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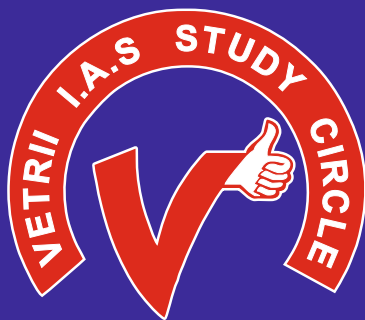
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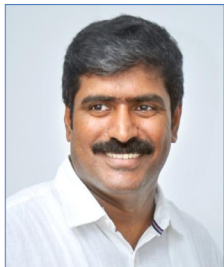
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www.vetriias.com

E-Mail: vetriias@gmail.com / vetriias2011@gmail.com / vetriias2018@gmail.com

Feedback: vetriiasmaterials@gmail.com

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1.1 Important Days

DATE	DAY	THEME
28-7-2019	CRPF MARKS 81 ST RAISING DAY	It is India's largest central Armed Police force.
1 to 7 - 8 2019	WORLD BREAST FEEDING WEEK	Theme 2019 - Empower parents, enable breast feeding
6-8-2019	HIROSHIMA DAY 2019	It is the day when in 1945 an atomic bomb was dropped in the city of Hiroshima, Japan.
7-8-2019	NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY	The celebration of the day seeks to highlight the contribution of handloom to the socio economic development of the country
8-8-2019	QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT DAY	It is also known as August Movement or August Kranti.
9-8-2019	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	Theme 2019 - 'Indigenous Languages'.
10-8-2019	WORLD BIOFUEL DAY CELEBRATED	"Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)".
12-8-2019	INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY	"Transforming education"
12-8-2019	WORLD ELEPHANT DAY	If dedicated to preservation and protection of world's elephant
12-8-2019	VIKRAM SARABHAI'S 100 TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY	He is the father of Indian space Program.
13-8-2019	WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY	This day strives to motivate people to donate their healthy and previous organs after death.

15-8-2019	73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY	After being ruled by the British for years, India finally gained its hard-fought Independence on August 15, 1947.
15-8-2019	WORLD SANSKRIT DIWAS	It's one of the six classical language in India.
15-8-2019	BANGLADESH'S NATIONAL MOURNING DAY	The neighbouring country Bangladesh, which was part of India before partition in 1947, observes August 15 as its National Mourning Day.
19-8-2019	WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY	First Selfie of the World : It was early months of 1839 when American photo enthusiast Robert Cornelius clicked a selfie.
19-8-2019	WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY	'Women Humanitarians'.
AUGUST	CELEBRATE SEPTEMBER AS MONTH OF NUTRITION: PM MODI	Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced to celebrate September 2019 as a month of nutrition. The announcement was made in Mann Ki Baat programe
20-8-2019	SADBHAVANA DIVAS OR HARMONY DAY	Sadbhavana Diwas (harmony day) is celebrated commemorating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister (PM) Rajiv Gandhi.
20-8-2019	WORLD MOSQUITO DAY	This day is a honor of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's ground breaking discovery in 1897 that female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans.
21-8-2019	WORLD SENIOR CITIZEN DAY	The Journey to Age Equality
22-8-2019	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR VICTIMS OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF	It aims to honor the victims and survivors of disgraceful acts who often remain forgotten.
25-8-2019	NATIONAL EYE DONATION FORT NIGHT	It is celebrated 25th of August to the 8th of September to increase the awareness of the Eye Donation in the India
26-8-2019	WORLD DOG DAY	-

1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

CENTRE HAS APPROVED DEEP OCEAN MISSION

- Centre has approved the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences' Deep Ocean Mission (DOM). The project plans to explore the deepest recesses of the ocean. It is a **five year** project. The cost estimated for the project is **Rs.8,000 crore**.
- DOM will commence from October 31, 2019. A blueprint of the program was unveiled by the Ministry last July.
- One of the proposals is **offshore desalination plant** that will work with tidal energy. The projects also proposes to develop a **submersible vehicle** that can go to a depth of at least 6,000 metres with three people on board.

Aim :

- The main objective of the mission is to explore the deep ocean. The mission aims to look for metals and minerals.
- India has been allotted a site of 75,000 sq. km. in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB)** by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploitation of **polymetallic nodules (PMN)**.

IRAN LAUNCHED 3 NEW PRECISION-GUIDED MISSILES "YASIN", "BALABAN" & "GHAEM"

- Iran unveiled three precision-guided missiles "**Yasin**", "**Balaban**" and a new series of "**Ghaem**" in Tehran. The air-to-air missiles were developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence of Iran and Sa Iran, also known as Iran Electronics Industries.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES FLOATING NUCLEAR REACTOR IN ARCTIC

- Russia launched the **world's first floating nuclear reactor**. The vessel weighs **21,000 tons** and has two reactors with a capacity of **35 megawatts** each.
- This reactor loaded with nuclear fuel, the **Akademik Lomonosov** left the Arctic port of Murmansk to begin its 5,000 kilometres (3,000-mile) voyage to Pevek in northeastern Siberia.

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 dilution of the provisions of **Article 370** and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Key Words

'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.

U.S. COAST GUARD EXPANDED ITS OPERATIONS IN WESTERN PACIFIC

- The **Coast Guard** discussed on providing Military Training Assistance and Law Enforcement training teams.
- The operation is a 30-day deployment of a 225-foot Juniper-class buoy tender and the **Fast Response Cutter USCGC Joseph Gerczak (WPC-1126)** to partner with Pacific island nations.
- The exercise, **Stratton** will head to India to conduct port visits and engagements and then move on to the Pacific islands.

CABINET APPROVES ISRO TECHNICAL LIAISON UNIT AT MOSCOW

- Cabinet has given nod to the setting up of **ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU)** at **Moscow in Russia**.
- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** recited, the unit will collaborate with Space agencies and industries in Russia and neighbouring countries for mutually synergetic outcomes.

FIRST PILOT OF IAF TO PERFORM WINGSUIT SKYDIVE JUMP

- Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander **Tarun Chaudhri** created history by becoming the first pilot to perform a **wingsuit skydive jump**. He jumped **8500 feet** from the Mi-17 V5 helicopter at Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan during the Kargil Diwas day celebrations.

Key Words

1. This is the first time when a pilot of the IAF jumped the wingsuit skydive with the same helicopter, which he has just flown.
2. Mi-17 V5: It is a military transport variant, equipped with modern avionics and glass cockpit instrumentation.

About IAF:

- **Founded:** 8 October 1932 | **Headquarters:** New Delhi

NEW PANEL TO REVIEW POLICY ON DEFENCE ACQUISITIONS

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has approved setting up of a committee to review the current policy of acquisition of weapons for defence forces in view of new security challenges.
- The committee will be constituted at a time when defence forces have been complaining of delay in getting modern weapons due to procedure delays and neighbouring country China massively expanding its military, Navy and Air Force.
- The committee under **Director General (Acquisition)** Apurva chandra will revise the procedures to ensure that forces get weapons seamlessly and to ensure life cycle support for the acquired weapon system.
- The committee has been set as **Defence Procurement Procedure 2016** was due for revision. The committee will get six months to submit its recommendations.

INDIA CONDUCTED 1ST EVER SIMULATED SPACE WAR EXERCISE, "INDSPACEEX"

- The three armed forces of India (Army, Navy, and Air Force) conducted 1st ever simulated space warfare exercise called "IndSpaceEx" on July 25, 26, 2019. The 2-day exercise aims to assess requisite space and counter-space capabilities that are needed by India. It will also help India to better grasp strategic challenges in space that need to be handled.



Key points :

- **IndSpaceEx:** It code-named as 'table-top war-game' with DRDO(Defence Research and Development Organisation), academia and think tanks took part in it. It helps to assess capabilities India needs to ensure that it can protect its space assets. It will also help to better understand possible challenges in space warfare and a major threat to India's national security interest.

ASAT:

- Anti Satellite(A-Sat) Weapon has a capacity to incapacitate or destroy satellites for strategic military purposes. Only the United States, Russia, China, and India have demonstrated this capability successfully. ASATs are of two types, Kinetic and Non-Kinetic.

UNDERWATER MILITARY VEHICLES MUSEUM

- **Jordan** has unveiled its 1st Underwater Military Museum on the bed of **Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba**.
- The Museum features 19 decommissioned pieces of military hardware, submerged at depths up to **92 feet**.
- This unique tourism experience is expected to attract more tourists to the already popular **Aqaba diving resort**.

Key Words

About Red Sea

- ▶ The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- ▶ It is designated as a Global 200 eco-region by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature).
- ▶ Over half of the eco-regions in the Global 200 are rated endangered.

INDIA WILL NOW HAVE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

- In a major announcement for the three armed forces of **India**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced that the country will now have a post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** that will integrate the operations of the three forces the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.
- Prime Minister Modi said the armed forces are pride of every India. He said in the changing time, there is a need for the forces to sharpen coordination.

DRDO HANDS OVER DESIGN OF MOBILE METALLIC RAMP TO ARMY

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the design of **Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR)** to the Indian Army at an event held at DRDO Bhawan here.

Key Words

About Mobile Metallic Ramp

- With load bearing capacity of 70 metric ton (MT), the MMR has been designed and developed by DRDO's premier research laboratory, **Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)** on the requirements projected by Army for reducing the Strategic Mobility time of mobilizing Armoured Fighting Vehicles.
- The ramp will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army. It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.



MODI IN SPECIAL EPISODE OF 'MAN VS WILD'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to appear on the popular show, **'Man vs Wild'** at 9 pm on **August 12**.

The show, hosted by adventurer **Bear Grylls**, will be showcased in more than **180 countries** across the world on **Discovery network channels**.

It has been shot in **Jim Corbett National park, Uttarakhand**.

14TH EDITION OF KONKAN-19 BILATERAL EXERCISE

- The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, **INS Tarkash**, participated in the **14th Edition** of **KONKAN-19** series of annual bilateral exercises between **Indian Navy** and **Royal Navy of Britain** off the **South Coast** of the **United Kingdom (UK)**.

Key Words

- It exercised with the Royal Navy's **Daring Class Destroyer, HMS Defender** with integral helicopter **Wildcat**.
- KONKAN-19** involved **Gunnery Shoots, Manoeuvres, Cross Deck Flying, ASW Screening** and **Air Defence** exercise.
- The thrust of the **KONKAN-19** was on **Anti-Air Warfare, Anti-Surface Warfare, Flying Operations** and **Seamanship Evolutions** of varying complexities.

About Indian Navy:

- Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral **Karambir Singh**
- Navy Day:** 4th December
- Motto:** **Sham No Varunah** (May the Lord of the water be auspicious unto us)

1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

5TH DHARMA-DHAMMA CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN RAJGIR, BIHAR

- 5th International Dharma-Dhamma conference is being held Rajgir International Convention Centre in Rajgir, Bihar from 27-28 July 2019. The conference was inaugurated Union Minister of State Kiren Rijiju who is also the Chief Guest of Conference. It is being hosted by Rajgir for 2nd time.

About 5th International Dharma-Dhamma conference

- **Objective:** To address people about terror, violence and global warming prevalent in world. The 2-day conference also addresses subjects of **Sat-Chit-Ananda and Nirvana Dharma-Dhamma Tradition** which are pivotal topics of Buddhism.
- **Organised by:** Nalanda University (NU) in collaboration with New Delhi's Centre for study of Religion and Society-India Foundation (CSRS-IF).

INDIA MOVES UP 5 RANKS TO BECOME 52ND MOST INNOVATIVE COUNTRY

- India has improved its ranking on the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019** to reach the **52nd position**, up five places since last year's rankings.
- The country has improved "in four of the seven GII pillars", namely Institutions, Human capital and research, Infrastructure Market sophistication, Business sophistication, Knowledge and technology outputs and Creative outputs.
- In the past five years, India has steadily moved up the charts from rank **81 in 2015**.



FORMER CRICKETER VB CHANDRASHEKHAR DEAD

- Former India opener and national selector **V.B. Chandrasekhar** passed away.

G7 CONFERENCE

- President Donald Trump expressed his support for reinstating Russia into the G7 and French President Emmanuel Macron has agreed with the President that Russia should be invited to the G7 conference in 2020.

Key Words

About G7 Conference:

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** is a group consisting of **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. These countries, with the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world, represent 58% of the global net wealth.
- The G7 countries also represent more than **46%** of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than **32%** of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity.

INDIA IS THE 46TH HIGHEST RISK COUNTRY IN THE WORLD: WATER STRESS INDEX

- According to the **Water Stress Index**, formulated by London-based risk analytics firm **Verisk Maplecroft**, India is the 46th highest risk country in the world.
- It measured the water consumption rates of households, industries and farm sectors and the available resources in rivers, lakes and streams and plotted the index with projected population growth trends to rank the cities facing the biggest threat to their water resources. **Chennai** is the “tip of the iceberg” for India’s water stressed cities.

SANIA MIRZA WILL CO-CHAIR WEF’S INDIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2019



- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) will organize 2-day **India Economic Summit 2019** scheduled to be held in New Delhi from October 3 – 4, 2019 with the aim of promoting strong collaboration between South Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) nations. The theme of the event will be ‘**Innovating for India: Strengthening South Asia, Impacting the World**’.

Key Words

About WEF:

- ▶ **Formation:** January 1971
- ▶ **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- ▶ **Founder:** Klaus Schwab
- ▶ **Motto:** Committed to improving the state of the world

ISRO TO BUILD 2ND DEDICATED SATELLITE FOR NAVY

- The Navy will get its second dedicated communication-cum-surveillance satellite by 2022 to keep tabs on the critical Indian Ocean Region and network all its warships, submarines and aircraft with operational centres ashore.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Navy inked a Rs. 1589 crore contract last month for the new satellite called Gsat-7R, which will supplement the orbiting Gsat-7 or “**Rukmini**” geostationary naval satellite launched in August 2013.

THE INDIAN NAVY IS TO HOST NAVAL EXERCISE MILAN IN MARCH 2020 IN VIZAG

- The Indian Navy is to host the multilateral naval exercise named ‘**MILAN**’ at **Visakhapatnam** for the year 2020 in the month of March.

Key Words

1. **MILAN** is a biennial exercise which was first started in **1995**. Until last year the exercise was held at **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**.
2. For the first time, this exercise is to be conducted in the mainland of **ENC, Vishakhapatnam**.

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TEACHER EDUCATION BY NCTE HELD IN NEW DELHI

- A 2 day International Conference titled “**Journey of Teacher Education: Local to Global**” was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’** in New Delhi. It was organized by the **National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)** as part of the silver jubilee celebration of its establishment in 1995 (August 17).

Key Words

- Ministry of Human Resource Development will launch the world’s biggest project for teacher training named **NISHTHA** (National Initiative on School Teachers Head Holistic Advancement) on August 22, 2019.

About NCTE:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairperson:** Dr. Satbir Bedi, IAS

5TH MEETING OF BRICS MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT HELD IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

- 5th **BRICS Minister of Environment Meeting** held in **Sao Paulo, Brazil**, which was preceded by the 2-day meeting of BRICS Joint Working Group on Environment. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Prakash Javadekar**.

Key Words

About BRICS

- Acronym **BRICS**, refers to 5 major emerging economies include **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
- Originally as per term ‘BRIC’ coined in 2001 by then-chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Jim O’Neill, South Africa was not a part of this grouping. It joined in 2010 and thereafter these countries have been collectively referred to as BRICS nations.

S JAISHANKAR TO VISIT BANGKOK FOR EAST ASIA SUMMIT

- Foreign minister **S. Jaishankar** will travel to **Bangkok** for the **East Asia Summit (EAS)** and **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)** to be held amid heightened tensions prevailing between **China and Vietnam in the South China Sea** region following aggression by the Chinese coast guard.
- The visit will be an opportunity to discuss newly announced **ASEAN Outlook for Indo-Pacific** and explore synergy between the two sides on the Indo-Pacific construct.
- He is expected to underline India’s cardinal principle of freedom of navigation in seas and rules based international order.

MICROPLASTICS IN WATER: NO PROOF FOR IT'S HARMFUL

- Micro plastics are increasingly found in drinking water, but there is no evidence so far that this poses a risk to humans, according to a new assessment by the **World Health Organization**.
- United Nations body warned against complacency because more research is needed to fully understand how plastic spreads into the environment and works its way through human bodies.
- Plastic production has grown exponentially in recent decades and is predicted to double again by 2025.

ONE- FOURTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS FACING EXTREME WATER CRISIS

- The **World Resources Institute's (WRI)** President and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) **Andrew Steer** released report on **Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas** that about 17 countries in the world which holds a quarter of the earth's population is facing extremely high water crisis.
 - ▶ India is one among those 17 countries facing extremely high water stress.
 - ▶ All these countries are close to **"Day Zero"**.

Key Words

- The WRI ranked **189 countries** and their respective states and union territories based on water stress, drought risk and riverine flood risk.
- It is expected that by 2030 the number of cities in the extremely high stress category will increase to 45 with nearly 470 million people.
- **India's rank:** India is ranked at **13th** place among the top 17 countries. India has a population thrice more than that of the other 16 countries.

INDIA SIGNS UNISA; EXPERTS CALL FOR LOCAL LAWS SUPPORTING TREATY

- Indian Government has signed the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA)**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation** in 2018.
- The UN has authorized that the Convention will be open for signature in Singapore and will be known as the **"Singapore Convention on Mediation"**.
- The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements.

1.4 Eminent Persons

MOST INFLUENTIAL CHIEF

EXECUTIVES IN CEOWORLD

- Indian Public Sector nominated as Most Influential Chief Executives in the global ranking of **CEOWORLD Magazine's top 100**. More than 1,200 CEOs across 96 countries were evaluated, before arriving at the list.
- Walmart's CEO Douglas McMillon came first in the CEOWORLD magazine's global ranking of the best chief executives across all industries for 2019.
- 4 Executives from Indian Public Sector in top 100 are:
 - ▶ **Shri Sanjiv Singh**, Chairman, IndiaOil ranked 69th
 - ▶ **Shri Shashi Shanker**, CMD, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) ranked 77th
 - ▶ **Shri Rajnish Kumar**, Chairman, State Bank of India ranked 83th and
 - ▶ **Shri D Rajkumar**, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) ranked 94 in top 100 most most Influential Chief Executives.

WORLD'S HIGHEST-PAID FEMALE

ATHLETES

- **P V Sindhu** is the only athlete from the country to be named among the world's highest-paid female athletes by Forbes.
- Sindhu is tied for the **13th place in The Highest-Paid Female Athletes 2019** list released by Forbes.
- The list of the **World's top 15 female athletes** is topped by Williams, with total earnings of **USD 29.2 million**.

EDUCATIONIST RAJALAKSHMI

PARTHASARATHY NO MORE

- Eminent educationist **Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy**, founder of the **Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan (PSBB) Group of Schools**, died at a private hospital following a cardiac arrest.
- Popularly known as **Mrs YGP, Rajalakshmi** received the **Padma Shri in 2010** for her contribution to the field of education.



AKSHAY KUMAR WORLD'S 4TH

HIGHEST-PAID ACTOR

- The **'Mission Mangal'** actor is the only Indian in the top 10 on the Forbes list, that is topped by Dwayne Johnson.
- National Award-winning actor **Akshay Kumar** is the only Indian actor to have made it to the **Forbes Worlds Highest-Paid Actors Of 2019** list.
- According to the publication, the **'Mission Mangal'** star raked in \$65 million, to feature at the fourth spot on the list.
- The film, inspired by ISRO's Mars mission, recently became Kumar's biggest opener till date, crossing the Rs 100 crore mark in just 5 days.

TONI MORRISON, FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO WIN NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE, DIES AT 88

- Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, a pioneer and reigning giant of modern literature whose imaginative power in "Beloved," "Song of Solomon" and other works transformed American letters by dramatizing the pursuit of freedom within the boundaries of race, has died at age 88.



NETAJI'S PORTRAYAL IN GUMNAAMI

- The poster and teaser of the film Gumnaami, directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Srijit Mukherjee and produced by Shri Venkatesh Films (SVF). Gumnaami Baba was an ascetic who lived in Faizabad. Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav had set up a museum named after him.
- The belief held by many that Gumnaami Baba was Netaji is strongly refuted both by the Bose family and the AIFB.
- The film is based on the Novel of Mahanayak (1998) written by Vishwas Patil.

ONDIVEERAN

- To pay tributes to freedom fighter Ondiveeran on his 248th memorial day.
- The state government had constructed a memorial hall at Palayamkottai in memory of Ondiveeran after a demand from the members of the Arunthathiyar community.

INDIA'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER

SUSHMA SWARAJ DIES AT 67

- She was the external affairs minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet from 2014 to 2019.
- She actively opposed an emergency rule imposed in 1975 by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Congress party.



MAHATMA GANDHI'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AS 'COMMUNITY DAY'

- The railways will mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary as "Community Day", according to an action plan of the Railway Board that also includes "shramdaan" by officials and a special exhibition titled "From Mohan Das to Mahatma".
- Railways to observe 2nd October, 2019, as 'Community Day' wherein 'shramdaan' (voluntary labour) is to be done by railway. Special exhibition at the National Rail Museum for a week on journey 'From Mohan Das to Mahatma'.

FRANKY ZAPATA CROSSES THE ENGLISH CHANNEL ON JET- POWERED HOVERBOARD

- The five turbines on the former jet-ski champion's craft propel him at speeds of up to 190 kilometres (118 miles) an hour, powered by a backpack full of kerosene that can keep him airborne for around 10 minutes.

PT USHA GOT APPOINTED AS ASIAN ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION'S ATHLETES COMMISSION MEMBER

- Queen of Indian athletics, **PT Usha (Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha)** from Payyoli (Kerala) has appointed as one of the six members of the **Asian Athletics Association's (AAA) Athletes Commission**, in recognition of her outstanding achievements at the continental stage. This is the 2nd time she has been appointed a member of the Commission.

About AAA:

- It is the continental governing body for the sport of athletics in Asia, It organizes the Asian Championships in Athletics and other continental competitions
- Headquarter: **Bangkok, Thailand.** / President - Qatari Dahlan Jumaan al-Hamad

ARANGAL'S MICRO SCULPTOR AMAZES AGAIN

- Mattewada Ajay Kumar casts 10 freedom fighters in the eye of a needle
- Noted city-based micro sculptor **Mattewada Ajay Kumar** has rendered another tiny wonder, this time commemorating **India's 73rd Independence Day**.
- Mr. Kumar has created a near impossible was cast micro sculpture in the eye of a needle depicting miniature statues of 10 freedom fighters - **Chandra Shekar Azad, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Bhagat Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarojini Naidu.**

- **Mr. Kumar**, who has been featured in the Limca Book of Records five times, including portrayed. For instance, **Bhagat Singh** is seen holding a pistol in his right hand, and carrying the national flag in his left hand; and **Dr. Ambedkar** is seen holding a book in his left hand, with his raised right hand and index finger pointing forward.

PRIYAM CHATTERJEE BECOMES 1ST INDIAN CHEF TO WIN FRENCH HONOUR

- **Priyam Chatterjee** became the 1st Indian chef to be awarded the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricoleto' by the government of France to recognise his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India. Chatterjee is best known for revisiting the traditional dishes from his native state of West Bengal and giving it a French twist.
- '**Ordre du Mérite Agricole' (Order of Agricultural Merit)** is a distinction bestowed by the French Republic for outstanding contributions, to agriculture, agro-food industry and gastronomy.

1.5 Places in News

ABOUT 3600 YEARS OLD SITE FOUND

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) announced that a rural settlement had thrived at **Bharati Huda in Jalalpur village in Odisha's Cuttack** district, about 3600 years ago.
- **Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC)** discovered the age of the settlement after radiocarbon dating of charcoal samples found at the site.

FROM CHENNAI TO MUMBAI ON A SOLAR-POWERED TUK TUK

- A team of two will undertake a **1,500 km journey** from Chennai to Mumbai using a tuk tuk (a kind of three-wheeler auto used in **Thailand**), that has been converted into a solar-cum-electric vehicle by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.
- Their objective is to create awareness among the people on the need for moving towards a sustainable, electric and low-carbon future.
- The team was introduced to the students of the Stella Maris College. The meeting was organised by the **Australian Consulate-General, Chennai**.

2ND UDAY EXPRESS TO RUN BETWEEN VISAKHAPATNAM, VIJAYAWADA

- Indian Railways' 2nd **UDAY (Utkrisht Double Decker Air Conditioned Yatri) Express** will run between **Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada** to cater to busy route in East Coast Railway zone (ECoR), one of 18 railway zones of Indian Railways. The 1st double-decker UDAY Express started service between **Coimbatore and Bangalore in June 2018**. Another Uday Express is proposed between Bangalore City and Chennai Central.

'STATUE OF UNITY', MUMBAI'S SOHO HOUSE AMONG TIME'S 100 GREATEST PLACES IN THE WORLD

- The **597-ft tall 'Statue of Unity'** in **Gujarat and Mumbai's Soho House** have been featured by the Time magazine in its second annual list of the **2019 World's greatest places**, in a compilation of 100 new and newly noteworthy destinations.
- The **'Statue of Unity'**, the world's tallest statue, is a tribute to **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, independent India's first home minister as well as deputy prime minister.

1.6 Sports and Games

MARY KOM WIN GOLD IN PRESIDENT'S CUP



- Six times World Champion MC Mary Kom (36) claimed gold medal at 23rd President's Cup held in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.

She defeated April Franks of Australia with 5-0 without breaking a sweat.

With this win the Olympic bronze medallist Boxer has asserted her supremacy in a lop-sided 51kg bout final.

Key Highlights:

- The 36-year-old Indian boxer claimed her 6th world title in 2018 in New Delhi. In May 2019 she had also won a gold medal at India Open boxing tournament.

KATINKA BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO WIN FIVE CONSECUTIVE TITLES

- Katinka Hoszu of Hungary won the gold medal of women's 400m individual Madley event with a timing of 4: 30.39 seconds on the final day of the World Swimming Championship running in Guangzhou, South Korea.
- Katinka, who won this world title five times in the last ten years, became the world's first woman swimmer. She has been champion since 2009.

INDIA DROP TWO PLACES TO 103 IN LATEST FIFA RANKINGS

- India have been clubbed in Group E alongside Bangladesh, Oman, Afghanistan and hosts in second round of Asian qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar.
- The matches in the second round will be played from September 5 to June 9, 2020.

KIREN RIJITU COMMITTEE: STRATEGISE PREPARATIONS FOR 2020, 2024 OLYMPICS

- High-Level Committee has been constituted under chairmanship Union Minister of Sports Kiren Rijitu to coordinate and strategise preparation for 2020 and 2024 Olympics. Main focus of HLC would be to ensure maximum participation and medals from Indian athletes in Tokyo Olympics 2020.

About Kiren Rijitu Committee

- Objective: To ensure that the performance of the Indian athletes is optimised in Olympics and other multidisciplinary events.

AMERICAN CAELÉB DRESSEL SHATTERS WORLD RECORD IN 100-METER BUTTERFLY

- American swimmer Caeleb Dressel eclipsed Phelps' world record in the 100-meter butterfly Friday at the world championships in South Korea.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2020 TO BE HELD IN GUWAHATI

- Union Minister of Sports **Kiren Rijiju** announced that 3rd edition of Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Guwahati, Assam between 18-30 January 2020. **Khelo** india programme's inaugural edition was held in New Delhi in 2018. While Pune hosted 2nd edition in 2019.
- 2020 Games will be conducted in partnership with India Olympic Association (IOA), School Games Federation of India (SGFI) & Assam as host State. The event will see a participation of over 10,000 athletes and officials from all over country and it will be held.



About Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)

- KIYG formerly called Khelo India School Games (KISG) literally means Play India Youth Games are held annually in month of January or February.
- These are National level multidisciplinary grassroots games held for two categories.
 - ▶ Under - 17 years school students.
 - ▶ Under - 21 colleges students.

VINESH PHOGAT WINS THIRD SUCCESSIVE GOLD IN 53KG

- Star India grappler **Vinesh Phogat** has bagged her third consecutive gold in women's 53kg category after winning the **Poland Open wrestling tournament** in Warsaw.
- The 24-year-old prevailed 3-2 over local wrestler Roksana in the final of the competition.
- Vinesh had earlier beaten **Sofia Mattson of Sweden**, the Rio Olympics bronze medallist, in the quarterfinals of this international tournament.

WRESTLER KOMAL BAGS GOLD AT CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BULGARIA

- It's a second gold for **India at the Cadet World Wrestling Championships** in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Fifteen-year-old wrestler, Komal, made the country proud, bagging the gold in the 40 kg category, defeating USA's Sterling Blayke Dias at the score of 4-4.
- Wrestler **Sonam Malik** won the gold in the 65 kg category, beating China's Xiang Binbin.

HARYANA'S SONAM WINS GOLD IN CADET WORLD C'SHIP

- **Sonepat's Sonam Malik** won her second gold medal at the **Cadet World Wrestling Championship in Sofia, Bulgaria**.
- Sonam won the **65 kg gold** after beating Binbin Xiang of China 7-1 in the final. Sonam beat Lillian Alene Freitas of USA 7-1 in the last-8 before overcoming **Ekaterina Glukhareva of Russia** 4-1 in the semifinals.

J&K BANK WILL COME UNDER THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- After the removal of **Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir**, now J&K Bank will also come under the ownership of the Central Government.
- The state government currently holds a **60 percent stake** in this bank. It is the state's largest bank, whose branches are present throughout the state.
- The state administration had made it clear that JK Bank would be brought under the purview of RTI.

INDIAN-AMERICAN TEEN NAVNEETH MURALI WINS 2019 SOUTH ASIAN SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

- **Navneeth Murali**, an Indian-American teenager from New Jersey, America, has won the **2019 South Asian Spelling Bee** contest and earned grand cash prize of USD 3,000.

SERENA WILLIAMS TOPS FORBES LIST OF BEST-PAID FEMALE ATHLETE

- **Serena Williams** topped the Forbes annual list of best-paid female athlete for a fourth consecutive year with estimated total earnings of \$ 29.2 million. **Japan's Naomi Osaka** is second with earnings of \$ 24.3 million.
- Indian badminton star **PV Sindhu** and Thai golfer **Ariya Jutanugarn** were the other non-tennis players in the top 15.



AISHWARYA PISSAY CLAIMS WOMEN'S FIM WORLD CUP

- **Aishwarya Pissay** became the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, winning the **FIM World Cup** in the women's category after the final round of the championship in Hungary.
- The **23-year old from Bengaluru** also finished second in the FIM Junior category.

ROGERS CUP SINGLES WINNERS RAFAEL NADAL, BIANCA

ANDREESCU

- **Rafael Nadal** withdrew from the **Cincinnati Masters** for the second year in a row after polishing off his **US Open** preparation with a **Montreal** title while women's singles winner of **Rogers Cup Bianca Andreescu** also pulled out from the tournament.

INDIA WINS PHYSICAL DISABILITY T20 WORLD CRICKET SERIES 2019

- India won the **T20 Physical Disability (PD) World Cricket Series 2019** after defeating **England** by 36 runs in the final held at the **New Road Stadium in Worcester, England**.
- The tournament was organised by the **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)**. 6 teams- **India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, England, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe** had participated in the tournament.
- Indian team had scored 180/7 in the first innings, while England could only score 144/9.

TEAM INDIA ANNOUNCED FOR WORLD SKILLS INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION 2019

- 48 participants from 17 States and UTs will represent India at the 6-day biennial competition to be held in **Kazan, Russia** from 22 - 27 August 2019.

BAJRANG PUNIA WINS GOLD IN 65KG AT TBILISI GRAND PRIX 2019

- Indian Wrestler **Bajrang Punia** won gold in 65kg men's freestyle competition at **Tbilisi Grand Prix 2019** against Iran's **Peiman Bibyani** by 2-0.



LOVELYA AND NEERAJ WIN GOLD MEDAL IN BOXING

- New Delhi, Patra India's **Lovely Boroghain** (69kg) and **Neeraj** (57kg) won the gold medal in the **Magomed Salam Umakhanov Smriti International Boxing Tournament** organized in Russia while **Gaurav Solanki** had to be satisfied with the silver medal.
- Indian boxers won six medals in this tournament including two gold, one silver and three bronze medals.

INDIAN STUDENTS WIN WORLD DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP

- An Indian team emerged world champion at the **World Debating Championships 2019**, defeating Canada, with **Tejas Subramaniam** of the **Padma Seshadri Bal Bhavan (PSBB) School, Chennai**, adjudged the best speaker.

INDIA WIN HISTORIC GOLD AT 2019 JUNIOR TRACK WORLD CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP

- Indian men's cyclist team created history by clinching the **Team Sprint gold medal** at **World Junior Track Cycling Championships** in **Frankfurt, Germany**. The team comprised of **Esow Alben, Ronaldo Singh, James Singh and Rojit Singh**. This is India's 1st ever gold in a global cycling competition.

Key Words

- ▶ This is **India's historic 1st gold win** at a world cycling event, senior or junior.
- ▶ In first round of men's team sprint, India clocked fastest time at 44.764 seconds, beating China's time of 46.248s.

CHENNAI DUO WINS BWF WORLD SENIOR BADMINTON TITLE

- The Indian duo of **Ajith Haridas and Vijay Lancy** won the men's doubles 40-plus title in the **Yonex BWF World Senior Badminton Championship** held at **Katowice, Poland**.
- In the final played, **Haridas and Lancy** defeated the Danish pair of **Esben Kaempegaard and Morten Rasmussen**.

SIMONE BILES BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO MAKE 'TRIPLE-DOUBLE' TWIST

- 22 year old American Artistic gymnast Simone Arianne Biles became the first woman in the world to make a **"triple-double"** floor exercise landing which is a finale featuring two flips and three twists at the 2019 US(United States) **Gymnastics Championships held at Kansas city, Missouri, US.**

Key Words

- ▶ The event was held from August 8-11.
- ▶ The triple double involves two flips and three twists in the air(only 2 men in the world have done the move successfully).
- ▶ Biles was part of the "final five" gold medal winning team at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

P.V. SINDHU ON TOP OF THE WORLD

- P.V. Sindhu scripted history as she became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold by beating arch-rival **Nozomi Okuhara** of Japan in a lop-sided summit.
- The Olympic silver-medalist Indian won 21-7, 21-7 in the final. She joint highest medal winner in women's singles in the World Championships history with former **Olympic Champion Zhang Ning of China** who has won an identical one gold, two silver and two bronze between 2001 and 2007.



MUMBAI MAN CHINMAY PRABHU CREATES 2ND WORLD RECORD FOR SOLVING PYRAMINX PUZZLES

- A 20-year-old **Chinmay Prabhu** from Mumbai has created a world record for the 2nd time under his name of solving **176 pyraminx** (pyramid-shaped rubik's cube) puzzles while riding a bicycle in **1 hour and 7 minutes**. He broke the record of solving 111 pyraminx puzzles.

Key Words

- ▶ On December 2018, He had set the **Guinness Book of World Records of solving 9 rubik's cubes** underwater in 1 minute and 48 seconds. The record set Prabhu a target of 4 Pyraminxes, but he went on to solve nine.

KOMALIKA BARI WINS WORLD ARCHERY YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The seventeen-year-old **Indian Komalika Bari** defeated Japan's **Waka Sonoda** in the recurve cadet women's final to win a gold medal at the 2019 **World Archery Youth Championships**.
- Bari won her first major event and became the third Indian archer to hold a world title.
- She is the second Indian archer to become world champion in the Under-18 recurve women's category.
- **Deepika Kumari** held the title in 2009 and then won the junior (U21) gold in 2011.

BANGALORE WILL HOST THE 10TH AASF ASIAN AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 FOR THE 1ST TIME

- For the first time, **Bangalore (Karnataka)** will host the **10th AASF (Asia Swimming Federation) Asian Age Group Championships 2019** starting from September 24, 2019, to October 2, 2019, will give the country's swimming enthusiasts an opportunity to witness the aquatic event.

Key Words

- ▶ **Organizer:** Swimming Federation of India (SFI) will organize the 9-day event.
- ▶ **Olympic Qualification:** The event recognized by FINA (International Swimming Federation) as an Olympic Qualifier, so the top Indian Swimmers will take advantage as they aim for A Qualification Mark for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

VIRAT KOHLI BECOMES FIRST PLAYER TO SCORE 20000 INTERNATIONAL RUNS

- India's skipper **Virat Kohli** became the first and only batsman to have scored **20,000 international runs** in a decade during the team's six-wicket win against **West Indies (August 14)**.

GOLD MEDAL FOR INDIA IN WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES

1. **B.N.S. Reddy** beats **Bruce Barrios** of the U.S. in the men's singles final to win the **gold medal** at the **World Police and Fire Games**.
2. The tournament was held in **Chengdu, China**. In the doubles event, **Reddy** and **Surinder Mohan Sharma** lost to the pair of **Sabandon Eduardo (Phi)** and **Helminen Risto (Fin)** in the finals and bags the silver medal.
3. **B.N.S. Reddy** is a former Additional Commissioner of Police and a current member of the **BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit**.

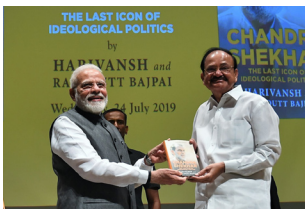


MADHYA PRADESH PARA SWIMMER SATENDRA SINGH LOHIA CROSSES AMERICA'S CATALINA CHANNEL

- **Divyang Satendra Singh Lohia** from **Madhya Pradesh** has become the first Asian swimmer to cross the **Catalina Channel of America**.
- **Satendra** holds the Asian record of crossing both the **English** and **Catalina** channels.
- The **Indian Para Relay Team** started **42 km** of swimming at **10.57 p.m.** from **St. Catalina Island** and finished swimming at **Los Angeles** at **10.30 a.m.** **Satyendra** has also honoured with the **Vikram Award**, the highest sports award in **Madhya Pradesh**.

1.7 Books & Authors

BOOK ON FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHANDRA SHEKHAR



- Book on former prime minister of India Chandra Shekhar named, **"Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics"** was released by prime minister, Shri Narendra Modi.
- The book was released at the Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building in **New Delhi** and is written by **Shri Harivansh**, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and **Shri Ravi Dutt Bajpai**.

Chandra Shekar :

- He was the 9th prime minister of India.
- Born- July 1, 1927
- Died- July 8, 2007

LESSONS LIFE TAUGHT ME, UNKNOWNLY

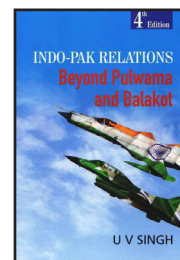
- Veteran actor **Anupam Kher's** autobiography titled **Lessons Life Taught Me Unknownly** was unveiled by **Rishi Kapoor**, along with wife **Neetu Kapoor** and the cast of NBC's show **New Amsterdam**, in **New York**.

GUTSY WOMEN

- American politician, diplomat, lawyer, writer and public speaker **Hilary Rodham Clinton** (called as **Hilary Clinton**) and her daughter **Chelsea Clinton** are to write a book called **"The Book of Gutsy Women"** to honour famous women personalities.

INDO-PAK RELATIONS: BEYOND PULWAMA AND BALAKOT

- The book titled **"Indo-Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama and Balakot"** authored by **Dr. U V Singh** was released.
- It deals with the fundamental causes of the Indo-Pak conflict. It is published by **Pentagon Press**.



KASHMIR'S UNTOLD STORY: DECLASSIFIED

- The book penned by filmmaker **Iqbal Chand Malhotra** and defence analyst **Maroof Raza**, will hit stands **September 18**.
- The book, which comes after the scrapping of **Article 370 and 35A** earlier this month, will also shed light on why the special status was 'integral to the accession treaty'.

BOOK ON KALAINAR

- A magazine from The Hindu Group of Publications, will launch **Oru Manidhan, Oru Iyakkam**, a book on the life and work of former Chief Minister and DMK president **Mr. Karunanidhi**.

RESURGENT INDIA

- Former Governor of Reserve Bank of India, **Bimal Jalan**'s new Book '**Resurgent India**' launched in New Delhi. The book talks about key priorities that can be implemented by the new government in national interest, irrespective of the political agenda of the party that come to power. The book has been published by **Harper Collins**.

LISTENING, LEARNING AND LEADING

- Union Minister for **Home Affairs**, **Shri Amit Shah** launched the book '**Listening, Learning and Leading**' in **Chennai**.
- This book is based on **Vice President of India**, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu**'s two years in office.
- The book captures glimpses of the **Vice President's 330 public** engagements across the country during this period.

THE DIARY OF MANU GANDHI

- **Shri Prahlad Singh Patel**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism has launched the book called '**the Diary of Manu Gandhi**' (1943-44) at a function in the auditorium of **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**, New Delhi.

Key Words

- **Manu Gandhi (Mridula)** was a grandniece of Mahatma Gandhi, daughter of his Nephew **Jaisukhlal Amritlal Gandhi**, and stayed with Gandhiji till his assassination. The 1st volume of the diary is a record of her life and times with **M.K. Gandhi between 1943 and 1944**.

SECOND NIGHT

- Former Indian diplomat, Television commentator, writer and artist **Rajiv Dogra** wrote his latest (third) novel "**Second Night**" published by **Rupa**. This novel describes and focuses on friendship, love and loss in the life of a woman.

Key Words

- **Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)** born **Rajiv Dogra** has previously penned two books on the Indo-Pak relations named "**Where borders bleed: An insider's account of Indo-Pak Relation**" and on the Durand Line (border line between Pakistan and Afghanistan) named "**Durand's curse: A line across Pathan Heart**".

TAMIZHATTRUPADAI BY POET

VAIRAMUTHU

- **Tamizhattrupadai**, a compilation of a series of lectures on 24 great Tamils, beginning with **Tholkappiyar**, the author of **Tamil grammar** work **Tholkappiyam**, and others who shaped the Tamil language, culture and society for hundreds of years.

WORDS FROM MY WINDOW – A JOURNAL

- Author **Ruskin Bond** released his latest book "**Words From My Window - A Journal**" amid his young admirers from the **Shriram Millennium School** here and other prominent schools of the **National Capital Region**.

1.8 Awards & Honours

NISHA GANDHI SANGEETHA AWARDS CONFERRED BY KERALA TOURISM



- Kerala Minister of Tourism presented the inaugural Nisha Gandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram to musicians Parassala B. Ponnammal and T V. Gopalakrishnan in the Nishagandhi Monsoon Ragas Music Festival.

Key Points

- Nishagandhi Sangeetha Puraskaram is Instituted by Kerala Tourism.
- The award carries ₹1.5 lakh in cash, citation and memento.
- It is instituted by Kerala Tourism.

SHAH RUKH KHAN TO BE HONOURED WITH 'EXCELLENCE IN CINEMA' AWARD AT FILM FEST IN MELBOURNE

- Superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be felicitated with 'Excellence in Cinema' honour at the awards night of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 8.

SUDARSHAN WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE PRIZE AT USA

- Pattnaik, a Padma Shi awardee, hails from Odisha, represented at the 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival held from July 26-28.
- Notably, Pattnaik attended the 2013 World Sand Sculpting Championship in Atlanta.



PRIDE OF NATION AWARD

- Dr. Vinayak S Hiremath, aged 30, the youngest doctor of Gulbarga (Kalaburagi), Karnataka was felicitated with 'Pride of Nation Award' by the Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh at the ceremony held at NCC (National Cadet Corps) auditorium parade grounds in New Delhi on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26).
- He is the first South Indian doctor to offer free insulin consultation and treatment to gestational (pregnancy) diabetic mothers and family members of the Indian Army.

INDIA'S NAAZ JOSHI WINS MISS WORLD DIVERSITY

- Naaz Joshi, trans-1sexual woman from India won the beauty pageant title of Miss World Diversity 2019



held in Port Louis, Mauritius.

DEEPA MALIK ALSO RECOMMENDED FOR RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA

- Para athlete Deepa Malik was fourth time lucky after being recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Kehl Ratna for the year 2019, becoming the joint recipient with wrestler Bajrang Punia for the highest sporting honour.



WING COMMANDER ABHINANDAN VARTHAMAN HONoured WITH VIR CHAKRA

- Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be honoured with the Vir Chakra on Independence Day.
- Wg Cdr Abhinandan became the face of a tense military confrontation between India and Pakistan when his MiG-21 was shot down during the aerial combat between Indian and Pakistan's air forces on February 27 after the February 26 Balakot airstrike. Before his jet was hit, he downed an F-16 fighter of Pakistan.

INDIAN PEACEKEEPER IN LEBANON HONoured POSTHUMOUSLY FOR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

- An Indian peacekeeper, who died in the line of duty while serving in the UN mission in Lebanon, has been honoured for his dedication and commitment.
- Sergeant Ramesh Singh was deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

SOCIETY GLOBAL INDIAN ICON AWARD 2019

- Bollywood's Advocate Dinesh Tiwari was conferred with 'The Society Global Indian Icon Award 2019', for his excellence in the field of law at an event hosted in London by the Society Magazine.

BHARAT GAURAV AWARD 2019

- Former Indian cricketer Kapil Dev was conferred with Bharat Gaurav Award 2019 on the 100th foundation day of East Bengal Club, the Kolkata soccer giants, at the award ceremony held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Key Words

About Bharat Gaurav Award

- ▶ "Bharat Gaurav Award" Lifetime achievement award given to people from all over World who achieve a landmark in their working area and made India proud, awarded in Grand Ceremony with Coffe Table book Launch, First 'Bharat Gaurav Award' Ceremony was held in 2012 at Hotel Hilton, NJ, USA where people across the globe joined the award ceremony.

SAHITYA AKADEMI INVITES ENTRIES FOR YUVA PURASKAR

- The Sahitya Akademi has invited entries for the Yuva Puraskar 2020 award from publishers and young Indian authors in 24 languages. The award comprises a prize of ₹ 50,000 a plaque and a citation.

KOLHAPUR-BORN SCIENTIST WINS GLOBAL HONOUR



- Atish Dabholkar, a theoretical physicist from India, has been appointed as the new director of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy.
- He is currently the head of ICTP's high energy, cosmology and astroparticle physics section. He joined the centre in 2014 on secondment from Sorbonne Universite and the National Centre for Scientific Research, where he has been a research director.
- Mr. Dabholkar will take up his duties as ICTP director with the rank of Assistant Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

ARUN LAL AWARDED CAB'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Former India cricketer and Bengal captain Arun Lal conferred with **Karthik Bose Lifetime Achievement Award** of the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB's) in Kolkata. Former Bengal captain Raju Mukherjee was also considered for 2019 Lifetime Achievement but CAB eventually picked Lal.

Key Words

About Arun Lal

- ▶ The 63-year-old right-handler played 16 Test matches and 13 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for India between 1982 and 1989.
- ▶ He is known for his gritty determination both on and off field. He won his battle against jaw cancer and was coaching Bengal.
- ▶ He played 6 seasons for Delhi before becoming a regular feature for Bengal.

BHARAT RATNA PRESENTED TO PRANAB MUKHERJEE

- Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee, late Bharatiya Jana Sangh ideologue Nanaji Deshmukh and late singer Bhupen Hazarika were conferred the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave the award to his predecessor **Mr. Mukherjee, Mr. Hazarika's son Tej, and to Virenderjeet Singh**, a close relative of Mr. Deshmukh, at a brief ceremony at the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

ISRO ANNOUNCES 'VIKRAM SARABHAI JOURNALISM AWARD IN SPACE SCIENCE

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced 'Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research' as a reward and recognition to journalists who have been actively contributing towards the field of space science, applications, and research.
- The nominations are open to all Indian journalists and those articles that are published from the year **2019 till 2020** can be submitted.
- Candidates will be nominated and judged based on certain criteria. Names of those selected will be declared on **August 1, 2020**, added the space agency.
- There are two categories of awards instituted by **ISRO in the field of Journalism**.
- The first category of the award includes a cash price of ₹ 5,00,000 a medal and citation.
- The second category of the award, on the other hand, is inclusive of 3 cash prizes such as ₹ 3,00,000 ₹ 2,00,000 and ₹ 1,00,000 and citation each.

NEELUM SHARMA TEJASWINI AWARD & ACHYUTANANDA SAHOO AWARD

- India's largest public broadcasting agency, **Prasar Bharti's Chairman A Suryapakash** stated that the agency will introduce 2 awards namely 'Neelum Sharma Tejaswini award' & 'Achyutananda Sahoo Award' in memory of Doordarshan(DD) News (Former anchor), **Neelum Sharma** who passed away due to cancer on August 17, 2019.

Key Words

About Prasar Bharati:

- **Formation:** 23 November 1997
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **CEO:** Shri. Shashi Shekhar Vempati

CHENNAI METRO RAIL GETS NATIONAL PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARD

- **Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL)** was awarded the **National Project Excellence Award** for the successful completion and commencement of passenger services in the **45 km phase-1** project.
- The award was given at the PMA- India summit held in **New Delhi**.

INDIAN-ORIGIN DOCTOR BHASHA MUKHERJEE CROWNED MISS ENGLAND

- A 23-year-old **Indian-origin doctor** has been crowned Miss England after fending off competition from dozens of other models.
- **Bhasha Mukherjee**, 23, from Derby, holds two different medical degrees, has an **IQ of 146**, making her officially a 'genius' and is fluent in five languages.

2019 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD WON BY RAVISH KUMAR FOR JOURNALISM

- India's senior executive editor of NDTV was awarded 2019 Ramon Magsaysay Award which is regarded as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize.
- Five other individuals were declared winners of this award along with **Ravish Kumar**.



Key Words

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ▶ The award is named after the 3rd President of Philippine Mr. Ramon Magsaysay in memory of his leadership.
- ▶ Every year it is given to Asian individuals who manifest the same selfless service like the Filipino leader.
- ▶ **First awarded : 1958**
- ▶ **Presented by : Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation**

WOMEN HEAD CONSTABLE GETS CHIEF MINISTER'S MEDAL

- S. Daisy, a head constable with the **Chennai City Police**, has been trying to find missing persons. Attached to the **G-4 Institute of Mental Health** police station, she is one of the 16 police officers in the State who has been awarded the **Chief Minister's Police Medal for Excellence in Public Service and Investigation**, on the occasion of Independence Day.

CHAMPIONS OF CHENNAI AWARDS PRESENTED



- Seven people from different walks of life were given the Champions of Chennai awards for the year 2019 by the KSA Trust on Saturday.
- Easwari Lending Library bagged the award in the art and culture category for keeping alive the concept of a library in the digital era. Madras Dyslexia Association walked away with the award in the education space and Chu Chu with the award under the enterprise category.

MAHARSHI BADRAYAN VYAS SAMMAN

- The President is pleased to award the certificate of honor to the following scholars of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu, Classical Malayalam and Classical Odiya **for the year 2019**.
- **Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman** was introduced in the year 2002, is given to selected young scholars in the age group of 30 to 45 years.
- The **Presidential award** carries a certificate of honour, a memento and a one time cash prize of **Rs. 1 lakh**.

DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION PRESENTED



- Former U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia and President, **World Food Prize Foundation**, **Kenneth M. Quinn** underlined the need for encouraging small holder farmers, who are mostly women, to run their farms.
- Speaking to reporters after receiving the **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection** presented by the **Rotary Club of Madras East and Cavinkare Private Ltd.**, he said post-harvest food waste must be brought down, which is why connectivity to small villages was important.

CUDDALORE FISHERIES OFFICIAL BAGS KALPANA CHAWLA AWARD

- **P. Ramyalakshmi**, assistant director, fisheries, Cuddalore, hides an iron first in a velvet glove. The recipient of the **Tamil Nadu Government's Kalpana Chawla Award 2019** showed exemplary courage and daring enterprise in taking on the illegal practice of purse seine fishing that is not only depriving traditional fishermen of catch but threatening the marine ecosystem as a whole in the region. The **Kalpana Chawla Award** consists of ₹ 5 lakh cash and a medal.

VIVEK MENON WINS CLARK BAVIN AWARD 2019

- Biologist, author and wildlife conservationist, **Vivek Menon**, head of **Delhi-based Wildlife Trust of India (WTI)**, a leading Indian nature conservation organisation committed to the service of nature, was awarded the prestigious **Clark R Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award for the year 2019** at 18th meeting of Conference of Parties to CITES held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES 4TH EDITION OF WOMEN TRANSFORMING INDIA AWARDS

- **NITI Aayog** has launched the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards, in collaboration with the **United Nations in New Delhi**.
- The theme for WTI Awards 2019 is "**Women and Entrepreneurship**", in continuation with last edition's theme that recognizes women entrepreneurs who are breaking the glass ceiling and challenging stereotypes, through businesses and enterprises and are providing innovative developmental solutions to building a dynamic **New India**.
- The campaign builds on the success of the **WTI Awards** for the past three years. **WTI Awards 2018** received more than **2,300 nominations**.

V. BALAKRISHNAN'S STARK NEW SCRIPT BAGS

THE HINDU PLAYWRIGHT AWARD

- The Hindu Playwright Award 2019 was awarded to **V. Balakrishnan** for his play **Sordid**.
- The Rs. 2 lakh award for the best new unpublished and unperformed play script in English was presented at the launch of the 15th edition of **The Hindu. Theatre Fest at Taj Coromandel, Nungabakkam**.

BAFTA LA TO HONOUR STEVE COOGAN WITH CHARLIE CHAPLIN AWARD

- Actor **Steve Coogan** will be felicitated with the **Charlie Chaplin Award** by the **British Academy's** Los Angeles branch. He will receive the honour during the **2019 Britannia Awards**.
- The **Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy** recognises the talents whose popularity and cultural impact exemplifies the uniquely transcendent quality of excellent comedy.

TIRUPUR GIRL WINS BEST CHILD ACTRESS AWARD AT US FILM FEST

- Having won the best child actress award for her role in a short film at the Los Angeles Film Awards, **K. Mahaswetha, of Angeripalayam**.

Key Words

- ▶ The Class IV girl won the award for her role in the Malayalam short film titled '**Aaroduparuyum**' (To whom should I tell?).
- ▶ Directed by **Sujith Dass**, of Palakkad in **Kerala**, the short film was produced by none other than the child artist's father **P.U. Krishnan**.

UAE HONOURS MODI WITH ITS HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was honoured with the '**Order of Zayed**', the UAE's highest civilian award in recognition of his pivotal role in building bilateral ties between the two nations.
- The award was conferred on Mr. Modi by the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.

MEETA NARAIN WAS CONFERRED THE 'PUSHKIN MEDAL 2019'

- JNU Professor **Meeta Narain** was conferred the '**Pushkin Medal - 2019**'. This award 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 for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.



66TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS: HERE'S THE COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

- The 66th National Film Awards were announced in Delhi on Friday. While films like Andhadhun and Uri featured among the big winners, actors like Keerthy Suresh also made their presence felt.
- Jury head Rahul Rawail, non-feature film jury head A.S. Kanal, Jury head for the best writing Utpal Bhojpuari were present at the National Film Awards 2019 announcement.

Some of the winners of the awards are:

No.	Category	Persons
1.	Best Hindi Film	Andhadhun
2.	Best Action	KGF
3.	Best Choreography	Jyoti D Tommar for Padmaavat song Ghoomar
4.	Best Music Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Padmaavat
5.	Best Sound Designer	Uri: The Surgical Strike
6.	Best Adapted Screenplay	Andhadhun
7.	Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh for Padmaavat song Binte Dil
8.	Best Female Playback Singer	Bindu Malini for Nathicharami song Maayavi Manave
9.	Best Lyrics	Nathicharami
10.	Best Supporting Actress	Surekha Sikri for Badhaai Ho
11.	Best Supporting Actor	Swanand Kirkire for Chumbak
12.	Best Film on Social Issues	Padman
13.	Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Badhaai Ho
14.	Best Actor	Ayushmann Khurrana for Andhadhun and Vicky Kaushal for Uri
15.	Best Actress	Keerthy Suresh for Mahanati
16.	Best Director	Aditya Dhar for Uri: The Surgical Strike
17.	Best Feature Film	Hellaro (Gujarati)
18.	Best Original Screenplay	Chi Arjun La Sow (Telugu)
19.	Best Dialogue	Tarikh (Bengali)
20.	Best Cinematography	MJ Radhakrishnan for Olu (Malayalam)

21.	Special Mention Awards	Sruthi Hariharan, Chandrachoor Rai, Jojo George and Savithri
22.	Best Costume Design	Mahanati
23.	Best Production Design	Kammara Sambhavam
24.	Best Editing	Nathicharami (Kannada)
25.	Best Special Effects	Awe and KGF
26.	Best Makeup artist	Awe (Telugu)
27.	Most Film Friendly State	Uttarakhand
28.	Best Film Critic	Blais Johny (Malayalam) and Anant Vijay (Hindi)

KIRTI CHAKRA FOR JADHAV, HARSHPAL

- The brave hearts of Indian Army will be honoured with gallantry awards on the 73rd Independence Day .
- Indian Army's **Sapper Prakash Jadhav** of 1 **Rashtriya Rifles (Mahar)** will be conferred **Kirti Chakra (posthumously)** for his gallant role in an operation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- CRPF Deputy Commandant **Harshpal Singh** has also been awarded Kirti Chakra.
- Eight Army personnel will also be conferred **Shaurya Chakra**, five of them posthumously.
- Eight more Army personnel will be conferred with Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 90 will be conferred **Sena Medals (Gallantry)** and four members of Operation Rakhshak will be conferred Mention in Dispatches.



ISRO CHAIRMAN K. SIVAN CONFERRED WITH A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM AWARD



- Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) **K. Sivan**, under whose leadership the **Chandrayaan- 2** mission (mission to moon) is launched, was conferred with Tamil Nadu Government's Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam award.

WRESTLER BAJRANG PUNIA TO GET RAJIV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARD

- Asian Games gold medallist **Bajrang Punia** is all set to receive the country's highest sporting honour, **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**.
- He was nominated for the prestigious award along with **Vinesh Phogat** by the **Wrestling Federation of India**.

Key Words

- ▶ Bajrang has been rewarded for his consistency in the last 2 years.
- ▶ Bajrang won the **Asian Games and the Commonwealth gold medal in 2018**.
- ▶ Punia recently defended his title at the **Tbilisi Grand Prix** as he won the gold medal by prevailing over **Iran's Peiman Bibyani** in the **65kg** final of the men's free style competition.

PRABHAKAR SINGH, DG, CPWD CHOSEN FOR EMINENT ENGINEER

AWARD – 2019

- Prabhakar Singh, Director General, Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has been chosen for elite and prestigious **Eminent Engineer Award** for year 2019 by **Institution of Engineers (India)**.
- He is chosen for his distinguished and exemplary Service in field of Engineering and Technology. The award shall be conferred to him on **Engineers Day** observed on **15 September 2019** in New Delhi.

CHIEF SCIENTIST K THANGARAJ OF CCMB WINS JC BOSE FELLOWSHIP

FOR THE YEAR 2019

- **K. Thangaraj**, chief scientist at the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB)**, Hyderabad, Telangana, bagged this year's **J C Bose Fellowship** for his outstanding contribution in the field of population and medical genomics on August 17, 2019.



About the JC Bose fellowship

1. 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**.
2. The award is named after **Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose** who is the inventor of crescograph (device used to measure growth of plants) and also known as father of Bengali science fiction.

1.9 Latest Historical Events

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 ₹ 20 crore.



Key Words

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.

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**.

1.10 Cultural Panorama

AADI MAHOTSAV

- The 9 day event from 17th August till 25th August, 2019 inaugurated by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Satya Pal Malik, Governor on 17th August 2019 in the presence of Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs; Smt. Renuka Singh, Minister for State for Tribal Affairs and Shri R. C. Meena, Chairman TRIFED.
- The theme of the festival is: **"A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce"**. TRIFED essentially is to play the role of a 'Service provider' & 'Market Developer.'



1.1 India and its Neighbours

PAKISTAN TO SEND ITS FIRST MAN TO SPACE IN 2022

- Pakistan's decision came as India on Monday successfully launched its second lunar mission **Chandrayaan-2**.
- Pakistan announced that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using close ally China's satellite launching facilities.
- Pakistan's decision came as India successfully launched its second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2.

PM MODI INAUGURATES MANGDECHHU HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANT IN BHUTAN

- Mangdechhu hydroelectric power plant in **Bhutan** was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi. It is one of the major projects under Bhutan's initiative to generate **10,000 MW hydropower by 2020** with the support of the Government of India (GOI).
- **Mangdechhu hydroelectric** power plant project was touted as a Bhutan-India friendship project.

PAKISTAN STOPS SAMJHAUTA EXPRESS AT WAGAH BORDER

- Pakistan stopped **Samjhauta Express** on their side at **Wagah** border citing security concerns.
- The passengers were stranded briefly before Indian crew members and guard escorted the train back to **Attari**.
- The train service was started on **July 22, 1976** under the **Simla Agreement** that settled the **1971** war between the two nations.
- On the Indian side, the train runs from **Delhi to Attari** and from Lahore to **Wagah** on the Pakistan side.

1ST MODEL VILLAGE BUILT WITH INDIAN ASSISTANCE INAUGURATED IN SRI LANKA

- The first model village built with indian assistance under the **Model Villages Program** was inaugurated at Ranidugama in Gampaha in Sri Lanka. It is a part of housing project meant for war affected people and estate workers. The fully constructed houses were handed over to beneficiaries.

Key Highlights

Background

- India has partnered with Sri Lankan Ministry of Housing and Construction and Cultural Affairs to build 100 villages which will consist of a total of 2400 houses all across Sri Lanka. These 2400 houses are in addition to 60000 accommodations built under Indian Housing Project meant for war affected people in north and east Sri Lanka and estate workers in plantation areas of the country.

NAGAR KIRTAN(SIKH RELIGIOUS PROCESSION) FROM PAKISTAN REACHES INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE PARTITION

- To mark the 550th birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the Sikhism founder, a **Nagar Kirtan**, a Sikh religious procession was taken out for 1st time after Independence from **Nankana Sahib district** (birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev) of Pakistan's Punjab province entered into **Attari village in Amritsar, Punjab** Indian side through the Attari-Wagah land route.

Key Words

About Guru Nanak

- He was born on 29 November 1469 at Rai Bhoi Ki Talvandi (present-day Nankana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan) near Lahore (capital of the Pakistani province of Punjab).
- He was the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. His birth is celebrated worldwide as **Guru Nanak Gurpurab** on **Kartik Pooranmashi**.

FATF BLACKLISTED PAKISTAN AGAINST TERROR FINANCING AND MONEY LAUNDERING

- The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has blacklisted **Pakistan** for non-compliance and non-enforcement of safeguards against terror financing and money laundering. The action was taken in the FATF APG meeting held in **Canberra, Australia**.
- Previously Pakistan was grey listed by FATF for failing to curb anti-terror financing.

Key Words

About FATF:

- ▶ It is a global watch talk for terror financing and money laundering.
- ▶ **Founded** : 1989.
- ▶ **President** : Xiangmin Liu.
- ▶ **Headquarters** : Paris, France.

1.12 Latest Terminology

HARMONYOS: HUAWEI LAUNCHES ITS OWN OPERATING SYSTEM



- Chinese telecom giant Huawei launched its own operating system called **HarmonyOS** or **HongMeng** in Chinese. It was revealed by Richard Yu, head of Huawei's consumer business at a press conference in Dongguan.
- This unveiling comes at a time when telecom giant is facing threat of losing access to Google's Android platform, amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions, although Huawei has reportedly been working on its own operating system since 2012.

1.13 Appointments – Who is who?

RAW OFFICER APPOINTED BSF DIRECTOR GENERAL



- IPS officer **V.K.Johri**, who is presently the special Secretary in the **Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)** has been appointed as the next Director General of the **Border Security Force (BSF)** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Mr.Johri has also been appointed as an **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the Union Home Ministry with “**immediate effect.**”

PRITI PATEL BECAME UK'S FIRST INDIAN-ORIGIN HOME SECRETARY

- Member of Parliament (MP) **Priti Patel** became the **United Kingdom's (UK) first Indian-origin home secretary.** She was appointed by new UK Prime Minister **Boris Johnson.**
- Patel of Conservative Party succeeds Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid.
- Besides Patel, Indian origin **Rishi Sunak** was appointed as the chief secretary to the treasury and **Alok Sharma** was appointed as the secretary of state for international development.



About UK :

- **Capital:** London
- **Currency:** Pound sterling

BP KANUNGO AS HEAD TO RUN THE MONETARY POLICY PORTFOLIO

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has appointed the deputy governor **BP Kanungo** as head to run the monetary policy portfolio.
- He has been assigned after the resignation of fellow deputy governor Viral Acharya.
- Mr.Kanungo will be the sixth member of the **RBI's Monetary Policy Committee.** The meeting is to be held on **5-7 August 2019.** He will also retain his currency management portfolio.



GIRRAJ PRASAD GUPTA TAKES OVER AS CGA (CONTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS)

- Gupta, a 1983-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, has worked at higher positions in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Ministry of Finance.
- He has also worked as the Director of National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad.

AJAY KUMAR APPOINTED AS DEFENCE SECRETARY

- Ajay Kumar has been appointed as Defence Secretary. Ajay Kumar is currently serving as Secretary in Department of Defence Production. He will replace Sanjay Mitra, upon completion of his term.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved his appointments.



INSA TO HAVE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT

- Chandrima Shaha, 66, is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) beginning January 2020. Her top priority, she would be to promote science more “aggressively” among people.



VASU APPOINTED TAMIL NADU COACH

- Former Tamil Nadu and South Zone all-rounder Diwakar Vasu has been appointed the coach of Tamil Nadu senior team. He has been given a two-year tenure by the TNCA.
- The appointment was finalised at the Executive Committee meeting of the TNCA.

RAJIV GAUBA APPOINTED NEXT CABINET SECRETARY FOR TWO YEARS

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved appointment of Rajiv Gauba, as India's new Cabinet Secretary for a tenure of two years. His term will start from 30 August 2019 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Key Words

- Rajiv Gauba will initially join the Cabinet Secretariat as Officer on Special Duty from date of his assumption of charge till he takes over as Cabinet Secretary – the most powerful position in country's civil service.



2.1 Latest Court Verdicts

SC ORDERS SETTING UP OF SPECIAL COURTS IN DISTRICTS WITH OVER 100 PENDING POCSO CASES

- The **Supreme Court** directed the setting up of special courts in each district across the country that had over a 100 cases of child abuse and sexual assault pending trial under the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**.
- A Bench led by the Chief Justice of India directed the courts to be set up within 60 days.

NOTICE TO T.N., KARNATAKA ON 10% EWS RESERVATION

- The Supreme court asked the **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka** governments to reply to a petition seeking that they implement the **10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS)**, in addition to the existing reservation.
- A Bench of justices **S.A.Bobde and B.R.Gavai** issued notice to both the States on the plea claiming that all the other State governments have implemented the **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019**, which granted 10% reservation to the EWS category in government jobs and educational institutions.

WORK ON SPECIAL COURTS TO DEAL WITH RAPE CASES LIKELY TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 2

- The work on setting up over **1,000 fast-track**, special courts across the country to deal with pending cases of rape is likely to begin on **October 2**.
- The **Department of Justice in the Law Ministry** had proposed to set up 1,023 fast-track courts at a total budget of ₹ **767.25 crore**.
- The central support of ₹ **474 crore** for one year will be funded under the Nirbhaya Fund.
- The fund was announced by the **Centre in 2013** after the **December 16, 2012** gangrape and murder of a student in Delhi, to support the initiatives of governments and NGOs working towards safety of women.



CABINET APPROVES INCREASING STRENGTH OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES FROM 31 TO 34

- At present, the sanctioned strength of the apex court is **31**.
- The **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956** was last amended in 2009 to increase the judges' strength from **25 to 30 (excluding the CJI)**.
- The decision of the Cabinet came days after **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** wrote to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to increase the number of judges in the top court.
- In 1988, the **judge strength of the SC was increased from 18 to 26**, and then again in 2009, it was increased to **31**, including the CJI.

2.2 Political parties and Political system in India

PARLIAMENT PASSES COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

- Parliament passed Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019 aimed at tightening Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) compliance and ensuring stricter action for non-compliance of the company law regulations. It amends the **Companies Act, 2013**. It was first passed by Lok Sabha on July 26, 2019 and then by Rajya Sabha by July 30, 2019.

Key Words

- It aims to ensure greater accountability and better enforcement of the corporate governance norms.

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

- Under the **RTI Act, 2005**, Public Authorities are required to make disclosures on various aspects of their structure and functioning.
- This includes: (i) **disclosure on their organisation, functions, and structure**, (ii) **powers and duties of its officers and employees**, and (iii) **financial information**.



INDIA TO OFFER E-TOURIST VISA FEE BASED ON TOURIST FOOTFALL

- With the aim of attracting more foreign travellers to the country, it has been proposed to reduce the e-visa fee while also offering the option of a short-term as well as long-term tourist e-visa.
- The **Tourism Ministry** has proposed to introduce a short duration e-visa for tourists with one month validity at a charge of \$ 25. This will be applicable during peak tourism season between July and March. To attract more tourists during the lean period, the visa fee is proposed to be reduced to as low as \$10 between April to June.
- The information was given by **Tourism minister Prahlad Patel**.

PARLIAMENT PASSES MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE BILL, 2019

- Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2019 or **Triple Talaq Bill** after it was approved by Rajya Sabha. It replaces ordinance promulgated on February 21, 2019. It aims to declares practice of instant triple talaq void and illegal by making it cognizable penal offence.

Key Words

Salient Features of Bill

- **Definitions:** It defines talaq or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by Muslim man resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce. It defines Talaq-e-biddat as practice under Muslim personal laws, as pronouncement of word 'talaq' by Muslim husband thrice in one sitting to his wife, resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce
- **Offense and Penalty:** It makes this offence punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years and fine. It also makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form (email, text message etc) to be void and illegal.

3 COMMITTEES FORMULATED FOR UNION TERRITORY RELATED ISSUES OF J-K

S. No.	Committee Head & Members	Purpose of the committee
1.	12-member committee Head: K K Sharma (Advisor to J & K Governor)	To take necessary steps for transition from a state to the proposed Union Territory of J&K by various departments and conduct of government business in the proposed UT.
2.	5-member committee Head: Shri Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta (Financial Commissioner, Finance Department)	To deal with the financial matters related to the proposed Union Territories of J & K and Ladakh
3.	6-member committee Head: Mr. Shaleen Kabra (Principal Secretary, Home Department)	To suggest measures to be taken for providing staff to the proposed UT of Ladakh and any other issue related to staff of proposed UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

J & K LOSES ITS SPECIAL STATUS, DIVIDED INTO TWO UTS

- Government of India revoked Article 370 and the special status of Kashmir .
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced government's decision in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** will be a Union Territory with a legislature while **Ladakh** will be a Union Territory without legislature.

Article 370 removed

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** has announced in Rajya Sabha that the government has decided to repeal **Article 370** of the Constitution which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
- Jammu and Kashmir will not be a state it will a **Union Territory**. Special features like a separate constitution, separate flag and separate status will no more after repealing **Article 370**.

Article 35A scrapped

- With the removal of **Article 370**, **Article 35A** will be also scrapped.
- People from other states may also buy or purchase land and settle there.

Bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir

- As per the statement released by **Home Minister Amit Shah**, **Jammu and Kashmir** will be "**reorganized**" and will no longer be a state.
- **Ladakh** will be a **Union Territory** without an assembly and **Jammu and Kashmir** will be a Union Territory with an assembly, under recommendation.
- There will be two Lieutenant Governors when this provision will come into the force.

J&K becomes UT

- **Jammu & Kashmir** has become a Union Territory now and union laws would apply in this area.
- According to the notification released by government of India, "**Keeping in view the prevailing internal security situation, fuelled by cross-border terrorism in the existing state of Jammu & Kashmir, a separate Union Territory is being created.**"
- **Ladakh** becomes UT
- The **Ladakh region** has given the status of a Union Territory (UT), without legislature. The **Ladakh division** has a large area but is sparsely populated with very difficult terrain.
- There has been a long-pending demand of people of **Ladakh** to give it a Union Territory status to enable them to realize their aspiration. **Ladakh** becomes UT
- The **Ladakh region** has given the status of a Union Territory (UT), without legislature.
- The **Ladakh division** has a large area but is sparsely populated with very difficult terrain. There has been a long-pending demand of people of **Ladakh** to give it a Union Territory status to enable them to realize their aspiration.

Key Changes	
Then	Now
Jammu & Kashmir was a state with special status.	Now Jammu & Kashmir will be a Union Territory.
Only citizens of Jammu and Kashmir were allowed to buy land in the state.	People from anywhere in India will be able to buy a property.
No 'outsider' could settle in the state.	Now any citizen of the country can settle in J&K.
RTI could not be filed	No restriction on filing RTI
Period of Legislative assembly was 6 years.	Now, it will not be for six years.
Jammu & Kashmir had a separate flag.	Only the National Flag will be there.
J&K had a separate constitution.	No separate constitution, law & order will be under center government.
Ladakh was a part of Jammu & Kashmir	Ladakh will be a separate Union Territory without a legislature.
The constitutional head was Governor	Now, state head will be Lieutenant Governor.

The new order

- **Under Article 370**, Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution and the laws passed by Parliament were applicable to the State only with the State government's concurrence.
- **Under Article 370**, The President was empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable with the State's assent.
- These special measures could only be altered on the recommendation of the **Sadar-i-Riyasat** (on the advice of the Ministers Council) or by the '**Constituent Assembly**'.
- **Article 35A** protected the law such as bar on outsiders buying property in the State and women marrying Non-Kashmiris will lose their property rights.
- **Article 367**, To scrap Article 370 altogether, a few clauses were added to Article 367 which contains "Interpretations": the reference to the 'Constituent Assembly' was amended to read 'Legislative Assembly of the State'. All references to the '**Sadar-i-Riyasat**' will be constructed as references to the Governor.

Sharing of Power

- The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, will bring about the following changes to the State.
- Two Union Territories to be formed out of the **State of Jammu and Kashmir**: **UT of Ladakh (Kargil and Leh districts)** and **UT of J&K (all other districts of the State of J&K)**.

2.3 Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

PRADHAN MANTRI LAGHU VYAPARI MAAN-DHAN YOJANA

- It was launched by the Union labour and Employment ministry for **retailers** and **smalltraders**. This scheme provides minimum monthly pension of ₹ 3000/month to small shopkeepers, retail traders and the self-employed people after they attain 60 years of age.

Eligibility

1. Self-employed people, small shopkeepers and retail traders aged between 18-40 years and with Goods and Service tax (GST) turnover below ₹1.5 crore can avail the scheme.
2. The above eligible persons should not be covered under the National Pension Scheme, Employees' State Insurance Scheme and Employees Provident Fund or be an Income Tax payer (assessee).

Contribution

1. Amount of contribution is age specific.
2. It is a 50:50 basis scheme where the government contributes an equal amount as that of the contribution made by the subscriber.

Ministry of labour and employment

- MoS (independent charge)– Santhosh Gangwar
- Headquarters- New Delhi.

GST

- It was launched on **July 1, 2017**.

UCHHATAR AVISHKAR YOJANA (UAY):

- It was announced on October 6, 2015 with a view to **promoting innovation of a higher order that directly impacts the needs of the Industry** and thereby improves the **competitive edge of Indian manufacturing**.
- UAY projects are **funded jointly by MHRD, participating Ministries and the Industry in the ratio of 50:25:25**.
- The scheme **focuses** on a viable industry-academic collaboration where industry shares a part of the cost of research.

DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA

Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission

- **About:** It is a poverty alleviation scheme launched in 2011 as **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)** and was succeeded by **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana in 2016**.
 1. Sub-schemes under DAY-NRLM
 2. **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs):** It allows a trainee to take bank credit and start his/her own business.
 3. **Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP):** It aims at facilitating rural poor for setting up micro-enterprises.

PRADHANA MANTRI SURAKSHA

BEEMA YOJNA

- The State Government of **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has become number one in implementation of ambitious central government scheme **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojna**. Totally 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019 in the state.

About Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana:

- It is a government-backed Life insurance scheme launched on 9 May 2015. It is available to people between 18 and 50 years of age with bank accounts get an accidental insurance cover of rupees 2 lakh by paying an annual premium of 330 rupees.

MISSION SHAKTI SPORTS

INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY

BOLLYWOOD ACTOR AAMIR KHAN

- **Mission Shakti** which is an initiative to train athletes from Chandrapur and Gadchiroli for international events like the Olympics by the **Maharashtra** minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, was launched by Bollywood film actor **Aamir Khan** in presence of Maharashtra sports minister Ashish Shelar.

Mission shakthi

1. This initiative will focus on sports like archery, shooting, swimming, athletics, volleyball, weight lifting and gymnastics.
2. Mega sports complex is planned at Ballarpur in Chandrapur and is to be funded by state govt.
3. The Maharashtra govt. Started this initiative to train and produce athletes of Olympic level and to make them participate in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

2024 Paris Olympics

- It is the **2024 Summer Olympics**, officially known as the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad and also commonly as **Paris 2024**.
- This International multi sport event is scheduled to take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in Paris, France.
- **Host city-** Paris, France.
- **Stadium-** Stade de France.

ONE NATION-ONE RATION CARD SCHEME IMPLEMENTED ON PILOT BASIS

- In a major boost to national food security Government of India launched One Nation - One Ration Card scheme on pilot basis in **Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharastra and Gujarat**. The pilot project is effective from 1 August 2019. **One Nation One Ration Card'** scheme seeks to allow portability of food security benefits.

Key Words

One Nation - One Ration Card scheme

- Families who have food security cards can buy subsidized rice and wheat from any ration shop in these states but their ration cards should be linked with Aadhar Number to avail this service.

STATES & DISTRICTS FELICITATED UNDER BBBP

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development felicitated those Districts and States who have successfully implemented the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme in the country.
- The function was held on 7th August, 2019 in New Delhi.
- The BBBP scheme launched on 22 January 2015 has been implemented in phases.
- Currently, it is being implemented in 640 districts (as per census 2011).

150 MILLION WORKERS AIMED BY THE GOVT. TO BE ENROLLED UNDER PM PENSION SCHEME

- Over the next 3 years under the pension scheme Pradhan Mantri shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM), the union government aims to enroll **150 million** workers to bring them under the social security net.
- Labour secretary, Hiralal Samariya stated that about **50-60** million workers will be from the **construction sector** and Agriculture workers and self-employed retailers will also be part of this pension scheme.

Key Words

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan yojana (PM-SYM)

- The scheme was announced in the month of February 2019. It provides monthly pension of **Rs. 3000** by contributing to this scheme till the age of **60 years**.
- **Eligibility:** people should work in unorganised sector with monthly income less than or equal to **Rs. 15000** and the entry age to enroll to this scheme is **18-40 years**.



PROJECT UTKRISHT LAUNCHED BY INDIAN RAILWAYS

- Indian Railways launched its Project 'Utkrisht' to upgrade 140 rakes of Mail/Express trains in the first phase.
- The main aim of the project aims to do the following:
 - ▶ Installing 'Swachh Rail Toilet',
 - ▶ Fitting of energy-efficient LED lights – in the main interior, doorway, gangway and inside toilets,
 - ▶ Braille signage & night glow stickers,
 - ▶ LED panel photo frame in first AC coaches, new types of bottle holders, big side mirrors,
 - ▶ Anti-graffiti vinyl wrapping in the gangway area,
 - ▶ New types of fire extinguishers.

MUKHYAMANTRI KANYA UTTAN YOJANA

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana for empowerment of women.

Key Words

- A sum of ₹ 7221 crore will be spend in a year on the programme.
- It will be run by three departments – education, health and social welfare.
- It will provide ₹ 54,100 from the birth of a girl child till she graduates.

JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN LEAD TO 3.5 LAKH WATER CONSERVATION

INITIATIVES IN A MONTH

- To improve water security in the country has resulted in implementing 3.5 lakh water conservation measures which saw an estimated 2.64 crore participating.
- The first phase of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) chaired by Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha found that the movement involved 1.54 lakh water conservation and rain water harvesting measures, 1.23 lakh watershed development projects, over 65,000 reuse and recharge structures and rejuvenation of 20,000 traditional water bodies.

Key Words

About Ministry of Jal Shakti

- Ministry of Jal Shakti is a ministry under Government of India which was formed in May 2019 under the second Modi ministry.
- This was formed by merging of two ministries; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

PM KISAN MAAN DHAN YOJANA

- Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has rolled out registration for the PM Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana to provide old age pension cover to farmers. It is new Central Sector Scheme envisioned with an aim to improve life of small and marginal farmers of the country. It is first of its kind pension coverage scheme since independence that's has been envisioned for farmers.

HRD MINISTER TO LAUNCH 'SAMAGRA SHIKSHA-JAL SURAKSHA' DRIVE

- Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' will launch 'Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha' drive on Friday to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.
- This mega drive will be launched at Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Auditorium, Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 in Delhi.
- Inspired by Prime Minister's impetus to Jal Sanchay, Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). It is a time-bound campaign with a mission mode approach.

Key Words

Five Major Objectives:

1. To educate students learn about conservation of water.
2. To sensitize students about the impact of scarcity of water.
3. To empower students to learn to protect the natural sources of water.
4. To help every Student to save at least one litre of water per day.
5. To encourage Students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level.

AIR INDIA LAUNCHES 'DISCOVER INDIA' SCHEME

- Air India introduced a 'Discover India' scheme valid for sale and travel up to **March 31, 2020**.
- The scheme is rolled out to meet the growing demand of passengers to fly to different places of tourist and religious interest within the country by the **Indian diaspora** and foreign tourists.

SOFT LAUNCH FOR TRADERS' PENSION SCHEME

- One of the priorities of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** government in the first 100 days of its second term, pension scheme for small traders, is likely to have a soft launch on August 19 evening, two officials of the Union Labour and Employment Ministry said.
- According to the Ministry's 100-day plan, the **Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan** scheme would target enrolling 25 lakh subscribers in 2019-2020 and 2 crore by 2023-2024.

MUKHYAMANTRI KRISHI

ASHIRWAD YOJANA

- Under the Jharkhand state's scheme, **Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana** launched by **Shri Venkaiah Naidu**, farmers/ beneficiaries having farmlands of less than 1 acre to 5 acres will be provided a financial assistance of **₹ 5,000-25,000**. The launching ceremony was held in **23 districts** apart from **Ranchi**.

Key Words

1. This scheme would benefit approximately **35 lakh farmers** and by september /october this year **₹ 3000 crore** will be sent to beneficiaries' account.
2. This scheme is apart from the benefits that the farmers are getting under **Pratan Mantri Kisan Yojana**.

PM'S HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME WILL COVER CANCER TREATMENT

- Cancer treatments will soon be covered under the **Ayushman Bharat Yojana Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, which is the Central Government's health insurance scheme that aims to give medical cover to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families of approximately **50 crore beneficiaries**, providing coverage of up to **₹ 5 lakh** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

VHALI DIKRI YOJNA

- Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) **Vijay Rupani** has launched a flagship financial assistance scheme called '**Vhali Dikri Yojna**' in Rajkot, Gujarat for the welfare of girl child in the state. The scheme launched in order to improve the child sex ratio in the state, which currently stands at 890 girl child per 1000 male child.

Key Words

- The amount will be given by the state government under the '**Vhali Dikri Yojana**'.

Eligibility for Gujarat Vahali Dikri Yojana

- ▶ Applicant must be a permanent resident of Gujarat state.
- ▶ The girls must belong to a poor family with an annual income of less than 2 years.
- ▶ In the case of more than 2 female students from a family will be not allowed to attain this benefit.

INTER-STATE PORTABILITY OF RATION CARD BEGINS IN 4 STATES

- In a bid to implement '**One Nation, One Ration Card**' across the country by June 1, 2020, the Centre on Friday kick-started inter-state portability of ration cards between Telangana-Andhra Pradesh as well as Maharashtra-Gujarat.
- This means beneficiaries living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can buy their quota of ration from the **Public Distribution System (PDS)**, also called ration shops, in either of the two States. Similar would be the case in Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- In these four states, both intra-state and inter-state portability of ration card is being implemented successfully, he said Meanwhile, seven States, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tripura, at present are testing intra-portability of ration cards, which means beneficiaries can lift their quota of ration from any PDS located within a State.

SWACCHA SURVAKSHAN GRAMEEN

- Jal Shakti Minister **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched the **2nd Edition** of **Swaccha Survakshan Grameen**, India's largest sanitation survey, for 2019 in New Delhi.
- The safety measures for the children travelling on motorcycles have been included in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019.

About Ministry of Jal Shakti:

- ▶ Founded: 31 May 2019
- ▶ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ▶ Constituency of Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat: Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

ONLY 46% PREGNANT, LACTATING MOTHERS RECEIVE TAKE HOME RATION

UNDER NUTRITION PROGRAMME

- Despite a high enrolment rate of 78 per cent, only 46 per cent pregnant and lactating women received 'Take Home Ration' under the supplementary nutrition programme, according to a survey conducted by the NITI Aayog in 27 districts.
- The survey also found that of the 64 per cent eligible children registered with Anganwadi services, only 17 per cent received a hot cooked meal in a day.
- In order to deal with the situation, the NITI Aayog recommended expediting release of Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) guidelines by the Health Ministry and filling up of vacant positions under Anganwadi services at various levels in states and Union Territories.
- Using the CMAM method, malnourished children receive treatment suited to their nutritional and medical needs.

PM'S INTERACTION WITH PRAGATI

- **Full name:** PRAGATI stands for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- **What is it?** It is a multi-purpose and interactive ICT platform with the objective of initiating a culture of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation by -
 - ▶ Addressing common man's grievances, and
 - ▶ Monitoring important programs of Union and State Governments.
- **Agencies involved:** it has been designed in-house by the PMO team with the help of National Informatics Center (NIC).

SMRITI IRANI LAUNCHES SUSTAINABLE FASHION PROJECT, 'SU.RE' IN MUMBAI

- The Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has inaugurated Project SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution), a joint project of CMAI (Clothing Manufacturers Association of India) & IMG Reliance (International Management Group, during Lakme Fashion Winter/Festive 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The aim of this initiative is to move towards sustainable fashion that contributes to a clean environment.

PUNJAB LAUNCHES SARBAT SEHAT BIMA YOJNA

- In a tribute to late former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 75th birth anniversary, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh launched his government's flagship universal health insurance scheme 'Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana', benefitting nearly 46 lakh families. E-cards were handed over to the first 11 beneficiaries from Mohali district to kick off the scheme, which would entitle beneficiaries to avail annual cashless treatment up to Rs five lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases, was aimed at ensuring the best possible treatment to the beneficiaries free of cost.
- The scheme has also been extended to around 4,500 journalists accredited to the state or holding yellow cards.

HARYANA GOVT LAUNCHED MUKHYA MANTRI PARIVAR SAMRIDHI YOJNA

- In a bid to provide social security to families, the state Government of Haryana has launched 'Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna' and under this scheme Rs. 6,000 per year will be given to each eligible family of the state.

Key Words

1. The scheme provides social security to people in terms of life/accidental insurance cover and pensionary benefits to individual families.
2. **Eligibility:** To avail benefit of the scheme, the annual family income should be less than ₹ 1,80,000 or a total land holding of less than two hectares.

HRD MINISTER LAUNCHES TEACHERS TRAINING PROGRAMME 'NISHTHA'

- **Human Resources Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** launched the Integrated Teachers Training Programme, **NISHTHA, National Initiative for School Head's and Teachers' Holistic Advancement**, in New Delhi.
- The integrated programme aims to build the capacities of around 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of the school at the elementary level in all government school, faculty members of state councils of Educational Research and Training and other educational departments of all States and Union Territories.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES SABKA VISHWAS-LEGACY DISPUTE RESOLUTION SCHEME, 2019

- Union Finance Ministry has notified Sabka Vishwas-Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019, a dispute resolution and amnesty scheme to reduce legacy service tax and central excise cases. It will become operational from September 1, 2019 four months till December 31, 2019. It can be availed by taxpayers for closing their pending disputes relating to legacy Service Tax and Central Excise cases that are now subsumed under Goods and Services Tax (GST) so they can focus on GST.

"OP-BLUE FREEDOM" FLAGGED OFF BY KIRENRIJIJU AND BAICHUNGBHUTIA

- 'Op-Blue Freedom' a first of its kind in Asia, nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as for able-bodied persons. it was launched by sports minister (independent charge) **Kiren Rijiju** and former Indian football team captain **Baichung Bhutia** at Talkatora garden, New Delhi.

Key Words

- **Aim:** To train adventure enthusiasts in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.

About sports ministry:

- **Headquarters :** New Delhi.
- **Constituency of Kiren Rijiju :** West Arunachal Pradesh.

EXHIBITION ON 'DAE TECHNOLOGIES' HELD IN NEW DELHI

- Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is organizing exhibition on 'DAE Technologies: Empowering India through Technology' at New Moti Bagh recreation club, New Delhi. It was inaugurated by **Shri Rakesh Gupta, Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. The 2-day exhibition on DAE's spin-off technologies for Non-Power Applications (NPAs) is open to public for 11-12 August 2019.

2.4 Public Awareness & General Administration

SINGLE TRIBUNAL FOR RIVER WATER DISPUTES

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019** that will help adjudicate disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valleys.
- A version of this bill was first introduced in the **Lok Sabha in 2017** but subsequently lapsed.

Key Words

Provisions related to interstate river water disputes

- **Entry 17 of State List** deals with water i.e. water supply, irrigation, canal, drainage, embankments, water storage and water power.
- **Entry 56 of Union List** empowers the Union Government for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to the extent declared by Parliament to be expedient in the public interest.
- **Article 262 of Indian Constitution** is related to river water disputes.
- Parliament has enacted two laws according to Article 262:
 - ▶ **River Board Act, 1956**
 - ▶ **Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956**
- **Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (IRWD Act)** was enacted by the parliament of India under **Article 262** of Constitution to resolve the water disputes that would arise in the use, control and distribution of an interstate river or river valley.

DEFENCE MINISTER APPROVES CHILD CARE LEAVE FOR MALE SERVICE PERSONNEL

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** has approved extension of benefits of **Child Care Leave (CCL)** to single male service personnel as well as certain relaxations of CCL provisions in case of women officers of defence forces. Currently **Child Care Leave (CCL)** is granted only to women officers in defence forces.
- This decision is in line with a recent **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)** order which extended similar benefits of CCL to civilian employees.

CENTRE LAUNCHES SAN-SADHAN HACKATHON FOR DIVYANG ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

- With an aim to have functional, accessible and well-maintained toilets for the disabled, **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, under Swachh Bharat Mission, launched **San-Sadhan Hackathon**.
- Under San-Sadhan Hackathon, startups, student innovators, technology enthusiasts, academicians and industry experts have been invited by the Central government to create composite and affordable toilet solutions for Divyang or physically challenged people. The last date to apply for participating in Hackathon is August 28.

2.5 Role of Voluntary Organizations

KABIL: GOVT SETS UP KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD TO ENSURE SUPPLY OF STRATEGIC MINERALS

- Union Ministry of Mines has set up joint venture company namely Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals to Indian domestic market. This new company is mandated to ensure mineral security of the country and help in realizing the overall objective of import substitution.

Key Words

About Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL)

- **Ownership:** It is JV of National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd (MECL). The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in ratio of 40:30:30.
- **Functions:** (i) It will carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals. (ii) Help in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in South America and Africa, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.

IIT KANPUR ALONG WITH CHILD RIGHTS BODY DEVELOP SEXUAL-ABUSE AWARENESS KIT

- The apex child rights body in collaboration with the IIT Kanpur has developed a kit to spread awareness about sexual abuse among children by using interactive means to teach them about personal safety, respecting their body and overcoming guilt.
- The kit is a set of cards, posters, short animation clips and games, which can be used by teachers or an NGO to conduct an interactive workshop for children about sexual-abuse awareness, according to the minutes of the 38th statutory meeting of the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**.

3. GEOGRAPHY



3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

INDIA HOME TO 2967 TIGERS

- An increase of 741 tigers in the last four years because of the conservation initiatives taken by the Centre and State government.
- Compared to 2006 when the scientific method of tiger counting began, the numbers doubled – from 1,411 in 2006 to 2,967 in 2018.
- The entire Western Ghats has 981 tigers with **Tamil Nadu (264)** and Kerala (190) contributing significantly.
- **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu** showed the highest increment in management since the last cycle for which the park was awarded
- The **33% rise** in tiger numbers is the highest ever recorded between cycles which stood at 21% between **2006 and 2010** and **30% between 2010 and 2014**.
- The rise in tiger numbers was in conformity with the average annual growth rate of tigers since, 2006.

TWO NEW SPECIES OF

FRESHWATER FISH FOUND

- Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered 2 new species of freshwater fish from north-eastern and northern parts of country. Both fish are hill stream fauna, measures less than 7 centimetres (cm) and are equipped with special morphological features to suit rapid water flow.



Key Words

- Both species of fish were discovered from remote areas of country. As **Glyptothorax gopii** was discovered from Mizoram's Champai district near India-Myanmar border and **Garra simbalbaraensis** has been found from Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district.

"DRACAENA CAMBODIANA", INDIA'S FIRST DRAGON BLOOD-OOZING TREE DISCOVERED IN ASSAM

- A three-member research team led by **Assam** forest officer Jatindra Sarma has discovered **Dracaena cambodiana**, a dragon tree species in Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong district in Assam.
- This is the first time that a dragon tree species, whose sap turns bright red after coming in contact with air has been reported from India.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF 'LIVING' LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD, INDIA RANKS 4TH

- According to **Ethnologue**, a directory of languages which lists 7,111 living languages (languages that are still being used and spoken by people) worldwide, Pacific island nation of **Papua New Guinea**, Country in Oceania tops the list with 840 living languages, while **India** ranks 4th position with 453.

Key Words

1. The other nations in top 5 position include, Indonesia (2nd) with 710 living languages and Nigeria (3rd with 524) and US (United States) came 5th with 335.
2. **Report:** 3,741 languages out of 7,111 living languages, have fewer than 1,000 speakers.

Classification	World wide	India
Vulnerable languages	About 10%(out of 228)	5
Critically endangered languages	Another 10% (out of 228)	42

BRAZIL RECORDS HIGHEST NUMBER OF FIRES SINCE 2013

- 78,383 forest fires were recorded in Brazil so far this year, the highest number for any year since 2013, and experts say the clearing of land during the months-long dry season to make way for crops or grazing has accelerated the **deforestation**.
- More than half of the fires are in the Amazon, and some 1,663 new fires were ignited, according to the National Institute for Space Research (INPE).

WITH AMAZON FOREST ON FIRE, BRAZIL FACES GLOBAL BACKLASH

- As dozens of fires scorched large swaths of the Amazon, the Brazilian government has struggled to contain growing global outrage over its environmental policies, which have paved the way for runaway deforestation of the world's largest rainforest.
- The fires, many intentionally set, are spreading as Germany and Norway appear to be on the brink of shutting down a \$ 1.2 billion conservation initiative for the Amazon.

CHHATTISGARH & TELANGANA TOP IN THE PROCESSING OF SOLID WASTE

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) informed that **Chhattisgarh** and **Telangana** processed the largest percentage of solid waste until November 18.

Key Words

- Among the larger states, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir had processed the smallest percentage of the total waste they generated – 5% and 8% respectively.

About MoEFCC:

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi | **Founded:** 1985 | **Minister In-charge:** Prakash Javadekar

11 SANCTUARIES IN TN, 1 EACH IN CHHATTISGARH, MAHARASHTRA

APPROVED AS ESZ: ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

- The Ministry of **Environment** on Friday approved 13 wildlife sanctuaries, including one tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh, as eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) for scientific conservation of the ecosystem.
- Making the announcement on social media, Union **Environment** Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "To help scientific conservation of ecosystems and at the same time give relief to the people in the area, I have approved final Eco Sensitive Zone notifications of 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu and one in Chhattisgarh.
- The 11 sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu are **Vaduvvoor Bird Sanctuary, Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Vettangudi Birds sanctuary, Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary, Oussudu Lake Bird Sanctuary and Point Calemere Wildlife Sanctuary.**
- The Achanakmar Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh and Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra have also been approved as ESZ, Javadekar said.
- The ministry had earlier said that till June 25, 2019 over 30 per cent of India's protected area (PA) has been covered under the final ecologically sensitive zone notification. According to the ministry, out of the 651 protected areas in India, 316 have been covered under the final ESZ notification which provides for prohibition of mining, stone quarrying and crushing units located within one km of such protected areas.

Key Words

- The ESZ notifications are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Environment (Protection) Rules 1986

KAJIN SARA LAKE SET TO BE WORLD'S HIGHEST LAKE

- Newly discovered **Kajin Sara lake in Nepal** is likely to set a new record of being the world's highest lake. It is located at Singarkharka area of Chame rural municipality in **Manang district of Nepal.**

Key Words

Kajin Sara Lake

- It is called **Singar** locally. It was discovered about a few months ago by team of mountaineers. As per measurement of lake taken by this team, it is located at an altitude of 5,200 metres. This measurement is yet to be officially verified. It is estimated to be 1,500 metre-long and 600 metre-wide.
- It is said to have formed out of the water melted from the Himalayas. Once its location and measurement of officially verified, it will be the world's highest lake at its altitude of 5000-plus metres.
- **Current world's highest lake:** It is Tilicho Lake, situated at an altitude of 4,919 metres in Nepal. It is 4 km long, 1.2 km wide and around 200 metres deep.

HIMACHAL PRADESH BREAKS 70 YEARS RECORD OF RECEIVING HIGHEST EVER RAINFALL IN LAST 24 HOURS

- The local Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that **Himachal Pradesh** recorded highest ever rainfall in last 24 hours by breaking the last 70 years' record. Extremely heavy rains were reported from Shimla, Bilaspur and Hamirpur.

Key Words

- Himachal witnessed a 102 mm of rainfall in last 24 hours after which the IMD made announcement.
- The highest rainfall was recorded at **Naina Devi** in Bilaspur district of Himachal at 360 mm whereas Shimla recorded 153 mm.

About IMD

- **Formed** : 1875
- **Headquarters**
- MausamBhavan, New Delhi.
- **Director General** :
- Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.
- **Union Minister responsible** : Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Union Minister of Earth Sciences).



GOVT OPENS UP FOR FOREIGNERS 137 HIMALAYAN PEAKS FOR TREKKING AND EXPEDITIONS

- The government has opened for foreigners **137 Himalayan peaks**, including the mighty **Kanchenjunga** located at a height of **8,589 metre**, for mountaineering expeditions and trekking in a major boost to tourism.
- Foreigners have to seek permission from the ministries of defence and home to climb these peaks. With the government opening them up, foreigners can now directly apply to the **Indian Mountaineering Foundation** for permits.
- The decision comes following a proposal from the **Tourism ministry**.
- The list of peaks include **Dunagiri** (7,066 m) and Hardeol (7,151 m) in Uttarakhand, Kabru South and North in **Sikkim**, both of which are at a height of over 7,000 metre, Mount Kailash (6400 m) in **Jammu and Kashmir** and Mulkila (6,571 metre) in **Himachal Pradesh**.

3.2 Natural Disasters - Safeguard Measures

TYPHOON FRANCISCO MAKES LANDFALL IN WESTERN JAPAN

- Francisco made landfall in southern Japan as typhoon , with maximum sustained winds of **85 mph**, according to the **U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center**.
- More than **15 inches** of rain has soaked the **Tokushima Prefecture**, according to the **Japan Meteorological Agency**.



4. ECONOMICS

4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

IOB OFFERS BANK ON WHEELS SERVICE AT ATHI VARADAR FESTIVAL

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) one of the largest public sector banks in the country has set up “**Bank on Wheels**” facility (**mobile ATM & digital banking**) at **Devarajaswamy Perumal Temple, Kancheepuram**.
- The Bank on Wheels vehicles are stationed at **East Gopuram Entrance** and another near **West Gopuram Entrance** enabling the devotees to use the facility and withdraw, transfer or make any money related transactions during the festival.

FLIPKART RANKED NO 1 IN LINKEDIN'S LIST OF BEST WORKPLACES IN INDIA FOR 2019

- In **LinkedIn's** fourth edition of **Top Companies list for India 2019**, **Walmart** acquired **Flipkart** was ranked **first place** as the best workplace in India. It was evaluated over the 4 criteria as part of the rankings: interest in the company, engagement with the company's employees, job demands and employee retention. It has ranked 25 companies.

SBI'S SHANGHAI BRANCH BECOMES THE 1ST INDIAN BANK CONNECTED TO CNAPS

- India's largest lender, **State Bank of India's (SBI)** **Shanghai** branch has become the first Indian Bank to be connected to **China's National Advance Payment System (CNAPS)**. SBI is the only Indian Bank to have obtained the license to do business in local currency and also inducted to the CNAPS by the china's central Bank, 'People's Bank of China (PBOC)'.

RBI'S TASK FORCE ON OFFSHORE RUPEE MARKETS HEADED BY USHA THORAT RECOMMENDS EXTENSION OF ONSHORE MARKET HOURS

- The Task Force formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on **Offshore Rupee Markets** headed by **Usha Thorat** has recommended the extension of onshore market hours from 9 am to 9 pm, from 9 am to 5 pm, to improve access of overseas users and allow Indian banks to freely offer prices to global clients around the clock.

RBL BANK LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST HEALTH-FOCUSED CREDIT CARD

- Private sector bank, **RBL Bank** and digital healthcare platform **Practo** have partnered to launch an industry-first co-branded **health credit card**. This credit card is powered by Mastercard.
- RBL Bank's new credit card offers benefits like online consultations with doctors and a free health check-up.

SCHEDULED BANK STATUS GIVEN TO JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave the status to Jana Small Finance Bank to operate as a Scheduled Bank.
- Jana Small Finance bank presently operates in 260 bank branches and 338 asset centres, which is serving over 5.5 million customers across the country.
- By the end of FY20, the bank plans to convert 98 asset centres and 103 Unbanked Rural centres (URCs) into full-fledged bank branches. Alongside, the bank continues to extend their product offerings such as business loans, agri loans, affordable housing and gold loans, that caters to customers.
- Established as a financial service company in 2009, the bank has presence in 20 States and one union territory.

Key Words**The scheduled commercial banks**

- Scheduled Banks in India refer to those banks which have been included in the Second Schedule of **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. Every Scheduled bank enjoys two types of principal facilities: it becomes eligible for debts/loans at the **bank rate** from the RBI; and, it automatically acquires the membership of **clearing house**

**BHARATCRAFT PORTAL: GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH E-COMMERCE MARKETING PLATFORM**

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is planning to launch Bharatcraft portal, a desi version e-commerce marketing platform.
- It will be based on the lines of e-commerce behemoths such as Alibaba and Amazon. It will provide platform for MSMEs to market and sell their products and in turn boost the overall sector. It has potential to achieve revenues of around ₹ 10 lakh crore in the 2-3 years.

4.2 Current Socio-Economic Problems

FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 LIST 2019

- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)** has become the top-ranked Indian company to feature in the latest "**Fortune Global 500 list 2019**" with a jump of 42 places. It ranked **106** in the list

Fortune Global 500 list– Top 10:

Rank	Company	Country
1	Walmart	United States
2	Sinopec Group	China
3	Royal Dutch Shell	British – Dutch
4	China National Petroleum	China
5	State Grid	China
6	Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia
7	BP plc	London, UK
8	Exxon Mobil	US
9	Volkswagen	Germany
10	Toyota Motor	Japan

Key Highlights :

- Reliance Industries (RIL) overtakes state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), which had been the top-ranked Indian company on the list and was first on the Fortune India 500 list which was started in 2010. Now IOC ranked 117 in the list with registering a jump of 20 spots.

About RIL:

- **Founded:** 8 May 1973
- **Founder:** Dhirubhai Ambani
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

About Fortune Global 500:

- It is an annual ranking of the top 500 corporations worldwide as measured by revenue and the list is compiled and published by Fortune magazine.

INDIA JUMPS TO 9TH SPOT ON GOLD

RESERVE LIST

- The **United States** is the world's largest gold reserve. The United States holds 8133.5 tonnes of gold, according to the recently published value list released by the **World Gold Council**. Germany is the next largest source of gold.
- **Germany's** gold reserve is 3367.8 tons.
- The gold reserves were followed by Italy at 2451.8 tonnes, France at 2436.1 tonnes, Russia at 2207 tonnes, China at 1926.5 tonnes, Switzerland at 1040 tonnes, Japan at 765.2 tonnes, India at 618.2 tonnes and the Netherlands at 612.5 tonnes.
- India was 10th on the gold reserve list. Significantly, it is currently up to 9th place.

CRISIL CUTS FY20 GDP GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.9% FROM 7.1%

- Ratings agency Crisil has cut its forecast for **GDP growth in 2019-20 to 6.9%** from its earlier forecast of 7.1%, citing weak monsoon, slow, global growth and poor high-frequency data for the first quarter of the financial year.

Key Words

- **CRISIL** (formerly Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited) is a global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services.
- CRISIL's majority **shareholder** is **Standard & Poor's**, a division of **McGraw Hill Financial** and provider of financial market intelligence.

GST COUNCIL REDUCES RATE ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM 12% TO 5%

Highlights

- GST rate on electrical vehicles (EVs) from 12 per cent to 5 per cent and on EV chargers from 18 per cent to 5 per cent from August 1, 2019.
- The Council also approved exemption from **GST** for hiring of electric buses by local authorities.

INDIA NEEDS TO GROW AT 9% TO ACHIEVE PM MODI'S TARGET OF \$ 5 TRILLION ECONOMY

- The country will need to grow by 9 per cent every year for five years continuously and raise aggregate investment rate to **38 per cent of GDP** to achieve **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** target of turning India into a USD 5 trillion economy, Ernst & Young.
- In its latest edition of *Economy Watch*, EY said assuming India grows by projected 7 per cent in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2020, the size of the economy will grow to USD 3 trillion from USD 2.7 trillion in the previous year.
- It will have to grow by 9 per cent in each of the five subsequent years to take the size of the economy to **USD 3.3 trillion in FY21, USD 3.6 trillion in FY22, USD 4.1 trillion in FY23, USD 4.5 trillion in FY24 and USD 5 trillion in FY25.**

JALAN PANEL DEFERS REPORT ON RBI SURPLUS FUNDS AFTER LACK OF CONSENSUS

- A **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** committee considering guidelines for transfer of the central bank's surplus funds to the government delayed submitting its report, after lack of consensus.
- The six-member committee led by former RBI governor **Bimal Jalan** will meet once more before submitting its report by the month-end.
- The committee was appointed in December 2018 to review the **Economic Capital Framework (ECF)** for the **Reserve Bank** after the **Finance Ministry** advised the central bank to transfer surplus funds to the government.
- The RBI has over Rs 9.6 lakh crore surplus capital.

INDIA IS THE 7TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD IN 2018: WORLD BANK

- The World Bank data for 2018 showed that India is the 7th largest economy in the world at \$ 2.73 trillion.

Top 10 Economies of 2018

Rank	Country	Value (\$ Trillion)
1	United States	20.5
2	China	13.6
3	Japan	5.0
4	Germany	4.0
5	United Kingdom	2.8
6	France	2.8
7	India	2.7
8	Italy	2.1
9	Brazil	1.9
10	Canada	1.7

Key Words

- India's GDP rose from \$2.65 trillion in 2017 to \$2.73 trillion in 2018.
- In 2017, India had emerged as the sixth largest economy.
- It still remains the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- The growth is estimated to slow to 7% in the current fiscal year that ends in March 2020.

About World Bank

- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States
- **Founded:** 1944
- **Founders:** John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

MILK PROCUREMENT PRICE HIKED ON DAIRY FARMERS

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said the milk procurement price had to be increased, considering the production cost and the welfare of dairy farmers.

Milk Variety	Old rate (card)	New rate (card)	Old rate (retail)	New rate (retail)
Aavin Nice (blue packs-toned milk)	34	40	37	43
Aavin Green Magic (green packs-standardised milk)	39	45	41	47
Aavin Premium (brown/orange packs-full cream milk)	43	49	45	51
Aavin Diet (Magenta packs-double toned)	33	39	34	40



5. SCIENCE



5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

IIT-M STUDENTS DESIGN 'AGRICOPTER' TO SPRAY PESTICIDES

- An "agricopter" designed by three students of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras has won them funds.
- The "agricopter" was developed by **Rishab Verma**, a student of chemical engineering, **Kavin Kailash**, studying aerospace engineering, and **Akash Anand**, pursuing engineering design.
- The team won at the finals of the **Indian Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) 2.0 University Challenge**, held in IIT-Bombay.

KAIGA ATOMIC ENERGY STATION SETS A WORLD RECORD

- Kaiga Atomic Energy station (Karnataka) sets a World Record in continuous operation of 962 days by Unit-1 of Kaiga Generating Station (KGS-1) among nuclear power plants of all technologies.
- KGS-1 (220 MW) in an indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) fuelled by domestic fuel which started commercial operation on November 16, 2000.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS DISCOVER 28 NEW STARS IN MILKY WAY

- Scientists at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) here have discovered 28 new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
- **ARIES Director Wahab Uddin** described the finding of the new variable stars, whose luminosity or brightness keeps changing, as a "rare achievement".
- The ARIES team of researchers led by **Dr Sneh Lata** and **Dr AK Pandey** performed photometric observations of globular cluster NGC 4147 using 3.6 metre **Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT)** established in 2016 near Nainital.

CHINA LAUNCHES UNMANNED WARSHIP

- China has launched an unmanned warship, which its developer claims is combat-ready.
- The ship, jointly developed by **China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC)**, has a length of about only 15 meters and a displacement of 20 tonnes.

CHINA CONGRATULATES INDIA FOR CHANDRAYAAN-2, WANTS TO WORK TOGETHER IN SPACE EXPLORATIONS

- China congratulated India after the successful launch of the **Chandrayaan-2**. China decided to work with India for upcoming outer space programs.
- China launched its five lunar exploration missions to the Moon. They made history landing on the far side of the Moon.
- They looked for a launch of its own Mars **mission by 2020**.

China - Moon - History

- China is the first spacecraft landed on the far side of the Moon. This is the lunar surface known as the dark side of the moon.
- The main aim is to explore lunar surroundings rover **Yutu-2** then rolled off the lander. **Chang'e-4 of China** the first spacecraft that landed on the far side of the Moon on January 2019.
- It is the lunar mission to **Change 3**, first spacecraft landing on the Moon.
- The main objective of landing on the dark side of the Moon to explore the surface of the Moon. It is used to collect samples that are still unexplored.

Chang'e 6 mission

- **Chang'e 6** mission is expected to launch in 2023 or 2024.
- The **Chang'e 7 and 8** will be launched in 2023 and 2027 respectively.
- The **Chang'e 8** will carry a lander, a rover, a flying detector, and a **3D Printer** to build a small structure on the lunar surface.
- They may conduct a brief ecosystem experiment on the Moon.

A JAPANESE "FLYING CAR" HAS SUCCESSFULLY MADE ITS FIRST TEST FLIGHT

- Japan's government is hoping to position the country as a leader in the flying car not-quite-as-large-as-a-helicopter drone space.
- Its **"road map"** document says it plans to ship goods this way by 2023 and let people ride in the vehicles in its **(very densely populated)** cities by the **2030s**.

UAE WILL BE THE FIRST ARAB NATION ON MARS

- ✦ The Arab world will launch its first mission to **Mars in July 2020**, the chair of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE) Space Agency**.
- ✦ The UAE's Hope probe **will lift off from Japan** and should reach Mars at the end of the following year, in time for the **50th anniversary of the emirates' independence**. It will be the first planetary-science mission from the Arab world.
- ✦ The mission's goals include understanding why Mars is losing its atmosphere by tracking the escape of hydrogen and oxygen, and building a bigger picture of the **changing Martian atmosphere**.

INDIA TEST-FIRES SURFACE TO AIR-MISSILE FROM CHANDIPUR

- India successfully test-fired its all-weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) from a mobile launcher at launch complex III of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur in Odisha.
- This Missile Jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Ltd, the QR-SAM weapon system is a quick reaction, network-centric missile system capable of search-on-the-move. QR-SAM system can also engage multiple targets within a range of around 25 to 30 km with 2 vehicle configuration for area air defence.
- It is a truck-mounted missile with a 360 degree rotatable, electro-mechanically operated, turret-based launch unit.

About QRSAM :

- It has been developed to replace the 'Akash' missile defence system, and has 360-degree coverage.
- It uses solid fuel propellant and has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.
- It is capable of hitting the low flying objects.

IIT GUWAHATI BUILDS HAND-HELD DEVICE TO DETECT BACTERIA

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati researchers have developed a low-cost, hand-held device for rapid detection of bacteria, bringing portable bacterial detection kits closer to reality.
- The researchers believe that besides being useful in a healthcare set up, the device could aid anti-bioterrorism measures and environmental monitoring applications.
- The Organic Field Effect Transistor (OFET)-based bacterial diagnostic device has been shown to have the ability to distinguish between Gram positive and Gram negative types. The sensor detects the charges on the cell walls of bacteria.

IIT-DELHI STUDENTS DESIGN WORLD'S FIRST SELF-STANDING CRUTCH

- The alumni from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi have created the world's first automotive crutches which have the capacity to stand on their own.
- The product which will be available in the market by the end of August is expected to solve problems of people with locomotive disabilities and the elderly.

TOI 270: NASA'S TESS DISCOVERS

- NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) recently discovered new dwarf star and planetary system named as TOI 270. It is located about 73 light years away from Earth, and in the constellation Pictor.

TOI 270 Planetary System

- ▶ Its members include Dwarf star named TOI 270, which is 40% smaller than the Sun in size and mass, and three exoplanets (planets outside solar system) that have been named TOI 270b, TOI 270c and TOI 270d. These three planets orbit their star every 3.4 days, 5.7 days and 11.4 days respectively.

NASA'S TESS SATELLITE DISCOVERS FIRST NEARBY SUPER EARTH

- A super-Earth was discovered by an **International team of astronomers led by Lisa Kaltenegger** and is considered to be the first potentially habitable world outside our own solar system.

Key Words

Super Earth

- The super Earth is named as **GJ 357d** and it was discovered in NASA's Translating Exoplanets Survey Satellite (TESS) according to new modelling research in "**Astrophysical Journal Letters**".
- This super Earth, **GJ 3570** located about **31 light years** away from our solar system is more massive than earth and could contain liquid on its surface.
- This discovery of the **GJ 357** system was announced in the journal "**Astronomy & Astrophysics**" by Astronomers of Spain.

JULY HOTTEST MONTH ON RECORD FOR THE EARTH

- July 2019 temperatures were the hottest ever recorded globally, the U.S. **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** said, while satellite data showed polar ice shrank to its lowest levels.
- According to the NOAA, the average global temperature for the month was 0.95°C above the 20th century average of 15.8°C, making it the hottest July in its records, which go back to 1880.

ISRO'S RISAT SERIES AND RISAT-3

- **Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT)** is a series of remote sensing satellites built and operated by ISRO.
- The launch of **RISAT-1** came many years after the launch of its planned successor, **RISAT-2**, which had enhanced remote sensing capabilities courtesy of an **Israeli-built X-band radar**.
- The RISAT-2 mission and launch were prioritized over **RISAT-1** after the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which delayed **RISAT-1's** launch by several years to 2012.
- RISAT-1 made a name for itself after images taken by the satellite were used to carry out the surgical strikes after the Uri attack in 2016 and, more recently, air strikes on the **Jaish camp in Pakistan**.
- ISRO is building **RISAT-2B**, to be launched on the **PSLV-C46** rocket in May, followed by the **RISAT-2BR1** in July, **RISAT-2BR2** in October and **RISAT-1A** in November this year.

HEALTH MINISTRY SETS TARGET TO REDUCE HIV CASES BY 2020

- With an aim to bring down incidence of **HIV/AIDS** by 20,000 per year for the next two years, the **Union Health Ministry** is reaching out to targeted areas like prisons and women remand homes as cases in these places are much higher as compared to the general population.
- As of now, there are about 2.1 million patients suffering from the disease, however, only 1.3 million are registered with **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)** centres and getting the treatment as per the **National Aids Control Organization (NACO)**.

TINY LENSLESS ENDOSCOPE CAPTURES 3-D IMAGES OF OBJECTS SMALLER THAN A CELL

- Researchers have developed a new self-calibrating endoscope that produces 3-D images of objects smaller than a single cell.
- Without a lens or any optical, electrical or mechanical components, the tip of the endoscope measures just 200 microns across, about the width of a few human hairs twisted together.
- According to Juergen W. Czarske, Director and C4-Professor at TU Dresden, **Germany** and lead author on the paper: "The lensless fiber endoscope is approximately the size of a needle, allowing it to have minimally invasive access and high-contrast imaging as well as stimulation with a robust calibration against bending or twisting of the fiber."

RUSSIA SENDS ROBOT FEDOR INTO SPACE FOR MISSION WITH ISS

- A Russian humanoid robot has started his journey to the International Space Station, serving as a mechanical passenger for a new type of rocket. The **Skybot F850** android, named **Fedor**, is set to learn new skills in space.
- Russian scientist nicknamed the android **Fedor**, short for **Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research**.

IITM DEVELOPS MULTIMODAL ROBOTIC SYSTEM CALLED "GRASPMAN" WITH A HUMAN-LIKE GRASP

- A team of researchers led by Asokan Thondiyath at **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)** have developed a new class of Robotic System called "**GraspMan**", which has human hand like grasping, manipulation and locomotion abilities.

Key Words

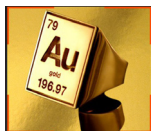
- ▶ **GraspMan:** It comprises a pair of graspers which provides morphological adaptation & allows it to confirm the geometry of the object. The graspers have the capability to hold objects securely and manipulate them much like the human hand.
- ▶ **Application:** The Robotic System will be used in industrial applications such as pipe climbing and inspection, which involve climbing, holding and assembling. Machines used in search & rescue purpose and locomotory applications will get benefit from this robotic platform.

IIT-M STUDENT DESIGNS SYSTEM TO RECYCLE URINE

- A student specialising in environmental engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras has come up with a method to recycle human urine.
- **Project Water Chakra** won the **Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0** award in July.

WORLD'S THINNEST GOLD CREATED BY BRITISH SCIENTISTS

- Scientists from the **University of Leeds, United Kingdom (UK)**, claim to have created the world's thinnest gold (**periodic table representation of gold is Au**) which is million times thinner than finger nail of human.
- As it appears to be green in water, researchers named it gold "nanoseaweed".
- This paperwork was published in the journal **Advanced Science**.



Key Words

- As only two atoms are layered one over the other, this material is regarded as **2D** because all atoms are usually surfaced with no bulk atoms beneath the surface.
- Thickness of the material is just **0.47 nanometres**.



ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERED A 2ND PLANET CALLED 'B PICTORIS C' FOR

BETA PICTORIS STAR

- Astronomers at the **Institute for Planetary sciences and Astrophysics, Grenoble, France (IPAG)** have discovered a 2nd planet called '**B Pictoris c**'. It is roughly around 3,000 times more massive than Earth. It orbits **Beta Pictoris** star, which is about nearly twice the mass of Sun and lies about 63 light years away from Earth.

Key Words

- The planet '**B Pictoris c**', situated 2.7 times further from its star than the Earth is from the Sun. It takes about 1,200 days to complete its orbit.

IIT-KGP DEVELOPS HYDRO THERMAL CARBONIZATION TECHNOLOGY FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

- IIT-KGP (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur) researchers develop new technology - Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC) for solid waste management. This Hydro Thermal Carbonization Technology can convert municipal solid waste to biofuel, soil amendment and absorbents.

Key Words

Hydro Thermal Carbonization (HTC)

- **Need:** At present India has adopted waste incineration processes from developed nations which are primarily focused on treating dry waste content. These processes require high energy input to combust municipal solid waste generated in India which has high moisture content due to tropical weather, open collection systems and mixed waste thus by using existing processes, only 20-30% of organic fraction of municipal solid waste is being recycled to biofuel. The lack of India suited technology led to develop a technology which can address the challenge indigenously.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL PROFOUND RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT

- In a bid to promote research in cutting edge areas of science, the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** plans to launch a new scheme called **"Supra" (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement)** to fund scientists.

Key Words

- ▶ The scheme has designed as a part of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100-day transformative ideas.
- ▶ **Aim:** The aim of this scheme is to fund new scientific and engineering breakthroughs with global impact.
- ▶ **Benefits:** This will promote new areas of study, novel scientific concepts, new products, and technologies. It will also attract high-quality research proposals consisting of new hypotheses or challenge present ones and provide innovative solutions.

About SERB:

- ▶ **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- ▶ **Secretary:** Prof Sandeep Verma



LIGO OFFERS NEW INSIGHTS ON BLACK HOLES

- About 900 million years ago, there was a collision between a black hole and another compact object that resulted in gravitational waves being spewed out into space.
- The LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) and VIRGO collaborations, which look for gravitational waves emanating from such events, have picked up this signal.
- Astro-physicists are keenly analysing this signal, as it could signify this signal, as it could signify new insights into black hole physics or hold promise for developing gravitational wave astronomy.

Key Words

- ▶ The **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)** is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to develop gravitational-wave observations as an astronomical tool.
- ▶ Two large observatories were built in the United States with the aim of detecting gravitational waves by **laser interferometry**. These can detect a change in the 4 km mirror spacing of less than a ten-thousandth the charge diameter of a proton.

INDIA'S FIRST CORPORATE CREDIT CARD FOR SMES LAUNCHED BY B2B PAYMENTS STARTUP ENKASH

- Business-Business payments startup company EnKash launched the country's first corporate credit card called **'Freedom Card'** for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- **Freedom card:** This card provides the freedom to avail credit facility for immediate needs and to manage liquidity of startups.

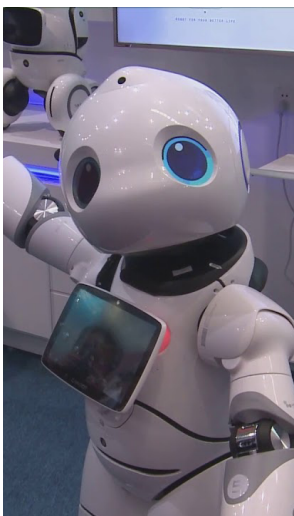
5.2 Latest Discoveries in Health Science

WHO RECOMMENDS USE OF INNOVATIVE HIV DRUG

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended the use of the **HIV drug dolutegravir (DTG)** as the preferred first-line and second-line treatment for all populations, including pregnant women and those of childbearing potential.
- In 2019, **12 of the 18 countries** surveyed by WHO reported pre-treatment drug resistance levels exceeding the recommended threshold of **10%**.

MACHINES ON DISPLAY AT WORLD ROBOT CONFERENCE IN CHINA

- Cutting-edge robots from around the globe are now on display at the **2019 World Robot Conference in Beijing**.
- Nearly 200 guests from 22 countries are expected to attend the conference, running from **August 20 to 25**.
- **Over 700 robots** with more than 21 industrial applications will be exhibited.



IMMUVAC, VPM1002: INDIA'S 1ST LARGE-SCALE TRIAL OF TWO NEW TB VACCINES LAUNCHED

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched India's first large-scale trial for two new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines named **IMMUVAC** and **VPM1002**. These vaccines aim to prevent infection (pre-exposure) or prevent primary progression or reactivation of latent TB infection (post-exposure), all of which have critical role to play in India's big fight against TB. Both vaccines have been manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies.

Key Words

About Vaccines

- ▶ **Immuvac:** It is also known as mycobacterium indicus pranii (MIP). It has been manufactured by Ahmedabad based Cadila Pharmaceuticals.
- ▶ **VPM1002:** It is manufactured by Pune based Serum Institute of India.

Need for new vaccines

- ▶ At present Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine is widely used in routine Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) across the world. However, this vaccine is over century old and provides poor protection against pulmonary disease in adolescents and adults.

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT CATEGORISED NICOTINE AS "CLASS A POISON"

- The Government of **Karnataka** amended the **Karnataka Poisons (Possession and Sale) Rules 2015** and notified **Nicotine as "Class A poison"** in order 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**.

Key Words

1. The ban was imposed after the study conducted the **High Powered Committee on Tobacco Control** headed additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, **Vandita Sharma**.
2. The Government has also ordered the suspension of all kinds of promotion of e-cigarettes, including online promotion.
3. Class A poison are "**Highly toxic chemicals**", which 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).

WORLD'S SMALLEST FOSSIL MONKEY FOUND IN THE FORESTS OF AMAZON

- A team of scientists led by **Duke University in the US (United States)** and the **National University of Piura in Peru** has discovered the **fossils of the world's smallest monkey** in the **Amazon forests**. The team has found **18 million years** old fossil teeth, which is related to the small monkey of a new species.

Key Words

1. The fossil found in **sandstone** on the banks of the **Rio Alto Madre de Dios River** in south-eastern Peru.

7 NEW SPECIES OF INSECTS THAT CAN WALK ON WATER DISCOVERED

- Scientists of the **Zoological Survey of India** have discovered seven species of water treaders, semi-aquatic insects that can walk or run on the surface of water.
- The newly described species belong to the genus **Mesovelgia** whose size ranges from 1.5 mm to 4.5 mm and are equipped with hydro-phobic setae (bristles) on their legs. The combination of hydrophobic setae and water surface tension prevents them from sinking.



59-MINUTE LOAN SCHEME

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) may be one of the first public sector banks off the blocks to ease the credit situation for the **MSME sector**, in response to the clarion call from the government. The bank has announced that the loan amount sanctioned under the **59-minute approval scheme** is being upped to **₹ 5 crore**.

5.3 Mass Media & Communication

'DIAL FOR WATER 2.0' COMES TO CHENNAI'S RESCUE

- The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has introduced the 'DIAL FOR WATER 2.0' scheme under which consumers will get water supply within two days from booking.
- This will be introduced from July 29.

SECURITYPEDIA

- Securitypedia is an online encyclopedia which incorporates a wide gamut of security-related practices across the globe.
- It was Launched by The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Key Words

Features:

- ▶ This repository of knowledge contains information on technical learning, CISF manuals, case studies, technical compendium, etc.
- ▶ There is also a feature in Securitypedia – CISF Tube – where officials can find all videos relevant to CISF.

TAX DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES 'E-FILING LITE' FOR TAXPAYERS

- A 'lite' e-filing facility was launched by the Income Tax department to facilitate the easy and quick filing of returns by taxpayers.
- The Income Tax department is launching 'e-Filing Lite', a lighter version of e-Filing portal with a focus on the filing of Income Tax Return (ITR) by the taxpayers.

CENTRE LAUNCHES SWACHH NAGAR APP

- Swachh Nagar app was launched by the ministry of housing and poverty alleviation. An app that will allow users to have solid waste, wet or construction and demolition (C&D) collected by their urban local bodies along with a new protocol on wastewater treatment that would become a part of cleanliness rankings of cities.

CEREBRAS SYSTEMS REVEALS "WORLD'S LARGEST COMPUTER CHIP"

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) company Cerebras Systems has unveiled the world's largest single silicon-based processor named Cerebras Wafer Scale Engine (WSE).
- This chip has 1.2 trillion transistors, the basic on-off electronic switches that are the building blocks of silicon chips.
- The rectangular shape chip measures 21.5 cm sq (8.5 in sq), comes with 400,000 AI (Artificial Intelligence) cores and 18 gigabytes of on-chip memory.

6. NATIONAL DAIRY OF EVENT



KARNATAKA IS THE MOST DIGITISED STATE: RAZORPAY REPORT

- Bengaluru-based payment solutions company **Razorpay** launched the second edition of its digital transactions report, 'The Era of Rising Fintech'.
- Karnataka topped the list of most digitised States in the April-June 2019 quarter, followed by **Maharashtra and Delhi**. **Tamil Nadu** ranked fourth, followed by **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Digital adoption in Tamil Nadu has grown by more than 35 per cent in the last three months and UPI as an instrument has grown by 57 per cent in the State during the last quarter.

SMART TRAFFIC SIGNAL IN MOHALI

- The Mohali traffic police launched the country's first **3-D Smart Traffic Signal** on a pilot basis.
- The wireless system will control traffic signals in Mohali with sensors to regulate the movement of traffic.
- **Sharad Satya Chauhan, ADGP (Traffic)**, while launching the system near **Quark City on the airport road**.

2ND ALL INDIA ANNUAL

CONFERENCE OF IIS OFFICERS

- The 2nd All India Annual Conference of **Indian Information Service Officers** was held in **New Delhi**.
- The Conference was organized with a view to **attain greater integration of all Media Units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** in order to further amplify government communication.
- A **Performance Review of Media Units** under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was also conducted during the Conference.

NOIDA GETS ITS FIRST 'PINK TOILET'

- Noida got its first "Pink Toilet" dedicated to women with facilities for sanitary napkins and baby care.
- The toilet, located in the Sector 50 market, was inaugurated by **Noida Authority Chairman Alok Tandon and CEO Ritu Maheshwari**.

WORLD EDUCATION SUMMIT 2019

- Rajasthan wins the "best innovation and initiative leadership award" for its achievements in higher education in the World Education Summit-2019 held in **New Delhi**.

NEXT-GENERATION DNA SEQUENCING FACILITY IN HYDERABAD

- The Centre For Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) received a state-of-the-art facility for its genomic studies division, which was inaugurated by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan.
- The Next Generation Sequencing Facility promises to sequence up to 30 human genomes in a day and help researchers to individually tag genomes of up to 80,000 cells in eight minutes.

'METROLITE' TRAIN FOR SMALL CITIES

- Light urban rail transit system - 'Metrolite' - in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has issued standard specifications of the 'Metrolite' system which will be developed on surface and elevated stretches.

What is the 'Metrolite' ?

- The 'Metrolite' system will have a dedicated path separating the road traffic with it. For segregation with road traffic, fencing can be provided on either side of network.

ATAL COMMUNITY INNOVATION CENTRE LAUNCHED IN NEW DELHI

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched Atal Community Innovation Centre in New Delhi. It aims to encourage spirit of innovation at community level.

Key Words

About Atal Community Innovation Centre

- **Objective:** To encourage spirit of innovation through solution-driven design thinking to serve society. To make innovation ecosystem socially inclusive and to ensure equitable distribution of infrastructure for innovation across India.
- **Need:** In order to achieve target of 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025, Atal Innovation Mission has a key role to perform.

WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 'SAVE GREEN, STAY CLEAN'

- The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee launched an awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean' for preserving the greenery and keeping the environment clean in Kolkata, which will be celebrated every year. She participated in the Padayatra for this purpose.

Key Words

- The percentage of tree plantation increased to 19% from 11% in the past 8 years.
- State Government will also distribute more than 1 lakhs saplings throughout the state for spreading of greenery.

DELHI AMONG CHEAPEST CITIES TO RELOCATE: MOVING PRICE INDEX 2019

- "Moving Price Index 2019" conducted by relocation experts from **Movinga** (German online platform-based moving company), **Delhi** is among the world's cheapest cities to move to.
- Delhi was ranked **85th in terms of individual relocation & 84th rank in family relocation** on the Index, a study of 85 cities that takes a number of parameters into account as a foundation for its findings, including transportation, food and drink, phone bills, rent cost (temporary and permanent), storage fees and internet connection.
- This will be introduced from **July 29**.

Here's the rank of cities for individual relocation:

Rank	City	Country
1 st	San Francisco	United State(\$13,531)
2 nd	New York	United States(\$12,041)
3 rd	Geneva	Switzerland(\$11,694)
85 th	Delhi	India(\$1735)

Here's the rank of cities for family relocation:

Rank	City	Country
1 st	San Francisco	United State(\$24,004)
2 nd	Boston	United State(\$20,738)
3 rd	Geneva	Switzerland(\$20,165)
84 th	Delhi	India(\$4232)

About Movinga:

- **Founded:** 2015
- **Founders:** Bastian Knutzen, Chris Maslowski
- **CEO:** Finn Age Hansel

70% JOB RESERVATION IN PRIVATE SECTOR FOR LOCALS IN MP

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath** said the state government is mulling a law to ensure **70 per cent jobs** to local youths in the private sector.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** said the proposed law will ensure that unemployed youth of the state gets adequate representation in the private sector.
- While intervening in a question related to increasing the age relaxation for those from outside **Madhya Pradesh** in the government jobs, the CM the administration will not allow any injustice to youth of the state, who were disappointed in the past due to high unemployment.

'OPERATION MUSKAAN' LAUNCHED TO RESCUE MISSING CHILDREN

- After successful implementation of '**Operation Smile**', the railway police started implementing '**Operation Muskaan**' to trace missing and destitute children and reunite them with their parents.
- The main aim of the program was to prevent child trafficking and rescue children from persons who tried to engage them in begging, sexual trade and other antisocial activities.

22ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE 2019 HELD IN SHILLONG

- The 22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019 will be held in **Shillong, capital of Meghalaya**. This will be for first time this mega knowledge sharing event will be organized in the north-eastern region of the country.

Key Words

22nd National Conference on e-Governance 2019

- **Organized by:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Meghalaya State Government. It is being held in Shillong is part of the DARPG's 100 days initiatives.
- **Theme of the Conference:** 'Digital India: Success to Excellence'. Besides there will be discussions held on five sub-themes in plenary sessions during conference. Four breakout sessions will be held on the sub-themes

HRD MINISTER INAUGURATES TECHNOLOGY EXPO AT IIT DELHI

- Human Resources Development Minister **inaugurating** Technology Expo at IIT Delhi to **showcase the latest innovation in the field of science and technology**.
- **Human Resources Development Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.**

DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY'S MOBILE LIBRARY BUS SERVICE LAUNCHED

- **Mobile Library Buses** procured under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) assistance from Airport Authority of India by Delhi Public Library, was launched by the Union Minister of state for culture and tourism-Shri **Prahlad Singh Patel** in New Delhi.

Key Words

- It was launched under the "**Ghar-Ghar Dastak Ghar Ghar Pustak**" scheme of Delhi Public Library providing books to citizens of Delhi especially residents of slums, resettlement colonies and rural areas.

PRESIDENT KOVIND HONOURED WITH NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT, HIGHEST AWARD OF REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

- President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the National order of Merit by the President of Guinea for his exceptional contribution to the advancement of overall relations and development of mutual cooperation between **India and Guinea** and for promoting friendship and partnership between the people of both the countries.

RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES NEW HIGHER EDUCATION MODEL NAMED RACE

- **Bhanwar Singh Bhati**, Minister of State (MoS) for Higher Education inaugurated Resource Assistance for Colleges with Excellence (**RACE**) in presence of various college principals.

INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL TIME RELEASE STUDY CONDUCTED FROM AUGUST 1-7, 2019

- The Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance conducted **India's first national Time Release Study (TRS)** from August 1-7, 2019.
- It will be conducted on an annual basis, during the same period every year hereafter. It is lead by the Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs (CBIC).

Key Words

1. **TRS:** It is an internationally recognized tool advocated by the **World Customs Organization (WCO)** to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of international trade flows. The WCO TRS is specifically referenced in **Article 7.6 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** as a tool for Members to measure and publish the average release time of goods.
2. **Objective:** To identify and address bottlenecks in the trade flow process and take the corresponding policy and operational measures required to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of border procedures.

About Ministry of Finance:

- **Founded:** 29 October 1946
- **Minister In-Charge:**
Nirmala Sitharaman

About WCO:

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium
- **Formed:** January 26, 1952

MUSEUM OF SIKHISM SETS NEW RECORD



- The **Virasat-e-Khalsa museum** in Punjab's **Anandpur Sahib** town is all set to find a place in the **Asia Book of Records** for becoming the most visited museum in the Indian sub-continent on a single day.
- The Asia Book of Records has confirmed the record of '**maximum footfall in a museum in a day**' in the name of **Virasat-e-Khalsa**, which will feature in the next edition of the Asia Book of Records.

ELEPHANT CENSUS

- **Union Ministry of Environment** informed about the elephant population in India.
- Elephant population in India is estimated at 29,964 as per the census conducted in 2017.
- The South Region accounted for **14,612** followed by **North East** with **10,139** elephants.
- While the census of tigers is undertaken at the national level once every four years, the census of elephants is **undertaken at every five years**.

MAHARASHTRA: 1ST STATE TO ADOPT DIGITAL FINGERPRINT AND IRIS SCANNING SYSTEM

- Maharashtra became first state in the country to adopt an Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS) i.e. digital fingerprint and iris scanning system to help police investigations. This system will soon be replicated by police forces of other states in the country.

Key Words

Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS)

- ▶ **Composition:** AMBIS unit comprises computer terminal, camera, and iris, fingerprint, and palm scanners. It also includes portable system to dust off and capture fingerprint from crime scenes.
- ▶ It can be integrated with facial recognition from CCTV cameras that enables police to cross-reference and apart from solving fresh crimes it can even put faces to criminals whose fingerprints have been captured on paper for more than decades.

'OPERATION NUMBER PLATE'

- Indian Railways' Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched a drive named 'Operation Number Plate' under the direction of the Director General of RPF Shri Arun Kumar, to check and verify unauthorised parking in the railway premises.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES E-ROZGAR SAMACHAR TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. Rozgar Samachar is the corresponding version of Employment News.
2. Employment News is the flagship weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
3. It was launched in **1976** with a view to providing information on employment opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed youth of the country.

Key Words

About Rozgar Samachar:

- It is the corresponding version of Employment News (English). Employment News is the flagship weekly job journal from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It was launched in **1976**. The journal is published in English (**Employment News**), Hindi (**Rozgar Samachar**) and Urdu (**Rozgar Samachar**) and has a circulation of over one lakh copies per week. It is available throughout India every Saturday.

INDIAN RAILWAYS TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

- The **Indian Railways** has decided to enforce a ban on single-use plastic materials on its premises, including trains, with effect from **October 2, 2019**.
- Indian Railways was identified as a "**Waste Generator**" and had to take adequate preventive measures to follow Plastic Waste Management rules.

POSTAL DEPT DECIDES TO CONVERT INDIA POST PAYMENTS BANK INTO SFB

- The Postal Department said it has decided to convert the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) into a small finance bank (SFB)**, enabling it to offer small loans to customers.
- Besides, the department also looks to open one crore accounts for IPPB in **100 days**.
- A statement of the **Postal Department** recited that the decisions were taken at the annual Heads of Circles Conference held at Srinagar.

Payment Banks	Small Finance Banks
Objective	
Provide small savings accounts and payments / remittance services to migrant labour workforce and low-income households	Financial inclusion and supply of credit to small business units and farmers through high-technology and low-cost operations
Eligible Promoters	
Individuals of professionals with necessary experience and eligibility, existing NBFCs, corporate banking correspondents, mobile companies, supermarket chains, real estate co-ops and corporate entities	Resident individuals or professionals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance, companies and societies owned and controlled by residents, existing NBFCs, microfinance institutions and local area banks owned and controlled by residents
Scope of Activities	
Accept deposits but customer balance should not exceed Rs. 1 Lakh	Basic services of accepting deposits and lending
Cannot give loans, can issue ATM/Debit card but no credit cards	No restriction on the area of operations
Can distribute non-risk simple financial products such as mutual funds and insurance products	At least 50% of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of upto Rs. 25 Lakh
NRIs will not be allowed to open accounts	

INDIA IS THE TOP EMITTER OF SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂) IN THE WORLD: GREENPEACE

- According to a data released by a non-governmental environmental organization, **Greenpeace, India** is the world's top emitter of anthropogenic sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world with more than **15% of all the SO₂ hotspots, tracked by NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) OMI (Ozone Monitoring Instrument) satellite.**

- **SO₂ hotspots in India:** The reports finds that Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, Neyveli, and Chennai in Tamil Nadu, Talcher and Jharsuguda in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, Kutch in Gujarat, Ramagundam in Telangana and Chandrapur and Koradi in Maharashtra are the major SO₂ hotspots in India.

AMIT SHAH WILL HEAD A 4-MEMBER PANEL OF MINISTERS TO COMBAT MOB VIOLENCE AND LYNCHING

- Union home minister & BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) President, **Amit Shah** will now head a 4-member panel of ministers, which was created in 2018 to propose action against **mob lynching**. The panel was headed by then Home minister Rajnath Singh when it was formed.

Key Words

1. **The Four:** The Group of Ministers (GoM) will have the members include S. Jaishankar(External Affairs Minister), Nitin Gadkari(union minister of road transport and highways), Ravi Shankar Prasad(Union Minister of Law and Justice) and Thawar Chand Gehlot(Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment).
2. **SC Notice:** The Supreme Court (SC) had directed the Central Government, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the State governments to respond to the plea seeking implementation of its directions issued in July 2018 to tackle mob violence and lynching.
3. **Rajiv Gauba Committee:** After the report suggesting measures such as tightening of the law by placing clauses in the Indian Penal Code(IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure submitted by the committee headed by Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, the Government held a meetings with social media platforms and asked them to take solid steps to remove content that created rumours and contributed to lynching.
4. **Report:** More than 20 people were lynched in the months of May & June, 2018 based on the fake news posted on Social media platform, which incites such incidents.

AUTO INDUSTRY SHOULD GRAB EV OPPORTUNITY: RAJIV KUMAR

- The auto sector's fears over electric vehicles (EVs) are misplaced, said NITI Aayog **Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar**.
- Instead of seeing EVs as a threat, he urged the auto sector to grab the opportunity offered by this sunrise sector and emerge a global leader.
- The thought is to phase in the transition in a very gradual manner, which is implied by our proposal to have **100% electric three-wheelers** by 2023, and a part of the two-wheeler population that is below **150cc** by 2025.

WATER ATMS SET UP IN 70 SPOTS IN NILGIRIS

- As the ban on sale of plastic water bottles and soft drinks along highways running through the Nilgiris is set to come into force on August 15, the district administration has set up water ATMs at 70 locations popular with tourists.
- **The Tourism and Horticulture Departments** are chipping in, with tourists being encouraged to collect water from the ATMs at a nominal price set up at **Dodda-betta Peak**.

INDIA'S FIRST CLINICAL ECOTOXICOLOGY FACILITY INAUGURATED AT AIIMS, DELHI

- India's first-of-its-kind **clinical ecotoxicology facility** was inaugurated at the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi**.

Key Words

- ▶ It will investigate the increasing number of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air.
- ▶ It will provide diagnostic and research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity.

ODISHA ABOLISHES PRACTICE OF ACCORDING 'GUARD OF HONOUR' TO CM, MINISTERS

- The Odisha government has done away with the practice of according '**Guard of Honour**' to the Chief Minister, ministers and other government officials.
- The practice would be duly followed on special occasions like **Republic Day, Independence Day and Utkal Dibasa (Odisha Day)**.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was first to remove red beacon from his car.



15-KM LONG NATIONAL FLAG UNFURLED IN RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH

- In Chhattisgarh, thousands of students and members of several social organisations unfurled a **15-km long national flag** by forming a human chain in Raipur ahead of the Independence day.
- This event was organised by **Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam Foundation** to entered the **Champions Book of World Records (for the longest tricolour)**.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR LAUNCHES WEBSITE FOR COP14

1. Union Environment minister launched a website '**uncddcop14india.gov.in**', which contains all the information related to **COP 14**.
2. The 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP14)**, will take place on 2-13 September 2019 at **Greater Noida, India**.
3. The aim of the conference includes Reversing land degradation and its outcomes while accelerating positive achievements for people and for ecosystems with a view to delivering on **Sustainable Development Goals**.

WORLD'S FIRST ULTRA-FAST HYPERLOOP PROJECT GRANTED TO MAHARASHTRA

- The infrastructure project status worth \$ **10 billion** was granted to Maharashtra by India, to establish the world's first ultra-fast Hyperloop project. This project stretching over 117.5km, will link **Mumbai** with the neighbouring city of **Pune** and travels to the destination in about 35 minutes.
- Hyperloops freight at speeds up to **1200 km per hour (750 miles per hour)** using magnetic to levitate pods inside an airless tube.

WORLD'S 1ST MUSEUM DEDICATED TO THE LIFE OF SRI CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU OPENED IN KOLKATA

- **West Bengal Chief Minister (CM), Mamata Banerjee** has opened the World's **1st museum** dedicated to the life of a 16th century saint and social reformer, **Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu**, designed by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

UDAIPUR WILL HOST 3RD EDITION OF INDIA'S LARGEST EDUCATION BRAINSTORMING EVENT

- The City of Lakes, **Udaipur (Rajasthan)** will host the **3rd edition** of India's largest education brainstorming event called "**Scoo News Global Educators Fest (SGEF)**" with having 2019 theme '**Education for Sustainability: Moving on from conformity to creativity**' will be held on August 9 & 10, 2019.

GI TAG ACCORDED TO THREE NEW PRODUCTS

- **Geographical Indications Registry** under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has accorded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to **Tirur betel leaf from kerala, Tawlhlohpuan fabric and Mizo Puanchei shawl/textile from Mizoram**. GI product is recognised as originating from specific geographical origin possessing qualities or reputation related to its origin. This tag is exclusive and similar item originating from different location is not allowed to use it.

INDIA GETS ITS FIRST NATIONAL ESSENTIAL DIAGNOSTICS LIST

- India has got its first National Essential Diagnostics List (NEDL) finalised by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which aims to bridge the current regulatory system's gap that do not cover all the medical devices and in-vitro diagnostic device (IVD)
- The current system is equipped to manage only the few notified devices.

Key Words

WHO list

- WHO released first edition of essential diagnostics list (EDL) in May 2018. Even though WHO's EDL acts as a reference point for development of national EDL, India's diagnostics list has been customised and prepared as per landscape of India's health care priorities.

'VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS SYSTEM' LAUNCHED BY AP CM JAGANMOHAN REDDY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister (CM) and YSR (Yuvajana Sramika Rythu) Congress party leader, Jaganmohan Reddy on his maiden Independence Day speech on August 15, 2019 at IGMS (Indira Gandhi (municipal) Stadium) ground in Vijayawada, announced a new flagship programme '**Village Volunteer System**' to provide doorstep governance to people involving 2.8 Lakh volunteers.
- The scheme would be launched on the **Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** on October 2.

INDIA'S LARGEST RURAL SANITATION SURVEY LAUNCHED

- On the occasion of 73rd Independence Day, **Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** launched India's largest **Swachh Survekshan Grameen (Rural Sanitation Survey)**, 2019 in New Delhi.
- To be instituted from August 14 to September 30, 2019, the survey will cover 17,450 villages in 698 districts across India and include 87,250 public places namely schools, Anganwadi centres, public health centres, markets, religious places, making it India's largest rural sanitation survey.
- Around **2,50,000 citizens** will be interviewed for their feedback as part of the survey.

INDIA 'TOP' IN POPULATION BY 2027

- The United Nations has said that by 2027, India will be number one among the most populous countries globally.
- The population is expected to decline after 2060.
- In southern regions like **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala**, the infant birth rate is 1.8.
- In northern states like **MP, UP, Rajasthan and Bihar**, the ratio is 2.3.
- Currently, **China** is the world's most populous country.
- Next, **India ranks 2nd** with a population of **133.92 crore**.

INTER-STATE COUNCIL RECONSTITUTED WITH PM AS CHAIRMAN

- The Inter-State Council, which is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states, has been reconstituted with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.
- The Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are **Amit Shah (Home), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Narendra Singh Tomar (Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj)**.
- Chief ministers of all states and Union territories having legislative assemblies and administrators of the Union territories not having a legislative assembly will also be members of the council.

16 STATE GOVERNMENTS AND THE TEXTILE MINISTRY SIGNS MOU ON SKILL TRAINING

- Ministry of textiles and a total of 16 states from the country have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** at a function in New Delhi to take **project Samarth** which is Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (**SCBTS**) to impart skill based training to workers.

Key Words

1. A total of **18 states** were initially planned to partner with the textile ministry. But **Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir** were not present during the function.
2. A short film was screened on the occasion and a souvenir was also released.
3. The ministry urged the states of **Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand** to relook on their targets as their targets were much below the requirements of skilled workers.
4. They are **Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Karnataka, Manipur, Haryana, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.**

Flagship scheme:

- The flagship scheme was implemented by the Textiles ministry from **2010 to 2017** with the target to provide **15 lakh** additional skilled workers by 2017 in the textile sector.

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 state's reservation becomes a total of 72 percent is the highest in the country. The reservation limit of 50 percent mandated by the Supreme court.

TEJAS TRAINS TO BE HANDED OVER TO IRCTC

- Indian Railways takes first step towards 'private' trains **Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways** has given **IRCTC** the go ahead to run its trains on the **Delhi-Lucknow and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes**.
- The railways has decided that **IRCTC** will run the **Ahmedabad-Mumbai Central Tejas Express and the Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express** as test cases.
- According to a blueprint prepared by the Railway Board to hand over the two trains to the railways' tourism and catering arm for a period of three years as a pilot project, no concessions, privileges or duty passes will be allowed on these trains.

ALL CAPF PERSONNEL TO RETIRE AT 60 YEARS: GOVT ORDER

- Government of India issued an order that all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years.
- As per the order issued by Union Home Ministry, all personnel of the forces, the **Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Central Reserve Police Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police** will retire at the age of 60, instead of 57 years.

PRESIDENT KOVIND INAUGURATES BUNKER MUSEUM AT MUMBAI RAJ BHAVAN

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the underground Bunker Museum at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- The 15,000 square feet underground bunker museum has virtual reality booths in which visitors can "time travel" to the 19th century.
- The bunker was created in the 19th century to fire cannons at approaching enemy ships.

RAILWAYS TO REFUND TICKETS

BOOKED ON CANCELLED THAR EXPRESS

- As the Thar Link Express connecting **Jodhpur to Karachi** has been cancelled by the Railway Ministry till further orders, the railways will refund 45 tickets booked till now by passengers who wanted to travel to Pakistan on Saturday on the weekly train.
- The operations of Thar Express have been suspended till further orders from Railway Ministry. The directions have been issued by the ministry to the **North Western Railway**.

'HOUSING FOR ALL' TARGET TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2020

- Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the target of 'Housing for All' under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana** will be achieved in 2020, two years before the deadline.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister said that under the **PMAY (Urban)**, **24 lakh** houses have so far been handed over to beneficiaries and the number will soon reach 50 lakh.
- There are 48 lakh houses which are currently grounded, but this number will also rise to 75 lakh.

40 INDIAN ORIGIN YOUTH TAKE PART IN 54TH KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

- 40 Indian Origin youth have taken part in 54th Edition of Know India (KIP) Programme. This edition is scheduled from 1st August on 25th August, 2019. Punjab and Harayana are partner states for this edition.

Key Words

About Know India Programme (KIP)

- It is important initiative of Union Government aimed to engage and make students and young professionals of India Diaspora in age group of 18-30 years. It was launched in 2004. It is 25-day orientation programme organized by Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with one or two States including visit to States for 10 days.

3RD INTERNATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CONCLAVE HELD IN MANESAR

- The 3rd International Electric Vehicle Conclave was inaugurated at the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in Manesar, Haryana.
- The Conclave was held to create a knowledge sharing platform to ensure flow of information at all levels in the automotive sector.
- The conclave was organized by ICAT in association with India Energy Storage Alliance with a focus on new trends and challenges in the field of electric mobility.

FIRST IN KERALA, WOMEN CAN DRIVE GOVT VEHICLES

- Kerala government first time decided to allow women to drive government vehicles. The state government was running 'She-Taxi' initiative.
- The Kerala government decided to appoint women drivers in government departments and public sector undertakings, a post so far reserved for men.
- In Kerala, barring the State Road Corporation, women are not allowed to apply for driver posts in any other department and many women's organisations have asked the government to lift this ban.

GOGABEEL, AN OX-BOW LAKE IN BIHAR DECLARED AS THE STATE'S FIRST 'COMMUNITY RESERVE'

- Gogabeel, an ox-bow lake (measures 88 hectares) in Katihar district of Bihar has been declared as state's 1st 'Community Reserve'. Gogabeel, which is the 15th Protected Area (PA) in Bihar, is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east.

Key Words

- Gogabeel was initially notified as a 'Closed Area' (CA) by the state government in 1990 & after the amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the provision of CA has been lifted.
- In 2004, it was given the status of an IBA (Important Bird Area of India). The local residents around the lake have supported every move to declare it as a reserve for birds and biodiversity.
- The environment Department of Bihar was notified the Gogabeel as a 57 hectare Community Reserve and a 30-hectare 'Conservation Reserve' on August 2, 2019.

GOVT. TO LAUNCH 'UBER FOR TRACTORS' APP TO AID FARMERS'

- A laser-guided land leveller harnesses technology to accurately flatten a field in a fraction of the time used by a traditional oxen-powered scraper.
- Farmers save precious groundwater and increase productivity by 10 to 15%.

FIRST WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE ON KINDNESS INAUGURATED BY INDIAN PRESIDENT

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the first World Youth conference on kindness at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The president addressed the event celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on the theme '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World**'.

Key Words

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan yojana (PM-SYM)

- **Aim:** To impart empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical enquiry to inspire, empower and enable youth to transform building a long-lasting peace in their communities and finding pathways to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PROGRAMME FOR CONVERTING USED COOKING OIL INTO BIODIESEL IN 100 CITIES

- State-run oil marketing companies Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum launched a programme to procure biodiesel made from used cooking oil in 100 cities across the country.
- The programme was formally launched by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, under which the three OMCs would invite expression of interest from private entities for setting up plants to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil.
- The biodiesel would be procured by the OMCs at an assured rate of ` 51 per litre, which would be increased to ` 52.7 in the second year and ` 54.5 per litre in the third year.

INDIAN PRESIDENT LAUNCHES PLANTATION DRIVE IN NEW DELHI AS PART OF VAN MAHOTSAV CELEBRATIONS

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind planted Maulsari sapling in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Estate (New Delhi). It was done as part of the '**Van Mahotsav**' celebrations.

Key Words

- The President's Secretariat, will be planting 3,252 trees and 2,962 shrubs for the next few weeks in the President's Estate which is spread over 330 acres, as part of this Van Mahotsav drive. Many Ornamental and fruit trees will be planted in the upcoming weeks.

About Van Mahotsav

- Van Mahotsav is an annual tree planting movement in India which began in the year 1950.

POLICE, LAW AND ORDER TO BE UNDER CENTRE IN UT OF J & K

- The Centre will be in direct control of law and order and police in the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** through the **Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**, while land will be a subject under the elected government.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave assent to a legislation for bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir under which two **Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir**, and **Ladakh** -- will come into existence on **31 October**.
- The **UT of Jammu and Kashmir** will have a Lieutenant Governor and the maximum strength of its assembly will be 107, which will be enhanced to 114 after a delimitation exercise.
- **Twenty-four** seats of the Assembly will continue to remain vacant as they fall under **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**.

NITI AAYOG RELEASES REPORT ON THE COMPOSITE WATER MANAGEMENT INDEX 2.0

- **Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka** have topped the **Composite Water Management Index 2.0 for 2017-18** among non-Himalayan states. Among **Himalayan states, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tripura** are on top of the index.
- The composite water management index (CWMI) 2.0 was released by NITI Aayog in the presence of **Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and the Aayog vice chairman **Rajiv Kumar**.
- The states are ranked across nine themes and cover **25 states** and two union territories.

AMAZON INAUGURATES ITS WORLD'S LARGEST CAMPUS IN HYDERABAD

- E-commerce company **Amazon**, inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in terms of area (9 acres) in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The campus was inaugurated by **Mohammed Mahmood Ali**, MLC (Member of Legislative Council), Minister of Home, Prisons, Fire Services, government of **Telangana**.

Key Words

- ▶ This **Hyderabad** campus of **Amazon**, is the only one, placed outside **US (United States)**.
- ▶ Having over **62,000 employees** in India, this campus alone can accommodate more than 15,000 employees.

24TH WESTERN ZONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAJI

- The **24th Western Zonal Council** meeting took place in Panaji under the chairmanship of **Union Home Minister Amit Shah**.
- Chief Ministers of **Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa** and administrators of **Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli** also attending the day long meeting.
- The **Western Council** is a forum for the Centre and the states to cooperate and exchange ideas and experiences on issues related to health, security and social welfare.
- The **Goa Chief Minister** is the vice-chairperson and host of the event.

GUJARAT TO GET COUNTRY'S FIRST CHEMICAL ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

- The country's first Central Institute of Chemical Engineering & Technology (CICET) will be set up in **Gujarat** to give boost to the chemical industry, said by the Union minister **Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- The CICET will come up either at Ahmedabad or Surat.
- The state has a significant presence of chemical industry, especially in Vapi, Ankleshwar and Vatva in Valsad, Bharuch, and Ahmedabad districts, and the first-of-its-kind institute will facilitate the chemical industry with research and innovations

KARNATAKA TOPS IN STATE ROOFTOP SOLAR ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX (SARAL) 2019

- **RK Singh**, the Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has launched the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index 2019 (SARAL)** at the Review Planning and Monitoring (RPM) Meeting with States and State Power Utilities in New Delhi.
- **SARAL Index:** As per the Index, **Karnataka** got the top spot with SARAL score of **78.8** as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project followed by Telangana(72.2), Gujarat(67.9) and Andra Pradesh (66.1). Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) has been ranked last with a score of 14.4.

RAJASTHANS FREE MEDICINE SCHEME SECURES TOP RANK

- Rajasthan's 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.

Key Words

Rajasthan's 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**.

PM MODI TO LAUNCH 'FIT INDIA' MOVEMENT ON AUGUST 29

- India has already improved its ranking on a global healthcare access and quality (HAQ) index from **153 in 1990 to 145 in 2016**. It still ranks behind **Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Brazil, Russia and South Africa** and well below the global average. At a time when the global HAQ index average is 54.4, **India's scored 41.2 (2016)**. This was **24.7 in 1990**. The HAQ index was created on a study titled **Global Burden of Disease**.

7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



DENMARK'S JYSKE BANK UNVEILED WORLD'S FIRST NEGATIVE

INTEREST RATE HOME LOAN

- Denmark's third largest bank, **Jyske Bank** has launched the world's first negative interest rate mortgage – handing 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%.

Key Words

- Under its negative mortgage, Jyske bank borrowers will make a monthly repayment as usual – but the amount still outstanding will be reduced each month by more than the borrower has paid.
- 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%.

CHINA, RUSSIA, FRANCE SHARE SATELLITE DATA ON ASSAM FLOODS

- With Assam inundated by floods, several countries including **China, Russia** and **France** collaborated with India on sharing satellite images of the scale of inundation.
- Based on an activation request by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on **July 17**, France's National Centre for Space Studies, China National Space Administration and **ROSCOSMOS** of Russia shared satellite images of the flood situation in the districts of **Dhubri, Marigaon, Barpeta, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur** in Assam with ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre. **ISRO's CARTOSAT** satellites too got the Indian space agency its own images.
- Since **2000**, when the international charter space and major disasters came into operation there have been about **600** activations and data from **61 satellites** have helped with disaster operations in **125 countries**.

CLEAN AIR INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY INDIA, UK IN BENGALURU

- A two year **UK-India** joint initiative, the "**Innovation for Clean Air**" (IFCA) was launched by the British Deputy High Commissioner **Dominic McAllister** in Bengaluru to test interventions related to equality and support India's transition to EV (Electric Vehicles) integration.

Key Words

- The air quality is measured by integrating satellite and sensor data.

GUJARAT TOPS IN SOLAR ROOFTOP INSTALLATIONS IN INDIA

- Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Power **R K Singh** informed that **Gujarat** was ranked first in the installation of **rooftop solar projects** in India with an installed capacity of **261.97 megawatts (MW)**, out of which 183.51 MW were subsidised installations and 78.45 MW was non-subsidised. It was followed by **Maharashtra** and **Tamil Nadu** with 198.52 MW and 151.62 MW respectively.

Key Points :

- At present, the total rooftop solar installation in India is **1,700.54 MW**.
- Under the Grid Connected Rooftop Solar programme, government provided total financial assistance and incentives of Rs 678.01 crore in 2016-17, Rs 169.73 crore in 2017-18 and **Rs 446.77 crore** in 2018-19.
- The government has set the target to install **40,000 MW** of rooftop solar projects by **2022**, including installation of RTS on the rooftop of houses.

Budget Allocation:

- For **2019-20**, the union government has allocated **₹3,004.90 crore** for solar power sector, including both grid-interactive and off-grid projects.



INTERNATIONAL ARMY SCOUT MASTERS COMPETITION KICKS

OFF IN JAISALMER

- The fifth edition of “**International Army Scout Masters Competition**” was kicked off in **Jaisalmer**.
- A total of eight countries comprising of **China, Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Sudan** are participating in the event including the Indian Army team. The event commenced on **August 5** and will continue till **August 16, 2019**.

AIM :

- The aim of the **International Army Games** is to foster military co-operation between the participating nations, develop trust between the armies for the sake of establishing a peaceful society, improving professional training and sharing of best practices being followed by participating nations

SINGAPORE TO BAN SALE OF ELEPHANT IVORY FROM 2021

- **Singapore** will impose a blanket ban on the domestic sale of elephant ivory and products from **2021** as the government tightens its campaign against illegal wildlife trade.
- The announcement on **World Elephant Day** followed two years of consultations with non-government groups, ivory retailers and the public.
- Singapore has banned international trade in all forms of elephant ivory products since **1990**.

INDIA AND ZAMBIA SIGN SIX MOUS

- India and Zambia signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in several areas including geology, defence, arts and culture during **Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu's state visit to India.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu** held delegation-level talks and reviewed the bilateral relations between the two nations.

BASIC COUNTRIES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAKING PARIS AGREEMENT

- In the run-up to the **United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP-25)** meet to be held later in the year from 2nd to 13th December, the BASIC countries held its **28th Ministerial meeting on Climate Change from 14th to 16th August in Sao Paulo, Brazil.**
- India which was represented by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Prakash Javadekar** said that BASIC countries coming together and putting views together is an important aspect of UN negotiations. "Brazil, South Africa, India and China put together has one-third of world's geographical area and nearly 40% of the world's population and when we unitedly speak in one voice this shows our determination and the BASIC Group could play an important part in making Paris agreement accepted by all the countries in its true letter and spirit".

ROHINGYA REFUGEES GET IDENTITY CARDS IN BANGLADESH

- **Rohingya refugees** living in **Bangladesh** issued identity documents by the UNHCR. The bio-metric, fraud-proof cards are being issued jointly by Bangladeshi authorities and **UNHCR** to all verified refugees over the age of 12.
- These cards will help in establishing and safeguarding the right of **Rohingya refugees to return to their homes in Myanmar.**
- The current registration exercise began in June 2018 and it is scheduled to be completed during the last quarter of the current year.
- **UNHCR's Bio-metric Identity Management System (BIMS)** captures bio-metric data, including fingerprints and iris scans which secure each refugee's unique identity as well as other important information such as family links.

INDONESIA PONDERES PLAN TO MOVE CAPITAL FROM JAKARTA

- **President Joko Widodo** has asked parliament to sign off on a plan to move the nation's capital to **Borneo island.** Jakarta is one of the world's fastest sinking cities; a third of its land could be submerged by 2050.
- Indonesia's president vowed to press on with plans to relocate the nation's capital from Jakarta as the city sinks by up to 25 centimeters (10 inches) a year.

INDIA, BHUTAN INK 10 PACTS TO BOOST TIES

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering held wide ranging talks during which they discussed steps to further expand the bilateral partnership across several sectors as the two countries inked 10 **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to infuse new energy in their ties.
- Inaugurated **740 MW Mangdechhu** hydroelectric power plant and also launched stamps to commemorate five decades of India-Bhutan Hydropower cooperation.
- The two countries signed 10 agreements in the field of space research, aviation, information technology, power and education. One of the MOUs include establishment of **SATCOM Network in Thimphu** for the utilisation of South Asia Satellite.
- The two leaders also unveiled e-plaque of the interconnection between India's National Knowledge Network and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education Network.

SAUDI ARABIA PERMITS WOMEN TO TRAVEL ABROAD WITHOUT MALE

GUARDIAN'S PERMISSION

- The Government of Saudi Arabia made a reform in allowing women to travel abroad without the consent from male guardian.

Key Words

1. The law to get permission from male guardian was removed as many women made high-profile attempts to escape alleged guardianship abuse despite various reforms made by crown prince **Mohammed Bin Salman**.
2. One such reform was overturning the ban on women drivers, allowing them to get driving licence for the first time since **24 June 2018**.



LONDON NAMED AS WORLD'S BEST STUDENT CITY IN QS BEST STUDENT CITIES RANKING 2019

- In the **QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2019** compiled by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, a global education consultancy, **London**, the capital of United Kingdom (UK), was named as the world's best city for students for the second consecutive year. **Tokyo** and **Melbourne** were ranked second and third positions respectively.

8. TAMIL NADU AFFAIRS



THREE TAMIL NADU DISTRICTS GET SET FOR PRE-TEST CENSUS OF INDIA, 2021

- In Tamil Nadu the pretest census will be taken up in three districts of **Sivagangai, Nilgiris and Kancheepuram**, to be conducted between August 12 and September 30.
- With the next general census due in the country in the year **2021**, the Union Home ministry has notified under the **Census Act**, conducting of '**pre-test census of India 2021**' in all the **States and Union Territories from August 12, 2019, to September 30, 2019**.
- The Census 2021 is the **16th** series since **1881** and eighth after independence.

'PANCHAMIRTHAM' OF PALANI TEMPLE IN TAMIL NADU GETS GI TAG

- Geographical Identity (GI) tag was given to the famous Panchamritham, an offering of the **Palani Dandayuthaswamy temple**, in **Tamil Nadu**. It became the first temple offering – **Prashad** – from **Tamil Nadu** to be conferred this honour.
 - The quality of the offering is monitored by the **Central Research Institute of Food Technology in Mysore, Karnataka**.
 - Earlier, the **Tanjavoor Veenai, Madurai Malligai, Neelgiri Tea leaves** and **Turmeric from Erode** from **Tamil Nadu** were given the GI tags.

T.N. TO GET JUST 83 TMCFT UNDER GODAVARI-CAUVERY LINK PROJECT

- Tamil Nadu has been allotted 83 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of **water** under the proposed Godavari-Cauvery link, according to a draft detailed project report of the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)**, a Central government organisation entrusted with the task of preparing proposals for linking rivers.
- The allotment has not provided comfort to the State government, as Tamil Nadu has been demanding **200 tmcft** of water, a quantity mentioned in a memorandum submitted by **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami** to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in June.

CM ANNOUNCES CREATION OF RANIPET, TIRUPATTUR DISTRICTS

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that Vellore district would be split into three to create two new districts of Tirupattur and Ranipet.
- Vellore district, currently one of the largest in Tamil Nadu, would retain its head quarters, but see a reduction in geographical area. K.V. Kuppam in Vellore district would be made a taluk.

T.N. SET UP MEGA FOOD PARK

- The Union government will help establish a mega food park in the State by providing investment subsidy to entrepreneurs, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Rameswar Telisaid during the inaugural of the second edition of 'Vibrant Tamil Nadu', in Madurai on Monday.
- The Centre stood ready to help farmer producer companies in Madurai set up their own food processing units. The Tamil Nadu Chamber Foundation has organised the four-day international exhibition on food products and kitchen equipment.

INDIA'S FIRST FINTECH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SET UP IN CHENNAI

1. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up a 'Centre of Excellence in FinTech' in Chennai, first of its kind in India.
2. To provide resources in terms of mentoring, technology support and funding for FinTech startups. Called 'FinBlue', the centre intends to incubate over 58 startups in the next five years.

THREE-DAY DISASTER RELIEF EXERCISE BEGINS IN CHENNAI

- A three-day Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise for the State of Tamilnadu and Union Territory of Puducherry.
- The exercise was being coordinated by the Flag Officer Commanding Tamilnadu and Puducherry Naval Area (FOTNA) under the Eastern Naval Command.
- The tri-services exercise being organised under the aegis of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQIDS) was conducted for the first time in Chennai with the participation of multi-agencies.
- The exercise was mainly aimed at refining existing Standard Operating Procedures of all stakeholders in Disaster Relief Operations and to ensure that all agencies concerned work in unison to deliver timely, effective and efficient relief to all citizens in time of need.

TAMIL NADU IS FIGHTING IN THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO SAVE A SINKING ISLAND

- Until a year before the 2004 tsunami ravaged India's southeast coast, a 34-year-old Rajan would take his boat from Tharuvaikulam, a small village in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, to the nearby island of Koswari and mine for corals.
- The island lies only a few kilometres away from the mainland, and makes up a small archipelago of 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park in southeast India, spanning the districts of Rameswaram and Thoothukudi.

STATE GOVT. SET TO LAUNCH EDUCATION TV

- **Kalvi tholaikkaatchi** (Education TV), a television channel of the State government, will be launched by Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami.
- The TV station will also feature programmes on employment opportunities and learning the craft of self-employment, and a daily telecast of employment-related news.

PRAKASH JAVADEKAR INAUGURATES NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AVIAN ECOTOXICOLOGY IN TAMIL NADU

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

Key Words

- The centre will study the movement of chemical contaminants such as pesticides, heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, poly chlorinated biphenyls and drugs through food chain, and their impacts on bird species.



THREE POSTAL DIVISIONS BAG REVENUE GENERATION AWARD

- Three postal divisions - **Puducherry, Tambaram and Chennai City North** - bagged 'Revenue Generation Award' at a function organised by the Chennai City Region, Department of Posts, in the city. The recognition was part of the **Regional Excellence Awards** given to postal divisions, post offices and officials who contributed to the growth of the department. Last year, revenue of the Chennai City postal region rose to ₹ 252 crore in 2018-19 from ₹ 186.6 crore during the previous fiscal.

T.N. RANKED FIRST IN POSHAN ABHIYAAN

- The Tamil Nadu government has bagged the first place in two categories of an award scheme for the **Poshan Abhiyaan** by a Central government programme aimed at addressing the problem of malnutrition among children to adolescent girls and women.
- According to a recent communication from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, the State government has secured the first position in "Overall Excellence in Implementation" and "Capacity Building, Convergence and Behavioural Change & Community Mobilisation", and the second position in the category of "Integrated Child Development Services-Common Application Software (ICDS-CAS)".
- The total cash prize the State government will receive is **3 crore**. An event will be held in New Delhi.

AMMA PATROL VEHICLE

- It is a new novel scheme introduced in **Tamil Nadu** to help women, children, and older adults.
- The patrol vans are to assist the special wing of police for the crimes against women & children.
- All the complaints against them will be investigated by the special wing which is attached to the all-women police stations.
- **Patrol Vans** will be under the **All Women Police Stations**.
- Aided by the state and central governments, these patrol vans will soon start from patrolling **Chennai**.
- This vehicle will also have the display of **1091 and 1098 phone numbers**.



8TH RCEP INTER-SESSIONAL

MINISTERIAL MEETING 2019 HELD IN BEIJING, CHINA

- A two-day 8th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) 2019 was held in **Beijing, China** on August 2-3, 2019 before the 7th RCEP ministerial meet which will be convened in Bangkok, Thailand on September 2019. In this meeting, all partner countries agreed to finalize trading deal negotiations.
- The Commerce Secretary **Dr. Anup Wadhawan** represented India to the meeting.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VARMAM SCIENCE INAUGURATED BY SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK IN TAMILNADU

- The two-day National Conference on Varmam Science which is a part of the Siddha system of medicine was inaugurated by **Shripad Yesso Naik**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
- The conference was organised by the National Institute of Siddha, Chennai. The conference was 22nd & 23rd of August 2019.

Key Words

- 'Varmam' is a constituent of the **Siddha system of medicine**, and has connectivity with martial art. It has been in practice for more than 5000 years.

About Ayush Ministry:

- ▶ Founded: 9 November 2014.
- ▶ Headquarters: New Delhi.

Key Words

About RCEP

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega-regional economic agreement being negotiated since 2012 between the 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) governments and their six FTA partners: Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

TAMIL NADU AWARDS PEOPLE ON VARIOUS CATEGORIES ON THE 73RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

- The chief minister of Tamil Nadu **Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami**, conferred awards to people and organisations at Fort St. George on various categories on the 73rd Independence day celebration.

Key Points

Chief minister's best practice Award:

1. It was conferred to Greater Chennai Police Commissionerate for the installation of 'Third Eye' CCTV (closed-circuit Television). This award was also 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).
2. The Department of Commercial Taxes got this award for development of mobile app and providing 24*7 assistance to migrate to GST (Goods and Service Tax) system.
3. Chennai received certificate of appreciation for creating sensory parks for differently abled children under smart city project.

Key Points

Some Important 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 pathway.
- **Best co-operative bank award:** Salem District Central Cooperative Bank.
- **Chief minister's state youth award:** P. Naveen Kumar (Namakkal district), M. Anandakumar (Dindigul district), R. Kalaivani (Madurai district).
- **Award rendered for service to women:** M. Soosai Marian.
- **Best institution for serving of women:** Bothimaram in Salem District.
- **Best municipalities:**
 - ▶ Dharmapuri
 - ▶ Vedaranyam
 - ▶ Aranthangi
- **Best Corporation:** Salem.

10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following day is observed as World wide web day ?
(A) August 1 (B) August 2 (C) August 3 (D) August 4
2. Which of the following day CRPF observed as it's 81st Raising Day?
(A) July 27 (B) July 28 (C) July 29 (D) July 30
3. Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth day anniversary will be observed by Indian Railways as which of the following day?
(A) Ahimsa day (B) Community Day (C) Peace Day (D) Civil Day
4. When is International Left Handers Day observed?
(A) August 10 (B) August 11 (C) August 13 (D) August 12
5. Which of the following organization observes world day against Trafficking in person on 30th July?
(A) United Nation Development Program (UNDP)
(B) World Health Organization (WHO)
(C) United Nation Security Council (UNSC)
(D) United Nation General Assembly (UNGA)
6. What is the theme of breast feeding week (1-7 Aug) - 2019?
(A) "Breast feeding Foundation for life" (B) " Sustainable Breast feeding Together"
(C) "Empower Parents, enable Breast feeding" (D) "Breast feeding & let's make it work"
7. When is National Handloom day observed?
(A) August 6 (B) August 7 (C) August 8 (D) August 5
8. When is International day of world indigenous people observed?
(A) August 7 (B) August 8 (C) August 9 (D) August 10
9. What is the theme of the International youth day-2019?
(A) Transforming India (B) Empower youth; Empower India;
(C) Transforming Education (D) Transforming youths
10. Whose birthday anniversary is observed as "Sadhbhavna Divas"
(A) Jawaharlal Nehru (B) Indira Gandhi (C) Rajiv Gandhi (D) Morarji Desai
11. What is the theme of the India - Nepal logistics summit 2019?
(A) Transforming Logistics Landscape (B) Logistics and Fair Trade
(C) Smart Logistics to go Beyond (D) Borderless logistics and Trade
12. Where is India - Nepal Logistics Summit-2019 held?
(A) New Delhi (B) Mumbai (C) Pokhara (D) Kathmandu
13. Who became the 1st person in history to cross the English Channel by using the Jet-powered hover board?
(A) Franky Zapata (B) Aaron Smith (C) Felix Bafar (D) Danil Atkinson
14. In which of the following state 'Bharati Huda', a rural settlement that thrived about 3600 years ago ,is recently found by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?
(A) Odisha (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Karnataka (D) Kerala
15. Who is the first women to hold the office of the Ministry of External Affairs?
(A) Menaka Gandhi (B) Indira Gandhi
(C) Sushma Swaraj (D) Nirmala Sitharaman
16. Educationalist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy belongs to which of the following state?
(A) Telangana (B) Odisha (C) Kerala (D) Tamilnadu
17. Which of the following state received GI tag for rasagola?
(A) West Bengal (B) Karnataka (C) Odisha (D) Jharkhand
18. Which of the following city became the World's first National Park City?
(A) New York (B) London (C) Seoul (D) Lisbon

19. Where is 22nd National conference on e-Governance held recently?
(A) Ita Nagar, Arunachal Pradesh (B) Guwahati - Assam
(C) Gangtok - Sikkim (D) Shillong - Meghalaya
20. In which of the following continent Gambia river flows?
(A) Asia (B) Australia (C) Africa (D) South America
21. Davis cup is related to which of the following sport?
(A) Table Tennis (B) Tennis (C) Foot ball (D) Hockey
22. Which of the following country's cricket team is recently banned by International Cricket Council (ICC)?
(A) Bangladesh (B) Zimbabwe (C) Afghanistan (D) Ireland
23. Who won the championship in wheelchair tennis series recently held in Chennai?
(A) Sunil jain (B) Somdev devvarman (C) Karthick (D) S. Balachander
24. Which of the following countries archery association is banned recently by World Archery?
(A) Pakistan (B) Bangladesh (C) Afganistan (D) India
25. Which of the following foot ball team won UEFA super cup - 2019?
(A) Chelsea (B) Liverpool (C) Real Madrid (D) A.C.Milan
26. Who is the author of "Permanent Record"?
(A) Julian Assange (B) Mark Zuckerberg (C) Glen Greenwald (D) Edward Snowden
27. Who is the author of book 'Sridevi: Girl Women Superstar'?
(A) Akshat Verma (B) Satyarth Nayak (C) Juhi Chaturvedi (D) Gazal Dhaliwal
28. Which of the following personality contributions are documented in the book of "Listening, Learning and leading"
(A) Ram Nath Govind (B) Venkaiah Naidu
(C) Amit Shah (D) Narendra Modi
29. Which of the following organization awards Yuva Puraskar?
(A) Ministry of woman & child development (B) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(C) Sahitya Akademi (D) Ministry of Information & Broad casting
30. Ramon Magsaysay - known as Asia's Nobel Prize awarded to perpetuate Ramon Magsaysay, belongs to which of the following country?
(A) India (B) Srilanka (C) Nepal (D) Philippines
31. Who is awarded Bharat Gaurav Award - 2019?
(A) Yuvaraj Singh (B) Harbhajan Singh (C) Kapil Dev (D) Sunil Gavaskar
32. Who won the best director award in 66th National Film Awards?
(A) Sudhakar Reddy Yakkanti (B) Sanjay Leela Bhansali
(C) Rahul Ravindran (D) Aditya Dhar
33. Who is awarded Kalpana Chawla award - 2019?
(A) P.Ramyalakshmi (B) Senthamarai (C) Sivasankari (D) Subbu Arumugam
34. Who is awarded APJ Abdul Kalam Award - 2019?
(A) Muthaiah Vanitha (B) Ritu Karidhal
(C) K. Sivan (D) Chandra Kanth Kumar
35. In which of the following year Lalit Kala Akademi was established in New Delhi?
(A) 1952 (B) 1954 (C) 1956 (D) 1958
36. Where was Indian National Congress Session - 1942 held?
(A) Mumbai (B) Pune (C) Kolkata (D) Chennai
37. Justice G. Rohini Committee is related to
(A) Sub - Categorization of OBC (B) Committee on unnao case
(C) About increasing supreme judges (D) Committee related to Olympic 2020
38. Who heads the committee formed by NGT to examine illegal sand mining in Yamuna River?
(A) Justice A.S. Bopanna (B) Justice Adarshkumar Goel
(C) Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (D) Justice Madhan Lokur

39. How many states have signed the part with the ministry of Textiles to partner with it for skilling about four lakh workers as part of the 'Samarth' Scheme?
(A) 12 (B) 18 (C) 16 (D) 20
40. What is the objective of Nirbhaya fund?
(A) To Increase the female literacy rate
(B) To Increase female old Age homes
(C) To fund schemes related to widow welfare
(D) To enhance the safety and security of woman
41. What is the deadline date for making villages open - defecation free (ODF) in Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) ?
(A) Oct. 2, 2019 (B) Oct. 2, 2020 (C) Jan. 26, 2020 (D) Jan. 26, 2021
42. Which of the following organization introduced "Aspirational district scheme"?
(A) Ministry of Housing and urban affairs (B) NITI Aayog
(C) Ministry of Rural Development (D) Prime Minister's Office
43. Which of the following institution signed MoU with National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in India for skill development program?
(A) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
(B) International Labour Organization (ILO)
(C) NASA
(D) US Ministry of Trade & commerce
44. Why did FAME INDIA scheme launched?
(A) Skill development scheme for Indian students
(B) To encourage production of electric vehicles
(C) To ensure double-profit for agriculture products
(D) To enhance production of defence components in make in India
45. Where is India's first underwater train to be launched soon?
(A) Mumbai (B) Surat (C) Kolkata (D) Radhanpur
46. In how many districts special hospitals are planned to set up that offers Indian system of medicines like Siddha and Ayurveda?
(A) 100 (B) 200 (C) 150 (D) 250
47. What is the objective of Jal Jeevan mission?
(A) Supply of water to urban area
(B) Supply of water to rural area
(C) Supply of piped drinking water to every household
(D) Sea water to drinking water scheme
48. "Know India Program" is related to which of the following ministry?
(A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of External Affairs
(C) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
(D) Ministry of Tourism
49. What is the objective of Supra Scheme?
(A) To fund exploration of new scientific and Engineering break through
(B) To protect and promote Archaeological monuments
(C) To strengthen and promote stressed asset banks
(D) to harness rainwater and conserve ground water hand in hand
50. Which of the following Ministry Implements Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan Dhan Yojana that benefits retailers and traders?
(A) Union Finance Ministry (B) Ministry of Human Resource & Development
(C) Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry (D) Ministry of Labour and Employment

51. Which of the following state launched "Special Grievance Redressal Scheme"?
(A) Kerala (B) Tamil Nadu (C) Andra Pradesh (D) Karnataka
52. What is the main objectives of Bharatmala Scheme?
(A) Formation of Minor Ports (B) Enhancement of basic infrastructure of roads
(C) Excavation of small tunnels (D) Interlinking of River
53. Which of the following state first introduced "Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyam"?
(A) Maharashtra (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Gujarat (D) Uttar Pradesh
54. How many deputy Governors are there in Reserve Bank of India?
(A) 3 (B) 4 (C) 5 (D) 6
55. What is the forecast of GDP growth rate in 2019-20 predicted by Crisil?
(A) 6.7 % (B) 6.8% (C) 6.9% (D) 7.0%
56. Which of the following payment bank is going to be converted into small finance bank?
(A) Aditya Birla Payment Bank (B) Airtel Payment Bank
(C) Reliance Payment Bank (D) India Post Payment Bank
57. What is the objective of Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)
(A) To export minerals to other countries (B) Ensure consistent supply of minerals within country
(C) To surveil the mines (D) To provide welfare to mining affected people
58. Non-Banking finance companies (NBFC)s are registered under which of the following Act?
(A) Companies Act -1956 (B) Reserve Bank of India Act - 1934
(C) Securities and Exchange Board of India - 1992 (D) Societies Registration Act - 1860
59. Which of the following bank is the first bank in India to join China's National Settlement system CNAPS?
(A) HDFC (B) SBI (C) INDIAN BANK (D) CENTRAL BANK
60. Which of the following country is labelled as "Currency manipulator" by USA recently?
(A) Iran (B) North Korea (C) India (D) China
61. Currently which of the following country ranks second place in production of tea?
(A) China (B) Srilanka (C) Vietnam (D) India
62. Which of the following Act regulates Eco - Sensitive Zones (ESZ) in India?
(A) Air Act - 1981 (B) Wildlife Protection Act - 1972
(C) Forest Act - 1927 (D) Environment Protection Act - 1986
63. Intended Nationally determined contributions related to
(A) UNFCCC (B) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
(C) IUCN (D) United Nation convention on desertification
64. Which of the following district gets GI Tag for its hills Garlic?
(A) Kodaikanal (B) Dindigul (C) Nagapatnam (D) Cuddalore
65. Which of the following state granted GI Tag for Pathamadai Silk Mat?
(A) Andhrapradesh (B) Karnataka (C) Tamilandu (D) Odisha
66. How many Species are currently in endangered "Red List" that is published by IUCN?
(A) 6000 (B) 7000 (C) 5000 (D) 3000
67. Which of the following country is affected by the Typhoon Lekima?
(A) Japan (B) Phillippines (C) India (D) China
68. Where did Union Government begin field work for 7th Economic census?
(A) Assam (B) Tripura (C) Bangladesh (D) Patna
69. 'Holmberg 15A' is recently in news which is related to
(A) An agreement on environment (B) A conference on Economics
(C) Black Hole (D) An Army Exercise
70. Which of the following organization discovered dwarf star TOI 270, which is 73 light years away from Earth?
(A) NASA (B) ISRO (C) European space agency (D) CNES
71. Which of the following army wing launched mobile game "A cut above"?
(A) Border Security Force (B) Indian Air Force
(C) Indian Navy (D) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

72. Where is "Conference on Countering Rogue drones" organized by Bureau of civil Aviation security (BCAS) ?
(A) New Delhi (B) Mumbai (C) Hyderabad (D) Chennai
73. Which of the following state is the first state in India to Adopt an Automated multi-model Biometric Identification System (AMBIS)?
(A) New Delhi (B) Tamil Nadu (C) Telangana (D) Maharashtra
74. Which of the following Organization developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile?
(A) Ordnance Factory Board (B) Aeronautical Development Agency
(C) Defence Research and Development Organization (D) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
75. Recently, Where is "TechEx - 2019"-A Technology exhibition held, that is launched by Minister of Human resource & Development?
(A) IIT - New Delhi (B) IIT - Chennai (C) IIT - Kharagpur (D) IIT - Mumbai
76. Which of following countries signed intermediate Range Nuclear force Treaty?
(A) India - Pakistan (B) India - China (C) Russia - Ukraine (D) Russia - USA
77. What is the deadline date for selling bharat stage-IV vehicles in India?
(A) 1 Jan.2020 (B) 1 Mar. 2020 (C) 1 April 2020 (D) 1 April 2021
78. In which of the following country Roopur Nuclear power plant located?
(A) India (B) Bangladesh (C) Nepal (D) Bhutan
79. Which of the following company/organization is first company/organization to successfully launch reusable launch vehicle?
(A) Electron (B) Space X (C) ISRO (D) Blue Origin
80. Which of the following ship participated in "KONKAN - 19"-a bilateral exercise between India and United Kingdom?
(A) INS Kirpan (B) INS Karmuk (C) INS Kirch (D) INS Tarkash
81. Where is 24th western zonal council held recently?
(A) Panaji (B) Mumbai (C) Bhopal (D) Jaipur
82. What is the name of the missile defence system that is launched by Iran recently?
(A) S - 300 (B) Bavar - 373 (C) SAM - 4 (D) MIM - 23
83. Which of the following country awards "The King Hamad Order of Renaissance" as highest civilian award?
(A) Bahrain (B) Saudi Arabia (C) Qatar (D) Yemen
84. Where is the country's First Private Space Museum located?
(A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu (B) Hyderabad, Telangana
(C) Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh (D) Trivandrum, Kerala
85. Which of the following companies topped among Indian companies in Fortune's "Change the World" list - 500 companies?
(A) Bajaj (B) State Bank of India (C) Reliance Industries (D) Tata
86. Who heads the National Tiger conservation Authority?
(A) Prime Minister (B) Minister of Environment & Forest
(C) Secretary of Ministry of Environment & Forest (D) Supreme Court Judge
87. Ansupa lake, some time seen in news is located in which state?
(A) Odisha (B) Nagaland (C) Kerala (D) Andrapradesh
88. Which of the following port created record in single day Cargo handling?
(A) Kandla Port, Gujarat (B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Maharashtra
(C) Ennore Port, Tamil Nadu (D) V.O.Chidambaram Port, Tamil Nadu
89. Wafg Board related to which of the following religion?
(A) Sikhism (B) Buddhism (C) Jainism (D) Islam
90. Jaintapur Nuclear power project is constructed by India with which of the following country's Assistance?
(A) USA (B) Russia (C) France (D) Australia
91. Where is 44th G7 summit going to be held?
(A) Biarritz, France (B) Quebec, Canada (C) Sicily, Italy (D) Shima, Japan

92. Which of the following country placed in "Enhance Blacklist" by Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
(A) China (B) Indonesia (C) India (D) Pakistan
93. Which of the following forests are known as 'Lungs of the Earth'?
(A) Daintree in Australia (B) The Amazon forests
(C) the Congo forests (D) The Madagascar rain forests
94. Which of the following country launched world's first floating nuclear reactor in the world?
(A) France (B) UK (C) Russia (D) Denmark
95. UAEIIRI - agreement related to education signed between which of the following countries?
(A) India - Ireland (B) India - England (C) England - Ireland (D) England - Russia
96. How many members are there in proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership?
(A) 16 (B) 17 (C) 18 (D) 19
97. Which of the country ranked 52nd rank in Global Innovation Index- 2019?
(A) Pakistan (B) India (C) Saudi Arabia (D) Indonesia
98. What is the rank of India in FIFA Rankings-2019?
(A) 102 (B) 103 (C) 104 (D) 105
99. Which of the following country hosted BRICS Ministers Meeting-2019?
(A) India (B) Russia (C) China (D) Brazil
100. In which city is Cauvery Disciplinary Committee Meeting held for the first time recently?
(A) Delhi (B) Mumbai (C) Bangalore (D) Visakapatnam

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B	A	B	C	C	C	B	C	C	C
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	D	A	A	B	D	C	B	D	C
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
B	B	C	D	B	D	B	B	C	D
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
C	D	A	C	B	A	A	B	C	D
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
A	B	A	B	C	C	C	B	A	D
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
B	B	A	B	C	D	B	A	B	D
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
D	D	A	A	C	B	D	B	C	A
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
B	A	D	C	A	D	C	B	B	D
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
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91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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