pax are to be operated in **National Waterways 1 and 2**. The vessel is equipped with all lifesaving gear. The vessels will be able to accommodate 200 passengers each. The vessels will have eight crew members and can carry two trucks and four cars. The Shipyard was building a technology demonstration vessel for the **DRDO**, **two 1,200 pax and two 500 pax vessels** for the Andaman and Nicobar administration besides the indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant. It is currently building a total of **27 small vessels** for clients like the IWAI, fisheries department of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Navy.

### Indian Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu and Kashmir

The Indian Army launched "**Mission Reach Out**" in Jammu to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir. A high level "Mission Reach Out" conference to review the prevalent situation in the region. This was held in the Nagrota Military Station chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh.

The Corps commander lauded the absolute synergy between the Army, civil administration and other security establishments in maintaining peace, harmony and a conducive environment, the officials said. It was attended by Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma, members of the civil administration, representatives of the J&K Police, CRPF, BSF and intelligence agencies. The prevailing security scenario and preparedness of security agencies and civil administration were discussed during the conference. It emerged during the conference that the situation in the Jammu region had been peaceful with no untoward incident taking place post the revocation of Article 370 on 5th of August.

The Corps commander informed about the numerous initiatives undertaken by the Army under '**Mission Reach Out**'. These are mobile medical care units with essential medicines and lady medical officers, wherever necessary, providing water in locations where the supply was disrupted, provision of essentials, including rations, assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, facilitating people to speak to their near and dear ones through Army exchange and creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function, the spokesperson said.

During the conference, the divisional commissioner assured of adequate availability of all basic necessities and essential services to meet the requirements of the people. He further informed that due to normalcy in the region, the general public had requested for the opening of schools and educational institutes, which was agreed upon and schools in the city were opened from 10 August.

### Jamia Millia Islamia to unveil model of INS Kolkata on 15 August

**Jamia Millia Islamia**, the public central university, at New Delhi is to unveil a **model of the Indian naval ship INS Kolkata** at the University on **15 August**, the Independence day.

The ship model is installed outside the **University's Centre For Information Technology**. It will be unveiled by Professor Najma Akhtar, the University's vice-chancellor. The ship model will be cased in a thick glass. The steel ship model costs around **Rs.12 lakh**. It was donated by the **Indian Navy** to the University. The University has agreements with the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force as well as the Coast Guard.

#### Aim:

The main aim of installing the INS Kolkata model is to motivate students to consider joining the defence forces as a career option. The model will also inculcate a feeling of pride among the students.

#### MiG-23:

Jamia Millia Islamia's Engineering Department already has a **MiG-23 aircraft**. The fighter plane was brought to the university in 2010.

#### INS Kolkata:

INS Kolkata was Commissioned on 16 August 2014. It is of class **stealth guided missile destroyers** of the Indian Navy. It lists of armaments reportedly included **Brahmos supersonic anti-ship, Anti-submarine warfare, guns and land-attack cruise missiles**. INS Kolkata test-fired a BrahMos missile, Barak 8 missile and 2 other missiles.

#### GRSE launches fifth FPV for Coast Guard

**Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** launched a fifth **Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV)** for the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. The name of the coast guard is Kanaklata Barua. The coast is named after a freedom fighter from Assam. This is the last of the five FPVs built by GRSE. The entire design of the ship was developed in-house by GRSE as per the requirement of the ICG. The ship was launched by Veena Ajay Kumar, wife of Ajay Kumar, Secretary Defence (Production), in the presence of Rear Admiral VK Saxena (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, GRSE and Inspector General Rajan Bargotra, Commander Coast Guard Region (North-East).

The vessel is **50 metres long** and **7.5 metres wide** with a displacement of around 308 tonnes. It is equipped with three main engines, advanced communication and navigation systems. The main aim is to design for a maximum speed of 34 knots, with an endurance of more than 1500 nautical miles at cruising speed of 12-16 knots. The first ship of this class is ICGS Priyadarshini commissioned on March 27.

#### PM announced the creation of CDS post

The **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced the **creation of post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** on 15 August. The rank of CDS will be a **first among equals**. It will be a **fourth four-star officer** who will be senior to the three other service chiefs. It is the **most significant reform** in the defence.

#### Aim:

The creation of the post aims to make the **Indian defence forces** even more effective. It will also ensure the **better coordination** between the three defence services.

#### Roles and duties of CDS:

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) will act as the **single-point advisor** to the Government. The CDS officer will be advising the **Army, Navy and Airforce** on matters related to all the three services. The officer concerned will make the **Country's armed forces** integrated.

#### Creation of the post:

In **2000**, a **Group of Ministers (GoM)** were set up to examine the findings of the Kargil Review Committee (KRC). This GoM suggested the introduction of the CDS post at the end of the review. Then in **May 2001**, former Minister of State for Defence Arun Singh-led GoM recommended the appointment of CDS with the administrative control over **India's Strategic Forces Command**. Once again in **2016**, the proposal for the post was recommended.

#### A 12 member committee to review DPP and DPM

The **Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh** approved the setting up of a **Committee** under the **Chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition)**.

#### Aim:

The committee is aimed to review the **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016** and **Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009**. The Committee will study and submit its recommendations in 6 months.

#### Members:

The **Director General (Acquisition)** is the **Chairman** of the committee. There will be **11 other members** in the committee. The hand-picked members high-level committee are not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Major General equivalent.

#### Roles of the committee:

The committee will simplify various policies and procedures to facilitate greater participation of Indian Industry. It will develop robust **Defence Industrial base**. The Committee will ensure the seamless flow from asset acquisition to life cycle support by revising and aligning the former procedures. It will examine and incorporate new concepts, such as life cycle costing, life cycle support, performance based logistics, ICT, lease contracting, codification & standardization. The committee is empowered to include provisions to **promote Indian start-ups and research & development**. It will lend its support to the **Make in India** initiative.

#### Fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition Concludes at Jaisalmer Military Station with Indian Army Emerging as Champions

**Indian Army team** comprehensively won the **5<sup>th</sup> Army International Scout Masters Competition**. It is held at Jaisalmer Military Station from 06 to 14 August 2019 in a fiercely fought competition with teams from Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Sudan and Uzbekistan. The Indian Army team selected and trained under the aegis of Southern Command.

The Closing Ceremony of the Fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019 held in **Jaisalmer**. Honorable Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by General Bipin Rawat, Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, Aide-de-Camp, Chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General SK Saini, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, Army Commander, Southern Command, delegations of participating countries, members of the International Organising Committee and several civil and military dignitaries.

The **closing ceremony** commenced with a smart ceremonial marching of the participating contingents into the stadium. Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the participants and welcomed the representatives of the International Organising Committee, dignitaries and other guests.

Southern Command for the flawless and successful conduct of the event. He appreciated the sportsman spirit, dedication and the professional standards displayed by all the teams in the competition.

The competitions are an excellent platform to allow countries to build a constructive dialogue, strengthening friendship, partnership and trust. The military events would lead to interoperability and sharing of best practices thereby benefiting all the participating Nations. The fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019 declared closed by **Shri Rajnath Singh**. The prize distribution ceremony took place wherein the Defence Minister gave away the Champions Trophy to the winning Indian team, Runner Up Trophy. The Closing Ceremony culminated with a cultural programme to depict the rich cultural heritage of India. The **participating countries** and teams were highly appreciative of the conduct, arrangements and hospitality extended to them during the entire duration.

#### Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka agree to strengthen cooperation in addressing maritime issues

**Indian Coast Guard held a High-Level Meeting (HLM)** with the **Sri Lanka Coast Guard** at Coast Guard Headquarters. Indian side led by Director General, Coast Guard K Natarajan. Sri Lankan delegation headed by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge. The meeting took place under the provisions of the MoU signed between the two sides for the establishment of a collaborative relationship to combat transnational illegal activities at sea and develop regional cooperation.

Those sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. The apprehension of two fishing boats by Sri Lanka involved in drug trafficking based on the information exchange undertaken by Indian Coast Guard invoking the MoU was recognised as an important enabler for pursuing further collaborative response to emerging situations at sea. Sri Lanka Coast Guard by Indian Coast Guard, training of Sri Lanka Coast Guard personnel and mutual co-operation in multilateral forums was discussed and agreed by both sides. The four-member delegation of Sri Lanka Coast Guard is paying an official visit to India from August 19 to August 23, 2019.

#### DRDO delivered the new Mobile Metallic Ramp to Army

**Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** delivered the design of the newly innovated **Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR)** to the **Indian Army** at a ceremony held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi. The design of MMR was handed over by Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman **DRDO, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy** to Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), **Lt Gen Devraj Anbu**.

#### Aim:

The MMR will reduce the **Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles**. The requirement was projected by the Indian Army. The new MMR will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized

units and formations of the Army. It will drastically reduce the time required for operational mobilization.

**Design:**

The MMR was designed and developed by DRDOs **Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)**. The MMR has a load-bearing capacity of **70 metric ton (MT)**. The newly designed MMR is easily portable, modular in design and can be easily assembled or disassembled.

**China and Pakistan began joint exercise Shaheen-VIII near Ladakh**

China and **Pakistan** began joint exercise Labelled **Shaheen-VIII** in the Chinese city of Holton, close to the Indian border of around 300 km north of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). This is the **8th** such exercise undertaken by two countries with the participation of Chinese J10 & J-11 and Pakistani JF-17s planes. **Pakistani JF-17 planes** (a single-engined light jet aircraft)passed through the Skardu airbase in Gilgit Baltistan area occupied by Pakistan. India claims is a part of the former princely state of J&K.

The single-engine, single-seat J-10 is a product of the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group. JF-17, a lightweight, single-engine, multi-role combat aircraft developed jointly by the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation of China.

The exercise will help Indias two neighbours of China &Pakistan to improve bilateral relation.In 2018, Shaheen-VII was held in Pakistan.

**About China:**

**Capital:** Beijing

**Currency:** Renminbi

**President:** Xi Jinping

**IAF wing Commander S Dhami became the first Flight Commander of a flying unit**

Indian Air Force's (IAF) Wing Commander **S Dhami** the **Flight Commander** of a flying unit. She became the **first female officer in the country** to become the Flight Commander of a flying unit. She has taken incharge as Flight Commander of a **Chetak helicopter unit** at Hindon airbase.

**S Dhami:**

Dhamini is a permanent commission officer of IAF's flying branch. She has been flying choppers. She is a Flight commander in IAF. The rank Flight Commander is the **second in command of the unit**. She is number two in the unit after the commanding officer. The promotion given to her as the flying branch commander is moving a step closer towards women officers commanding units and formations in the service.





## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Ruhan Rajput honoured with Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019

**Ruhan Rajput** co-founder and Director of Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd was awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019. The event was held at the JW Marriot Hotel, New Delhi.

He won the award on 18 July in the category of 'Entrepreneur of the Year in Service Business. Ruhan was acknowledged for his contributions and achievements in the business industry.

#### Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd

Einfole Technologies Pvt Ltd is one of the leading players in the knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) industry. The company operates to provide comprehensive research, analysis, and expert solutions. Entrepreneur India, America's number one business magazine along with Franchise India hosted the event from 17th July to 18th July. The inspiration behind the event is to bring leading entrepreneurs, start-ups, sme, investors, global luminaries; Indian government officials etc under one roof and acknowledge them for their milestones. They are the real heroes who work day and night to make this company great and achieve new heights.

Ruhan Rajput excels as an actor and model in Bollywood. He made a debut in the film industry with Pravat Rout's film, 'Prarabdh', followed by three music albums: 'Mohabataiyan', 'Khidki ka Parda' and 'Saiyan Re'. He was starred in 'Dil Mera' produced by Zee Music Company. He is currently working on a music album with Arman Malik.

### Indian journalist Ravish Kumar was awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award

**NDTV journalist Ravish Kumar** was awarded the **2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award**. The award recognizes the **greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia**. It is the highest honour given to Asian individuals and organisations. The award is often referred to as the **Asian version of the Nobel Prize**.

Ravish Kumar was honoured for his **dedicated commitment to a professional, ethical journalism of the highest standard**. It also recognised his moral courage in standing up for **truth, integrity, and independence**.

#### Other Awardees:

Along with Ravish Kumar, four other winners were also honoured. The awardees are:

**Ko Swe Win** from Myanmar

**Angkhana Neelapaijit** from Thailand

**Raymundo Pujante Cayabyab** from Philippines

**Kim Jong-Ki** from South Korea

#### Ramon Magsaysay Award:

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in **April 1957**. It is awarded every year. The award was instituted to continue the former **Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's** example of integrity, courage in servicing the people, community leadership. It was instituted by the New York based **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** along with the **Philippine government**.

### Bhasha Mukherjee was crowned MISS ENGLAND

**Bhasha Mukherjee**, an Indian-origin doctor, has been crowned **MISS ENGLAND** in **Miss England competition in London**. The event was held from **31 July to 1 August**. The winners bagged over GBP 30,000 worth of prizes, which include a luxury holiday to Mauritius. **Alisha Cowie** was crowned **MISS ENGLAND 2018**. Bhasha Mukherjee is an Indian Haryana origin girl about 23 years old from Derby. She holds two different medical degrees. She is fluent in five languages. She has started a new job as a junior doctor in a hospital in Boston, Lincolnshire, after the Miss England final ended on 1st August. She will be participating in the **69th Miss World** contest to be held in **December in London**.

### President Ram Nath Kovind was awarded the National order of Merit

**President Ram Nath Kovind** was awarded the **National order of Merit** by the **President of Guinea** on 3rd August. This is the **highest award Republic of Guinea** by African government.

He was honoured for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of **overall relations and development of mutual cooperation** between India and Guinea. It also recognised his efforts for **promoting friendship and partnership** between the people of both the countries.

### President's Visit to Guinea:

During his visit to Guinea, President Ram Nath Kovind signed **3 MoUs** between **India and Africa**. The agreements aimed **cooperation in the Field of Traditional System of Medicine, e Vidhya Bharati, e Aarogya Bharati Network Project and Renewal Energy**.

Both countries also agreed to sign in the need for reform of the **UN Security Council** to make it reflective of contemporary realities. The leaders expressed their deep concern over the rise of extremism and terrorism around the world in the meeting. The President also announced a new **Line of Credit of US\$ 170 million** for Water Supply Project of **Conakry city**.

### ISRO institutes Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has announced **Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award** in Space Science, Technology and Research as a reward and recognition to journalists.

#### Nominations:

All Indian journalists can be nominated and those **articles** that are published from the year **2019 till 2020** can be submitted. Candidates will be nominated and judged based on the **standard criteria set by ISRO**. The names of the selected will be declared on August 1, 2020.

#### Vikram Sarabhai Award:

**Vikram Sarabhai** is the **father of Indian space program**. He was an Indian Scientist. The **centenary year celebrations** of the father of Indian space programme announced the award.

ISRO institutes **two categories** of awards instituted in the field of journalism:

- 1) An award that includes a **cash price of Rs.5,00,000**, a medal and citation to two journalists or freelancers of print media.
- 2) An award that includes 3 cash prizes such as Rs.3,00,000, Rs.2,00,000 and Rs.1,00,000 to the articles or the success stories that are published in Hindi, English, or Regional languages in popular Periodicals, Science magazines, or Journals in India from 2019 to 2020.

### Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee was awarded the Bharat Ratna

The **Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee** was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, the highest civilian award in India, at Rashtrapati Bhawan. He was awarded by the **President Ram Nath Kovind**. The award recognizes his selfless service to the nation for decades. He is the fifth President to receive the award.

#### Pranab Mukherjee:

Pranab was born in a village in Birbhum district in West Bengal. He was fondly known as **Pranab Da**. He was the President of India between **2012 and 2017**. Pranab has inspired the politicians with his knowledge, wisdom and experience.

#### Other Awardees:

Along with him the late Assamese singer-composer **Bhupen Hazarika** and the late social activist **Nanaji Deshmukh** were also honoured with the award.

#### Bharat Ratna:

Bharat Ratna is the **highest award** among republic of India and highest recognition in service and performance in the highest order without any distinction of sex, race, position. Bharat Ratna is being awarded after a gap of four years.

### NITI Aayog to launch the 4th Edition of WTI Awards

NITI Aayog launched the **4th Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards**. The WTI Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India. This year's theme is **Women and Entrepreneurship**, in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018. WhatsApp collaborated with NITI Aayog for WTI Awards 2019. The main aim is to provide support amounting to US\$100,000 to the award winners.

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.

### **NITI Aayog**

NITI Aayog is a policy of the Government of India. It is established with the aim to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to enhance cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy making process using a bottom-up approach.

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

### **Rajasthan bagged the Best innovation and initiative leadership award**

Rajasthan bagged the **Best innovation and initiative leadership award 2019** in the **14th elets World Education Summit (WES)** held at **New Delhi**. The award is for its achievements in higher education. The award was received by the **Minister of State for Higher Education Bhanwar Singh Bhati**. The State was awarded for promoting higher education with the emphasis on inculcating ethical values among the students and developing their skills to face competitive exams. Minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati of Rajasthan helped to improve **Free education for girls in higher studies**. Because of this now there are 100 boys of 108 girls studying in government colleges.

### **Organised by:**

The summit was organised by **Elets Technomedia Pvt Ltd** in association with **Government of Nagaland, Government of Manipur, Government of Uttarakhand and the Government of Rajasthan**. The summit was powered by **NoPaperForms** on 9-10 August in Delhi 2019.

### **World Education Summit:**

The representatives from **8 countries and 17 States** of India attended the two-day summit including the **State Higher and Technical Education Secretary Vaibhav Galriya** and Commissioner of College Education Pradeep Kumar Borad. The summit will felicitate edu-tech corporate and start-up for their innovation in education landscape. The summit also recognises the contributions of teachers through **Teachers Glory Awards** introduced for the first time.

### **Police Personnel were awarded the Union Home Minister Medal for Excellence in Investigation**

The **Union Home Minister Medal for Excellence in Investigation** for the year **2018** have been awarded to 101 Police personnel belonging to 25 States/UT/ Central Investigating Agencies.

### **Aim:**

The aim of **medal of Excellence in Investigation** is to promote high **professional standards of investigation** of crime. The award also recognizes Excellence in Investigation by Investigating officers and well appreciable working too.

### **Awardees:**

The Police personnel receiving the Awards about:

11 are from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police each  
8 are from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh police  
7 are from Tamil Nadu police  
9 are from CBI

Rest are from the other States/UT and Central Investigating Agencies The awardees include twelve women police officers also The investigation team who solved the Gauri Lankesh murder case are also awarded. The state government had also awarded the team with price amount of Rs.25 lakhs prize for their exemplary work during the probe.

### **Abhinandan Varthaman to be awarded Vir Chakra**

**Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman** will be awarded the **Vir Chakra gallantry medal** on Independence Day. The Vir Chakra award is an Indian gallantry award for **acts of Bravery** on the battlefield. The award will recognise his grit, determination and bravery.

### **His capture and release:**

Days after **Pulwama attack**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out an airstrike at a terror camp run by **Jaish-e-Mohammed**. During confrontation, IAF pilot Abhinandan Varthaman shot down a **Pakistan F-16 jet on February 27**. He spent nearly 60 hours in Pakistan's custody after his MiG-21 Bison was shot down by Pakistan Air Force F-16s in February in the dogfight. Abhinandan Varthaman downed an F-16 fighter jet of the Pakistan Air Force.

The wing commander cleared all medical tests and likely to rejoin flying duties. He had suffered injuries after ejecting from his damaged plane and parachuting

to safety. The pilot went through a series of physical and mental evaluations since his capture and release.

### **Service and Gallantry Medals for 946 police personnel**

A total of **946 police personnel** have been awarded **Service/Gallantry Medals** on the occasion of the Independence Day, 2019. The awards were approved by the **President of India**.

### **Awardees:**

Among the awardees **72 are from CRPF, 61 are from J&K police, 23 are from Odisha, 9 are from Chhattisgarh** and the remaining from the other States/UTs and CAPFs.

President Police Medals for Gallantry (PPMG) - 3 personnel

Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) - 177 personnel

President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service - 89 personnel

Police Medal for Meritorious Service - 677 personnel

### **180 Gallantry awards:**

Among the 180 gallantry awards:

114 personnel - For their action in Jammu & Kashmir

62 personnel - For their left wing extremism affected areas

4 personnel - For their action in the north-east region

### **ISRO chairman K.Sivan conferred with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award**

**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** Chairman K Sivan awarded the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Award by the Tamil Nadu government. Kailasavadivoo Sivan, who led ISRO's successful launch of **Chandrayaan-2** mission receive the award in person receive it from Chief Minister K Palaniswami. The award is given in recognition of his stellar work in promotion of science and technology. The Kalam award is to honour those who work for promoting scientific growth, humanities and students' welfare. The award carries **8 gm gold medal, Rs. five lakh** in cash and a citation. Mr Sivan's leadership led to the historical achievement of most successful GSLV flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.

ISRO successfully launched Chandrayaan 2, the second mission to the moon on July 22 and he was the chief architect of SITARA, a 6D trajectory simulation software. He worked on the design and development of launch vehicles for ISRO and has contributed immensely towards end to end mission planning, design, and mission integration and analysis. The 62-year-old space scientist was a first graduate in his family, who got a Bachelor's degree in engineering from the Madras Institute of Technology in 1980. He was a recipient of several awards including **Dr Vikram Sarabhai Research Award (1999)**.

Mr Sivan to receive the award at the Independence Day celebrations at Fort St George in Chennai. The Kalam's birthday (October 15) will be observed as **Youth Renaissance Day**. The first Kalam award was presented by Jayalalithaa in 2015 to ISRO scientist N Valarmathi and it is given on Independence Day every year.

### **ISRO**

**Director:** Kailasa Vadivoo Sivan Trending

**Headquarters:** Bengaluru

**Founder:** Vikram Sarabhai

**Founded:** 15 August 1969

### **Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB won JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019**

**K Thangaraj**, chief scientist at the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, Telangana**, won this year's J C Bose Fellowship. The award is given for his outstanding contribution in the field of population and medical genomics on August 17, 2019. His research work includes the genetic basis of male infertility, cardiovascular disease, sex determination, mitochondrial disorders, ayur genomics and forensic genetics.

He established the association of mitochondrial **DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) variations** with several disorders which is the first in India.

### **JC Bose fellowship**

It is awarded to active scientists and engineers in recognition of their outstanding performance and contributions by the Science and Engineering Research Board, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. The award is named after Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose. He is the inventor of crescograph (a device used to measure growth of plants). He is also known as the father of Bengali science fiction. The duration of the fellowship is 5 years.

Each fellowship receives Rs10 Lakh per annum for conferences and other expenses.

#### Prasar Bharati introduce 2 awards in honor of Neelum Sharma

India's largest public broadcasting agency, **Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryaprakash**. The agency introduces 2 awards namely Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award & Achyutananda Sahoo Award. The award memory of Doordarshan (DD) News (Former anchor), Neelum Sharma.

Sharma. She is a strong advocate for women empowerment. She started her career in Doordarshan in 1995. She associated with the channel for over 20 years. She was known for her programmes like Tejaswini (Through this show, she focused on women achievers of India) and Badi Charcha. She was awarded the 2018 Nari Shakti Puraskar (Highest civilian award for women in India) by the President of India Ram Nath Govind.

#### About Prasar Bharati:

Formation: 23 November 1997

Headquarters: New Delhi

CEO: Shri. Shashi Shekhar Vempati

#### National sports awards 2019 were announced

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has announced the awardees of the **National sports awards 2019**. The award recognizes the successive persons in the field of games and sports. The **President of India** will award the awardees at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The awards will be given on the birth anniversary of **hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand** which is celebrated as the **National Sports Day on August 29**.

#### About the award:

National Sports Awards are given for athletes and coaches every year. The award recognizes and rewards excellence in sports. It is given by the Ministry of youth affairs and sports to the successive persons in the field of games and sports.

#### Award Committee:

A 12 member National sports committee headed by the **former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Mukundakam Sharma** has selected the awardees for 2019. The committee constitutes of members including the Sports Secretary Radhey Shyam Jhulaniya, the Sports Authority of India Director Sandeep Pradhan, TOPS CEO Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan, Mary Kom, Bhutia, etc. The committee has handpicked all the winners of **National Sports Awards under categories** of awards like:

The **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** (most outstanding performance)

**Arjuna Award** (outstanding performance)

**Dronacharya Award** (for coaches)

**Dhyan Chand Award** (lifetime achievement)

**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award**

**Prize: Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee** will receive a medal, a citation, and cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.

**Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award, and Dhyan Chand Awards** consist of statuettes, certificates and a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh each.

**Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar** awardee will receive a trophy and citation.

The top-performing University in inter-university tournaments will be given **MAKA Trophy**, award money of Rs.10 lakh and certificate.

The **LIST of NOMINEES** is given below:

#### JNU Professor Meeta Narain conferred the Pushkin Medal 2019

JNU Professor **Meeta Narain** conferred the **Pushkin Medal 2019**. It is the highest honour given to an Indian scholar by the **Russian government**. Pushkin Medal is given to a scholar of Russian language and literature. It is given for outstanding contribution to Russian studies.

#### Pushkin Medal 2019.

Medal of Pushkin is a state decoration of the Russian Federation. It is awarded to its citizens for achievements in the arts and culture, education, humanities, and literature. It is named in honor of **Russian author** and poet Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin.

#### Thirty five officers were awarded the Smart Policing Awards

Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions **Dr. Jitendra Singh** presented the **Smart Policing Awards** at the **Homeland Security 2019 conference** which was held in **New Delhi**. **35 officers** were awarded the

Smart policing Awards. The award recognized their work in the various police initiatives including the areas of crime investigation & prosecution, anti-insurgency, child safety, community policing, cybercrime management, emergency response, human trafficking, road safety & traffic management, smart police station, surveillance & monitoring, training & capacity building, women safety. The Minister also released a collection on **Best Practices in Policing. Smart Policing Awards:**

The award was instituted by **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**. The award has been instituted for best practices in Smart Policing in India.

#### Shri Prabhakar Singh to be awarded the 2019 Eminent Engineer Award

**Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI)** has chosen **Shri Prabhakar Singh**, Director General of **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** for the prestigious **Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019**. The award recognizes his distinguished and exemplary service in the field of Engineering and Technology. He will be awarded on the Engineers Day on September 15, 2019, in New Delhi.

#### Shri Prabhakar Singh:

Mr. Singh is a B.Tech with Honours in Mechanical Engineering from **IITKharagpur**.

He is a post-graduate **MBA** from **Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon**. He has played a vital role in transforming the Premier Engineering Organisation of the Central Government. He has dedicated his Service to the Nation as an Eminent Technocrat.

#### Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI):

IEI was formed in **September 1920** and is headquartered in **Kolkata**. It is the National organization for Indian engineers. IEI is the world's **largest multidisciplinary engineering professional society** in the engineering and technology world.

#### PM received highest civilian award in UAE and Bahrain

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was awarded the **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** by **Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa** on 24 August. The award recognizes his efforts to build a strong friendship and bilateral ties with the Gulf nation. Indian Prime Minister Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit **Bahrain**.

#### Order of Zayed:

Modi also received the **Order of Zayed**, UAE's highest civilian award, by Abu Dhabi crown prince, **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**. The award recognized his vital role in building the strategic relationship between the two countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured during his **3-day visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain**. The visit aimed to hold extensive talks with top leaders of the two countries on **bilateral, regional and global issues** of mutual interest. The visit strengthens India's connect with the six-nation powerful **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**.

Several alternative Muslim nations honored PM Modi with their high civilian award namely:

**Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen** of Maldives in June 2019

**Grand Collar of the State** of Palestine in February 2018

**Emeer Amanullah Khan Award** of Afghanistan in June 2016

**King Abdulaziz Sash Award** of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2016

#### President conferred the Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards

Government has declared the **Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards 2018**. The awards are conferred by **President Ram Nath Kovind** at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, **New Delhi on 29 August**. The award recognizes the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure.

The award is given in four categories:

Land journey

Water journey

Air journey

Life Time accomplishment

#### Jury:

The **National Selection Committee** headed by **Smt. Upma Chawdhry, IAS, Secretary**, Department of Youth Affairs selected the awardees. The committee was constituted with expert members from the **field of adventure**.



### **Tenzing Norgay National Journeys Award:**

The Tenzing Norgay National Journey Awards is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements within the field of the journey toward the land, ocean, and air. The award is given each year to the achievements of persons within the fields of the journey. The award also aims to encourage children and develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative cooperation and fast, prepared and effective reflexes in difficult things.

**Prize:** The awardee will receive **statuettes, certificates** and award cash of **Rs.5 lakh**.

**Tenzing Norgay:** Tenzing Norgay was a Nepali-Indian Sherpa mountaineer.

**Norgay and Edmund Hillary** were the first two individuals known to reach the summit of Mount Everest on **29 May 1953**. Indian government instituted the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards to honour him.

### **Awardees:**

The awardees of the Tenzing Norgay National Journeys Awards 2018 are:

**Land Adventure:** [Aparna Kumar](#), Dipankar Ghosh, Manikandan K

**Water Adventure:** Prabhat Raju Koli

**Air Adventure:** Rameshwar Jangra and Sherpa

**Life Time Achievement:** Wangchuk

### **Prestigious award to Satriya danseuse**

Noted Satriya danseuse and scholar **Dr Anwesa Mahanta** chosen for the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman for her contributions to the Satriya tradition.

Sayanacharya Ghanakanta Bora, a **Sangeet Natak Akademi** and Padma Shri awardee, Anwesa extensively in India also overseas, including the USA, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, France, England, Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. The academic presentations in various institutions of higher learning and research.

She was also awarded Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by Sangeet Natak Akademi. Currently, Dr. Anwesa is the Director of Kalpavriksha that imparts training in Satriya dance, music and theatr.

The coveted **Kelucharan Mohapatra National Award** instituted by Srijan, an acclaimed institution of Odissi in memory of its founder guru, is offered to both senior and young scholars and practitioners to mark the 25th anniversary of Srijan.

### **National sports day award winners awarded on 29 August**

**President Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **National Sports Day Awards 2019** on the National Sports Day which was observed on **29 August**.

### **Awardees:**

The list of **National Sports Day Award winners 2019** is given below:

#### **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award:**

Deepa Malik (Para-Athletics), Bajrang Punia (Wrestling).

#### **Arjuna Award:**

Anjum Moudgil (Shooting), Bhamidipati Sai Praneeth (Badminton), Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (Athletics), Pramod Bhagat (Para sports-badminton), Harmeet Rajul Desai (Table tennis), Pooja Dhanda (Wrestling), Fouaad Mirza (Equestrian), Simran Singh Shergill (Polo), Poonam Yadav (Cricket), Swapna Burman (Athletics), Sundar Singh Gurjar (Para sports-athletics) and Gaurav Singh Gill (Motorsports), Ravindra Jadeja (Cricket), Mohammed Anas (Athletics), Gurpreet Singh Sandhu (Football), Sonia Lather (Boxing), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (Hockey), S Bhaskaran (Bodybuilding), Ajay Thakur (Kabaddi).

#### **Dhyan Chand Award:**

Manoj Kumar (wrestling), Nitten Kirrtane (tennis) and Manuel Fredricks (hockey), C Lalremsanga (archery), Arup Basak (table tennis).

#### **Dronacharya Award (lifetime category):**

Sanjay Bhardwaj (cricket), Rambir Singh Khokar (kabaddi) and Mezban Patel (hockey).

#### **Dronacharya Award:**

Mohinder Singh Dhillon (athletics), Sandeep Gupta (table tennis) and Vimal Kumar (badminton).

opiter  
INSTITUTE

## SPORTS

### Lewis Hamilton won Hungarian Grand Prix

Formula One Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Hungarian Grand Prix**. He defeated Max Verstappen for a record-extending seventh time. He won 62 points clear in the championship.

#### Lewis Hamilton

He is a British racing driver who races in Formula One for Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport.

He is one of the greatest drivers in the history of the sport.

#### Hungarian Grand Prix

It is a motor race held annually in Mogyord, Hungary.

**Most win:** United Kingdom Lewis Hamilton

### Ravichandran Ashwin named as PCA Player of the Month

**Ravichandran Ashwin** named as Professional Cricketers Associations Player of the month of July 2019. The consistent performances in the county championships around 197 runs and picked up 23 wickets from 3 matches for Nottinghamshire. He is the fastest Indian bowler (also in some records the fastest in the world) to reach the 50-, 100-, 150-, 200-, 250- and 300-wicket mark in Test cricket. He became the third Indian to win the ICC Cricketer of the Year award.

### Steve Smith becomes second-fastest to score 25 Test centuries

**Steven Smith** became the **second-fastest batsman** to register **25 centuries** in the Test format. He achieved the feat during the second innings of the first Ashes Test match against England. He recorded his 25th century in 119th innings and went past Indian skipper Virat Kohli who had achieved the feat in 127 innings. Smith became the fifth Australian batsman to register centuries in both innings of Ashes Test. Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar achieved the milestone in his 130th Test innings. Don Bradman's record of 25 centuries in 68 innings remains unbeaten. Former England skipper Michael Vaughan lauded Smith the right-handed batsman is the best Test match. Australia managed to score 284 runs, owing to Smith's knock of 144 runs. **Australia, England** scored 374 runs, gaining a lead of 90 runs. Smith became the second-fastest to register 24 centuries in the Test format. Smith recorded his 24th century in 118th innings. Virat Kohli achieved the feat in 123 innings. In the second innings, Australia lost their openers, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft early, but Smith helped Australia to see-off day three. Australia reached the score of 236/4 on day four. Aussies lead England by 146 runs.

### P.V. Sindhu among Forbes 2019 list of worlds highest-paid female athletes

India's badminton star **P.V. Sindhu** is the only athlete from the country to be named among the worlds highest-paid female athletes by Forbes, a list topped by tennis great Serena Williams. Sindhu is tied for **13th place** in The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019 list released by Forbes. She secured total earnings of \$5.5 million. She became the first Indian to win the season-ending BWF World Tour finals in 2018. The list of the worlds top 15 female athletes is topped by Williams. She earned total earnings of \$29.2 million. She built a venture portfolio worth more than \$10 million. The second spot is Naomi Osaka, who won the 2018 US Open. She defeated champ Williams at 23-time Grand Slam. She has total earnings of \$24.3 million. There are 15 female athletes who made at least \$5 million during that time period. The top 15 earned a cumulative \$146 million, compared with \$130 million. Williams and Osaka earned more than twice as much as the third-highest-paid female athlete in the world. Angelique Kerber, who pulled in \$11.8 million from tennis.

### World Archery suspended Archery Association of India

**World Archery (WA)** has suspended the **Archery Association of India (AAI)**. Earlier, the WA executive board had given a July 31 deadline to both AAI factions to resolve their disputes, including parallel elections. The decision by WA to suspend AAI is because the matter is now in court. The participation of Indian archers in international events under the National flag is jeopardised after AAI's suspension. After the suspension, the last event in which Indian athletes can participate is the world youth championships in Madrid from August 19 to 25, 2019. WA is yet to decide whether individual athletes can participate in the **Indoor Archery World Series**.

### Transitory Committee:

The Indian Government and the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** are planning to establish a transitory committee to handle urgent matters. The executive board will preserve the chances of Indian athletes participating in the **Asian championships and Asian para championships**.

### Cricket Australia unveils new transgender inclusive policy

**Cricket Australia** announced a new transgender-inclusive policy. This policy will enable **transgender** players to play the game of cricket at the highest levels. The **decision** aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Councils (ICCs) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines. The policy sets out a limit for transgender and gender-diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams. Australian men's national cricket team represents Australia in international cricket. It is oldest teams in Test cricket history playing in the first-ever Test match in 1877.

### Bianca Andreescu won the 2019 Rogers Cup

**Bianca Andreescu** won the **2019 Rogers Cup** in **Toronto, Canada**. She defeated Serena Williams. In the Rogers Cup mens final, Spanish player **Rafael Nadal** won the title. It is his **fifth Rogers Cup title**. He secured 6-3 and 6-0 won Daniil Medvedev. It is his 35<sup>th</sup> Masters 1,000 tournament win.

#### Results:

**Men's singles:** Rafael Nadal

**Women's singles:** Bianca Andreescu

**Men's doubles:** Marcel Granollers, Horacio Zeballos

**Women's doubles:** Barbora Krejckov, Kateina Siniakov

#### Canadian Open (Rogers Cup):

The tournament was founded in **1881**. The Rogers Cup was the **130th edition**. The tournament was held in IGA Stadium & Aviva Centre at **Toronto, Canada**.

### Indian juniors won medals at the 2019 Bulgarian Junior International Championships

**Indian juniors** won **three gold, one silver and two bronze medals** at the **2019 Bulgarian Junior International Championships** in **Pazardzhik, Bulgaria** on 12 August.

#### Results:

**Girls singles:** Samiya Imad Faruqui bt Anastasiia Shapovalova and secured 9-21, 21-12, 22-20.

**Girls doubles:** Tanisha Crasto & Aditi Bhatt bt Bengisu Ercetin & Zehra Erdem and secured 21-15, 18-21, 21-18.

**Mixed doubles:** Edwin Joy & Shruti Mishra bt Brandon Zhi Hao & Abbygael Harris and secured 21-14; 21-17

**Boys doubles:** William Jones/Brandon Zhi Hao bt Ishan Bhatnagar & Vishnuvardhan and secured 21-19, 21-18.

### Aishwarya Pissay claims the world title in motorsports

**Aishwarya Pissay** claimed the world title in motorsports in the **women's category** in the **FIM World Cup 2019** held at **Varpalota in Hungary**. She created the history and became the first Indian to claim the title. She finished **4th** in the Hungary Round. **Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI)** claimed her success India's first FIM World Cup champion.

#### Event conducted by:

International Motorcycling Federation conducted the **FIM World Cup 2019**. International Motorcycling Federation is the governing body for motor racing in the world.

#### Abou the race:

She won the first round in **Dubai**. She was placed third in **Portugal**, fifth in **Spain** and fourth in **Hungary**. She was placed second in the junior category with 46 points, after Tomas de Gavardo of Chile.

#### 2019 FIM World Cup:

FIM world cup is the class of motorcycling racing which uses Electric Motorcycles with a top speed of **270km per hour**. The FIM World Cup 2019 is the 8th season of the FIM Bajas World Cup. FIM Bajas World Cup is an international rally raid competition for motorbikes and quads.

### P.T. Usha appoints in AAAs Athletes Commission

Legendary Indian sprinter **P.T. Usha**, one of India's greatest athletes. She is appointed as a member of the **Asian Athletics Association (AAA) Athletes Commission**.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time she is appointed as member. P.T. Usha appointed a member of the Asian Athletics Association's Athletes Commission. She will be one of the six members of the AAA Athletes Commission, to be headed by 1992 Olympics gold medalist hammer thrower Andrey Abduvaliyev of Uzbekistan.

### Bajrang Punia to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019

**Bajrang Punia** awarded Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019. It is the highest country award in India. Bajrang Punia is set to be awarded the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019**. The country's highest sporting honour. Punia will be rewarded with the award for his consistent showing in the field of wrestling. His contribution in bringing laurels to the country. Punia along with Vinesh Phogat was recommended by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the prestigious award.

Punia his title at the **Tbilisi Grand Prix** won the gold medal by prevailing over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the 65kg final of the men's freestyle competition.

#### His achievements

Punia stamped his authority in the Asian circuit. He won the Asian Wrestling Championships in Xi'an, China. Punia won the gold medal in the 65-kg freestyle wrestling event at the Asian Games held in Jakarta. He defeated Japanese wrestler Takatani Daichi 11-8. He won the gold medal in the same category at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He overcame Kane Charig of Wales by Technical Superiority to clinch the gold. Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were awarded the Khel Ratna Award. The first recipient of the award was Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand who was honored for his performance in the year 1991-92.

### Indian team wins gold at the World Junior Track Cycling Championships

Indian men's team won the **Team Sprint gold medal** at the **World Junior Track Cycling Championships in Frankfurt, Germany**. A team of 4 members created the history by winning India's first-ever gold in a world level cycling competition. The Indian team defeated **Australia** and clocked **44.681 seconds** to claim the top honours. **Britain** stood third and won the bronze medal. In the event of **team Sprint** India won gold and the members are:

Rojit Singh Yanglem

Esow Esow

Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam

Jemsh Singh Keithellakpam

#### 2019 UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships:

The 2019 UCI Junior Track Cycling World Championships was held from **14 to 18 August 2019** at Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. The track cycling championship event happens every year.

### India clinched gold at Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan

**India** won gold at the Under 12 Asian Tennis Team championship. The event held in **Kazakhstan**. India defeated Chinese Taipei in the score 2-1 in the summit clash to win the title.

The final was a tie of three matches. Indian Team won both the singles matches. The team comprised of Manas Dhamme, Arnav Paprakar and Tamil Nadu's Pranav Rethin. Manas and Rethin won their singles matches.

### Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by Kreishh Gurbaxani

Mumbai **Kreishh Gurbaxani** is currently at the no. 2 spots in the India junior snooker rankings. He won the **2019 Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker Open title**. He defeated Odisha Asutosh Padhy for 5-4 in the 4-hour final contest.

He was **awarded** the champions trophy and a cheque of Rs 30,000. The runner up trophy and a cheque of **Rs 20,000** were given to Asutosh Padhy.

### India to host World Youth Chess Championship

For the first time ever, **India** is to host the **World Youth Chess Championship 2019**. The **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** won the bid to conduct the World Youth and Junior Chess championships 2019 in the country. The championship will be held from **1 October to 13 October 2019** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. The championship aims to produce many young stars and aspire to take part in such world events.

#### World Youth Chess Championship 2019:

The **World Chess Federation (FIDE-Federation Internationale des)** conducts 15 World-Level Tournaments in a year. The Youth Tournament will be held in three age categories in both the open and girls group.

#### The Tournament will be played in the:

**U-14 age** groups for Boys & Girls

**U-16 age** groups for Boys & Girls

**U-18 age** groups for Boys & Girls

The participants include around 700 young Chess masters from over 100 Chess playing countries. **Six World Champions** will be crowned at this Tournament.

### Hima and Anas won gold in the Athleticky Mitink Reiter 2019

Indian sprinters **Hima Das** and **Mohammad Anas** won gold at the **Athleticky Mitink Reiter event** in the Czech Republic. They won gold in the **women's and men's 300m category** respectively. **India's Nirmal Tom** clinched bronze in men's 300m category.

Muhammed Anas clocked 32.41 seconds to claim gold in the event. India's Nirmal Tom clocked 33.03 seconds.

#### Hima Das:

This is her **6th gold medal** this year 2019. On July 20 she clinched gold in her pet 400m event at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic.

#### Czech Athletics:

Czech Athletics is an annual outdoor field competition. It is the National championship for sports in the Czech republic. It was organized by Czech athletic federation.

### Indian team retain top-spot in ICC test rankings

ICC Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** retained the top spot in the Test batsmen's rankings. It is officially released by the International Cricket Council in Dubai. Australia's Steve Smith occurred the second position. Smith overtook New Zealand Captain Kane Williamson to reach the second spot. Smith is just nine points behind Kohli.

Kohli has **922 points**. Smith has **913 points**.

Australia's Pat Cummins retained the top spot.

India are on top of the team table with 113 points followed by New Zealand 111 points and South Africa 108 points.

#### International Cricket Council

**Chairperson:** Shashank Manohar

**Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Founded:** 15 June 1909

### Former Australian bowler Mitchell Johnson becomes MCC Honorary Life member

Former Australian player **Mitchell Johnson** elected as an Honorary Life Member of the **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**. The club made the announcement, during the second Ashes Test between Australia and England which ended in a draw.

Johnson played 73 international Test matches for Australia claiming 313 wickets at an average of 28.40.

Johnson made his debut for Australia in 2005 and hung up his boots a decade later in 2015. He was a part of Australia's two successful World Cup triumphs in 2007 and 2015.

The speedster represented Australia in 153 One Day Internationals picking up 239 wickets and 30 Twenty 20 Internationals claimed 38 scalps. The MCC took to Twitter to announce his membership.

#### Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)

Marylebone Cricket Club is a cricket club founded in 1787.

**Founder:** Thomas Lord

**Founded:** 1787

**Headquarters:** London, United Kingdom



### Vikram Rathour to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach

Former opener **Vikram Rathour** replace **Sanjay Bangar** as India's new batting coach while Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar retained as bowling and fielding coaches. The senior national selection committee headed by MSK Prasad. The commended three names each for all the support staff positions and the top names in each category appointed as a Conflict of Interest declaration. The 50-year-old Rathour played six Tests and seven ODIs in 1996 without much success but was a domestic heavyweight for Punjab. He was a senior national selector under Sandeep Patil's chairmanship.

#### International Cricket Council

**Chairperson:** Shashank Manohar

**Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**CEO:** Manu Sawhney

**Founded:** 15 June 1909

**Membership:** 104 members

### Indias Hockey team won Olympic test event 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

The **Indian women hockey team** won the **Olympic Test event** with **Navjot Kaur** and **Lalremsiami** leading the side to a 2-1 win over Japan in the final. Navjot Kaur - 11th minute won the score to put India ahead but the lead was neutralized within a minute as **Minami Shimizu (12')** scored for the hosts.

#### Japan

**Capital:** Tokyo

**Prime Minister:** Shinz Abe

### PV Sindhu won gold at the 2019 BWF World Championships

Indian badminton and World number five **PV Sindhu** won gold at the **BWF World Championships 2019**. She became the first-ever Indian badminton player to win a gold medal at the event. PV Sindhu defeated world number four **Nozomi Okuhara of Japan** and secured 21-7, 21-7. This is her **fifth** medal at the **world championships**. With this, she has become only the **fourth singles player** ever to have a full set of world championship medals. In the previous editions of the World Championships, she secured:

Bronze in 2013

Bronze in 2014

Silver in 2017

Silver in 2018

Gold in 2019

#### BWF World Championships 2019:

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships was held from 19 to 25 August in Basel, Switzerland. It is the 25th edition of the championship. 45 countries participated in the badminton tournament.

#### Result:

**Men's singles:** Kento Momota (Japan)

**Women's singles:** P. V. Sindhu (India)

**Men's doubles:** Mohammad Ahsan, Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)

**Women's doubles:** Mayu Matsumoto, Wakana Nagahara (Japan)

**Mixed doubles:** Zheng Siwei, Huang Yaqui (China)

### Indian team won 2 Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019

Indian junior (U-21) compound mixed team of **Markoo Raginee** and **Sukhbeer Singh** picked up the first gold for India. They defeated Switzerland rivals Andrea Vallario and Janine Hunsperger with 152-147 scores at the **World Archery Youth Championships 2019**. The event is organized by the World Archery Federation in Madrid, Spain from 19 -25 August 2019. 17-year-old Komalika Bari got 2nd Gold medal in the final of recurve cadet class. Defeated by Japans Sonoda Waka with 7-3 scores.

The Indian team of Sukhbir Singh, Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Tushar Phadtare won the junior compound mens team bronze medal by beating Colombias Jagdeep Teji Singh Mejia, Gomez Zuluga Felipe and Toro Vasquez Manuel got 234-231 scores.

The Indians scored 60 out of 60 points in the final round. The Colombian team managed only 56 points. **World Archery Federation Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**First Vice-president:** Mario Scarzella

**President:** Uur Erdener

### Lt Gen Puri became first serving first serving Lt Gen to complete 1,200 km Paris Brest Paris circuit

**Lieutenant General Anil Puri** completed **France's oldest cycling event, 1,200km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit**. He became the first serving Lieutenant General-rank officer of the Indian Army.

Lt Gen Puri, the 56-year-old officer completed the event by cycling non-stop for 90 hours. **367 participants represented India**. Around 80 successfully completed the trek. Six army personnel secured berths at the event for having completed at least one 1,000-km non-stop cycling event during their respective careers. **1,200- km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit:**

Rambouillet hosted the 1,200- km Paris-Brest-Paris circuit 2019 event. The event was started in 1931. Over 31,125 riders have managed to complete Paris- Brest- Paris Randonneur since then.

### IndTokyo launched to help Paralympians to look up accessible places in Tokyo during 2020 Paralympics Games

A **mobile app** launched to help para-athletes to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics Games. The application IndTokyo launched by Arhan Bagati, Awareness and Impact Ambassador of Paralympic Committee of India, at the 'Countdown to Tokyo 2020' event here, has features like information on para-athletes and accessible places in Tokyo among others.

#### Indians -Paralympic athletes.

Indians should download this application and learn about our Paralympic athletes. Our Indian Paralympians will be able to use this application to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics. The 2020 Paralympics silver medalist Deepa Malik is bubbling with confidence that the Indian contingent will work hard to double the medal tally at the global event. It is a big milestone for the players. The list will be finalised soon. We won a total of 11 medals in the Paralympics so far. We hope to double the medal tally in the 2020 event.

The Indian para-athlete has made an appeal to the country, calling for greater participation of specially-abled women and girls to participate in sports. The 48-year-old para-athlete won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics Games in shot put.

Talking about the forthcoming Paralympics Games, Malik said that para-athletes are now being funded at par with their Olympic counterparts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, Paralympic Committee of India and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for their continuous efforts to support the Paralympic players. The results are now visible. Para games have been added to the Khelo India programme. Para-games have now become popular at school-level," Malik added. Our players are qualifying in the world events be it shooting, badminton, table tennis, archery or athletics. Our players are continuously competing at the international level. The 2020 Tokyo Paralympics is scheduled to begin from August 25 and will go on till September 6. Over 4,000 athletes from across the world are scheduled to participate in the event.

### V K Vismaya won gold in womens 400m held at MJS athletics Czech Republic

Indian sprinter **V K Vismaya** won a best timing of 52.12s and won the **gold medal** in the women's **400m run** at the **International Athletic Meeting Josef Seckr Memorial (MJS)** in Brno, Czech Republic. The 22-year-old Indian won the yellow metal, while compatriots Poovamma Machettira and Subha Venkatesan finished second and third with timings of 53.47s and Sudha 53.67s respectively. Vismaya scored a personal best of 52.48 at Nove Mesto and Metuj (CZE) along with the quartermilers in Europe .Hima Das recently won six gold medals in European races.

#### International Athletic Meeting

**Headquarters :** Monaco

**Membership:** 215 member federations

**President:** Sebastian Coe

## ARTS & CULTURE

### State of Art Gallery at National Crafts Museum inaugurated

A **Textiles Gallery at National Crafts Museum** was inaugurated in New Delhi on 13 August by the Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, **Smriti Zubin Irani**.

#### Aim:

The collection aims to help **people explore, enjoy, and rediscover** the world of Indian textiles through design and technology.

#### Collections in the gallery:

The Gallery consists of more than **230 different types of textiles collections** more than 30 traditions. **Five zones** were displayed in the gallery. Zones has been named as weaving, embroidery, dying (Ikatpatola), pattern (Bandhej, Kalamkari, and Leheria) and TanaBana based on the intricacies of the textiles. The gallery exhibits the fine Indian Craftsmanship to public. The rich collection displayed the importance of conserving India's rich heritage of handlooms for the next generations. It will serve as a resource centre for the students of fashion technology, apparel sciences and textiles designing. Under **three categories** the handlooms were displayed: **Pre Loom Ikat**: The design that are already visualized and transferred to the yarn before the yarn is placed on the loom. **On- Loom**: The design enters the loom while weaving brocade, muslin, jamdani, weaved shawls, weaved sarees.

**Post Loom**: Displays the techniques that can be done on cloth after it is woven block printing, embroidery and kalamkaricomes in this category.

### Third phase of Jung E Azadi memorial was dedicated

The **third phase of the Jung-E-Azadi memorial** was dedicated to the people who were killed in the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** and the unsung heroes who were incarcerated in the **Andaman Cellular jail** during the freedom struggle. The memorial was dedicated by the **Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh**. The cost of the third phase of the memorial was **Rs.20 crore**.

#### Aim of the memorial:

The memorial aims to spread the awareness about the sacrifices made by Indians to free India from the British rule among the younger generations.

#### Other launches:

The chief minister also launched other **development and welfare** projects. The projects are part of **Rs.450 crore worth** development projects of the State.

#### Jung-E-Azadi Memorial:

The foundation for the memorial was laid on **19 October 2014**. It is located at **Kartarpur, Punjab**. The memorial marks the sacrifices made by the **Punjabi community** in the Independence movement. The planning and building of the memorial was carried out under the **Director Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Punjab**.

### Akshay Kumar takes 4th spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019

Bollywood Actor Akshay Kumar made it to the **4th position** on the Forbes magazine's **Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019** list. Akshay earned around **\$65 million**. Hollywood star Dwayne **Rock** Johnson tops the Forbes list of the 10 highest-paid actors.

Here's the list of the **Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019** listed by Forbes:

1. Dwayne Johnson (\$89.4 million)
2. Chris Hemsworth (\$76.4 million)
3. Robert Downey Jr. (\$66 million)
4. Akshay Kumar (\$65 million)
5. Jackie Chan (\$58 million)
6. Bradley Cooper (\$57 million)
7. Adam Sandler (\$57 million)
8. Chris Evans (\$43.5 million)
9. Paul Rudd (\$41 million)
10. Will Smith (\$35 million)

## OBITUARY

### Gujarati journalist author and columnist Kanti Bhatt passed away

Gujarati journalist author and columnist **Kanti Bhatt** passed away in Mumbai on 5<sup>th</sup> August. He was **88 years old**. He passed away after a prolonged illness.

#### Kanti Bhatt:

Kanti was born on **15th July, 1931** in the **Bhavnagar district of Gujarat**. He did his **Bachelor of Commerce** from the **Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (Vadodara)**. Kanti Bhatt joined journalism in 1966 in Mumbai.

Kanti was a good columnist, writer and journalist. His writings were informative that enriched the **culture of Gujarat**. He has written more than **45,000 articles**.

### Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj passed away

Former External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**, 67 years old, passed away on **6<sup>th</sup> August**. She suffered a **cardiac arrest** and passed away at **AIIMS**. She underwent a kidney transplant in 2016.

#### Sushma Swaraj Career:

Sushma Swaraj was educated at Sanatan Dharma College in Ambala Cantonment. She earned a bachelor's degree with majors in Sanskrit and Political Science. She studied law at Punjab University, Chandigarh.

#### Political Career:

Swaraj's political career started at her age of 25 in 1977. She became the **youngest cabinet minister** in Haryana in 1977. She served as the **5th Chief Minister of Delhi** from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1998. She was a **seventime Member of Parliament**. She served as MLA for three terms.

Sushma Swaraj won from **Vidisha constituency in Madhya Pradesh** for a second term in 2014. Swaraj took charge as **Foreign Minister** on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. After **Indira Gandhi**, she was the **second woman to hold the External Affairs Ministry**. She was popularly known as the **Peoples Minister**. She introduced a new sensitivity and sensibility in the functioning of the External Affairs Ministry.

### Damodar Ganesh Bapat passed away on 16 August

Social worker and **Padma Shri awardee Damodar Ganesh Bapat** passed away on **16 August in Chhattisgarh**. He was **84 years old**. He died due to illness. He was known for his social work among the tribal areas in Chhattisgarh.

#### Damodar Ganesh Bapat:

Bapat dedicated his life to serve the leprosy patients at **Bhartiya Kushta Nivarak Sangh (BKNS)** in JanjgirChampa district Chhattisgarh. He also was worker of Vanvashi ashram in Jaspur (CG). In 2018, the Government of India awarded him the **Padma Shri**, the fourth highest civilian award. He was awarded by **President Ram Nath Kovind** in 2018 for his service to the society.

### Mohammed Zahur Hashmi passed away

The eminent composer **Mohammed Zahur Hashmi** passed away on 19 August. He was **92 years old**. He died because of prolonged illnesses. He was famously known as **Khayyam**. He is best known for his music in classic films such as **'Kabhi Kabhie'** and **'Umrao Jaan'**.

#### His career:

Khayyam started his musical career at the age of 17. Hashmi's other notable works include films such as **'Trishul'**, **'Noorie'** and **'Shola Aur Shabnam'**. Mohammed Zahur Hashmi was also a recipient of **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Padma Bhushan**. He was also honored with the **National Award and Filmfare Award**. He had also composed music for actress Meena Kumari's album **I Write, I Recite**. His non-film songs include **Paaon Padun Tore Shyam**, **Ghazab Kiya Tere Vaade Pe Aitbaar Kiya**, and **Brij Mein Laut Chalo**.

### Former Madhya Pradesh CM Babulal Gaur passed away

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and senior BJP leader **Babulal Gaur** passed away on 21 August. He was 89 years old. He died due to various old-age ailments followed by cardiac arrest. The veteran BJP leader served as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister from **2004-2005**. He represented his traditional Govindpura Vidhan Sabha seat 10 times.

#### About Babulal:

Mr. Babulal Gaur was born on June 2 in 1930 at Nageer village in Pratapgarh, **Uttar Pradesh**. He worked at the Bhopal Textiles Mill and led agitations for labour rights. His political career started in 1946 as he entered in the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh**. He was a founder-member of the Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh. He served as the secretary of the Jana Sangh in 1956. Babulal took part in several national-level movements such as the **agitation against the Emergency and for Goa Independence**. During the Emergency, he was detained for 19 months under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

### BJP Veteran and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley passed away

India's former **Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley** passed away on **24<sup>th</sup> August**. He died at the 66 due to prolonged illness. The Minister had triple heart-bypass surgery when he was **52**. He was a diabetic and had **bariatric weight-loss surgery** in 2014. He underwent a **kidney transplant** in 2018 and travelled to the United States in 2018 for unspecified medical care.

#### Political Career:

Arun Jaitley passed his Law degree from Shri Ram College of Commerce, **University of Delhi and Faculty of Law**, University of Delhi. In the 1970s, Mr. Jaitley got involved in politics as a student leader. In 1974, he became the President of the University Students' Union. The lawyer-turned-politician is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Since 2000, he has been the party leader of BJP and a member of Rajya Sabha. In **2003**, he served as the **law minister** during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure. He held various posts such as Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Law & Justice, Information & Broadcasting, Finance, and Defence.

Jaitley led the enactment of **bankruptcy code and a national goods-and-services tax (GST)** law during his tenure as Finance Minister.

### Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya passed away

**Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya**, a Director General of Police in Uttarakhand, passed away on **27<sup>th</sup> August in Mumbai**. She died due to prolonged illness. **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya:**

Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya was a **1973 batch IPS officer**. She created history when she became the **Director-General of Police (DGP) of Uttarakhand** in the year **2004**. After her retirement, she stepped into politics by contesting the **2014 Lok Sabha election**.

She contested from Haridwar seat in Uttarakhand on an **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** seat. Even after her retirement, she served the country till her final working with **Delhis Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal**.

#### About Kanchan Chaudhary:

Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya was the **second woman IPS officer** within the country after **Kiran Bedi**. She completed her PG degree in English Literature from a science school, urban center University. She was appointed as a **Deputy General Inspector of Police** in the state. She was promoted to the primary ladies gamma globulin of UP Police. She had 33 years of career span and handled varied sensitive cases like **Syed Modi** murder case in **1987** and **Reliance-Bombay coloring case**. **Award:** She was awarded President's laurels for long and meritable services in **1989** and **Rajiv Gandhi Award in 2004**.



## SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

### Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers held at New Delhi

The **Second All India Annual Conference of Indian Information Service (IIS) Officers** was held at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in **New Delhi** on 5 August. The Conference was organized by the the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting**. The Ministry of I&B conducted a performance review of the Media units during the Conference.

#### Aim:

The conference aimed to attain greater **integration of all Media Units** in order to further amplify government communication. The conference highlighted the importance of **feedback along with communicating the programmes** and policies of government.

The sessions focused discussions on:

Adoption of **Integrated and Theme Based Communication Approach**  
Expansion of Social Media regionally and use of **Integrated Dashboard**  
Adoption of Government Communication Impact Assessment Framework  
Roadmap for celebration of **550th Anniversary of Guru Nanak 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi 75 Years of India's Independence**  
International Film Festival of India's (IFFI) Golden Jubilee Edition  
The discussion also included the importance to shift government communication from segregated Ministry-wise approach to a **thematic and holistic approach**.

#### Participants:

Delegates including **Senior IIS Officers** from all across the country, along with **officials of the Ministry of I&B, Prasar Bharati and Indian Institute of Mass Communication** participated in the Conference.

### MSDE organized the fourth edition of NEA

**Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** organized the **fourth edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards at New Delhi, India**. The Ministry has also instituted in a bid to recognize and encourage outstanding Indian Entrepreneurs and catalyse a cultural shift in youth for entrepreneurship for nominations.

#### Aim:

The fourth National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) 2019 aims to **honour outstanding young first generation entrepreneurs** and ecosystem builders for their exceptional contribution in entrepreneurship development. The Government will also reward the most innovative, inspiring and accomplished **micro entrepreneurs** to scale up their business.

The awards recognizes the businesses and businessmen to improve their marketability, and address discontinuity towards better business systems and enhanced products & services with the help of a prize money. The awards ceremony will be held in November 2019.

### Fifth Meeting Of BRICS Minister Of Environment Held In Sao Paulo, Brazil

**Fifth BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting** held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is preceded by the 2-day meeting of BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment. The Indian delegation led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar.

Prakash Javadekar stated that India achieved its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement, reduction of energy intensity by 25%, increment of forest cover by nearly 15,000 sq km, Swachh Bharat Mission initiative, Waste Management Rules.

The initiatives of BRICS countries and reaffirmed Indias support to BRICS cooperation. The BRICS Ministers delegations to join at 14th CoP (Conference of Parties) scheduled to be held from 23 September 2019 and contribute to the efforts to combat desertification and land degradation. India free of single-use plastic campaign. The massive campaign that will be launched to make India free of single-use plastic. The Ministers of BRICS countries underlined the Partnership on Urban Environmental Sustainability Initiative (PUESI). This is used to share knowledge & experience on major issues such as waste management, cogeneration, reverse logistics, sanitation, urban air quality, urban green areas.

BRICS Environmentally Sound Technology (BEST) Cooperation Platform was highlighted for innovations, knowledge sharing and capacity building. It was adopted for improvement of the river ecosystem and tackling marine waste. The Ministers agreed to support the development of Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework & they urged developed countries to meet their

commitment under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement to provide means of implementation of climate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support.

Brazil was led by Mr. Ricardo Salles, Minister of Environment. Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Dmitry Kobylykin led the Russian delegation, while the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Huang Runqiu, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Environment and the South African delegation was led by Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms. Barbara Creecy.

#### About Brazil:

**Capital:** Brasilia

**Currency:** Brazilian real

**President:** Jair Bolsonaro

### EAM to participate the fifth meeting of the Nepal India Joint Commission

The **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission** is to take place from **August 21 to 22, 2019** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The **External Affairs Minister (EAM) S.Jaishankar** is to participate in the meeting. He will **co-chair** the meeting along with his **Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali**.

#### Aim of the commission:

The commission is aimed to review the overall state of bilateral relations between the countries. It will also discuss the various areas of cooperation such as connectivity and economic partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources sectors, culture, education and other matters of mutual interest.

#### Nepal-India Joint Commission:

The Nepal-India Joint Commission was established in **June 1987**. India-Nepal Joint Commission is a **high-level bilateral mechanism** to comprehensively review India- Nepal relations. The commission meetings are held alternately in India and Nepal. The **4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission** was held on **October 2016** in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by the **Honble Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, from Nepali side and His Excellency Mr. M. J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs, from the Indian side.

### National Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in New Delhi

**Union Ministry of Tourism** organized a one-day **National Conference of Tourism Ministers in New Delhi**. The meet was inaugurated by **Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**.

**Participants:** The conference was attended by State Tourism Ministers of **19 States**.

#### Aim:

The meeting focused on various issues related to the development and promotion of Tourism in New Delhi. It suggested better coordination between the Centre and State to increase the number of tourists in India and work towards removing negative impressions. The Ministry aims to achieve the Prime Ministers target of doubling the tourists, both foreign and domestic over the next five years.

#### New incredible India:

The Tourism Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launched the Hindi version of the **New Incredible India portal** at the conference. He announced that the Ministry is planning to launch the new Incredible India website in **Arabic, Chinese and Spanish**.

#### IITFC:

Mr. Patel also launched the **Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC)**. IITFC is a digital initiative online programme where one can learn about tourism at their own time, space, path, and pace.

#### Night tourism:

The Ministry has also decided to open 10 historical monuments till 9 PM for common visitors across the country. This move aims to promote **night tourism** across the country.

### Shri Amit Shah chairs the 24th Meeting of Western Zonal Council at Panaji

Union Minister for Home Affairs, **Shri Amit Shah** chaired the 24th meeting of the **Western Zonal Council** at Panaji (Goa) The dignitaries attending the meeting includes Chief Minister Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani, CM Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, CM Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant and Administrator of the

Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Shri Praful Patel and senior officers from the Central and State Governments.

#### **Members of the Council**

The members of the Council to the 24th meeting the issues having Centre-State and inter-State ramifications will be resolved with consensus. Home Minister stated West Zone instrumental in giving impetus to the Indian economy as the States of the Zone are contributing around 24% to the GDP and 45% to the total exports of the country. The pending issues between the States and the Centre need to be resolved on priority through the medium of Western Zonal Council. The States in Zone have been a big exporter of sugar, cotton, groundnut and fish and contributing immensely to the economic development of the country.

The issues listed in the agenda add and discuss issues relating to law & order and administrative reforms to the development of the country. He mentioned that the Government of India has taken an initiative to assess the damage on its own, for which Central teams have already been constituted to visit the flood affected areas without waiting for the reports from the States. The Council reviewed the progress of implementation of the recommendations made at the last meeting.

#### **Council among others focused on the following issues:**

Action on the Master Plan submitted by Maharashtra Government for utilization of surplus Salt Pan Land for rehabilitation of slum dwellers was discussed at length. State Government will send a detailed proposal in two months suggesting broad contours of a transparent financial model for involvement of slum dwellers (and utilization of remaining land as per high FSI in keeping with provisions of a scheme to be formulated as per Slum Rehabilitation Act) on a competitive basis for rehabilitation of slum dwellers & transfer of land/monetization for Government of India.

#### **Direct Benefit Transfer**

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) done through IPPBs also everywhere covered by Core Banking Solution. The enhancement of DBT Portal to include scheme/village-wise details by collecting real time information from respective portals of beneficiary-oriented schemes to give village level DBT fund transfer & benefits. The detailed monitoring mechanism to ensure that investigation and trial of sexual offences/rape against girls below 12 years of age are completed within two months (POCSO Act and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018) each. Home Minister called upon the States to give their suggestions for improvements in Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

He urged the Chief Ministers to ensure regular monitoring at the Chief Secretaries level of investigation and prosecution of cases in the courts in case of heinous offences such as Narcotics, POCSO Act, murders. The States should fill the post of Director Prosecution without any further delay. He stressed on the need for setting up Forensic Science Laboratories in the States. There should also be regular monitoring of all decisions in various areas narrated above through Video Conference by the Home Secretary and Special Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat.

#### **The 2 plus 2 intersessional between US and India is being held in California**

The 2+2 intersessional and the **Maritime Security Dialogue** between **India and the U.S. officials** are being held in the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.

#### **Aim:**

The intersessional meeting aims to **strengthen the strategic partnership**. The meeting will discuss ways to advance the security priorities and the cooperation on critical diplomatic between the countries including the shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

#### **Participants:**

The U.S. delegations will be led by **Alice Wells**, the Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia and **Randall Schriver**, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Affairs.

From Indian side **Gourangalal Das**, Joint Secretary, Americas, and officials from the Indian Embassy in Washington and **five officials from the Ministry of Defence**, the Joint Secretary of International Cooperation and the Joint Secretary of Navy, the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (ACNS) Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence (FCI) and a one-star officer from Headquarters

Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) as well as the Director International Cooperation (IC) are participating in the Security dialogue.

#### **2+2 Dialogue:**

The first 2+2 Dialogue was held on **September 2018**. After the dialogue, India and the U.S. have had intense ties in the trade, strategic and defence aspects of the relationship.

#### **First World Youth Conference on Kindness was held in New Delhi**

**President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the **first World Youth Conference on Kindness** on 23 August in **New Delhi**.

#### **Aim:**

The conference aimed to impart critical competencies like **empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry** in global youth. It aimed to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

#### **Organized by:**

The conference was organized by the **UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development**, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

#### **Participants:**

A number of youth leaders from around the world, representing over **27 countries**, and young men and women participated in the first World Youth Conference on Kindness.

#### **Indo Pacific 2019 Chiefs of Defence Conference was held in Thailand**

**Indo Pacific 2019 Chiefs of Defence Conference** was held in **Thailand** on 26 August. The conference was held during the **3 day-visit of Air Chief Marshal** and Chairman Chiefs of employees Committee, **Birender Singh Dhanoa** to Thailand.

#### **Aim & Theme:**

The conference was aimed to strengthen the bilateral defence relations between the two countries. The theme for the conference was **Collaboration during a free and Open Indo - Pacific**. The conference shed its light on the common challenges faced by the nations.

The **bilateral defence relationship** with Thailand has gained a momentum that resulted in India's **Look/ Act East Policy** together at political, economic and cultural levels. The participation of the Indian Chairman COSC would increase defence cooperation with an Asian country for bigger interaction and cooperation in the future.

#### **India and Thailand relation:**

The India-Thailand defence Cooperation has been initiated in **2003**. It started with seven primary areas of focus to **strengthen cooperation** between countries. The focus on primary areas was re-enforced in a joint statement issued throughout Thai Prime Ministers official visit to India on January 2012. Both countries have the firm of diplomatic relations in 2017. India is the natural partner of Siam for regional cooperative security initiatives.

#### **The twelfth India Security Summit was held in New Delhi**

The **12<sup>th</sup> India Security Summit** was held in **New Delhi** on **29 August**. The theme of the summit is the **New National Cyber Security Strategy**. The summit focused on several problems including the protection of important national infrastructure, rising cyber threats like incidents, challenges, and responsibilities.

#### **Organized by:**

The summit was organized by **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**. It is officially supported by the **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology**.

#### **Cybersecurity:**

Cybersecurity is the technique of computer protecting knowledge from unauthorized access or attacks. Cybersecurity activities are to safeguard the usability, responsibility, integrity, and safety of the network. India is the third-largest user of the web and also the cybercrime has augmented in manifold within recent years.

#### **Cybers New schemes:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs launched a new scheme named **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** to combat cybercrime in the country. The **Cyber Swachhta Kendra** is also a new scheme of the Government towards Digital India under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

## SCHEMES

### Government aims to enrol 150 million workers under PM pension scheme

Union government enrol around **150 million workers** over the next three years under the scheme **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)**. The pension scheme will benefit a large pool of people who earn less but form a large part of the labour market. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government is targeting the bottom of the pyramid through various policy interventions, realizing that they are a significant political constituency.

**Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Scheme.** The government is likely to achieve the **150 million** number over the next two to three years. The total enrolment, 50-60 million workers will be from the construction sector. The government announced the scheme in February 2019 interim budget, promising to provide pension of 3,000 per month. There is a monthly contribution till the age of 60 years to get an assured pension of 3,000 every month. The 18-year-old starts out by paying 55 per month, which moves up to 80 at the age of 25, and 105, 150 and 200 for those aged 30, 35 and 40, respectively. When a regular contributor dies before the age of 60, the spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme by regular contribution or exit the scheme. Around 8% of the labour market are formal sector employees and social security benefits, including provident funds, pensions available.

### One Nation One Ration Card scheme launched in 4 States

Government has launched the **One Nation-One Ration Card scheme** in **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat**. The scheme aims to boost to **national food security**. Each beneficiary would be given 5kg rice at 3 a kg and wheat at 2 a kg.

The Centre has formed the **State Apex Committee** under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the State and the State Project e-Mission Team.

#### Beneficiaries:

Upon successful implementation of the Scheme, the families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states. In order to avail the service the ration cards should be linked with Aadhar number.

#### Trial run of the project by Telangana in 2018:

A trial run was conducted by the **Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation** under the project in 2018. In the trial run, around 2.82 crore consumers had benefited with the ration portability introduced in the State on **April 1, 2018**. The Beneficiaries under the **NFSA (National Food Security Act)** are eligible for the scheme. More than **56 lakh beneficiaries** are covered under the NFSA. To avail the benefits, the beneficiaries Aadhaar number should be added to his/her ration card. Then the ration card should be tagged to the **Fair Price Shop (FPS)** in their home State either Telangana or Andhra Pradesh.

### West Bengal launches awareness campaign Save Green, Stay Clean

**West Bengal government** launched an awareness campaign named **Save Green, Stay Clean** for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in the state. The campaign launched State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. The campaign was launched on August 1, 2019. The state will also observe this day every year. It also plans to distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

#### West Government

Government of West Bengal known as the State Government of West Bengal. It is the supreme governing authority of the Indian state of West Bengal and its 23 districts. It consists of an executive, led by the Governor of West Bengal, a judiciary and a legislative.

### E-Rozgar Samachar launched to spread awareness about job opportunities

The e-version of **Rozgar Samachar** launched recently by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Prakash Javadekar. The main aim is to make the aspirants aware of job opportunities in government sector including public sector enterprises. They provide information and guidance about admission and career opportunities in various streams through career-oriented articles by experts. It is expected to meet the emerging challenge of young readers switching to electronic modes of communication.

The journal priced at 75% of the cost of its print version and is available for an annual subscription fee of Rs. 400. It can be accessed by visiting the website [www.employmentnews.gov.in](http://www.employmentnews.gov.in).

#### Rozgar Samachar

Rozgar Samachar is the hindi version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It was launched in 1976.

#### Aim :

To provide information on employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed youth of the country. The journal is published in English (Employment News), Hindi (Rozgar Samachar) and Urdu (Rozgar Samachar) and have a circulation of over one lakh copies per week.

The job journal provides information related to job vacancies, job oriented training programs, admission notices related to job oriented exams and results of recruitment exams in respect of:

- Ministries/Departments/Offices/Organizations/Autonomous bodies/Societies/PSUs of the Central Government, State Government, and UT Administrations;
- Nationalised banks/ RRBs /UPSC/SSC/ Constitutional and Statutory bodies; and
- Central/State Governments Universities/ Colleges/Institutes recognised by the UGC/AICTE.

The employment news provides editorial content on socio-economic issues and career guidance that helps youth in broadening their horizons. The job journal serves as a guide to the youth; especially those in rural areas, by helping them gain an understanding of the job market and the plethora of employment opportunities that otherwise go unnoticed. The weekly educate the young people to make an informed decision about their careers. The journal is available throughout the length and breadth of the country.

### Odisha govt launched Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme

The **Odisha government** launched **Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme**, a small savings scheme, for 2019.

#### Aim:

The objective of the scheme is to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions, in the greed of high returns.

#### Provisions of the scheme:

Under the Scheme, any eligible person who deposits a minimum amount of **Rs.2,000 in any small savings scheme** during 2019 in any post office or bank within the state, can obtain a free web based coupon from the office of the collectors, sub-collectors and BDOs. A **state level lucky draw** of the scheme will be held on April 26, 2020, in which people can win cash award as an incentive for their habit of thrift. Under the scheme, **2,428 number of prizes** are given under seven categories which amount to **Rs.74 lakh**, including the first prize **Rs.5 Lakh**.

### Andhra Pradesh govt will launch Navodayam scheme

**Andhra Pradesh government** launched the **Navodayam scheme**. The scheme is for thousands of ailing **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** in the state. Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for the one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020. About **86,000 MSMEs** in the state have been identified for restructuring under Navodayam with an outlay of Rs 3,900 crore. The state cabinet approved the scheme at its recent meeting and the Department of Industries and Commerce subsequently worked out the modalities to make Navodayam operational.

The state government marked **Rs 50 crore** in the 2019-20 budget for rejuvenation of MSMEs. Two sub-SLBC meetings have also been held with bankers in the state for getting the NPA accounts of MSMEs restructured so that the respective accounts are brought back to 'standard' level. Navodayam will provide a lifeline to stressed MSMEs by ensuring that all eligible units are permitted for one-time restructuring of accounts up to March 31, 2020. We are also creating a new ecosystem for rejuvenation and development of MSMEs in the state through a slew of initiatives. Through these measures, infrastructure worth over Rs 3,900 crore would not become non-performing assets (NPAs). Under Navodayam, a special cell is being created at each District Industries



Centre is headed by the General Manager, to provide handholding support to all restructured MSMEs for six months to stabilize the accounts. The studies will be conducted in all districts on sector-specific enterprises to identify **key issues** that need to be addressed and make the MSME ecosystem more robust.

#### Leather Mission launched on World Tribal Day by KVIC

The **Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC)** launched Leather Mission on **World Tribal Day**. The mission empowers the commission to give leather kits to the **leather artisans across the nation**. KVIC distributed 50 leather kits to the leather artisans across the nation. This will increase their incomes and inspire the traditional leather artisans who had migrated to other jobs from their traditional skill to adopt this vocation again.

KVIC also distributed **350 Bee-Boxes** at the function in **Sirohi district of Rajasthan**. Honey Mission has changed the lives of tribals, farmers, SC/STs and unemployed youths. KVIC has distributed over 1.15 lakh Bee-Boxes across the nation. It has provided jobs to over 11,500 people. It has not only increased the income of the bee-keeping farmers, but has also increased the yield of the crops by up to 30% due to cross-pollination of the honey-bees.

#### National Health Authority plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under PM JAY Scheme

The **National Health Authority (NHA)** plans to include all types of cancer and its treatment under the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)** healthcare packages. The plain awaits approval from the governing body and the entire process will take around 3 month. The central government's health insurance scheme are cost-effective, proven and beneficial to the patients. It will now cover the various types of medical procedures, that include chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. The announcement aims to give medical cover to over **10 crore poor and vulnerable families** of approximately 50 crore beneficiaries. The scheme will now provide coverage of up to **Rs.5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

##### Cancer in India:

In India, Cancer is the second most common disease. Cancer affected people in India are around **2.25 million**. Over **11 lakh new cancer patients** are registered each year by government. Survey says that the people about **0.3 million** die due to cancer per year including **Lung cancer with 1,20,000** patients every year, **Breast cancer** affects about **1.5 lakh patients** every year and **lip and oral cancer 2,76,000** every year.

##### About PM-JAY insurance scheme:

**Ayushman Bharat Scheme** also called as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, a National Health Protection Scheme, was launched on **September 2018**. It was launched by **PM Narendra Modi**. The National Health Protection Scheme (NHA) is an implementing body of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) health insurance scheme.

**Beneficiaries:** PM-JAY scheme will cover over **10 crore poor** and vulnerable families. The coverage package is up to **Rs.5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

**Implementation:** About 16000 hospitals have been empanelled and nearly **34 lakh beneficiaries** have been admitted while nine crore **e-cards** have been issued.

#### MoHUA launched Swachh Survekshan 2020

**Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched the **Swachh Survekshan 2020** on 13th August. It is the **fifth edition** of the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry. The scheme was launched by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, the Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs.

##### Swachh Survekshan 2020:

The project Swachh Survekshan 2020 focus on sustaining and monitoring the ground and service level **performance on cleanliness**. The redesigned Swachh Survekshan will ensure and focus on sustaining the changed behaviours on key areas.

The project focuses on **Key areas** such as:

Collect segregated waste and maintain till processing site Utilize capacity of wet waste processing facilities Treat and re-use wastewater Follow 3R Principles: Reduce. Reuse and Recycle Curtail solid waste based Air pollution

Uplift social condition of informal Waste Pickers Promote procurement through GeM Assess Ganga Towns separately to accelerate action Engage Technology driven Monitoring **Other launches:**

The Ministry also launched **Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit, SBM Water plus Protocol and Toolkit, Swachh Nagar Mobile App and AI enabled mSBM App**.

**Swachh Survekshan 2020 Toolkit** contains the detailed survey methodology and component indicators with scores. It aims to help the cities to prepare themselves for the final survey which will be released on January 2020. **SBM Water plus Protocol and Toolkit** aims to ensure that no untreated Wastewater is released into the environment thereby enabling sustainability of the sanitation value chain.

**Swachh Nagar Mobile App** features to track waste collection by ULBs through route and vehicle monitoring, notify citizens, online collection of user fee for waste collection and an effective grievance redressal mechanism **AI enabled mSBM App** is a mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). It will help the beneficiary to get approval from the ULB nodal officer to verify and approve the application. It will reduce the processing time for applicants.

#### MoHUA launched Swachh Nagar app

**Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** launched **Swachh Nagar app**, a mobile application under the **Swachh Survekshan 2020**. Through the app, people will be able to get their household waste that can be picked up by urban municipal bodies. The move is a part of the **cleanliness rankings of cities**. It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State Hardeep Singh Puri.

##### Aim:

The Swachh Survekshan 2020 has the theme "**Cleanliness is Our Right**". To avail the service through Swachh Nagar app people will have to pay to civic bodies. Using the app, the people can also track the waste-collection vehicle and can ensure the accountability of municipal corporations.

##### Government's measure in making a clean India:

The Centre has set a target of making the country **Open Defecation Free by October 2, 2019**. The sanitation targets under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**.

Under the mission the Centre has achieved the construction of more than **98% of toilet**. The app will facilitate the applicants of Individual Household Toilets under SBM-Urban. Also, it enables people to know the status of their application in realtime after uploading the photograph.

#### Jal Jeevan Mission scheme to be launched

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said that the government is to launch the **Jal Jeevan Mission scheme**. The scheme aims to bring piped water to households. The estimated cost of the project is more than **Rs.3.5 lakh crore**.

**Niti Aayog** reported that nearly 600 million Indians are facing high to extreme water stress. The report said that **21 cities**, including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad, will run out of groundwater by 2020, affecting 100 million people.

##### Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme:

The scheme functions under the **Jal Shakti Ministry**. It aims to work with state governments to ensure **Har Ghar Jal** to all rural households by 2024. Under the **first phase of the scheme**, the government is to focus on rainwater harvesting and water conservation in **256 districts** and carry out other initiatives. It includes renovation of traditional water bodies and tanks, reuse of water and recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

#### Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme launched

The NDA-led government in its second term is to launch **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme** on 19 August. The pension scheme for small traders functions under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**. The proposal for the scheme was approved by the cabinet on **May 31, 2019**. The scheme was notified by the Ministry on **July 22**.

##### Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme:

The Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme aims to target **enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-2020 and 2 crore by 2023-2024**. The pension scheme was modelled for **unorganized sector workers**. In the Union Budget 2019-20, the Centre has reserved **Rs.750 crore for the scheme**.

##### Eligibility:

Under the scheme, traders aged between **18 and 40** who have an annual turnover of **less than Rs.1.5 crore** are eligible. The subscribers should contribute a monthly amount that will be matched by the government. The amount will vary depending on the age at which they enter the scheme. **Upon turning 60**, the subscribers will get **Rs.3,000** as monthly pension.

The provisions of the scheme are applicable to *laghu vyaparis*, who are self-employed and working as shop owners, oil mill owners, workshop owners, commission agents, brokers of real estate, retail traders, rice mill owners, owners of small hotels, restaurants and other *laghu vyaparis*.

#### **LIC of India:**

Centre has established a **pension fund** for the implementation of the scheme. Centre has chosen the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India** as the pension fund manager. Hence, it will be responsible for managing the pension fund, central recordkeeping agency and responsible for pension payout.

#### **Nepal to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting**

**Nepal** plans to hold **SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting** on the sidelines of the **74th UN General Assembly (UNGA)** session in September 2019. The aim is to prove the country's role in creating an environment for the commencement of the regional summit.

#### **India and SAARC summit:**

The 18th SAARC summit was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal in 2014**. India is the largest member of SAARC forum. The 19th SAARC summit was supposed to be held in 2016. But the summit was canceled after India boycotted the meeting. India protested after the terror attack at the military base in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 2016. The attack killed 19 soldiers. After India boycotted the SAARC summit countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan walked out. India's decision is to set up diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. India also declared that it will participate only if Pakistan took steps to tackle terrorism.

#### **About SAARC:**

**SAARC:** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

**Member states:** 8 members

**Headquarters:** Kathmandu

**Official languages:** English

#### **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme 2019 to be effective from 1 September**

The **Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019** will be operationalized from **1st September 2019 to 31st December 2019**. The scheme was announced by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2019-20. It is expected that the Scheme will be availed by a large number of taxpayers to close their pending disputes that are related to **legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases**. These taxes will now be included under GST.

#### **Components of the Scheme:**

Resolution and amnesty are the **two main components** of the Scheme are a **dispute and amnesty component**.

#### **Dispute resolution component:**

Under this component, the legacy cases of **Central Excise and Service Tax** will be liquidated. The cases that are under GST and are pending in litigation at various forums will be dissolved.

#### **Amnesty component:**

This component under the Scheme will **allow the taxpayers to pay the outstanding tax**. They will be free of any other consequence under the law. It provides substantial relief in the tax dues for all categories of cases as well as full waiver of interest, fine, penalty. It will also provide a complete pardon from prosecution.

#### **Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the Modernized AOPC**

The **Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot** inaugurated the **Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC)** and **Residential complex building of ALIMCO** headquarters at **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** on 22 August.

By this two of the Projects under the modernization plan of **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** has been completed. Modernization of ALIMCO will facilitate the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the region by providing modern rehabilitation facilities. The total Construction cost on renovation and extension is approximately **Rs.4.05 crores**. It is

expected that the Modernized APOC will meet the requirements of the local and regional Divyangjans and shall be equipped better to serve them.

#### **Provisions if the Modernized APOC:**

The Modernized APOC will provide first-class **Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Audiology rehabilitation facility** under one roof.

It has:

2 separate Out Patient Department (OPD) rooms  
GAIT training unit for Male and Female Divyangjans  
Conference & training room

In future provisions like real-time GAIT analysis lab, Foot Care Unit, Silicone Cosmetic Restoration Lab, Myo Electric lab, Hand splinting & Spinal Orthotics Lab will be added.

#### **Rajsthans free medicine scheme secures top rank**

**Rajsthans free medicine scheme** secured the highest position with first ranking issued by the **National Health Mission (NHM)** among the sixteen states of the country. NHM free drug service was introduced by the **Ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) for all states/UTs**.

#### **Aim:**

It aimed to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities. The theme was launched on **October 2011**.

The Ministry has multiplied the number of free medicines from **608 to 712** and free tests from **70 to 90**. The NHM has initiated the rankings to encourage and supporting states to supply free medication to patients coming back to public health facilities.

#### **Rajsthans free medicine scheme:**

The main aim of Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) is to produce commonly used essential medicines freed from price to patients visiting government tending establishment in the year 2011-12. The scheme consists of 2 elements like free drugs and free tests.

The Free medicines theme was enforced on the Gregorian calendar of 2011 and the free check theme was introduced on **World Health Day in April of 2013**. The primary part of the free check theme was enforced in hospitals connected with state medical schools likewise as district /sub-divisional and satellite hospitals.

#### **Benefits:**

Rajsthans population is **higher than 7 crores**. The number of beneficiaries at free tests is at **9.41 crore as of December 2017**. The patients of the border districts of the adjacent states can also get free medicines and avail free tests. The price of free drugs beneficiaries stood at **Rs.52.4 crore**.

#### **Centre to prepare guidelines for the distribution of fortified rice**

Centre has prepared an in-depth roadmap for the nationwide distribution of **fortified rice through ration outlets**. **Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan** reviewed the progress of rice distribution with **NITI Aayog vicechairman Rajiv Kumar** and officers to implement the distribution of fortified rice.

The government also reviewed the suggestions and feedback from all the states and stakeholders before implementing the program.

#### **Scheme for Fortified rice:**

In **February 2019**, Centre had approved a center-sponsored pilot scheme on the **Fortification of Rice and its Distribution beneath Public Distribution System**. Under the initial phase of the scheme, rice is fortified with **Iron, folacin and Vitamin B-12**. The scheme has been implemented in **15 districts**, ideally one district per State, starting on **2019-20**. The operational responsibilities for the implementation of distribution are done through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

## APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

### Dinesh Bhatia accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Paraguay

**Shri Dinesh Bhatia** (IFS batch 1992) ambassador of India to the Republic of Argentina appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Paraguay in Buenos Aires.

Present Indias envoy to Argentina Sanjiv Ranjan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia.

#### Republic of Paraguay

Paraguay is a landlocked country between Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. The large swaths of swampland, subtropical forest and chaco, wildernesses comprising savanna and scrubland.

**Capital:** Asuncin

**Currency:** Paraguayan guaran

#### Republic of Colombia

Colombia officially known as the Republic of Colombia is a sovereign state largely situated in the northwest of South America, with land and territories in North America.

**President:** Ivn Duque Mrquez Trending

**Capital:** Bogot

### Rajiv Kumar is appointed as the new finance secretary

**Rajiv Kumar** is appointed as the **new finance secretary**. The appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC)**. He is to head one of the key economic policy making divisions of the government the ministry of finance. He is expected Getting the **NBFCs back on their feet** is one major thing that needs to be taken up by the finance secretary.

#### Rajiv Kumar:

kumar is a 1984-batch IAS officer from Jharkhand cadre. He took over as the **financial services secretary** in September, 2017. Kumar participated the budget making exercise thrice. He initiated and implemented the 59-minute loan scheme for the MSME sector.

#### Finance secretary:

The finance secretary is the senior-most bureaucrat among the **five department of the finance ministry** namely economic affairs, revenue, expenditure, financial services and department of investment and public asset management (DIPAM).

#### Roles and duties:

The function of Kumar and his team of senior bureaucrats is to oversea policies pertaining to regulators such as the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and , **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**.

### Hegde Kageri to be the next speaker of Karnataka assembly

**Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri**, Senior BJP MLA, has been selected to become the **next speaker of Karnataka assembly**. He was the only candidate to file his nomination papers for the post on 30 July. The place fell vacant after **K R Ramesh Kumar** quit on 29 July.

#### Vishweshwar Hegde Kager:

**Kageri** is a six term MLA from Sirsi. He has also served as the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education in the BJP Government of Karnataka. He was elected to the Karnataka assembly from **Ankola assembly seat** in 1994.

### Mohapatra takes charge as DG of India Meteorological Department

**Mrutyunjay Mohapatra**, 54, took charge as the **Director General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, New Delhi. He was appointed as DG by the **Ministry of Personnel** on 4 June 2019. He will replace **K.J. Ramesh**, who headed the weather department for over three years. IMD is to request the government to bring new technology for the weather forecasting and provide accurate information of weather.

#### Mrutyunjay Mohapatra:

Mohapatra is Odisha-born scientist. He is the first Odia to reach at the top position in IMD. He has led the effective early warning systems for cyclones, including Phailin, Hudhud, Vardah, Titli, Sagar, Mekunu and Fani.

#### India Meteorological Department:

**Formed on:** 1875

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Functions under:** Ministry of Earth Sciences

**Minister responsible:** Dr. Harsh Vardhan

**Director General:** Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

The IMD is responsible for the weather and **climate-related forecasts** in the country. It is also mandated to issue warning to people about severe weather phenomenon.

### Atish Dabholkar is appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam ICTP in Trieste, Italy

**Atish Dabholkar** has been appointed as the **new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)** in Trieste, Italy. He is a theoretical physicist from India.

Dabholkar will take charge as ICTP director with the rank of Assistant Director General of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**. He replaces **Fernando Quevedo**, who has led the centre since 2009.

Dabholkar is currently the **head of ICTPs high energy, cosmology and astroparticle physics section**. In 2014, he joined the centre on secondment from Sorbonne Universit and the National Center for Scientific Research, where he has been a research director since 2007.

### Alejandro Giammattei was elected as the President of Guatemala

**Alejandro Giammattei** was elected as the **President of Guatemala** in a run-off in the countrys Supreme Electoral Council court. He will assume office on **14 January, 2020**. He defeated the former first lady Sandra Torres from the centrist National Unity of Hope party.

He won on his fourth try. He won 58.26% of the votes after 98% of voting centres had been counted. Former first lady Sandra Torres won 40% of votes.

#### Alejandro Giammattei:

Alejandro Giammattei is a 63-year-old **conservative candidate** and former surgeon. He was the director of the countrys prison system. He was involved in a scandal over extrajudicial killings in a prison in Guatemala. In 2010, he was arrested but was acquitted after 10 months in pre-trial detention.

#### Republic of Guatemala:

**President:** Alejandro Giammattei

**Vice President:** Jafeth Cabrera

**Capital:** Guatemala City

**Currency:** Quetzal (GTQ)

**Official languages:** Spanish

### Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the Sri Lankan Army

**Sri Lankan field commander** appointed the new Army Commander, the President's office announced. Lt Gen Shavendra Silva, 55 take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service. President Maithripala Sirisena's office announced that Lt Gen Shavendra Silva named as the new army commander. Silva headed the Army's 58th Division in the final battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.

Silva's name was mentioned in the resolution passed by the **UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** in 2013.

Critics say Silva's appointment as the Army chief may strain Sri Lanka's cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations and the defence cooperation between the US and Sri Lanka. After the brutal civil war ended, Silva served in New York as Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN Mission.

According to a United Nations report, some 45,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the last months of the war alone. The United Nations and human rights groups have urged the Sri Lankan government to establish a war crimes tribunal to investigate allegations of crimes against humanity, both by the military and the Tamil militant groups. Sri Lankan governments have resisted attempts to establish an international probe, saying it is an internal issue of the island nation. The promotion of Lieutenant- General General Silva severely compromises Sri Lanka's commitment to promote justice and accountability.

#### UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Founded:** April 2006

**Formation:** 15 March 2006



### **Manmohan Singh elected to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan**

The **Former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh** was elected to the **Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan**. He was declared elected unopposed as the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the by-poll ended on 19th August. Manmohan Singh was nominated by the Congress while the BJP did not field any candidate for the by-poll and necessitated due to the death of **Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini**.

The election announcement was made by the **Assembly Secretary Pramil Kumar Mathur**. Singh filed the nomination papers on August 13. Mahesh Joshi, the government's chief whip, received the election certificate on behalf of Singh. The former PM was unanimously and unopposedly elected.

#### **Manmohan Singh:**

Manmohan Singh was born on 26 September 1932 in Gah, (now in) Punjab, Pakistan. In 1947, Singh's family migrated to India. He is an economist and did his doctorate in Oxford. In 1991, India faced a severe economic crisis. In 1991, he became the Finance Minister in P. V. Narasimha Rao led Government. Manmohan Singh was a Rajya Sabha member for **five consecutive terms** from 1991 to 2019. Singh was a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam for almost three decades. Manmohan Singh is the **third Indian prime minister** to complete **two full terms** as the PM. He was the country's Prime Minister for two consecutive terms between 2004 and 2014.

### **Dr. Ajay Kumar is appointed as Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence**

**Dr. Ajay Kumar** has been appointed as **Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence**. The appointment was approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**. Dr. Kumar will replace **Shri Sanjay Mitra** as his tenure ends on 23 August.

Mr. Mitra is a 1982-batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre. He is currently serving as the Secretary, Department of Defence Production.

#### **Other appointments:**

The ACC has cleared the appointment of **Shri Subhash Chandra as Secretary of Defence Production**. He is currently the Special Secretary Defence. He will replace **Dr. Kumar. Subhash Chandra** is a 1986-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre.

### **Rajiv Gauba is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary**

The **Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba** is appointed as the **next Cabinet Secretary** for a tenure of **two years**. His appointment as Cabinet secretary was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Gauba is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre. He initially joined as the Officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat. He will now replace the incumbent **P K Sinha**, who is a 1977 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre. Mr. Sinha is the 31st Cabinet Secretary of India.

#### **About Rajiv Gauba:**

Gauba was born in Punjab. He is a graduate in physics from Patna University. He had served in Jharkhand as the chief secretary before returning to serve in the central government in 2016.

Gauba took charge as the home secretary on August 31 in 2017. While serving as the Union home secretary, he has handled issues such as militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, internal security, and the Northeast Maoist problems in the central and east India besides other issues.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Breastfeeding Week 2019

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from August 1 to 7

**Theme: Empower Parents. Enable Breastfeeding**

**Main aim:** To encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies across the globe. About 60% of the world's total infants are missing out on the recommended six months of exclusive breastfeeding. **Breastfeeding Week – Importance** The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that newborn baby the right to good nutrition according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As per the data collected by the United Nations Globally in 2016 around 41 million children are obese in the world while 155 million children. Breastfeeding reduces the risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer around type 2 diabetes and heart diseases. It prevents infections like early-stage diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. Increased breastfeeding could avert 20,000 maternal deaths each year due to breast cancer.

### Breastfeeding week - India

**Food and Nutrition Board** under the Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing a number of activities in the country. Quiz competition is conducted across 30 States and Union Territories. The various concerned departments are also organizing exhibitions on nutrition, displaying low-cost nutritious diets for infants and young children.

### National Handloom Day is observed on 7<sup>th</sup> August

The **National Handloom Day** is observed on **7<sup>th</sup> August** every year. To mark the occasion, the nation holds a function at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The function will be presided by the **Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani**. The Day is observed at Weavers Service Centres in different States.

#### Odisha's rich tradition:

The main events are to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Bhubaneswar has been chosen for its **rich tradition of Handlooms**.

#### Aim:

The Day aims to honour the **Indian handloom weavers** and also highlight India's handloom industry. It also aims to **empower women and girls** as they are the majority total weavers population of India. The day focuses on the contribution of handloom to the **socio economic development** of the country. It seeks to increase the **income of weavers**.

#### Ministry of Textiles:

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Minister responsible:** Smriti Zubin Irani

The Ministry **regulates and formulates** all the policies and promotion of the **textile industry in India**.

### International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: 9 August

United Nations observes **9<sup>th</sup> August** every year as **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**. The day is celebrated to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups. This year's observance is dedicated to Indigenous Peoples Languages in view of 2019 being marked as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

The **2019 Theme** is Indigenous Languages. This year's observance is dedicated to Indigenous Peoples Languages in view of 2019 being marked as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

### International Youth Day was observed on 12 August

The **International Youth Day** was observed on **12 August 2019**. The day is observed every year. The Day was first instituted by **UN General Assembly in 1999**. The day celebrates the role of young women and men as **essential partners in change**. The day aims to create opportunities to the youth to **raise awareness of challenges and problems** facing the world's youth. **2019 theme:**

The theme of the day was **Transforming education**. The day highlights efforts to make education more inclusive and accessible for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves. Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

An UN report said that among the **1.8 billion young people** (aged between 10 and 24) in the world, more than half of all children (aged 6-14) **lack basic reading and math skills**. This threatens the progress towards the SDGs.

Therefore, on this day, the United Nation tried to put an emphasis on **making education more relevant to everyday problems** so that the youth will be more involved in the process.

#### In India:

The Indian government also ensured that young minds explore and tap their full potential. On this day, the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** conferred the **National Youth Awards** on individuals and organisations. The award was distributed by **Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Kiren Rijiju**. The award was conferred upon **20 individuals and 3 organizations**.

#### The award comprises of:

##### For individual:

A medal, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs.50,000.

##### For youth organisation:

Cash prize of Rs.2,00,000, a medal and a certificate. The award recognises the excellent work and contribution of youth in the fields of development and social service, such as **health, promotion of human rights, active citizenship, community service** etc. It also motivates the young persons, aged between 15-29 years, to achieve excellence in the field of national development and social service. It also recognises the outstanding work done by voluntary organizations working with the youth for national development including social service.

**Photo Exhibition:** The Ministry also conducted a **Photo Exhibition on China through Eyes of Indian Youth - 2019**. The photos taken by youth delegates who participated in the recent Youth Exchange Program to China were exposed in the exhibition.

### World elephant day celebrated on August 12

**World Elephant Day** is celebrated to create awareness and bring attention to the urgent plight (dangerous situation) of Asian and African elephants. The day was first launched on **August 12, 2012**.

Human activities like poaching, human-elephant conflict, and mistreatment in captivity have become a great threat to both African and Asian elephants survival.

The African elephants are listed as **vulnerable** and Asian elephants are listed as **Endangered on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)** red list of threatened species.

Singapore announced on World elephant day that ivory sales will be banned from the country from 2021.

The announcement followed two years of consultation with non Government groups, ivory retailers and public.

#### Significance

Last month, the authorities seized their largest ivory ever weighing 9 tonnes of contraband tusks from **300 African elephants** valued at **\$12.9 million** which was discovered in a container from the Democratic Republic of Congo being shipped to Vietnam via Singapore. It also included pangolin scales in the huge stash. All forms of ivory products are banned since 1990. Traders can, however, sell ivory only if they prove that the ivories they sell were acquired prior to the ban by the govt. The national parks in Singapore ban elephant ivory and products with effect from September 1, 2021.

### Vikram Sarabhais 100th birth anniversary observed on 12 August

Founder of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and Father of the Indian Space Program, **Vikram Sarabhais 100th birth anniversary** observed across the country.

He established Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad on 11 November 1947 & Indian National Committee for Space Research in 1962. He founded the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) and the Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD) in Ahmedabad. He also served as chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission.

ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-2 mission having lander called Vikram to honour the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai that is scheduled to touch down on the lunar surface on September 7, 2019.

#### List of Awards received

In 1966, he received the Padma Bhushan. In 1972, was conferred the Padma Vibhushan posthumously. In 1973, a crater on the moon was named after him i.e. Sarabhai. It is located on the Mare Serenitatis, in the northeast quadrant of

the Moon. For 2019, Dr. Sarabhais doodle was created by Mumbai-based artist Pavan Rajurkar. On August 12, 2019, To commemorate the birth centenary of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, ISRO has launched year-long programs and functions (include science and space exhibitions, competitions for school children, journalism awards and speeches by eminent personalities), that will end on 12th August 2020. The inaugural function for the same has been organized at Gujarat University Convention Hall in Ahmedabad, Gujarat while valedictory function for the yearlong program was held at Thiruvananthapuram. The unique **Space on Wheels** exhibition inside the bus also inaugurated on this auspicious occasion along with the unveiling of a commemorative coin. ISRO released a Coffee Table Book and a photo album of on life and work of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai.

#### World Organ Donation day observed on August 13

**Organ donation day** is observed on 13 August. This day mainly aims to motivate people to donate their healthy and precious organs after death to save lives. As per the **National Health Portal** 500,000 people die due to non-availability of organs. Organ donation day tries to spread information and make people aware of organ donation. The main aim is to eliminate the myths and fears people have in their minds about organ donation. Organ donation can be life-changing.

#### Importance of Organ Donation Day 2019:

A donor can initiate to donate organs like the heart, liver, intestines, kidneys, lungs and pancreas after his or her death. The national guidelines, anyone can be an organ donor irrespective of age, caste, religion, and community. The organ donation day urges people to communities to come forth and donate organs to save precious lives. There is no defined age for organ donation is based on strict medical criteria. After organ failure, vital organs like the heart, liver, intestines, kidneys, lungs, and pancreas can be transplanted into the patient to help the recipient lead a normal life.

#### India celebrates 73rd Independence Day of 15 August

India celebrates its **73rd Independence Day on 15 August, 2019**. The Day is celebrated every year. On **August 15, 1947**, India gained its power and became an independent nation. The Day will be celebrated by colors and various events across the country. The **President Ram Nath Kovind** will deliver the address to the nation on the Independence Day event. The tricolour flag is hoisted by the **Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi**.

In **J&K Indian flag** will be hoisted on **73rd Independence Day of India** for the first time. Centre has announced this event as "**Jashn-e-Azad**".

#### History:

The **British rule** began in **1757**. The **East India Company** then took control in India, for almost 100 years, till **1857**. **British crown dethroned** the East India Company during the Indian Mutiny in **1857-58**. In the **19th Century**, the Indian Independence movement was started. It was led by **Mahatma Gandhi**. He fought through various movements like method of **nonviolent, non-cooperation movement** which was followed by **Civil Disobedience movement**.

In 1946, the British govt. underwent capital loss during **World War II**. The **British Labour Government** then planned to end their rule over India. The then British Prime Minister Clement Atlee announced that the British rule in India would end by 30 June, 1948 and the powers would be transferred to responsible Indian hands. The **Muslim league** demanded for the **partition of the country**. But, on the midnight of **14-15 August, 1947**, the British rule came to an end and power was transferred to the two new independent **Dominions of India and the Pakistan**.

#### World Humanitarian Day observed on August 19

World Humanitarian Day (WHO) is observed every year on 19 August. The main aim is to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian crises around the world.

The **theme** of 2019 WHD campaign is **#WomenHumanitarians On World**. The contribution of thousands of women humanitarian aid workers who provide lifesaving support to vulnerable people caught up in crises in some of the worlds most dangerous places.

#### History of the Day

When the UN headquarters in Baghdad was targeted by a large terrorist truck bomb, killing 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN's top representative in Iraq.

The focus is to salute the efforts of women humanitarian workers across the world who rally to people in need and are often the first to respond and the last to leave.

Around 4,500 aid workers of all genders have been killed, injured, detained, assaulted or kidnapped while carrying out their work.

#### Save humanitarians

The UN emphasizes that under international law, all humanitarian workers must be safeguarded.

As part of this years WHD commemorations, the UN and partners are launching the **#WomenHumanitarians** global campaign to pay special tribute to and raise support for the work women do to save lives and alleviate human suffering. The dedication of these women to help the worlds most vulnerable people is admirable, particularly those women who are often the first to respond in their communities when faced with a crisis.

#### World Photography Day observed on 19 August

**World Photography Day** is an annual, worldwide celebration of the art, craft, science, and history of photography. **World Photography Day** signifies about the photography event in the world.

#### History

Early **19th century**, photography has become an ever-increasing medium of personal expression and appreciation for countless people around the world. A photograph the ability to capture a place; an experience; an idea, a moment in time. **Photographs** can convey a feeling faster than, and sometimes even more effectively than words can. A photograph can make the viewer see the world the way the photographer. Photographs even transcend the passing of time - a photo from a hundred years ago can still be as appreciated now as. A photo can still by others in a hundred years time.

World Photo Day originates from the invention of the Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce in 1837.

The Daguerreotype wasn't the first permanent photographic image. In 1826, Niepce captured the earliest known permanent photograph known as **View from the Window at Le Gras** using a process called **heliography**. The first durable color photograph was taken by Thomas Sutton in 1861. It was a set of three black-and-white photographs taken through red, green and blue filters. However, the photographic emulsions then in use were insensitive to the spectrum, so the result was very imperfect.

World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery. There are 270 photographers shared their pictures and people from over 100 countries visited the website.

#### Sadbhavana Diwas observed on 20 August

**Sadbhavana Diwas** is celebrated on **20 August** every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This year will be the 75<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians are encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay. Mr Rajiv Gandhi youngest Prime Minister of India.

#### Rajiv Gandhi

He was the youngest Prime Minister of the country. He became Prime Minister at the age of 40. Rajiv Gandhi became the Prime Minister. He served from 1984-89. He contributed greatly to the development of the country. He announced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernise and expand higher education programs across India. He founded a central government based institution namely Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th till 12 class. Due to his efforts MTNL established in 1986 and also created public call offices (PCOs) for spreading telephones in rural areas.

#### World Senior Citizens Day is celebrated on 21 August

**World Senior Citizens Day** is celebrated on **21 August** across the world. The day is observed every year. The day aims to **increase awareness about the issues that affect older adults**. It also provides an opportunity to appreciate the elders for their dedication, accomplishments, and the services they give throughout their lives. The day also reminds the governments of its commitment to work for the welfare of older persons.



United Nations report says that **by 2050, 2 billion people**, over 20% of the world's population, will be **60 or older with Asia** having the largest number of older persons.

#### History:

**Former president of United States Ronald Reagan** officially announced the day as the 'World Senior Citizens Day' after he had signed **Proclamation on August 19, 1988**. He declared **August 21** as National Senior Citizens Day in US. The day aims to pay respect to the elderly community. On 14th of December 1990, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed to observe 21 August as World Senior Citizens Day.

#### International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief observed on 22 August

The world observed **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief** for the first time. The main aim is to honor the victims and survivors of disgraceful acts who often remain forgotten. **United Nation General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted resolution A/RES/73/296 & designated 22 August as **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief**.

The recognising the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

The General Assembly recalled that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely.

The atrocities continue to be stemmed in the regions **Myanmar** occupied Kashmir, Syria, and Palestine among other parts of the world, as per the recent report. This Day comes right after the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which was observed on 21 August 2019.

#### International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on August 23

**Santo Domingo Haiti** and the **Dominican Republic** the beginning of the uprising play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. International Day for the **Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is observed on **23 August**.

This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The intercultural project "**The Slave Route**," should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes. The methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean. Director-General of UNESCO invites the Ministers of Culture of all Member States to organize events every year on that date, involving the entire population of their country and in particular young people, educators, artists and intellectuals. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in **Haiti (23 August 1998)** and **Goree in Senegal (23 August 1999)**. The cultural events and debates were organized.

The year 2001 saw the participation of the Mulhouse Textile Museum in France in the form of a workshop for fabrics called "Indiennes de Traite" (a type of calico) It served as currency for the exchange of slaves in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The **UNESCO Executive Board** adopted Resolution 29 C/40 at its 29th session.

#### International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on 29 August

The **International Day against Nuclear Tests** is observed across the world on **29 August**. The day aims to provoke the world organization, youth networks, and the media against nuclear testing. The day highlights the importance to ban nuclear tests as a valuable step towards achieving a safer world. **Poisoned groundwater, cancer, leukemia, radioactive** are caused by the toxic legacies of nuclear testing. +

#### History:

**UN General Assembly (UNGA)** after the 64 sessions of the world organization meeting declared **29 August** as **International Day against Nuclear Tests**. It

unanimously adopted resolution 64/35 on Dec 2, 2009. The inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests was marked in **2010**. Kazakhstan initiated the resolution with the support of a large number of sponsors to commemorate the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on **29 August 1991**.

#### Nuclear Test:

Nuclear weapons testing began on **16 July 1945**. So far, nearly 2,000 test has taken place. The countries that have tested the nuclear weapons so far are **USA, USSR, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea**.

#### National sports day was celebrated on 29 August

The **National Sports Day** is celebrated nation-wide on **29 August 2019**. The Day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of hockey legend **Major Dhyan Chand**. 2019 National Sports Day marked the **114th birth anniversary** of Major Dhyan Chand.

#### Aim:

The Day aims to raise awareness about **staying fit and healthy**. The Day spreads awareness on the importance of sports and daily activities in every individual's life.

#### Dhyan Chand:

Dhyan Chand is popularly known as **the Wizard** of Indian Hockey. He secured over **400 goals in 22 years** during the period 1926 to 1948. He is regarded as India's greatest hockey player ever. Under his leadership, the Indian Hockey team achieved several victories. He led India into **3 Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936**.

#### International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances is observed on 30 August

The **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** is observed on **30 August** every year. The Day was established by the international organization General Assembly resolution.

#### Aim:

The **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances** aims to **lift awareness on enforced or involuntary disappearances** that occur with arrest, detention, abduction or deprivation of the State with support by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate. Enforced disappearance became a **global issue** as it was **not restricted to a particular region** of the world. It is also concerned to stop the rising issues concerning the **ill-treatment, harassment, and intimidation of witnesses** of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared.

#### History:

The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** passed a resolution because of its concern to the increased enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world. The reason for the disappearances included **arrest, detention, and abduction**. The Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It then decided to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. The day was first observed in **2011**.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Vice President book **Listening, Learning and Leading** released

Vice President **Shri Venkaiah Naidu** released a book titled **Listening, Learning and Leading** of his two years in office. The abrogation of Article 370 should not be considered as a political issue in the interest of the security of the nation and the future of people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Book **Listening, Learning and Leading** released by Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah. Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu received the first copy. The event was hosted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's popular alliteration and witty remarks, created a cordial atmosphere in the Rajya Sabha. Apart of the book release, Regional Outreach Bureau, Chennai organized a photo exhibition highlighting the journey of the Vice President from a student leader. Shri. Venkaiah Naidu's interaction with a cross section of society, meeting with world leaders and visits to Universities, Research institutions were also pictured.

### History of Jammu & Kashmir from 1889 to 2019 titled **Kashmir's untold story Declassified to be released**

The Book titled **Kashmir's untold story: Declassification** The book is published by **Bloomsbury publishers**. The announcement was made on August 14, 2019.

The book portrays the time of political and geographical consolidations of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) It is done from the beginning era of Maharaja Gulab Singh till the present day. The author of the book is Delhi-based filmmaker Iqbal Chand Malhotra and defense analyst Maroof Raza. The book will be released on September 18, 2019. The book tells about the history of J&K imposed central rule and dispossessed the rule Maharaja Gulab Singh.

The contents in the book deal with the scrapping of Article 370 and 35A of J&K, the formation of two new Territories J&K and Ladakh. The other pressing issues like China's interest in J&K, Islamic Jihad and Indus water treaty (IWS) water.

### Shri Prahlad Singh Patel to launch the book **the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi**

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel will launch the book **Diary of Manu Gandhi (1943-44)** The function at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The book brought out by the National Archives of India on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press.

#### **Diary of Manu Gandhi - Book**

The Diary of Manu Gandhi originally in Gujarati edited and translated by Dr Tridip Suvrad, a well known scholar engaged in understanding the Gandhian Intellectual tradition.

The first volume covers the period 1943-1944. Manu Gandhi (Mridula) a grand niece of Mahatma Gandhi, daughter of his Nephew Jaisukhlal Amritlal Gandhi, and stayed with Gandhiji. She was an aide to Kasturba Gandhi during her imprisonment in the Aga Khan Palace in 1943.

The first volume of the diary is a record of her life and times with Mahatma Gandhi between 1943-44. The entries in the Diary throw light on his life as a prisoner and his endeavour to establish the possibility of collective non-violence. She shares a moving portrait of Kasturba Gandhi's illness and death. The author expresses the deep emotional bond she had developed with Gandhiji.

#### **National Archives of India**

The National Archives of India is an Attached Office under the Ministry of Culture. It was established on 11 March 1891 at Kolkata (Calcutta) as the Imperial Record Department. The transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911. The present building of the National Archives of India constructed in 1926 which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The transfer of all records from Calcutta to New Delhi completed in 1937.

This publication benefits the scholars interested in Gandhian studies. The book will be another milestone added to the publications that have been brought out by the National Archives of India from time to time.

The Department intends to bring out publications out of rich reservoir of both public and private papers collection in order to continue this process.

## AGREEMENTS, MOU

### UP extended the existing bilateral agreement with Netherlands

The Uttar Pradesh State government and Netherlands have extended the existing bilateral agreement of cooperation in several fields by another five years.

#### MoU signed:

The MoU was signed in the presence of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Netherlands ambassador Marten van den Berg to India. The MoU extends the cooperation between the two countries till 2024.

The MoU was first signed by Samajwadi Party government and the Government of Netherland in July 2016. The earlier MoU expired on July 13 and it was extended to the next five years on 7th August.

#### Aim:

The MoU aims to strengthen the collaboration between the two parties on the basis of equivalence, mutual benefit and the practical needs of the parties. The agreement aims to cooperate and exchange of knowledge and techniques in the fields of solid waste management, spatial planning, water management. The MoU is also related in the other various fields of transport management, energy efficiency, sewerage and effluent treatment, agriculture, dairy and horticulture, development of smart cities in UP.

### India signed a UN Convention agreement in Singapore

India signed an agreement with the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) in Singapore. 46 UN members signed the UNISA agreement named Singapore Convention on Mediation. The experts even called for local laws to support the treaty's implementation in business contracts. Around 70 countries represented at the signing ceremony. UNISA was signed by India's High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf who represented the Government of India.

#### Aim:

The treaty aims to have a global framework. It will provide great confidence to the businesses to settle international disputes through mediation rather than taking them to court. This can reduce time and expenses.

UNISA has set a standard to enforce and invoke settlement agreements, the requirements for reliance on settlement agreements and the grounds for refusing to grant relief.

#### UNISA and India:

Signing of the agreement is important for the growth of mediation in India. The agreement will enhance the ease of doing business in India. It will boost confidence of the foreign investors in the Indian market. So far, India has been dealing with 80-100 matters a day in the Delhi High Court. It is now expected that the mediator community to grow exponentially in India.

### Indian Navy signed MoU with CIAL

Naval Air Enclave (NAE), Kochi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in a formal function held at CIAL. The agreement was signed by Captain Satish Kumar S, Officer-in-Charge, NAE and Shri ACK Nair, Airport Director CIAL. The MoU was aimed with the commencement of naval air operations from the NAE, a naval aviation facility at CIAL in Nedumbassery. The MoU sets the standard operating procedures for CIAL and the Indian Navy. It also ensures safe, secure and uninterrupted military air operations.

#### About the Facility:

The facility will comprise of an independent dispersal, aircraft hangar, administrative building and taxi track. The facility will be located on the northwest side of CIAL. The Naval runway at INS Garuda is not enough for the landing and take-off of long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare aircraft. Hence, the CIAL runway will be used by the Military aircraft for take off and landing and the NAE taxi track for proceeding to and from the hangar.

### Textile Ministry signed MoU with 16 states to offer skill training programmes

Ministry of Textiles signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 16 State governments. The MoU signed to offer skill training programmes under the Samarth scheme. Also, 18 States agreed to partner with the Ministry under Samarth.

The States will nominate the agencies to implement the scheme. For the implementation of the scheme, the Ministry has allocated Rs.35 lakh for the

implementation of the scheme. The agencies will train 4 lakh people who will be placed at the textile units.

#### Training Programme:

The training programme will cover the entire value chain of the textiles sector. The training programme involves advanced technology oriented features like Aadhaar Based Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), CCTV recording, dedicated Call Centre, Mobile App based Management Information System and on-line monitoring.

#### Samarth scheme:

The aim of the Samarth scheme is to promote self-employment, entrepreneurial development in traditional handloom, handicraft, jute, wool and silk segments. It is a scheme for capacity building in the textiles sector.

The Samarth scheme was implemented from 2010 to 2017. The scheme functions under the Ministry of Textiles. The scheme aims to government's focus on skill development.

The Ministry of Textiles implemented the Integrated Skill Development Scheme with a target to provide 15 lakh additional skilled workers to the textiles sector by 2017.

The Ministry has extended the scheme now. By March 18, 11.14 lakh persons were trained under the schema and 8.41 lakh persons were provided placement.

### India to train Maldivian civil services officers training

The India-Maldives MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil services officers training has been made operationalized in the ceremony held at the Civil Services Commission of Maldives at Male. The training will take place in three phases upon the agreement between the two countries. The first 3 training programs will be held in September and November for 60 officers and in December for 30 officers of top management level.

#### High-level discussion:

The training program was operationalised after the discussions between the senior officials of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission. A high-level discussion was also held between. An Indian delegation led by Shri V.Srinivas, Additional Secretary Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and a Maldives delegation led by Dr. Aly Shameem, Chairman of the Civil Services Commission of Maldives. The subject matter of the training programs includes public administration, e-governance and service delivery, public policy and governance, information technology, urban development and planning, ethics in administration and challenges in the implementation of SDGs.

#### MoU between India and Maldives:

During the Prime Minister of India's visit to the Maldives in June 2019, India signed MoU to provide training and Capacity Building Programme for Maldivian civil servants. Maldives Civil Service Commission signed with India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) with the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The aim to emphasize India's Neighbourhood First policy.

India is now providing its full support to the Maldives in realizing its socioeconomic development and strengthening of democratic and independent institutions.

### Thaawarchand Gehlot met Australian delegation for the cooperation in the Disability Sector

The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot met 5 member-Australian Delegation in New Delhi. The Australian Delegation was headed by Mr. Duncan Maskell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. The discussion included the issues relating to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two countries and for the cooperation in the Disability Sector. The discussions centered around designing of the Community Based Inclusive Development program, leadership training, and research in the disability sector. Indian government expressed its desire and efforts to the Australian side for the empowerment of persons in the area of early intervention, community participation, etc. The Australian side appreciated the efforts of the



Government of India in the disability sector. Melbourne University has been identified as an agency for undertaking certain specific activities under the ambit of the MoU.

#### MoU signed:

During the visit of the **President of India to Australia** on **November 2018**, the Government of India and the Government of Australia signed an MoU for **Cooperation in Disability Sector**.

A follow up for the implementation of the MoU was taken in **2019 February**. As per the MoU, the Indian government took action for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which included enactment of the **RPwD Act, 2016**. The two countries agreed to work for the community sensitization, research in the disability sector with special focus on mental health rehabilitation and inclusive education.

#### India signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors

During his two-day visit to France, **Prime Minister Modi** and his France counterpart **President Emmanuel Macron** held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors on 22 August. They signed various MoUs in different sectors.

#### MoUs:

An **administrative arrangement** was signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of India and the Ministry of National Education and Youth of the French Republic. The MoU aimed for **Cooperation in Skill Development and Vocational Training**.

A **memorandum of agreement** was signed between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India and the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA).

The **cooperation agreement** was signed between the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and ATOS.

**Implementing agreement** was also signed between ISRO and CNES France for Joint Maritime Domain Awareness.

#### Health Ministry sign MoU with Ministry of Social Justice to enhance an outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention

**Health Ministry** has signed a MoU with the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** to enhance an **outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention**. This MoU is the **18<sup>th</sup>** such kind where MoU signed between Government departments/Ministries. It will promote the environment based on no stigma and discrimination.

It has been considered that the sub-department of health is necessary for all the Ministries for health impact assessed of the policies/initiatives. Hence the **National**

**AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** that functions under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed MoU with the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE).

#### Signed by:

The MoU was signed by Special Secretary & Director General (NACO & RNTCP) **Shri Sanjeeva Kumar** and Additional Secretary of DoSJE **Smt. Upma Srivastava**.

#### Objective:

The MoU will emphasize the **need for innovations and newer ideas** to fight against HIV/AIDS.

Specific **strategies and action plans** will be developed for HIV and AIDS prevention and mechanisms for drug addiction treatment will be announced It will extend **social protection schemes** to the vulnerable populations It will strengthen the **service delivery mechanisms** for HIV & AIDS prevention, drug addiction treatment The MOUs with other Ministries will **reduce investment and increase impact initiatives** that help in leveraging each others strength

#### Report:

Due to the program, there has been an **80% decline** in estimated new infections from the peak of the epidemic in **1995**. The estimated AIDS-related death in the country has been declined by **71% since its peak in 2005**.

UNAIDS 2018 report said that the global average for the decline in new infections and AIDS-related deaths from peak has been **47% and 51%** in the country.

#### Indian Navy signs MoU with IMD

**Indian Navy (IN)** signed a **Memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** at **naval Base in Kochi, Kerala**. The MoU aims to handle the **Cyclone Detection radar (CDR) building by IMD to the IN**. The MoU was signed by the flag officer RJ Nadkarni, AVSM, VSM, Chief of employees, Southern naval service Command (SNC) and Dr. D Pradhan, further Director General of Meteorology.

#### History of CDR Building:

The CDR building was constructed during **198386** within the naval Base having associated with **S-band Cyclone Detection radar** that restricted. The ability to operate buildings by IMD is from 1987-2017 to produce weather support for civil aviation at the Kochi aerodrome.

But IMD commenced in operation a replacement of **Doppler radio detection and ranging (DWR)** at Mundaveli in Kochi because the S-band microwave radar had become obsolete in 2017.

The CDR building had been lying vacant for a few years. Now to support IN, IMD has agreed to hand over the building permanently for meteorological purposes. The building will be utilized by the **Indian military Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC)**.

#### Health Ministry explores AI in combating TB

The **Central TB (Tuberculosis) Division** of the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** has signed an MoU with **Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Mumbai**. It aims to explore the appliance of the newest computing technology in its fight against TB.

#### MoU:

As per the agreement, Wadhvani AI will support **National TB programme** by making it AI-ready which would include, developing, piloting, and deploying AIbased solutions.

It would support the programme in vulnerability and hot-spot mapping, modeling novel methods of screening and diagnostics It will also enable decision support for care-givers apart from supporting the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP)** in the adoption of other AI technologies.

#### Signed by:

The MoU was signed by Vikas Sheel the Joint Secretary and P Anandan the business executive of Wadhvani AI. Wadhvani would support the **National TB program** by developing, piloting, and deploying AI-based solutions.

#### Tuberculosis (TB):

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** estimated that India is close to **27 lakh TB cases** per year and **4.23 lakh cases die**. The microorganism that causes TB affects the lungs and has severe coughs or sneezes.

#### Symptoms:

The symptoms like embody a cough, sometimes with blood-tinged, weight loss, night sweats, and fever. Patients with active symptoms would require a protracted course of treatment involving multiple antibiotics.

#### Spread:

It spreads through mobile metastasis droplets through coughs or sneezes or by kissing or share their drinks.

## INDEX / LIST

### London named worlds best student city in new rankings

**London** named the worlds best city for students. According to the rankings, Indias best student city is **Bengaluru** at 81st. It is followed by **Mumbai** (85th) and **Delhi** at 113 and **Chennai** at 115. There are a total of 120 cities in the list. This report is released for the second consecutive year. **London** beat **Tokyo** and **Melbourne** and came second and third respectively on new worldwide rankings. The **QS Best Student Cities** ranking was done by global education consultancy **QSQuacquarelli Symonds**. It mainly highlights each citys performance across different categories. The number of Indians moving to London for higher studies rose by 20% in 2017-18. They marked an increase from 4,545 in 2016-17 to 5,455 in the fiscal year 2017-18. The numbers are below the mark than could be achieved considering Indias vast student base. The Top 10 in QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019 are listed below.

Rank	City
1	London, UK
2	Tokyo, Japan
3	Melbourne, Australia
4	Munich, Germany
5	Berlin, Germany
6	Montreal, Canada
7	Paris, France
8	Zurich, Switzerland
9	Sydney, Australia
10	Seoul, South Korea

### World Bank data survey says India stands seventh position in the global GDP rankings

According to **World Bank data survey**, India slipped to the 7<sup>th</sup> position in the **global GDP rankings** in 2018. It stands marginally behind **UK and France**. Economists suggested that the reason for the fall in GDP is due to **currency fluctuations and a slowdown in economic growth**.

#### GDP:

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** is the monetary measure on market value of goods and services in a **specific time period annually**.

#### Previous year report:

##### India-UK, France:

In 2017, India stood on the 6th position with a **GDP rate of \$2.597 trillion**. India was just ahead of France which has **\$2.582 trillion**. As per earlier data, India was on the 6th position in 2017, ahead of just France. UK has an economic growth of **6.81%** against a contraction of **0.75%** in this period. The French economy expanded by **7.33%** against **4.85%**.

##### India-Japan:

The Survey also said that the Indian economy will **overtake Japan by 2025** and will become **third largest in 2025** as India planned to increase its economic size to **\$5 trillion by 2024-25**. Japans economic size was **\$4.97 trillion in 2018** which is higher than Indias by **\$2.24 trillion**. The list of top 10 countries are given below:

Gross Domestic Product 2018		
Ranking	Economy	In mn \$
1	United States	20,494,100
2	China	13,608,152
3	Japan	4,970,916
4	Germany	3,996,759
5	UK	2,825,208
6	France	2,777,535
7	India	2,726,323
8	Italy	2,073,902
9	Brazil	1,868,626
10	Canada	1,709,327

### MacKenzie Bezos now the worlds third richest woman

Bloomberg report said that **MacKenzie Bezos** now the **worlds third-richest woman**. MacKenzie is now the ex-wife of **Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos**. Also, Forbes billionaire list said that after the divorce, she has become the **secondlargest individual shareholder of Amazon** and the third wealthiest

woman in the world. Jeff Bezos transferred around **19.7 million** Amazon shares to MacKenzie Bezos during the divorce. This has brought Jeff Bezos' ownership stake in the company from **16% down to 12%**.

**Jeff Bezos** still remains the richest person on the planet. According to **Forbes Real- Time Rankings**, Jeff Bezos is worth \$117.8 billion. **Bill Gates**, Microsoft cofounder and philanthropist Bill Gates, found wealthier than the **second-richest person**.

### Papua New Guinea has highest number of living indigenous languages

**United Nations** report said that the **Papua New Guinea** has the **highest number of living indigenous languages** in the world with 840. **India** stands fourth with **453**.

#### UN's concern:

UN observes the year **2019 as its International Year of Indigenous Languages**. UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues reported that **nearly 40% of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken** around the world were in danger of disappearing and endangered.

Totally **7,111 living languages** worldwide has been listed so far. The most widely spoken languages worldwide are **Chinese, Spanish, English, Hindi and Arabic**.

These 5 languages covers around 40% of the total worldwide languages.

#### Papua New Guinea:

**Monarch:** Elizabeth II

**Governor-General:** Bob Dadae

**Prime Minister:** James Marape

**Capital:** Port Moresby

**Currency:** Papua New Guinean kina (PGK)

Papua New Guinea is **linguistically the world's most diverse country** with more than **700 native tongues**. Around **80%** of the country's people are **not exposed to modern life**. The people live within a non-monetarised economy dependent on subsistence agriculture.

### Indias Largest Rural Sanitation Survey Launched

Jal Shakti Minister **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the **Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2019 (SSG 2019)** The scheme instituted from August 14 to September 30.

#### Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2019

SSG 2019 will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India. It includes 87,250 public places namely schools, Anganwadi centers, public health centers, haat/bazaars/religious places. Around 2,50,000 citizens will be interviewed for the survey. Citizens will also be mobilized to provide feedback on sanitation related issues online using an application developed for the purpose. The independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts. The results will be announced based on quantitative and qualitative sanitation parameters. Around 5.8 lakh villages, 639 districts and 32 States/UTs declared **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** in rural India. The country is well poised for an **Open Defecation Free India** by October 2, 2019. Shri Shekhawat emphasized on the huge success of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**. The mission is being taken to the next level. The main aim is to focus on solid-liquid waste management and plastic waste management. The enthusiasm showed by all stakeholders towards last year survey and encouraged the gathering to garner even higher momentum at the grassroots level this year. The **main aim** is to highlight that this year the focus is on plastic waste disposal amongst other wastes. The detailed protocol developed to guide the ranking of Districts basis their performance on key quality and quantitative parameters.

### India is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO2) in the world :Greenpeace Report

India is the largest emitter of **anthropogenic sulphur dioxide** in the world as per the data released by environmental NGO Greenpeace 2019. Anthropogenic sulphur dioxide chemical is produced from the burning of coal and it is known to largely contribute to air pollution. The analysis of NASA data released by Greenpeace. India has over 15 per cent of all anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO2) hotspots in the world.

The SO2 hotspots were detected by OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.

### Impact of SO<sub>2</sub> Emission

The air gets polluted due to the SO<sub>2</sub> emission and air pollution occurs. The largest source of SO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels and other industrial facilities.

Air pollution became a huge public health concern. Around 91 percent of the world's population living in areas where air pollution exceeds the limit set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Around 4.2 million people are dying prematurely every year.

### Famous SO<sub>2</sub> Spots in India

The majority of the plants in India lack flue-gas desulfurization technology which leads to reduce air pollution. The main SO<sub>2</sub> hotspots in India includes Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Neyveli and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra.

### How to control the SO<sub>2</sub> emission?

India should against coal power plants and should not give them a free hand to continue polluting the atmosphere and cause a public health emergency. Environment Ministry introduced SO<sub>2</sub> emission limits for coal power plants in December 2015. They set the initial deadline to control SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power generation by December 2017.

The deadline later extended till December 2019. Ministry of Power and power plant operators in Delhi-NCR. The power plants across the country through a Supreme Court order.

### Power Minister Shri RK Singh launches SARAL State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index

Shri RK Singh, Union Minister of State for **Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship**, launched the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index SARAL. The State of Karnataka placed at the first rank in the Index. The Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development. Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have got 2nd, 3rd, and 4<sup>th</sup> rank respectively.

Shri RK Singh would incentivise rooftop solar by creating healthy competition among the States. The states to channelize investments eventually help the sector grow.

The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022, of which 100 GW solar power is to be operational by March 2022. It has 40 GW is expected to come from grid connected solar rooftops. The **Indian Grid Connected Rooftop PV (GRPV)** segment is slowly gaining momentum with substantial interest from entrepreneurs, developers, financial institutions, development banks, end users and government entities. The MNRE has developed the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index SARAL that evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

### SARAL

SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of statelevel measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment. Review, Planning & Monitoring Meeting held Power Minister Shri RK Singh chaired the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities. The State emphasised the need to make Power Sector sustainable and viable so as to ensure 24/7 power supply to all consumers.

SARAL designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY). It is launched during the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities.

SARAL currently captures five key aspects robustness of policy framework implementation environment investment climate consumer experience business ecosystem The Meeting discussed various schemes and issues pertaining to the sector such as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Distribution Scheme (IPDS), UDAY, 24/7 power supply.

### Gujarat topped the CWMI 2.0 report in water management

Gujarat topped the **second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0)**. It was released by **NITI Aayog** in **New Delhi**. It measures the performance of states on a set of water indicators. The move comes at a time

when various states across the country are facing a shortage in groundwater. The index assesses the performance of States on a comprehensive set of water indicators and reports relative performance in 2017-18 as well as trends from previous years (2015-16 & 2016-17).

Composite Water Management Index was released for the first time in 2018 to instill a sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states. It was the first attempt to create a pan-India set of metrics that measured different dimensions of water management and use across the lifecycle of water.

### Report highlights:

CWMI comprises of **nine themes** that include attention to groundwater and restoration of water bodies. It said that **80%** of states that were assessed on the Index over the last three years have improved their water management scores. States that topped the CWMI are **Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh**.

These states have further increased the scores over the last three years. States including **Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Bihar** continue to be in the low-performing category. The report said that **Puducherry** has been declared as the top-ranked among the UTs. This is the first time the Union Territories (UTs) have submitted their data. Under the theme incremental change in the index, **Haryana** holds the number one position among general states and **Uttarakhand** amongst northeastern and Himalayan states.

### World Vision India and IFMR LEAD released India child well being index

**World Vision India and IFMR LEAD** released a report on the **India child wellbeing index 2019** on 27 August. In the Index states like **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Puducherry** topped the charts. States like **Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh** ranked bottom in the index. The centre is fully committed to secure the **rights and well-being of children**.

### Aim:

The report by the non-government organization and the research institute aimed to look at the **India fairs on child well-being** using a composite child well-being index. The dimensions of the index include various factors like healthy individual development, positive relationships, and protective contexts.

### Niti Aayog report:

**NITI Aayog** said that the India child well-being index is very crucial that the Government and civil organizations should take note and the needed measures. This will achieve the goal of child well-being and the report will; be used effectively. The report provides **nutrition for the children, education, insights on health, sanitation and child protection**.



## VISITS BY PM / PRESIDENT

### PM is on a two day state visit to Bhutan

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is on a two-day state visit to **Bhutan**. The two leaders will hold talks to further **deepen the bilateral ties**. This is PM Modi's second visit to Bhutan and the first since his re-election.

In his visit, PM Modi is expected to sign **10 MoUs** in fields like education amongst others and inaugurate **5 projects** including the **Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant** and the **ISRO-built earth station in Thimphu**.

It should be noted that India-Bhutan partnership forms an important pillar of New Delhi's **'Neighbourhood First'** policy. PM's visit also reflects the high importance that the Government attaches to India's relations with the Himalayan nation.

#### **Bhutan:**

**King:** Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck

**Prime Minister:** Lotay Tshering

**Official languages:** Dzongkha

**Capital:** Thimphu

**Currency:** Ngultrum (BTN)

Bhutan is bordered by:

North Boundary - **Tibetan** Autonomous Region of China

West Boundary - **Sikkim state** of India and the **Chumbi Valley** of Tibet

East Boundary - **Arunachal Pradesh** state of India

South Boundary - **States of Assam** and West Bengal

### President awards certificate of honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for 2019

The President to award the Certificate of Honour to the following scholars of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Malayalam, and Classical Odia for the year 2019. The awardees list is mentioned below

#### **SANSKRIT**

1. Shri Sripada Satyanarayanamurthy
2. Shri Rajendra Nath Sarma
3. Prof. Ramji Thakur
4. Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja
5. Dr. Shri Krishna Sharma
6. Dr. V. Ramakrishna Bhatt
7. Vidwan Janardana Hegde
8. Dr. Kala Acharya
9. Prof. (Dr.) Harekrishna Satapathy
10. Pandit SatyaDev Sharma
11. Shri Banwari Lal Gaur
12. Dr. V.S. Karunakaran
13. Prof. Yugal Kishor Mishra
14. Pandit Manudev Bhattacharya
15. Shri Subuddhi Charan Goswami

#### **SANSKRIT (INTERNATIONAL)**

NIL

#### **PALI**

1. Dr. Uma Shankar Vyas

#### **PRAKRIT**

1. Prof. Kamal Chand Sogani

#### **ARABIC**

1. Prof. Faizanullah Farooqi
2. Mohammad Iqbal Husain
3. Dr. Mohd. Samiullah Khan

#### **PERSIAN**

1. Prof. Dr. Iraq Raza Zaidi
2. Prof. Chander Shekhar
3. Mohammad Sidiq Niazmand

#### **CLASSICAL KANNADA**

1. Shri Hampa Nagarajaiah

#### **CLASSICAL TELUGU**

1. Prof. Ravva Srihari

#### **CLASSICAL MALAYALAM**

1. Dr. C. P. Achuthan Unny

#### **CLASSICAL ODIA**

1. Pandit Dr. Antaryami Mishra

#### **Scholars**

#### **SANSKRIT**

1. Dr. Ashok Thapliyal
2. Prof. Sujata Tripathi
3. Dr. Sanju Mishra
4. Dr. Abhijit Hanmant Joshi
5. Dr. Sharachandra Dwivedi

#### **PALI**

1. Ms. Anoma Shriram Sakhare

#### **PRAKRIT**

1. Shri Asish Kumar Jain

#### **ARABIC**

1. Dr. Fauzan Ahmad

#### **PERSIAN**

1. ER. M. Shahbaz Alam

#### **CLASSICAL KANNADA**

1. Shri G. B. Harisha
2. Shri S. Karthik
3. Dr. M. Byrappa

#### **CLASSICAL TELUGU**

1. Dr. Addanki Srinivas
2. Dr. V. Triveni
3. Dr. D. K. Prabhakar

#### **CLASSICAL MALAYALAM**

1. Dr. Rajeev R. R.
2. Shri Santhosh Thottingal

#### **CLASSICAL ODIA**

1. Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty

### PM signs 10 MoUs during his second visit to Bhutan

During his second visit to Bhutan **PM Narendra Modi**, he held talks with his **Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering** to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors.

#### **Highlights of the Visit:**

**MoUs signed:**

The leaders of the two countries signed **10 MoUs** in fields like **new energy, education, space research, aviation, IT, power and education**. The talks also aimed to further improve economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

#### **Power plant inauguration:**

PM Modi also inaugurated the **Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant** which was built on the **Mangdechhu River** in Trongsa Dzongkhag district of central Bhutan. The cost of the **720MW plant** was **Rs.4,500 crore**. The project represents the relationship between India and Bhutan. PM Modi also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of **India-Bhutan hydropower cooperation**.

#### **RuPay Card launch:**

PM Modi launched the **RuPay Card in Bhutan** to **enhance** the countries relationship in **digital payments**, and trade and tourism. He launched it by making a purchase at Simtokha Dzong. It currently functions as a monastic and administrative centre, It was built in **1629** by **Shabdrung Namgyal** and is one of the oldest dzongs in Bhutan.

#### **Launch of e-plaque:**

The leaders unveiled an e-plaque on the interconnection between **Indias National Knowledge Network and Bhutans Druk Research and Education Network**. It marked India as the major partner in the development of Bhutan as India actively cooperates in Bhutans five-year plans.

#### **Ground Earth Station and SATCOM network launch:**

Mr. Modi and Lotay Tshering jointly inaugurated the **SATCOM network and the Ground Earth Station**. With this Bhutan can now utilize the **South Asia Satellite**. It was developed with ISRO's assistance as India has committed to facilitate Bhutans development through the use of **space technology**. Both the countries are planning for the collaboration of **Royal Bhutan University and IITs and other top educational institutions** of India for education and technology PM Modi also announced that an additional **\$100 million** will be available to Bhutan under the **SAARC currency swap framework**. This will meet the foreign exchange requirement of the country

#### **PM to visit UAE and Bahrain**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is to pay a **3-day visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain**. The visit aims to hold extensive talks with top leaders of the two countries on **bilateral, regional and global issues** of mutual interest.

##### **UAE:**

The Ties between India and the UAE are growing lately as an annual bilateral trade of about **\$60 billion**. The UAE is India's third-largest trade partner. It is also the fourth-largest exporter of crude oil to India. The UAE has a 3.3 million-strong Indian community. The UAE has announced the **prestigious award to Modi** for bilateral strategic ties. The award is in the name of **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan**, who is the founding father of the UAE.

##### **Bahrain:**

Prime Minister Modi will hold a two-day visit in Bahrain. This visit of the PM will be the **first-ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Bahrain**. He is to visit Bahrain from **23-25 August**.

During the visit, Mr. Modi is to hold talks with his counterpart **Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa** on the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, regional and international issues of mutual interest. He will also launch the renovation of Shreenathji (Shree Krishna) temple in Manama.

India-Bahrain bilateral trade has been on the rise of about **\$1.3 billion in 2018-19**. About **3,50,000 Indian** nationals form the largest expatriate community in Bahrain for contributing to the development of Bahrain.

#### **President of India launches tree plantation drive at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** planted a sapling of Maulsari in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate. They launched a plantation drive as part of **Van Mahotsav celebrations**. The President met students and urged them to encourage fellow citizens to plant more trees and reaffirm our commitment to a greener and sustainable planet.

As part of Van Mahotsav celebrations, the President's Secretariat, over the next few weeks, will be planting **3,252 trees** and **2,962 shrubs** in the President's Estate. They include ornamental and fruit trees like Peepal, Neem, Maulsari, Champa, Gul Mohur, Mango, Chiko, Anjir and Amrud.

Presidents Estate spread over **330 acres harbours** a rich biodiversity. Noted trees of the Estate include, Sita Ashok, Bistendu, Shisham, Gab, Gourd Trees, Wild Almond, Lemon-Scented Gum, Doon Siris.

##### **Van Mahotsav History**

Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting movement in India It began in the year 1950. The national importance that millions and millions of saplings are planted all across India in observation of the Van Mahotsav week. It is generally celebrated in the first week of July or from 1st of July till the 7th of July. 7th of July is the ending of the first week.

#### **PM Modi visits France**

**Prime Minister Modi** is paying a two-day state visit to **France** from **22 August** ahead **G-7 meeting**. Modi and his French counterpart **President Emmanuel Macron** held talks discussed to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors. They also discussed the governments move to suspend **Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir** and split the State into two Union Territories.

France confirmed that it will support any policy that would give the region stability. It also added that no one should provoke violence in the region. It said that the issues should be resolved between India and Pakistan and no other party should be involved.

##### **Modi invited for G-7 Summit:**

Prime Minister Modi has been invited for the G-7 summit that is to be held on **August 25**. The summit is to held in  **Biarritz, France**. G-7 summit will include

talks about the scrapping of Article 370. The French invite to India is not the first time India will be at this G-7 global high table. Then prime minister Manmohan Singh had attended the G-8 +5 meet in Gleneagles in **Scotland in 2005** at the invitation of then British prime minister Tony Blair.

##### **G-7 summit:**

The **Group of 7 (G-7) industrialized nations meet** is organized by France in Biarritz in August 2019. The invitation by France clearly reflects the strong strategic connect between **India and France**. The G-7 groups constitute of the **US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany**.

Digitizer  
INSTITUTE

## FESTIVALS

### **Aadi Mahotsav is being celebrated at Leh Ladakh**

The **Aadi Mahotsav**, a National Tribal Festival, is celebrated at **Polo Ground in Leh-Ladakh**. It is a 9 day event that starts from **17th August to 25<sup>th</sup> August**. It is celebrated with a theme of '**A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce**'. The festival was inaugurated by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir **Satya Pal Malik** and **Arjun Munda**, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs.

#### **Participants:**

Around **160 Tribal artisans** from more than **20 states** across the country are participating to showcase their masterpieces in the festival. The event will have two reputed local cultural troupes presenting **Ladakhi folk dances, Flower Dance, Abex Dance/song, Ghazal Dance, Aleyatoo** will regale the visitors. The product range comprises of **Tribal Textiles, Tribal Jewellery, Tribal Paintings, Black pottery, foods, forest produces** from all around india.

#### **About Aadi Mahotsav:**

The event Aadi Mahotsav is the Adivasi way of life is guided a natural simplicity with crudest tribal handicraft,tribal textiles manufactured from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South will win peoples heart. For the first time the tribal artisans will be accept payment through major credit/debit cards training has been conducted by the State Bank of India.





## QUIZ CORNER

- 1) Which country named worlds best student city in new rankings?  
A. Afghanistan B. China  
C. London D. Angola  
Answer C
- 2) Who is appointed as the next ambassador of India to the Republic of Paraguay  
A. Vikram Sharma B. Dinesh Bhatia  
C. Sudhakar Sharma D. Vignesh Kumar  
Answer B
- 3) Who becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20  
A. Megan Schutt B. Ellyse Perry  
C. Rachel Haynes D. Beth Mooney  
Answer B
- 4) Who is honoured with Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019?  
A. Vikram Sharma B. Ruhan Rajput  
C. Suresh Sharma D. Vignesh Kumar  
Answer B
- 5) Who becomes the first IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump?  
A. Rakesh Kumar B. Tarun Chaudhri  
C. Suresh Kumar D. Dinesh Gupta  
Answer B
- 6) India signs deal to acquire R-27 Missiles from \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Indonesia B. Russia  
C. Saudi Arabia D. Ireland  
Answer B
- 7) Government aims to enrol \_\_\_\_\_ workers under PM pension scheme  
A. 380 millions B. 150 million  
C. 180 millions D. 250 millions  
Answer B
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ signs deal to acquire R-27 Missiles from Russia  
A. India B. Pakistan  
C. Indonesia D. Saudi Arabia  
Answer A
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ project secures Hyderabad's water supply for the future  
A. Malkajgiri Project B. Kaleeswaram  
C. Walamatri D. Kaleshwaram Project  
Answer D
- 10) How many parcel hubs are present in the new small finance banks of Indian Postal Office  
A. 560 B. 190  
C. 250 D. 380  
Answer B
- 11) Ruhan Rajput honoured with Entrepreneur of the Year Award \_\_\_\_  
A. 2022 B. 2020  
C. 2019 D. 2025  
Answer C
- 12) Australia Ellyse Perry becomes first cricketer to reach 1000 runs, \_\_\_\_ wickets in T20  
A. 98 B. 85  
C. 90 D. 100  
Answer D
- 13) Dinesh Bhatia accredited as the next Ambassador of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Republic of Paraguay  
A. Pakistan B. India  
C. Iran D. Iraq  
Answer B
- 14) India signs deal to acquire \_\_\_\_\_ Missiles from Russia  
A. R - 27 B. F - 28  
C. A - 26 D. B - 28  
Answer A
- 15) Australia Ellyse Perry becomes \_\_\_\_ cricketer to reach 1000 runs, 100 wickets in T20  
A. fourth B. first  
C. second D. fifth  
Answer B
- 16) Who is to become the next speaker of Karnataka assembly?  
A. Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri B. K R Ramesh Kumar  
C. B S Yediyurappa D. Govind Karjol  
Answer A
- 17) Who was the former speaker, who quit his position on 29 July, of Karnataka assembly?  
A. K R Ramesh Kumar B. Jagadish Shettar  
C. K S Eshwarappa D. S Suresh Kumar  
Answer A
- 18) The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of the ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. US B. UK  
C. Russia D. China  
Answer C
- 19) What is the cost estimated for the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) per annum?  
A. Rs. 1 crore B. Rs. 1.5 crore  
C. Rs. 2 crore D. Rs. 2.5 crore  
Answer B
- 20) The setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in Moscow is ISRO's \_\_\_\_\_ project.  
A. NISAR B. Rohini  
C. Mangalyaan Human space program D. Gaganyaan  
Answer D
- 21) IAF also launched a new 3D mobile-based video game named \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. IAF-Thrive hard B. Indian Air Force: A Cut Above  
C. Indian Air Force Mission D. Air City Mission  
Answer B
- 22) Indian Air Force launched an IAF's facilitation-cum-publicity pavilion in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Mumbai B. Kolkata  
C. Delhi D. Hyderabad  
Answer C
- 23) Who is appointed as the new finance secretary?  
A. Zafar Saifullah B. Vishnu Sahay  
C. S. S. Khera D. Rajiv Kumar  
Answer D
- 24) Who is appointed as the interim chairman of Cafe Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd.?  
A. VG Siddhartha B. Nitin Bagmane  
C. SV Ranganath D. Ram Mohan  
Answer C
- 25) Who is appointed as the interim chief operating officer (COO) of Café Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd.?  
A. Nitin Bagmane B. Ram Mohan  
C. Cyril Amarchand D. SV Ranganath  
Answer A
- 26) India and UK launch clean air initiative in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Bengaluru B. Chennai  
C. Mumbai D. Pune  
Answer A
- 27) Indian tourists exempted from visa fees by \_\_\_\_\_ govt  
A. Saudi Arabia B. Sri Lanka  
C. Indonesia D. Pakistan  
Answer B
- 28) Which life insurance partners with Mobikwik to offer miniature insurance  
A. Bharti AXA Life Insurance B. Max Life Insurance  
C. Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance D. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance  
Answer C
- 29) Who assumed Charge as Secretary Textiles?  
A. Ravi Kapoor B. Suresh Kumar  
C. Vikram Sharma D. Dinesh Gupta  
Answer A

- 30) What is the target year for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme?  
A.2020 B.2021  
C.2022 D.2024  
Answer C
- 31) PRAGATI platform is a \_\_\_\_\_ based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.  
A. Information and communications technology (ICT)  
B. Information of Things (IoT)  
C. Informative Digital technology (IDT)  
D. None of these  
Answer A
- 32) Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed the \_\_\_\_\_ PRAGATI platform interaction.  
A.25<sup>th</sup> B.26<sup>th</sup>  
C.28<sup>th</sup> D.30<sup>th</sup>  
Answer D
- 33) India is expected to become Open Defecation Free (ODF) by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.15 August 2019 B.20 August 2019  
C.2 October 2019 D.16 October 2019  
Answer C
- 34) What is the duration of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)?  
A.2014-2019 B.2015-2018  
C.2015-2019 D.2013-2019  
Answer A
- 35) Upon RBI's relaxation for ECB norms, the ECB can be raised with a minimum average maturity period of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.3 years B.5 years  
C.7 years D.10 years  
Answer C
- 36) RBI has relaxed the norms related to ECB. What does ECB stand for?  
A.Electronic Cash Borrowing B.External Commercial Borrowing  
C.Exchequer Compliance Bank rate D.Enhanced Cheque Borrower  
Answer B
- 37) India Meteorological Department functions under \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Ministry of Weather forecast  
B.Ministry of Earth Sciences  
C.Ministry of Research and Development  
D.Ministry of Disaster Management  
Answer B
- 38) When was the India Meteorological Department established?  
A.1875 B.1888  
C.1885 D.1900  
Answer A
- 39) Where is the headquarters of India Meteorological Department located?  
A.Kolkata B.Mumbai  
C.Hyderabad D.New Delhi  
Answer D
- 40) Who is the Minister of Earth Sciences?  
A.S Jaishankar B.Harsh Vardhan  
C.Mahendra Nath Pandey D.Arvind Sawant  
Answer B
- 41) Mrutyunjay Mohapatra replaced \_\_\_\_\_ as the Director General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD).  
A.Rajendra Kumar B.K S Hosalar  
C.K N Mohan D.K.J. Ramesh  
Answer D
- 42) Who took charge as the Director General (DG) of India Meteorological Department (IMD)?  
A.K.J. Ramesh B.Devandra Pradhan  
C.Mrutyunjay Mohapatra D.D Attri  
Answer C
- 43) Who is the Minister of Finance in the 17th Lok Sabha assembly?  
A.Nirmala Sitharaman B.Piyush Goyal  
C.Dr. Harshvardhan D.Prakash Javadekar  
Answer A
- 44) \_\_\_\_\_ of Ministry of Finance plans to conduct India's first national Time Release Study (TRS).  
A. Department of Expenditure B.Department of Economic Affairs  
C.Department of Disinvestment D.Department of Revenue  
Answer D
- 45) Who is to advocate the India's first national Time Release Study (TRS) to improve the global trade?  
A.World Trade Organisation B.World Customs Organization  
C.World External Trade Institution D.Global Trade Organisation  
Answer B
- 46) Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been passed by \_\_\_\_\_, as on 31 July 2019.  
A.Lok Sabha B.Rajya Sabha  
C.A and B D.Supreme Court  
Answer C
- 47) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides a \_\_\_\_\_ to eliminate acquisition of fake driving licences.  
A.mechanical driving test B.computerised driving test  
C.personal driving test D.None of these  
Answer B
- 48) Along with which country did India launch the Innovating for Clean Air (IfCA)?  
A.Germany B.Korea  
C.Japan D.UK  
Answer D
- 49) Sri Lankan government exempted visa fees for tourism purposes for \_\_\_\_\_ countries.  
A.25 B.36  
C.48 D.52  
Answer C
- 50) Which Country initiated the global coalition to protect pollinators?  
A.Sweden B.Denmark  
C.India D.Netherlands  
Answer D
- 51) When was the global coalition to protect pollinators established?  
A.2014 B.2016  
C.2015 D.2017  
Answer B
- 52) Which of the following Country becomes fourth African nation to join global coalition to protect pollinators?  
A.Nigeria B.Kenya  
C.Morocco D.Algeria  
Answer A
- 53) Which Country was the first Country to become the member of global coalition to protect pollinators?  
A.Ghana B.Senegal  
C.Burundi D.Morocco  
Answer D
- 54) Who is the Minister of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Minister of Commerce and Industry?  
A.Piyush Goyal B.Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey  
C.Arvind Sawant D.Giriraj Singh  
Answer A
- 55) Who is appointed as the Secretary of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?  
A. Guruprasad Mohapatra B. Amitabh Prasad  
C. Chetan Aggarwal D. T. Hanumantha Rao  
Answer A
- 56) Which state got top in court infrastructure facilities according to Think Tank Report  
A.Bihar B.Delhi  
C.TamilNadu D.West Bengal  
Answer B
- 57) Nagar kirtan from Pakistan reaches \_\_\_\_\_ for the first time since Partition  
A.Saudi Arabia B.India  
C.Indonesia D.South Africa  
Answer B

- 58) \_\_\_\_\_ allows Bank of China to offer regular banking services in India  
A. Central Bank B. Reserve Bank of India  
C. Asian Development Bank D. World Bank  
Answer B
- 59) \_\_\_\_\_ launches awareness campaign Save Green, Stay Clean  
A. Bihar B. West Bengal  
C. Kerala D. Tamil Nadu  
Answer B
- 60) \_\_\_\_\_ appoints Cognizants Debashis Chatterjee as new CEO  
A. Mindtree B. Cognizant  
C. TCS D. Ashok Leyland  
Answer A
- 61) CRISIL cuts India's GDP growth to \_\_\_\_\_ for FY20 on weak monsoon rains, muted corporate results  
A. 14.5% B. 6.9 %  
C. 10.5% D. 12.5  
Answer B
- 62) Indiabulls Housing Finance to buy back bonds worth up to \_\_\_\_\_  
A. 50 millions B. 65 millions  
C. 75 millions D. 80 millions  
Answer A
- 63) \_\_\_\_\_ residents want to rename 'Pakistan Wali Gali'  
A. Noida B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Himachal Pradesh D. Bihar  
Answer A
- 64) Who launched Mobile Library Buses procured by Delhi?  
A. Shri Suresh Kumar B. Shri Prahlad Singh Pate  
C. Shri Dinesh Gupta D. Shri Vivek Kumar  
Answer B
- 65) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel launches Mobile Library Buses procured by \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Chennai B. New Delhi  
C. Mumbai D. Hyderabad  
Answer B
- 66) The US has announced that is to impose \_\_\_\_\_ tariff on Chinese imports on 1 September 2019?  
A. 10% B. 12%  
C. 15% D. 18%  
Answer A
- 67) Who are eligible for the One Nation One Ration Card scheme?  
A. Beneficiaries under Family Welfare Act  
B. Beneficiaries under Economically Weaker Section Act  
C. Beneficiaries under 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act  
D. Beneficiaries under National Food Security Act  
Answer D
- 68) In which States has the One Nation One Ration Card scheme been launched?  
A. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh B. Maharashtra, Gujarat  
C. Maharashtra, Odisha D. A and B  
Answer D
- 69) For the implementation of the One Nation One Ration Card scheme, Centre has formed State Apex Committee under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Governor B. Chief Justice of High Court  
C. Chief Secretary D. Chief Minister  
Answer C
- 70) \_\_\_\_\_ confirms another test of rocket launcher system  
A. Saudi Arabia B. North Korea  
C. Pakistan D. Indonesia  
Answer B
- 71) To avail the One Nation One Ration Card scheme, the beneficiaries should link their \_\_\_\_\_ with the ration card.  
A. PAN B. Aadhaar card  
C. EWS card D. Income certificate  
Answer B
- 72) GST collection in the month of July surpassed the \_\_\_\_\_ mark in July 2019.  
A. Rs.1 lakh crore B. Rs.1.5 lakh crore  
C. Rs.2 lakh crore D. Rs.5 lakh crore  
Answer A
- 73) What does IGST stand for?  
A. Imported Goods and Services Tax B. Integrated Goods and Services Tax  
C. Intra State Goods and Services Tax D. Influential Goods and Services Tax  
Answer B
- 74) Which Bill will allow Centre and State to designate individuals as terrorists and seize his properties?  
A. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill 2018  
B. Terrorist Activities Prevention Bill 2018  
C. Terrorist Activities Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2019  
D. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill 2019  
Answer D
- 75) The UAPA Bill empowers the \_\_\_\_\_ of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure when the case is investigated by the agency.  
A. Chairman B. President  
C. Director-General D. Chief Commissioner  
Answer C
- 76) Recent study says that the shape of the Milkyway galaxy might be \_\_\_\_\_ and not flat.  
A. geoid B. wrinkled  
C. warped D. hemisphere  
Answer C
- 77) Who is awarded the 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award?  
A. Ravish Kumar B. Angkhana Neelapaijit  
C. Raymundo Pujante D. All the above  
Answer D
- 78) Which award is referred as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize?  
A. Social Entrepreneur of the Year B. Ramon Magsaysay Award  
C. Nelson Mandela Award D. The Rising Star Award  
Answer B
- 79) When was the Ramon Magsaysay Award was established?  
A. 1945 B. 1962  
C. 1957 D. 1975  
Answer C
- 80) Which Bill aims to provide a uniform safety procedures for the specified 5,600 dams in the country?  
A. Dam damage Prevention Bill  
B. Dam Safety Bill  
C. Flood prevention and Dam management Bill  
D. Disaster Management Bill  
Answer B
- 81) Who will be the regulatory body according to the Dam Safety Bill 2019?  
A. National Dam Safety Authority B. Indian Dam Safety Agency  
C. Dam Safety Bureau D. Department of Dam Safety Authority  
Answer A
- 82) What are the countries participated in the INF treaty?  
A. US, Japan B. Russia, Korea  
C. US, Russia D. Russia, Japan  
Answer C
- 83) Which of the following is the nuclear treaty signed between the US and Russia?  
A. INF treaty B. JCPOA treat  
C. OPEC Treaty D. P5+1 Treaty  
Answer A
- 84) Which Country officially announced its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty?  
A. Russia B. US  
C. Japan D. None  
Answer B
- 85) BIS to set up Pashmina testing centre in \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Bhopal B. Leh  
C. Ranchi D. Andhra Pradesh  
Answer B
- 86) UGC recommends \_\_\_\_\_ educational centres for status of Institutions of Eminence  
A. 26 B. 20  
C. 18 D. 25  
Answer B



- 87) \_\_\_\_\_ to buy back bonds worth up to \$50 mn  
A.State Bank of India Home Finance B.Indiabulls Housing Finance  
C.ICICI Home Finance Company D.PNB Housing Finance Limited  
Answer B
- 88) World Bank data survey says India stands \_\_\_\_\_ position in the global GDP rankings  
A.6<sup>th</sup> B.8<sup>th</sup>  
C.7<sup>th</sup> D.9<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 89) \_\_\_\_\_ launches Mobile Library Buses procured by Delhi  
A.Shri Prahlad Singh Patel B.Shri Vignesh Kumar  
C.Shri Rajesh Sharma D.Shri Rajesh Kumar  
Answer A
- 90) \_\_\_\_\_ confirms another test of rocket launcher system  
A.Indonesia B.North Korea  
C.Pakistan D.South Korea  
Answer B
- 91) \_\_\_\_\_ residents want to rename 'Pakistan Wali Gali'  
A.Bihar B.Noida  
C.Uttar Pradesh D.Himachal Pradesh  
Answer B
- 92) MacKenzie Bezos now the worlds \_\_\_\_\_ richest woman  
A.6<sup>th</sup> B.3<sup>rd</sup>  
C.5<sup>th</sup> D.7<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 93) \_\_\_\_\_ government plans to create a protected marine area in the country's Arctic region.  
A.Finland B.Iceland  
C.Canada D.United States  
Answer C
- 94) Who is the World's third richest woman in the world as per the Bloomberg report?  
A.Alice Walton B.Susanne Klatten  
C.MacKenzie Bezos D.Yang Huiyan  
Answer C
- 95) According to Forbes Real-Time Rankings, who is the richest man in the world?  
A.Bill Gates B.Jeff Bezos  
C.Bernard Arnault D.Warren Buffett  
Answer B
- 96) According to World Bank data survey, India stands \_\_\_\_\_ position in the global GDP rankings in 2018.  
A.7<sup>th</sup> B.8<sup>th</sup>  
C.5<sup>th</sup> D.6<sup>th</sup>  
Answer A
- 97) Which country ranked first in the World Bank data survey's global GDP rankings in 2018?  
A.China B.UK  
C.US D.France  
Answer C
- 98) Which rank did secure in the World Bank data survey's global GDP rankings in 2017?  
A.4<sup>th</sup> B.5<sup>th</sup>  
C.6<sup>th</sup> D.7<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 99) Who was crowned MISS ENGLAND 2019?  
A.Alisha Cowie B.Bhasha Mukherjee  
C.Stephanie Hill D.Natasha Hemmings  
Answer B
- 100) Who was crowned MISS ENGLAND 2018?  
A.Carina Tyrrell B.Elizabeth Grant  
C.Kirsty Heslewood D.Alisha Cowie  
Answer D
- 101) India has set a target to achieve an all-electric vehicle fleet by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.2025 B.2030  
C.2032 D.2024  
Answer B
- 102) Which of the following country have the the best reserves of lithium and cobalt in the world?  
A.Argentina B.Bolivia  
C.Chile D.All the above  
Answer D
- 103) Indian Army has employed electric cars (E-cars) for the use of Government officials in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Kolkata B.Shimla  
C.Delhi D.Mumbai  
Answer C
- 104) Which Company has played a vital role in providing e-vehicles to various Government agencies?  
A.Tata Motors B.EESL  
C.Essar Steel D.Mahindra  
Answer B
- 105) What are the 2 new TB vaccines ICMR introduced for TB treatment?  
A.Isoniazid and Rifampin B.Ethambutol and Pyrazinamide  
C.Etha-250 and Rifmp-200 D.VPM 1002 and Immuvac  
Answer D
- 106) Which Country has the highest TB incidences of the world?  
A.China B.India  
C.Africa D.Greece  
Answer B
- 107) In 2017, the Centre vowed to eliminate TB by the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.2020 B.2022  
C.2024 D.2025  
Answer D
- 108) Which of the following TB vaccine has been used for a 100 years to treat TB?  
A.Bacille Calmette-Guerin B.Isoniazid  
C.Rifampin D.Pyrazinamide  
Answer A
- 109) Who won Hungarian Grand Prix?  
A.Carlo Abate B.Lewis Hamilton  
C.Kenny Acheson D.Walt Ader  
Answer B
- 110) Which bank with Shanghai becomes first Indian bank to link up with CNAPS  
A.ICICI Bank B.State Bank of India  
C.RBL Bank D.Dena Bank  
Answer B
- 111) Reserve Bank of India imposes \_\_\_\_\_ fine on seven PSBs for violating norms  
A.19 crores B.11 crores  
C.15 crores D.16 crores  
Answer B
- 112) Where is the headquarters of National Film Development Corporation Limited (NFDC)?  
A.Thiruvandrum B.Chennai  
C.Mumbai D.Hyderabad  
Answer C
- 113) Who won Gold In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament  
A.Lovlina Borgohain B.Vijendar Singh  
C.Satish Kumar D.Hawa Singh  
Answer A
- 114) ISRO is to the Space Situational Awareness Control Centre in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Sriharikota B.Hyderabad  
C.Mumbai D.Bengaluru  
Answer D
- 115) \_\_\_\_\_ is needed to protect Indian space assets from inactive satellites, parts and pieces of orbiting objects.  
A.Space Situational Awareness Control Centre  
B.Space Station Saving Programme  
C.Space Situational Awareness Control Centre  
D.International Space Management Centre  
Answer C

- 116) Who is the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?  
A. Ajay Narayan  
C. Anoop Srivastava  
B. K. Sivan  
D. Vijay Keshav Gokhale  
Answer B
- 117) Who restores India's water bodies in India?  
A. Suresh Kumar  
C. Dinesh Kumar  
B. Arun Krishnamurthy  
D. Vivek Sharma  
Answer B
- 118) Who introduces distance-wise fare cap for flights leaving Srinagar till August  
A. Air Asia  
C. SpiceJet  
B. IndiGo  
D. Vistara  
Answer B
- 119) Under whose command did the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh take place?  
A. Col Reginald Dyer  
C. Colonel Berkeley  
B. Col Sanders  
D. Colonel William  
Answer A
- 120) When was the Jallianwala Bagh memorial established?  
A. 1935  
C. 1951  
B. 1949  
D. 1967  
Answer C
- 121) Which Bill will remove the Congress president as a permanent member of a trust that runs the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial?  
A. Jallianwala Bagh Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018  
B. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill, 2018  
C. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Bill, 2019  
D. Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019  
Answer D
- 122) Which of the following Bill/Acts will be repealed by the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019?  
A. Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976  
B. Tea (Amendment) Act, 1980 and Central Universities Act, 2009  
C. Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Central Road Fund (Amendment) Act, 2007  
D. All the above  
Answer D
- 123) Repealing and Amending Bill, 2019 seeks to repeal \_\_\_\_\_ old central laws.  
A. 25  
C. 72  
B. 58  
D. 134  
Answer B
- 124) Which of the following Bill will empower centre to remove the redundant and absolute laws?  
A. Rescinding (Amendment) Bill 2018  
B. Revocation (Amendment) Bill 2018  
C. Repealing and Nullification Bill 2019  
D. Repealing and Amending Bill 2019  
Answer D
- 125) \_\_\_\_\_ seizes \$240 million from Chinese state firm's bank account  
A. Malaysia  
C. Saudi Arabia  
B. Indonesia  
D. Russia  
Answer A
- 126) Malaysia seizes \_\_\_\_\_ from Chinese state firm's bank account  
A. \$ 260 millions  
C. \$ 350 millions  
B. \$ 240 million  
D. \$ 450 millions  
Answer B
- 127) Lovlina Borgohain won \_\_\_\_\_ In Umakhanov Memorial International Boxing Tournament  
A. Silver  
C. Bronze  
B. Gold  
D. None of These  
Answer B
- 128) Lewis Hamilton won \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Moroccan Grand Prix  
C. Belgian Grand Prix  
B. Hungarian Grand Prix  
D. Chinese Grand Prix  
Answer B
- 129) World Breastfeeding Week 2019 observed from \_\_\_\_\_  
A. 1 - 7 June  
C. 1-7 July  
B. 1- 7 August  
D. 1 - 7 March  
Answer B
- 130) IndiGo introduces distance-wise fare cap for flights leaving Srinagar till \_\_\_\_\_  
A. September  
C. October  
B. August  
D. November  
Answer B
- 131) What is the theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2019?  
A. Enable Feeding  
C. Power to People  
B. Empower Parents. Enable Breastfeeding  
D. Parents are enable Breastfeeding  
Answer B
- 132) When was the first trial of QRSAM Missile was conducted?  
A. June 4 2017  
C. June 4 2018  
B. July 4 2019  
D. February 27 2019  
Answer A
- 133) At what range the QRSAM Missile?  
A. 20-50 km  
C. 60-80 km  
B. 25-30 km  
D. 100-200 km  
Answer B
- 134) Centre has repealed \_\_\_\_\_ which will make J&K an integral part of India.  
A. Article 130  
C. Article 260  
B. Article 370  
D. Article 189  
Answer B
- 135) Who introduced the Article 370 in 1947?  
A. Mehr Chand Mahajan  
C. Ghulam Mohammed Sadiq  
B. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad  
D. Sheikh Abdullah  
Answer D
- 136) The Government of India has introduced the \_\_\_\_\_ after repealing Article 370.  
A. Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019  
B. Jammu and Kashmir Reformation Bill, 2019  
C. Jammu and Kashmir ReUnion Bill, 2019  
D. Jammu and Kashmir Restructuring Bill, 2019  
Answer A
- 137) AP Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Vikram Main Gauge  
C. Swaraj Mudra  
B. Vajra  
D. 1KVA Genset  
Answer B
- 138) Lalit Kala Akademi celebrates \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation Day  
A. 70<sup>th</sup>  
C. 85<sup>th</sup>  
B. 65<sup>th</sup>  
D. 95<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 139) \_\_\_\_\_ summons Indian High Commissioner over scrapping of Article 370  
A. Australia  
C. Saudi Arabia  
B. Pakistan  
D. Indonesia  
Answer B
- 140) \_\_\_\_\_ issues red alert, security checking to take more time  
A. Kolkata Metro  
C. Chennai Metro  
B. Delhi Metro  
D. Bangalore Metro  
Answer B
- 141) \_\_\_\_\_ briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir  
A. Saudi Arabia  
C. Paksitan  
B. India  
D. Indonesia  
Answer B
- 142) \_\_\_\_\_ set to take on Amazon with free video streaming service  
A. Jabong  
C. Myntra  
B. Flipkart  
D. Reliance Industries  
Answer B
- 143) \_\_\_\_\_ successfully crossed the English Channel (a 36 km journey) on a jet-powered hoverboard.  
A. Shane Chen  
C. Elon Reeve Musk  
B. Franky Zapata  
D. Richard Branson  
Answer B
- 144) Kanti Bhatt who passed away recently was a/an \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. politician  
C. actor  
B. singer  
D. author  
Answer D

- 145) Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2019 ban \_\_\_\_\_ surrogacy.  
A.altruistic B.commercial  
C.traditional D.gestational  
Answer B
- 146) Which Bill aims to empower and safeguard the rights of transgenders?  
A.Protection of Transgenders Bill 2019  
B.Safeguard (and Protection) of Transgender Bill 2019  
C.Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019  
D.Protection of Transgender Rights Bill 2019  
Answer C
- 147) The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 will establish \_\_\_\_\_ to safeguard the rights of the transgenders.  
A.National security authority  
B.National protection and security authority  
C.National transgender protection authority  
D.Indian transgender security authority  
Answer A
- 148) Who Organised the Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers?  
A.Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
B.Ministry of Telecommunications  
C.Ministry of Communications and Information Technology  
D.Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
Answer A
- 149) The Second All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers was recently held \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Mumbai B.Kolkata  
C.Hyderabad D.New Delhi  
Answer D
- 150) Which edition of All India Annual Conference of IIS Officers was recently held?  
A.fourth B.second  
C.third D.fifth  
Answer B
- 151) Under which Ministry does the Department of Consumer Affairs function?  
A.Ministry of Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
B.Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution  
C.Ministry of Home Affairs  
D.Ministry of Industrial policy and promotion  
Answer B
- 152) \_\_\_\_\_ released e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection.  
A.Department of Statistics  
B.Department of Programme Implementation  
C.Department of Trade and Commerce  
D.Department of Consumer Affairs  
Answer D
- 153) Who is the Minister responsible of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution?  
A.Sambit Patra B.Ram Vilas Paswan  
C.Ajit Doval D.Smriti Irani  
Answer B
- 154) IIFL Finance to raise up to \_\_\_\_\_ through bonds  
A.6,500 B.1,000  
C.2,500 D.3,500  
Answer B
- 155) Flipkart set to take on \_\_\_\_\_ with free video streaming service  
A.Zee5 B.Amazon  
C.Netflix D.Hotstar  
Answer B
- 156) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 provides \_\_\_\_\_ reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the general category.  
A.10% B.20%  
C.33% D.25%  
Answer A
- 157) \_\_\_\_\_ briefs UN Security Council on scrapping of special status to Jammu and Kashmir  
A.Pakistan B.India  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Indonesia  
Answer B
- 158) Pakistan summons Indian High Commissioner over scrapping of \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Article 280 B.Article 376  
C.Article 370 D.Article 374  
Answer C
- 159) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 proposed bifurcate the state of J&K into 2 UTs namely \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Leh and Ladakh B.Kashmir and Leh  
C.Jammu and Leh D.Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh  
Answer D
- 160) Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill 2019 has proposed to bifurcate the state of Jammu and Kashmir into \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 3 Union Territories B. 2 Union Territories  
C. A Union Territory D. It doesn't bifurcate J&K  
Answer B
- 161) \_\_\_\_\_ celebrates 65th Foundation Day  
A.Surendra Kumar B.Lalit Kala Akademi  
C.Vikram Sarabhai D.Nithya Menon  
Answer B
- 162) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Minister flags off riot control vehicle Vajra  
A.Andhra Pradesh B.Maharashtra  
C.Arunchal Pradesh D.Assam  
Answer A
- 163) \_\_\_\_\_ to raise up to 1,000 crore through bonds  
A.Bajaj Home Finance  
B.IIFL Finance  
C.Mamta Housing Finance Company  
D.Guru Raghavendra Finance Company  
Answer B
- 164) Which is the first State to pass an anti-lynching Bill in the country?  
A.Uttar Pradesh B.Tamil Nadu  
C.Karnataka D.Manipur  
Answer D
- 165) Which State has passed an anti-lynching Bill?  
A.Maharashtra B.Uttar Pradesh  
C.Rajasthan D.Telangana  
Answer C
- 166) Lok Sabha passed the \_\_\_\_\_  
A.2019 Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Bill  
B.Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019  
C.Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill  
D.Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019  
Answer B
- 167) Fiona Kolbinger first woman to win \_\_\_\_\_ cycling race  
A.2,800 km B.4,000 km  
C.5,200 km D.6,500 km  
Answer B
- 168) \_\_\_\_\_ named as PCA Player of the Month  
A.K L Rahul B.Ravichandran Ashwin  
C.Suresh raina D.Jasprit Bumrah  
Answer B
- 169) \_\_\_\_\_ launches identity check express to secure online transactions  
A.Visa B.Mastercard  
C.Standard Chartered D.CitiBank  
Answer B
- 170) \_\_\_\_\_ proposes user safeguard rules for e-commerce platforms  
A.Pakistan B.India  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Indonesia  
Answer B

- 171) As per the third bi-monthly policy review by MPC, which of the following will be made available on a 24x7 basis from December 2019?  
A. RTGS  
B. NEFT  
C. IMPS  
D. None of the above  
Answer B
- 172) Who led the third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on 7th August?  
A. Prime Minister  
B. Finance Minister  
C. RBI Governor  
D. RBI Deputy Governor  
Answer C
- 173) What is the current Policy Repo Rate of RBI under LAF?  
A. 5.75%  
B. 5.65%  
C. 5.40%  
D. 5.30%  
Answer C
- 174) What is the Marginal Standing Facility Rate set by RBI in the third bimonthly policy review by MPC?  
A. 5.40%  
B. 5.65%  
C. 5.15%  
D. 5.35%  
Answer B
- 175) How much did the RBI cut the interest repo rate in the third bi-monthly policy review by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?  
A. 20 bps  
B. 25 bps  
C. 30 bps  
D. 35 bps  
Answer D
- 176) Who was the first woman to hold the office of the Ministry of External Affairs?  
A. Maneka Gandhi  
B. Indira Gandhi  
C. Sushma Swaraj  
D. Nirmala Sitharaman  
Answer B
- 177) Sushma Swaraj who passed away recently was the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Former Finance Minister  
B. Former Home Affairs Minister  
C. Former Defence Minister  
D. Former External Affairs Minister  
Answer D
- 178) Where is the GIFT city located in India?  
A. Bihar  
B. Gujarat  
C. Odisha  
D. Uttar Pradesh  
Answer B
- 179) National Stock Exchange (NSE) and \_\_\_\_\_ got approval for its project on GIFT City.  
A. Singapore Exchange (SGX)  
B. Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE)  
C. Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE)  
D. Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)  
Answer A
- 180) AERA (Amendment) Bill 2019 has made the threshold of annual passenger traffic for major airports from 15 lakh to over \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 20 lakh  
B. 25 lakh  
C. 30 lakh  
D. 35 lakh  
Answer D
- 181) Rajasthan passed \_\_\_\_\_ to curb incidents of honour killing in the State.  
A. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing in Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
B. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
C. Rajasthan Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
D. Rajasthan Prevention of Killing lawful couples in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2019  
Answer C
- 182) Which State passed a bill against honour killing?  
A. Rajasthan  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. Assam  
D. Bihar  
Answer A
- 183) Who is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Textiles?  
A. Smriti Zubin Irani  
B. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank  
C. D.V. Sadananda Gowda  
D. Nitin Jairam Gadkari  
Answer A
- 184) When is the National Handloom Day is observed?  
A. 1 August  
B. 15 July  
C. 7 August  
D. 13 September  
Answer C
- 185) Who won Miss World Diversity 2019?  
A. Vikram Sharma  
B. Naaz Joshi  
C. Sherin begum  
D. Nithya Sharma  
Answer B
- 186) Who becomes Power Grid CMD?  
A. Dilip Kumar  
B. Kandikuppa Sreekanth  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Suresh Kumar  
Answer B
- 187) Iran unveils \_\_\_\_\_ new precision-guided missiles  
A. six  
B. three  
C. four  
D. five  
Answer B
- 188) \_\_\_\_\_ unveils three new precision-guided missiles  
A. Indonesia  
B. Pakistan  
C. Iran  
D. Saudi Arabia  
Answer C
- 189) Steve Smith becomes second-fastest to score \_\_\_\_\_ Test centuries  
A. 30  
B. 25  
C. 35  
D. 40  
Answer B
- 190) \_\_\_\_\_ becomes second-fastest to score 25 Test centuries  
A. Steve Smith  
B. David Warner  
C. Aaron Finch  
D. Matthew Wade  
Answer A
- 191) What is the name of the higher education model by Rajasthan government  
A. RACE  
B. VIDYA  
C. RATION  
D. VIKRAM  
Answer A
- 192) What is the name of the program which is launched by Life Insurance Corporation of India  
A. Jeevan Amar  
B. Child Plan  
C. Alliaz Child Plan  
D. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana  
Answer A
- 193) Which state government unveiled 11,000 hotspots before the end of 2019  
A. Delhi  
B. TamilNadu  
C. Kerala  
D. Andhra Pradesh  
Answer A
- 194) Centre sets target to reduce HIV cases \_\_\_\_\_ per year  
A. 25,000  
B. 20,000  
C. 18,000  
D. 19,000  
Answer B
- 195) SpaceX Falcon 9 launched Israel's Amos \_\_\_\_\_ telecommunications satellite  
A. 12  
B. 17  
C. 16  
D. 14  
Answer B
- 196) India observes 77th anniversary of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. First World War  
B. Quit India movement  
C. Christmas Island Mutiny  
D. Royal Indian Navy Revolt  
Answer B
- 197) Which of the following is the 3D Smart Traffic Signal that has been launched in India for the first time?  
A. MK131 Traffic Light  
B. Intelights  
C. Traffic Light Control System  
D. AI traffic lights  
Answer B
- 198) In which State was the India's first 3D Smart Traffic Signal installed for the first time?  
A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Telangana  
D. Punjab  
Answer D
- 199) SBI has reduced the Marginal Cost based Lending Rate (MCLR) cut by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 15 bps  
B. 25 bps  
C. 30 bps  
D. 35 bps  
Answer A



- 200) What is the revised Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) for cash credit/overdraft customers?  
A.6.68% B.7%  
C.7.65% D.7.5%  
Answer C
- 201) When is the Delhi government's Citywide Wi-Fi project planned to be established?  
A.Jan 2020 B.Apr 2020  
C.Jun 2020 D.Sep 2020  
Answer D
- 202) Which scheme is launched to spread awareness about job opportunities in Hindi?  
A.Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)  
B.Pradhan Mantri Jeevan  
C.Jyoti Bima Yojana  
D.Rozgar Samachar  
Answer D
- 203) 223) India-Bangladesh home minister-level talks held in \_\_\_\_  
A.New Delhi B.Chennai  
C.Bangalore D.Hyderabad  
Answer A
- 204) \_\_\_\_\_ partners with NIOT for ocean wave electricity harnessing  
A.IIT Roorkee B.IIT Madras  
C.IIT Bombay D.IIT Bangalore  
Answer B
- 205) ADB approved USD 200 millions to improve road infrastructure in \_\_\_\_\_ districts of Maharashtra  
A.28 B.34  
C.28 D.25  
Answer B
- 206) Which bank joined with SBI Life Insurance and inked Bancassurance pact  
A.IDBI Bank B.State Bank of India  
C.Dena Bank D.Canara Bank  
Answer B
- 207) \_\_\_\_\_ launches 'Speed Dial - your partner for life' initiative on fourth 'Protection Day'  
A.United India Insurance Company Limited  
B.Max Life Insurance  
C.PNB MetLife India Insurance  
D.HDFC Standard Life Insurance  
Answer B
- 208) 228) \_\_\_\_\_ and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance ink pact  
A.State Bank of India B.Indian Bank  
C.Canara Bank D.RBL Bank  
Answer B
- 209) \_\_\_\_\_ plans to utilize its share under Indus Waters Treaty  
A.Indonesia B.Pakistan  
C.India D.Saudi Arabia  
Answer C
- 210) Who tops Forbes List Of Highest-Paid Sports Women?  
A.Serena Williams B.K L Rahul  
C.Virat Kohli D.Roger Federer  
Answer A
- 211) When International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples observed?  
A.August 9 B.September 16  
C.October 15 D.November 16  
Answer A
- 212) State Bank of India MD Dinesh Kumar Khara got an extension by \_\_\_\_\_ after a review of his performance  
A.4 years B.2 years  
C.5 years D.6 years  
Answer B
- 213) Who became the 1st player in T20 cricket history to claim a 7-wicket  
A.Pat Cummins B.Colin Ackermann  
C.Jason Holder D.Matt Henry  
Answer B
- 214) Tamil Book Oru Manidhan Oru Iyakkam Kalaignar Mu. Karunanidhi released by \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Naresh Kumar B.K Veeramani  
C.Rajesh Khanna D.Reshma Singh  
Answer B
- 215) NITI Aayog to launch the \_\_\_\_\_ of WTI Awards  
A.12th Edition B.4th Edition  
C.6th Edition D.8th Edition  
Answer B
- 216) \_\_\_\_\_ signs MoU with ISRO VSSC to promote space technology in state  
A.Odisha B.Kerala  
C.West Bengal D.Andhra Pradesh  
Answer B
- 217) \_\_\_\_\_ based startup Grexter Living acquires i2Stay  
A.Odisha B.Bengaluru  
C.TamilNadu D.Kerala  
Answer B
- 218) \_\_\_\_\_ retires from international cricket  
A.Steve Smith B.Aiden Markram  
C.Hashim Amla D.Quinton de Kock  
Answer C
- 219) \_\_\_\_\_ govt will launch Navodayam scheme  
A.TamilNadu B.Andhra Pradesh  
C.Bihar D.Kerala  
Answer B
- 220) When did the US and South Korea aligned with the security alliance?  
A.1950-53 B.1940-45  
C.1970-73 D.1964-67  
Answer A
- 221) Imran Khan is the \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Minister of Pakistan.  
A.20<sup>th</sup> B.24<sup>th</sup>  
C.22<sup>nd</sup> D.25<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 222) 252) Who is the Father of Indian Space programme?  
A.G. Madhavan Nair B.Vikram Sarabhai  
C.S. K. Shivakumar D.Abdul Kalam  
Answer B
- 223) 253) Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award was announced by ISRO for the \_\_\_\_\_ year birth anniversary celebrations of Vikram Sarabhai.  
A.75<sup>th</sup> B.85<sup>th</sup>  
C.100<sup>th</sup> D.150<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 224) Which of the following award is to be instituted by ISRO recognition to journalists?  
A.APJ Kalam Journalism Award B.Yuvika Journalism Award  
C.Space Science Journalism Award D.Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award  
Answer D
- 225) \_\_\_\_\_ electric buses sanctioned under FAME scheme  
A.7200 B.4568  
C.5595 D.6300  
Answer C
- 226) Where is India's first underwater train project to be implemented?  
A.Yamuna river B.Hugli river  
C.Kaveri river D.Ganges  
Answer B
- 227) 257) Indian Bank and \_\_\_\_\_ ink pact  
A.Life Insurance Corporation of India B.Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance  
C.Max Life Insurance D.HDFC Ergo Life Insurance  
Answer B
- 228) Iran unveiled \_\_\_\_\_ precision guided missiles  
A.6 B.3  
C.5 D.4  
Answer B
- 229) What scheme did the Odisha government launch for small savings?  
A.Odisha MSME Saving scheme B.Odisha NBFC small saving Scheme  
C.Odisha Small Savings Incentive Scheme  
D.None of these  
Answer C

- 230) 260) Which State has launched a small savings scheme to prevent people from transacting with suspicious non-banking private financial institutions?  
A. West Bengal B. Odisha  
C. Bihar D. Telangana  
Answer B
- 231) Which State topped the rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country?  
A. Assam B. Tripura  
C. Manipur D. Arunachal Pradesh  
Answer C
- 232) Which State is at the bottom rankings in Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices in the country?  
A. Kerala B. Maharashtra  
C. Bihar D. Uttarakhand  
Answer C
- 233) Centre sanctioned 5595 electric buses in 64 cities under the \_\_\_\_\_ scheme.  
A. Phase 1-Fame B. Phase 2-Fame  
C. Phase 3-Fame D. Phase 4-Fame  
Answer B
- 234) Which of the following scheme is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth?  
A. FAME B. RISE  
C. NPRT D. RUSA  
Answer A
- 235) Which of the following scheme is to promote the electric and hybrid vehicle technology to ensure the growth?  
A. FAME B. RISE  
C. NPRT D. RUSA  
Answer A
- 236) Which museum has entered the Asia Book of Records for becoming the most visited museum in India?  
A. Salar Jung Museum B. Cowasji Jehangir Hall  
C. Virasat-e-Khalsa museum D. Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum  
Answer C
- 237) Virasat-e-Khalsa museum is located in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Telangana B. Uttar Pradesh  
C. West Bengal D. Punjab  
Answer D
- 238) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards.  
A. 3<sup>rd</sup> B. 4<sup>th</sup>  
C. 5<sup>th</sup> D. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 239) Where was the 4th edition of the National Entrepreneurship Awards held?  
A. New Delhi B. Mumbai  
C. Kolkata D. Hyderabad  
Answer A
- 240) \_\_\_\_\_ has suspended the Archery Association of India (AAI).  
A. Board of Archery B. World Archery  
C. International Archery Association D. AAI is not suspended  
Answer B
- 241) Who wrote Listening, Learning and Leading book?  
A. Shri Suresh Menon B. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
C. Shri Vikram Sinha D. Shri Venkaiah Naidu  
Answer D
- 242) Which company launches its own Operating System Harmony OS?  
A. Nokia B. Huawei  
C. Samsung D. Apple  
Answer B
- 243) Who won gold in 65kg category at Tbilisi Grand Prix 2019  
A. Geeta Phogat B. Bajrang Punia  
C. Vinesh Bhogat D. Pooja Dhanda  
Answer B
- 244) \_\_\_\_\_ to be the first woman president of INSA  
A. Aparna Dutta Gupta B. Chandrima Shaha  
C. Anuradha Dube D. Bamji Mahtab Sohrab  
Answer B
- 245) For who India's agriculture ministry has launched a developmental equipment rental app for?  
A. Farmers B. Consumers  
C. School students D. None of these  
Answer A
- 246) When did the uber like mobile app for Indian farmers is expected to launch on?  
A. End of the August B. End of 2019  
C. End of the September D. None of these  
Answer A
- 247) Who inaugurates interstate portability in two clusters of states?  
A. Shri Arun Jaitley B. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan  
C. Shri Nitin Gadkari D. Shri Vikram Sharma  
Answer B
- 248) What is the one nation one ration card system has its able to buy \_\_\_\_\_ from ration shops in any part of the country at low cost .  
A. Food grains B. Money  
C. Free stove scheme D. None of these  
Answer A
- 249) Who inaugurate a scheme Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana for the farmers having farmlands?  
A. Shri Venkaiah Naidu B. Shri Raghubar das  
C. Shri Arvind Gejriwal D. None of these  
Answer A
- 250) How many crores did Jharkhand state government will spend for increasing the income of farmers in double by 2020?  
A. 2000 crores B. 1800 crores  
C. 2250 crores D. 2345 crores  
Answer C
- 251) Which company partnered with Reliance Jio to accelerate digital transformation in India  
A. Apple B. Samsung  
C. Nokia D. Microsoft  
Answer D
- 252) Two Day exhibition on DAE Technologies inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. New Delhi B. Chennai  
C. Hyderabad D. Secunderabad  
Answer A
- 253) \_\_\_\_\_ will remove Japan from preferred trade list  
A. China B. South Korea  
C. Australia D. North Korea  
Answer B
- 254) When is the International Youth Day observed?  
A. 5 August B. 8 August  
C. 15 August D. 12 August  
Answer D
- 255) When was the International Youth Day instituted?  
A. 1990 B. 1999  
C. 2008 D. 1987  
Answer B
- 256) What is the theme of the International Youth Day 2019?  
A. Transforming education B. Empower youth with education  
C. Youth skills for SDG D. Innovation and youth success  
Answer A
- 257) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports conferred the \_\_\_\_\_ on the International Youth Day.  
A. Youth Recognition Awards  
B. National Youth Awards  
C. National Awards for Innovations and Creativity  
D. National Young Leaders Awards  
Answer B

- 258) Who is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports?  
A.Sadanand Gowda                      B.Dr. Harshvardhan  
C.Arvind Sawant                         D.Kiren Rijiju  
Answer D
- 259) Which of the following is a propulsive movement which will set a spacecraft on a trajectory to the moon?  
A.Propulsive-lunar injection            B.Cross-lunar injection  
C.Trans-lunar injection                 D.Hyperbolic-lunar injection  
Answer C
- 260) Chandrayaan-2 is expected to land on Moon on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.14 September                         B.7 September  
C.20 August                                D.24 August  
Answer B
- 261) Centre to start special hospitals with Indian Medicines in \_\_\_\_\_ districts  
A.190                                         B.150  
C.180                                         D.210  
Answer B
- 262) \_\_\_\_\_ and Microsoft partner to accelerate digital transformation in India  
A.Vodafone                                 B.Reliance Jio  
C.Airtel                                        D.Idea  
Answer B
- 263) Maharashtra seeks \_\_\_\_\_ crore as monetary assistance from the Centre  
A.Rs 4800                                  B.Rs 3000  
C.Rs 5600                                  D.Rs 6500  
Answer B
- 264) Who is the President of South Korea?  
A.Rhee Syngman                         B.Moon Jae-in  
C.Yun Posun                                 D.Chun Doo-hwan  
Answer B
- 265) ISRO to perform Trans lunar injection on Chandrayaan 2 on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.29 November                         B.20 August  
C.28 September                         D.19 October  
Answer B
- 266) Who won the championship in Canadian open Rogers cup 2019?  
A.Serena Williams                        B.Simona Halep  
C.Bianca Andreescu                       D.Maria Sharapova  
Answer C
- 267) Who won the Rogers Cup 2019 championship in mens division?  
A.Daniil Medvedev                        B.Rafael Nadal  
C.Marcel Granollers                       D.Horacio Zeballos  
Answer B
- 268) Where was the 2019 Rogers Cup held?  
A.Toronto                                  B.Montreal  
C.New York                                 D.Rochester  
Answer A
- 269) Who is the implementing body of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) health insurance scheme?  
A.Department of Health Research Authority  
B.Suraksha Authority  
C.Department of Health Insurance Authority  
D.National Health Authority  
Answer D
- 270) Which lake has set a new record of being the world's highest lake?  
A.Kajin sara                                B.Tilicho  
C.Phewa                                     D.Rara  
Answer A
- 271) Where is the Kajin sara lake located?  
A.India                                        B.China  
C.Bhutan                                     D.Nepal  
Answer D
- 272) \_\_\_\_\_ was the world's highest lake before the newly found Kajin sara.  
A.Chilka                                     B.Tilicho  
C.Kajin sara                                D.Dal  
Answer C
- 273) What is the capital of Nepal?  
A.Pokhara                                  B.Kathmandu  
C.Lalitpur                                  D.Nagarkot  
Answer B
- 274) Who is elected as the President of Guatemala country?  
A. Alejandro Giammattei                B. Sandra torres  
C. Otto Prez Molina                       D. Ivaro Colom  
Answer A
- 275) What is the Capital of Guatemala country?  
A.Mixco                                     B.Villa Nueva  
C.Petapa                                     D.Guatemala City  
Answer D
- 276) What is the Currency of Guatemala?  
A.Quetzal                                  B.Guatemala Pounds  
C.Shekel                                     D.Guatemala Dollar  
Answer A
- 277) Which union minister participated a delegation to Vladivostok, Russia  
A.Shri Suresh Prabhu                    B.Shri Piyush Goyal  
C.Shri Arun Jaitley                       D.Shri Dinesh Kumar  
Answer B
- 278) Which bank joined with BoB to link home loan product to RBIs repo rate?  
A.State Bank of India                    B.Canara Bank  
C.Dena Bank                                D.Corporation Bank  
Answer A
- 279) Which channel produced a patriotic song Watan?  
A.Times Now                                B.DoorDarshan  
C.CNN IBN                                 D.NDTV  
Answer B
- 280) Who is the first Indian chef to receive Chevalier de l'Ordre du Merite Agricoleto?  
A.Nita Mehta                                B.Priyam Chatterjee  
C.Kunal Kapoor                         D.Maneet Chahuan  
Answer B
- 281) GRSE launches \_\_\_\_\_ FPV for Coast Guard  
A.12<sup>th</sup>                                         B.5<sup>th</sup>  
C.8<sup>th</sup>                                         D.9<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 282) World Organ Donation day observed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.October 16                                B.August 13  
C.July 16                                     D.September 23  
Answer B
- 283) What is the name of the app which is launched by Central Government?  
A.MyGov                                     B.Swachh Nagar app  
C.OnlineRTI                                D.MEAIndia  
Answer B
- 284) Which bank joined with State Bank of India to link home loan product to RBIs repo rate  
A.Dena Bank                                B.Bank of Baroda  
C.Canara Bank                              D.Yes Bank  
Answer B
- 285) \_\_\_\_\_ gets first 3-D traffic signal  
A.New Delhi                                 B.Mohali  
C.Hyderabad                                D.Chennai  
Answer B
- 286) Which government launches E-Step, a programme for student entrepreneurs  
A.Andhra Pradesh                         B.Karnataka  
C.Kerala                                     D.Bihar  
Answer B
- 287) \_\_\_\_\_ New Delhi-San Francisco flight to fly over North Pole  
A.Kingfisher                                B.Air India  
C.Indian Airlines                         D.Jet Airways  
Answer B

- 288) \_\_\_\_\_ finally brings fingerprint authentication to Android beta users  
A.Whatsapp messenger B.Twitter  
C.Instagram D.Snapchat  
Answer A
- 289) Which bank to issue revised norms for housing finance companies  
A.Reserve Bank of India B.Canara Bank  
C.Dena Bank D.Vijaya Bank  
Answer A
- 290) Who got appointed in AAAs Athletes Commission  
A.Seetha Suresh B.P.T. Usha  
C.Nithya Suresh D.Vikram Sharma  
Answer B
- 291) Who is the first Indian to claim a World Title in Motorsports  
A.PT Usha B.Aishwarya Pissay  
C.Nithya Suresh D.Seetha Sharma  
Answer B
- 292) Mohali gets first \_\_ traffic signal  
A.2 D B.3 D  
C.5 D D.4 D  
Answer B
- 293) BCI imposed \_\_\_ ban on opening new law colleges  
A.2 years B.3 years  
C.6 years D.4 years  
Answer B
- 294) Centre introduces a partial guarantee scheme for \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.NBFCs B.HFCs  
C.Fintech companies D.Both A&B  
Answer D
- 295) As per the partial guarantee scheme, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) will provide government guarantee of up to \_\_\_\_\_ of the fair value of assets.  
A.10% B.20%  
C.35% D.50%  
Answer A
- 296) Jamia Millia Islamia is to unveil a model of \_\_\_\_\_ on 15 August.  
A.INS Vikranth B.INS Garuda  
C.INS Kolkata D.INS Kirpan  
Answer C
- 297) Where is the Jamia Millia Islamia University located?  
A.New Delhi B.Kolkata  
C.Cochin D.Chennai  
Answer A
- 298) What is the cost of the steel model of INS Kolkata?  
A.Rs.7 lakh B.Rs.15 lakh  
C.Rs.12 lakh D.Rs.20 lakh  
Answer C
- 299) Who is the first Indian to claim the FIM World Cup 2019?  
A.Alisha Abdullah B.Sapna Choudary  
C.Sonia Jain D.Aishwarya Pissay  
Answer D
- 300) Where was the FIM World Cup 2019 held?  
A.Hungary B.Dubai  
C.Spain D.Portugal  
Answer A
- 301) \_\_\_\_\_ app was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to track the waste-collection vehicle.  
A.Swachh GeM app B.Swachh e-Clean app  
C.Swachh SBM-U app D.Swachh Nagar app  
Answer D
- 302) What is the theme of the Swachh Survekshan 2020?  
A.ODF++ goals B.Cleanliness is Our Right  
C.Clean India 2020 D.None of the above  
Answer B
- 303) Which Ministry launched Swachh Nagar app?  
A.Ministry of Textiles B.Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
C.Ministry of Jal Shakti D.Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Answer D
- 304) Which State won the Best innovation and initiative leadership award 2019?  
A.Maharashtra B.kerala  
C.Rajasthan D.Gujarat  
Answer C
- 305) Where was the World Education Summit (WES) held?  
A.Kolkata B.Jaipur  
C.Itanagar D.New Delhi  
Answer D
- 306) Centre plans to institute a Motor Vehicle (MV) Accident Fund under \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2018  
B.Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019  
C.Motor Vehicles Act, 2017  
D.Motor Vehicles Act, 2016  
Answer B
- 307) The Motor Vehicle (MV) Accident Fund will be audited by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Solicitor General of India B.MV authority of India  
C.Ministry of Finance D.Comptroller and Auditor General  
Answer D
- 308) India celebrates \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Day of 15 August.  
A.172<sup>nd</sup> B.173<sup>rd</sup>  
C.174<sup>th</sup> D.None of these  
Answer B
- 309) Which of the following group sought for the partition of the country?  
A.Indian National Congress B.Bengal Province Party  
C.Swaraj Party D.Muslim League  
Answer D
- 310) What is the name of the event where the Indian flag will be hoisted in J&K in 73<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day of India for the first time?  
A.Jashn-ul-Fitr B.Jashn-e-Azad  
C.J&K-e-Fitr D.None of the above  
Answer B
- 311) When did the Civil Disobedience movement happen?  
A.1919 B.1924  
C.1927 D.1933  
Answer D
- 312) How many Police personnel were awarded the Union Home Minister Medal for Excellence in Investigation for the year 2018?  
A.259 B.341  
C.122 D.101  
Answer D
- 313) Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman is to be awarded \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Vir Chakra B.Param Vir Chakra  
C.Mahavir Chakra D.Ashoka Chakra  
Answer A
- 314) When did the Pulwama terror attack where 40 Indian CRPF jawans were killed happen?  
A.Jan 2019 B.Feb 2019  
C.March 2019 D.May 2019  
Answer B
- 315) Which orthodox tea variety was sold One kilogram at Rs.50,000 at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC)?  
A.Manohari Gold Tea B.Golden butterfly Tea  
C.Tata Gold Tea D.Maijan Golden Tea  
Answer A
- 316) Which tea at the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) was sold at Rs.75,000?  
A.Assam Black Gold Tea B.Golden butterfly Tea  
C.Order Gold Tea D.Guayaki Golden Tea  
Answer B
- 317) What is the name of the Japanese defense ship which visited Kochi  
A.USS Susquehanna B.JS Sazanami  
C.INS Arihant D.USS Missouri  
Answer B



- 318) Who was conferred with A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award?  
A.K Sivan B.Suresh Krishna  
C.K. Sridhar D.Nitya Anand  
Answer A
- 319) Who launched the Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2019 (SSG 2019)?  
A.Shri suresh kumar B.Shri Gajendra Singh  
C.Shri Dinesh Karthick D.Shri Suresh Yadav  
Answer B
- 320) Which union territory celebrated 1st Independence Day after being declared UT?  
A.Lakshadweep B.Ladakh  
C.Puducherry D.Daman and Diu  
Answer B
- 321) \_\_\_\_\_ BSF Officials Conferred with Medals on 73rd Independence Day  
A.95 B.56  
C.65 D.89  
Answer B
- 322) How many States signed a MoU with the Ministry of Textiles to offer skill training programmes in the textile industry?  
A.15 B.16  
C.18 D.14  
Answer B
- 323) Under which Scheme did 16 Indian States sign a MoU with the Ministry of Textiles?  
A.Samarth scheme B.PowerTex India Scheme  
C.Handicraft Scheme D.PORTAL scheme  
Answer A
- 324) National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Ministry of Environment to modify the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.National Carbon Emission Programme (NCEP)  
B.National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)  
C.Central Air Quality Monitoring Programme (CAQMP)  
D.National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAQMP)  
Answer B
- 325) NCAP has proposed to reduce national-level air pollution by 20-30% by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.2022 B.2024  
C.2026 D.2030  
Answer B
- 326) As per PM's announcement, which of the post is to be created in the defence?  
A.Secretary Defence B.Chief Adviser of Defence Staff  
C.Chief Secretary of Defence D.Chief of Defence Staff  
Answer D
- 327) Where is the Jung-E-Azadi memorial located?  
A.Gujarat B.Punjab  
C.Bihar D.Uttar Pradesh  
Answer B
- 328) Jung-E-Azadi memorial has been built in the memory of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Freedom fighters B.Treat of Panipet  
C.Muhammad bin Tughluq D.Hyder Ali  
Answer A
- 329) Who is the Chief Minister of Punjab?  
A.Yogi Adityanath B.Ashok Gehlot  
C.Nitish Kumar D.Amarinder Singh  
Answer D
- 330) What is the estimated cost of the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme?  
A.Rs.5 lakh crore B.Rs.8.5 lakh crore  
C.Rs.3.5 lakh crore D.Rs.6 lakh crore  
Answer C
- 331) Who to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019  
A.Bajrang Punia B.Virat Kohli  
C.Manoj Sarkar D.Viswanathan Anand  
Answer A
- 332) Online revenue payment system launched by CM of \_\_\_\_\_  
A.West Bengal B.Odisha  
C.Tamil Nadu D.Kerala  
Answer B
- 333) Which state government increases reservation for SC and OBC?  
A.West Bengal B.Bihar  
C.Chattisgarh D.Assam  
Answer C
- 334) TamilNadu awards people on various categories on the \_\_\_\_\_ Independence Day  
A.65<sup>th</sup> B.73<sup>rd</sup>  
C.85<sup>th</sup> D.95<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 335) Bajrang Punia to get \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Dronacharya Award B.Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award  
C.Dhyan Chand Award D.Arjuna Award  
Answer B
- 336) Who is the President of Brazil?  
A.Afonso Pena B.Jair Bolsonaro  
C.Delfim Moreira D.Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva  
Answer B
- 337) Who inaugurates Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences?  
A.Shri Ramesh Kumar B.Shri Arun Jaitley  
C.Shri Harsh Vardhan D.Shri Rajesh Sharma  
Answer C
- 338) \_\_\_\_\_Army International Scout Masters Competition Concludes at Jaisalmer Military Station with Indian Army Emerging as Champions  
A.11<sup>th</sup> B.5<sup>th</sup>  
C.8<sup>th</sup> D.9<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 339) Who is the Chairman of the committee which was set up to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009?  
A.Governor of RBI  
B.Deputy Governor of RBI  
C.Director General (Acquisition)  
D.Chief of Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)  
Answer C
- 340) Which country won historic gold at 2019 Junior Track World Cycling Championship  
A.Indonesia B.India  
C.Pakistan D.Saudi Arabia  
Answer B
- 341) CBSE conduct the \_\_\_\_\_ edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test  
A.16<sup>th</sup> B.13<sup>th</sup>  
C.15<sup>th</sup> D.18<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 342) \_\_\_\_\_ contributes \$1 million to UN fund  
A.Indonesia B.India  
C.USA D.Pakistan  
Answer B
- 343) When National Institute of Health and Family Welfare founded?  
A. 16th July 1963 B. 9th March 1977  
C. 16 June 1968 D. 15 May 1983  
Answer B
- 344) \_\_\_\_\_ awards people on various categories on the 73rd Independence Day  
A.Kerala B.TamilNadu  
C.West Bengal D.Bihar  
Answer B
- 345) \_\_\_\_\_Meeting Of BRICS Minister Of Environment Held In Sao Paulo, Brazil  
A.11<sup>th</sup> B.8<sup>th</sup>  
C.5<sup>th</sup> D.9<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 346) India contributes \_\_\_\_\_ to UN fund  
A. \$ 6 million B. \$ 1 million  
C. \$ 12 million D. \$ 8 million  
Answer B

- 347) India defeated \_\_\_\_\_ in the World Junior Track Cycling Championships 2019.  
A.Indonesia B.Australia  
C.Japan D.China  
Answer B
- 348) India suspends Thar Link Express to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Iran B.Pakistan  
C.Iraq D.Nepal  
Answer B
- 349) \_\_\_\_\_ conduct the 13th edition of Central Teacher Eligibility Test  
A.Matriculation Board B.CBSE  
C.NEET D.UGT  
Answer B
- 350) MoHUA to Organize \_\_\_\_\_ National Workshop Cum Exhibition on Sustainable Sanitation  
A.Six days B.One day  
C.Two Days D.Three days  
Answer B
- 351) Tirur betel vine, which recently got the GI Tag, is from \_\_\_\_\_ state.  
A.Manipur B.Kerala  
C.Assam D.Andhra Pradesh  
Answer B
- 352) Who inaugurated International Conference on Teacher Education?  
A.Shri Dinesh Gupta B.Shri Prakash Javedakar  
C.Shri Suresh Prabhu D.Shri Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank  
Answer D
- 353) What is the new name of Lucknow's iconic Hazratganj Chauraha ?  
A.British Residency B.Atal Chowk  
C.Chota Imambara D.Dilkusha Kothi  
Answer B
- 354) World Humanitarian Day is observed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.November 16 B.September 18  
C.August 19 D.October 17  
Answer C
- 355) Which country participation at WorldSkills International Competition as big as the Olympics?  
A.Indonesia B.India  
C.Pakistan D.Saudi Arabia  
Answer B
- 356) When is World Photography Day observed?  
A. 30<sup>th</sup> November B. 19<sup>th</sup> August  
C. 21<sup>st</sup> August D. 22<sup>nd</sup> October  
Answer B
- 357) Which country clinched gold at Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 in Kazakhstan?  
A.Indonesia B.India  
C.Pakistan D.Saudi Arabia  
Answer B
- 358) Bombay Gymkhana Youth Snooker 2019 Open title won by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Vikram Sharma B.S Shrikrishna  
C.Kreishh Gurbaxani D.Dinesh Gupta  
Answer C
- 359) Which state government launches School Fagadaba scheme  
A.Odisha B.Manipur  
C.Kerala D.TamilNadu  
Answer B
- 360) Where the Under- 12 Asian Tennis Team Championship 2019 held?  
A.Indonesia B.Kazakhstan  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Iran  
Answer B
- 361) Which Country is to host World Youth Chess Championship 2019?  
A.Japan B.India  
C.China D.Germany  
Answer B
- 362) What are the articles does the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution includes provisions for the administration of tribal areas?  
A.Articles 222(2a) and 245(D) B.Articles 245(2) and 262(1a)  
C.Articles 244(2) and 275(1) D.Articles 216(2b) and 256  
Answer C
- 363) \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule of the Indian Constitution makes provisions for the administration of tribal areas in four states namely Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.  
A.4<sup>th</sup> B.5<sup>th</sup>  
C.6<sup>th</sup> D.8<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 364) Ladakh seeks \_\_\_\_\_ status to protect their land, culture and identity.  
A.tribal-area B.restricted-area  
C.government-concerned D.it didn't seek any status  
Answer A
- 365) Centre has chosen \_\_\_\_\_ as the pension fund manager for the PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme.  
A.SBI B.ICICI  
C.LIC D.HDFC  
Answer C
- 366) Under Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan scheme, traders above 60 age will get \_\_\_\_\_ as monthly pension.  
A.Rs.2,000 B.Rs.3,000  
C.Rs.4,000 D.Rs.6,000  
Answer B
- 367) How much has the centre reserved for the PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme?  
A.Rs.2500 crore B.Rs.1250 crore  
C.Rs.900 crore D.Rs.750 crore  
Answer D
- 368) Which of the following is the pension scheme for small traders?  
A.PM Vyapari Samaaj penshan scheme  
B.PM Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan scheme  
C.PM Khula Vyapari penshan scheme  
D.None of these  
Answer B
- 369) PM Modi launched \_\_\_\_\_ in Bhutan to enhance the countries relationship in digital payments.  
A.Paytm B.RuPay  
C.PhonePe D.None of these  
Answer B
- 370) \_\_\_\_\_ and IITs and other top educational institutions of India are to collaborate for education and technology.  
A.Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan  
B.Royal Thimphu College  
C.Sherubtse College  
D.Royal Bhutan University  
Answer D
- 371) Which of the following hydroelectric power plant did PM Modi inaugurate during his visit to Bhutan?  
A.Basochhu hydropower Plant  
B.Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant  
C.Rangjung hydroelectric power plant  
D.Chenary hydroelectric power plant  
Answer B
- 372) The recently found fish species Glyptothorax gopii is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Assam B.Tripura  
C.Arunachal Pradesh D.Mizoram  
Answer D
- 373) Garra Simalbaraensis, the recently found new fish species is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Shimla B.J&K  
C.Himachal Pradesh D.Assam  
Answer C
- 374) Which team retain top-spot in ICC test rankings?  
A.England B.Australia  
C.Pakistan D.India  
Answer D
- 375) Who won JC Bose Fellowship for the year 2019?  
A.Suresh Sharma B.Dinesh Karthick  
C.Vikram Sharma D.K Thangaraj  
Answer D

- 376) Which country is the top emitter of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the world :Greenpeace Report  
A.Pakistan B.India  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Indonesia  
Answer B
- 377) Who became MCC Honorary Life member?  
A.David Warner B.Mitchell Johnson  
C.Aaron Finch D.Adama Zampa  
Answer B
- 378) Indian Railways planned for \_\_\_\_\_ stations to get 1000 Wi-Fi Spots  
A.3900 B.3000  
C.2500 D.2800  
Answer B
- 379) \_\_\_\_\_ aims to eliminate debit cards  
A.Canara Bank B.State Bank of India  
C.Dena Bank D.Reserve Bank of India  
Answer B
- 380) Sadbhavana Diwas observed on \_\_\_\_\_  
A.28 November B.20 August  
C.25 September D.26 October  
Answer B
- 381) Where is the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council located?  
A.Manipur B.Tripura  
C.Assam D.Meghalaya  
Answer C
- 382) Who is the Prime Minister of Pakistan?  
A.Imran Khan B.Mamnoon Hussain  
C.Farooq Leghari D.Muhammad Rafiq Tarar  
Answer A
- 383) Shavendra Silva appointed as Commander of the \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Iran Army B.Sri Lankan Army  
C.Indian Army D.South Africa Army  
Answer B
- 384) Chief scientist K Thangaraj of CCMB won JC Bose Fellowship for the year \_\_\_\_\_  
A.2016 B.2018  
C.2019 D.2017  
Answer C
- 385) Where is the Headquarters of State Bank of India?  
A.New Delhi B.Mumbai  
C.Chennai D.Hyderabad  
Answer B
- 386) Where is the headquarters of Indian railways  
A.Ranchi B.New Delhi  
C.Chennai D.Secunderabad  
Answer B
- 387) Who is the present minister of Indian Railways?  
A.Shri Piyush Goyal B.Shri Suresh prabhu  
C.Shri Prakash Javedakar D.Shri Suresh Sharma  
Answer A
- 388) India is to train the \_\_\_\_\_ civil services officers as per the agreement as per the MoU on Training and Capacity Building Programme.  
A.Maldivian B.Sri Lankan  
C.Chinese D.Nepalese  
Answer A
- 389) When did India sign a MoU with Maldives for Training and Capacity Building Programme?  
A.January 2018 B.May 2018  
C.December 2018 D.June 2019  
Answer D
- 390) What is the Capital of Maldives?  
A.Fuvahmulah B.Male  
C.Kulhudhuffushi D.Hithadhoo  
Answer B
- 391) Who is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka?  
A.Mangala Samaraweera B.Ranil Wickremesinghe  
C.Maithripala Sirisena D.Gotabhaya Rajapaksa  
Answer B
- 392) Who hands over design of Mobile Metallic Rampto Indian Army  
A.Jet Airways B.DRDO  
C.Indian Army D.Indian Navy  
Answer B
- 393) Who is the Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia  
A.Muqrin bin Abdulaziz B.Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
C.Mohammad bin Salman D.Ibn Saud  
Answer B
- 394) IIT-Delhi student formulated a kind of reusable sanitary napkins made from composite \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.banana fiber B.apple fiber  
C.strawberries fiber D.orange fiber  
Answer A
- 395) Which Country boycotted the 19th SAARC summit which was supposed to be held in 2016?  
A.Pakistan B.India  
C.Sri Lanka D.Nepal  
Answer B
- 396) When was the 18th SAARC summit held?  
A.2012 B.2014  
C.2016 D.2018  
Answer B
- 397) Where was the 18th SAARC summit held?  
A.Nepal B.Thailand  
C.Bangladesh D.Bhutan  
Answer A
- 398) Where is the headquarters of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) located?  
A.Columbo B.New Delhi  
C.Bangkok D.Kathmandu  
Answer D
- 399) When will the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session be held?  
A.September 2019 B.October 2019  
C.November 2019 D.December 2019  
Answer A
- 400) Which Country plans to hold SAARC Foreign Ministers informal meeting on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session?  
A.India B.Sri Lanka  
C.Thailand D.Nepal  
Answer D
- 401) Which of the following State was severely affected by the Cyclone Fani?  
A.Madhya Pradesh B.Odisha  
C.Tamil Nadu D.Karnataka  
Answer B
- 402) How much did the Centre release for the Odisha, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh as relief fund?  
A.Rs.3,650 crore B.Rs.5125.35 crore  
C.Rs.4432.10 crore D.Rs.3,842.75 crore  
Answer C
- 403) Babulal Gaur who passed away recently is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Singer B.Economist  
C.Entrepreneur D.Politician  
Answer D
- 404) Who to launch the book the Diary of Manu Gandhi in New Delhi?  
A.Shri Nitish Sharma B.Shri Prahlad Singh Patel  
C.Shri Vikram Sharma D.Shri Suresh Kumar  
Answer B
- 405) Who launches SARAL State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index?  
A.Shri Suresh Sharma B.Shri RK Singh  
C.Shri Vikram Singh D.Shri Dinesh gupta  
Answer B

- 406) India holds \_\_\_\_\_ Session of India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee in New Delhi  
A.16<sup>th</sup> B.12<sup>th</sup>  
C.9<sup>th</sup> D.11<sup>th</sup>  
Answer C
- 407) Housing for All will be achieved 2 years in advance by \_\_\_\_\_  
A.2030 B.2020  
C.2022 D.2025  
Answer B
- 408) Which company partners with IISc on robotics and 5G?  
A.Infosys B.Wipro  
C.Samsung D.Nokia  
Answer B
- 409) SEBI announces reward of \_\_\_\_\_ to insider trading informants  
A.8 crores B.1 crore  
C.5 crore D.6 crores  
Answer B
- 410) \_\_\_\_\_ commemorates first glacier lost due to climate change  
A.Iceland B.Greece  
C.Pakistan D.Saudi Arabia  
Answer A
- 411) Where was the one-day National Conference of Tourism Ministers held?  
A.Mumbai B.Shimla  
C.Itanagar D.New Delhi  
Answer D
- 412) The Ministry of Tourism & Culture is planning to launch the new Incredible India portal in \_\_\_\_\_ language/languages.  
A.Arabic B.Chinese  
C.Spanish D.All the above  
Answer D
- 413) How many categories of award will be given under the National sports awards 2019?  
A.3 B.4  
C.5 D.6  
Answer C
- 414) Who is the head of the National sports committee that judges the winners of the National sports awards 2019?  
A.Former Supreme Court judge Mukundakam Sharma (Retd)  
B.Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir  
C.Former Chief Justice of India P. Sathasivam  
D.Former Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph  
Answer A
- 415) The National sports awards 2019 will be given on the birth anniversary of \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Neville D'Souza B.Dhyan Chand  
C.Mohammed Salim D.Anil Kumar Prakas  
Answer B
- 416) When is the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand celebrated?  
A.August 16 B.September 15  
C.August 29 D.September 30  
Answer C
- 417) Who is appointed as the Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence?  
A.Dr.Ajay Kumar B.Shri Subhash Chandra  
C.Shri Sanjay Mitra D.Dr. Venu Gopal  
Answer A
- 418) Dr.Ajay Kumar will replace \_\_\_\_\_ as the Defence Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.  
A.Bharathi Hollikeri B.Parikipandla Narahari  
C.Shri Sanjay Mitra D.PS Pradyumna  
Answer C
- 419) Who is appointed as the Secretary of Defence Production by ACC?  
A.Surendra Kumar Solanki B.Poma Tudu  
C.Mir Mohamed Ali D.Shri Subhash Chandra  
Answer D
- 420) Who is appointed as the next Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years?  
A.Rajiv Gauba B.Ajay kumar  
C.Subash Venkat D.DC Rajappa  
Answer A
- 421) \_\_\_\_\_ to replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach  
A.Syed Abid Ali B.Vikram Rathour  
C.Brijesh Patel D.Gopal Bose  
Answer B
- 422) Which bank joined with BookMyForex for foreign exchange travel card?  
A.State Bank of India B.YES Bank  
C.Dena bank D.RBL Bank  
Answer B
- 423) \_\_\_\_\_ to launch e-commerce portal Bharatcraft for MSMEs  
A.India B.Pakistan  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Indonesia  
Answer A
- 424) Which company inaugurates its worlds largest campus in Hyderabad?  
A.Myntra B.Amazon  
C.Flipkart D.Jabong  
Answer B
- 425) Knight Frank ranks Delhi as the \_\_\_\_\_ fastest growing market globally  
A.6<sup>th</sup> B.10<sup>th</sup>  
C.8<sup>th</sup> D.9<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 426) \_\_\_\_\_ confirms Europa Clipper Mission  
A.Indian Institute of Chemical Technology  
B.NASA  
C.National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research  
D.Central Institute for Cotton Research institutions  
Answer B
- 427) WWF and \_\_\_\_\_ tie up with forest directorate to preserve Sundarbans  
A.NDTV B.Discovery  
C.Times Now D.News Bharathi  
Answer B
- 428) International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief observed on \_\_\_\_\_  
A.July 15 B.August 22  
C.September 25 D.October 15  
Answer B
- 429) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition observed on \_\_\_\_\_  
A.November 16 B.August 23  
C.September 25 D.October 26  
Answer B
- 430) RBI allows recurring transactions up to \_\_\_\_\_ on cards from Sep 1  
A.6800 B.2000  
C.5600 D.8500  
Answer B
- 431) When was the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) formed?  
A.1991 B.1995  
C.1997 D.1989  
Answer C
- 432) Where was the 2+2 intersessional and the Maritime Security Dialogue between India and the U.S. officials held?  
A.California B.Chicago  
C.Seattle D.San Francisco  
Answer A
- 433) When was the first 2+2 Dialogue was held?  
A.2015 B.2018  
C.2017 D.2016  
Answer B
- 434) Indian Government has opened \_\_\_\_\_ mountain peaks for mountaineering and trekking.  
A.137 B.145  
C.129 D.156  
Answer A



- 435) The 137 peaks that are opened for mountaineering and trekking are located in \_\_\_\_\_ states.  
A. J&K, Himachal Pradesh  
C. Assam, J&K  
B. Uttarakhand, Sikkim  
D. A and B  
Answer D
- 436) ASI has released an Iron Age settlement in the Vidarbha region. Where is Vidarbha located?  
A. Odisha  
C. Maharashtra  
B. Bihar  
D. Uttar Pradesh  
Answer C
- 437) The excavations from Phupgaon, by ASI, dates back to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 3rd C BCE and 2nd C BCE  
C. 6th C BCE and 3rd C BCE  
B. 7th C BCE and 4th C BCE  
D. 9th C BCE and 5th C BCE  
Answer B
- 438) Which Country has sent a humanoid robot to the International Space Station (ISS)?  
A. US  
C. Russia  
B. China  
D. Japan  
Answer C
- 439) What is the name of the humanoid robot that was sent to ISS by Russia?  
A. Travis  
C. Tracker  
B. Fedor  
D. Enchanteur  
Answer B
- 440) Which team VC discusses Rice Fortification Pilot Scheme  
A. NITI Aayog  
C. SEBI  
B. Income Tax Department  
D. Aadhaar  
Answer A
- 441) Which country signed MoUs with France to strengthen strategic ties in Key sectors  
A. India  
C. Pakistan  
B. Saudi Arabia  
D. Indonesia  
Answer A
- 442) Where is the Renovated ALIMCO Orthotics and Prosthetic Centre (AOPC) located?  
A. Karnataka  
C. Odisha  
B. Uttar Pradesh  
D. Telangana  
Answer B
- 443) Where is the headquarters of ALIMCO located?  
A. Maharashtra  
C. Punjab  
B. Gujarat  
D. Uttar Pradesh  
Answer D
- 444) Which Country has unveiled an indigenous long-range, surface-to-air missile air defense system?  
A. Iran  
C. US  
B. Russia  
D. Pakistan  
Answer A
- 445) Iran has unveiled the \_\_\_\_\_ system.  
A. Bavar-373  
C. Iran-245  
B. Bavar-432  
D. Ranger-575  
Answer A
- 446) Who is the President of Iran?  
A. Ali Khamenei  
C. Hassan Rouhani  
B. Mohammad Javad Zarif  
D. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad  
Answer C
- 447) Akshay Kumar takes \_\_\_\_\_ spot in Forbes highest paid actors list 2019  
A. 15<sup>th</sup>  
C. 9<sup>th</sup>  
B. 4<sup>th</sup>  
D. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Answer B
- 448) When is the Iran's National Defense Industry Day observed?  
A. 15 August  
C. 16 August  
B. 22 August  
D. 20 August  
Answer B
- 449) Which State topped the National Health Mission (NHM) ranking?  
A. Karnataka  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Bihar  
D. Rajasthan  
Answer D
- 450) Who released the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) in New Delhi?  
A. Ministry of Health and Human Welfare  
C. NITI Aayog  
B. Ministry of Jal Shakti  
D. Ministry of Finance  
Answer C
- 451) Where was the Homeland Security 2019 conference held?  
A. Mumbai  
C. Bhubaneswar  
B. New Delhi  
D. Ahmedabad  
Answer B
- 452) Who is the Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions?  
A. Prakash Javadekar  
C. Thawarchand Ghelot  
B. Dr. Jitendra Singh  
D. Piyush Goyal  
Answer B
- 453) International dialogue on South-South and Triangular Cooperation addressed by \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Shri Piyush Goyal  
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
B. Shri Prakash Javedkar  
D. Shri Rajnath Singh  
Answer A
- 454) Which place did India secured in the Henley Passport Index?  
A. 9  
C. 4  
B. 5  
D. 3  
Answer B
- 455) Who holds 'fruitful discussions' with UN chief Antonio Guterres?  
A. Shri Hamid Ansari  
C. Shri Prakash Javedkar  
B. Shri Narendra Modi  
D. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
Answer B
- 456) Which bank joined with standard Chartered for co-branded credit cards?  
A. Yes Bank  
C. Dena bank  
B. Bandhan Bank  
D. Corporation Bank  
Answer B
- 457) Which company to acquire a 49% stake in Kishore Biyani-led Future Coupons Ltd?  
A. Flipkart  
C. Snapdeal  
B. Amazon  
D. Myntra  
Answer B
- 458) Who launches heritage postal stamp of Bandra station?  
A. Shareena Kapoor  
C. Shah Rukh Khan  
B. Anil Kapoor  
D. Shahid Kapoor  
Answer B
- 459) Who inaugurated National Centre for Avian Ecotoxicology in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu  
A. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
C. Shri Rajnath Singh  
B. Shri Prakash Javadekar  
D. Shri Rajesh Sharma  
Answer B
- 460) Indian team won \_\_\_\_\_ Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019  
A. 7  
C. 5  
B. 2  
D. 6  
Answer B
- 461) Which Country honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with The Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen award?  
A. Iran  
C. Maldives  
B. UAE  
D. Bahrain  
Answer C
- 462) Who inaugurated the associate workplace of the Norka Roots at the underground station business building on the MG Road Metro Station, Kochi?  
A. PM Narendra Modi  
C. Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh  
B. Pinarayi Vijayan, CM of Kerala  
D. President Ram Nath Kovind  
Answer B
- 463) When was the Non-Resident Keralites Affairs NORKA was established?  
A. 1996  
C. 1985  
B. 1997  
D. 2000  
Answer A

- 464) Under which scheme of Kerala does the Norka-Roots spent Rs.25 crore in 2018 to provide financial support to NRKs returning to their native place?  
A.EMS Scheme  
B.Basic Service for the Urban poor scheme (BSUP)  
C.Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)  
D.Santhwana scheme  
Answer D
- 465) Who is the CEO of Bandhan Bank?  
A.Shyam Srinivasan  
B.Chandra Shekhar Ghosh  
C.Samit Ghosh  
D.Rana Kapoor  
Answer B
- 466) How many Gold medal in World Archery Youth Championship 2019?  
A.2  
B.5  
C.6  
D.8  
Answer A
- 467) Which country topped the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0)?  
A.Uttar Pradesh  
B.Chhatisgarhh  
C.Telangana  
D.Gujarat  
Answer D
- 468) Which Union Territory stands first in the second Round of Composite Water Management Index (CWMI 2.0) among the UTs?  
A.Chandigarh  
B.Puducherry  
C.Daman and Diu  
D.Delhi  
Answer B
- 469) Which among general states has topped under the theme incremental change in the CWMI 2.0 index?  
A.Madhya Pradesh  
B.West Bengal  
C.Haryana  
D.Punjab  
Answer C
- 470) Which among the northeastern and Himalayan states has topped under the theme incremental change in the CWMI 2.0 index?  
A.Assam  
B.Manipur  
C.Himachal Pradesh  
D.Uttarkhand  
Answer D
- 471) Which state topped the CWMI 2.0 report in water management?  
A.Tamil Nadu  
B.Gujarat  
C.Kerala  
D.Madhya Pradesh  
Answer B
- 472) Which union minister launches the commencement of work for 10th City Gas Distribution  
A.Shri Dharmendra Pradhan  
B.Shri Rajnath Singh  
C.Shri Suresh Sharma  
D.Shri Dinesh kumar  
Answer A
- 473) Where is the headquarters of IRCTC Located?  
A.Secunderabad  
B.New Delhi  
C.Chennai  
D.Hyderabad  
Answer B
- 474) ISRO to launch \_\_\_\_\_ in October or November.  
A.Cartosat-3  
B.Cartosat-2  
C.Cartosat-7  
D.Cartosat-5  
Answer A
- 475) What is the range of the resolution of CartoSat-3?  
A.65cm  
B.30cm  
C.25cm  
D.55cm  
Answer C
- 476) So far, ISRO has launched \_\_\_\_\_ Cartosats.  
A.2  
B.4  
C.5  
D.8  
Answer D
- 477) Centre plans to provide Wi-Fi to all villages under \_\_\_\_\_ initiative.  
A.GramNet  
B.Netpanchayat  
C.Wifitoall  
D.None of these  
Answer A
- 478) What will be the Wi-Fi connectivity range that will be given to all villages under GramNet initiative?  
A.10mbps to 1000 mbps  
B.10mbps to 200 mbps  
C.10mbps to 500 mbps  
D.10mbps to 100 mbps  
Answer D
- 479) \_\_\_\_\_ has announced that it is to provide 1 GBPS connectivity along with Centre's plan under the GramNet initiative?  
A.Vodafone  
B.Airtel  
C.BharatNet  
D.Jio GigaFiber  
Answer C
- 480) Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya who passed away recently is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Politician  
B.Singer  
C.Astronaut  
D.Scientist  
Answer A
- 481) Who holds meeting with North-Eastern States, reviews power sector in the region?  
A.Shri Ram Vilas Paswan  
B.Shri Suresh Prabhu  
C.Shri Prakash Javedakar  
D.Shri Naresh Kumar  
Answer A
- 482) China and \_\_\_\_\_ began joint exercise Shaheen-VIII near Ladakh  
A.Indonesia  
B.Paksitan  
C.India  
D.South Africa  
Answer B
- 483) Which bank and Tata AIG General Insurance signed an MoU ?  
A.Canara Bank  
B.Indian Bank  
C.State Bank of India  
D.Dena Bank  
Answer B
- 484) Which life insurance and Indian Bank to offer a variety of general insurance products?  
A.Life Insurance Corporation of India  
B.Tata AIG General Insurance  
C.Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd.  
D.Aviva Life Insurance  
Answer B
- 485) IndTokyo launched to help Paralympians to look up accessible places in Tokyo during \_\_\_\_\_?  
A.2020 Paralympics Games  
B.2019 Paralympics Games  
C.2022 Paralympics Games  
D.2021 Paralympics Games  
Answer A
- 486) \_\_\_\_\_ and Pakistan began joint exercise Shaheen-VIII near Ladakh  
A.Saudi Arabia  
B.China  
C.Indonesia  
D.Ireland  
Answer B
- 487) Who is to be honoured with UEFA President Award?  
A.Eric Cantona  
B.Guy Roux  
C.Bobby Robson  
D.Paolo Maldini  
Answer A
- 488) Which company to train 5000 govt employees on AI cloud?  
A.Samsung  
B.Microsoft  
C.Apple  
D.Vivo  
Answer B
- 489) Where is the headquarters of Indian Bank?  
A.Ranchi  
B.Chennai  
C.Bangalore  
D.Ahmedabad  
Answer B
- 490) Who is the present CEO of Microsoft ?  
A.Satya Nadella  
B.Paul Allen  
C.Indra Nooyi  
D.Larry Page  
Answer A
- 491) For which purpose Janaushadhi Sugam launched?  
A.locating outlets and searching Generic medicine  
B.Forest Fire  
C.Topical medicines  
D.Inhalers  
Answer A
- 492) Who launched a mobile application Janaushadhi Sugam and Jan Aushadhi Suvridha Oxo-Biodegradable hygienical Napkin at just one Rupee per pad?  
A.D.V. Sadananda Gowda  
B.Nitin Gadkari  
C.Amit shah  
D.Piyush Goyal  
Answer A

- 493) When did the Government of India first launch the Jan Aushadhi Suvidha Oxo-Biodegradable hygienical Napkin at pair of Rs.50?  
A.June 4 2018 B.June 5 2019  
C.July 4 2019 D.August 6 2019  
Answer A
- 494) Who is the Present Home Minister of India?  
A.Shri Rajnath Singh B.Shri Amit Shah  
C.Shri Nirmala Sitharaman D.Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey  
Answer B
- 495) Union atmosphere Minister Prakash Javadekar declared a project on India can restore \_\_\_\_\_ hectare land.  
A.50 lakh B.20 lakh  
C.30 lakh D.100 lakh  
Answer A
- 496) Ministry of Earth Sciences has planned to declared a project on India can restore 50lakh hectare land by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.2024 B.2030  
C.2032 D.2026  
Answer B
- 497) Which Country is hosting the COP-14 United Nations Convention to Combat geologic process (UNCCD)?  
A.Brazil B.Singapore  
C.India D.Italy  
Answer C
- 498) What are the 5 pilot states that are under the forest landscape restoration (FLR) challenge?  
A.Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Assam, Manipur and Madhya Pradesh  
B.Karanata, Telangana, Punjab, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh  
C.Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam  
D.Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka  
Answer D
- 499) The Conference of Parties-14 has been scheduled to happen in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.August 2019 B.September 2019  
C.October 2019 D.November 2019  
Answer B
- 500) Who released the India child well being index 2019?  
A.World Vision India B.NITI Aayog  
C.IFMR LEAD D.A and C  
Answer D
- 501) Which union minister meets Australian Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Senator Matthew Canavan?  
A.Shri Rajesh Sharma B.Shri Sunil Kumar  
C.Shri Dharmendra Pradhan D.Shri Vikram Sharma  
Answer C
- 502) Which country Launches Worlds First Ever Facial Biometric Data Based Seafarer Identity Document?  
A.Paksitan B.India  
C.Saudi Arabia D.Indonesia  
Answer B
- 503) Who launches Integrated Online junction for School Education Shagun  
A.Shri Suresh Prabhu B.Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal  
C.Shri Nitish Kumar D.Shri Vivek Sharma  
Answer B
- 504) Which IIT signs MoU with RD Grow Green India for safer drinking water  
A.IIT Roorkee B.IIT Guwahati  
C.IIT Madras D.IIT Pune  
Answer B
- 505) Fintech startup based in Bangalore MoneyTap provides lifetime credit of up to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.5 lakhs B.8 lakhs  
C.6 lakhs D.9 lakhs  
Answer A
- 506) Where was the Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence conference 2019 held?  
A.Thailand B.India  
C.Dubai D.Sri Lanka  
Answer A
- 507) When was India-Thailand defence Cooperation initiated?  
A.2000 B.2003  
C.2018 D.1990  
Answer B
- 508) Who is the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution?  
A.Nirmala Seetharam B.Amit shah  
C.Ram Vilas Paswan D.Smriti Irani  
Answer C
- 509) Centre has prepared guidelines for the nationwide distribution of \_\_\_\_\_ through ration outlets.  
A.Fortified wheat B.Fortified Rice  
C.Fortified Millets D.Fortified Pulses  
Answer B
- 510) Under the scheme on the Fortification of Rice and its Distribution beneath the Public Distribution System, rice is to be fortified with \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Iron B.Folacin  
C.Vitamin B-12 D.All of the above  
Answer D
- 511) Forbes ranks singer Taylor Swift as the highest paid woman in music for the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.2017 B.2018  
C.2019 D.2016  
Answer C
- 512) Which company signed MoU with IIT Guwahati for safer drinking water?  
A.Reliance Industries B.RD Grow Green India  
C.Ashok Leyland D.Larsen and Turbo Limited  
Answer B
- 513) Union Government mulling \_\_\_\_\_ funding to Northeast gas grid  
A.Rs 9,600 crores B.Rs 5,400 crores  
C.Rs 6,500 crores D.Rs 8,600 crores  
Answer B
- 514) RDSO organizes Mega trafficker Meet in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A.Pune B.Lucknow  
C.Bihar D.Himachal Pradesh  
Answer B
- 515) Where is the headquarters of Fintech Company?  
A.Bihar B.Chennai  
C.Hyderabad D.Mumbai  
Answer B
- 516) Where is the headquarters of MoneyTap?  
A.Chennai B.Bengaluru  
C.Pune D.Patna  
Answer B
- 517) Who was launching a new scheme Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to combat cybercrime in the country?  
A.Ministry of Home affairs B.Ministry of Communications and IT  
C.Ministry of Technical Security D.Ministry of Science and Research  
Answer A
- 518) Where was the twelfth India Security Summit held?  
A.Lucknow B.Jaipur  
C.New Delhi D.Mumbai  
Answer C
- 519) What is the theme of the twelfth India Security Summit?  
A.Protecting identity of an entity  
B.New National Cyber Security Strategy  
C.Phishing under Security  
D.Good security increases shareholder value  
Answer B
- 520) What is the name of the mobile app developed by Five Indian women that connect kids at orphanages with old-age homes?  
A.Jai shovan B.Prathan Ladki  
C.Connect the world D.Maitri  
Answer D
- 521) Who to present Yoga Awards and release 12 AYUSH Commemorative Postal Stamps?  
A.Shri Rajnath Singh B.Shri Narendra Modi  
C.Shri Vikram Sharma D.Shri Dinesh Karthick  
Answer B

- 522) Peacock Parachute Spider was sighted in \_\_\_\_\_  
A.Andhra Pradesh                      B.Tamil Nadu  
C.Kerala                                      D.West Bengal  
Answer B
- 523) India First Sky Cycling Park At a Height of \_\_\_\_Feet In Manali to Open Soon  
A.6500                                      B.9000  
C.8500                                      D.7800  
Answer B
- 524) India First Sky Cycling Park At a Height of \_\_\_\_\_ Feet In Manali to Open Soon  
A.6900                                      B.9000  
C.6800                                      D.8500  
Answer B
- 525) How many states received a fund for offsetting conversion inexperienced activities with a bar of fire, diversity management, and conservation works?  
A.23                                      B.24  
C.26                                      D.27  
Answer D
- 526) The Environment Ministry released \_\_\_\_\_ to 27 states for compensatory afforestation.  
A.Rs.30,000 crore                      B.Rs.24,000 crore  
C.Rs.47,000 crore                      D.Rs.18,000 crore  
Answer C
- 527) How much did the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approve to sugar mills for the sugar season 2019-20?  
A.Rs.10,448 crore                      B.Rs.13,000 crore  
C.Rs.32,456 crore                      D.Rs.24,456 crore  
Answer A
- 528) Who launched the nation-wide Fit India Movement?  
A.President                      B.Prime minister  
C.Governor of J&K                      D.Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs  
Answer B
- 529) Where was the nation-wide Fit India Movement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched?  
A.New Delhi                      B.Mumbai  
C.Jaipur                      D.Hyderabad  
Answer A
- 530) Which species was discovered by researchers in the Pakkamalai Reserve Forests?  
A.Peacock Parachute Spider                      B.Pulikulam Cattle  
C.Cnemaspis Kolhapurensis                      D.Bugun Liocichla  
Answer A
- 531) When is the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed?  
A.25 August                      B.26 August  
C.29 August                      D.30 August  
Answer D
- 532) When was the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances observed for the first time?  
A.1989                      B.1991  
C.2008                      D.2011  
Answer D